Sample Items for 3rd Grade Summative Assessment Preparation

Reading Informational Text

1. Polly got a book from the library. The front cover had a picture of an airplane and said, *How People Fly.*

What could Polly’s book be about?

A. how birds can fly  
B. how airplanes work  
C. how people build things

2. A rabbit can be a great house pet. You can teach your rabbit to live inside, like a cat does. Use kind words and treats to help your rabbit learn the rules. Give your rabbit chew toys and fresh food and water every day.

Why does the rabbit need fresh water every day?

A. to keep the rabbit healthy  
B. to give the rabbit things to do  
C. to help the rabbit learn the rules

3. The Wright brothers made the first flying machine. First, they practiced with kites. Their kites went up and down and could turn. After that, the brothers made their flying machine. They used what they learned about kites to build the machine. Then, they changed the wings on the machine to make it fly better.

What did the Wright brothers do first?

A. changed the wings  
B. made a flying machine  
C. practiced with kites
4. First, put the dishes in the sink. After that, fill the sink with hot, soapy water. Next, wash the dishes. Then use clear water to wash the bubbles off the dishes. Last, put the clean dishes on the stand to air dry.

When do the directions say to fill the sink with water?

A. while you let the dishes air dry  
B. after you wash off all the bubbles  
C. after you put the dishes in the sink

5. There is an insect called a froghopper. It is very good at jumping. A froghopper can jump over two feet into the air. This helps it move from one plant to another. A flea is another insect that can jump almost as high. But it is not as good a jumper. A froghopper weighs sixty times more than a flea, but still jumps higher.

How is a froghopper different from a flea?

A. A froghopper is an insect that can jump high.  
B. A froghopper weighs more and can jump higher.  
C. A froghopper can jump from one plant to another.

6. In summer, a weasel's brown coat matches the ground. This color helps keep the weasel safe when it looks for food. Its brown coat helps it hide from larger animals. Later, in time for winter, the weasel's coat turns white. Then it will match the snow.

How does the weasel's coat help it hide?

A. It matches the ground.  
B. It keeps the weasel safe.  
C. It is warm and soft in winter.
7. Wrapping a gift is easier if you first place it in a box. Then put wrapping paper around the box and tape the edges down. Tape a bow on top of the box. Then write a note to show who the gift is from.

What do you **probably** do next?

A. Wrap paper around the box.
B. Tape the bow on the box.
C. Attach the note to the gift.

8. Sunlight makes it possible for animals and plants to live on Earth. Sunlight helps plants make food, and then animals eat the plants. Sunlight also makes the earth warm enough for animals. Both plants and animals need the sun’s warmth and light.

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

A. Plants need light from the sun.
B. Sunlight makes life on Earth possible.
C. Earth is warmed by light from the sun.

9. Butterflies spend most of their time flying. Butterflies fly among flowers to get food. Some even fly from their summer homes to their winter homes. Even at rest, butterflies are preparing to fly again.

Which is the main idea?

A. Butterflies fly among flowers to get food.
B. Butterflies spend most of their time flying.
C. Even at rest, butterflies are preparing to fly again.

10. There are many different kinds of dogs. Dogs can be very big or very small. Some dogs have short, pointy ears. Other dogs have long ears that hang down. Dogs can have lots of hair or no hair at all!

Which other sentence would go in the paragraph?

A. Dogs are very friendly.
B. Many people like dog shows.
C. Some dog have long tails.
11. Sunflowers have large, round heads. A sunflower head looks like one large flower. It is really made up of many tiny flowers. Each flower turns into a sunflower seed.

What happens to the tiny flowers on a sunflower head?

A. They grow into one large flower.
B. They turn into sunflower seeds.
C. They close when the flower grows.

12. William Steig loved to draw. For years, he drew cartoons and other drawings for grown-ups. At age sixty-one, he decided to try something new. He wrote and drew the pictures for a children's book. For over thirty years, he made children's books. One famous book is *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*. His book *Shrek!* was made into movies.

Why did William Steig begin making children's books?

A. because he wanted to try something different
B. because he noticed that he loved to draw
C. because he had just turned sixty-one

13. Myrtie Mims was a photographer in the 1950s. She took pictures of the children, families, and people around her.

What is a photographer?

A. Someone who takes pictures with a camera.
B. A kind of camera that people had in the 1950s.
C. A picture of a person taken with a camera.

14. The school band will play on Tuesday evening. The name of the show is *A Year of Music*. They will start with songs about spring. Then they will play songs about the other seasons. By the time they are finished, they really will have played a year of music!

What does it mean that the band will play "a year of music"?

A. The songs are about the seasons.
B. The band was formed a year ago.
C. The show goes on for too long.
15. Paper bags have changed over the years. The first bags had pointed bottoms so could not hold much. In the early 1800s, Margaret Knight had an idea. She made a machine that would fold and seal the bags. They now had flat bottoms. The new bags held much more than the old ones.

What do the underlined words show?

A. how flat the bottoms were  
B. how the bags were different  
C. how the folds were made

16. Use paper and a pencil to make a tree rubbing. First, find a tree with rough bark. Then place the paper on top of the bark. Next, rub the side of the pencil tip across the paper. The markings of the tree bark will appear on the paper!

What words show the order of steps?

A. paper, pencil, tree  
B. tip, side, across  
C. first, then, next

17. You might think dirt is bad. It gets on your clothes, and then you have to wash them. But dirt is very important. Plants need dirt to grow, and people need plants for food. What would we do without dirt?

What is the author trying to tell you?

A. Dirt is bad because it gets on clothes.  
B. You should wash dirt off of your clothes.  
C. Dirt is something important for people.
18. Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote many books for children. She wrote many books about her family. In the books, Wilder shared many of her family's adventures. She also wrote about what the family's life was like. Wilder's books are the very best children's books.

Which is an opinion?

A. Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote many books for children.
B. She also wrote about what the family's life was like.
C. Wilder's books are the very best children's books.

19. A classroom should be a comfortable place for children to learn. When children are comfortable, they learn better. There should be enough room that they don't feel crowded. There should also be enough light to see well. There shouldn't be too much noise. And most of all, children should feel safe.

What is the main point the writer makes?

A. A classroom should have plenty of room.
B. A classroom shouldn't have too much noise.
C. A classroom should be comfortable.

20. Beavers are good at building. Like mice and squirrels, beavers have two large front teeth. But beavers use their teeth to cut down trees. They carry the tree branches to the edge of the water. There they make dams with branches and sticks. They use stones and mud too. They make good use of the things they have.

Why does the author think beavers are good at building?

A. Beavers are like mice and squirrels.
B. Beavers use many things to make dams.
C. Beavers have two large front teeth.
21. A shark never runs out of teeth. If a shark loses a tooth, another tooth takes its place. During its life, a shark grows thousands of teeth!

Which tells about the paragraph?

A. It tries to get you to buy a shark book.
B. It explains true things about sharks.
C. It tells you a story about a shark.
1. Mary and Elizabeth needed to cross the road. The girls looked up and down the wide road. Horses and wagons were coming down the road. The girls waited until the wagons passed, and then they crossed the road.

What shows this story took place long ago?

A. Mary and Elizabeth needed to cross the road.
B. Horses and wagons were coming down the road.
C. The girls looked up and down the wide road.

2. Mrs. Smith and her family live at the end of the street. Her neighbor is older and lives alone. Mrs. Smith is her good friend and visits her almost every day. She often prepares meals for her or helps her clean her house.

What do you know about Mrs. Smith?

A. She is kind to her neighbor.
B. She lives alone in her house.
C. She does not like to stay at home.

3. Ajay likes being the youngest child in his family. His two older brothers look after him. Before he goes to sleep, they tell him adventure stories. Ajay always falls asleep before the stories are over. The stories will be continued the next night.

How does Ajay feel about his brothers?

A. He wants to get bigger so he can play with them.
B. He likes that they look after him and tell him stories.
C. He wishes their stories didn't keep him awake.
4. Erin grabbed her ice skates and new jacket and ran to catch the bus. She hopped on and got to the rink in ten minutes. Erin pushed through the doors. She put on her ice skates and pulled on her jacket. Erin met her friends, and they ice-skated all afternoon.

Why did Erin put on a jacket?

A. It was cool by the ice rink.
B. It was her new jacket.
C. It was too heavy to carry.

5. Keisha was ready to start the parade. She took her place right in front of the flag team, and she blew a loud whistle. That meant it was time to start the parade. Keisha smiled and waved as she started marching.

What causes the parade to start?

A. Keisha stands in the front.
B. Keisha smiles and waves.
C. Keisha blows a loud whistle.

6. Greg and James went camping in the woods by a lake. They found a perfect fishing spot in the shade and dropped their lines in. They fished for hours and listened to the radio. They knew they would soon have fish for a delicious dinner.

Which tells about the fishing spot?

A. It has a tent and a place for cooking.
B. It is a shady spot by a lake in the woods.
C. It is a place in the ocean to go fishing.
7. Trang's father has been a fisherman all his life. Every morning Trang and his father load the fishing boat. Then they wait for the waves to take them out to sea. They toss nets to catch fish to feed everyone in their village.

Which describes where Trang and his father live?

A. a big house in a big city
B. a village by the sea
C. a village in a hot desert

8. Lamar raced around the corner on his bike. He was pedaling fast because he didn't want to be late for his piano lesson. The bike's front tire hit a rock. Lamar thought, "Not a flat!" but the bike kept rolling. Then Lamar saw his piano teacher's house. He was going to be on time.

What is Lamar's problem?

A. He doesn't know where his teacher lives.
B. He doesn't remember how to fix his flat tire.
C. He doesn't want to be late for his piano lesson.

9. Ji's school needed paper, pencils, crayons, and paints. They were running out. Ji wondered how to help. He told his mom and dad and called his aunt and uncle. They brought him many things the school needed. He put all the things into a big box. The next day, he brought the box to school.

How is the problem solved?

A. People in Ji's family bring him things the school needs.
B. Ji puts all the things from his family into a big box.
C. Ji's school needs paper, pencils, crayons, and paints.

10. Kerry pulled on her new jacket and grabbed her bike. She rode around the park for a few minutes. She stopped to take off her jacket and put it in the bike basket. Then she rode her bike again.

Why does Kerry take off her jacket?

A. It doesn't fit anymore.
B. It is a new jacket.
C. She is too warm.
11. Today, Greg met his friends Janice and Ivan at the park. "Come on, I'll race you," he cried. They ran three times around the pond before falling onto the grass. They were out of breath and laughing. Later, Greg got out his new kite, and they took turns flying it.

Why did the friends meet at the park?

A. to learn about the park
B. to clean up the park
C. to have fun together

12. There was a new boy in Ginny's class. At recess, Ginny noticed that he was standing all by himself. She imagined how hard it would be to switch schools. The first thing she'd want would be a friend. She went up to the boy and said, "Hi, I'm Ginny."

What lesson does this story teach?

A. Learn the rules at a new school quickly.
B. Treat others like you would want to be treated.
C. Finish all your work before you play.

13. Talia took piano lessons. She really wanted to learn so she was always on time. The trouble was that Talia never practiced. She didn't understand why she never got better. Then one week, she practiced every day. Her teacher was amazed at how much she had learned.

What lesson does the story teach?

A. Practice helps you learn.
B. Be ready for anything.
C. Trying is what is important.
Language

1. The **happiness** of people who come to our store is very important.
   What is the **opposite** of happiness?
   
   A. carefulness  
   B. sadness  
   C. goodness

2. The sky was the **clearest** it had been in days.
   What means nearly the **opposite** of **clearest**?
   
   A. bluest  
   B. ugliest  
   C. cloudiest

3. We watched an **eagle** fly to the lake and catch a fish.
   An eagle is a kind of ______.
   
   A. bird that cannot fly  
   B. bird that swims  
   C. bird that hunts

4. Teri saw that her shoes were **untied**.
   What does **untied** mean?
   
   A. not tied  
   B. tied again  
   C. well tied
5. Which does the word *armful* mean?
   A. as much as the arms can carry
   B. one who works with his arms
   C. something that looks like arms

6. We got sand in our shoes when we went to the _______.
   A. beach
   B. airport
   C. market
   D. diner

7. Many travelers stop to eat at this little _______.
   A. diner
   B. net
   C. float
   D. plow

8. Lucía frowned at all the books scattered around her room. She picked them up, and then she **arranged** them on her shelf. "That's better," she said.
   What does *arranged* mean?
   A. ordered
   B. removed
   C. counted
9. Myrtie Mims was a **photographer** in the 1950s. She took pictures of the children, families, and people around her.

What is a **photographer**?

A. Someone who takes pictures with a camera.
B. A kind of camera that people had in the 1950s.
C. A picture of a person taken with a camera.

10. When class started, Ms. Martin said, "Put on your thinking caps."

*Put on your thinking caps* means _____.

A. get ready to learn
B. wear your hats
C. turn in your work

11. Last year, _____ were twelve people on the team.

Which word makes the sentence correct?

A. they’re
B. their
C. there

12. At camp, I made many _____ friends who enjoy music as much as I do.

Which word belongs in the blank?

A. new
B. gnu
C. knew
13. Exercise is important for staying **healthy**.

Which word means about the same as **healthy**?

- A. sick
- B. well
- C. awake

14. The girl likes to **act** in the play at school.

Which word means about the same as **act**?

- A. clap
- B. pretend
- C. sing