



Tackling Tests

Dr. Jo-Anne Jackson
Curriculum & Teaching, Ed. D.
Graduation Coach
South Forsyth Middle School

+ TESTS: A Fact of Life



- Tests are reality regardless of our opinions pro or against
- Students are faced with lots of tests
 - Classroom tests (formative and summative)
 - County-level: Forsyth County Interim Assessment
 - Standardized tests: IOWA, CogAT, CRCT
 - AP Exams
 - SAT, ACT
 - College entrance exams

+ TESTS: A Fact of Life

- In the “real world” adults must take tests all the time to achieve their goals:
 - Job Training Programs
 - Drivers License
 - Professional Certifications/Permits



+ If They're so Common, What's the Problem?

- Snapshot: Ability demonstrated in a specific way on a specific day regardless of conflicting outside influences
- The Unknown: Playing on an unfamiliar field
- Organization: Where did I put that important information?
- Weighty: Summative Tests weigh 80%
- **TIME**: Taking Initiative Manifests Excellence
- Pressure: Anxiety & Fear





Test Taking Strategies

+ How to “ACE” a Test

■ A

■ Attend the **TEST**, not the grade

- **When** is the test?
- **What** will be on the test?
- **How** will the teacher test?
 - Encourage your child to ask the teacher about the format of the test. Will it be multiple choice, essay, matching, fill in the blank etc? Review a copy of the LAST test (often similar in structure)
 - Encourage your child to ask about study/review sessions

+ How to “ACE” a Test

■ A

■ Attend the TEST, not the grade . . . continued

■ When will studying occur?

- Help your child plan to use TIME (Taking Initiative Manifests Excellence) to achieve success
- How much SLEEP is your child getting?

+ How to “ACE” a Test

■ A

■ Attend the **TEST**, not the grade . . . continued

- **Where** will studying take place—desk/supplies/technology

- **Limit interruptions**

- Use “airplane mode” on cellphone to block texts and other notifications from distracting the student from studying

- Use this as a reward system: Study for 15 minutes, then you can turn off airplane mode for 15 minutes

+ How to “ACE” a Test



■ C

■ Create personal study materials and actively engage with the course material

- Create flashcards or “flippers”
- Create visual memory cues
 - Draw pictures or symbols
 - Create Venn diagrams to compare and contrast
 - Create mnemonic devices
 - Create and take practice tests

+ How to “ACE” a Test

■ C

■ **Create personal study materials and actively engage with the course material...continued**

■ Engage in visualization

- Help your child imagine being in the room, receiving the test materials and putting their name on it, reading the directions and surveying the test structure, beginning the test, marking questions to return to, getting to the end of the test and going back to marked questions, and lastly checking over all answers

+ How to “ACE” a Test



■ E

■ Evaluate progress

- Score self-created practice tests
- Count number of flash cards correct/Incorrect
- Practice writing essay responses without looking at notes

+ How to “ACE” a Test



■ E

■ Evaluate progress . . . continued

■ Parent Inquiry/Support:

- Explain to me what you DID to study?
- What percent of the material you absolutely know? How do you know?
- What percent of the material are you stills struggling with? How do you know?

+ How to “ACE” a Test



■ E

■ Evaluate progress . . . Continued

- After the test, correctly answer every question that was marked wrong because if the question was important enough to be on a summative test, the chances are high that the student will see this question again at a later date
 - Encourage student to work with teacher if they cannot come to the correct answer on their own



+ How to Study for Specific
Types of Tests



Test Taking Steps for Any Test



■ Test taking process

- Put your name on every page of the test
- Read the test directions
- Scan the entire test
 - Look at the number of questions and be aware of how much time you have to complete the test
 - Consider answering the essay questions first so that you can write when you are less tired
- If answer choices are provided:
 - Don't look at any of the answers until you answer the question in your head first
 - Eliminate/cross out answers that are wrong
- Review all questions and correct only those you KNOW are wrong

+ Standardized and Multiple Choice Tests

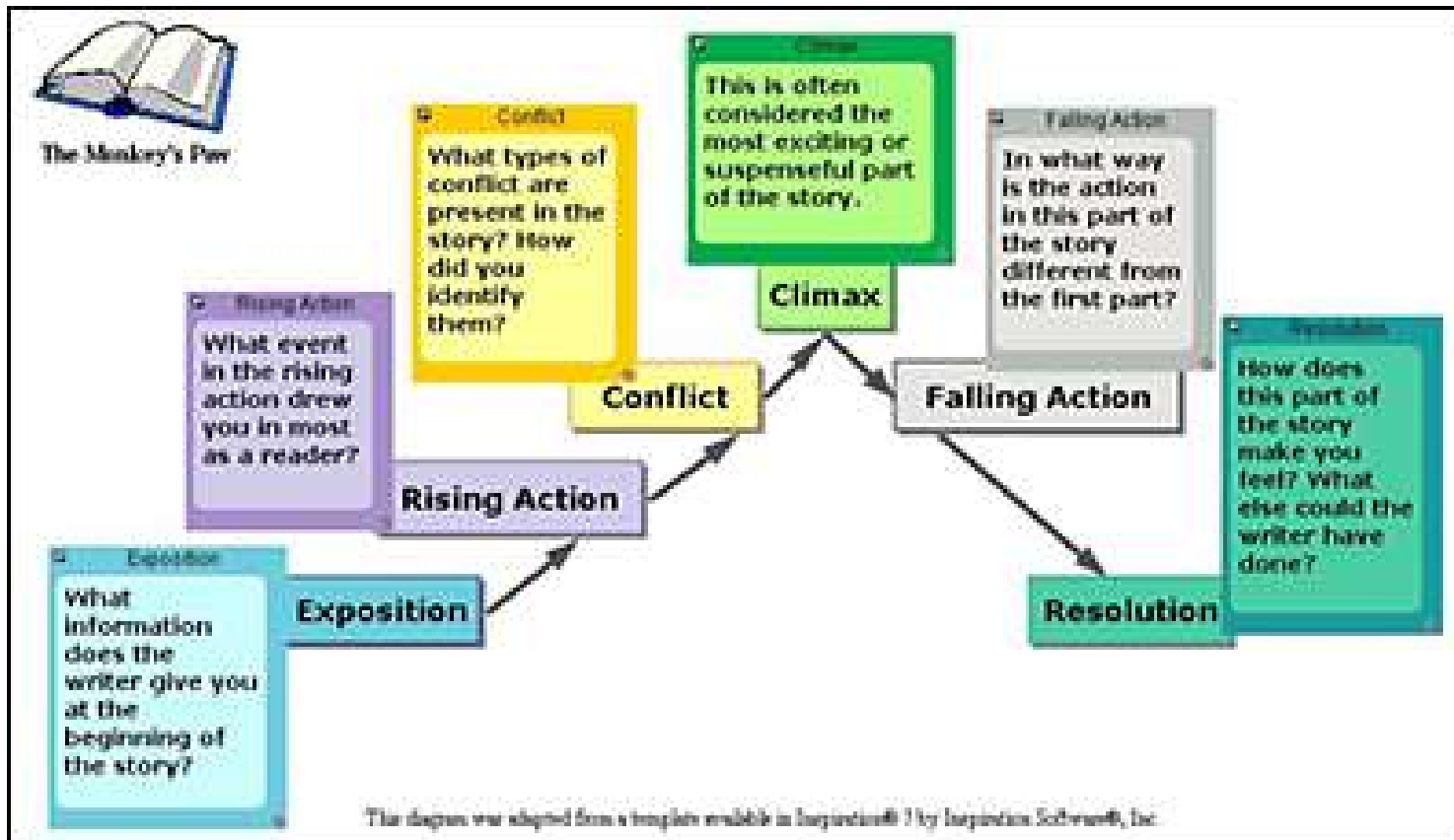
- Test Taking Tips for Standardized Tests (*any test, really*)
- Have your child watch: Eliminating Wrong Answers





Literature-based (Novel Studies)

- Literature-based tests (novel studies)
 - Study the elements of the PLOT





Literature-based (Academic Chapter/Unit Test)



■ Academic Text based tests

■ Use the SQ3R Method (Preparing to Study 11:16)

- Survey Quick Preview
- Question Formulate Questions
 - Read Actually read the text
 - Recite Summarize orally what you read
 - Review Re-read and review reading

+ Mathematics Tests



- Helpful Math Test Taking Tips



+ Wait! What About the New
Common Core Standards?



Does Common Core Influence Tests?



■ Yes...the level of thought required to demonstrate knowledge is increased with tests written to meet the Common Core Standards. Students are expected to:

- Describe
- Identify
- Explain
- Infer
- Develop
- Evaluate
- Compare & contrast
- Justify
- Outline
- Summarize
- Predict
- Conclude
- Interpret
- Evidence
- Analyze





Does Common Core Influence Tests?



- Examples of the Common Core questions can be found at the following website:

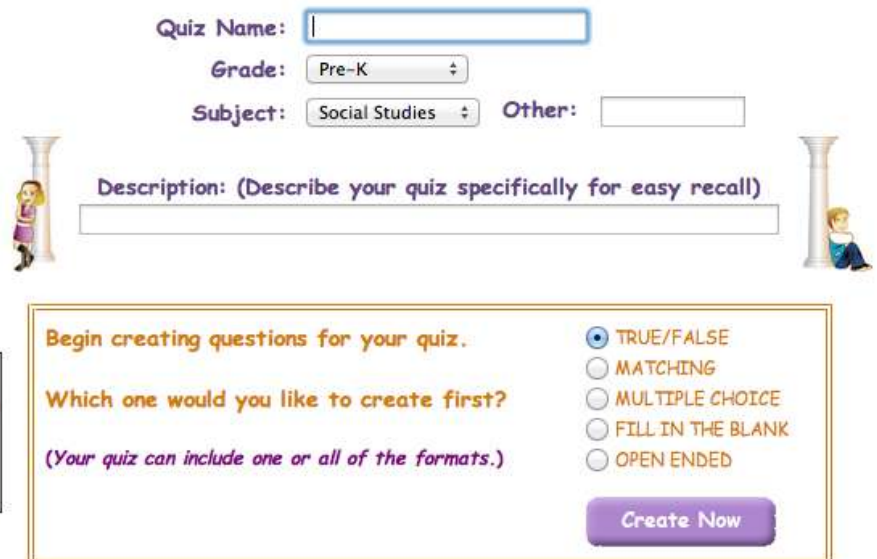
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/common-core-sample-questions/>



+ How to Best Utilize
Study Guides

+ How to Use Study Guides

- Use the 50/50 Principle in class or with a study guide (3:56)
- Create and Utilize Flashcards or “Flippers”
- Get a parent or other person to verbally quiz
- Ask child to give an oral summary of what they studied
- Create a practice test!
 - Qwizzysworld.com
 - Quizlet.com EXAMPLE
 - Quizpoo.com EXAMPLE



Quiz Name:

Grade:

Subject: Other:

Description: (Describe your quiz specifically for easy recall)

Begin creating questions for your quiz.

Which one would you like to create first?

(Your quiz can include one or all of the formats.)

- TRUE/FALSE
- MATCHING
- MULTIPLE CHOICE
- FILL IN THE BLANK
- OPEN ENDED



Resources & Summary

+ What Can My Child Study Between Tests?

- Grammar – <http://www.chompchomp.com>
- Math & Science – www.pendalearning.com
- Math Skills
 - <http://www.thatquiz.com>
 - <http://www.purplemath.com>
 - <http://www.ixl.com>
- Keyboarding – <http://www.niblefingers.com>
- Multiple Disciplines --
 - <http://www.thatquiz.com>
 - <http://www.brainpop.com>
 - <http://www.khanacademy.org>

