



Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading

Sample Test:  
Florida Boys

Reading Book

## Helpful Tips

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

This symbol is next to questions that require a short written answer. A full and complete answer to each of these questions is worth 2 points. A partial answer is worth 1 point.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

This symbol is next to questions that require a longer written answer. A full and complete answer to each of these questions is worth 4 points. A partial answer is worth 1, 2, or 3 points.

Answers to the short- and long-answer questions can receive full or partial credit. You should try to answer these questions even if you are not sure of the correct answer. If you get a portion of the answer correct, you will get a portion of the points.

- Read the question carefully.
- If you do not understand the question, go back and review the passage.
- Write your answer on the lines provided in the Answer Book.
- Remember that it is necessary to include details and information from the passage in your answer.
- Be sure to answer every part of the questions.
- Use clear, concise language to explain your answer.
- Reread the answer to make sure it says what you want it to say.

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## Excerpt from The Florida Boys on the Suwannee River

By John Paul Jones, Jr.  
Adapted for purposes of the test

The Florida boys, Johnny, Doug, and Chuck, built a houseboat out of cypress lumber from an abandoned house at the mouth of the Suwannee River. When they were finished, they named her the Lazy Bones and launched her on a warm summer day. As they headed down the river at five miles an hour, the Lazy Bones left a broad, yellow wake that curled like a large sea serpent in the sunlight. The banks of the river were like two high green fences, so thick was the hardwood forest that crowded down to the river's edge. All was quiet except the sound of the outboard motor.

For a while the boys were quiet, too. They were awed by the wild beauty of the new world they had entered. But the natural excitement of youth could not be contained for long, and soon all three were singing Way Down Upon the Suwannee River at the top of their lungs.

As they moved down the river, it narrowed and twisted like a black snake and flowed toward the Gulf of Mexico. Occasionally, a bright yellow sandbar could be seen a few feet beneath the boat, and large fish swirled in the dark churning water ahead of the boat.

Just before sundown, Chuck and Doug decided to try their hand at bass fishing. The boys had brought along an aluminum canoe, strapped to the top of the Lazy Bones' cabin. Johnny said he would begin preparations for supper. They put the canoe into the water and let it drift along the left bank, slightly offshore, and began casting near the bank, among the cypress knees and hyacinths. The hyacinth is a water plant with a beautiful purple flower that grows so rapidly that it has to be cleaned from the river constantly. This is done to keep the small streams flowing into the river open for fishermen.

Within an hour, using an underwater spoon, the boys had caught three nice bass.

"Just for fun," said Doug, "I think I'll try a small fish for bait." He put a hook and shiner on his line and began popping it slowly in a quiet pool at the edge of the river.

"You won't catch anything with that," said Chuck disgustedly.

Doug didn't say anything. He reeled in the shiner and made another high, looping cast. Suddenly, out of the dark woods an owl swooped down and grabbed the fish in its claws

just before it hit the water. The boys were so startled they just sat frozen while the owl started flying off. Doug's reel began to sing as though a whale were on the end of the line.

Doug began to reel in, checking the flight of the large bird. Apparently, the owl was hungry. A real battle began.

Chuck grabbed a paddle, and when he thought the owl was near enough, swung wildly. His swing was so strong that he promptly toppled into the river.

That left Doug with an owl to fight and his companion to rescue. He put his rod between his knees and grabbed the other paddle to go after Chuck. Of course, the owl, having a slack line, promptly flew off into a tree at the edge of the river still clutching the bait. Doug reeled the line sharply, the hook came loose from the shiner, and the owl ate his shiner lunch.

When the canoe reached Chuck, he climbed in while Doug held the canoe steady.

"Where'd the owl go?" he asked, as soon as he could get his breath.

"Over there in that tree," said Doug, with some disgust. "He's laughing at us."

After the excitement of the owl adventure, the boys decided to give up fishing for the day and soon were back at the boat where they told Johnny all about the strange occurrence.

"Well, the big question is, did you get any fish for supper?" Johnny asked.

The two boys brought out their catch of bass and proceeded to fix them for the evening meal. That night they dined on freshly caught bass, grits, hushpuppies and canned peaches and talked about the day's owl adventure.



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Sample Test:  
Florida Boys

## Answer Book

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_ / 16

Read the story "Florida Boys." Now answer Numbers 1 through 6. Base your answers on the story.

**1** Why are hyacinths cleaned from the Suwannee River?

- (A) to keep small streams closed for swimmers
- (B) to keep small streams open for fishermen
- (C) to get the beautiful purple flowers
- (D) to get the green leaves

**2** How quickly did the boys catch fish?

- (A) the first day
- (B) the first hour
- (C) within two hours
- (D) within three hours

3

What did the 3 boys see as they went down the Suwannee River? Use details and information from the story to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

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4

What did the boys do FIRST on the Suwannee River?

- (A) they caught bass
- (B) they caught an owl
- (C) they sang *Way Down Upon the Suwannee River*
- (D) they put the canoe in the river

5

According to the story, how did the owl get away? Use details and information from the story to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

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6

Read the sentences below.

**He put his rod between his knees and grabbed the other paddle to go after Chuck. Of course, the owl, having a slack line, promptly flew off into a tree at the edge of the river, still clutching the bait.**

What does the word slack mean?

- (A) straight
- (B) loose
- (C) long
- (D) black

7

Describe how the boys caught the bass. Use details and information from the story to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

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8

Compare what happened to Chuck and Doug to what happened to Johnny. Use details and information from the story to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

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Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading

Sample Test:  
Florida Boys

Answer Key

# Answer Key: Florida Boys

This book contains answers and explanations for Florida Boys Sample Test questions. Multiple-choice items are scored by awarding one point for each correct answer. Answers to short-response and extended-response “Read, Think, Explain” questions are scored with two-point and four-point rubrics respectively. For short- and extended-response questions, there is often more than one acceptable response. Partial credit is given for accurate but incomplete answers. The overall characteristics of top-score and partial-credit responses for the “Read, Think, Explain” questions are given in the general two-point and four-point rubrics below.

Sample top-score responses are provided for each “Read, Think, Explain” question.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

## Rubric for Short-Response Questions

- 2 Points:** The response indicates that the student has a complete understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate, complete, and fulfills all the requirements of the task. Necessary support and/or examples are included, and the information given is clearly text-based.
- 1 Point:** The response indicates that the student has a partial understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that may include information that is essentially correct and text-based, but the information is too general or too simplistic. Some of the support and/or examples may be incomplete or omitted.
- 0 Points:** The response is inaccurate, confused, and /or irrelevant, or the student has failed to respond to the task.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

### Rubric for Extended-Response Questions

- 4 Points:** The response indicates that the student has a thorough understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate, complete, and fulfills all the requirements of the task. Necessary support and/or examples are included, and the information is clearly text-based.
- 3 Points:** The response indicates that the student has an understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate and fulfills all the requirements of the task, but the required support and/or details are not complete or clearly text-based.
- 2 Points:** The response indicates that the student has a partial understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that may include information that is essentially correct and text-based, but the information is too general or too simplistic. Some of the support and/or examples and requirements of the task may be incomplete or omitted.
- 1 Point:** The response indicates that the student has very limited understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The response is incomplete, may exhibit many flaws, and may not address all requirements of the task.
- 0 Points:** The response is inaccurate, confused, and/or irrelevant, or the student has failed to respond to the task.

1. B

2. B

3. Example of a top-score response:

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

The 3 boys saw a broad, yellow wake behind their boat and forests on both sides of the river. Later they saw a sandbar beneath them, large fish, and hyacinths.

4. D

5. Example of a top-score response:

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

After Doug caught the owl, Chuck grabbed a paddle and swung at it wildly. He fell in the water. Then Doug put the rod between his knees and grabbed the other paddle to help Chuck. This made the line slack and the owl flew off into a tree.

6. B

7. Example of a top-score response:

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

They drifted along the left bank of the river and began casting among the cypress knees and hyacinths. They also used an underwater spoon to catch the bass.

8. Example of a top-score response:

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

Chuck and Doug went fishing in a canoe. They caught bass and an owl. Chuck fell overboard and Doug grabbed a paddle. The line got slack and the owl got away. Johnny stayed in the houseboat. He said he would begin preparations for supper.