

Sample FCAT Reading Book

This sample reading test will help you become familiar with the different types of reading questions on FCAT. The book contains two reading passages and 16 sample questions. Answering these questions will help you to prepare for FCAT. It should take about 30–45 minutes to answer all of the questions. If you don't understand a question in this book, just ask your teacher to explain it to you. The scoring guide and the answers to the sample questions are in another book. Your teacher will go over the answers to these questions with you after you answer the sample questions.

Hints for Taking FCAT Reading

Here are some hints to help you do your best when you take FCAT Reading. Use these hints when you answer the sample questions.

- ✓ Learn how to answer each kind of question. FCAT has two types of questions: multiple-choice and "Read, Think, and Explain."
- ✓ Allow about 5 minutes to answer the short "Read, Think, and Explain" questions and about 10 minutes to answer the long ones.
- ✓ Read the directions carefully. Ask your teacher to explain any directions you do not understand.
- ✓ Relax. Most people get nervous about tests. It's natural. Just do your best.
- ✓ Read the passages and questions very carefully. You may look back at a passage as often as you like.
- ✓ Be sure to fill in the answer bubbles correctly. Do not make any stray marks around answer spaces.
- ✓ For "Read, Think, and Explain" questions, think carefully and organize your thoughts before starting to write the answers.
- ✓ Answer the questions you are sure about first. If a question seems too difficult, skip it and go back to it later.
- ✓ Think positively. Some questions may seem hard but others will be easy.
- ✓ Check each answer to make sure it is the best answer for the question asked.

About FCAT

Frequently Asked Questions About the Test

This book provides examples of FCAT reading test items and performance tasks. Use this book to help you become familiar with the different types of questions on FCAT so you will be well prepared when you take the FCAT reading test.

What kind of test is the FCAT reading test?

FCAT contains test items and performance tasks that are challenging for all students. The FCAT Reading Test contains passages from informational and literary texts. Some of these selections come from other content areas such as mathematics, science, social studies, foreign language, the arts, health education, and physical education.

What kinds of questions will be on FCAT?

Many of the test questions on FCAT are like those on other tests. FCAT includes multiple-choice questions and questions called “performance tasks.” These performance tasks require using problem-solving strategies and thinking the questions through carefully.

What is a performance task?

Performance tasks ask you to think about an answer to a question and then write the answer. Some questions require short responses; however, others require longer, more detailed answers. Performance tasks are called “Read, Think, and Explain” questions in reading and “Think, Solve, and Explain” questions in math.

Why are we taking FCAT?

Recently, what students in Florida are expected to learn and be able to do has increased a great deal. The job market of today requires people who can read difficult and technical texts. FCAT is being given to measure achievement of the higher standards that are being taught to and learned by Florida students.

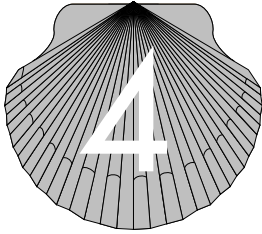
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Sample FCAT Reading Book



This is your Sample FCAT Reading Book.

Here is a list with pictures to help you locate the story and article in your Sample Reading Book and Sample Answer Book.



Turtle Alert Page 4



Under the Rice Moon Page 5

Directions: It should take about 30–45 minutes to read the passages in this book and answer the 16 questions in the Sample FCAT Answer Book. Read each passage, then refer back to it as needed when answering the questions in the Answer Book.



Read the article “Turtle Alert” and then answer Numbers 1 through 8 in your Answer Book.

TURTLE ALERT

The sun is just coming up in Florida. Most kids are still in bed, but not 15-year-old Chris Miller.

For the last seven years, Chris has been a member of a local sea turtle patrol. Twice a day, during the May to October turtle nesting season, he patrols a stretch of beach near his home.

“I follow the tracks back to the sea turtles’ nests,” Chris says. “Then I check the nests to make sure they’re protected.”

And there’s lots to protect the turtles from. Like the high tide, for instance. “High tides can bury the nests and drown the turtles,” Chris explains. “So I dig out the eggs and rebury them in a safer place.”



Neighborhood dogs who eat turtle eggs are also a big problem. Even when the turtles hatch, there are dangers. For example, the baby turtles can get trapped under the weight of their hatched eggshells. “I try to rescue them before they die,” Chris says. “Then I release them in the ocean.”

Over the last seven years, Chris figures he has helped 14,000 baby sea turtles make it safely to the ocean! “The babies wouldn’t have survived without help,” he admits. “Sea turtles are endangered. So I feel like I’m really giving something back to the Earth.”

Baby turtles sense the direction in which they must travel to reach the sea from the nest. Natural light on the ocean water shows them the way. When many buildings and houses are built in an area, the streetlights or house lights can confuse the baby turtles.

Now turn to page 1 in your Answer Book.



Read the story “Under the Rice Moon” and then answer Numbers 9 through 16 in your Answer Book.

Under the Rice Moon



by **Rhiannon Puck**
Illustrated by Kris Waldherr

FAR FROM THE evening shadows thrown by Hong Kong’s tall buildings, the narrow streets of the city of Kowloon come alive under the rice moon.¹ Food stands sell bowls of noodles, rice, and fried fish balls on bamboo sticks to factory workers strolling homeward at the end of the day.

In a small rattan² cage, a cliff swallow huddles with its tiny wings tucked in around its body. For the first time in its life, the little swallow will not fly under the rice moon tonight.

The man who caught the swallow that same morning sells dried fruits and sugarcane. A young girl walking through the marketplace buys a stick of cane to chew and sees the swallow in its small cage.

She has just enough money to buy it, and as she walks home, the rattan cage swings and bobs lightly on her arm. “I promise to take care of you, little bird,” the young girl whispers.

The swallow blinks at her sadly from the corner of the cage, and in a language the young girl cannot understand, the bird cries, “Let me fly under the rice moon!”

Sour smells and sharp noises come from the side alleys and drift out to the crowds, and taxi horns blare in a dash for the next fare. Near the center of the market, a boy glances up from the pairs of colorful brocade³ slippers his mother has made for him to sell.

When a young girl stops to look at the slippers, the boy sees a caged bird at her side. The swallow blinks at him from the corner of the cage.

The boy trades a pair of his mother’s best brocade slippers for the swallow and lifts the cage to look at the bird. “I promise to take care of you, little bird,” the boy murmurs.

The cliff swallow coos, “How I would like to fly under the rice moon!” But the boy does not understand.

He puts the cage to one side as a man stops at the market stand to look at the rows of brocade slippers. After a hard day’s work, he wearily searches for a cheerful gift for his young daughter, who has been at home with a fever.

He hears the cliff swallow flutter its wings softly as he looks through the stacks of shoes. Thinking that the tiny bird would make his ailing daughter happy, he offers the boy a very high

¹ **rice moon:** a full, white moon of winter or early spring

² **rattan:** the stems of an Asian palm tree

³ **brocade:** a silk fabric with designs



price. "I know who will take care of you, little bird," the man whispers.

When he arrives home, he carries the cliff swallow in its rattan cage to the room where his daughter lies sleeping. Rather than wake her, he places the caged bird on her bedside table. As he leaves the room the little bird coos, "Oh, please let me fly under the rice moon tonight!" But the man does not understand the swallow's language.

When the girl wakes suddenly in the middle of the night, the first thing she sees through her fever is a small cliff swallow blinking at her from behind the bars of a rattan cage. She knows too well how terrible it is to be kept inside.

"I know what you need, little bird," she murmurs. But the swallow no longer believes what people say.

Slowly, the sickly girl rises from her bed and carries the cage to the open window. Unlatching the rattan door, the girl asks, "Will you fly for me, too, little bird?" And her language is one that the swallow understands.

For a moment, the bird studies the open cage door uncertainly. Then it steps to the ledge, carefully spreads its small wings, and flies away.

Although the cliff swallow now can fly anywhere it chooses, it always passes by the little girl's bedroom window each night. And each night, for a little while, both the bird and the girl are free under the rice moon.



Now turn to page 5 in your Answer Book.