



SAMPLES OF STANDARDS STUDENTS ARE LEARNING THIS NINE WEEKS:

4TH GRADE ELA

STANDARDS: RI.4.1, RI.4.2, RI.4.4, RL.4.1, RL.4.3

Many motion pictures have exciting and thrilling action scenes. The people who perform in these scenes are called stunt performers. They often stand in for the movie stars when the risk of injury is greater.

Excerpt from *Stunt Performers*

by Tony Hyland

- 1 Do you want to be a stunt performer?
- 2 Could you be a stunt performer, performing spectacular stunts in front of an audience or movie camera?
- 3 Stunt performers perform aerial acrobatics in circuses or dangerous stunts for the movies. Circus performers can swing on the flying trapeze high above the audience. Stunt actors can crash speeding cars in movie stunts.



- 4 We all love watching exciting stunts. Most people will enjoy the show and go home. For the stunt performers, this is the day's work. They'll be back doing more spectacular stunts the following day.
- 5 Stunt work is an extreme job. The training is hard and the stunts can be dangerous. But performers enjoy the thrill of their work and push themselves hard to do more spectacular stunts. Perhaps you could be a stunt performer one day.

Stunt actor or circus performer?

- 6 Stunt actors work in movies and television shows. They work hard to make it look as if someone else is doing the stunt. Circus performers work just as hard to be the stars of the show.

- 7 Stunt actors dressed up as the stars in a movie do all the dangerous and difficult scenes. Movie scenes can be edited to cut out some parts and put others in. Film crews can take hours to shoot an action scene. The audience only sees a few exciting moments.
- 8 Circus artists perform spectacular stunts live, in front of an audience. If the stunt goes wrong, there is no chance to do it again.

Life as a stunt performer

- 9 Stunt actors lead a busy and energetic life. They must be fit and strong. Many start off in martial arts or gymnastics, where they learn to develop flexibility and fall safely.
- 10 Experienced stunt actors learn many extra skills such as horse riding, working with explosives, and scuba diving. Some become specialists in one skill, such as stunt driving.
- 11 Stunt actors work wherever movies or television shows are made. Hollywood is known as the movie capital of the world. Other places with busy movie or television studios include Vancouver in Canada, and Queensland in Australia. Stunt actors often work on location. This means filming in remote places such as deserts, jungles, and mountains. Stunt actors working on these jobs are away from home for weeks, or even months.

Circus life

- 12 Circus life is also busy and active. Performers need to be strong and agile. They need a good sense of balance and a head for heights. The circus is not a place for shy people; circus performers enjoy being the center of attention. Most circus acts are performed to music. The rhythm of the music gives the performers cues for each section of their act.
- 13 Many circuses travel from town to town. They stay for a week, and then move on. Circus performers are used to this traveling life. Many have no other home but the circus. They live in large caravans or trailers. Circus families often travel together, with the children learning to join their parents' act. Circus children don't usually go to school. They study by correspondence, or have a teacher who travels with the circus.

Risks and dangers

- 14 Stunt performers of all types know that their jobs are risky. They don't let the risks stop them. Their skills and training usually keep them safe. Some of the risks for stunt performers are:

Falls

16. Stunt performers are used to falls, and know how to land safely. But a fall from the high wire or trapeze can be deadly.

Sports injuries

17. Stunt performers are hard on their bodies. They often suffer exactly the same sprains and knee damage that sports stars do.

Fires and explosions

18. Movie fires and explosions are spectacular, but if something goes wrong, stunt actors can be badly hurt.

19. Accidents

A slight miscalculation, or a piece of damaged equipment, can cause a bad accident. That's why performers practice their stunts and check their equipment closely.

Bad Weather

20. Wind and rain on a movie set can create unexpected hazards for stunt actors.

1. Based on the article, why do some stunt actors spend long periods of time away from home?
- A** They need to live in different parts of the world to be able to help the actors.
 - B** They need to hike and climb in deserts, jungles, and mountains to help them stay in shape.
 - C** They need to travel to the different places where movies and television shows are filmed.
 - D** They need to go to different places to learn new skills from experts.

Key: C

RI.4.1- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

Rationale: Option C is correct. Actors work wherever movies or tv shows are made. This means filming in remote locations where they are away from home for weeks, or even months.

2. Which paragraph **best** supports a main idea of the article?

- A** paragraph 7
- B** paragraph 10
- C** paragraph 13
- D** paragraph 19

Key: A

RI.4.2- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Rationale: Option A is correct. This paragraph explains the job of stunt actors.

Kids who live on Ali's block like to play in a vacant lot on their street. Ali shows treasures that she finds on the lot to her neighbor, Ms. Snoops, to see if she knows the stories behind them.

Excerpt from *One Day and One Amazing Morning on Orange Street*

by Joanne Rocklin

- 1 "I had the most wonderful idea yesterday, while I was watering the tree in the empty lot." Ms. Snoops said.
- 2 "Yes! That happens to me all the time! It just happened this morning!" said Ali. "What was your idea?"
- 3 Ms. Snoops went to her desk and brought back a sheet of paper marked with a big handwritten *M*. "As soon as I got the idea, I wrote this note to myself, just so I wouldn't forget. I'm embarrassed to tell you I can't remember what the 'M' is for.
- 4 *M* is for mystery," said Ali, "but that doesn't help you much. How about muffins? Maybe you were thinking of baking your delicious orange muffins. You haven't made those in a while."
- 5 "No, said Ms. Snoops. "It was more important than that."
- 6 "Money? Medicine?" asked Ali.
- 7 "No, it had something to do with you, I believe."
- 8 "Me?"
- 9 "That's right, but I'm not sure how. Well, let's not let this spoil our get-together! What treasures have you brought this afternoon?"

marmalade= a sweet jelly that contains pieces of fruit

10 From her bag, Ali pulled out the round metal disk, the icy-blue stone
11 shaped like a heart, the iron nails, the woolen sock, and the rusty cookie tin
with the head inside of it. She spread everything out on the coffee table.
12 Ms. Snoops placed the disk, the nails, and the sock in a separate pile. "These
are common household items." she said. She picked up the scratched metal
disk. "This is part of a glass preserve jar. Everyone put up fruits and
vegetables in the old days. And if they were lucky to
have orange trees in their yards, they made marmalade. I may be the only one around
who still puts up her own preserves, however." She tapped on the iron nail. "A nail is
just a nail. And the sock probably fell from an old-fashioned clothesline on a windy day.
No particular
memories come to mind about these articles. Hmmm ... But *this* is interesting."

13 She held up the icy-bluestone. It twinkled in the sunlight
from the window. "I would bet dollars to doughnuts this
was one of Pug's stones. He collected unusual ones. That
boy's pockets were so full of stones, sometimes his pants
dragged. Pug would probably say this one looked like a
heart."

puts up = stores for
later use

**preserves = a sweet food made of
fruit cooked in sugar**

14 "But it does!" said Ali. "Don't you think so?"

15 Ms. Snoops peered at the stone. "I guess you could say that," she said. "Funny little
guy. He drew pictures, too, like his mother. His father didn't approve much of his
artistry. He had an older brother who was good in sports, if my memory serves *me*."

16 "How nice that you remember all that." said Ali. "Sometimes I forget that other
families once lived on this street."

17 "I used to love the old stories when I was your age," said Ms. Snoops. "I would
pick up bits and pieces, do some digging, and fill in the holes myself
metaphorically speaking."

metaphorically=comparing one thing to
another to help explain something

18 "That's just what I like to do!" said Ali.

19 "That's what all writers do when they create stories. They steal, disguise, and make
things up."

- 20 "I'm actually planning on becoming an archaeologist, not a writer." Ali said. Although she had to admit, sometimes making things up was a lot more fun than sticking to the facts.
- 21 "No reason you couldn't be both." said Ms. Snoops. "When I- "

archaeologist= a scientist who studies objects from the past to understand ancient peoples and how they lived

3. What does paragraph 3 reveal about Ms. Snoops?

- A She rarely gets great ideas.
- B She is an organized person.
- C She sometimes forgets things.**
- D She wishes Ali were her daughter.

Key: C

RL.4.1- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

Rationale: Option C is correct. This paragraph mentions that she writes notes to herself so that she won't forget and that she cannot recall what the letter M stands for.

4. Which detail **best** reveals what Ali wants to be when she grows up?

- A Ali thinks of things starting with "M" to try to help Ms. Snoops remember.
- B Ali collects old objects to show to Ms. Snoops.**
- C Ms. Snoops explains to Ali that making things up is what writers do.
- D Ms. Snoops thanks Ali for bringing her treasures.

Key: B

RL.4.3- Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

Rationale: Option B is correct. Ali explains that she wants to be an **archaeologist, a scientist who studies objects from the past to understand ancient peoples and how they lived.**

5. Which sentence expresses something important that Ali and Ms. Snoops have in common?
- A They both like old-fashioned fruit preserves.
 - B The icy-blue stone is a mystery to both of them.
 - C They both enjoy making up stories.**
 - D Shirley the doll means a lot to both of them

Key: C

RL.4.3- Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

Rationale: Option C is correct. In paragraphs 16 and 17, Ali and Ms. Snoops both say they like to make up stories.

You CAN Run a Mile!

by Betsy Dru Tecco

- 1 Have you ever tried to run a mile? If your school participates in the President's Challenge, chances are you have taken the Physical Fitness Test. One of the five activities in that test is the endurance run/walk. That activity asks you to complete a one-mile distance as fast as you can. As your body becomes more conditioned to the exercise, you'll get the endurance to go even farther and faster.

Prepare Yourself

- 2 "Running a mile is a great accomplishment-no matter how long it takes. But to perform your best in the mile run, and to feel good doing it, you really need to prepare properly." says Larry Greene. He is an exercise science expert, a former professional distance runner and coach, and a coauthor of *Training for Young Distance Runners*.
- 3 One way to start running is to join a school team or a local running club that has a good coach, advises Greene. A coach can teach you correct running form-that's how you hold your body and move your arms and legs. Good form is important for avoiding injuries and doing your best, Greene says, but it's not something you can learn completely on your own. A coach can also remind you to pace yourself. "If you start too fast, you'll have to slow down or stop due to fatigue," he explains. "If you start too slowly, you might not achieve your time goal."

Fun Run

To make your run more fun, add a silly challenge after each lap. For example, run one lap, and then stop and dance like a rock star for a minute. Then continue running. After your second lap, pretend you are a monkey climbing a tree.

Come up with new challenges to do after each lap. What are some other goofy things you could do after each lap? What are some ways you can add other types of exercise between each lap?

- 4 The library and the Internet can improve your running. "When I first started competing in track and cross country at age 12, I benefited so much from reading ... about the sports," Greene says. "Learn as much as you can by reading running books, magazines, and Web site articles."

Start With Short Distances

- 5 To train for a mile run, start by running a short distance, such as one-quarter mile. Over the next few weeks, slowly increase the distance by one-eighth or one-quarter of a mile at a time. That gives your body time to adjust to each new challenge. (It can also lower your risk of injury.) Don't forget to congratulate yourself after you complete each new distance- with a big gulp of water.

Stay Safe

- 6 If you ever feel too tired to keep going, stop. "Don't push yourself when running becomes painful." Greene says. And never run outside alone- have a workout partner who will run with you. Warm up, stretch, and cool down together. Check each other's posture as well as your running form.

First Place Finish!

Demian L. started running about a year and a half ago at his school in Brooklyn, N.Y., and then he joined another running program, called the Mighty Milers. He's come a long way. This past spring, Demian qualified for a national running event: the USA Track and Field National Youth Indoor Track and Field Championships in Chicago. Demian, now in fifth grade, took first place in the 1,500-meter race for his age group. He ran the distance, which is nearly 1 mile, in 5 minutes and 44 seconds. That is superfast! "It felt really good and was a big confidence builder," he says. To train for the race, Demian ran three times a week and did stretching exercises and other sports. He likes the way running keeps him fit and feeling good. "Running makes me happy!" he says.

Having someone else watch you run will help you make sure you are running both safely and efficiently. It helps to pass the time too!

6. Based on paragraph 6, what does it mean to run “efficiently”?

A to stretch and cool down correctly

B to use correct posture and form

C to train with another person

D to avoid any danger

Key: B

RI.4.4- Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area.

Rationale: Paragraph 6 directly mentions having someone watch you run and check your posture and form. We know from reading earlier in the passage that good form is important for avoiding injuries and doing your best.