



English Language Arts Materials Collections 2025–2026 Instructionally Embedded Model Fall Window

The Dynamic Learning Maps® (DLM®) testlets sometimes call for the use of specific materials. The Testlet Information Page (TIP) for each testlet identifies these materials. Sometimes materials are required and cannot be substituted, but substitutions are allowed in most cases. If a testlet requires materials, the TIP will state the specific materials mentioned in the testlet and describe their attributes so that test administrators may find appropriate substitutions. For more information about substituting materials, see the TEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL sections titled Prepare to Administer a Testlet and Teacher-Administered Testlets.

The TIP is provided in the Instruction and Assessment Planner in Kite® Educator Portal when each testlet is assigned. Since the teacher chooses which Essential Elements and linkage levels to assess during instructionally embedded assessments, the materials needed or recommended to assess each student are unknown before the testlet is assigned. However, the materials used in different testlets often have common traits. This gives teachers the ability to identify some commonly available objects ahead of time that are likely to be useful when administering English language arts (ELA) testlets. Teachers may collect these materials and use them during instruction. That way, the most useful materials are familiar to the student and available before the teacher begins assigning testlets in the Instruction and Assessment Planner.

To give test administrators more opportunities to prepare for the ELA alternate assessment prior to the opening of the assessment window, DLM staff have compiled a list of materials commonly needed in ELA testlets. The tables in this document summarize the lists of materials per grade level for general testlets and, where appropriate, for students who are blind or have visual impairments. **Materials may be substituted unless the TIP specifically states, “No substitutions allowed.”**

Hints for using this list:

- Look at the whole list for each grade and find materials that can meet multiple purposes. Note the types of materials mentioned more than once.
- Find materials that already exist in the classroom or are easily found in the school building.
- Pick materials that are familiar to the student.
- Remember that, in most cases, materials can be substituted if they have the same attributes as those on the list. Examples of possible substitutions are found in Table 1.
- Material substitutions are listed for individual testlets on the corresponding TIP.
- First and foremost, your student’s safety should be the primary concern when choosing materials or substitutions.

Table 1

Example English Language Arts Substitution Materials

Example Materials Description	Possible Substitution
Two books and one magazine, all of which have pages, words, and a cover.	Two objects that belong to the same subgroup (e.g., two backpacks) and a third object that belongs to a different subgroup within the broader category (e.g., one purse from the broader category of bags).
The person associated with teaching the student art.	The person associated with a different familiar routine (e.g., person that teaches reading).

[Contained in This Document](#)

- Lists by grade of common materials used in ELA testlets.
- Lists by grade of common materials that may be used to administer testlets to students who are blind or have visual impairments. Some ELA testlets are special forms designed for students who are blind or have visual impairments, while others are general testlets that have been adapted to make them more accessible.

Common Materials Used to Administer Testlets for Grade 3

- any writing tools used by the student in regular instruction
- examples of informational topics such as a person, place, or object that have been used during instruction
- five familiar objects that belong to the student
- five new objects
- four different objects
- four photographs of unfamiliar people
- four selected objects
- one boot with laces, a tongue, a heel, an outer sole, and a toe
- one coat that has a zipper, a hood, sleeves, a pocket, snaps, and a pull-tab on the zipper
- one different familiar object that has been used in shared reading
- one highlighter with a tip and a cap
- one magazine with a cover and pages
- one milk carton with a straw
- one mitten with a thumb
- one newspaper with pages and words
- one object that relates to a dog
- one pair of gloves with thumbs
- one pen that has a point
- one pen with a cap and a tip
- one purse that has a strap, zippers, and pockets
- one school bus
- one sun visor cap that has a visor and an adjustable strap
- one sweatshirt with a hood, pockets, and a zipper
- one symbol representing an action associated with cleanup time
- one symbol representing an action associated with school
- one symbol representing an action associated with shopping time
- one toy truck with wheels, windows, and lights
- one visor with a bill, closure, and sweatband
- pictures that have been used in shared reading and during instruction
- resource materials that have been used in shared reading and during instruction
- ten unfamiliar objects
- three familiar objects that can be easily removed from the student's view
- three objects that relate to the classroom
- three pairs of similar (but not identical) objects
- two backpacks that have straps, zippers, and pockets
- two baseball caps that have bills, adjustable straps, and sweatbands
- two books with covers, pages, and words

- two coats with a zipper, sleeves, pockets, and a hood
- two familiar objects that have been used in shared reading and during instruction
- two familiar, identical objects
- two jackets that have a zipper, hood, sleeves, pockets, snaps, and a pull-tab on the zipper
- two juice boxes with straws
- two markers with a cap and a tip
- two pairs of identical objects
- two pencils that have a point
- two photographs of a familiar place
- two photographs of unfamiliar places
- two shoes that have laces, tongues, heels, outer soles, and toes
- two toy buses
- two toy cars with wheels, windows, and lights

Common Materials Used for Grade 3 Students Who Are Blind or Have Visual Impairments

- five familiar objects that belong to the student
- five new objects
- five tactually different objects
- one backpack or backpack represented in a tactile graphic
- one box or a tactile graphic of a box
- one brush
- one chair or chair represented in a tactile graphic
- one paper bag or paper bag represented in a tactile graphic
- one piece of clothing or a tactile graphic of clothing
- one shoe or shoe represented in a tactile graphic
- one stuffed animal
- one symbolic representation of a brush
- one symbolic representation of a shoe
- one symbolic representation of a stuffed animal
- one toy or toy represented in a tactile graphic
- three objects or objects represented in a tactile graphic
- three pairs of tactually similar (but not identical) objects
- two familiar, identical objects
- two pairs of tactually identical objects
- two unfamiliar objects

Common Materials Used to Administer Testlets for Grade 4

- any writing tools used by the student in regular instruction
- examples of informational topics that have been used in shared reading and during instruction
- five new objects
- five objects or pictures that are unassociated with the bags category
- five objects or pictures that belong to the bags category
- four different objects
- nine selected objects
- one notecard or other letter card with the first letter of the student's name written lowercase
- one notecard or other letter card with the first letter of the student's name written uppercase
- one object or picture associated with the book category
- one photograph of a familiar place
- three objects or pictures associated with the clothes category
- three objects or pictures that are unassociated with the book category
- three objects or pictures that are unassociated with the clothes category
- three objects or pictures that are unassociated with the hat category
- three objects or pictures that belong to the hat category
- two familiar objects that belong to the student
- two familiar objects that have been used in shared reading and during instruction
- two familiar, identical objects
- two pairs of identical objects
- two pairs of similar (but not identical) objects
- two photographs of familiar people
- two photographs of unfamiliar people
- two photographs of unfamiliar places
- two unfamiliar objects

Common Materials Used to Administer Testlets for Grade 4 Students Who Are Blind or Have Visual Impairments

- five different objects
- five familiar objects that belong to the student
- one backpack or backpack represented in a tactile graphic
- one bag with a handle
- one baseball or baseball represented in a tactile graphic
- one block or block represented in a tactile graphic
- one book or book represented in a tactile graphic
- one bookshelf or bookshelf represented in a tactile graphic
- one chair or chair represented in a tactile graphic
- one chair with a seat
- one coin or coin represented in a tactile graphic
- one computer or computer represented in a tactile graphic
- one crayon or crayon represented in a tactile graphic
- one doll or doll represented in a tactile graphic
- one hat or hat represented in a tactile graphic
- one pair of pants with a pocket
- one pencil or pencil represented in a tactile graphic
- one pillow or pillow represented in a tactile graphic
- one shirt or shirt represented in a tactile graphic
- one shoe or shoe represented in a tactile graphic
- one shoe with a shoelace
- one small tree with leaves
- one sock or sock represented in a tactile graphic
- one spoon with a handle
- one table with legs
- one toothbrush or toothbrush represented in a tactile graphic
- one towel or towel represented in a tactile graphic
- one toy truck with wheels
- three pairs of tactually similar (but not identical) objects
- three unfamiliar objects
- two familiar, identical objects
- two pairs of tactually identical objects

Common Materials Used to Administer Testlets for Grade 5

- any writing tools used by the student in regular instruction
- examples of informational topics about the student's personal experiences
- four photographs of unfamiliar people
- four unfamiliar objects
- nine selected objects
- one crayon
- one cup
- one hairbrush that has bristles and a handle
- one hat
- one jacket which has a hood, sleeves, and a zipper
- one marker
- one mitten
- one pen
- one photograph of a familiar place
- one piece of clay
- one piece of paper
- one scarf
- one shoebox that has a lid, insides, and sides
- one sweater
- tape
- three different familiar objects that belong to the student
- three objects or pictures that are associated with the clothes category
- three objects or pictures that are not associated with the clothes category
- three objects or pictures that are not associated with the cups category
- three objects or pictures that belong to the cups category
- three pairs of familiar, identical objects
- three pairs of similar (but not identical) objects that are the same except for one property, such as color, size, shape, or texture
- two non-preferred objects
- two packing boxes that have lids, insides, and sides
- two photographs of familiar people
- two photographs of unfamiliar places
- two preferred objects
- two toothbrushes that have bristles and handles
- two coats that have a hood, sleeves, and a zipper
- two familiar objects that have been used in shared reading and during instruction

Common Materials Used to Administer Testlets for Grade 5 Students Who Are Blind or Have Visual Impairments

- five familiar objects that belong to the student
- one blanket or blanket represented in a tactile graphic
- one bowl or bowl represented in a tactile graphic
- one clock or a picture of a clock
- one coat or a tactile graphic of a coat
- one girl or girl represented in a tactile graphic
- one glove or a tactile graphic of a glove
- one hat or hat represented in a tactile graphic
- one pencil or pencil represented in a tactile graphic
- one piece of thread or thread represented in a tactile graphic
- one piece of wood or wood represented in a tactile graphic
- one plant or plant represented in a tactile graphic
- one seed or seed represented in a tactile graphic
- one shirt or a tactile graphic of a shirt
- one shoe or a picture of a shoe
- one sock or sock represented in a tactile graphic
- one table or a picture of a table
- one toy baby or baby represented in a tactile graphic
- one toy car or car represented in a tactile graphic
- one toy cat or cat represented in a tactile graphic
- one toy chair or chair represented in a tactile graphic
- one toy dog or dog represented in a tactile graphic
- one toy duck or duck represented in a tactile graphic
- one toy house or house represented in a tactile graphic
- one wheelchair or wheelchair represented in a tactile graphic
- two unfamiliar objects

Common Materials Used to Administer Testlets for Grade 6

- any objects the student uses to ask questions
- any objects the student uses to introduce himself/herself
- any objects the student uses to make a list
- any objects the student uses to pack a bag
- any objects the student uses to read a book
- any objects the student uses to say goodbye
- any objects the student uses to wash his/her hands
- any writing tools used by the student in regular instruction
- examples of informational topics that have been used during instruction
- five different objects
- five objects or pictures associated with the animal category
- five objects or pictures that are not associated with the animal category
- five pairs of similar (but not identical) objects that are the same except for one property, such as color, size, shape, or texture
- one ball
- one drum
- one flower
- one hat
- one jacket with a zipper
- one letter card or notecard with a letter that does not appear in the student's name
- one paintbrush
- one pencil
- one photograph of a familiar person
- one photograph of a familiar place
- one shoe with shoestrings
- one slipper
- one letter card or notecard with the first letter of the student's name
- paint
- resource material (e.g., an informational text, an informational poster, digital sources)
- six objects from the familiar writing routine, all of which should have unique properties (e.g., color, size, shape, texture) that distinguish them from each other
- symbolic representations of actions associated with familiar routines
- three notecards
- three objects from the familiar arrival to school routine
- three objects from the familiar getting ready for school routine
- three objects from the familiar packing a backpack routine
- three objects from the familiar packing a bag routine
- three objects or pictures not of a shoe

- three objects or pictures of a shoe
- two familiar objects that have been used in shared reading and during instruction
- two pairs of identical objects
- two photographs of unfamiliar people
- two photographs of unfamiliar places
- two pieces of paper
- two unfamiliar objects

Common Materials Used to Administer Testlets for Grade 6 Students Who Are Blind or Have Visual Impairments

- five familiar objects that belong to the student
- five tactually different objects
- one bag or bag represented in a tactile graphic
- one ball
- one bar of soap or soap represented in a tactile graphic
- one bell
- one blanket
- one block
- one book
- one doll
- one eraser
- one hat or hat represented in a tactile graphic
- one piece of chalk or a dry eraser
- one pillow
- one shirt or shirt represented in a tactile graphic
- one shoe or shoe represented in a tactile graphic
- one sock or sock represented in a tactile graphic
- one symbolic representation of a ball
- one symbolic representation of a bell
- one symbolic representation of a blanket
- one symbolic representation of a block
- one symbolic representation of a book
- one symbolic representation of a doll
- one symbolic representation of a piece of chalk or a dry eraser
- one symbolic representation of a pillow
- one symbolic representation of a sock
- one symbolic representation of a wooden block
- one towel or towel represented in a tactile graphic
- one toy house or house represented in a tactile graphic
- one wooden block
- three objects or objects represented in a tactile graphic
- three pairs of tactually similar (but not identical) objects
- two pairs of tactually identical objects
- two unfamiliar objects

Common Materials Used to Administer Testlets for Grade 7

- any writing tools used by the student during regular instruction
- examples of informational topics and related resource materials
- five different objects
- one ball
- one bottle
- one colored pencil
- one crayon
- one cup
- one familiar book
- one familiar object from a different category
- one glove
- one hat
- one jar
- one notebook
- one object that can serve as a screen (i.e., bandana, box, piece of cardboard, etc.)
- one paintbrush
- one pen
- one pencil
- one piece of paper
- one spoon
- six familiar objects that can be easily removed from the student's view
- the person associated with checking out a book
- the person associated with greeting in the morning
- the person associated with teaching art
- the person associated with teaching technology
- three objects or pictures that are unassociated with the animal category
- three objects or pictures that are unassociated with the ball category
- three objects or pictures that are unassociated with the dishes category
- three objects or pictures that belong to the ball category
- three objects or pictures that belong to the dishes category
- three pairs of similar (but not identical) objects
- two familiar objects related to the same category as a familiar book
- two objects or pictures that belong to the animal category

Common Materials Used to Administer Testlets for Grade 7 Students Who Are Blind or Have Visual Impairments

- money or money represented in a tactile graphic
- one backpack or backpack represented in a tactile graphic that goes with the familiar text
- one bag
- one ball
- one blanket or blanket represented in a tactile graphic that goes with the familiar text
- one book
- one bottle of shampoo
- one bottle of water
- one brush
- one cup or cup represented in a tactile graphic
- one different object or object represented in a tactile graphic
- one doll
- one furry animal or furry animal represented in a tactile graphic
- one game or game represented in a tactile graphic
- one garden hose
- one hat or hat represented in a tactile graphic
- one jacket
- one jar
- one notebook
- one paintbrush
- one pen
- one pencil
- one plate
- one sock or sock represented in a tactile graphic that goes with the familiar text
- one spoon
- one symbolic representation of a backpack
- one symbolic representation of a bag
- one symbolic representation of a ball
- one symbolic representation of a book
- one symbolic representation of a bottle of shampoo
- one symbolic representation of a bottle of water
- one symbolic representation of a brush
- one symbolic representation of a cup
- one symbolic representation of a dog
- one symbolic representation of a doll
- one symbolic representation of a garden hose

- one symbolic representation of a house
- one symbolic representation of a jacket
- one symbolic representation of a jar
- one symbolic representation of a notebook
- one symbolic representation of a paintbrush
- one symbolic representation of a pen
- one symbolic representation of a pencil
- one symbolic representation of a plate
- one symbolic representation of a sock
- one symbolic representation of a spoon
- one symbolic representation of a stuffed animal
- one toy dog
- one toy house
- three objects or objects represented in a tactile graphic

Common Materials Used to Administer Testlets for Grade 8

- any writing tools used by the student in regular instruction
- examples of informational topics used during instruction
- one backpack
- one book
- one cup
- one flashlight
- one object for going outside
- one object for waking up
- one object for washing your hands
- one object needed for cooking
- one object needed to complete a writing activity
- one object needed to complete brushing your teeth
- one object needed to complete checking out a library book
- one object needed to complete eating
- one object needed to complete getting ready for school
- one object needed to complete getting ready to go home
- one object needed to complete homework
- one object needed to complete reading a book
- one object needed to complete the daily calendar
- one object needed to complete unpacking a bag
- one object needed to make music
- one object needed to wash cups
- one object not for going outside
- one object not for waking up
- one object not for washing your hands
- one object or picture from the clothes category
- one object or picture from the dish category
- one object or picture not in the clothes category
- one object or picture not in the dish category
- one object that is unassociated with brushing your teeth
- one object that is unassociated with checking out a library book
- one object that is unassociated with eating
- one object that is unassociated with getting ready for school
- one object that is unassociated with the daily calendar
- one pair of sunglasses
- one pen
- one pencil
- one ruler

- one spoon
- ten notecards
- the person associated with greeting the student
- the person associated with helping the student fill out a planner
- the person associated with helping the student pack a bag
- the person associated with taking the student to the bus
- the person associated with teaching the student to read
- three different objects
- three familiar objects used as part of familiar routines, two of which come from a first routine and one that is from a second routine
- three pairs of similar (but not identical) objects
- two dishes
- two hats
- two pieces of clothing

Common Materials Used to Administer Testlets for Grades 9–10

- any writing tools used by the student in regular instruction
- examples of informational topics used during instruction
- fifteen notecards
- five objects or pictures that are unassociated with the work category
- five objects or pictures that belong to the work category
- four objects or pictures from the calendars subgroup
- four objects or pictures from the writing utensils subgroup
- one notecard with any letter not in the student's first name
- one notecard with the first letter of the student's first name
- one symbolic representation of an action associated with art class
- one symbolic representation of an action associated with the classroom
- one symbolic representation of an action associated with the library
- resource materials used during instruction
- six objects from the familiar lunch routine, all of which should be from the same routine but have unique properties (e.g., color, size, shape, texture)
- ten objects or pictures from the writing category, four of which come from the paper subgroup, four of which come from the pencil subgroup, and two of which come from the eraser subgroup
- three objects from the familiar studying routine
- three objects or pictures from the dishes category
- three objects or pictures not from the dishes category
- three objects or pictures that are unassociated with the art supplies category
- three objects or pictures that are unassociated with the clothes category
- three objects or pictures that belong to the art supplies category
- three objects or pictures that belong to the clothes category
- two objects or pictures from the notebook subgroup

Common Materials Used to Administer Testlets for Grades 11–12

- any writing tools used by the student in regular instruction
- examples of informational topics used during instruction
- nine notecards
- one notecard with any letter not in the student's first name
- one symbolic representation of an action associated with being in the snow
- one symbolic representation of an action associated with going outside
- one symbolic representation of an action associated with going to the park
- one symbolic representation of an action associated with library time
- one symbolic representation of an action associated with movie time
- one symbolic representation of an action associated with reading a book
- one symbolic representation of an action associated with talking on the phone
- one symbolic representation of an action associated with washing hands
- resource materials that include some vocabulary words used in instruction
- six objects from the same familiar routine, all of which should have unique properties (e.g., color, size, shape, texture)
- three familiar objects from familiar routines, two which come from a first familiar routine that belong to a specific category and one that is from a second familiar routine from a different category
- three objects from the hand washing routine
- three objects or pictures from the money category
- three objects or pictures from the plant category
- three objects or pictures not from the money category
- three objects or pictures not from the plant category