



**MASTERING THE
NORTH CAROLINA EOG
READING COMPREHENSION TEST
GRADE 7**

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Table of Contents

Preface	vii
Diagnostic Test	1
Evaluation Chart	22
Chapter 1 Understanding What You Read	23
Reading Strategies	23
Main Idea	24
Extending Meaning	28
Comparison and Contrast	28
Inferring and Concluding	29
Chapter 1 Summary	33
Chapter 1 Review	33
Chapter 2 Using Information from a Variety of Sources	39
Reading Informational Materials	39
Organization	40
More Reading Strategies	40
Synthesizing Information	43
Evaluating Materials.....	44
Connecting Related Information	44
Primary and Secondary Sources	45
Chapter 2 Summary	49
Chapter 2 Review	50
Chapter 3 Argumentation and the Problem-Solution Process	55
Analyzing Arguments.....	56
Identifying an Argument	56
Identifying Evidence.....	56
Appealing to Emotion.....	57
Analyzing Style	57
Author’s Bias.....	57
Responding to Arguments	58
Recognizing Problems and Solutions	59
Audience.....	59

Purpose	60
Context.....	60
More Reading Strategies.....	62
Inferences, Concluding, and Predicting.....	62
Comparing and Contrasting.....	62
Chapter 3 Summary	64
Chapter 3 Review	65
Chapter 4 Evaluating Print and Non-Print Materials	69
Analyze the Author’s Purpose	70
Propaganda Techniques	73
Evaluating the Quality of Communication	75
Become a Critic	78
Chapter 4 Summary	79
Chapter 4 Review	80
Chapter 5 Literary Devices	83
Figurative Language	83
Other Literary Devices.....	88
Flashback	88
Foreshadowing.....	89
Allusion.....	89
Mood.....	89
Style	91
Chapter 5 Summary	92
Chapter 5 Review	93
Chapter 6 Elements of Literature	97
Plot.....	98
Theme	101
Characters	103
Character Types and Traits	103
Methods of Characterization.....	104
Character Interactions	104
Point of View	107
Chapter 6 Summary	108
Chapter 6 Review	108
Chapter 7 Genres	113
Literary Genres	113
Nonfiction	113
Newspaper / Magazine.....	114
Fiction	114
Poetry	116
Drama	117
Choice of Genre Affects Writing.....	117

Chapter 7 Summary	121
Chapter 7 Review	121
Chapter 8 Building Vocabulary	127
Context Clues	127
Roots and Affixes	129
Dictionary Skills	132
Extending Vocabulary Knowledge.....	132
Chapter 8 Summary	134
Chapter 8 Review	134
Practice Test 1	137
Practice Test 2	157
Index	179

Know Your Source

Opening millions of Web pages to discover which sites fall into the scientific category could take weeks. Instead of casting such a wide net, use the site’s Web address as a clue to help narrow your search. Often sites with addresses ending in .edu, .org, and .gov are excellent places to begin your research. However, remember that miner and his pan full of fool’s gold. Just because a Web site address ends with .edu doesn’t mean an expert wrote the web page. Test the value of that nugget of information by checking a few more of the Web site’s qualities.

Once you’ve chosen a Web site to investigate, find out who wrote the page. For example is the Web page, ashville.edu/treefrog, written by a college professor studying tree frogs, or is it written by a third-grade student at Ashville Elementary who once caught a tree frog? Know your source. Know who wrote the page and know their credentials, why they are qualified to write the page. Remember, all that glitters is not gold.

Know the Author’s Motivation

Next, analyze the author’s motivation for writing the page. Does the author want to inform the reader, entertain the reader, or persuade the reader? Can you recognize a particular slant to the article? Does the author use words or statistics to influence the reader to think a certain way? Does the author weight the article or page with provable, documented facts or with opinions? What information does the author include? What information does the author exclude?



Finding that golden nugget of information might not be easy. However, learning to sift through the sand and separate the real gold from the fool’s gold will make you an excellent researcher.

- 7. What is the first step in doing Internet research? 2.01
 - A Learn about the author.
 - B Decide on your purpose.
 - C Look at the web addresses.
 - D Separate facts from opinions.

- 8. In paragraph 4, what does *credentials* mean? 6.01
 - A opinions
 - B locations
 - C qualifications
 - D explanations

- 9. Which statement is *best* supported by the passage? 2.01
 - A Research requires critical thinking.
 - B Miners use the Internet to find gold.
 - C All Internet writers aim to entertain.
 - D Everything found on the Internet is true.

INFERRING AND CONCLUDING

When you draw an **inference**, you are making an educated guess based on facts and details in a passage. By reviewing various ideas and details in a selection, you can infer information that is not directly stated in a passage.

The following is a passage in which the topic must be inferred. Notice how the details in the paragraph contribute to the inference.

These storms occur over land and are the most violent of all atmospheric disturbances. They are highly localized and, therefore, do not affect large areas at one time. The actual path of destruction of these storms is rarely more than one hundred yards in width. They take the form of a rotating column of air that extends down to the land from a thundercloud. They happen most frequently in the Great Plains states and in the southeastern part of the United States.

Can you infer the topic of this passage? If you decide that the author is describing tornadoes, you are right. The facts and details provided all of the clues. Such information included the following:

- storms occurring over land
- the violence and localized nature of the storms
- a narrow path of destruction
- a rotating column of air



You could also draw other inferences about the selection. For example, you could infer that tornadoes cause great damage to people and property. The passage also suggests that since tornadoes emerge from thunderclouds, they occur during unstable weather such as thunderstorms.

Drawing a **conclusion** is a common type of inference skill. When you draw a conclusion, you form a judgment or opinion based on the details in a passage. S. I. Hayakawa once said that conclusions are “statements about the unknown made on the basis of the known.” To draw conclusions, use all the facts and clues present in the passage.

To reach a conclusion as you read, keep in mind what you already know. Try practicing with this passage.

Erin has been preparing for basketball tryouts. She had her older brother practice with her every afternoon for weeks. She had dreams about starting at small forward. On the morning of tryouts, her stomach begins to ache.

Which is the **most** logical conclusion?

- A. Erin deserves to earn a spot on the basketball team.
- B. Erin is nervous about basketball tryouts.
- C. Erin works hard for what she wants.
- D. Erin is sick, so she can't go to tryouts.

Practice 1: Reading Informational Materials**The Arctic Fox**

The arctic fox, as its name indicates, lives in the Arctic region of the Northern Hemisphere. In order to protect itself from the bitter cold of the tundra, the arctic fox wears a thick, white coat in the winter. The white coat also provides excellent camouflage for its snowy surroundings. Sometimes its coat has a blue-gray hue to it.



Blending into its surroundings helps the arctic fox catch its prey, while avoiding hungry polar bears at the same time. When temperatures rise in the summer, the rocks and plants of the tundra are exposed. To maintain its camouflage, the arctic fox's coat turns a brown or gray color.

The arctic fox finds food in a variety of ways and will eat almost anything. It will even eat vegetables! The fox typically feeds on small mammals, but when food is scarce, it will also eat a polar bear's leftovers. Foxes that live near the coast will also feed on small birds, such as puffins. When it finds itself with an abundance of food, the fox will bury some of it in the snow and eat it later. To catch small prey such as lemmings and voles, the arctic fox listens for the sound of scurrying rodents. Then, it jumps up and down on the snow to break through it and catch the rodent with its paws.

In order to survive the Arctic temperatures, the fox's body has adapted to its frigid environment. The ears, nose, and legs are all small and thus have a small surface area. This reduces heat loss because there is less skin for heat to escape from. The thick fur on its paws protects the fox's feet from the snow and keeps frost out. Its long, bushy tail helps maintain balance and also provides extra cover to help keep it warm in cold weather. The fur on its body is the warmest of any mammal. The physical features and behavioral characteristics of the arctic fox are a striking example of how all animals adapt in order to survive in their surroundings.

1. According to the passage, what is *not* an average food source for the arctic fox?
 - A reptiles
 - B a polar bear's leftovers
 - C puffins
 - D lemmings

CHAPTER 3 REVIEW

Read each selection, and answer the questions that follow.

Have you tried Wyatt’s Café yet? If not, you are missing out! Wyatt’s just opened on Main Street and is worth a visit. The food is delicious and healthy.

To start with, the food at Wyatt’s is fantastic. There are no trans fats, and the ingredients are fresh each day. Wyatt’s limits its use of cooking oil and does not fry anything. I ordered the roasted chicken with mashed potatoes, which was delicious. I also tried some of my brother’s fish tacos. Next time, I am going to try the pasta with cheese sauce. Wyatt’s has a wide variety of tastes for everyone.

The service at Wyatt’s is quick. I arrived at 6:15 and had my food by 6:25. The server was friendly. She answered my questions and made sure I had everything I needed.

If the food and service weren’t enough to convince you, Wyatt’s is currently offering several specials. On Mondays, tacos are only one dollar, and salads are half price on Wednesdays. On Sundays, you receive a free drink when you order a meal. Check it out—I know you will love Wyatt’s as much as I do!



- What does the writer want?
 - for readers to visit Wyatt’s Café
 - for Wyatt’s to offer more food choices
 - for another new restaurant to open
 - for the service to be quicker
- Which is the *best* evidence given in the review to support the author’s purpose?
 - Have you tried Wyatt’s Café yet?
 - I arrived at 6:15 and had my food by 6:25.
 - I also tried some of my brother’s fish tacos.
 - There are no trans fats, and the ingredients are fresh each day.
- What *best* describes the writer’s tone?

A formal	B serious	C enthusiastic	D disappointed
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Practice 1: Analyzing the Author's Purpose

Read the following excerpt from a lecture given during a field trip to the salt marsh.

Students, if you look around you, what do you see? Grasses, mud, salt water? These are all components of the salt marsh you are standing in right now. You'll notice that there is not much variety in the type of foliage we have here because plants must be tolerant of both the salt and being at least partly submerged in water. That spiky-looking bush over there is a glasswort. This taller clump of green foliage I am standing next to is cordgrass. Now, let's walk over to that little patch of purple, and I'll show you a flower that can actually bloom in these conditions.



1. Who is speaking?
A a police officer
B a science teacher
C an electrician
D the bus driver
2. What is the speaker's purpose?
A to inform those on the field trip about the environment
B to entertain everyone while they wait for the bus
C to persuade the listeners that this is a great place to live
D to show everyone how pollution has affected this environment
3. Who is the audience?
A biology professors
B people concerned about conservation
C the students in the class
D residents who want advice about lawn care
4. Why does the speaker ask questions at the beginning?
A He is asking the listeners to answer.
B He does not know what's around him.
C He wants listeners to look around and pay attention.
D He is stalling for time until he thinks of something to say.

You can find a good example of the same kind of flashback in Susan Glaspell’s short story “A Jury of Her Peers.” In the story, Mr. Hale must tell the authorities what he found at the scene where Mr. Wright died. The retelling gives background to the reader. Later, Mrs. Hale shares the memory of Mrs. Wright as a young girl, when she was Minnie Foster. This memory brings up sympathy for the character and also provides some insight into what led to Mr. Wright’s death.

FORESHADOWING

Foreshadowing is a way in which an author gives clues about what will happen later in a story. For example, a character might commit petty thefts at the beginning of a story. This could foreshadow or predict that this character will be responsible for the big crime that happens later on in the story.



ALLUSION

Allusion is a reference to a well-known place, literary or art work, famous person, or historical event. Allusions can add rich meaning to a text. If a person is familiar with the person or work being alluded to, they will get a quick mental picture. For example, if someone says you are “a real Einstein,” he is likely referring to Nobel Prize-winning physicist Albert Einstein. Einstein was considered a genius. So, your friend is saying you are very smart.

Allusions can also refer to pop culture. For example, when someone says “Beam me up, Scotty,” it usually means “get me out of here.” It is a reference to *Star Trek* (films, TV series), in which the character of Scotty would transport crew members from planet surfaces back to the Starship Enterprise.

MOOD

Mood describes the feeling of a piece of literature creates for the reader. When you read the text, how did it make you feel? Mood is the overall emotion created by a work of literature. There are infinite possibilities for expressing literary tone and mood.



Examples of Mood in a Work of Literature

frightening	romantic
hopeful	sorrowful
horrific	suspenseful
joyful	upbeat

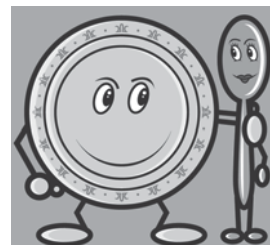
3. Which statement **best** describes the theme of this short fable?
- A Pride is a lamb's best friend.
 - B Speaking to a wolf shows bravery.
 - C Calling someone names is very foolish.
 - D It is easy to be brave from a safe distance.

In the book *Charlotte's Web*, Wilbur faces a problem. When winter comes, he will be slaughtered by the farmer. Charlotte, a spider and Wilbur's friend, spends much of her time thinking of and working on ways to save Wilbur's life. Charlotte works even when she is tired. She encourages Wilbur. She sacrifices her own needs and wants to help her friend. In the end, Charlotte's work and her dedication to Wilbur succeed.

4. Which one word **best** describes the theme of this book?
- A greed B selfishness C friendship D trust

CHARACTERS

In fictional literary works, **characters**, the imaginary people that appear in the work, must tell each other and the reader about their ideas and feelings. A character can be a person, object, or animal. The way that characters in a story interact (behave) with each other is a big part of telling the story. Through their words and actions, the story will come alive for readers. The way authors reveal characters to readers through narration, dialogue, and actions is called **characterization**.



CHARACTER TYPES AND TRAITS

There are different types of characters in a story. There are the main characters who are most important to the story. They are usually the most **rounded characters**. That means that they have many sides to them and are sometimes unpredictable, just like people in real life. They may also be **dynamic characters**, which means that they change or grow throughout the story. For example, a character who experiences a serious event may become more wise and careful as a result.

A story can also have **flat characters**, who are usually minor ones but still important. They are considered flat because they really have just one side to them. Such a character can be the grouchy neighbor or the sweet little sister, but we don't see anything else about them as people. They typically are **static characters**, which means that they stay the same throughout the story. These minor characters may serve as a symbol or to contrast a main character. For example, Tybalt is a minor character in William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*. He is Juliet's cousin and Romeo's rival, and he symbolizes the hatred between their two families.

The Fox and the Grapes

by Aesop

A hungry fox came into a vineyard where there hung delicious clusters of ripe grapes. His mouth watered to be at them. But, they were nailed up to a trellis so high, that with all his springing and leaping, he could not reach a single bunch. At last, growing tired and disappointed, the fox said, "Let someone else take them! They are but green and sour; so I'll leave them alone."



3. What genre of fiction is this?
 A myth B fable C fantasy D biography
4. What is the *most likely* reason an author would choose to write in this genre?
 A to celebrate a hero C to write about supernatural characters
 B to teach a moral lesson D to use magical events

Dish Washing

In making ready for dish washing, scrape every plate carefully to remove crumbs that would get into the dishwasher. Try using crumpled paper napkins to remove milk, grease, or crumbs before the dishes are put into the sink.

Pile in separate piles, all dishes of each sort; wash first glass, then silver, then cups, saucers, plates, then the rest. Do not put bone, ivory, or wooden handles of knives into the water. Use hot water and soap for dish washing, and then rinse with clean hot water.

Dish towels should be cleansed after every dish washing; wash clean in hot soapy water, then rinse all the soap away in clean water. Cooking utensils should soak in cold water until time for dish washing, unless they can be washed as soon as used.

– from *Scouting for Girls*, Official Handbook of the Girl Scouts

5. How can you tell this selection is nonfiction?
 A It gives information about something that is real.
 B It uses rhyme to tell a story.
 C It is short.
 D It is about a hero.

**Transcript of Gettysburg
Address (1863)
by Abraham Lincoln**

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that “all men are created equal.”

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who died here, that the nation might live. This we may, in all propriety do. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have hallowed it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here; while it can never forget what they did here.

It is rather for us, the living, to stand here, we here be dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that, from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here, gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people by the people for the people, shall not perish from the earth.



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| <p>8. The selection can best be described as a 5.02</p> <p>A novel.</p> <p>B speech.</p> <p>C autobiography.</p> <p>D newspaper article.</p> <p>9. What words most contribute to the tone of the selection? 3.01</p> <p>A continent, world, here</p> <p>B war, died, resting</p> <p>C we, hallowed, honored</p> <p>D final, sense, power</p> | <p>10. Which statement is best supported by the selection? 3.01</p> <p>A The author wanted the listeners to feel united.</p> <p>B The author knew his words would become famous.</p> <p>C The author was fighting in a battle when he wrote the selection.</p> <p>D The author wanted listeners to choose a side and defend it with honor.</p> |
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The Road Not Taken
by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;



Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

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- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. What best describes the theme of this poem? 5.01 | 2. What phrase most contributes to the overall tone of the poem? 5.02 |
| A Taking a morning walk is a healthy and soothing way to start a day. | A a yellow wood |
| B The choices we make in life have both benefits and consequences. | B long I stood |
| C It is best to live life without regrets. | C with a sigh |
| D Procrastination is the root of trouble. | D wanted wear |