eMPower™ ME

STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

Reading

Grade 4

MEA
Maine Educational Assessment

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Practice Test

Directions

You will now read two related passages and answer the questions that follow. Some of these questions will ask you to compare the two passages.

144819A Passage Common

Selection 1

Pioneering in the Ozarks

by William Anderson

1 Early on the morning of July 17, 1894, Laura and Manly and Rose said good-bye to Pa and Ma and Mary and Carrie and Grace. They left De Smet in a covered wagon and headed south.

2 For a month the Wilders drove through South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. Each night they camped in a new spot, and Laura cooked over a campfire. She told Rose they were on one long picnic.

3 As the wagon jolted and creaked along the roads, Laura kept a diary. She thought it would be interesting to read about the trip sometime in the future. She wrote about the towns they passed, the people they met, and the farms they saw. She described the stormy crossing they made on the Missouri River as they left South Dakota and arrived in Nebraska. She wrote of wading with Rose in creeks and feasting on watermelons and other fruit they bought along the way.

4 On the afternoon of August 22, Laura recorded in her diary that they crossed the Missouri state line. As the wagon rolled on, Laura saw healthy green crops; springs of clear, cold water; and beautiful forests. Blue hazy hills and rocky-edged ravines appeared.

5 Laura told Rose that this was the Ozark country. They were so glad to be in Missouri that they sang "Ta-rah-rah-BOOM-de-ay" as they neared the town of Mansfield.

6 As Manly drove the wagon around a bend into Mansfield, Laura said that this was where they would stop.

7 With a hundred-dollar bill Laura had saved from her sewing job in De Smet, she and Manly bought a farm a mile from Mansfield. The forty acres of land needed work; it was rocky and covered by timber and brush. But Laura loved the new land. She was sure it could be transformed into a beautiful home. Not long after the Wilders moved into the log cabin that stood on their own hilltop, Laura named the place Rocky Ridge Farm.

8 Laura and Rose cleaned the empty cabin and made it homelike with the belongings they had brought from De Smet. The cabin reminded Laura of her log home in the big woods of Wisconsin when she was a little girl.

9 When they were settled, Laura sent Rose down the road to the Mansfield school. Already, at the age of seven, Rose showed signs of loving words and stories and ideas, just as Laura had. She read all the books she could find and quickly became a top scholar at school.

GO ON

10 Laura helped Manly clear their land. She enjoyed working in the woods, pulling one end of the crosscut saw as they cleared space for fields and pastures. Together Laura and Manly carefully planted four hundred little apple trees on their land.

11 Slowly Rocky Ridge became a farm. Cattle grazed on the hills. Corn grew in the cleared fields. The fruit trees started bearing. Laura and Manly shipped apples and pears and grapes and berries for city people to enjoy.

12 Laura worked hard, but she knew that hard work never hurt anyone. She tended the vegetable garden, churned butter, baked bread, and raised chickens. She sewed Manly's shirts and made dresses for herself and Rose. From sunrise to sunset each day, Laura was busy.

13 When chores were finished, Laura found time for fun. She and Rose played in the creek behind the cabin. They tamed wild birds and animals. Rose's school friends came to explore the woods that covered much of Rocky Ridge Farm.

14 On Sundays Manly took the family buggy riding. Laura packed picnic lunches, and they ate under the tall trees. In the evenings at home, Laura read aloud to Manly and Rose from *The Youth's Companion*. Rose borrowed books from the school library, and Laura read them by the light of the kerosene lamp. While Laura read, Manly made popcorn for a treat.

15 After a few years of living on the farm and then in a little house in Mansfield, Laura drew plans for a new farmhouse. She believed that a house in the country should be built from materials from the land. Manly cut down huge oak trees from Rocky Ridge. He hauled them to the sawmill and brought back great timbers and boards for building. He and Laura collected stones from the fields for the foundation and fireplace.

16 Laura wanted wide, broad windows of clear glass so that she could look out onto the fields and woods. She planned three porches so she could always find a cool place on hot days. She loved to read, so a corner of the parlor was set aside for a little library. Laura loved fires crackling on a hearth, so a mammoth rock fireplace was planned for one end of the parlor.

17 The house on Rocky Ridge was started in 1896. Slowly but steadily, Laura saw her house expand. Rooms and improvements were added until finally there were ten rooms. It took nearly seventeen years to finish the house. When it was done, people from all around the countryside called the Wilder house one of the prettiest places in the Ozarks. Rocky Ridge Farm grew too. Laura and Manly saved money and continued to buy more land until they owned nearly two hundred acres.

18 In 1903 Rose finished high school. After graduation, Rose learned telegraphy at the railroad depot in Mansfield. Tapping out messages on the telegraph key was the fastest means of communication in America, and it was one of the few jobs open to women. Soon Rose was offered a telegraphy job in Kansas City.

19 Rose was seventeen when she left home to work. Women all over were becoming "career girls," and Rose was eager to live and work in Kansas City. Her first job paid her sixty dollars a month, which was enough to support herself. Laura sometimes worried about Rose living so far from Rocky Ridge. Rose reminded her that she could board the train and arrive home in less than a day.

GO ON

20 Laura marveled at the modern times she lived in. Fast trains, telephones, automobiles, and electric lights were all common in the town of Mansfield and were even spreading to the countryside. Laura knew that the time would come when people would forget what covered wagons were. But *she* would never forget the covered-wagon trips with Pa and Ma and her sisters, nor the journey with Manly and Rose to Rocky Ridge Farm.

"Pioneering in the Ozarks" from *The Life of Laura Ingalls Wilder* by William Anderson. Copyright © 1983 by William Anderson. Published by HarperCollins Publishers.

144821A Passage Common

Read Passage 2. Then answer the questions that follow.

Laura Ingalls Wilder, her husband, Almanzo, and their daughter, Rose, journeyed West during the summer of 1894. They were to begin a new life growing apples. They decided to settle in a place called Mansfield, Missouri. Mansfield was called "The Gem City of the Ozarks," and "The Land of the Big Red Apple."

Selection 2

On the Way Home

by Laura Ingalls Wilder

August 22

1 A good start at 7:15 and this morning we are driving through pretty country. Crops look good. Oats are running 30 to 60 bushels to the acre, wheat from 10 to 30. All the wood you want can be had for the hauling and coal is delivered at the house for $1.25 a ton. Land is worth from $10. an acre up, unimproved, and $15. to $25. when well improved, 12 miles from Fort Scott.

2 Exactly at 2:24 ¾ P.M. we crossed the line into Missouri. And the very first cornfield we saw beat even those Kansas cornfields.

3 We met 7 emigrant wagons leaving Missouri. One family had a red bird, a mockingbird, and a lot of canaries in cages hung under the canvas in the wagon with them. We had quite a chat and heard the mockingbird sing. We camped by a house in the woods.

August 23

4 Started out at 7:30. The country looks nice this morning. At 9:35 we came to Pedro, a little town on one side of the railroad tracks, and just across the tracks on the other side is the town of Liberal. A man in Pedro told us that one of the finest countries in the world will be around Mansfield.

5 In the late afternoon we went through Lamar, the nicest small city we have seen, 2,860 inhabitants. It is all so clean and fresh, all the streets set out to shade trees.

6 We camped among oak trees, not far from a camp of emigrants from Kentucky. Beautiful sturdy oak trees on both sides of the road.

August 24

7 On the road bright and early, 7:20. Weather cool and cloudy, looks like rain. Went through Canova in the morning. It is a little place. At noon we were going through Golden City, a nicer little place. The country looks good, but judging from weeds in the gardens and fields, the people are shiftless. This is a land of many springs and clear brooks. Some of the earth is yellow and some is red. The road is stony often.

8 Went through another little town, Lockwood, at 4 o'clock, and camped by a swift-running little creek of the clearest water. It is most delicious water to drink, cold, with a cool, snappy flavor.

9 Except in the towns, we have seen only one schoolhouse so far in Missouri.

10 We drove in the rain this afternoon, for the first time since we left Dakota. It was a good steady pouring rain, but we kept dry in the wagon and the rain stopped before camping time.

August 25

11 Left camp at 7:35. It rained again in the night and the road was muddy but after a few miles we came to country where it did not rain so the road was dry. The uplands are stony but there are good bottomland farms. Much timber is in sight, oaks, hickories, walnuts, and there are lots of wild crabapples, plums and thorn apples.

12 In South Greenfield two land agents came out and wanted us to stop here. One was C.C. Akin, the man who located Mr. Sherwin. He said Mr. Sherwin was here only a week ago, has just gone. Mr. Sherwin looked Wright County over thoroughly and came back to Cedar County and located here. But finally Mr. Akin said there is just as good land in Wright County as Mr. Sherwin bought.

13 Well, we are in the Ozarks at last, just in the beginning of them, and they are beautiful. We passed along the foot of some hills and could look up their sides. The trees and rocks are lovely. Manly says we could almost live on the looks of them.

14 We stopped for dinner just before we came to the prettiest part, by the side of a swiftly running stream, Turnback River. We forded it, through the shallow water all rippling and sparkling.

15 There was another clear stream to cross before we came to Everton at 5 o'clock. Here we stopped to get the horses shod but there was not time to shoe them all today, so we camped by a creek in the edge of town for over Sunday.

Sunday, August 26

16 A day for writing, reading, sleeping. We let the children wade in the shallow creek, within our sight. I spent almost the whole time writing to the home folks about the country since Fort Scott and these hills and woods.

GO ON

August 27

17 Out of camp at 7:10. We like this country. A man tried to get us to settle just across the road from him, said we could buy that 40 for $700. It was good land.

18 We forded Little Sock River and came through Ash Grove, a lively little town noted for its lime kiln. Two new brick blocks are going up on Main Street.

19 Camped 12 miles from Springfield. Manly was unhitching the team when a man with his wife and daughter in a covered wagon drove up and wanted to know where he could water his mules. They live 14 miles east of Springfield in Henderson County and were going to visit the woman's brother in Ash Grove.

20 After we had talked awhile they said they would like to camp by us if we could sell them a little meat to cook. They had not intended to camp and had brought nothing to eat. We let them have some meat and they used our camp stove, so we got quite well acquainted. They are good, friendly folks. Their name is Davis. After the chores were done they brought over a large watermelon and we called the Cooleys to come, and all of us ate the whole big melon. You can buy a 20-lb. watermelon here for 5 cents.

On the Way Home: the Diary of a Trip from South Dakota to Mansfield, Missouri, in 1894 by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Copyright © 1962 by Roger Lea MacBride. Published by HarperCollins Publishers.

147947A Multiple Choice B Common

1. In **Selection 1**, how does Rose feel about leaving Rocky Ridge Farm?

A She thinks life will be easier in the city.

B She is excited to live in a place with more people and jobs.

C She is worried about moving far away from the farm.

D She hopes her parents will take care of the farm while she is away.

147944A Multiple Choice C Common

2. How does the author organize **Selection 1**?

A by explaining what caused the family to move and the effect the move had on them

B by showing the problems the family faced and how they overcame them

C by describing the family's move and new life in chronological order

D by listing the steps the family took to build their new home

147951A Multiple Choice B Common

3. Which sentence describes a main idea in both selections?

A It was difficult to find large sections of land to purchase.

B The land in the Ozarks was beautiful and perfect for farming.

C Traveling by covered wagon was slow and dangerous at times.

D Families moved to the Ozarks for the good weather and schools.

147943A Multiple Choice B Common

4. Read these sentences from paragraph 20 of **Selection 1**.

"Laura marveled at the modern times she lived in. Fast trains, telephones, automobiles, and electric lights were all common in the town of Mansfield and were even spreading to the countryside."

Which words can **best** replace the underlined words above?

A did not like

B was amazed by

C was puzzled by

D worried about

147945A Multiple Choice D Common

5. What information is provided about the family in **Selection 2** that is **not** provided in **Selection 1**?

A They found clean, cold water along the way.

B They traveled by covered wagon for many days.

C They thought the land in the Ozarks was beautiful.

D They met many other emigrant wagons as they traveled.

147946A Constructed Response Common

6. Both selections describe the Wilders' journey to the Ozarks. Compare how this information is different in each selection. Use details from both selections in your answer.

- Be sure to compare both selections.
- Be sure to include facts and details from both selections in your response.

STOP