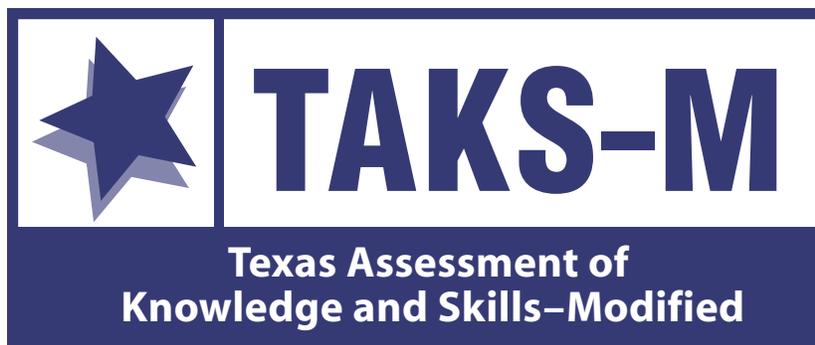


STUDENT NAME _____



**GRADE 3
READING**

Administered March 2009

READING



A Rabbit Named Sticks

This is a story about a rabbit named Sticks who lives in the Lop-Eared Rabbit Village. All the rabbits in the village have long, floppy ears except for Sticks. Now you will read about how having different ears makes Sticks feel. Then answer the questions that follow.

A Rabbit Named Sticks

- 1 Lop-Eared Rabbit Village was in a forest. The rabbits who lived there were called lop-eared because their ears drooped down around their faces. They were all very proud of their long, floppy ears. One young rabbit in the Lop-Eared Rabbit Village was not so happy. His ears were different. They stood straight up. Everyone made fun of him and called him Sticks.
- 2 "Be proud. Your grandfather had ears just like yours," his mother said to him.
- 3 But Sticks did not like looking different. He wanted his ears to be long and floppy like the other rabbits' ears.



S-1 Which word in paragraph 1 helps the reader know what the word drooped means?

floppy

proud

young

**Use the whole story "A Rabbit Named Sticks"
on page 6 to answer question S-2.**

S-2 What problem does Sticks have in this story?

- His mother does not like his straight ears.
- He wishes that he could be more like his grandfather.
- He wants to look like the other rabbits in his village.





Paloma's Dance

This is a story about a girl named Paloma. She is not happy because her brother Ramón is good at everything he does. Paloma and her parents always have to go watch Ramón at his events. Then one day Paloma tries out and is chosen to be in a dance at Fiesta. Fiesta is a large celebration held each year in San Antonio. Paloma practices very hard every day before the dance. Now read the story to find out how Paloma feels after performing the dance at Fiesta. Then answer the questions that follow.

Paloma's Dance

1 Paloma sat in the big room. There were many people in the room. Everyone in the auditorium clapped for the boy on the stage. Paloma's dad turned on his camera. Her brother Ramón sat down at the piano. "I always have to go to Ramón's baseball games. Now I have to hear him play that piano. I am tired of hearing that piano!" Paloma said to herself.

2 Ramón stopped playing the piano. His parents clapped for him, but Paloma did not clap.

3 The next day at school, Paloma kept thinking about her brother. "I do not like him anymore," she said to herself. Paloma knew that was not true. She did like her brother. He was never mean to her. She was just tired of feeling left out. Paloma wished she was good at something, too. Maybe then she would get some attention from her parents.

1 How does Paloma feel about Ramón?

- She is upset because her parents give Ramón more attention than her.
- She is proud of Ramón for being so good at everything he does.
- She is excited about how well Ramón plays the piano.

2 What does the word auditorium mean in paragraph 1?

- Pictures of people
- A place to watch people perform
- A piano used for special shows

3 What can the reader tell about Ramón?

- He likes sports and music.
- He tries to keep his parents from clapping for Paloma.
- He does not like being around Paloma.

4 At the end of the day, Paloma’s teacher gave the children a note to take home. Some children would get picked to be in a dance at Fiesta. Paloma’s family always went to Fiesta. They liked to hear the music and see the dances.

5 The best part of Fiesta was the dancers. Paloma liked the pretty dresses. She wanted to dance in a red dress.

4 Why does Paloma want to dance at Fiesta?

- She has danced there before.
- She has nothing else to do at school.
- She likes the dancers and the dresses.

6 Paloma did not think she would be picked to dance. But she wanted to try. She was not like Ramón. He was always picked first because he was good at everything. Paloma had tried to play soccer. The other players were better than she was. So she did not want to play soccer anymore. Paloma hoped that she would be a good dancer.

7 Paloma stayed after school every day for two weeks learning the steps of the dance. On the day of the tryouts, Paloma tried to stay composed. Her name was called. She took a deep breath. Paloma slowly walked onto the stage. She tried not to be scared, but her hands were shaking. Paloma did not think that she would remember the steps of the dance, but she did.

8 The next day Paloma saw her name on the list. She was selected to dance at Fiesta. She could not wait to go home and tell her mother that she was picked to dance. It was now Paloma's turn to be on the stage.

9 After school Paloma did the dance steps over and over. She was tired each day. It was hard work, but she did not care. Paloma was proud of what she was doing.

5 What can the reader tell about the dance that Paloma will perform?

- It takes time to learn.
- It is danced only by girls.
- It takes about an hour to dance.

6 What does the word composed mean in paragraph 7?

- Calm
- Pleased
- Careful

7 What does Paloma need to do before she can perform the dance?

- She needs to quit her soccer team.
- She needs to learn the dance steps.
- She needs to get her dad's camera.

8 What does the word selected mean in paragraph 8?

- Planned
- Looked at
- Chosen

9 Why does Paloma decide not to play soccer?

- She needs more time to do her homework.
- She is mad at her brother.
- She does not think she is good at soccer.

10 Why does Paloma dance each day?

- She hopes it will make her a better soccer player.
- She wants to learn to do the dance well.
- She likes staying after school.

10 It was the day of the dance. Paloma could not sit still. She got dressed for the show early. Then she waited for her family to get ready.

11 That night Paloma and the other dancers stepped onto the stage. She looked out into the audience. She saw all the people watching her. She saw her parents and Ramón sitting up close. Then Paloma smiled for her dad's camera. The dance started.



11 What does the word audience mean in paragraph 11?

- People who watch or listen to a show
- Dancers on a stage
- A practice for something special

12 What are paragraphs 10 and 11 mostly about?

- The day Paloma dances at Fiesta
- Paloma's parents getting ready for Fiesta
- The camera Paloma's dad has

13 Which word best describes Paloma in paragraph 11?

- Silly
- Happy
- Mad

**Use the whole story "Paloma's Dance"
on pages 10–17 to answer questions 14–16.**

14 Which of these is the best summary of the story?

- Paloma watches her brother play the piano. She does not like watching him do everything. At school she keeps thinking about her brother.
- At school Paloma's teacher gave the children a note about dancing at Fiesta. Paloma likes Fiesta. She tries out to be a dancer.
- Paloma thinks her brother gets all the attention. She tries out for a dance. Paloma works hard and is picked to dance. Her parents and brother come to watch her.

15 Why did the author write this story?

- To teach about Fiesta in San Antonio
- To show how to dance
- To tell about a girl who learns to feel good about herself

16 What does Paloma learn by the end of the story?

- She can do the dance if she works hard.
- She plays soccer better than she dances.
- She is not as good as the other dancers.





The New Zoo

This is a story about a mother and her two children, George and Liza. They visited the Philadelphia Zoo on its opening day. It was the first zoo in the United States. It opened over 100 years ago on July 1, 1874. George had already heard about some of the animals they were going to see. Read this story to find out how George and Liza acted when they saw the zoo animals. Then answer the questions that follow.

The New Zoo

1 George and Liza hung on to the bars of the gate. They were excited. The zoo was about to open. Their mother stood by them. "Look at all these people," she said. "This is a very big day for the city of Philadelphia."

2 "There are kangaroos in the zoo. I cannot wait to see them," George said.

3 George's little sister Liza looked at him. "Kangaroos!" she said. "What are those?"

4 "Well," George said, "I have seen pictures of them and read about them in books. Kangaroos are brown. They have two small front legs and two big back legs. They also have a pocket on their tummy.



This pocket is called a pouch. Kangaroo babies stay in the pouch until they are bigger."

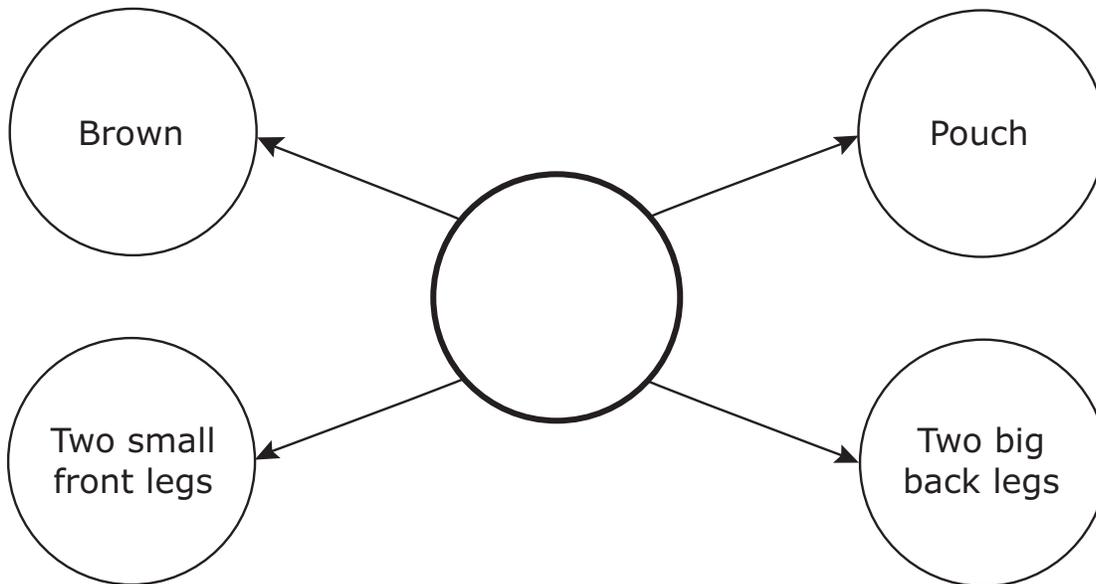
17 How does George know about kangaroos?

- He read about them in books.
- He saw them at the zoo before.
- He learned about them from his mother.

18 How can the reader tell that the zoo's opening is a special day?

- Philadelphia always has fun things to do.
- Everyone likes kangaroos.
- There are many people waiting to get in.

19 Look at the following web from the story.



What belongs in the empty circle?

- Things George Knows About Kangaroos
- How Kangaroos Care for Their Babies
- What Liza Knows About Kangaroos

- 5 Liza thought George was telling a lie about the kangaroos. "No, really, Liza. It is the truth!" George said. "You will see the kangaroos inside. There will be a lot of animals you have never seen."
- 6 Liza did not believe George. She could not always tell when he was being honest. Both children walked closer to the gate. George knew this zoo had taken many years to complete. The city had planned to finish it a long time ago. But the work on the zoo had to stop because of a war. Now the war was over and the zoo was finished.
- 7 George told Liza, "They also have a dingo in this zoo. This is a kind of dog that lives on the other side of the world."

20 Which word in paragraph 6 means the same as the word complete?

- finish*
- planned*
- closer*

21 Why did it take a long time to build the Philadelphia Zoo?

- The people building the zoo had to stop during a war.
- The animals had to be brought from far away.
- Too many people wanted to watch the zoo being built.

22 Which word in paragraph 5 means the opposite of the word truth?

- inside*
- see*
- lie*

8 Liza looked through the gates. A man with a tall hat yelled, "Step into the Philadelphia Zoo. This is the first zoo in the United States!"

9 George, Liza, and their mother saw the gates open. George felt a push. He almost fell down. He looked behind him and saw lots and lots of people. They were all trying to get inside the zoo.

10 George and Liza began to run when they were inside the zoo. "Wait!" their mother called. But the children were in a hurry. They did not listen. George went one way, and Liza went the other.

11 Soon Liza was alone. Then she saw her worried mother. She was walking to Liza. They saw George. He was running to the kangaroos.

23 What happens when the gates to the zoo open?

- George tells Liza about kangaroos.
- The people push forward into George.
- The children talk about the man with a tall hat.

24 Why does George run away from his mother when the zoo gates open?

- He does not want to walk through the zoo with her.
- He is in a hurry to see the kangaroos.
- He is afraid he will not be able to see over all the people.

12 Liza and her mother walked to George. He looked like he wanted to jump into the pen with the kangaroos. "Do not run away like that again!" his mother told him.

13 George pointed to the kangaroos. "Did you see how far that kangaroo jumped? Look at that one over there! Do you think it has a baby in its pouch? I cannot see from here."

14 George kept talking. Liza stopped him and said, "Those kangaroos look funny to me. And they smell funny. Let's go see some other animals, like that dingo you were talking about." She pulled her mother and brother to the next pen.

25 How does George feel when he finally sees the kangaroos?

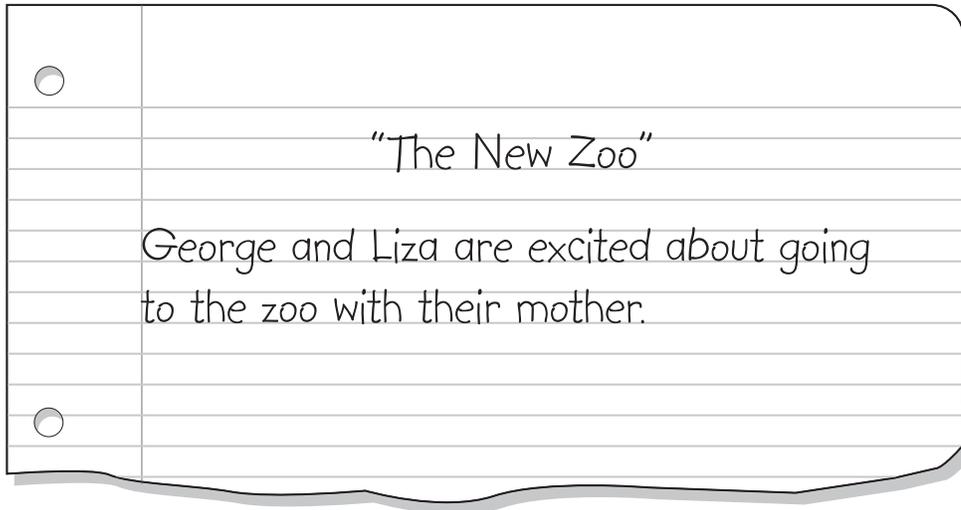
- Angry
- Scared
- Excited

26 At the end of the story, the reader can tell that the children will most likely—

- go home quickly
- go see the dingo
- decide not to see the other animals

Use the whole story "The New Zoo" on pages 24–30 to answer questions 27–30.

- 27** A student wrote the first sentence of a summary of the story. Read it and answer the question.



"The New Zoo"

George and Liza are excited about going to the zoo with their mother.

Which of the sentences best completes the summary?

- There is a large group of people waiting to get inside. Finally the gate is opened. People rush to enter the zoo.
- They talk about the zoo's animals while they wait. George and Liza run in different directions when they get into the zoo. Their mother finds them. Then they go to look at the animals.
- George keeps thinking about the kangaroos and the other animals that he will see at the zoo. He is sure that the visit to the zoo will be fun for him and his sister.

28 What can the reader tell about George?

- He already knew about some of the zoo animals.
- He has a dog that belongs in a zoo.
- He did not know that the zoo was opening until that day.

29 Look below at part of a story map. Use it to answer the question.

Story Map	
Title:	<u>THE NEW ZOO</u>
Who:	<u>George</u>
	<u>Liza</u>
	<u>The children's mother</u>
Where:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>

What belongs in the empty box?

- All across the United States
- George's school
- The Philadelphia Zoo

30 What makes the day described in the story so special?

- It is when George learns about kangaroos.
- It is the end of a war.
- It is the opening day of the first zoo in the United States.



**TAKS-M GRADE 3
READING
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