



# **Beginning-of-Year Assessment (BOY)**

## **Grade 4 Writing Standards**

**This BOY assessment is intended to assess current grade 5 students who completed grade 4 writing in the 2019-2020 school year.**

Congratulations! You worked very hard in school to learn many new things. Taking this Grade 4 Writing Standards test is a great way to show your family and school what you learned. It is okay if you do not know all the answers. Just try your best. You are amazing! You are taking this test so adults can learn more about how to help you this year.

You can ask an adult for help if you do not understand the directions. You can use a dictionary and scratch paper for this test.

If you do not know the answer to a question, choose the answer you think might be correct. You must answer the questions on your own.

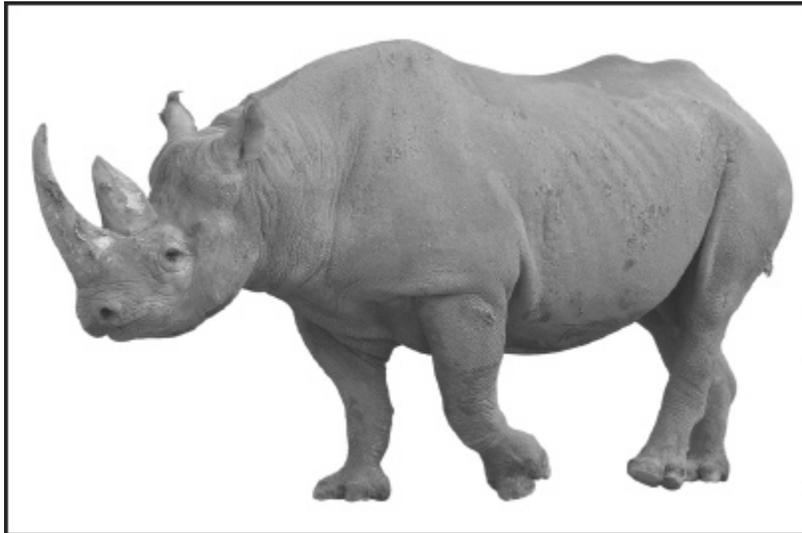
You are now ready to start. Take your time and remember that trying your best is what is important. You're awesome, and you'll do great!

## BOY Assessment Grade 4 Writing Standards

Student \_\_\_\_\_  
Class \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.**

*Maggie wrote this paper in response to a class assignment. Read the paper and think about any revisions Maggie should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.*



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# The Rhino's Horn

(1) The rhinoceros is a huge mammal that is native to Africa and Asia. (2) This animal can grow to more than 6 feet tall and can weigh up to 6,000 pounds. (3) Although it has very stumpy legs, it can run as fast as 35 miles an hour. (4) These characteristics are certainly impressive, but the most unusual thing about a rhino is its horn. (5) A rhino horn, which weighs up to 10 pounds, is made of keratin, the same material that human fingernails are made of. (6) Although most animal horns have only a thin layer of keratin, a rhino's horn is solid keratin. (7) Because many people believe that this material has special powers, rhino horns have become extremely valuable.

(8) People have been interested in rhinoceros horns for centuries. (9) Ancient Persians thought that these horns could detect poisons. (10) In Yemen the horns have been used to make the handle of special daggers that are given to boys when they become men. (11) All over the world people have found uses for the rhino horn. (12) As a result, the rhinoceros has become one of the world's most endangered animals.

(13) Because of the rhino's status as endangered, it's against the law to kill one. (14) But to get a rhino horn, some people ignore this law. (15) The number of rhinos has dropped drastically. (16) In fact, the rhino population has decreased by about 90 percent in the last 40 years. (17) There are now only about 30,000 remaining in the world. (18) It is uncertain whether the rhinoceros will survive as a species. (19) However, many people care about these animals and want to stop the illegal trade of rhino horns. (20) Governments are trying to write bigger laws to protect the rhinos. (21) Conservation organizations are working to make people aware of the problem. (22) Several zoos are developing breeding programs to increase the number of these animals.

1. Maggie wants to add another detail to help build the ideas in the second paragraph (sentences 8–12). Which of these could follow sentence 10 and add to the main idea of this paragraph?

A. I wonder whether there are other things people find to do with rhino horns.

B. In parts of Asia, people believe that these horns can cure all kinds of diseases.

C. One type of rhinoceros, the black rhino, can live up to five days without water.

D. That’s why a lot of people are interested in rhino horns.

2. What is the **BEST** transition to add to the beginning of sentence 15?

A. In the beginning

B. In addition

C. As a result

D. However

3. The word **bigger** is not the right word for sentence 20. Which word should replace **bigger** in this sentence?
- A. larger
  - B. taller
  - C. stricter
  - D. easier
4. Maggie wants a better ending for her paper. Which sentence can be added after sentence 22 to bring this paper to a more effective close?
- A. With the combined efforts of many people, it's quite possible that the amazing rhinoceros will be saved from extinction.
  - B. If the breeding programs work, there will be more rhinos in zoos soon.
  - C. Finally, the rhinoceros that so many people love will survive, and it will probably be around for years to come.
  - D. And that will be the end of the worries about rhinos.

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.**

Andrew likes to read novels and has found that some of his favorite authors are pretty interesting people. He wrote this paper about an author who never fails to make him laugh. Read Andrew's paper and look for the revisions he should make. Then answer the questions that follow.



Jeff Kinney

## Jeff Kinney Creates a *Wimpy Kid*

(1) Sometimes a person has to make a slight turn in life. (2) With effort and some luck, an idea can take the person in a wonderful new direction. (3) That's what happened to Jeff Kinney. (4) He is the creator of the fiction series *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. (5) Millions of kids have read Kinney's books and seen movies based on them.

(6) Kinney grew up in Maryland. (7) His childhood home was filled with books, and he loved to read. (8) He had a favorite book. (9) It was Judy Blume's *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*. (10) A little later he discovered science fiction. (11) He especially loved J. R. R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* series. (12) At that time, Kinney didn't imagine that he would one day create a book series himself!

(13) When asked about his childhood reading, Kinney has explained, "My favorite stories weren't in books. (14) They were in comics." (15) That's because his father was a comic-book collector. (16) Kinney enjoyed reading his father's comic books

and says that his favorite characters were Donald Duck and Uncle Scrooge. (17) He thinks that their crazy adventures sparked the ideas that led him to create Greg Heffley, the now-famous Wimpy Kid.

(18) Kinney's road didn't lead straight to the *Wimpy Kid* series. (19) He first wanted to be a comic strip cartoonist, but he didn't have great success. (20) All the while it was a regular kid he had been thinking of a story about. (21) For six years he jotted down ideas. (22) Finally he combined his text with some cartoon drawings and turned the ideas into a book he called *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. (23) The book was published online, but only one little segment was released at a time. (24) Soon thousands of kids were reading a new *Wimpy Kid* episode each day. (25) In 2006, Kinney signed a deal with a book publisher. (26) By 2007, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* was a best seller!

(27) Readers ask Kinney stuff. (28) He explains that the stories, told from the point of view of the Wimpy Kid named Greg, are "ordinary." (29) He says that's why real-life kids like them. (30) People often think that Kinney might have once been a lot like Greg. (31) He admits that Greg does have some of his traits but says that he has exaggerated them "to make them more funny."

(32) A great idea took Jeff Kinney from struggling cartoonist to successful novelist. (33) Today millions of kids are glad that it did!

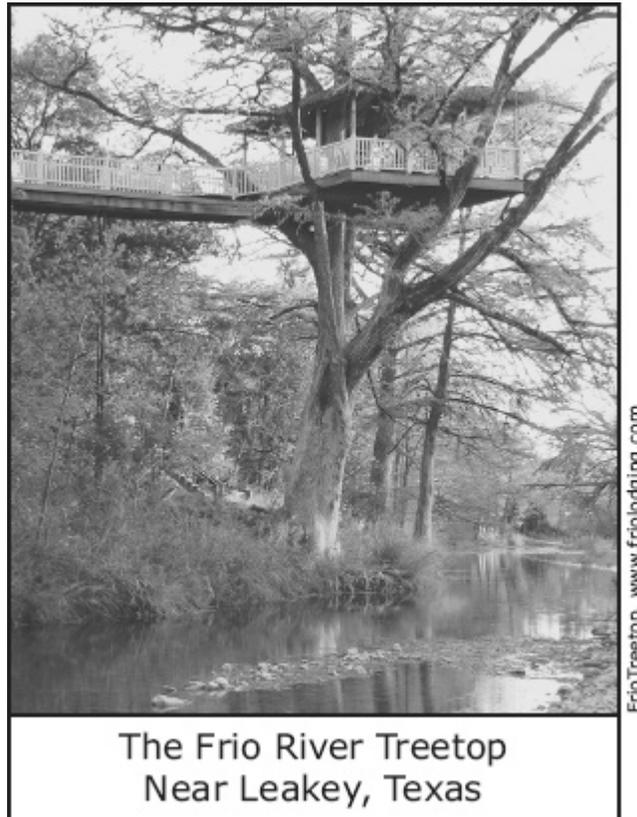
Third party trademarks *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*®, *Lord of the Rings*®, *Donald Duck*® and *Uncle Scrooge*® were used in these testing materials

5. Which of these could follow sentence 5 and effectively state the central idea of this paper?
- A. Kinney's life story is a perfect example of a turn in life leading to great things.
  - B. Kinney wrote the books in the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series and some movies have been made.
  - C. Kinney had an interesting childhood and an even more interesting adulthood is what I think.
  - D. Kinney is a person that you should like a lot, and I am going to tell you why in this paper.
6. What is the most effective way to combine sentences 8 and 9?
- A. He had a favorite book, since it was Judy Blume's *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*.
  - B. He had a favorite book and Judy Blume's *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*.
  - C. His favorite book was Judy Blume's *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*.
  - D. He had a favorite book it was Judy Blume's *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*.

7. What is the most effective revision to make in sentence 20?
- A. All the while a regular kid had been thinking about a story.
  - B. All the while he had been thinking of a story about a regular kid.
  - C. All the while he had been thinking about a regular kid and a story.
  - D. All the while he had been thinking of a story it was about a regular kid.
8. Andrew would like to provide a better sentence to introduce the ideas in the fifth paragraph (sentences 27–31). Which of these could replace sentence 27 and provide a more effective topic sentence for this paragraph?
- A. Readers sometimes ask Kinney why his books are so popular.
  - B. There are readers who like to ask Kinney some stuff.
  - C. Readers want Kinney to tell them more about his choices.
  - D. The people who read the books want to know more.

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.**

*Jason's teacher asked students to research and write about unusual uses for trees. Read Jason's rough draft and look for corrections he needs to make. When you are finished reading, answer the questions that follow.*



## **Tree House Tourist**

(1) Imagine waking up among the treetops of a forest. (2) Your bed is over 70 feet off the ground. (3) Leaves brush against your windows and the chirps of birds echo through your room.

(4) Many people love tree houses. (5) Some people like them so much that we created tree house hotels for guests. (6) These unusual places are made to help visitors connect with nature.

(7) Surprisingly, these tree house hotels can be found in many environments. (8) Tropical rain forests, thickly wilderness areas, or trees along an island shore are just a few places they are located.

(9) Each tree house hotel fits right in with the natural surroundings of the environment.

(10) Part of the fun of visiting a tree house hotel is arriving there. (11) A guest cannot just drive to the base of most tree house hotels and climb up. (12) A journey through nature is usually needed. (13) For example, a person in a rain forest will likely need to walk up wobbly narrow bridges and use ropes for support. (14) But the trip is worth it. (15) A person can see the jungle from a totally different view. (16) Spending the night in the rain forest is a rare and wonderful experience.

(17) Not all tree houses look alike. (18) In Sweden there is a tree house hotel that is shaped like a bird's nest. (19) The design helps the tree house blend in with its surroundings. (20) In Mexico a tree house is set over the shoreline coast. (21) It is perfect for someone who likes the beach.

(22) The Frio River Treetop is closer to home it is located near Leakey, Texas. (23) Two tree houses are built into an old cypress tree. (24) They are 40 feet above the Frio River, and together they can hold up to 20 people. (25) The nearby area has swimming, fishing, canoeing, and hiking. (26) This makes it a great spot for someone who is looking for a more active setting.

(27) Someday you may want to visit one of these tree house hotels. (28) You may prefer just to climb in a traditional backyard tree house. (29) Either way, tree houses provide a great way to enjoy nature.

9. What change should be made in sentence 3?

- A. Change **Leaves** to **Leafes**
- B. Change **brush** to **brushes**
- C. Insert a comma after **windows**
- D. Change **through** to **threw**

10. What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 5?

- A. Change **like** to **likes**
- B. Change **we** to **they**
- C. Change **created** to **creating**
- D. No change needs to be made.

11. What change should be made in sentence 8?

- A. Change ***rain forests*** to **rain forest's**
- B. Change ***thickly*** to **thick**
- C. Delete the comma after ***areas***
- D. Insert a comma after ***shore***

12. What change should be made in sentence 13?

- A. Change ***need*** to **needs**
- B. Change ***walks*** to **walk**
- C. Change ***use*** to **using**
- D. No change is needed.

13. What change should be made to sentence 18?

- A. Change ***their*** to **there**
- B. Insert a comma after ***hotel***
- C. Change ***shaped*** to **shape**
- D. Change ***bird's*** to **birds**

14. What is the correct way to write sentence 22?

- A. The Frio River Treetop is closer. To home, it is located near Leakey, Texas.
- B. The Frio River Treetop is closer to home. It is located near Leakey, Texas.
- C. The Frio River Treetop is closer to home as a result it is located, near Leakey, Texas.
- D. No change is needed.

15. What change, if any, should be made to sentence 26?

- A. Change ***makes*** to **make**
- B. Change ***greatest*** to **great**
- C. Insert a comma after ***spot***
- D. No change needs to be made in this sentence.

16. What change is needed in sentence 28?

- A. Change ***prefer*** to **prefers**
- B. Change ***climb*** to **climbing**
- C. Change ***traditionul*** to **traditional**
- D. No change needs to be made.

17. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 29?

- A. Change ***provide*** to **providing**
- B. Change ***a*** to **an**
- C. Change ***enjoy*** to **injoy**
- D. No change is needed in this sentence.

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.**

*Last fall Meg’s teacher asked his students to write about something they had done over the summer. Meg wrote about a U.S. landmark she had visited. Read Meg’s paper and look for any corrections she should make. Then answer the questions that follow.*



## **The Statue of Liberty: A Gift from a Friend**

(1) Over the summer my family took a vacation to New York city.

(2) I wanted to get my neighbor Callie a present from the “Big Apple,” and I found just the right thing! (3) It was a little model of the famous Statue of Liberty. (4) Callie is my best friend, and the Statue of Liberty is a symbol of friendship. (5) What could be a more perfect present.

(6) I also gave Callie a little booklet that told about the statue. (7) It said that the country of France had sent the statue to the United States in 1886 as a sign of friendship. (8) Lady Liberty was designed in France she was made out of copper and steel. (9) She arrived in the United States in 350 different piece’s. (10) Then she was put together and placed on a cement pedestal. (11) Today she stands on that same pedestal on Liberty Island in New York harbor.

(12) Lady Liberty wasn't just a friendship gift. (13) She was also a birthday present. (14) Meant to celebrate America's independence from Great Britain. (15) The French people were very proud of the help they had given the United States during the revolutionary war.

(16) I bought Callie a model of the statue that is just six inches tall. (17) The real lady stands more than 151 feet tall from her base to the tip of her torch. (18) In 1886 she was our country's most tallest structure.

(19) The statue's many features have special meanings. (20) The broken chains at her feet are symbols of America's newly won independence. (21) Many people believe that the rays of her crown represent the seven oceans and seven continents of the world. (22) Her torch stands for the light of liberty guiding ships into the harbor.

(23) When I gave Callie the mini-statue, I promised that we would visit the real statue together someday. (24) I plan to keep my promise. (25) Then Callie will be able to see the awesome lady for herself!

18. What change should be made in sentence 1?

- A. Change ***took*** to **had took**
- B. Insert a comma after ***vacation***
- C. Change ***city*** to **City**
- D. No change should be made.

19. How should sentence 5 be changed?

- A. Change ***more perfect*** to **perfecter**
- B. Change the period to a question mark
- C. Insert quotation marks at the end of the sentence
- D. Sentence 5 should not be changed.

20. What is the correct way to write sentence 8?

- A. Lady Liberty was designed in France. Because she was made out of copper and steel.
- B. Lady Liberty was designed in France and made out of copper and steel.
- C. Lady Liberty was designed in France. And made out of copper and steel.
- D. Sentence 8 is written correctly in the paper.

21. What change should be made in sentence 9?

- A. Change ***She*** to ***They***
- B. Change ***in 350*** to ***she was in 350***
- C. Change ***piece's*** to ***pieces***
- D. No change should be made in sentence 9.

22. What is the correct way to write sentences 13 and 14?

- A. She was also a birthday present she was meant to celebrate America's independence from Great Britain.
- B. She was also a birthday present meant to celebrate. America's independence from Great Britain.
- C. She was also a birthday present. Which was meant to celebrate America's independence from Great Britain.
- D. She was also a birthday present meant to celebrate America's independence from Great Britain.

23. What change should be made in sentence 15?

- A. Change ***French*** to **french**
- B. Change ***were*** to **was**
- C. Change ***they*** to **it**
- D. Change ***revolutionary war*** to **Revolutionary War**

24. What change needs to be made in sentence 18?
- A. Change ***In 1886*** to ***It was in 1886***
  - B. Change ***country's*** to ***countries***
  - C. Delete ***most***
  - D. No change needs to be made in this sentence.

