



# READING **Grade 4**

**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 Lady Who Loved the Land

- 1 Claudia Alta Taylor was born on December 22, 1912, in Karnack, Texas. As a young girl she was said to be “as pretty as a lady bird.” Everyone called her Lady Bird. It was a perfect nickname for a child who enjoyed nature so much.

### Growing Up in East Texas

- 2 The outdoors was Lady Bird’s favorite place. The lovely flowers that bloomed every spring were like friends to her. Even the spicy aroma of pine trees made Lady Bird feel at home. She paddled a boat in the bayous near her home. There she admired the cypress trees and the dried Spanish moss that clung to their limbs. In her diary she wrote that “it was a place of dreams.”



- 3 Lady Bird attended a one-room school until she was 12. She graduated from high school at the age of 15 and then studied at a school for girls. Lady Bird continued her education at the University of Texas at Austin, earning two degrees.

### From Lady Bird to First Lady

- 4 In 1934, Lady Bird met Lyndon B. Johnson, who was working for a U.S. congressman. Soon after their first date, the two were married. Many years later, when Johnson became the 36th president of the United States, the couple moved into the White House. The president’s wife, known as the First Lady, performs many duties. Lady Bird served as hostess for visiting world leaders and attended the official openings of government projects.
- 5 Lady Bird attended one such ceremony in 1964, when she spoke at the opening of the Flaming Gorge Dam in Utah. There

she emphasized that natural beauty is a great resource. She believed that nature should be treated with care and appreciation.

6 Lady Bird visited many areas of the American West. Although she loved the wild, rugged scenery, she saw many things that upset her. Areas that once were beautiful were littered with trash. Old cars and auto parts were discarded along roadsides, left there for anyone to claim. In addition, large advertising billboards were increasing in number and in size. The signs kept travelers from enjoying the natural beauty of the outdoors. The First Lady wanted to solve these problems.

7 Lady Bird created a plan to make the nation's highways a source of pride for Americans. She wanted travelers to experience the beauty of the outdoors from their vehicles. Through her efforts a law was written limiting the number of billboards along roadsides. It also provided funds for cleaning up trash and planting flowers along highways.

8 The Highway Beautification Act, known as Lady Bird's Bill, was passed in 1965. Instead of seeing signs and rusty cars, people driving along the highways could

now see flowers blooming. But Lady Bird was not just concerned with beautification. She also supported laws protecting clean water and air.

9 Lady Bird had other ideas about how to help the environment. She worked to support city and national parks as well as wilderness areas. Back in Washington, D.C., she did her part to plant flowers along city streets.



Lady Bird enjoys nature in January 1965.

© Stan Wayman/Time & Life Pictures/Getty Images

## Returning Home to Texas

- 10 In 1969 Lady Bird and her husband moved back to Texas. Here she encouraged her fellow Texans to make the highways more beautiful. She even gave awards to highway districts that placed native plants along their highways.
- 11 By 1982 her dream of creating a special place to protect native plants was achieved. The National Wildflower Research Center was built near Austin. People from all over enjoy its beautiful gardens. Programs offered at the center teach people of all ages to care for the land. The center was renamed in 1998. It is now called the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.
- 12 Lady Bird also helped create hiking and biking trails in an area of Austin called Town Lake. Today that section of the city attracts visitors and proud citizens. In 2007 the city honored Lady Bird by renaming the area Lady Bird Lake.
- 13 Lady Bird Johnson valued our nation's natural beauty. As first lady, she did her part to give others the chance to appreciate it, too. Texans can be proud that she continued working throughout her life to restore and protect the beauty of the land she loved.



Mrs. Lyndon Baines Johnson (Claudia Alta Taylor), 1912–2007

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- 1** The reader can tell that Lady Bird Johnson was concerned that —
- A** government leaders would not be pleased with her role in official ceremonies
  - B** highways would become more cluttered with items that would keep people from appreciating nature
  - C** people would not visit the National Wildflower Research Center
  - D** laws would discourage travelers from viewing the natural beauty of the American West
- 
- 2** Which sentence shows that Lady Bird Johnson tried to inspire others to beautify the land?
- A** *Lady Bird attended one such ceremony in 1964, when she spoke at the opening of the Flaming Gorge Dam in Utah.*
  - B** *Lady Bird visited many areas of the American West.*
  - C** *She even gave awards to highway districts that placed native plants along their highways.*
  - D** *Lady Bird also helped create hiking and biking trails in an area of Austin called Town Lake.*
- 
- 3** What evidence from the selection shows that Lady Bird Johnson was well respected?
- A** People visit Austin’s wildflower research center.
  - B** Lady Bird Johnson supported national parks.
  - C** Public places were named after Lady Bird Johnson.
  - D** Lady Bird Johnson planted flowers near city streets.

- 4 What is the best summary of the section "Growing Up in East Texas"?
- A When Lady Bird was a child, she admired the nature that surrounded her. She especially liked the flowers that bloomed in spring. She considered them to be like friends to her.
  - B As a child, Lady Bird enjoyed the outdoors of East Texas. She played in fields of flowers, in piney woods, and on bayous. She attended school and eventually earned two degrees from a university.
  - C When Lady Bird was young, she lived in East Texas. She liked spending time outside. She was comforted by things in nature like blooming flowers, and she enjoyed looking at trees.
  - D As a young girl, Lady Bird often wrote about the outdoors in her diary. She described the bayous as "a place of dreams." Lady Bird attended a one-room school until she was 12 and graduated from high school at the age of 15.
- 

- 5 Read this sentence from paragraph 2.

*Even the spicy aroma of pine trees  
made Lady Bird feel at home.*

The imagery in these lines appeals most to the reader's sense of —

- A sight
- B smell
- C taste
- D touch

- 6 The pictures in the selection show Lady Bird —
- A performing her duties
  - B as a caring citizen
  - C enjoying her interests
  - D at different stages of her life

**Read the next two selections. Then choose the best answer to each question.**

*Carmen is a student at Pleasant Hill Elementary School. "Miss D." is Carmen's teacher. Miss D.'s mother, Grams, likes to visit the classroom and share her time with the students. In this poem, Miss D. asks the class to vote on how to spend the money left over at the end of the school year.*

## **CARMEN**

### **Secret Ballot**

*by Andrea Cheng*

School's almost out.  
We have to spend the money  
somehow.  
We put suggestions  
5 on the board:  
Pizza party.  
Roller skating.  
*How about thinking  
of other people?*  
10 Miss D. says.  
Kayla raises her hand.  
*A present for Grams,  
she says.*  
What would Grams like?  
15 I put my head down  
and shut my eyes  
and think.  
*A big picture of us  
in front of Pleasant Hill,*  
20 I say.  
We vote  
on slips of paper  
called secret ballots.  
Pizza gets four,  
25 skating gets three,  
and the picture wins.



# Zach Bonner's Little Red Wagon

- 1 Zach Bonner enjoys helping people. He cares so much about people that he spends his time and energy finding ways to make their lives better. People like Zach are hard to find. What makes Zach even more amazing is that he is a sixth grader who has been on a mission to help others since he was six years old.

## Responding to a Storm

- 2 Zach began offering his help to people in 2004. In late summer, a hurricane named Charley left many people near Zach's hometown of Tampa, Florida, without drinking water. When Zach heard that people in his community were collecting bottles of water, he realized that his family could help. He and his mother brought their extra bottles to the collection site.
- 3 But Zach wanted to do more. He decided to ask others to donate. With his mother's permission, six-year-old Zach pulled his little red wagon through his neighborhood. He passed out flyers to his neighbors. When they read about his plan to collect drinking water, they were happy to help. They put their bottled water into Zach's wagon, and they even added other helpful supplies, such as clothes and canned food. It didn't take long before Zach's wagonloads added up to truckloads—27 truckloads of water and supplies, to be exact!

## New Ways to Help

- 4 Most people would have been satisfied with their efforts if they had collected 27 truckloads of materials for people in need. But not Zach. He wanted to keep helping people, so he and his mother looked for other ways to contribute. They heard about an organization that helps homeless children. The organization had a wish list of things that homeless children need. Zach asked people to donate supplies on the list, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and first-aid kits. He put the supplies into backpacks and

called them “Zach Packs.” A Zach Pack wasn’t complete until it also contained a toy!

- 5 In 2007 Zach decided to pull his little red wagon on a longer walk. Zach wanted to collect money to help homeless children. He planned to walk from his home in Tampa to Florida’s state capital, Tallahassee—280 miles away! It took Zach and his mother 23 days to reach their destination. But it was worth the blisters and sore muscles. By the time they arrived in Tallahassee, Zach had raised \$25,000. It was enough money to provide food and supplies for 800 families.

### Beyond Florida

- 6 Zach knew that homelessness wasn’t a problem only for children in Florida. He wanted to help kids all over the country, so in 2008 he planned another journey. He decided to start in Tallahassee and walk to Atlanta, Georgia. Along the way Zach stopped to talk to groups and teach people some facts about homelessness. He explained that homeless kids aren’t different from other kids, except that they might not have access to some of the things that other kids take for granted. Zach wanted others to know what essential things kids are missing when they don’t have a home. He hoped his message would encourage others to donate these needed items.
- 7 The next year, Zach and his now-famous wagon traveled all the way from Atlanta, Georgia, to the White House. This was the longest walk of all! It took 10 weeks, and along the way donations totaled \$50,000. The money was used to purchase supplies for a homeless shelter in Washington, D.C., and to build a playground in Florida for children without permanent homes.
- 8 What’s next for Zach and his little red wagon? He says he is planning a 2,300-mile journey across the United States. This time other volunteers will take turns walking to help Zach reach his goal.



Zach Bonner pulls his little red wagon on the final mile of his trip to the White House.

© Win McNamee/Getty Images News/Getty Images

- 9 Zach's journeys have raised a lot of money to help others. They have also brought Zach to the attention of some very important people. Zach has met with two former presidents of the United States as well as current president Barack Obama. The presidents wanted to let Zach know they appreciated his work. Zach continues to show how one person can make a difference. One person and a little red wagon, that is!

- 1** The reader can tell that the poem is written in free-verse form because it does not have —
- A** a serious subject
  - B** plot and conflict
  - C** a rhyming pattern
  - D** a common theme
- 
- 2** Which poetic structure is found in the poem?
- A** Stanzas
  - B** Rhythm
  - C** Use of repetition
  - D** Short line length
- 
- 3** The paragraph above the title of the poem is included to —
- A** help readers understand how the students feel about their teacher
  - B** persuade readers to write a poem about a special school event
  - C** encourage readers to think about their school experiences
  - D** provide background information about details that readers would not know

- 4 The word essential in paragraph 6 means —
- A necessary
  - B favorite
  - C interesting
  - D thoughtful
- 
- 5 What is the best summary of the section “New Ways to Help”?
- A Zach Bonner and his mother learned about an organization that helps children. Zach asked people to donate supplies on the organization’s wish list. Supplies such as toothpaste and soap were put in backpacks. Zach also included a toy.
  - B Zach Bonner pulled his little red wagon to help collect money for homeless children. He walked from his home to the state capital. He raised enough money to help hundreds of families.
  - C Zach Bonner and his mother searched for ways to help those in need. Zach walked from his home to the state capital. It was a long trip, and by the time he reached the capital, Zach had sore muscles and blisters.
  - D Zach Bonner wanted to continue helping people even after he had collected truckloads of materials for those in need. He filled backpacks with items for homeless children. He also raised money for food and supplies by walking to the state capital with his red wagon.
- 
- 6 What can the reader conclude about Zach’s mother?
- A She prefers that Zach walk shorter distances.
  - B She supports Zach’s work.
  - C She thinks Zach’s work should receive more attention.
  - D She wishes Zach would help at his school.

- 7** What is one difference between the poem and the selection?
- A** In the poem, Carmen asks for advice from an adult. In the selection, Zach creates plans all on his own.
  - B** In the poem, Carmen wants to thank someone. In the selection, Zach wants to help others.
  - C** In the poem, Carmen needs help. In the selection, Zach wants to find ways to help others.
  - D** In the poem, Carmen wants to help a classmate. In the selection, Zach wants to help other children.
- 

- 8** What is one difference between the poem and the selection?
- A** Carmen knows Grams personally, while Zach does not know the people he helps.
  - B** Carmen shares her ideas with others, while Zach does not.
  - C** Carmen's plan requires other people, while Zach's does not.
  - D** Carmen ignores Miss D.'s question, while Zach responds to the people around him.
- 

- 9** Both the poem and the selection express the importance of —
- A** thinking about others
  - B** making new friends
  - C** being accepting of others
  - D** overcoming challenges

Item Number	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting	Content Student Expectation	Correct Answer
<b>READING Selection 1</b>				
1	2	Supporting	4.7 Fig. 19(D)	B
2	2	Supporting	4.7 Fig. 19(D)	C
3	2	Supporting	4.7 Fig. 19(D)	C
4	2	Supporting	4.7 Fig. 19(E)	B
5	2	Supporting	4.8 Fig. 19(D)	B
6	2	Supporting	4.14 Fig. 19(D)	D
<b>READING Selection 2</b>				
<b>READING Selection 3</b>				
1	2	Supporting	4.4(A)	C
2	2	Supporting	4.4(A)	D
3	2	Supporting	4.4 Fig. 19(D)	D
4	1	Readiness	4.2(B)	A
5	3	Readiness	4.11(A)	D
6	3	Readiness	4.11 Fig. 19(D)	B
7	1	Readiness	4.19(F)	B
8	1	Readiness	4.19(F)	A
9	1	Readiness	4.19(F)	A

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