

**Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations  
Criterion-Referenced Test**

**Released Item Book**

**Reading**

**Grade**

**3**



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Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations—Criterion-Referenced Test  
(WKCE-CRT)

## Released Item Book

### **What are released items?**

The items in this book are actual items from the fall 2005 state assessment, the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations—Criterion-Referenced Test (WKCE-CRT). These items will not be used again on the state assessment and may, therefore, be used in Wisconsin for professional development, improving instruction, and student practice. The items in this book illustrate the formats and kinds of items that students will encounter on the WKCE-CRT.

### **How do I use this book?**

#### *Professional Development*

Released items are useful as educators engage in conversations about what students are expected to know and be able to do to demonstrate proficiency on the state assessments relative to the state model academic standards. Released items can inform discussions about state and local standards, curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

#### *Improving Instruction*

Teachers may use released items in classroom activities that help students understand how to:

- solve problems
- determine which answer choices are correct, which are incorrect, and why
- respond to constructed response items with complete, thoughtful answers
- approach long and/or multi-step tasks
- use good test-taking strategies.

#### *Student Practice*

Students may perform better and with less anxiety if they are familiar with the format of the test and with the types of items they will be required to answer. See the accompanying guide for instructions on administering the released item book as a practice test and for the answer key. Note that a student's score on the practice test cannot be converted to a scale score, used to predict performance on the operational WKCE-CRT, or used to make inferences about the student's learning.

**Directions**

Read the passage “The No Pets Apartment Building.” Then answer Numbers 1 through 15.



Sam wanted a pet. A little one. A big one. One that flew or walked. Any kind of pet at all.

But Mrs. Cabot, the landlady, said: “NO PETS!” And that was that.

Sam’s mom and dad bought him fuzzy stuffed bears and a kite in the shape of a kitten and a plastic parrot on a stick. But he wanted a *live* pet. And that was that.

Sam tried to change Mrs. Cabot’s mind. He told her he would get a quiet pet. He told her he would keep it clean. He told her he would not let the pet scratch the woodwork or jump through the hedges.

But Mrs. Cabot looked Sam square in the eye and said: “NO PETS!”

One day Sam heard Mrs. Cabot screaming in the hallway. He rushed over. “What’s wrong, Mrs. Cabot?”

“A mouse!” she shrieked. “I saw a mouse!”

“I thought you had a rule, Mrs. Cabot. No pets allowed.”

“It wasn’t a *pet* mouse,” the landlady squawked. “It was a plain old terrorize-the-building type of mouse.”

Sam grinned. “What you need, Mrs. Cabot, is a cat.”

While it was true that Mrs. Cabot hated cats, there was something she hated even more—mice! And so that very day, Mrs. Cabot went to the animal shelter and found herself a cat.



“The NO PETS Apartment Building” by Eileen Spinelli from *Highlights for Children Magazine’s* March 1990 issue, copyright © 1990 by Highlights for Children, Inc., Columbus, Ohio. Used by permission.

The next time Sam saw Mrs. Cabot, he said, "I see you have a cat."

"Yes indeed," she replied.

"Does that mean I can get a pet?" Sam asked.

"No, it does not!" snapped Mrs. Cabot. "If I let you get a pet, I'd have to let everyone get a pet. Then I'd be running a zoo and not an apartment building!"

Another day Sam was coming home from school. Police cars surrounded the apartment building. "What happened, Mrs. Cabot?" he asked.

"I was robbed!" she cried. "They took my radio and my penny bank and my entire collection of salt and pepper shakers!"

"That's too bad," said Sam, shaking his head. "What you need is a good watchdog."



While it was true that Mrs. Cabot hated dogs, there was something she hated even more—robbers! And so that very day, Mrs. Cabot went to the kennel and bought herself a dog.

A week later Sam found Mrs. Cabot dusting the stairs. There were tears in her eyes.

"You look sad," said Sam.

"I *am* sad," replied Mrs. Cabot. "My very best friend in all the world is moving away."

"I'm sorry to hear that," said Sam.

"She and I would talk for hours," sniffled Mrs. Cabot.

"Can't you talk to Mr. Cabot?" asked Sam.

Mrs. Cabot shook her head. "Mr. Cabot likes to read the newspaper. He likes to watch TV. He likes to build shelves for his wrench collection. But he doesn't like to talk."

"What you need, Mrs. Cabot, is a parrot."

Mrs. Cabot dabbed at her eyes with the hem of her apron. "A parrot?"

Sam nodded. "Parrots love to talk."

While it was true that Mrs. Cabot hated birds, there was something she hated even more—not having anyone to talk with.



**Go On**

And so that very day, Mrs. Cabot went to The Exotic Bird Shop and bought herself a parrot that talked all the way home.

In spring the grass grew green and thick and tall. Mrs. Cabot tried to mow the lawn, but every time she pushed the mower, she sneezed.

“Bless you,” said Sam.

“Thank you,” said Mrs. Cabot, between sneezes.

“Do you have a cold?” Sam asked.

Mrs. Cabot blew her nose. Sneezed. Pushed the mower. Then sneezed again. “No. I have allergies.”

“You shouldn’t be mowing grass, then,” said Sam.

“I know that,” replied Mrs. Cabot, sneezing. “But Mr. Cabot hurt his back. So he can’t mow the grass.”

“Maybe I could,” offered Sam.

“That’s kind of you,” said Mrs. Cabot. “But you’re too small.”

Sam smiled. “I know just what you need.”

“What’s that?” asked Mrs. Cabot.

“A goat!” Sam laughed. “A goat will eat every bit of grass. You’ll never have to mow again.”

While it was true that Mrs. Cabot hated goats, there was something she hated even more—sneezing! And so that very day, she drove to a farm and came back with a goat.

A month later Sam found Mrs. Cabot hammering a For Sale sign into the front lawn.

“Are you selling the building?” asked Sam.

“I don’t want to,” sighed Mrs. Cabot. “But I’m so busy taking care of the cat and the dog and the parrot and the goat that I don’t have time for anything else. The laundry room is full of cobwebs. The stairs are full of dust. And as for the hedges—well, see for yourself.”

Sam patted Mrs. Cabot on the shoulder. “What you need is a pet-sitter.”

Mrs. Cabot stopped hammering. “But who on earth would take care of all those pets?”

Sam’s grin was as wide as a wheelbarrow. “I know just the person,” he said. “And he even lives in the building!”

**1** The author most likely wrote the passage to

- Ⓐ tell a funny story about pets
- Ⓑ describe how to choose a pet
- Ⓒ explain how to take care of pets
- Ⓓ convince the reader to buy a pet

**2** Where do the events in the passage take place?

- Ⓐ at a hotel
- Ⓑ at a house
- Ⓒ at an animal shelter
- Ⓓ at an apartment building

**3** Which of these things does Sam want?

- Ⓐ a live pet
- Ⓑ a teddy bear
- Ⓒ a plastic parrot on a stick
- Ⓓ a kite in the shape of a kitten

**4** Mrs. Cabot says that if she lets Sam have a pet, she will have to

- Ⓐ visit a zoo
- Ⓑ feed the pet
- Ⓒ let everyone get a pet
- Ⓓ sell the apartment building

**5** Read this sentence from the passage.

“No, it does not!”

Another way to write does not is

- Ⓐ doesnt
- Ⓑ doesn't
- Ⓒ does'nt
- Ⓓ doesnot

**6** Read this sentence from the passage.

“I saw a mouse!”

Which of these words means more than one mouse?

- Ⓐ mice
- Ⓑ mices
- Ⓒ mouses
- Ⓓ mousies



**7** Read this sentence from the passage.

Police cars surrounded the apartment building.

In this sentence, surrounded means about the same as

- Ⓐ honked at
- Ⓑ drove past
- Ⓒ bumped into
- Ⓓ circled around

**8** Read the sentences below.

Because of the **mouse**, Mrs. Cabot buys a **cat**.

Because of the **robbers**, Mrs. Cabot buys a \_\_\_\_\_.

Which animal belongs in the blank?

- Ⓐ dog
- Ⓑ goat
- Ⓒ kitten
- Ⓓ parrot

**9** Why does Mrs. Cabot buy a parrot?

- Ⓐ Her cat is lonely.
- Ⓑ Mr. Cabot is bored.
- Ⓒ Sam is going to camp.
- Ⓓ Her best friend is moving.

**10** Mr. Cabot does not like to

- Ⓐ watch TV
- Ⓑ build shelves
- Ⓒ talk to others
- Ⓓ read the newspaper



**11** Which of these words does not describe Sam?

- Ⓐ clever
- Ⓑ helpful
- Ⓒ nice
- Ⓓ lazy

**12** Mrs. Cabot puts up a For Sale sign because

- Ⓐ she wants a bigger home
- Ⓑ she is too busy with her pets
- Ⓒ she is angry because everyone has pets
- Ⓓ she does not want to clean the laundry room

**13** At the end of the passage, Sam hopes

- Ⓐ to be the pet-sitter
- Ⓑ to get a stuffed bear
- Ⓒ to get a new landlady
- Ⓓ to move to a new apartment building

**14** Read this sentence from the passage.

Sam's grin was as wide as a wheelbarrow.

**This is the author's way of saying that**

- Ⓐ Sam likes gardening
- Ⓑ Sam has a big smile
- Ⓒ Sam needs to see a dentist
- Ⓓ Sam does not like to smile



**15** Compare how Sam felt at the beginning of the passage with how he felt at the end. Explain what happened to change how he felt. Use details and examples from the passage to carefully support your answer. Write your answer on the lines below.

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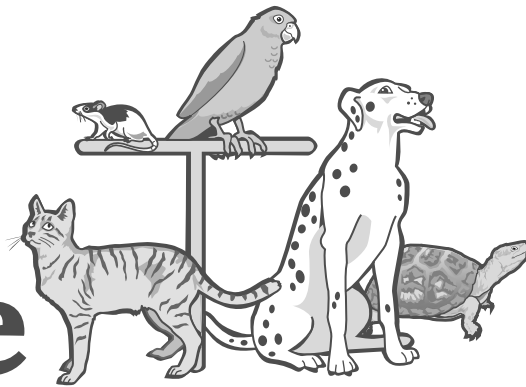
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**Directions**

This is the Table of Contents for a book called *Basic Pet Care*.  
Read the Table of Contents. Then answer Numbers 16 through 20.

# Basic Pet Care



## Table of Contents

<b>How to Be a Good Pet Owner</b> .....	page 3
<b>Choosing the Right Pet for You</b> .....	page 7
<b>Caring for Birds</b> .....	page 11
Small Birds (Canaries and Parakeets) .....	page 12
Large Birds (Cockatoos and Parrots) .....	page 14
<b>Caring for Dogs</b> .....	page 17
<b>Caring for Cats</b> .....	page 21
<b>Caring for Reptiles</b> .....	page 25
Lizards.....	page 26
Snakes.....	page 27
Turtles .....	page 29
<b>Caring for Rodents</b> .....	page 30
Gerbils.....	page 31
Hamsters.....	page 32
Guinea Pigs.....	page 34
Mice and Rats.....	page 35
<b>Glossary</b> .....	page 37
<b>Index</b> .....	page 39

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**16** Which part listed in the Table of Contents gives definitions of words used in the book?

- Ⓐ Index
- Ⓑ Glossary
- Ⓒ How to Be a Good Pet Owner
- Ⓓ Choosing the Right Pet for You

**17** Which page in *Basic Pet Care* has information about caring for turtles?

- Ⓐ page 21
- Ⓑ page 26
- Ⓒ page 27
- Ⓓ page 29

**18** Page 13 in *Basic Pet Care* most likely has information about

- Ⓐ canaries
- Ⓑ gerbils
- Ⓒ lizards
- Ⓓ snakes

**19** The book *Basic Pet Care* most likely has

- Ⓐ ads for pets
- Ⓑ poems about pets
- Ⓒ facts for pet owners
- Ⓓ stories about pet owners

**20** Which of these chapters might also be found in *Basic Pet Care*?

- Ⓐ Caring for Bats
- Ⓑ Caring for Lions
- Ⓒ Caring for Eagles
- Ⓓ Caring for Goldfish

**STOP** 



# Reading Grade 3 Released Item Book



Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent