



Student Name: _____

Ohio Achievement Tests



Reading Student Test Booklet Half-Length Practice Test

Acknowledgments

Reading

Selection 1: Visions of Mars

"Visions of Mars" by Nancy Finton, *National Geographic for Kids*, March 2002. Used by permission of *National Geographic Image Collection*.
Artwork: Mars-Digital Vision/Getty Images.

Selection 2: Katie Kyle and the Thunderhead

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Selection 3: Holding Hands

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Directions:

Today you will be taking the Ohio Grade 5 Reading Practice Test. Three different types of questions appear on this test: multiple choice, short answer and extended response.

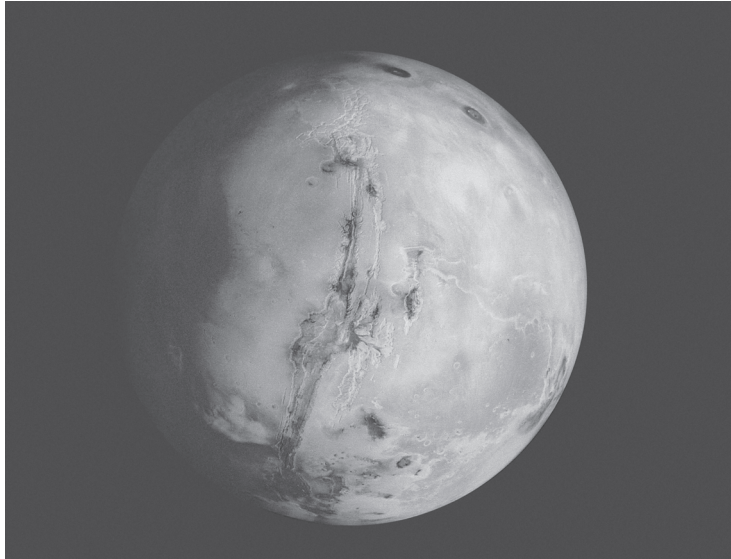
There are several important things to remember:

1. Read each question carefully. Think about what is being asked. Look carefully at graphs or diagrams because they help you understand the question.
2. For short-answer and extended-response questions, write your answers neatly and clearly in the space provided in the answer document. Any answers you write in the Student Test Booklet will not be scored.
3. Short-answer questions are worth two points. Extended-response questions are worth four points. Point values are printed near each question in your Student Test Booklet. The amount of space provided for your answers is the same for two- and four-point questions.
4. For multiple-choice questions, shade in the circle next to your choice in the answer document for the test question. Mark only one choice for each question. Darken completely the circles on the answer document. If you change an answer, make sure that you erase your old answer completely.
5. Do not spend too much time on one question. Go on to the next question and return to the question skipped after answering the remaining questions.
6. Check over your work when you are finished.

Directions: Read the selection.

Visions of Mars

by Nancy Finton



What’s happening on Mars? It’s hard to tell. After all, Mars is more than 35 million miles from Earth. That makes it difficult to study. People can only catch glimpses of the planet through telescopes and in photos shot from spacecraft. Then—using science, imagination, or both—they try to figure out what’s going on out there. Throughout history people have come up with different ideas about Mars.

Peering through a telescope in the 1800s, an astronomer thought he saw lines crisscrossing Mars. People decided that these lines were canals, or waterways, built by intelligent creatures to direct water across the planet’s dry soil.

Other Mars watchers noticed that the red planet sometimes faded to brown, then grew red again. What could cause this? Some figured they were looking at **Martian** plants blooming and dying as the seasons changed.

Today: A Red Dusty Desert and a Big Mystery

NASA has been exploring Mars for nearly 40 years. Spacecraft have orbited, or looped, the planet to take pictures. And robots have explored the Martian surface and sent back electronic information. Based on these findings, scientists

can agree on this: Mars is a frozen red desert whipped by tornadoes and fierce winds. Craters and ancient volcanoes spot its surface.

Experts also agree that the “canals” people thought existed are actually natural peaks and valleys, seen from millions of miles away. And the “plant blooms” are colorful dust storms.

To see scientists disagree, just ask about water on Mars. Water is a huge question because it could be a sign of Martian life. “On Earth, almost wherever there is liquid water, there is life,” says NASA’s Pascal Lee.

Until a few years ago, most scientists agreed that water had flowed over Mars, but not for millions or billions of years. New photos, however, have changed some minds.

Around 1996, a spacecraft called Mars Global Surveyor (sir VAY er) snapped photos as it began to orbit Mars. The Global Surveyor images showed unusual **gullies**, or narrow valleys, often created by flowing water. Scientists had seen ancient Mars gullies. But these gullies looked newer. They weren’t marked by ancient craters or worn down by wind.

Some experts think that streams of water carved the gullies. That means that Mars may have experienced some sort of liquid water flowing on the surface in more recent times. “Thus the question of life on Mars even at present cannot be ruled out,” Lee says.

Not everyone agrees with Lee. The problem is, water wouldn’t stay liquid on today’s Mars. The average temperature of minus 27°F would turn liquid water to ice. Or Mars’s low air pressure would quickly turn the liquid into a gas.

So how could water flow? “It’s possible that Mars was warmer a few hundred thousand years ago,” Lee says.

Other scientists still doubt that there was water less than a million years ago. They are seeking new reasons for the gullies. Some think jets of a gas called carbon dioxide (CAR bun die OX ide) caused them. The answer may come from Odyssey (AH dah see), a spacecraft now orbiting Mars. Its instruments are designed to detect signs of water and other chemicals near the surface of Mars.



2017 and Beyond: A Home Away from Home?

When will humans reach Mars? It's anyone's guess. "A long time ago I bet that the first landing would happen in 2017. I'm sticking to that," Lee says. "Scientifically, it's still possible."

During the next 10 years, NASA plans to send robots to move across the dusty surface of Mars. Robots may even collect the first rock samples to be rocketed back to Earth. But many think that robots can't solve the mysteries of Mars. "Humans are the explorers. They ask the questions," Lee says. "Robots are just some of their tools."

Yet people aren't rushing to Mars. For one thing, getting there takes six months. And once there, people would need to guard against dangers such as poisonous air and temperatures falling to minus 160°F.

Still, some scientists dream of building a research station on Mars. Astronauts would live in inflatable houses and grow food in greenhouses. They would wear airtight suits and explore the planet in vehicles called **rovers**.

While on Mars, astronauts could make breathable air with a machine that pulls oxygen out of the thin Martian atmosphere. They could also use chemicals in the atmosphere to make fuel. "Even the first Mars mission might make rocket fuel to return to Earth," Lee says.

In the more distant future, others hope that humans will be able to live and vacation on Mars. There are even ideas for warming up the planet and giving it a more breathable atmosphere. Will you ever be able to buy a ticket to Mars? For the moment, you'll have to wait and see.

Word Bank

gullies — long, shallow ditches or valleys

Martian — something that exists on or comes from the planet Mars

NASA — National Aeronautics and Space Administration

rovers — vehicles, like cars, that are used on the moon and planets to get around

Directions: Use the selection to answer questions 1 – 8.

1. Mars is a frozen red desert whipped by tornadoes and **fierce** winds.
Which word is an antonym for **fierce**?
 - A. natural
 - B. gentle
 - C. ancient
 - D. warm

2. In the 1800s, people noticed that Mars' red color faded to brown and then grew red again. What did the people think caused the changes in color?
 - A. cities on Mars
 - B. canals on Mars
 - C. storms on Mars
 - D. seasons on Mars

3. In the 1800s, people thought that the lines on Mars were canals or waterways. What do scientists believe about those lines today?
 - A. They are fierce winds and tornadoes.
 - B. They are natural peaks and valleys.
 - C. They are blooming and dying plants.
 - D. They are chemicals near the surface.

4. Explain why some scientists today believe that there is water on Mars and some scientists do not. Write your answer in the **Answer Document**.
(2 points)

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5. Why are scientists interested in learning whether there is water on Mars?
- A. Water would help indicate that there might be life on Mars.
 - B. Water would help explain why the color of Mars changes.
 - C. If there is water on Mars, scientists can send robots there.
 - D. If there is water on Mars, people will be able to vacation there.
6. In the **Answer Document**, complete the chart with two main ideas from the selection and one detail to support each main idea. (4 points)
7. Some think **jets** of a gas called carbon dioxide (CAR bun die OX ide) caused them.

jet /jět/ *n.* **1)** a forceful stream. **2)** a type of airplane. **3)** a very deep color black. **4)** a type of coal.

Which dictionary definition is used to define **jets** in the sentence above?

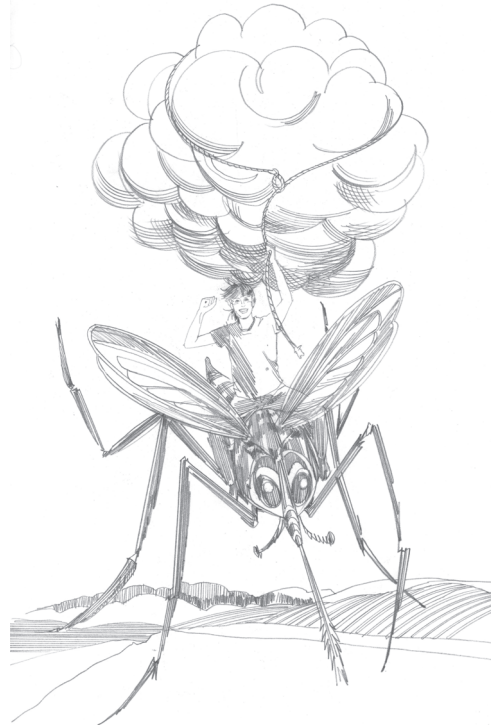
- A. definition 1
 - B. definition 2
 - C. definition 3
 - D. definition 4
8. In the **Answer Document**, write a summary of the selection. Remember to include the main idea. Use the subheadings as a guide. (4 points)



Directions: Read the selection.

Katie Kyle and the Thunderhead

by Carol Ottolengh-Barga



Who was Katie Kyle? Do you mean to say you've never heard of the bravest, most fantastic canal-boat captain ever to navigate the Miami-Erie Canal?

Why, she could outswim, outjump, outclimb, and outpull anyone without even getting out of bed in the morning.

No one knows where Katie came from. She just appeared one day, floating up the canal on her **barge**, *The Freedom*. Her hair was like a bright orange sunset, and she was as strong as any six ordinary boaters put together.

She was tender-hearted, too. Many a night, when the mules were worn out from hauling *The Freedom* up the canal, Katie would go down the **towpath** after them. She'd carry them back to the boat, snuggled up in her arms like little babies. Then she'd tuck each mule in its stall and sing its favorite towing song to put it to sleep.

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Her lead mule, Sal, was the biggest, strongest, smartest mule on the canal. Sal stood fifteen feet high at the shoulder, and she ate a wagonload of hay every day. Her towing **harness** was so heavy that it took three crew members to put it on her. Once she was harnessed, well, Sal could outpull any four teams of ordinary mules combined.

Well, with Sal as lead mule, *The Freedom* was the fastest boat on the canal. Everyone knew that Katie and her crew always delivered their cargo on time. But once, during the hot, dry summer of 1849, *The Freedom* came mighty close to being late.

That was the summer it didn't rain for forty-three weeks. The canal was so parched that the fish lined up with their towels to take turns swimming in the few remaining water holes. Boats were **mudlarked**—that's stuck in the mud—all the way from the Ohio River up to the four Great Lakes. (There were only four Great Lakes back then; little Lake Ontario hadn't been formed yet.)

Katie was worried. If it didn't rain soon, *The Freedom* couldn't deliver the lumber and steel that folks up north needed to build that **newfangled** railroad they were all talking about. Every once in a while storm clouds appeared on the horizon, but the wind always pushed the clouds away from the canal. It didn't rain, and *The Freedom* stayed mudlarked.

One morning after Katie had finished eating a small breakfast—a dozen apples, thirty-two pancakes, fifty-three pieces of bacon, and six pots of coffee—she called her crew together.

"It's time we got moving," she told them. "But that won't happen until we get some rain. So I'm gonna go find a rain cloud and bring it back here."

Katie mounted Sal, and the two galloped along until they came to a forest. Katie looked at the trees and sighed.

She climbed the tallest tree she could find, a scruffy little pine that only reached a mile or so into the sky. There she stayed, waiting for a likely looking rain cloud to come along.

Katie sat in the tree for four days, watching the sky and fighting off mosquitoes the size of small cows. One of her crew finally brought her an extra-

large frying pan to swat them with. At last, she spotted a cloud. It was a **humdinger** of a thunderhead, dark and billowing and bursting with rain. But the wind was pushing it north, away from *The Freedom*.

Suddenly, another mosquito buzzed by. "Not so fast!" Katie yelled, grabbing it. "We're going after that rain!" The mosquito squirmed and bucked and tried to bite, but Katie jumped onto its back and twisted its ears until it realized who was boss. Then Katie and her mosquito flew after the cloud.

Sal galloped along behind them. Her hoofs pounded the ground so loudly that people nine miles away thought they heard thunder and ran to bring their laundry in.

Katie caught up with the cloud and gently looped Sal's reins around it. Then she and Sal towed it back to *The Freedom*. When the crew saw that huge thunderhead, they cheered and threw their hats high into the air. Some of the men were so happy that they did a little dance right there on the deck of *The Freedom*.

Katie began to squeeze the thunderhead just like it was a giant sponge. It began to rain—tiny drops at first, then huge sheets of water. The rain soon filled the canal, and the extra water sloshed over the sides. Katie wrung so much rain out of that cloud that Lake Erie overflowed and formed the fifth Great Lake, Lake Ontario.

When she'd squeezed every drop from the cloud, Katie let it go. She and Sal boarded *The Freedom* and sailed up the canal with their cargo of lumber and steel for the railways. The railroaders were so delighted to see Katie on time that they threw a barn dance in her honor. There was dancing and laughing and fiddle playing, and so much food on the tables that the whole state of Ohio sagged from the weight.

The next day, Katie and her crew waved good-bye to the railroaders and loaded *The Freedom* with new cargo. They then floated off downstream in search of more adventures.



Word Bank

barge — a flat-bottomed boat

harness — the straps by which you can pull a load

humdinger — one that is extraordinary

mudlarked — a boat grounded because the water level is low

newfangled — of the newest style

towpath — a path traveled by people or animals towing boats

Directions: Use the selection to answer questions 9 – 15.

9. The canal was so **parched** that the fish lined up with their towels to take turns swimming in the few remaining water holes.

What is the meaning of the word **parched** in this sentence?

- A. The canal was getting bigger.
 - B. The canal was filling up with water.
 - C. The canal was very cold.
 - D. The canal was drying up.
10. At the end of the selection Katie makes it rain.
- Which of these incidents led to this action?
- A. She forces *The Freedom's* crew to throw their hats at a passing cloud.
 - B. She makes Sal jump on a cloud in the sky.
 - C. She catches a cloud and squeezes rain out of it over the canal.
 - D. She calls the railroaders and asks for their help.

11. Write your answer in the **Answer Document**.

How do the railroaders feel when they see Katie arrive with their lumber and steel? Use information from the selection to support your answer. (2 points)

12. Why does Katie worry about the lack of rain during the summer of 1849?
- A. She worries that her mules will get sick without water.
 - B. She worries that the canal will be too dry to move supplies for the railroad.
 - C. She worries that the heat will damage railroad tracks in the United States.
 - D. She worries that the sun will hurt the plants around her.
13. Suddenly, another mosquito buzzed by. "Not so fast!" Katie yelled, grabbing it. "We're going after that rain!"

From these sentences, you can tell that Katie feels

- A. scared.
 - B. determined.
 - C. unhappy.
 - D. weak.
14. In the **Answer Document**, identify Katie's problem in the selection. Describe three steps Katie took to solve the problem. (4 points)
15. How are Katie and Sal similar?
- A. They both are incredibly strong.
 - B. They both work on railroad tracks.
 - C. They both can climb trees.
 - D. They both know how to fly.



Directions: Read the selection.

Holding Hands

by Ann Whitford Paul

Grandfather's fingers
wrap around my hand
and warm me like a mitten.
I feel his fat knobbed knuckles
and see his veins scribble
all the way into his sleeve.

Walking along,
I listen.
He talks about his life on the farm.
His voice grows soft—
so soft—
I cannot hear all the words.
But, in his hand,
I can feel
each cow he milked,
each bale of hay he tied,
and each row of earth he tilled.



Directions: Use the selection to answer questions 16 – 20.

16. Grandfather's fingers
wrap around my hand
and warm me like a mitten.

What type of figurative language is used in this sentence?

- A. idiom
 - B. personification
 - C. simile
 - D. metaphor
17. What does the sentence "His voice grows soft—so soft" mean?
- A. Grandfather speaks to someone else.
 - B. Grandfather must repeat himself.
 - C. Grandfather tells a secret.
 - D. Grandfather's voice fades.
18. Which word suggests the mood of the poem?
- A. excitement
 - B. angry
 - C. confusion
 - D. loving

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19. The poem is mainly about
- A. Grandfather's life story as told through his hands.
 - B. how Grandfather likes to talk about the past.
 - C. why Grandfather does not speak loudly enough.
 - D. Grandfather's job of milking cows and tying hay bales.
20. What is the meaning of the word **tilled** in the poem?
- A. defended
 - B. plowed
 - C. climbed
 - D. sold

