748th

Middle Grades Language Arts Diagnostic Test

This 55 multiple-choice question diagnostic test has been designed to include the rigor of Common Core standards and to assess student strengths and weaknesses in grammar, mechanics, and writing skills. Questions vary in levels of difficulty so that you may quickly diagnose weaknesses among your students at the beginning of the school year. Test results may also be used to offer information regarding students with exceptional advanced language arts skills. For assessment, differentiation, and progress tracking, this this test is a helpful tool to begin the year as well as to benchmark student progress all year long.

Scope of tested skills:

Capitalization – 1 question Dangling and Misplaced Modifiers – 2 questions Denotation and Connotation – 3 questions Dictionary and Thesaurus 2 questions Formal and Informal Language – 1 question Greek and Latin Roots - 2 questions Homophone Usage - 1 question Phrases – 6 questions Pronoun Usage - 3 questions Punctuation - 5 questions Research Skills – 2 questions Run-ons, Comma splices, and Fragments -4 questions Simple, Compound, Complex, and Compound-Complex Sentences - 4 questions Subject and Predicate - 6 questions Then and Than Usage - 1 question Thesis Statements, Topic Sentences, and Supporting Details – 4 questions Transition Words – 5 questions Writing Vocabulary – 3 questions

LA Diagnostic Test

Transition Words – Que	stions 1 - 5		
Matching (1-5) A. Provide an example B. Comparison or contras	C. Give more in D. Show empha		E. Chronological order
Match the following trans 1. in fact 2. furthermore 3. similarly 4. afterwards 5. for instance	sition word or phrase w	ith its use (see answers o	above).
Pronoun Usage (6-8)			
6h A. Her and me	ave the same class fifth 3. Her and I	n period. C. She and I	D. She and myself
7. My sister bought a vide	eo game for my brother	and	
-	3. I	C. myself	D. none of these is correct
8. A peer helper must be What correction should b A. comma after enthusias B. you should be he or sl	e made? tic	and you must be sure to C. you should be they D. sentence is correct as	
Then and Than Usage (9. Jake is a better basketh A. then		me.	
Capitalization (10) 10. katie is really enjoyin mr. bolton's algebra class Which words should be c. A. katie, english, mr. bolt B. katie, middle, school, C. katie, english, mr. bolt D. katie, middle, school,	i. apitalized in the sentention's english, mr. bolton's con's, algebra	ce?	she's not doing as well in
Punctuation (11-15) 11. I helped with a Habita		this summer and it was a	n incredible experience.
Which word would be fol A. helped	lowed by a comma? B. house	C. summer	D. no comma needed
12. Eva was paid \$100 to Which word would be fold A. paid		er the plants. C. dog	D. no comma needed
13. Indicate which of the A. My teacher told me th B. My teacher told me, th C. My teacher told me, "D. no correct answer given	at I had the highest sco nat I had the highest sco that I had the highest so	ore on the test.	

C. I was born on June 1	14, 2002, in Marietta Geo 4, 2002, in Marietta, Geo 4 2002, in Marietta Geoo 4 2002 in Marietta, Geoo	orgia. rgia.	
15. MyA. friends	names are Sadio	e, Krista, and Reagan. C. friends'	D. no correct answer given
Subject and Predicate 16. Discuss the trip with What is the simple subje A. Discuss	n your parents.	C. parents	D. understood you
17. Where did he get the What is the simple subject. Where		C. he	D. shoes
18. Hiking is one of my What is the simple subject. Hiking		C. favorite	D. activities
19. The Constitution of <i>What is the complete su</i> A. Constitution B. United States of Ama		C. United States	old. the United States of America
20. Emma left her agen What is the s imple pred A. Emma	da on the bus last week. licate of this sentence? B. left	C. her	D. on
	has over 43,000 students redicate of this sentence: lents		dents this year
Phrases (22 – 27) <i>Match the <u>underlined</u> p</i> A. appositive phrase	hrase in each sentence v B. infinitive phrase	vith the correct type of p C. participial phrase	ohrase (22 – 25). D. prepositional phrase
24. Washed with soap a	orn cover is Kevin's. Crusader, is my favorite and water, out dog was a ble to go on the field trip	llowed back on the couc	ch. surgery on her foot.
26. The capital <u>of our s</u> In this sentence the unc A. adjective	<u>tate</u> is Atlanta. lerlined prepositional ph B. adverb	rase is functioning as a(C. no	n) phrase. un D. verb
	door as soon as Molly o derlined prepositional ph B. adverb		n) phrase. un D. verb

14. Indicate which of the following is correct:

Homophone Usage (28)

28. ______ teachers think ______ important to complete the agenda daily.

A. There, its

B. Their, it's

C. They're, its

D. There, it's

Run-ons, Comma splices, and Fragments (29 – 32)

29. While I was watching my little brother.

This is an example of

A. a complete sentence. B. a sentence fragment.

C. a comma splice.

D. a run-on sentence.

30. "Please stop talking and watch the movie," she begged.

This is an example of

A. a complete sentence.

C. a comma splice.

B. a sentence fragment. D. a run-on sentence.

31. Our group met at the coffee shop and we studied for two hours.

A. a complete sentence.

C. a comma splice.

B. a sentence fragment.

D. a run-on sentence.

32. Carson ordered an iced coffee, John didn't get anything.

A. a complete sentence.

C. a comma splice.

B. a sentence fragment.

D. a run-on sentence.

Formal and Informal Language (33)

- 33. Which sentence would be the MOST appropriate for a formal research paper?
- A. Surveys indicate that not all of the teachers are on the same page.
- B. Surveys said that not all teachers are on the same page.
- C. Surveys tell the story of how all of the teachers weren't in agreement.
- D. Surveys indicate that the teachers are not in agreement.

Simple, Compound, Complex, and Compound-Complex Sentences (34-37)

- 34. Which sentence is a simple sentence?
- A. Noah competed against Jaden's team in the first game of the tournament.
- B. Alicia took a break from studying, and now she's watching her favorite show.
- C. Will Daniel be able to play since he hurt his wrist?
- D. When Chloe had forgotten to call her mom, she was so glad that her brother reminded her with a text message.
- 35. Which sentence is a compound sentence?
- A. I like to walk along the beach in the early morning hours, but Zoey likes to sleep in on vacation.
- B. Be sure to bring the chips, paper plates, and napkins with you to the park.
- C. If you like swimming, you should join a health club with an indoor pool.
- D. He went to his cousin's house for dinner and forgot to study.
- 36. Which sentence is a complex sentence?
- A. I didn't want to go to the museum with my parents, but the Dream Cars exhibit was excellent.
- B. My dad didn't want to pay the additional baggage fee, so I was only able to pack two pairs of shoes.
- C. We saw two different kinds of monkeys when we visited Costa Rica in February.
- D. After the long ride home last Tuesday, Mom didn't want to cook dinner.
- 37. Which sentence is a compound-complex sentence?
- A. I really liked the blueberry cake with the lemon frosting, but Hannah preferred the double chocolate brownies.
- B. Mark Twain is one of my favorite authors because I like his sense of humor.
- C. They are no longer friends, for he had a habit of telling embarrassing stories about her.
- D. Even though I didn't want to wear a tuxedo, my sister's wedding was fun, and I'm glad I got to play a part.

	Transition Words – Question	s 1 - 5		
	Matching (1-5) A. Provide an example B. Comparison or contrast	C. Give more in D. Show empha		E. Chronological order
D C B E A	Match the following transition 1. in fact 2. furthermore 3. similarly 4. afterwards 5. for instance	word or phrase wit	h its use (see answers abo	ove).
	Pronoun Usage (6-8)			
С	6 have the A. Her and me B. He	ne same class fifth j er and I	period. C. She and I	D. She and myself
A	7. My sister bought a video gar A. me B. I	ne for my brother a	end C. myself	D. none of these is correct
В	8. A peer helper must be enthu What correction should be mad A. comma after enthusiastic B. you should be he or she	siastic and polite, a le?	nd you must be sure to lis C. you should be the y D. sentence is correct as	
В	Then and Than Usage (9) 9. Jake is a better basketball pl A. then B. th		me.	
A	Capitalization (10) 10. katie is really enjoying her mr. bolton's algebra class. Which words should be capital A. katie, english, mr. bolton's B. katie, middle, school, english. C. katie, english, mr. bolton's, D. katie, middle, school, english.	ized in the sentence sh, mr. bolton's algebra	e?	e's not doing as well in
С	Punctuation (11-15) 11. I helped with a Habitat for	Humanity house th	is summer and it was an i	ncredible experience.
	Which word would be followed A. helped B. ho		C. summer	D. no comma needed
D	12. Eva was paid \$100 to walk Which word would be followed A. paid B. \$2	l by a comma?	the plants. C. dog	D. no comma needed
A	13. Indicate which of the follo A. My teacher told me that I B. My teacher told me, that I I C. My teacher told me, "that I D. no correct answer given	wing is correct: had the highest so lad the highest scor	core on the test. e on the test.	

Research Skills (54 – 55)

- 54. Which of the following citations is in the correct MLA format?
- A. Google Search, "Rebuilding Afghanistan," internet article by Charlie Keenan, 2002, from Scholastic.com. on 3 July 2014.
- B. Keenan, Charlie. "Rebuilding Afghanistan." *Scholastic News Online*. Scholastic.com, 2002. Web. 3 July 2014.
- C. "Rebuilding Afghanistan" by Charlie Keenan, 2002.
- D. Scholastic News Online. "Rebuilding Afghanistan." Keenan, Charlie. Scholastic.com. 2002. Web. 3 July 2014.
- 55. When writing a research paper about struggles women face in Afghanistan today, what would be a good search term to use to find relevant results?
- A. Afghanistan children in the Middle East
- B. Prejudice against women in history
- C. Afghanistan discrimination against women
- D. U.S. involvement in Afghanistan

Denotation and Connotation (47 – 49) 47. The denotation of a word is the A. association (emotional or otherwise) which the word evokes B. literal meaning of the word; dictionary definition C. pronunciation of the word D. origin of the word				
48. Which word has A. superior	the most positive conn B. good	otation? C. fine	D. tolerable	
A. All of the reality s B. Her blonde hair wa C. We were surprised	as long and fine , so she	fine job controlling the didn't need to use a flat hotel room had a fine vi	eir nerves during the interviews. iron. ew of the pristine beach.	
Thesis Statements, Read the paragraph l	Topic Sentences, and below then answer the	Supporting Details (5 questions.	50 – 53)	
debate among many stop the growth of m ³ However, health ad obesity. ⁴ Salt can be water, preserving for corporations are in b healthy; therefore, it	Americans. ² Food problem and bacteria keep lyocates claim that food used for countless purely, and stabilizing soils outlies to make money is vital that consumers	oducers claim that add ing food fresh longer a d additives contribute t rposes such as removir s for construction. ⁵ Co y and produce whateve s educate themselves al	ive recently become a hot topic for litives are necessary ingredients that he is well as improving taste for consume to health problems such as cancer and ing snow and ice from roads, softening insumers should keep in mind that all it rells, even if their products are not bout the dangers of chemical additives additives from their diet.	ers.
50. Which sentence A. sentence 1	does not belong in the B. sentence 2	above paragraph? C. sentence 3	D. sentence 4	
A. The United Nationsuffered from the B. Leafy greens can or poor handling C. In the United State coloring, texture,	onic undernourishmen become contaminated during harvest and pretes, more than 3,000 suincreasing flavor and the researchers found the	re Organization estima t in 2010-2012. from contact with wild washing. ibstances can be added more.	agraph? tes that 1/8th of the world population I animals, manure, contaminated wate to foods for the purpose of preservation s through the fracking method is in fac	ion,
52. Which sentence A. sentence 1	is the topic sentence in B. sentence 2	the above paragraph? C. sentence 5	D. sentence 6	
53. Which sentence A. sentence 1 B. sentence 2 C. sentence 4	is the thesis statement	in the above paragraph	?	

D. sentence 5

Greek and Latin Roots			w.w 1			
	The root funct means <i>to work or to perform</i> . What does the word <u>defunct</u> mean? C. done routinely or without thought				niight	
A. no longer operatingB. an action or use for w	vhich son	nething is suited	1	D. capable of o		/ugiit
		_		_		
39. The root valid mean			th. What	t does the word <u>v</u>	validate mean?	
A. flawed; not acceptabl		rect		C. to declare go		
B. not legal; not enforce	eable			D. a large group	o; a great numbe	r
Dictionary and Thesau 40. Look at this thesauru calamity Part of speech: noun Definition: disaster: a di Synonyms: catastrophe,	us entry: lisastrous	s situation or eve	ent			
Which would be a calant A. pizza with no pepper	-	B. a bad grade		C. a dead cell p	hone	D. a hurricane
41. During math class ye Select the definition of a a·cute (adj) [ə kyóot] A. very great or bad: ext B. perceptive: keenly pe C. sensitive: very power	icute that tremely s erceptive	t the sentence us serious, severe, o and intelligent	ses: or painf		e hiccups and w	ent to the nurse.
Dangling and Misplace 42. Which of the follow A. After Leon showed o B. While eating a pizza C. As he strolled down D. Solomon texted Morg	ring sente off his ski a, my cat the hall,	ences contains a ills in the tourna curled up to me Tanner could ho	ment, tl :. ear the g	he coach moved in the coach move	him to the varsit the drinking for	ıntain.
43. Which of the follow A. While preparing dinn B. He left the library we C. Hungry and frustrate D. While walking to cla	ner, the si earing a l ed, the ch	moke detector w eather jacket. ild's tears signal	vent off. led that	it was time to lea	ave. d my paper.	
Writing Vocabulary (4	14 – 46)					
44. Which word is a syn		or narrative?				
A. play	B. story	•	C. title	!	D. debate	
45. Argumentative essay	ve try to	nrove		1000		
A. rebuttals	B. conc		C. clai	ms	D. evidence	
46. Which type of writing	_				- 1	
A. argumentative	B. narra	ative	C. sum	ımary	D. letter	

r - 5

В	14. Indicate which of the following is correct: A. I was born on June, 14, 2002, in Marietta Geor B. I was born on June 14, 2002, in Marietta, G. C. I was born on June 14 2002, in Marietta Georg D. I was born on June 14 2002 in Marietta, Georg	eorgia. gia.		
С	15. My names are Sadie, A. friends B. friend's	Krista, and Reagan. C. friends'	D. no correct ans	swer given
D	Subject and Predicate (16 – 21) 16. Discuss the trip with your parents. What is the simple subject of this sentence? A. Discuss B. trip	C. parents	D. understood y	⁄ou
С	17. Where did he get those neon shoes? What is the simple subject of this sentence? A. Where B. did	C. he	D. shoes	
A	18. Hiking is one of my favorite activities. What is the simple subject of this sentence? A. Hiking B. one	C. favorite	D. activities	
D	19. The Constitution of the United States of Ame What is the complete subject of this sentence? A. Constitution B. United States of America	rica is over 200 years old. C. United States D. The Constitution of		s of America
В	20. Emma left her agenda on the bus last week. What is the simple predicate of this sentence? A. Emma B. left	C. her	D. on	
D	21. Our school district has over 43,000 students to What is the complete predicate of this sentence? A. Our school district C. has over 43,000 students	his year. B. has over D. has over 43,000 stud	lents this year	
	Phrases (22 – 27) Match the <u>underlined</u> phrase in each sentence with A. Appositive phrase B. infinitive phrase	ith the correct type of phro C. participial phrase	nse (22 – 25). D. preposition	nal phrase
D A C B	 22. The book with the torn cover is Kevin's. 23. Batman, the Caped Crusader, is my favorite so 24. Washed with soap and water, out dog was all 25. Amelia won't be able to go on the field trip be 	owed back on the couch.	rgery on her foot.	
A	26. The capital <u>of our state</u> is Atlanta. In this sentence the underlined prepositional phra A. adjective B. adverb	nse is functioning as a(n)_ C. not	un	phrase. D. verb
В	27. The cat ran <u>out the door</u> as soon as Molly open In this sentence the underlined prepositional phrase. A. adjective B. adverb	ened it. ase is functioning as a(n)_ C. no	un	phrase. D. verb

ъ	Homopnone Usage (28)	important to complete the agenda daily	
В	28 teachers think A. There, its B. Their, it's	C. They're, its	D. There, it's
	n. mere, its		
	Run-ons, Comma splices, and Fragments (29 –	- 32)	
В	29. While I was watching my little brother.		
	This is an example of		
	A. a complete sentence.	C. a comma splice.	
	B. a sentence fragment. D. a ru	in-on sentence.	
A	30. "Please stop talking and watch the movie," sl This is an example of	he begged.	
		omma splice.	
	B. a sentence fragment.	D. a run-on sentence.	
	2, 4 00		
D	31. Our group met at the coffee shop and we stud		
	A. a complete sentence.	C. a comma splice.	
	B. a sentence fragment.	D. a run-on sentence.	
	22 Course and and as feed coffee John didn't go	t apything	
C	32. Carson ordered an iced coffee, John didn't ge		
	A. a complete sentence.	D. a run-on sentence.	
	B. a sentence fragment.	D. a fun-on sentence.	
D	Formal and Informal Language (33) 33. Which sentence would be the MOST appropr A. Surveys indicate that not all of the teachers are B. Surveys said that not all teachers are on the sa C. Surveys tell the story of how all of the teacher D. Surveys indicate that the teachers are not in	e on the same page. me page. s weren't in agreement.	
A	Simple, Compound, Complex, and Compound 34. Which sentence is a simple sentence? A. Noah competed against Jaden's team in the B. Alicia took a break from studying, and now shall C. Will Daniel be able to play since he hurt his w D. When Chloe had forgotten to call her mom, shall message.	e first game of the tournament. ne's watching her favorite show. prist?	r with a text
A	35. Which sentence is a compound sentence? A. I like to walk along the beach in the early n B. Be sure to bring the chips, paper plates, and n C. If you like swimming, you should join a healt D. He went to his cousin's house for dinner and f	apkins with you to the park. h club with an indoor pool.	on vacation.
C	36. Which sentence is a complex sentence? A. I didn't want to go to the museum with my pa B. My dad didn't want to pay the additional bagg C. We saw two different kinds of monkeys wh D. After the long ride home last Tuesday, Mom of	gage fee, so I was only able to pack two pai en we visited Costa Rica in February.	llent. rs of shoes.
D.	37. Which sentence is a compound-complex sent A. I really liked the blueberry cake with the lemo brownies. B. Mark Twain is one of my favorite authors becomes	on frosting, but Hannah preferred the doubl	e chocolate

C. They are no longer friends, for he had a habit of telling embarrassing stories about her.

D. Even though I didn't want to wear a tuxedo, my sister's wedding was fun, and I'm glad I got to play a

part.

A	Greek and Latin Roots (38 – 39) 38. The root funct means <i>to work or to perform</i> . What A. no longer operating B. an action or use for which something is suited	does the word <u>defunc</u> C. done routinely D. capable of op	y or without thought	
С	39. The root valid means <i>to be strong or be worth</i> . Wh A. flawed; not acceptable or correct B. not legal; not enforceable	nat does the word <u>valid</u> C. to declare go D. a large group;	od; to accept as good	
D	Dictionary and Thesaurus (40 – 41) 40. Look at this thesaurus entry: calamity Part of speech: noun Definition: disaster: a disastrous situation or event Synonyms: catastrophe, ruin, tragedy,			
	Which would be a calamity? A. pizza with no pepperoni B. a bad gra hurricane	ade C. a dea	d cell phone D.	a
A	41. During math class yesterday Mason suffered from Select the definition of acute that the sentence uses: a·cute (adj) [ə kyóot] A. very great or bad: extremely serious, severe, or proceed to be a sensitive serious of the sensitive to detail		ccups and went to the nurse.	
В	Dangling and Misplaced Modifiers (42 – 43) 42. Which of the following sentences contains a dangle A. After Leon showed off his skills in the tournament, B. While eating a pizza, my cat curled up to me. C. As he strolled down the hall, Tanner could hear the D. Solomon texted Morgan to let her know that he wo	, the coach moved him e girls laughing by the	to the varsity team. drinking fountain.	
D	43. Which of the following sentences is correct ? A. While preparing dinner, the smoke detector went of B. He left the library wearing a leather jacket. C. Hungry and frustrated, the child's tears signaled that D. While walking to class, I remembered that I had	at it was time to leave.	ad my paper.	
В	Writing Vocabulary (44 – 46) 44. Which word is a synonym for narrative? A. play B. story C. title	D. deba	ate	
С	45. Argumentative essays try to proveA. rebuttals B. concessions C.	claims	D. evidence	
A	46. Which type of writing must have a thesis statement A. argumentative B. narrative C.	nt? summary	D. letter	

В	Denotation and Connotation (47 – 49) 47. The denotation of a word is the A. association (emotional or otherwise) which the word evokes B. literal meaning of the word; dictionary definition C. pronunciation of the word D. origin of the word
A	48. Which word has the most positive connotation? A. superior B. good C. fine D. tolerable
D	 49. In which sentence is the bold word used with a negative connotation? A. All of the reality show contestants did a fine job controlling their nerves during the interviews. B. Her blonde hair was long and fine, so she didn't need to use a flat iron. C. We were surprised to find that our budget hotel room had a fine view of the pristine beach. D. "Since you forgot to pick up the coffee I like, I guess the other will have to be fine."
Th Rea	esis Statements, Topic Sentences, and Supporting Details ($50 - 53$) and the paragraph below then answer the questions.
	¹ Food additives have transformed our food supply and have recently become a hot topic for debate among many Americans. ² Food producers claim that additives are necessary ingredients that help stop the growth of molds and bacteria keeping food fresh longer as well as improving taste for consumers. ³ However, health advocates claim that food additives contribute to health problems such as cancer and obesity. ⁴ Salt can be used for countless purposes such as removing snow and ice from roads, softening water, preserving food, and stabilizing soils for construction. ⁵ Consumers should keep in mind that all corporations are in business to make money and produce whatever sells, even if their products are not healthy; therefore, it is vital that consumers educate themselves about the dangers of chemical additives and change their shopping and eating routines to eliminate toxic additives from their diet.
D	50. Which sentence does not belong in the above paragraph? A. sentence 1 B. sentence 2 C. sentence 3 D. sentence 4
С	 51. Which one of the following sentences can be added to the paragraph? A. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that 1/8th of the world population suffered from chronic undernourishment in 2010-2012. B. Leafy greens can become contaminated from contact with wild animals, manure, contaminated water, or poor handling during harvest and prewashing. C. In the United States, more than 3,000 substances can be added to foods for the purpose of preservation, coloring, texture, increasing flavor and more. D. Cornell University researchers found that obtaining natural gas through the fracking method is in fact as polluting as coal.
A	52. Which sentence is the topic sentence in the above paragraph? A. sentence 1 B. sentence 2 C. sentence 5 D. sentence 6
D	53. Which sentence is the thesis statement in the above paragraph? A. sentence 1 B. sentence 2 C. sentence 4 D. sentence 5

*

Research Skills (54 – 55)

- B 54. Which of the following citations is in the correct MLA format?
 - A. Google, "Rebuilding Afghanistan," internet article by Charlie Keenan, 2002, from Scholastic.com.
 - B. Keenan, Charlie. "Rebuilding Afghanistan." Scholastic News Online. Scholastic.com, 2002. Web. 3 July 2014.
 - C. "Rebuilding Afghanistan" by Charlie Keenan, 2002.
 - D. Scholastic News Online. "Rebuilding Afghanistan." Keenan, Charlie. Scholastic.com. 2002. Web. 3 July 2014.
- C 55. When writing a research paper about struggles women face in Afghanistan today, which of the four search phrases below would be the best to use to find relevant results?
 - A. Afghanistan orphans in the Middle East
 - B. Prejudice against women throughout history
 - C. Afghanistan discrimination against women
 - D. Female U.S. involvement in Afghanistan