



New York State Testing Program

English Language Arts Test Listening/Writing

Grade **5**

2009 Scoring Guide

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Snorkeling for Bass

by Shaun Morey

When they were kids, Frank Rusch and his younger brother, Ryan, spent much of each summer vacation at Lake Shasta in Redding, California. They fished with their parents for smallmouth bass, bluegill, and any other fish that would bite.

One summer day in 1982, Frank and Ryan were fishing from the stern of the family's 15-foot boat. The boat had been beached earlier in the day and rested on the sandy shore of the large lake. The sky was clear and the air was filled with the smell of pine sap. Thousands of towering pine trees surrounded the cool mountain lake.

As their parents built a campfire for the afternoon cookout, the brothers baited their hooks with live crickets and began to fish. After a few early bites and not much action, they became bored. So they left their lines in the water, leaned their fishing rods against the side of the boat and relaxed in the summer sunshine.

The moment they stopped watching the fishing rods, one flipped forward, cartwheeled over the side of the boat and sank beneath the murky water. It happened so fast that neither one of the boys had time to react. They knew the lake wasn't deep, so they thought the rod was probably snagged on the bottom. Since it was a new rod and neither boy wanted to lose it, Ryan decided to put on a mask and snorkel and see if he could find it.

Ryan fitted the mask on his face and jumped into the water. He looked down and saw a steep drop-off 12 feet above the lake floor. He took a deep breath and kicked for the bottom.

He spotted the rod tangled in the weeds at the bottom of the lake and grabbed it. It wouldn't budge. He yanked again. Nothing. It was stuck on something really big. He began to run out of breath so he tugged one last

time, looked up and saw a huge bass at the end of the line looking right at him. It scared him so badly he came straight up out of the water like a missile. He almost flew into the boat and his eyes were bigger than his mask.

Ryan scrambled into the boat and ripped the mask from his face. “Big fish!” he sputtered. “On our rod. BIG FISH!”

His hand still gripped the wet fishing rod and a few gobs of lake weed. Frank took the rod from his frenzied brother and began to reel. As the slack line came tight, Frank jerked and felt the fish pull and wriggle through the weeds.

“When I got the fish to the boat, neither one of us could believe it,” remembers Frank. “It was one of the biggest smallmouth bass we had ever caught. It weighed 3½ pounds, and to Ryan it looked like a monster from the deep. We nearly lost our brand-new rod and reel over it, and I don’t think Ryan has ever been so scared. He didn’t go snorkeling for a long time after that. But I know he was proud of that catch.”

Listening Rubric Key Points

Listening Task: “Snorkeling for Bass”

Question 26

What did Ryan do after he first saw the bass? Why did he react that way? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Possible Exemplary Response:

After seeing the bass, Ryan quickly swam straight up to get out of the water. He swam so fast that he “almost flew into the boat.” He reacted that way because the huge fish scared him so much.

Possible details to include in answer:

- While underwater, Ryan looked up and saw a huge bass at the end of the line looking right at him.
- Ryan was so scared he came straight up out of the water “like a missile.”
- Ryan “almost flew into the boat” and ripped the mask from his face.
- Ryan sputtered “Big fish!” to his brother.
- To Ryan, the fish looked like a “monster from the deep.”
- other relevant text-based detail

NOTE: Responses should include at least one action/reaction and a reason for the reaction.

Rubric:

2 points	The response is accurate, complete, and fulfills all the requirements of the task. Necessary support and/or examples are included, and the information given is clearly text-based. Any extensions beyond the text are relevant to the task.
1 point	The response includes some correct information, but may be too general or overly specific. Some of the support and/or examples may be incomplete or omitted.
0 points	The response is inaccurate, confused, and/or irrelevant, or the student failed to respond to the task.

NOTE: If the item is left blank, apply Condition Code A.

26

What did Ryan do after he first saw the bass? Why did he react that way? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Ryan reacted very
scared to seeing the bass.

text detail

He thought the bass was
a big and huge monster. When

text detail

he saw that bass he rushed back
into the boat.

This response is accurate and complete, and it fulfills all the requirements of the task. The student has provided accurate text-based details to describe what Ryan does after he first sees the bass (“rushed back into the boat”) and why he reacts that way (“thought the bass was a big and huge monster”).

Listening Score Point 2

26

What did Ryan do after he first saw the bass? Why did he react that way? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

He was shocked that he saw a
big bass in at the end of
the line.

text detail

This response includes some correct information. The answer does not include what Ryan does after he first sees the bass, but the student has provided an accurate text-based detail to describe why Ryan reacts (“saw a big bass”).

Listening Score Point 1

26

What did Ryan do after he first saw the bass? Why did he react that way? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

he was looking for the rod
that fell off the boat that
a fish pulled it down

This response is incorrect. The student has provided no relevant text-based details to describe what Ryan does after he first sees the bass or why he reacts that way.

Listening Score Point 0



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2009 Practice Set

26

What did Ryan do after he first saw the bass? Why did he react that way? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

When Rayn first found the fish he must been shocked and surprized because he actully saw a bass a he is going to remember that for the rest of his life.

26

What did Ryan do after he first saw the bass? Why did he react that way? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

When Ryan saw the Bass
he pulled the rod again and
then came out the water quickly. He
reacted that way because the Bass
came out of nowhere and started into
Ryan's eyes.

26

What did Ryan do after he first saw the bass? Why did he react that way? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Ryan reacted that way because the
bass was very big. The bass was
looking right at him. It looked like
a monster to him.

26

What did Ryan do after he first saw the bass? Why did he react that way? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

I think he hide from the bass,

26

What did Ryan do after he first saw the bass? Why did he react that way? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

At first Ryan got shocked at
what just happened.

26

What did Ryan do after he first saw the bass? Why did he react that way? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

what did Ryan do After he saw the Bass
he was so shock and scared
he swim up like a Bullet
and went in the Boat yelling
Big fish

26

What did Ryan do after he first saw the bass? Why did he react that way? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

After Rhyan saw the bass he went as fast as he could back to the boat. Rhyan reacted that way because the bass was very huge.

26

What did Ryan do after he first saw the bass? Why did he react that way? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

When Ryan sees the bass he runs very fast into the boat because he was very scared.

26

What did Ryan do after he first saw the bass? Why did he react that way? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

He went done and got
the rod.

26

What did Ryan do after he first saw the bass? Why did he react that way? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

When Ryan saw the bass, he shot
out of the water like a missile.
He reacted this way because
he was frightened.

5th GRADE LISTENING/WRITING

PRACTICE SET ANSWER KEY

Name: _____

PS 1	(0-2)	
PS 2	(0-2)	
PS 3	(0-2)	
PS 4	(0-2)	
PS 5	(0-2)	
PS 6	(0-2)	
PS 7	(0-2)	
PS 8	(0-2)	
PS 9	(0-2)	
PS 10	(0-2)	

PS 11	(0-3)	
PS 12	(0-3)	
PS 13	(0-3)	
PS 14	(0-3)	
PS 15	(0-3)	
PS 16	(0-3)	
PS 17	(0-3)	
PS 18	(0-3)	
PS 19	(0-3)	
PS 20	(0-3)	

