



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2013**

**Grade 4
Reading**

Reading

❶ The **opposite** of the word gain is

- A. lose.
- B. win.
- C. add.
- D. play.

❷ In which sentence does the word aloud belong?

- A. In school, running in the hallways is not _____.
- B. After doing chores, Casey was _____ to go outside.
- C. Dylan read the book _____ to his little brother.
- D. I heard _____ bang when the door slammed shut.

Sophy lives in a village in Cambodia. She knows the “number man,” who comes to the village every year to count the number of people living there. Read what happens when Sophy sees the number man. Then answer the questions that follow.

Running Shoes

by Frederick Lipp

Sophy stared at the man’s shoes.

“Ah, you have never seen running shoes before?” the man asked.

Sophy blushed. She thought about her secret wish. Her wish felt far, far away like a hawk lazily soaring in circles in the sky. Deep in her heart she knew her wish would come true if she had a pair of shoes like the number man’s.

“Walk with me to the river,” the number man said.

“Stick your feet into the clay. . . . Now step out.” Sophy liked the warm feeling of mud squishing between her toes.

The number man took a stick with lots of numbers from his pocket. He measured Sophy’s footprints.

Then the number man rubbed his chin as he mumbled numbers to himself. “Let’s see. . . . In about a month, you will receive a surprise.”

Sophy counted the days until a postal van drove through the village and dropped off a package by her door. She held her breath as she tore open the package.

“Running shoes!” she yelled. She carefully put on each shoe. “Now my wish will come true.”

“What wish?” her mother asked.

“I want to go to school.”

“But the school is eight kilometers away over horrible roads.”

“Yes, but now I have running shoes!”

Sophy said as she bounced up and down.

A smile slowly came over her mother’s face. She remembered how Sophy’s father sat with Sophy in the shade of a coconut tree and wrote marks on a small blackboard. He called them words. “This word is your name, Sophy, and this is the name of our village,” he explained.

“You may go to school,” Sophy’s mother said.

The next day before the sun rose, Sophy ate a bowl of rice and a little salt fish. Then she set off through the rice fields, running.



The shoes protected her feet from the sharp, red rocks. She sailed through the air like a skipping stone over water.

Jumping over little streams, Sophy ran through the jungle on a narrow, winding road. She ran faster and faster until finally she saw the one-room schoolhouse.



Children's sandals were lined up outside the door.

Sophy hurriedly untied her running shoes, placed them by the door, and walked barefoot into the schoolroom.

"My name is Sophy. I want to learn how to read and write."

The class, all boys, giggled.

"Quiet," the teacher said. "Come, you are welcome here. Where did you come from?"

"Andong Kralong."

The teacher gasped. "That is eight kilometers away!"

"Yes, Miss, but I have running shoes!"

The boys covered their teeth as they laughed. Tears rose in Sophy's eyes. "I want to learn how to read."

"But you're a girl," one boy whispered.

Sophy pulled all her courage together like a green snake ready to strike. She waited for the right time to speak.

After school Sophy tied on her running shoes with three knots in each shoe. She looked over the boys and said, "If you think you are so smart, try to catch me."

Boys pushed and shoved each other out of the way.

They ran after Sophy. No one could catch her.

The next morning, Sophy woke before the rooster's first call. Her head start allowed her to arrive at school before there were any sandals lined up at the door. When the boys paraded into the classroom, they smiled shyly.

They remembered how Sophy had won the race.

From that day on Sophy learned many subjects taught at the one-room schoolhouse.

3 How does the number man know Sophy wants running shoes?

- A. She tells him about some shoes she likes.
- B. She has bought shoes from him before.
- C. She keeps looking at his shoes.
- D. She asks him about his shoes.

4 Which word has the same **vowel sound** as hawk?

- A. far
- B. thought
- C. took
- D. bowl

5 Why does Sophy's mother worry about Sophy going to school?

- A. Sophy will be the only girl at school.
- B. Sophy will not be able to complete all the class work.
- C. Sophy will not have time to do her chores.
- D. Sophy will have a long and difficult trip to school.

6 What helps Sophy's mother decide to let Sophy try her plan?

- A. Her mother remembers Sophy's lessons with her father.
- B. Her mother remembers that the number man will help Sophy.
- C. Her mother knows Sophy wants to wear her new shoes.
- D. Her mother knows the village is too small for Sophy.

7 Fill in the chart.

Choose four words from the Word List that have the same vowel sound as <u>breath</u>. Write one word in each box below:
1.
2.
3.
4.

Word List
eight
next
measure
heart
knew
step
toes
never

- 8 Why does Sophy need shoes before she can go to school?
- A. She must dress like everyone else at school.
 - B. She wants to keep her feet warm on cold days.
 - C. She wants to be like the other children at school.
 - D. She must protect her feet on the rocky roads.

- 9 Read the words in the chart.

Compound Words
barefoot blackboard

Which word belongs with the words in the chart?

- A. mumbled
- B. village
- C. schoolhouse
- D. subjects

- 10 How do the boys act toward Sophy at the end of the story?
- A. They stay away from her.
 - B. They are more friendly to her.
 - C. They help her with her work.
 - D. They tease her about her shoes.

- 11 Which sentence about the story is **true**?
- A. Sophy gets what she has been dreaming about.
 - B. Sophy looks for the number man.
 - C. Sophy is the smartest student at school.
 - D. Sophy is older than the other students.

Acknowledgments

The New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Maine Departments of Education wish to acknowledge and credit the following authors and publishers for use of their work in the reading portion of the *New England Common Assessment Program—2013*.

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