



## ISAT Reading - Grade 8 (Illinois ISAT Test Preparation)

By Editors of REA



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*REA ... Real review, Real practice, Real results.*

**REA's Illinois Grade 8 ISAT Language Arts Literacy Study Guide!**  
*Fully aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards*

**Are you prepared to excel on this state high-stakes assessment exam?**

- \* Take the diagnostic Pretest and find out what you know and what you *should* know
- \* Use REA's advice and tips to ready yourself for proper study and practice

**Sharpen your knowledge and skills**

- \* The book's full subject review refreshes knowledge and covers all topics on the official exam, including reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing reviews to reinforce key English language lessons
- \* Smart and friendly lessons reinforce necessary skills
- \* Key tutorials enhance specific abilities needed on the test
- \* Targeted drills increase comprehension and help organize study
- \* Color icons and graphics highlight important concepts and tasks

**Practice for real**

- \* Create the closest experience to test-day conditions with a full-length practice Posttest
- \* Chart your progress with detailed explanations of each answer
- \* Boost confidence with test-taking strategies and focused drills

**Ideal for Classroom, Family, or Solo Test Preparation!**

*REA has helped generations of students study smart and excel on the important tests. REA's study guides for state-required exams are teacher-recommended and written by experts who have mastered the test.*

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### Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

#### **Illinois ISAT (Illinois Standards Achievement Test) - 8th Grade Reading**

Completely aligned with the Learning Standards of the Illinois State Board of Education

REA helps Grade 8 students get ready for ISAT 8th Grade Reading!

#### **Our practice and review for ISAT Reading includes:**

1. Pretest and Posttest measure learning and progress
2. Lessons enhance vocabulary and literary analysis skills
3. Color icons highlight key concepts, questions, tasks, and more
4. Confidence-building tips to reduce test anxiety and boost test-day readiness

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#### SUCCESS ON THE ISAT- Grade 8 READING

##### ABOUT THIS BOOK

This book provides excellent preparation for the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)-Grade 8 Reading. Inside you will find exercises designed to provide students with the instruction, practice, and strategies needed to do well on this achievement test.

This book is divided into several parts: a pretest, which introduces students to the sections on the actual test, including

- o Session 1: six short passages with 30 multiple-choice questions
- o Session 2: one long passage with 16 multiple-choice questions and 1 extended-response question, and one short passage with 4 multiple-choice questions
- o Session 3: one longer passage with 14 multiple-choice questions and 1 extended-response question

Following the pretest is a lesson section, which teaches students about the different types of ISAT questions on the reading test, step by step. Students will begin with shorter selections and easier questions and conclude each lesson by completing full-length selections and questions modeled after those on the ISAT.

Answer explanations are provided for each question in each lesson. "Tips" are also given below each question to guide students toward answering the question correctly. Finally, this book includes a full-length posttest, which matches the ISAT test exactly in terms of content.

Begin by assigning students the pretest. Answers and answer explanations follow the pretest. Then work through each of the lessons one by one. When students have completed the book, they should complete the posttest. Answers and answer explanations follow the posttest.

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

**FOR STUDENTS:** To make getting through the book as easy as possible, we've included icons shown on the next page that highlight sections like lessons, questions, and answers. You'll find that our practice tests are very much like the actual ISAT you'll encounter on test day. The best way to prepare for a test is to practice, so we've included drills with answers throughout the book, and our two practice tests include detailed answers.

**FOR PARENTS:** Illinois has created grade-appropriate learning standards that are listed in the table in this introduction. Students need to meet these objectives as measured by the ISAT. Our book will help your child review for the ISAT and prepare for the Reading exam. It includes review sections, drills, and two practice tests complete with explanations to help your child focus on the areas he/she needs to work on to help master the test.

**FOR TEACHERS:** No doubt, you are already familiar with the ISAT and its format. Begin by assigning students the pretest. An answer key and detailed explanations follow the pretest. Then work through each of the lessons in succession. When students have completed the subject review, they should move on to the posttest. Answers and answer explanations follow the posttest.

## WHY STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE ISAT

ISAT measures the extent to which students are meeting the Illinois Learning Standards. Illinois teachers and curriculum experts developed the ISAT in cooperation with the Illinois State Board of Education. The reading test is given to students in Grades 3, 5, and 8.

The reading tests in Grade 8 are given in three 45-minute sessions. One of these sessions consists of a passage with 20-25 multiple-choice questions. The other two reading sessions each include one passage with 15-20 multiple-choice questions and one extended-response question.

## WHAT'S ON THE ISAT

### Reading Selections

Reading selections on the ISAT can be fiction or nonfiction informational. While most reading passages are at or near grade level, about twenty-five percent of the passages are at a lower reading level.

### Reading Questions

Most questions on the ISAT are multiple-choice. Both multiple-choice and open-ended questions are based on the Illinois Learning Standards, which are listed below. The first number on each standard refers to the state goal. The second number indicates the grade level, and the third number is the number of the specific objective.

### ISAT Reading Learning Standards\*

Standard 1A: Apply word analysis and vocabulary skills to comprehend selections.

1.8.01 Determine the meaning of an unknown word using word or content-area vocabulary using knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, and word roots.

1.8.02 Use etymologies to determine the meanings of words.

1.8.03 Determine the meaning of an unknown word using word, sentence, and cross-sentence clues.

1.8.04 Determine the connotation of a word using word, sentence, and cross-sentence clues.

1.8.05 Determine the meaning of a word in context when the word has multiple meanings.

Standard 1B: Apply reading strategies to improve understanding and fluency.

Standard 1C: Comprehend a wide range of reading materials.

1.8.06 Make and verify predictions based on prior knowledge and understanding of genres.

1.8.07 Clarify an understanding of text by creating outlines, notes, or other visual representations.

1.8.08 Use information in charts, graphs, diagrams, maps, and tables to help understand a reading passage.

1.8.09 Compare the content and organization of various selections.

- 1.8.10 Relate information in the passage to other readings.
- 1.8.11 Identify cause and effect organizational patterns in fiction and nonfiction.
- 1.8.12 Identify compare and contrast organizational patterns in fiction and nonfiction.
- 1.8.13 Identify proposition and support organizational patterns in fiction and nonfiction.
- 1.8.14 Determine the answer to a literal or simple inference question regarding the meaning of a passage.
- 1.8.15 Compare an original text to a summary to determine whether the summary accurately captures the key ideas.
- 1.8.16 Summarize a story or nonfiction passage, or identify the best summary.
- 1.8.17 Identify the outcome or conclusion of a story or nonfiction account, based on previous occurrences or events.
- 1.8.18 Identify the causes of events in a story or nonfiction account.
- 1.8.19 Draw inferences, conclusions, or generalizations about text and support them with textual evidence and prior knowledge.
- 1.8.20 Differentiate between conclusions that are based on fact and those that are based on opinion.
- 1.8.21 Explain information presented in a nonfiction passage using evidence from the passage. 161
- 1.8.22 Use information from a variety of sources to explain a situation or decision or to solve a problem.
- 1.8.23 Determine whether a set of technical, multiple-step instructions or procedures are clear.
- 1.8.24 Determine the author's purpose as represented by the choice of genre, and literary devices employed.
- 1.8.25 Determine why some points are illustrated.

Standard 2A: Read and understand literature representative of various societies, eras, and ideas.

- 2.8.01 Identify elements of fiction: theme, rising action, falling action, conflict, point of view, resolution, and flashback.
- 2.8.02 Explain how theme, rising action, falling action, conflict, point of view, and resolution contribute to the meaning and a reader's interpretation of a literary selection.
- 2.8.03 Identify the author's message or theme.
- 2.8.04 Compare stories to personal experiences, prior knowledge, and other stories.
- 2.8.05 Recognize points of view in narratives (e.g., first person).
- 2.8.06 Determine what characters are like by their actions, as well as how other characters react to them.
- 2.8.07 Determine character motivation.
- 2.8.08 Identify conflict or contradiction within a character or a character's behavior.
- 2.8.09 Explain the relationship between main and supporting characters.
- 2.8.10 Identify literary devices: (e.g., figurative language, hyperbole, understatement, symbols, dialogue).
- 2.8.11 Explain how the literary devices (e.g., imagery, metaphor, figurative language, dialogue) contribute to the meaning of a literary selection.
- 2.8.12 Identify varieties of irony, including dramatic irony.
- 2.8.13 Identify various subcategories of genres: poetry, drama (comedy and tragedy), science fiction, historical fiction, myth or legend, drama, biography/autobiography, story, poem, fairy tale, folktale, fable, nonfiction, and essay.

#### TIPS FOR THE STUDENT

Students can do plenty of things before and during the actual test to improve their test-taking performance. The good thing is that most of the tips described in the following pages are easy!

#### Preparing for the Test

##### Test Anxiety

Do you get nervous when your teacher talks about taking a test? A certain amount of anxiety is normal and it actually may help you prepare better for the test by getting you motivated. But too much anxiety is a bad thing and may keep you from properly preparing for the test. Here are some things to consider that may help relieve test anxiety:

- o Share how you are feeling with your parents and your teachers. They may have ways of helping you deal

with how you are feeling.

- o Keep on top of your game. Are you behind in your homework and class assignments? A lot of your classwork-related anxiety and stress will simply go away if you keep up with your homework assignments and classwork. And then you can focus on the test with a clearer mind.
- o Relax. Take a deep breath or two. You should do this especially if you get anxious while taking the test.

### Study Tips & Taking the Test

- o Learn the Test's Format. Don't be surprised. By taking a practice test ahead of time you'll know what the test looks like, how much time you will have, how many questions there are, and what kinds of questions are going to appear on it. Knowing ahead of time is much better than being surprised.
- o Read the Entire Question. Pay attention to what kind of answer a question or word problem is looking for. Reread the question if it does not make sense to you, and try to note the parts of the question needed for figuring out the right answer.
- o Read All the Answers. On a multiple-choice test, the right answer could also be the last answer. You won't know unless you read all the possible answers to a question.
- o It's Not a Guessing Game. If you don't know the answer to a question, don't make an uneducated guess. And don't randomly pick just any answer either. As you read over each possible answer to a question, note any answers which are obviously wrong. Each obviously wrong answer you identify and eliminate greatly improves your chances at selecting the right answer.
- o Don't Get Stuck on Questions. Don't spend too much time on any one question. Doing this takes away time from the other questions. Work on the easier questions first. Skip the really hard questions and come back to them if there is still enough time.
- o Accuracy Counts. Make sure you record your answer in the correct space on your answer sheet. Fixing mistakes only takes time away from you.
- o Finished Early? Use this time wisely and double-check your answers.

### Sound Advice for Test Day

The Night Before. Getting a good night's rest keeps your mind sharp and focused for the test.

The Morning of the Test. Have a good breakfast. Dress in comfortable clothes. Keep in mind that you don't want to be too hot or too cold while taking the test. Get to school on time. Give yourself time to gather your thoughts and calm down before the test begins.

### Three Steps for Taking the Test

- 1) Read. Read the entire question and then read all the possible answers.
- 2) Answer. Answer the easier questions first and then go back to the more difficult questions.
- 3) Double-Check. Go back and check your work if time permits.

### TIPS FOR PARENTS

- o Encourage your child to take responsibility for homework and class assignments. Help your child create a study schedule. Mark the test's date on a family calendar as a reminder for both of you.
- o Talk to your child's teachers. Ask them for progress reports on an ongoing basis.
- o Commend your child's study and test successes. Praise your child for successfully following a study schedule, for doing homework, and for any work done well.
- o Test Anxiety. Your child may experience nervousness or anxiety about the test. You may even be anxious, too. Here are some helpful tips on dealing with a child's test anxiety:
  - o Talk about the test openly and positively with your child. An ongoing dialogue not only can relieve your child's anxieties but also serves as a progress report of how your child feels about the test.
  - o Form realistic expectations of your child's testing abilities.
  - o Be a "Test Cheerleader." Your encouragement to do his or her best on the test can alleviate your child's test anxiety.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Ann Birdsell:**

The book ISAT Reading - Grade 8 (Illinois ISAT Test Preparation) make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem using your subject. If you can make studying a book ISAT Reading - Grade 8 (Illinois ISAT Test Preparation) to become your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You can know everything if you like wide open and read a book ISAT Reading - Grade 8 (Illinois ISAT Test Preparation). Kinds of book are several. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this book?

#### **Jake Harris:**

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#### **Verna Riddle:**

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