

READING **Grade 3**

2011 Released Selections and Test Questions

These released questions represent selected TEKS student expectations for each reporting category. These questions are samples only and do not represent all the student expectations eligible for assessment.

Read the selection. Then choose the best answer to each question.

The Well-Worn Path

by David Crawley

You scampered down this well-worn path
when you were just a pup.
And as we grew, I ran with you.
I struggled to keep up.

- 5 My legs grew long. Your legs grew slow.
You're happy now to walk,
ignoring all those squirrels and birds
you once would chase and stalk.

- And as we walk I think of all
10 the moments that we shared.
The day we found you at the pound,¹
you looked so small and scared.

The times I fed you table scraps
in spite of Mother's rule.

- 15 The days you greeted me with joy
when I came home from school.

- And as we walk this well-worn path,
no longer running free,
I hope I was as good to you
20 as you have been to me.



"The Well-Worn Path" from *Dog Poems* by David Crawley. Copyright © 2007 by David Crawley. Published by Wordsong, an imprint of Boyds Mills Press. Used by permission.

¹A *pound* is a place for keeping stray animals.

- 1 Read line 4 from the poem.

I struggled to keep up.

The poet includes this line most likely to show that the dog —

- A ran faster than the speaker
 - B was lost
 - C looked larger than the speaker
 - D was tired
-
- 2 What is the main message in the poem?
- A It is important for owners to train their pets.
 - B It is difficult to care for some pets.
 - C Dogs and people are very different.
 - D Pets and their owners can make each other happy.

- 3** Lines 11 through 16 are included in the poem because they —
- A** list reasons why the speaker chose the dog
 - B** give examples of experiences shared by the speaker and the dog
 - C** explain why the dog began to ignore squirrels
 - D** tell why the speaker and the dog no longer run together
-
- 4** Which word best describes the feeling that the poet creates in this poem?
- A** Thankfulness
 - B** Surprise
 - C** Confusion
 - D** Unhappiness
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- 5** What is the speaker doing in the poem?
- A** Picking up the dog at the pound
 - B** Feeding the dog dinner
 - C** Chasing after the dog as it runs
 - D** Taking the dog for a walk

- 6** Lines 5 through 8 are important to the poem because they show that the dog —
- A** dislikes squirrels and birds
 - B** wants the speaker to slow down
 - C** is getting older
 - D** is ignoring the speaker

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- 7** The poet titled this poem “The Well-Worn Path” most likely because —
- A** the poem describes the way the path looks after many years
 - B** the dog and the speaker have walked on the same path for many years
 - C** the dog gets tired when it goes for walks
 - D** the poem describes the place where the speaker found her dog

Read the selection. Then choose the best answer to each question.



- 1 Long before there were cowboys in Texas, there were vaqueros. A vaquero could tame a wild horse. He could stop a steer without using a rope. Vaqueros worked well with their horses and could perform amazing stunts.

Caring for Cattle

- 2 At one time, Spanish ranchers in parts of Mexico, Texas, and California owned huge herds of cattle. The cattle lived on large areas of land. And all those cows needed a lot of food. The animals were allowed to roam freely across the land so they could find enough food to eat.



- 3 Caring for the cattle was a big job. Ranchers hired vaqueros to keep the cattle safe. Vaqueros spent long days in their saddles, riding their horses across the open land. They scared away any animals that might harm the cattle. And if a cow was injured or sick, it was the vaquero's job to help it.
- 4 Spring was a busy time for vaqueros because that was when the calves were born. Each rancher sent a team of vaqueros to search for the new babies and their mothers. The vaqueros would




bring the entire herd back to the ranch to be counted and sorted. Each team was responsible for searching a specific area. Together they would search hundreds of miles to find stray cattle. Sometimes the cattle were hard to locate among the rocky hills and in the small valleys.

Which Cow Belongs Where?

- 5 Once the cows and calves were found, it was the vaquero's job to bring all the cattle to a large fenced area so they could be counted. Getting cattle to move in one direction was not an easy job. Using their horses, the vaqueros worked together to surround the cattle. Then they herded the animals into the fenced area.
- 6 Next the cattle were sorted and counted. Vaqueros checked the brand, or special mark, on a cow's body to tell which rancher owned it. Each calf would receive the same brand as its mother.

Getting the Job Done

- 7 Special tools and clothing helped vaqueros with their work. They wore sombreros to protect them from the sun, wind, and rain. Vaqueros tied a *sarape* to their saddles. They could use it to protect themselves in cold or wet weather and at night while they slept. The sarape also helped them herd the cattle. Vaqueros would swing their sarape over their head to get the cattle to move. Something vaqueros didn't wear while doing their job was a pair of boots. They usually worked barefoot or in sandals.
- 8 A lariat was another important tool for vaqueros. It was used to catch cattle or animals that could harm the cattle, such as coyotes. If a vaquero roped a coyote, everyone knew he was good at his job.
- 9 Every good vaquero needed a well-trained horse that could make quick, sharp turns. The horses were also trained to step in front of a cow that was trying to escape from the herd. And they could stop suddenly if the vaquero pulled back on the reins.

Tools and Clothing	Common Name	Purpose
Lariat 	Leather rope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To catch cattle and other animals
Sarape 	Small blanket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect vaqueros from the cold To herd cattle
Sombrero 	Large hat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To shade vaqueros' faces

Training the Cowboys of Texas

- 10 Spanish ranchers didn't stay in Texas. When they moved to other areas, their cattle and the vaqueros often remained. The new settlers who moved into Texas didn't know what to do with the cattle. But the vaqueros did. The vaqueros worked with the new settlers and taught them how to care for cattle. Soon some of these settlers were able to do the same work as the vaqueros, but they became known by a different name—Texas cowboys.

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- 1** The author includes headings in bold print to —
- A** explain why the article was written
 - B** describe why pictures were included in the article
 - C** show which words are most important
 - D** tell what information is in each section
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- 2** The picture next to paragraph 2 is included in the article to —
- A** show what a vaquero might have looked like while doing his job
 - B** provide information about how vaqueros taught new settlers
 - C** explain why many vaqueros were needed on a cattle ranch
 - D** show how fast a vaquero could ride his horse
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- 3** A table is included in the section “Getting the Job Done” to help the reader —
- A** identify the tools and clothing vaqueros used
 - B** learn where a vaquero kept his tools
 - C** understand why ranchers hired vaqueros
 - D** know which jobs were most difficult for vaqueros

- 4 What is the best summary of this article?
- A Ranchers owned a lot of cattle. In order to find enough food, the cattle had to roam freely across large areas of land. The ranchers needed help with their cattle, so they hired vaqueros.
 - B Spanish ranchers hired vaqueros to take care of their cattle. The cattle lived in large open areas. Vaqueros used horses and special clothing and tools to help them with their work. When the ranchers moved away, the vaqueros taught their skills to new settlers.
 - C Vaqueros took care of cattle that wandered across large areas of land. The vaqueros watched over the cattle and chased harmful animals away. They also helped find calves in springtime.
 - D Spanish ranchers owned cattle that grazed in large areas of grassland. It was difficult to keep track of the cattle and take care of them. The cattle ranchers needed some help, so they hired vaqueros, who were similar to cowboys. Eventually the Spanish ranchers left.
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- 5 Which words in paragraph 4 help the reader understand the meaning of stray?
- A *a specific area*
 - B *the small valleys*
 - C *hard to locate*
 - D *a busy time*

- 6** Vaqueros herded cattle into a fenced area by —
- A** counting the calves and reporting the numbers to the rancher
 - B** throwing a rope over the cattle to bring them toward the fence
 - C** surrounding the cattle and moving them as a group
 - D** putting out food for the cattle
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- 7** Which sentence best supports the idea that horses were helpful in controlling cattle?
- A** *The animals were allowed to roam freely across the land so they could find enough food to eat.*
 - B** *Vaqueros spent long days in their saddles, riding their horses across the open land.*
 - C** *Getting cattle to move in one direction was not an easy job.*
 - D** *The horses were also trained to step in front of a cow that was trying to escape from the herd.*
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- 8** What happened to the vaqueros when the Spanish ranchers moved away?
- A** They continued searching for lost cattle.
 - B** They started businesses in the towns.
 - C** They moved the cattle to new homes.
 - D** They stayed and taught their skills to the new settlers.

Item Number	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting	Content Student Expectation	Correct Answer
READING Selection 1				
1	2	Supporting	3.6 Fig. 19(D)	A
2	2	Supporting	3.5 Fig. 19(D)	D
3	2	Supporting	3.6 Fig. 19(D)	B
4	2	Supporting	3.6 Fig. 19(D)	A
5	2	Supporting	3.2(B)	D
6	2	Supporting	3.6 Fig. 19(D)	C
7	2	Supporting	3.6 Fig. 19(D)	B
READING Selection 2				
1	3	Readiness	3.13(D)	D
2	3	Supporting	3.16 Fig. 19(D)	A
3	3	Supporting	3.15 Fig. 19(D)	A
4	3	Readiness	3.13 Fig. 19(E)	B
5	1	Readiness	3.4(B)	C
6	3	Readiness	3.13(A)	C
7	3	Readiness	3.13(B)	D
8	3	Readiness	3.13(B)	D

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