

# Colorado Measures of Academic Success



## Grade 7

### English Language Arts/Literacy



Paper Practice Resource for Students



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The Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) is Colorado’s standards-based assessment program designed to measure the Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) in the content areas of science, social studies, English language arts, and mathematics. The sample items included in this resource provide students with an opportunity to become familiar with the format of test items that appear in the paper-based test books.

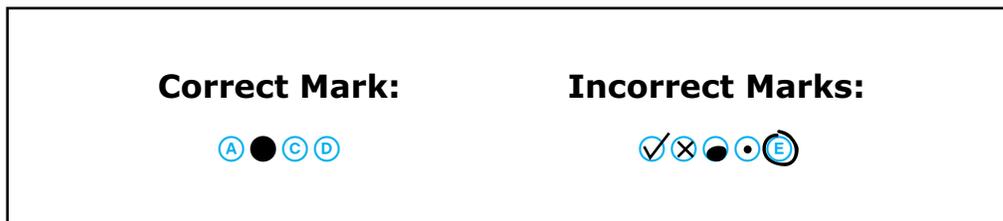
While the use of the sample items is not required, it is strongly encouraged to help ensure students are familiar with the types of items they may encounter while taking the paper-based test.

The sample item sets in the CMAS Practice Resources are not intended to be representative of a complete unit or test, nor are they intended to cover all assessed content or item types. To view assessment frameworks, high level blueprints, scoring rubrics, evidence statements and standards for the CMAS assessments, visit: [https://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/cmas\\_testdesign](https://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/cmas_testdesign).

### Item Types:

#### Selected Response Items

Selected response items are multiple choice questions. To respond, the student indicates their response by filling in the circle(s) next to their answer choice.



#### Constructed Response Items

Constructed response items are questions or prompts that require an independent, written response. To respond, the student writes his or her answer in the response box in the test book.

## **Converted Online Technology-Enhanced Item Types**

Online technology-enhanced items converted to the paper testing format may ask students to:

- Circle the correct answer
- Complete a table with checkmarks, Xs, or letters from a list of answer choices
- Fill in the blank
- Draw lines from boxes to correct answers
- Complete a bar graph or histogram

# ITEM SET 1

**Today you will read passages from *The Road to You* and from *Every Soul a Star*. As you read these selections, you will gather information and answer questions about the passages so you can write a response.**

Read the passage from *The Road to You*. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### from *The Road to You*

by Alecia Whitaker

- 1 "SURPRISE!"
- 2 I look over the shoulder of my makeup artist, Sam, who, like me, jumped when the door flew open. He pulled his mascara wand away faster than a hand on a hot stove, smearing some on my cheek.
- 3 "Oh my gosh, what are you doing here?" I scream when I see my best friend, who's supposed to be back in Tennessee, standing in the door of my dressing room, arms open wide.
- 4 "I came to see your first professional football game," Stella teases, gesturing to the black line under my eye.
- 5 "Ha-ha," Sam deadpans.
- 6 I jump up, and we meet in the middle of the room. Stella's giant hug is just the thing I need to distract me from the ticking clock and the thousands—*thousands*—of people taking their seats in the arena at this very moment. Then her mom walks in behind her.
- 7 "Shannon!" I shout, and I rush her for a big hug as well.
- 8 "Oh, Bird, it's good to see you," she says, her dangly earrings tinkling in my ear as we embrace.
- 9 "I can't believe nobody told me y'all were coming," I say as Sam politely yet firmly leads me back to my makeup chair.
- 10 Stella leans toward my mirror, straightening her thick bangs. "We wanted it to be a surprise," she says with a grin.
- 11 When I signed with Open Highway at the end of last summer, Dan paired me up with an established songwriter, Shannon Crossley. She helped pen a lot of the songs on *Wildflower* and really took me under her wing. That's how I met Stella, and honestly, I don't know what I'd do without either of them.

- 12 "You look amazing, Bird," Stella says as Sam finishes the touch-up. "Like yourself, but even better somehow. It's like you're glowing."
- 13 I turn toward the mirror and take myself in. I see a tall, skinny girl with long, wavy, coppery hair wearing a jean jacket, white tank top, magenta shorts, and an incredible pair of custom-made Justin<sup>1</sup> boots.
- 14 "What'd your dad say about those Daisy Dukes<sup>2</sup>?" Shannon asks with a sly smile.
- 15 "He doesn't like them, but apparently he doesn't get a vote," my dad answers as he walks into the room with my mom and brothers.
- 16 "Was she surprised?" Dylan asks as he throws an arm around Stella's shoulders.
- 17 "Totally," she says, quite smug, crossing her arms.
- 18 "You two and your schemes," I say, pointing at them accusatorily. Last Christmas I thought I lost my lucky rock—one I'd found the day I was offered a record deal and carried with me all the time—but in reality, Dylan had swiped it when I wasn't looking. He gave it to Stella, who encased it in silver wire and attached it to a long silver chain, making it into a necklace so I'd always have it with me. It's the best gift I've ever gotten. No matter how my stylist dresses me, I never take it off.
- 19 As my brothers help themselves to the contents of my minifridge, and everybody else settles in around me, I realize that my nerves have morphed into excited energy. I feel revved up, ready, like a car gunning its engine at the starting line. I have people here—*my people*—and I'm ready to do this thing!
- 20 "Bird, it's almost time," Jordan says, knocking on the door.
- 21 "Okay, thanks."
- 22 She vanishes, on to her next stage-managing duty.

<sup>1</sup>Justin—a popular brand of cowboy and western footwear

<sup>2</sup>Daisy Dukes—short denim shorts for women, typically made from a pair of cutoff jeans

- 23 “Well, gang, it’s been a wild year, that’s for sure,” my dad says as he circles us up. I squeeze between Dylan and Jacob, and we join hands just like the old days when we were touring together as the Barrett Family Band, playing . . . almost every day of the year. “I’ve gone from Bird’s father, to her band leader, to her manager, and to who-knows-what next! But let me tell you something, that girl is happiest with this group of people around her.”
- 24 My eyes blur all of a sudden, and I look up, blinking rapidly, determined, as my dad goes on, not to cry, even if they are happy tears. Then both of my . . . brothers squeeze my hands, and it happens anyway. I lean over and dab a wet cheek on each of their sleeves, and they pretend to hate it.
- 25 “And I’ll tell you one more thing,” my dad continues. “She has a level head, even with all this craziness. You all are our family”—I look over at Stella, who flashes me a megawatt smile—“and all this success is due in part to your support. So we thank you.”

From THE ROAD TO YOU: A WILDFLOWER NOVEL by Alecia Whitaker, published by Poppy, an imprint of Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc. Copyright © 2015 by Alecia Whitaker.

**1. Part A**

Read this sentence from paragraph 18 of the passage from *The Road to You*.

“You two and your schemes,” I say, pointing at them accusatorily.

Why does the author choose these words?

- Ⓐ to show Bird’s lightheartedness about her friends’ actions
- Ⓑ to show Bird’s disappointment over her friends’ actions
- Ⓒ to show Bird’s annoyance at her friends’ actions
- Ⓓ to show Bird’s shock at her friends’ actions

**Part B**

Which detail from paragraph 18 **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ “. . . I lost my lucky rock. . . .”
- Ⓑ “. . . swiped it when I wasn’t looking.”
- Ⓒ “. . . encased it in silver wire . . .”
- Ⓓ “. . . the best gift I’ve ever gotten.”

## 2. Part A

In the passage from *The Road to You*, which statement **best** represents how the author contrasts the points of view of Bird and Sam?

- (A) Bird is excited about the visit from her friends and family, but Sam wants to focus on finishing his job.
- (B) Bird has been expecting a visit from her friends and family, but Sam is surprised by their arrival.
- (C) Bird has been supported by several people for some time, although Sam is new to her group.
- (D) Bird is concerned about her appearance, while Sam appears to be confident in his abilities.

## Part B

Which **two** details from the passage **best** support the answer to Part A?

- (A) "I look over the shoulder of my makeup artist, Sam . . ."  
(paragraph 2)
- (B) "He pulled his mascara wand away faster than a hand on a hot stove . . ."  
(paragraph 2)
- (C) "'Oh my gosh, what are you doing here?' I scream . . ."  
(paragraph 3)
- (D) ". . . the thousands—*thousands*—of people taking their seats in the arena . . ."  
(paragraph 6)
- (E) ". . . Sam politely yet firmly leads me back to my makeup chair."  
(paragraph 9)
- (F) "I turn toward the mirror and take myself in."  
(paragraph 13)
- (G) ". . . just like the old days when we were touring together as the Barrett Family Band . . ."  
(paragraph 23)

3. Which **three** details in the passage from *The Road to You* **best** help the author develop the central idea? Write the letters of **three** details in the box. Details can be used only once.

- A. "I came to see your first professional football game,' Stella teases, gesturing to the black line under my eye." (paragraph 4)
- B. "When I signed with Open Highway at the end of last summer, Dan paired me up with an established songwriter. . . ." (paragraph 11)
- C. "That's how I met Stella, and honestly, I don't know what I'd do without either of them." (paragraph 11)
- D. "'You look amazing, Bird,' Stella says as Sam finishes the touch-up." (paragraph 12)
- E. ". . . my dad answers as he walks into the room with my mom and brothers." (paragraph 15)
- F. "I have people here—*my people*—and I'm ready to do this thing!" (paragraph 19)
- G. "'Bird, it's almost time,' Jordan says, knocking on the door." (paragraph 20)

<b>Details</b>
_____

Read the passage from *Every Soul a Star*. Then answer questions 4 and 5.

## from *Every Soul a Star*

by Wendy Mass

- 1 In Iceland, fairies live inside of rocks. Seriously. They have houses in there and schools and amusement parks and everything.
- 2 Besides me, not many people outside of Iceland know this. But you just have to read the right books and it's all there. When you're homeschooled, you have a lot of books. I also know how to find every constellation in the sky, and that the brightest star in any constellation is called the Alpha. I know all the constellations because my father taught them to me, and I know about the Alpha because it is also my name. But my family and friends call me Ally.
- 3 Okay, that's not entirely true. I don't really have any friends. Not within hundreds of miles, anyway. And it's not because I am unlikable or smell bad or anything like that. In fact, I take a bath every single day in the hot spring outside our house, and everyone knows that the minerals in hot springs make you smell like fresh air all day long.
- 4 The fact that we live somewhere with a hot spring outside our house pretty much explains why I don't have friends nearby. Basically, my house is as close to the middle of nowhere as a person can get and still be *somewhere*. Our town is not even on the map. It's not even a town. It's more of an *area*. There's the Moon Shadow Campground that my family owns, where I know every tree and every rock and which foxes are friendly and which aren't, and a tiny general store a mile away, where most everything expired in the last millennium. That's it. The nearest real town is an hour away. Sure, maybe it gets lonely every now and then, but I love it here. I was only four when we moved, so I don't really remember life in civilization, which is what my ten-year-old brother, Kenny, calls anywhere other than here.
- 5 It should be pointed out that Kenny's only knowledge of civilization besides our books is based on what he can glean from the ancient black-and-white television at the general store, and since the only show that comes in is the soap opera *Days of Our Lives*, he thinks civilization is very dramatic. And until a few years ago, he thought it was in black-and-white.

- 6 Some people might think my parents are crazy for doing what they did—up and leaving their jobs to build a campground in the Middle of Nowhere, USA. But they had a plan. They knew that a decade later, hundreds, maybe thousands of people would travel to this exact spot to be a part of something that hasn't happened in mainland America for over seventy-five years and won't happen again for a hundred more. And this flock, this *throng* of people, would need a comfortable, safe place to stay, wouldn't they? With hot springs and hot coffee and clean bathrooms and their choice of tents or cabins, and no televisions to remind them of anywhere other than here.
- 7 My parents knew that, for one day, our two-square-mile campground would be the only patch of land in the entire country to lie smack dab in the path of the Great Eclipse when it passes overhead. In precisely twenty-two days and some hours from now, the sun will get erased from the sky, the planets will come out to greet us, the birds will stop singing, and a glowing halo of light will flutter like angels' wings above our heads.
- 8 Except, of course, if it rains.

From EVERY SOUL A STAR by Wendy Mass, published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc. Copyright © 2008 by Wendy Mass.

#### 4. Part A

In paragraph 7 of the passage from *Every Soul a Star*, Ally says, “the sun will get erased from the sky.” What feeling does this figurative language convey?

- (A) Ally’s excitement about the people who will watch the eclipse
- (B) Ally’s impatience while waiting for the upcoming eclipse
- (C) Ally’s concern about what will happen after the eclipse
- (D) Ally’s sense of wonder about the upcoming eclipse

#### Part B

Which evidence from the passage **best** supports the answer in Part A?

- (A) “. . . people would travel to this exact spot to be a part of something. . . .” (paragraph 6)
- (B) “. . . something that hasn’t happened in mainland America for over seventy-five years . . .” (paragraph 6)
- (C) “. . . for one day, our two-square-mile campground would be the only patch of land in the entire country. . . .” (paragraph 7)
- (D) “. . . the planets will come out to greet us, the birds will stop singing. . . .” (paragraph 7)

## 5. Part A

Which statement **best** represents Ally's feelings about her home in the passage from *Every Soul a Star*?

- Ⓐ She knows more about the sky than other people her age do because of where she was raised.
- Ⓑ She is happy with where she lives and is unable to remember the place where she was born.
- Ⓒ She is proud of the campground and is excited about the people who will soon visit it.
- Ⓓ She regrets that she has spent most of her life in a place far from other people.

## Part B

Which detail from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ "I know all the constellations because my father taught them to me. . . ." (paragraph 2)
- Ⓑ "Our town is not even on the map. It's not even a town. It's more of an *area*." (paragraph 4)
- Ⓒ "The nearest real town is an hour away. Sure, maybe it gets lonely every now and then, but I love it here." (paragraph 4)
- Ⓓ "With hot springs and hot coffee and clean bathrooms and their choice of tents or cabins . . ." (paragraph 6)

6. Refer to the passages from *The Road to You* and from *Every Soul a Star*. Then answer question 6.

Write an **X** in the boxes to show how the authors of the passages from *The Road to You* and from *Every Soul a Star* develop the characteristics of the narrators. Each row will have **at least** one **X**.

	<b>from <i>The Road to You</i></b>	<b>from <i>Every Soul a Star</i></b>
dialogue between people		
familiarity with nature		
the passage of time		
the setting		

**TURN THE PAGE AND  
CONTINUE WORKING**



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A large rectangular area with a thin orange border, containing 20 horizontal blue lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across most of the width of the page.

A large rectangular area with a thin orange border. Inside this border, there are 20 horizontal blue lines, evenly spaced, providing a template for writing.

Read the passage from *Electronics: MP3s, TVs, and DVDs*. Then answer questions 8 through 12.

## from *Electronics: MP3s, TVs, and DVDs*

by Chris Oxlade

### **Speed of change**

- 1 Just a few years ago, devices that we take for granted today, such as digital music players and cameras, did not exist, or they were too expensive for most people to buy. This shows how incredibly quickly electronics are changing. This happens because people always want the latest, fastest, smallest, most powerful, most feature-filled gadgets, and technology companies continue to produce them. When a device appears in stores, companies are already designing a new, improved version to take its place a few months later. This makes it hard to predict the future of electronics. In fact, the only thing we can be sure of is that things will change very quickly!

### **Electronic history**

- 2 The first electronic component was invented at the start of the 20th century. It was a valve that allowed one electric current to control another. All electronic devices, such as radios and televisions, used to use bulky valves until the late 1940s. Now, almost every modern device contains one or more microchip. The microchip was developed in the 1950s. Since then, manufacturers have found ways to fit more and more components onto microchips. This allows very complex electronic circuits to be fitted into a tiny space.

### **Make the connection**

#### **What are electronics?**

- 3 An electronic device works using electricity, but it is different from an electric device. For example, a flashlight is an electric device. When you turn it on, electricity flows from the battery through the bulb. When you turn it off, the electricity stops. Other examples of electric devices are toasters, hair dryers, and electric heaters.

4 Electronic devices work using electric signals that represent something else, such as sound, for example. The devices can change, or process, the signal. A radio is an electronic device. It takes the electric radio signal, processes it, and turns it into the sound you hear. All the devices and gadgets in this [passage] are electronic devices.

### **Representing information**

5 In all the devices in this [passage], electricity represents information (such as sound or images). For example, in a CD player, electricity represents sound; in a television, electricity represents moving pictures. The electricity that represents the information is called an electric signal.

6 There are two types of electric signal: analog and digital. In an analog signal, the strength of the electricity varies. If you take an analog signal that represents a sound wave, the changing strength of the electricity represents the changing shape of the sound wave.

7 In a digital signal, the electricity is either on or off. A sequence of ons and offs represents the ones and zeros of binary numbers. In a digital signal representing a sound wave, these numbers represent the differing strength of the sound wave.

8 The numbers are recognized and processed by digital devices. For example, when a digital sound signal is processed, the numbers it contains are turned into sound.

9 Most devices in this [passage] contain both analog and digital circuits.

### **Going digital**

10 During the last [several] decades, there has been a switch from analog electronics to digital electronics. This change is sometimes known as the digital revolution. But why has it happened? What are the advantages of digital electronics over analog electronics?

11 The main advantage is that once information is in digital form, it can be stored as files in memory, on hard drives and on CDs and DVDs. . . . It can then be transmitted over digital networks and processed by computers. Sounds, photographs, and video clips can all be handled in the same way and on the same machine.

12 Before digital electronics, you needed lots of different machines, since sounds were stored on audiotape, photographs were stored on film and video was stored on videotape.

13 Digital circuits also mean that data can be reduced to a smaller size. This is called compression. It allows information to take up less storage space and to be sent from place to place more quickly. The information must be returned to its original size afterward. For example, MP3 and WMA are two popular formats for storing sound. JPEG is a format for storing photographs.

### **Make the connection**

14 Bandwidth is a common word in the world of communications. It means the speed that information can be sent along a communications link, such as a cable or an optical fiber. You can think of a communications link carrying information as being like a pipe carrying water. A wider pipe can carry more water, just as a link with greater bandwidth can carry information faster. Also, many more digital signals than analog signals can fit down a link. The word broadband describes a communications system that can carry a very high number of digital signals.

### **Convergence**

15 Convergence is one of the buzzwords of electronics. It means that one or two state-of-the-art devices can do the jobs that were done by many different devices in the past. For example, in the 1980s you needed a camera to take photographs, a cassette player to listen to music, and a telephone to make calls. Now a cutting-edge cell phone can do all of these jobs. This is possible because all the different types of information are handled in digital form.

From ELECTRONICS: MP3s, TVs, AND DVDs by Chris Oxlade. Copyright © 2006 Heinemann Library, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

**8. Part A**

What is the meaning of the phrase **take for granted** as it is used in paragraph 1 of the passage?

- Ⓐ produce efficiently
- Ⓑ fail to appreciate
- Ⓒ use extensively
- Ⓓ refuse to buy

**Part B**

Which detail from paragraph 1 **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ “. . . digital music players and cameras . . .”
- Ⓑ “. . . too expensive for most people . . .”
- Ⓒ “. . . always want the latest . . .”
- Ⓓ “. . . the only thing we can be sure of . . .”

## 9. Part A

What effect did digital circuits have on how people communicate with one another?

- (A) The amount of bandwidth needed to record music increased.
- (B) The number of devices needed to take pictures increased.
- (C) The amount of time needed to send messages decreased.
- (D) The number of wires needed to transmit data decreased.

## Part B

Which detail from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- (A) "Sounds, photographs, and video clips can all be handled in the same way . . ." (paragraph 11)
- (B) ". . . you needed lots of different machines, since . . . photographs were stored on film . . ." (paragraph 12)
- (C) "It allows information to . . . be sent from place to place more quickly." (paragraph 13)
- (D) ". . . information can be sent along a communications link, such as a cable or an optical fiber." (paragraph 14)

**10.** Circle the correct word or phrase in each box to complete the sentences.

Inventors developed microchips because valves  
were too \_\_\_\_\_.

large
outdated
simple
slow

The microchip allowed inventors to develop devices  
that \_\_\_\_\_.

make it difficult for electronic circuits to communicate
fit more electronic circuits into a small space
have more values than analog electronics
work as well as the older electronics

So one device can now \_\_\_\_\_.

cause long delays in receiving messages
use more electricity than analog signals
use less bandwidth to carry information
eliminate the need for multiple devices

## 11. Part A

Why did the author include the section **What are electronics?**

- Ⓐ to argue that certain devices cost more than others
- Ⓑ to address the differences between two concepts
- Ⓒ to explain important events from the past
- Ⓓ to describe the appearance of electronics

## Part B

Which other section has the same purpose as **What are electronics?**

- Ⓐ **Speed of change**
- Ⓑ **Electronic history**
- Ⓒ **Representing information**
- Ⓓ **Make the connection**

## 12. Part A

How does the passage develop its central idea about electronics?

- Ⓐ by including examples of how electronics have changed over time
- Ⓑ by including a description of how electronics worked in the past
- Ⓒ by providing an explanation of how digital electronics work
- Ⓓ by providing details of how electronics collect data

## Part B

Which detail from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ “. . . work using electric signals that represent something else . . .” (paragraph 4)
- Ⓑ “. . . the information is called an electric signal.” (paragraph 5)
- Ⓒ “. . . been a switch from analog electronics to digital electronics.” (paragraph 10)
- Ⓓ “. . . it can be stored as files in memory, on hard drives . . .” (paragraph 11)

**This is the end of Item Set 1.**

