

SCHOLASTIC NEWS

Diagnostic Skills Test

Why Use This Diagnostic?

Our diagnostic can help you and your class in these ways:

- **Practice.** Your students probably take standardized reading tests. Our diagnostics focus on the skills that kids will be expected to demonstrate.
- **Diagnostic tool.** Individual student scores will help you detect strengths and weaknesses.
- **Instructional tool.** You may decide to use the diagnostic for oral reading and discussion. Keep in mind that our diagnostics are not standardized. They should not be used to determine grade level, to compare one student's performance with that of others, or to evaluate teachers' abilities.

QUESTIONS 1-19:

Shorter and Longer Reading Passages

Scholastic News used a variety of standardized reading-skills tests as models for this practice test, including the Illinois Standards Achievement Test, Ohio Reading Achievement Test, and Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. Standardized reading-skills tests are fairly uniform in their educational objectives. There will always be slight differences between any two tests, but the questions in this practice test are similar to those in many standardized tests. This allows the *Scholastic News* diagnostic to be easily used as a preparation tool in any state.

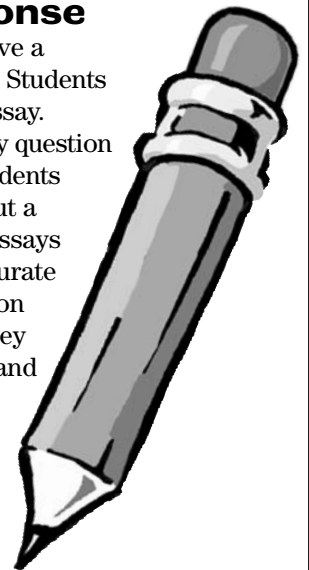
This practice test has two sections: Shorter Reading Passages and Longer Reading Passages/Extended Response. There are three types of

questions used to test students' comprehension and writing skills. Students must respond to multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended response questions. This mixture of questions can help teachers assess students' reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing skills. They also test to see if students understand the main idea of a passage and if they can draw inferences from what they have read.

QUESTION 20:

Extended Response

This section does not have a multiple-choice answer key. Students are asked to write a short essay. Answers will vary. The essay question is open-ended, requiring students to place their thoughts about a subject on paper. Student essays should demonstrate an accurate understanding of information in the text by focusing on key ideas about kid inventions and presenting them explicitly and implicitly. Essays should also have relevant and accurate references that support a student's main idea.



Answer Key for Questions 1-19

1. C	7. C	13. B	19. B
2. B	8. B	14. C	
3. B	9. C	15. B	
4. B	10. B	16. C	
5. D	11. C	17. C	
6. B	12. D	18. A	