



Released Items

Grade 3 ELA-Reading

AzMERIT

Updated January 2019

Prepared by the Arizona Department of Education and the American Institutes for Research®

About the Released Items

The *AzMERIT Released Items* provides details about the items, student response types, correct responses, and related scoring considerations for released AzMERIT test items.

Within this guide, each item is presented with the following information:

- Domain
- Cluster
- Content Standard
- Depth of Knowledge (DOK)
- Static presentation of the item
- Static presentation of student response field (when appropriate)
- Answer key, rubric or exemplar
- Applicable score point(s) for each item
- Option rationales (when applicable)

The items included in this guide are representative of the kinds of items that students can expect to experience when taking the computer-based test for AzMERIT Grade 3 ELA-Reading.

Grade 3 ELA–Reading Released Items

Passage(s):

Real Treasure

by Pamela Walker

1 When Grandma moved in with us, she brought a big trunk. I helped Dad put it at the end of Grandma’s bed. It was heavy and looked like a treasure chest.

2 That first day, Grandma sat by the window and stared out. I don’t know why. All she could see was the Johnsons’ house next door.

3 The second day, I stood in her doorway until she looked at me. She asked me to come in.

4 “Are you sure?” I asked. “Mom said not to bother you.”

5 “Oh, Aaron, that’s silly. Come in here.”

6 So I went in and straddled the trunk like I was riding a horse.

7 “That’s what I used to do when I was little!” She laughed and shook her head. “It’s the funniest thing to see you sitting on it that way.”

8 I was glad Grandma was laughing. “I thought this trunk might be a treasure chest,” I told her.

9 “Full of rubies and gold!”

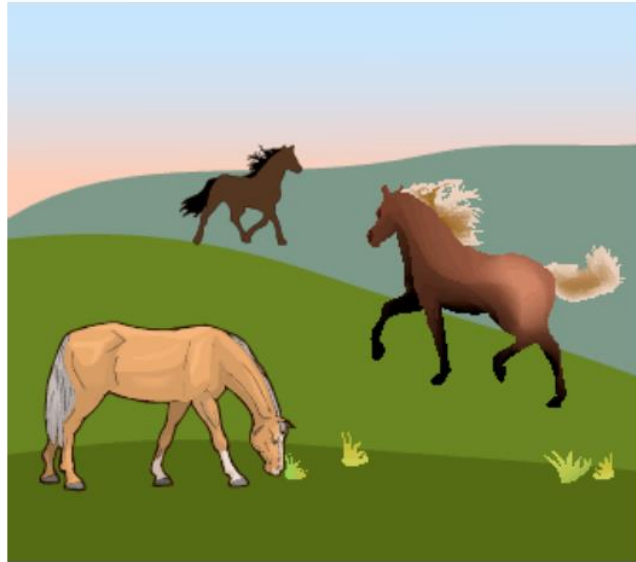
10 “Yeah, real treasure.”

11 “You want to see what’s inside?” she asked.

12 I hopped off, and she pulled her chair over to open the trunk. The oldest smells in the world floated out. Not bad, but not like everyday smells.

13 “See this letter? Your grandfather wrote this to me.”

14 The paper was thin and kind of yellow. The writing was like the spidery veins on Grandma’s hand.



15 "Is it a love letter?" I asked. It looked like it might be mushy.

16 "It sure is," she said.

17 Next, Grandma took out a little blue cup with a broken handle. "I once caught my brother using this teacup to dig fishing worms," she said, grinning. "I pounced on him like a wildcat!"

18 I tried to picture Grandma pouncing, but I couldn't see it.

19 Next, Grandma took out something wrapped in yellow cloth. It was a trophy of a girl riding a horse.

20 "You won that, Grandma?"

21 "Sure did. I won it riding Queen when I was 16 years old!"

22 Then she started putting things away. Her smile faded.

23 "You don't like it here, do you?" I blurted.

24 She rubbed her hands together and didn't say anything right away. "I don't dislike it," she said finally. "I guess I miss my window at home. I could picture every horse I'd ever owned—even Queen! I would see them out there running across that green field—their tails flying behind them like flags."

25 I looked out Grandma's window at the Johnsons' brick wall.

- 26 I went to my room and took out my art box. I used half a crayon to make the fields green. Then I drew horses.
- 27 While Grandma was in the kitchen the next morning, I taped the picture to her window.
- 28 Some of the horses were eating grass. And some were running with their tails flying out behind them. Running fast, just like Queen.

"Real Treasure" by Pamela Walker, from *Highlights For Children*, January 2011. Copyright © 2011 by Highlights for Children, Inc. Reprinted by permission of Highlights for Children Inc. via Copyright Clearance Center. Image created for educational purposes.

Item(s)

Domain	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
Reading for Literature	Key Ideas and Details	RL.3.2	2

Part A

What is a lesson Aaron learns in this story?

- Ⓐ Some people do not understand what it means to be rich.
- Ⓑ Some people see happy memories as something to prize.
- Ⓒ Some people have memories they would like to forget.
- Ⓓ Some people prefer to live alone.

Part B

Which **two** details help to show the answer to part A?

- "Are you sure?" I asked. "Mom said not to bother you."
- "So I went in and straddled the trunk like I was riding a horse."
- "See this letter? Your grandfather wrote this to me."
- "Sure did. I won it riding Queen when I was 16 years old!"
- "You don't like it here, do you?" I blurted."

(2 Points)

Option Rationales

Part A

Choice A: Both main characters seem to understand the wealth that comes from memories.

Choice B: Key - Aaron learns that Grandma's treasure is not a monetary thing: her treasures are her memories.

Choice C: The story is about the memories Grandma wants to remember.

Choice D: Grandma explicitly says that she doesn't dislike it there.

Part B

Choice A: This has nothing to do with remembering good thoughts from the past.

Choice B: This is just an action. It has nothing to do with memory.

Choice C: Key - This is a good memory that the letter reminds Grandma of.

Choice D: Key - This option is correct because it is of a good memory that the trophy reminds Grandma of.

Choice E: Grandma actually does not dislike staying with Aaron and his family.

Domain	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
Reading for Literature	Key Ideas and Details	RL.3.2	1

Which sentence tells what happens in the story?

- Grandma uses the things in her trunk to tell Aaron about her past.
- Aaron helps Grandma move into her new room at his house.
- Grandma and Aaron have fun riding horses together.
- Aaron tells Grandma about his drawing.

(1 Point) Student selected the correct option.

Option Rationales

Choice A: Key - Grandma goes through her trunk and uses each item to tell Aaron a short story about an event or something from her past.

Choice B: The story takes place after Grandma has already moved in; Aaron does not help her move.

Choice C: Aaron and Grandma talk about riding horses, but they do not actually do it.

Choice D: Aaron draws a picture for Grandma, but he does not talk to Grandma about it.

Domain	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
Reading for Literature	Craft and Structure	RL.3.6	2

From which character's point of view is the story told?

- A Mom's
- B Grandma's
- C Aaron's
- D the Johnsons'

(1 Point) Student selected the correct option.

Option Rationales

Choice A: While Mom is mentioned in the story, the story is told from Aaron's point of view.

Choice B: While Grandma is a main character in the story, the story is told from Aaron's point of view.

Choice C: Key - The story is told from Aaron's point of view.

Choice D: While the Johnsons are mentioned in the story, the story is told from Aaron's point of view.

Domain	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
Reading for Literature	Craft and Structure	RL.3.4	2

In paragraph 24, the author describes the tails of the horses as flying. Which sentence explains what flying means here?

- A The tails are resting in the wind.
- B The tails are lifting from the ground.
- C The tails are taking off with the horses.
- D The tails are moving in the air behind the horses.

(1 Point) Student selected the correct option.

Option Rationales

Choice A: "Flying" means that they are not resting.

Choice B: This option refers to "flying" in a literal sense, but the tails are not actually flying here.

Choice C: This option suggests that "flying" is being used literally here, but the horses are not actually flying.

Choice D: Key - The term "flying" here refers to how fast the tails are moving.

Domain	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
Reading for Literature	Craft and Structure	RL.3.5	2

How does Aaron's talk with grandma in paragraphs 23–24 change the story?

- A Aaron learns that his grandma is sad and wants to cheer her up.
- B Grandma tells Aaron that she wants a picture of her old horse, Queen.
- C Aaron sees grandma does not have a window and wants to give her something to look at.
- D Grandma gives Aaron a new box of crayons and he wants to make her a gift as a thank you.

(1 Point) Student selected the correct option.

Option Rationales

Choice A: Key- During Aaron's conversation with his grandma he learns that she misses the view from her old window and draws her a picture to cheer her up.

Choice B: Grandma indicates that she misses Queen, but she does not ask Aaron to draw a picture for her.

Choice C: Grandma does have a window in her room, but it faces the neighbors' house and Aaron wants to give his grandma something that reminds her of home to look at.

Choice D: Although it is likely that Aaron would draw a picture to show gratitude towards his grandma, his grandma does not give him new crayons in the story.