

2026 national curriculum tests

Key stage 2

English reading

Braille transcript of the Reading question booklet

(Grade 2: contracted)



**Standards
& Testing
Agency**

[braille page 1]

Instructions

On your paper write:

Your first name

Your last name

Your date of birth

Your school name

Questions and answers

You have one hour, plus your additional time allowance, to complete this test. Read one text and answer the questions about that text before moving on to read the next text. There are three texts and three sets of questions.

In this booklet, there are different types of question for you to answer in different ways.

Short answers

This shows that you only need to write a word or a few words in your answer.

Sentence answers

This gives you space to write more words or a sentence or two.

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Longer answers

This shows that a longer, more detailed answer is needed. You can write in full sentences if you want to.

Selected answers

You need to choose the best answer from those given and write the letter or letters of that answer. Read the instructions carefully so that you know how to answer the question.

Marks

After each question, the type of answer required and the maximum number of marks is shown in [brackets].

As this is a reading test, you must use the information in the texts to help you to answer the questions. When a question includes a page reference, you should refer to the text on that page to help you with your answer.

You have one hour, plus your additional time allowance, to read the texts in the reading booklet and answer the questions in this booklet.

[Note to test administrator]

Please write the school DfE number on the pupil's braille script.]

[braille page 3]

Questions 1 – 12 are about “Owl in Danger” (pages 2 – 5).

1. Read the beginning of the story (page 2).

Why did Mandy shout?

Write **one** letter.

- A. She had fallen in the leaves.
- B. She was impressed by the colourful leaves.
- C. She had seen something in the leaves.
- D. She was scared by the falling leaves.

[1 mark]

2. What does the description “carpet of leaves” suggest about the leaves? (page 2)

[short answer, 1 mark]

[braille page 4]

3. Read the paragraph beginning: “What have you found?” (page 2).

What had Mandy done with the leaves?

Write **one** letter.

- A. covered the ground with them
- B. moved them to make a small hole
- C. kicked them into the air
- D. piled them up high

[1 mark]

4. Read page 3.

Write **two** pieces of evidence that tell you Mandy was amazed by what she had found.

[short answers, 2 marks]

5. Read page 3.

Why was it difficult for the children to spot the owl’s nest?

Write **one** letter.

- A. The owl made its nest at night.
- B. The owl made its nest out of leaves.
- C. The owl’s nest was between tree branches.
- D. The owl’s nest was in the tallest tree.

[1 mark]

[braille page 5]

6. Read page 3.

How can you tell James found it difficult to see the nest? [short answer, 1 mark]

7. Read the paragraph beginning: “Mandy knew it ...” to the paragraph ending:

“... no footholds at all.” (page 4).

How can you tell Mandy was concentrating hard? [sentence answer, 1 mark]

8. Using information from the text, write the letter of each statement below with **either** J (if it is about what James did) **or** M (if it is about what Mandy did).

- A. picked up the owl
- B. wondered where the owl came from
- C. first suggested climbing the tree
- D. said they should leave the owl alone

[2 marks]

[braille page 6]

9. Think about the whole text.

How can you tell that Mandy knew a lot about owls?

Write **two** ways. [sentence answers, 2 marks]

10. Mandy and James had to decide what to do with the owl.

They thought about three ideas.

Write the letters of the ideas A – C in the order in which the children discussed them.

A. taking the owl to Mandy's parents

B. returning the owl to its nest

C. putting the owl back on the ground

[1 mark]

11. Read the paragraph beginning: "Mandy shook her ..." to the end of the text (pages 4 – 5).

How can you tell Mandy was **not** keen on taking the owl home? [short answer, 1 mark]

[braille page 7]

12. Think about the whole text.

Mandy wanted to protect the owl. How can you tell?

Write **two** ways. [short answers, 2 marks]

[braille page 8]

Questions 13 – 24 are about "Matilda's Invention" (pages 6 – 9).

13. Read the first paragraph, beginning: "You're meant to describe ..." (page 6).

Why does Matilda choose the clothes she wears? [short answer, 1 mark]

14. According to the inventor Thomas Edison, what **two** things are needed to be an inventor? (page 6)

Write **two** letters.

A. creativity

B. hard work

C. knowledge

D. skill

E. helpers

F. materials

[1 mark]

[braille page 9]

15. "My **idols** in life are ..." (page 7).

The word "idols" is similar in meaning to which of the following words?

Write **one** letter.

A. scientists

B. ideas

C. teachers

D. heroes

[1 mark]

16. Read the paragraph beginning: "My Grandad Wilf was my mentor ..."

(page 7).

"It was my favourite hour of the week."

Write **two** reasons why this time was so special to Matilda. [sentence answers, 2 marks]

[braille page 10]

17. Read the paragraph beginning: "The reason I love ..." (page 8).

What does the word "pops" tell you about the way ideas come to Matilda? [sentence answer, 1 mark]

18. "... you outline a diagram, work out how to build it, cut or sand wood and **build, build, build**, and then you have the finished product ..." (page 8).

Matilda wrote the word "build" three times. What does this tell you? [sentence answer, 1 mark]

[braille page 11]

19. Read the paragraph beginning: "The reason I love ..." (page 8).

What are the **two** main reasons why Matilda loves inventing?

Write **two** letters.

A. She never knows what the end result will be.

B. She can spend time with Grandad Wilf.

C. She loves making things for her grandad.

D. She loves turning ideas into real things.

E. She thinks it will make her famous.

[1 mark]

[braille page 12]

20. Using information from the text, write the letter of each statement below with **either** T (if the statement is true) **or** F (if the statement is false).

A. Matilda has a good imagination, which helps her invent.

B. Thomas Edison invented windscreen wipers.

C. Grandad Wilf was a mentor to Matilda.

D. Granny Joss enjoyed sharing stories about her previous job.

E. Matilda's inventions are designed to solve problems.

[2 marks]

21. Read the paragraph beginning: "One day, not long ago ..." to the end of the text (page 9).

What do pupils need to enter into the school competition?

Write **one** thing. [short answer, 1 mark]

[braille page 13]

22. According to the poster, what should anyone interested in the school's science competition do? (page 9) [short answer, 1 mark]

23. Think about the whole text.

The way the text is written makes it seem as though Matilda ...

Write **one** letter.

A. is already famous.

B. is being secretive.

C. wrote this a very long time ago.

D. is speaking to the reader.

[1 mark]

24. Read the whole text.

Write **three** pieces of evidence that show Matilda is passionate about inventing. [short answers, 3 marks]

[braille page 14]

Questions 25 – 38 are about “Amelia Earhart” (pages 10 – 14).

25. “... because of the achievements of brave, **pioneering** pilots who flew in some of the first powered planes.” (page 10)

The word “pioneering” tells us that the pilots ...

Write **one** letter.

A. flew aeroplanes for many years.

B. were not very good at flying.

C. could perform tricks and stunts when flying.

D. tested out a new way of travelling.

[1 mark]

26. Read the paragraph beginning: “In those days ...” (page 10).

What did pilots do to get the public interested in flying? [short answer, 1 mark]

[braille page 15]

27. Read the section: "Amelia's first flights" (page 11).

When did Amelia decide to become a pilot?

Write **one** letter.

- A. when she first saw an aeroplane
- B. when she first went on a flight
- C. when she saw most pilots were men
- D. when she first visited an air show

[1 mark]

28. Read the paragraph beginning: "In June 1928 ..." to the paragraph ending:

"... and a successful aviator." (pages 11 – 12).

Write **two** ways in which Amelia earned the money to fund her flying career.

[short answers, 2 marks]

29. Read the section: "Amelia's fame" (page 12).

What did Amelia do that resulted in her being "showered with honours"? [short answer,

1 mark]

[braille page 16]

30. Using information from the text, write the year that each of Amelia's achievements

A – C happened.

- A. Amelia got a pilot's licence.
- B. Amelia flew on a plane between Canada and Wales.
- C. Amelia flew across the Atlantic on her own.

[1 mark]

31. Read the section: "Amelia's next record attempt" (pages 12 – 13).

Why did Amelia have a specially built plane? [sentence answer, 1 mark]

32. Read the section: "Amelia's last flight" (pages 13 – 14).

What did Amelia change about her plans after her accident in Hawaii? [short answer,

1 mark]

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33. Read the section: "Amelia's last flight" (pages 13 – 14).

"The next **leg** of the journey was going to be a very difficult and dangerous one."

What is the meaning of the word "leg" in this sentence? [short answer, 1 mark]

34. Why would it be "difficult and dangerous" to land on Howland Island? (page 13)

[short answer, 1 mark]

35. Read the sections: "Amelia's next record attempt" and "Amelia's last flight" (pages 12 – 14).

While Amelia was the pilot on this journey, she needed help from other people.

Who helped her?

Give **two** answers. [short answers, 2 marks]

[braille page 18]

36. Read the whole text.

Write the letters of the events A – E below to show the order in which they happened.

The **first** one is B.

A. Amelia arrived in New Guinea.

B. Amelia travelled in a plane for the first time.

C. Amelia got her pilot's licence.

D. Amelia had her plane repaired in Hawaii.

E. Amelia went on a flight between Canada and Wales.

[1 mark]

37. "A massive and expensive search was carried out at the time, and no **trace** of her plane was found." (page 14)

What does the word "trace" mean in this sentence? [short answer, 1 mark]

[braille page 19]

38. Read the sections: "Amelia's next record attempt" and "Amelia's last flight" (pages 12 – 14).

What was it about Amelia's personality that helped her to make this journey?

Write **two** impressions of her personality, using evidence from the text to support each answer. [longer answers, 3 marks]

a)

Impression: _

Evidence: _

b)

Impression: _

Evidence: _

.....
End of test

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