



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
Support Materials
2006**

**Grade 4
Reading**

**NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING**

3.3.1 Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings or relationships by identifying synonyms, antonyms, or homonyms/ homophones; or categorizing words

- 1 The word hear belongs in which sentence?
- A. People come _____ for vacation.
 - B. I want to sit _____ by the window.
 - C. She can _____ us talking loudly.
 - D. Please put my books over _____.

3.2.1 Students identify the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by using strategies to unlock meaning (e.g., knowledge of word structure, including prefixes/suffixes and base words, such as “un-covered;” or context clues; or other resources, such as dictionaries, glossaries; or prior knowledge)

- 2 Which word has a suffix (ending) that means most?
- A. clearest
 - B. visitors
 - C. jobless
 - D. cleaning

Under the Back Porch Literary Text

3.3.2 Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings or relationships by selecting appropriate words to use in context, including content specific vocabulary (e.g., predator/prey), or words with multiple meanings)

Our house is two stories high shaped like a white box.

- 3 Which sentence uses the word stories in the **same** way?
- A. She likes to read long stories to us.
 - B. I wrote some stories for the newspaper.
 - C. Our school building is three stories tall.
 - D. My grandfather tells stories about his old house.

3.5.2 Analyze and interpret elements of literary texts, citing evidence where appropriate by describing main characters' physical characteristics or personality traits; or providing examples of thoughts, words or actions that reveal characters' personality traits

- 4 Why does the speaker like to rest under the back porch?
- A. to scare her sisters and brothers
 - B. to look at the plants growing there
 - C. to play in the long strips of sunlight
 - D. to be alone in a place she enjoys

Under the Back Porch Literary Text

3.4.1 Demonstrate initial understanding of elements of literary texts by identifying or describing character(s), setting, problem/solution, major events, or plot, as appropriate to text

- 5 In this poem, “the smell of the damp” reminds the speaker of the
- A. dark shade.
 - B. strips of sunlight.
 - C. moss that is growing.
 - D. wooden porch boards.

3.3.1 Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings or relationships by identifying synonyms, antonyms, or homonyms/ homophones; or categorizing words

- 6 Which words mean the **opposite** of underneath?
- A. on top of
 - B. next to
 - C. to one side of
 - D. close to

Under the Back Porch Literary Text

3.5.5 Analyze and interpret elements of literary texts, citing evidence where appropriate by identifying the author's basic message

- 7 Explain why the back porch is a special place for the speaker. Use details from the poem.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of why the back porch is a special place for the speaker. Response includes relevant details from the poem.
3	Response provides an explanation of why the back porch is a special place for the speaker. Response lacks some relevant details from the poem or is not fully developed.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of why the back porch is a special place for the speaker. Response includes limited details from the poem.
1	Response is vague/minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

Training Notes:

Details from the poem that show the back porch is a special place for the speaker:

- "I rest there."
- "I go there when I have to be alone."
- "It is always shaded and damp."
- "Sunlight only slants through the slats/in long strips of light . . ."
- ". . . the smell of the damp is moist green, like the moss that grows here."
- "My sisters and brothers can stand on the back porch and never know I am here underneath."
- "It is my place. All mine."

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SCORE POINT 4

The back porch is a special place for her to be alone and it can be a special hiding place to be away from her brothers and sisters. It's also a favorite so she can sit and feel the strips of sunlight which she likes. The porch is a fun place to sit under ALONE!

Response provides a thorough explanation of why the back porch is a special place and includes relevant details from the poem.

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SCORE POINT 3

I think the porch is a special place. Because it is quiet and perfect. But of course nobody bothers you and sunlight comes there w/ the cracks.

Response provides an explanation of why the back porch is a special place and includes details from the poem.

SCORE POINT 2

Under the porch is special to her because she can be alone, and she can smell damp moss, and last she can rest.

Response provides a partial explanation of why the back porch is a special place and includes limited details from the poem.

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SCORE POINT 1

It is special because she likes to
be alone.

Response provides a minimal explanation.

SCORE POINT 0

Because it reminds him of
places.

Response is irrelevant.

Fascinating Forests

Informational Text

3.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using information from the text to answer questions related to explicitly stated main/central ideas or details

- 8** According to the passage, which statement is true about a forest canopy?
- A. Most of its trees are around 33 feet tall.
 - B. Bamboo and palm trees grow there.
 - C. Leafy branches and twigs provide shelter there.
 - D. Butterflies are attracted to its bright flowers.

3.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using information from the text to answer questions related to explicitly stated main/central ideas or details

- 9** Which layer of the forest has soft plants such as ferns?
- A. the canopy layer
 - B. the shrub layer
 - C. the herb layer
 - D. the ground layer

Fascinating Forests

Informational Text

3.8.4 Analyze and interpret informational texts, citing evidence where appropriate by distinguishing fact from opinion

- 10 Which sentence states an **opinion**?
- A. "A forest is an area of land where trees grow close together."
 - B. "Most forests can be divided from top to bottom into five basic layers."
 - C. "Butterflies and bees are attracted to their bright flowers."
 - D. "From top to bottom, around the world, forests are fascinating places."

3.1.1 Applies word identification/ decoding strategies by identifying multi-syllabic words, by using knowledge of sounds, syllable types, or word patterns (including prefixes, suffixes, or variant spellings for consonants or vowels, e.g., bought)

- 11 Which word has the same **vowel sound** as ferns?
- A. search
 - B. fruit
 - C. here
 - D. plants

Fascinating Forests

Informational Text

3.7.3 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by organizing information to show understanding (e.g., representing main/central ideas or details within text through charting or mapping)

- 12 Use four details from the passage to complete the chart. The first part has been filled in for you.

Forest Layer	One Kind of Plant or Animal That Lives in the Layer
Canopy	brightly colored toucans
Understory	
Shrub Layer	
Herb Layer	
Ground Layer	

**NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING**

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response includes four correct answers in the chart.
3	Response includes three correct answers in the chart.
2	Response includes two correct answers in the chart.
1	Response includes one correct answer in the chart. OR Response is vague/minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

Training Notes:

Forest Layer	One Kind of Plant or Animal That Lives in the Layer
Canopy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • brightly colored toucans/birds • woodpecker/owl/birds • caterpillars • monkeys
Understory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trees at least 33 feet tall • young saplings • flying squirrel/bat
Shrub Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plants with tough, woody stems • bamboo and palm trees/trees • shrubs • sloth/opossum/porcupine/raccoon
Herb Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • soft plants such as ferns, grasses, and wildflowers • bright flowers • butterflies • bees • snakes • mouse/mice • turtles • chipmunk
Ground Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mosses • lichens • tree roots • spiders • beetles • centipedes

Accept any plant or animal that appears in the text or the illustration. Please note that the illustration is not included in this document.

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SCORE POINT 4

Forest Layer	One Kind of Plant or Animal That Lives in the Layer
Canopy	brightly colored toucans
Understory	young saplings
Shrub Layer	palm trees
Herb Layer	wild flowers
Ground Layer	mosses

Response provides four correct answers in the chart.

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SCORE POINT 3

Forest Layer	One Kind of Plant or Animal That Lives in the Layer
Canopy	brightly colored toucans
Understory	monkeys
Shrub Layer	palm trees
Herb Layer	ferns
Ground Layer	bugs + animal droppings.

Response provides three correct answers in the chart.

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SCORE POINT 2

Forest Layer	One Kind of Plant or Animal That Lives in the Layer
Canopy	brightly colored toucans
Understory	an owl in its nest
Shrub Layer	bamboo and Palmtrees
Herb Layer	buttiful butter flys
Ground Layer	nice shrubs

Response provides two correct answers in the chart.

NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS
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SCORE POINT 1

Forest Layer	One Kind of Plant or Animal That Lives in the Layer
Canopy	brightly colored toucans
Understory	branches
Shrub Layer	wood
Herb Layer	leaves
Ground Layer	bugs

Response provides one correct answer in the chart.

NECAP 2006 RELEASED ITEMS
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SCORE POINT 0

Forest Layer	One Kind of Plant or Animal That Lives in the Layer
Canopy	brightly colored toucans
Understory	bear
Shrub Layer	wolf
Herb Layer	people's
Ground Layer	Clidcoys

Response is irrelevant.