

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

**Released Item Book**

**Reading**

**Grade**

**5**



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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:

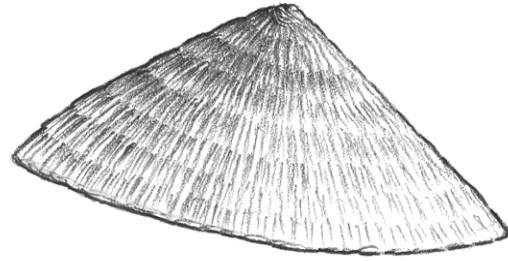
- solve problems
- determine which answer choices are correct, which are incorrect, and why
- respond to constructed response items with complete, thoughtful answers
- approach long and/or multi-step tasks
- use good test-taking strategies.

#### *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 “New Year’s Hats for the Statues.” Then answer Numbers 1 through 14.



# New Year’s Hats for the Statues

by Yoshiko Uchida

Once a very kind old man and woman lived in a small house high in the hills of Japan. Although they were good people, they were very, very poor, for the old man made his living by weaving the reed hats that farmers wore to ward off the sun and rain, and even in a year’s time, he could not sell very many.

One cold winter day as the year was drawing to an end, the old woman said to the old man, “Good husband, it will soon be New Year’s Day, but we have nothing in the house to eat. How will we welcome the new year without even a pot of fresh rice?” A worried frown hovered over her face, and she sighed sadly as she looked into her empty cupboards.

But the old man patted her shoulders and said, “Now, now, don’t you worry. I will make some reed hats and take them to the village to sell. Then with the money I earn I will buy some fish and rice for our New Year’s feast.”

On the day before New Year’s, the old man set out for the village with five new reed hats that he had made. It was bitterly cold, and from early morning, snow tumbled from the skies and blew in great drifts about their small house. The old man shivered in the wind, but he thought about the fresh, warm rice and the fish turning crisp and brown over the charcoal, and he knew he must earn some money to buy them. He pulled his wool scarf tighter about his throat and plodded on slowly over the snow-covered roads.

“New Year’s Hats for the Statues” from *The Sea of Gold* by Yoshiko Uchida, copyright © 1965 by Yoshiko Uchida. Used by permission of the Estate of Yoshiko Uchida, University of California, The Bancroft Library.

When he got to the village, he trudged up and down its narrow streets calling, “Reed hats for sale! Reed hats for sale!” But everyone was too busy preparing for the new year to be bothered with reed hats. They scurried by him, going instead to the shops where they could buy sea bream and red beans and herring roe for their New Year’s feasts. No one even bothered to look at the old man or his hats.

As the old man wandered about the village, the snow fell faster, and before long the sky began to grow dark. The old man knew it was useless to linger, and he sighed with longing as he passed the fish shop and saw the rows of fresh fish.

“If only I could bring home one small piece of fish for my wife,” he thought glumly, but his pockets were even emptier than his stomach.

There was nothing to do but to go home again with his five unsold hats. The old man headed wearily back toward his little house in the hills, bending his head against the biting cold of the wind. As he walked along, he came upon six stone statues of Jizo, the guardian god of children. They stood by the roadside covered with snow that had piled in small drifts on top of their heads and shoulders.

“*Mah, mah*, you are covered with snow,” the old man said to the statues, and setting down his bundle, he stopped to brush the snow from their heads. As he was about to go on, a fine idea occurred to him.

“I am sorry these are only reed hats I could not sell,” he apologized, “but at least they will keep the snow off your heads.” And carefully he tied one on each of the Jizo statues.

“Now if I had one more there would be enough for each of them,” he murmured as he looked at the row of statues. But the old man did not hesitate for long. Quickly he took the hat from his own head and tied it on the head of the sixth statue.

“There,” he said, looking pleased. “Now all of you are covered.” Then, bowing in farewell, he told the statues that he must be going. “A happy New Year to each of you,” he called, and he hurried away content.

When he got home the old woman was waiting anxiously for him. “Did you sell your hats?” she asked. “Were you able to buy some rice and fish?”

The old man shook his head. “I couldn’t sell a single hat,” he explained, “but I did find a very good use for them.” And he told her how he had put them on the Jizo statues that stood in the snow.



“Ah, that was a very kind thing to do,” the old woman said. “I would have done exactly the same.” And she did not complain at all that the old man had not brought home anything to eat. Instead she made some hot tea and added a precious piece of charcoal to the brazier so the old man could warm himself.

That night they went to bed early, for there was no more charcoal and the house had grown cold. Outside the wind continued to blow the snow in a white curtain that wrapped itself about the small house. The old man and woman huddled beneath their thick quilts and tried to keep warm.

“We are fortunate to have a roof over our heads on such a night,” the old man said.

“Indeed we are,” the old woman agreed, and before long they were both fast asleep.

About daybreak, when the sky was still a misty gray, the old man awakened for he heard voices outside.

“Listen,” he whispered to the old woman.

“What is it? What is it?” the old woman asked.

Together they held their breath and listened. It sounded like a group of men pulling a very heavy load.

“*Yoi-sah! Hoi-sah! Yoi-sah! Hoi-sah!*” the voices called and seemed to come closer and closer.

“Who could it be so early in the morning?” the old man wondered. Soon, they heard the men singing:

*Where is the home of the kind old man,*

*The man who covered our heads?*

*Where is the home of the kind old man,*

*Who gave us his hats for our heads?*

The old man and woman hurried to the window to look out, and there in the snow they saw the six stone Jizo statues lumbering toward their house. They still wore the reed hats the old man had given them and each one was pulling a heavy sack.

“*Yoi-sah! Hoi-sah! Yoi-sah! Hoi-sah!*” they called as they drew nearer and nearer.

“They seem to be coming here!” the old man gasped in amazement. But the old woman was too surprised even to speak.

As they watched, each of the Jizo statues came up to their house and left his sack at the doorstep.

The old man hurried to open the door, and as he did, the six big sacks came tumbling inside. In the sacks the old man and woman found rice and wheat, fish and beans, wine and bean paste cakes, and all sorts of delicious things that they might want to eat.

“Why, there is enough here for a feast every day all during the year!” the old man cried excitedly.

“And we shall have the finest New Year’s feast we have ever had in our lives,” the old woman exclaimed.

“Ojizo Sama, thank you!” the old man shouted.

“Ojizo Sama, how can we thank you enough?” the old woman called out.

But the six stone statues were already moving slowly down the road, and as the old man and woman watched, they disappeared into the whiteness of the falling snow, leaving only their footprints to show that they had been there at all.

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**1** What is the passage mostly about?

- Ⓐ An old man is rewarded for a good deed.
- Ⓑ Jizo statues come to life and help the hungry.
- Ⓒ A heavy snowfall makes life difficult for an old couple.
- Ⓓ An old woman wants her husband to earn more money.



**2** Why did the old man go to the village to sell the reed hats?

- Ⓐ He wanted to surprise his wife with a gift.
- Ⓑ The hats were worn during the New Year's feast.
- Ⓒ He wanted to earn money for food for the New Year's feast.
- Ⓓ The farmers needed the hats for shelter from the winter rain.

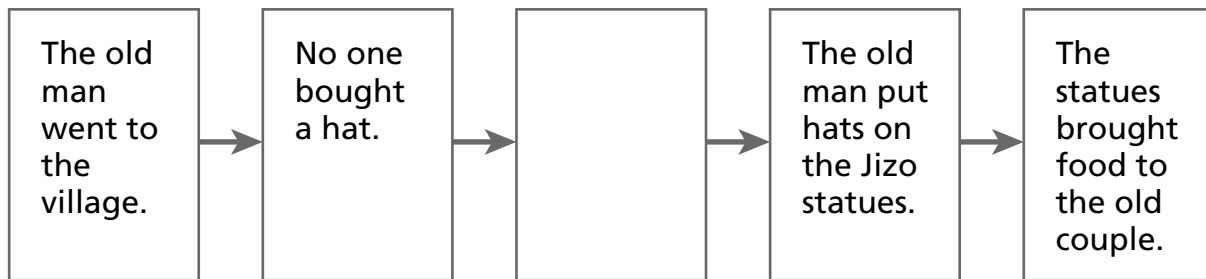
**3** Read this sentence from the passage.

“If only I could bring home one small piece of fish for my wife,” he thought glumly.

If glum means sad, glumly means

- Ⓐ with sadness
- Ⓑ feeling less sad
- Ⓒ to stop being sad
- Ⓓ feeling sadness again

**4** Here are some of the events in the passage.



Which of these events belongs in the empty box?

- Ⓐ The old man made some reed hats.
- Ⓑ The old man started to walk home.
- Ⓒ The old man wished the statues a happy year.
- Ⓓ The old man and woman heard a strange noise.



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

For the old man made his living by weaving the reed hats that farmers wore to ward off the sun and rain.

What does ward off mean in this statement?

- Ⓐ hold up
- Ⓑ substitute for
- Ⓒ frighten away
- Ⓓ protect against

**6** Why didn't the old woman complain when her husband brought home nothing to eat?

- Ⓐ She was too cold to eat anything.
- Ⓑ She was full from drinking the tea.
- Ⓒ She knew the statues would bring food.
- Ⓓ She knew that her husband tried his best.

**7** How did the old man and woman feel as they huddled under the quilts in their cold house?

- Ⓐ frightened by the wind
- Ⓑ lucky to have their home
- Ⓒ bitter about their poverty
- Ⓓ excited about the holiday

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

Outside the wind continued to blow the snow in a white curtain that wrapped itself about the small house.

What does the comparison of snow to a curtain suggest?

- Ⓐ the beauty of the snow
- Ⓑ the coldness of the snow
- Ⓒ the freshness of the snow
- Ⓓ the movement of the snow

**9** Read this dictionary entry.

**draw** *v.* 1. To move steadily. 2. To attract. 3. To sketch. 4. To tie in a game. (Past tense — *drew*)

Now read this sentence from the passage.

“*Yoi-sah! Hoi-sah! Yoi-sah! Hoi-sah!*” they called as they drew nearer and nearer.

Which definition of draw is used in this sentence?

- Ⓐ definition 1
- Ⓑ definition 2
- Ⓒ definition 3
- Ⓓ definition 4



**10** Who was singing a song about looking for the old man?

- Ⓐ the Jizo statues
- Ⓑ a group of children
- Ⓒ farmers wearing reed hats
- Ⓓ people celebrating New Year's Day

**11** Which feature of this passage best suggests it is a folktale?

- Ⓐ It has a snowy setting.
- Ⓑ The statues come to life.
- Ⓒ The main characters are poor.
- Ⓓ It takes place in a little village.

**12** What would probably happen next if the passage continued?

- Ⓐ The couple would move to the village.
- Ⓑ The old man would make more reed hats.
- Ⓒ The couple would enjoy a New Year's feast.
- Ⓓ The old man would look for more Jizo statues.

**13** Based on the passage, which of these qualities is most important?

- Ⓐ courage
- Ⓑ honesty
- Ⓒ kindness
- Ⓓ strength

**14** Explain what might have happened if the old man had ignored the statues. Use details and examples from the passage to carefully support your answer. Write your answer on the lines below.

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**Directions**

Read the poems “Snowy Benches” and “Snowball Wind”. Then answer Numbers 15 through 22.

# Snowy Benches

by Aileen Fisher

Do parks get lonely  
in winter, perhaps,  
when benches have only  
snow on their laps?



# Snowball Wind

by Aileen Fisher

The wind was throwing snowballs.  
It plucked them from the trees  
and tossed them all around the woods  
as boldly as you please.

I ducked beneath the spruces  
which didn't help a speck;  
the wind kept throwing snowballs  
and threw one down my neck.

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**15** What is suggested in “Snowy Benches”?

- Ⓐ The winter will soon be over.
- Ⓑ Park benches are usually empty.
- Ⓒ The snow hushes the city noises.
- Ⓓ It is too cold for people to sit outside.

**16** How does writing “Snowy Benches” as a question affect the reader?

- Ⓐ It shows the reader that the poet is confused.
- Ⓑ It warns the reader that the poem will be difficult.
- Ⓒ It invites the reader to think about parks in winter.
- Ⓓ It makes the reader want to learn more about parks.

**17** Which word from “Snowy Benches” makes parks seem as if they were people?

- Ⓐ benches
- Ⓑ lonely
- Ⓒ snow
- Ⓓ winter

**18** Where does “Snowball Wind” take place?

- Ⓐ in a field
- Ⓑ in a forest
- Ⓒ on a ski slope
- Ⓓ on a playground

**19** What is the snowfall compared to in “Snowball Wind”?

- Ⓐ a gust of wind
- Ⓑ a snowball fight
- Ⓒ a cold winter day
- Ⓓ a game of hide and seek

**20** Read these lines from “Snowball Wind.”

I ducked beneath the spruces  
which didn't help a speck;

What does a speck mean in this phrase?

- Ⓐ at all
- Ⓑ at last
- Ⓒ a small spot
- Ⓓ a piece of dirt



**21** How are the statues in “New Year’s Hats for the Statues” and the benches in “Snowy Benches” similar?

- Ⓐ Both are located in a park.
- Ⓑ Both are treated with respect.
- Ⓒ Both seem to have human qualities.
- Ⓓ Both are made of the same kind of stone.

**22** How is the poet’s attitude in “Snowy Benches” similar to the old man’s attitude in “New Year’s Hats for the Statues”?

- Ⓐ Both seem to enjoy the winter season.
- Ⓑ Both try to imagine how other people feel.
- Ⓒ Both feel sorry for things outside in the cold.
- Ⓓ Both believe in being friendly to other people.



# Reading Grade 5 Released Item Book



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