



New York State Testing Program

English

Language Arts Test

Book 1

Grade

7

January 20–23, 2009

Name _____

TIPS FOR TAKING THE TEST

Here are some suggestions to help you do your best:

- Be sure to read carefully all the directions in the test book.
- Plan your time.
- Read each question carefully and think about the answer before choosing or writing your response.

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Reading***D*irections**

In this part of the test, you will do some reading and answer questions about what you have read. For the multiple-choice questions, you will mark your answers on the answer sheet. For questions 27 and 28, you will write your answers directly in the test book.

Go On

Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 1 through 4.

Hearing Voices

by Sherrill Kushner

Would you like to be an actor, but aren't the right age or physical type for the part? Don't give up: There may be a place for you in the world of voice-acting.

Twenty-year-old Rickey D'Shon Collins brings Tucker Foley to life in the cartoon *Danny Phantom*. In addition to many appearances on television and in movies, Rickey is a voice-over actor, someone we hear but don't see. Rickey has acted since he was 6, both on and off camera. After school, his grandmother—a manager and acting coach—helped him develop his skills by doing voice exercises and reading aloud.

Voice-over actors do many kinds of acting. They are the voices of cartoon characters on television, in movies and video games, and for interactive toys. In films, they dub conversations, replacing foreign languages with English. They create crowd noises, make commercials, act in radio plays, and record telephone instructions and public announcements. They narrate books on tape, television documentaries, and even recorded museum tours.

Like other actors, voice-over actors need to understand scripts, interpret characters, and breathe correctly. They have to master voice techniques, such as pacing (how fast or slow to speak), volume (how loud or soft), and range (how high or low). Sometimes they use their normal voices; other times they change their voices to create different characters or noises.

Rickey's manager receives his *Danny Phantom* scripts a few days before he tapes



The voice of Tucker Foley

each episode. She writes helpful notes on the script to guide Rickey on speaking his part. Rickey practices, then tapes at the recording studio. He and the other cast members sit in a soundproof booth, acting out their characters as they read their lines into the microphones.

“The cartoon gets created after we record the words, so we have to imagine everything in our mind,” says Rickey. Later, the recorded words, music, and sound effects are combined with the cartoon art to create the cartoon we enjoy on TV.

Sound interesting? Maybe you can have a “voice” in acting after all!

1 According to the article, Rickey Collins brings the character Tucker Foley “to life.” This means that Rickey

- A** draws the character
- B** names the character
- C** makes the character seem real
- D** decides the future of the character

2 Which sentence from the article **best** supports the fact that Rickey has been involved with acting most of his life?

- A** “Twenty-year-old Rickey D’Shon Collins brings Tucker Foley to life.”
- B** “In addition to many appearances on television and in movies, Rickey is a voice-over actor.”
- C** “Rickey has acted since he was 6, both on and off camera.”
- D** “Rickey practices, then tapes at the recording studio.”

3 Information in this article would be **most** valuable to readers who

- A** need to practice voice exercises
- B** want to understand scriptwriting
- C** need to develop their stage-acting skills
- D** want to build a career around their voices

4 Which sentence from the article **best** supports the idea that being a voice-over actor requires skill?

- A** “Rickey is a voice-over actor, someone we hear but don’t see.”
- B** “They are the voices of cartoon characters on television, in movies and video games, and for interactive toys.”
- C** “Like other actors, voice-over actors need to understand scripts, interpret characters, and breathe correctly.”
- D** “She writes helpful notes on the script to guide Rickey on speaking his part.”

Go On