

# IMAST English/Language Arts Sample Items (Grades 3-5)

(Beginning in Spring 2010)

The purpose of this Item Sampler is to provide examples of the types of questions that will appear on the English/language arts portions of IMAST beginning in the spring of 2010. Each grade-level English/language arts IMAST assessment will consist of multiple-choice items *only*.

This Item Sampler displays assessment items in both an ISTEP+ format and an IMAST format. In creating IMAST, modifications were made to assessment items with the intent of maintaining grade-level standard alignment while providing more accessibility for students.

Possible item modifications in English/language arts are listed below:

- Reduce length of passage/text
- Simplify text
- Bullet text
- Add **bold** font for essential words
- Clarify question or directive
- Use active voice
- Eliminate negative stem, when possible
- Simplify visual(s)
- Eliminate visual(s)
- Eliminate implausible distractor(s)
- Eliminate answer choice(s)
- Change order of choices
- Increase white space
- Increase font size

## Example 1

| ISTEP+: Passage and Item (Grade 5)  | IMAST: Passage and Item (Grade 5)*   |
|---|--|
| <p>Read this sentence.</p> <p><i>Sam <u>said</u> that he was ready to watch the movie.</i></p> <p>Which word can be used to replace the underlined word to show that Sam was <b>eager</b> to watch the movie?</p> <p>A. mentioned<br/>B. exclaimed<br/>C. whispered<br/>D. remarked</p> | <p>Which word <b>best</b> completes this sentence to show that Sam was eager to watch the movie?</p> <p>Sam _____ that he was ready to watch the movie.</p> <p>A. mentioned</p> <p>B. exclaimed</p> <p>C. remarked</p> |
| Correct Answer: B   | Correct Answer: B  |

\*Modifications: Eliminate answer choice, simplify text, increase font size, and clarify question

## Example 2

| ISTEP+: Passage (Grade 3)  | IMAST: Passage (Grade 3)*  |
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| <p>Read “Snow Hopper”. Then answer the question that follows.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Snow Hopper</b></p> <p>Take a walk in the woods on a sunny winter’s day. You might find tiny insects, called snow fleas, hopping on snow.</p> <p>Crowds of snow fleas travel together. They look like grains of pepper popping up and down. If you put your hand on the snow, some may hop on top. Lift your hand up and snow fleas jump off.</p> <p>How do snow fleas hop? Each snow flea has two tiny tails. The tails bend under a snow flea’s body, and are held by little hooks. When the hooks open, the tails spring out and the snow flea leaps up. Snow fleas are also called springtails.</p> <p>In the winter, snow fleas chew dead leaves and plants buried beneath the snow. When they can’t find enough food, they hop to someplace new.</p> <p>A million snow fleas may move together. Some hop on top of the snow. Most crawl under leaves below the snow.</p> <p>In a few days their journey is done. The tiny travelers may have moved 25 meters, about the length of a swimming pool. Then the huge group disappears. Where do all the snow fleas go? No one knows for certain, but their snow-hopping days are done.</p> | <p>Read “Snow Hopper”. Then answer the question that follows.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Snow Hopper</b></p> <p>Take a walk in the woods on a sunny winter’s day. You might find tiny insects, called snow fleas, hopping on snow.</p> <p>Crowds of snow fleas travel together. They look like grains of pepper popping up and down. If you put your hand on the snow, some may hop on top. Lift your hand up and snow fleas jump off.</p> <p>How do snow fleas hop? Each snow flea has two tiny tails. The tails bend under a snow flea’s body, and are held by little hooks. When the hooks open, the tails spring out and the snow flea leaps up. Snow fleas are also called springtails.</p> <p>In the winter, snow fleas chew dead leaves and plants buried beneath the snow. When they can’t find enough food, they hop to someplace new.</p> <p>A million snow fleas may move together. Some hop on top of the snow. Most crawl under leaves below the snow.</p> <p>In a few days their journey is done. The tiny travelers may have moved 25 meters, about the length of a swimming pool. Then the huge group disappears. Where do all the snow fleas go? No one knows for certain, but their snow-hopping days are done.</p> |

| ISTEP+: Item (Grade 3)   | IMAST: Item (Grade 3)*   |
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| <p>Which of these sentences from the passage BEST tells the size of snow fleas?</p> <p>A. "Crowds of snow fleas travel together."<br/> B. "They look like grains of pepper popping up and down."<br/> C. "Snow fleas are also called springtails."<br/> D. "When the hooks open, the tails spring out and the snow flea leaps up."</p> | <p>Which sentence <b>best</b> tells the size of snow fleas?</p> <p>A. "Crowds of snow fleas travel together."<br/> B. "They look like grains of pepper popping up and down."<br/> C. "When the hooks open, the tails spring out and the snow flea leaps up."</p> |
| Correct Answer: B  | Correct Answer: B  |

\*Modifications: Remove one distractor, simplify language of stem, remove caps and change font of **best**