



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS MATERIALS COLLECTIONS

2026–2027 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
- associated pictures that have been used in shared reading and during instruction
- examples of informational topics such as a person, place, or object that have been used during instruction
- five different objects
- five new objects
- four photographs of unfamiliar people
- four selected objects
- four unfamiliar objects
- one boot with laces, a tongue, heel, outer sole, and toe
- one coat that has a zipper, hood, sleeves, pocket, and a pull-tab on the zipper
- one coat that has a zipper, sleeves, hood, snaps, and pockets
- one different familiar object that has been used in shared reading
- one highlighter with a tip and cap
- one magazine that has covers and pages
- one milk carton with a straw
- one mitten with a thumb
- one newspaper with pages and words
- one notebook that has a front cover and pages
- 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 tip
- one photograph of a familiar place
- one purse that has straps, zippers, and pockets
- one school bus
- one sun visor cap that has a visor and adjustable straps
- one sun visor that has a bill and closure
- one sweatshirt with a hood, pockets, and 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 that has wheels, windows, and lights
- resource materials for the topic the student selects
- resource materials that have been used in shared reading and during instruction

- six familiar objects
- six symbolic representations of actions associated with familiar routines
- three familiar objects that belong to the student
- 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 which have straps, zippers, and pockets
- two baseball hats that have visors and adjustable straps
- two baseball hats which have bills and closures
- two books which have front covers and pages
- two books with pages and words
- two coats with a zipper, sleeves, pockets, and hood
- two familiar, identical objects
- two jackets that have a zipper, hood, sleeves, pocket, and a pull-tab on the zipper
- two jackets that have a zipper, sleeves, hood, snaps, and pockets
- two juice boxes with straws
- two markers with a tip and cap
- two pairs of identical objects
- two pencils that have a point
- two photographs of familiar people
- two photographs of unfamiliar places
- two shoes which have laces, tongues, heels, outer soles, and toes
- two toy buses
- two toy cars that have 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
- four tactually different objects
- one backpack or backpack represented in a tactile graphic
- one bag or a bag represented in a tactile graphic
- one ball or ball represented in a tactile graphic
- one book or book represented in a tactile graphic
- one box or box represented in a tactile graphic
- one brush
- one chair or chair represented in a tactile graphic
- one pair of sunglasses or sunglasses represented in a tactile graphic
- one shoe or shoe represented in a tactile graphic
- one skirt or skirt 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 skateboard or skateboard represented in a tactile graphic
- two familiar, identical objects
- two pairs of tactually identical objects
- two pairs of tactually similar 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 not in the bags category
- five objects or pictures that belong to the bags category
- four different objects
- four photographs of unfamiliar people
- nine selected objects
- one notecard or other letter card with the first letter of the student's name written uppercase
- one object or picture that belongs to the book category
- one photograph of a familiar place
- three objects or pictures not in the book category
- three objects or pictures not in the clothes category
- three objects or pictures not in the hat category
- three objects or pictures that belong to the clothes category
- three objects or pictures that belong to the hat category
- three pairs of similar (but not identical) objects
- 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 photographs of familiar 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 familiar objects that belong to the student
- five new objects
- five tactually different objects
- one backpack or backpack represented in a tactile graphic
- one bear or bear represented in a tactile graphic
- one bird or bird represented in a tactile graphic
- one block or block represented in a tactile graphic
- one book or book represented in a tactile graphic
- one chair or chair represented in a tactile graphic
- one chair with a seat
- one cup or cup represented in a tactile graphic
- one deer or deer represented in a tactile graphic
- one hat or hat 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 small tree with leaves
- one sock or sock represented in a tactile graphic
- one spoon with a handle
- one squirrel or squirrel represented in a tactile graphic
- 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
- one tree or tree represented in a tactile graphic
- 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
- five pairs of familiar, identical objects
- four unfamiliar objects
- nine selected objects
- one crayon
- one cup
- one hairbrush that has bristles and handles
- one hat
- one jacket that has a hood, sleeves, and 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, inside, and sides
- one sweater
- tape
- three different familiar objects that belong to the student
- three objects or pictures not in the clothes category
- three objects or pictures not in the cups category
- three objects or pictures that belong to the clothes category
- three objects or pictures that belong to the cups category
- three pairs of similar (but not identical) objects that are the same except for one property, such as color, size, shape, or texture
- three preferred objects
- two non-preferred objects
- two packing boxes which have lids, insides, and sides
- two photographs of familiar people
- two photographs of unfamiliar people
- two photographs of unfamiliar places
- two toothbrushes which have bristles and handles
- two coats which have a hood, sleeves, and 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 chair or picture of a chair
- one clock or a picture of a clock
- one coat or coat represented in a tactile graphic
- one glove or a picture of a glove
- one glove or glove 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 shirt or shirt represented in a tactile graphic
- 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
- 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 put on a hat
- 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
- fifteen notecards
- five different objects
- five objects or pictures not in the animal category
- five objects or pictures not in the sports ball category
- five objects or pictures that belong to the animal category
- five objects or pictures that belong to the sports ball 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 familiar object that belongs to the student
- one flower
- one jacket with a zipper
- one letter card or notecard with a letter that does not appear in the student's name
- one object for getting ready for school
- one photograph of a familiar person
- one photograph of a familiar place
- one shoe with shoestrings tied in a bow
- one slipper
- one toy animal
- one letter card or notecard with the first letter of the student's name
- resource materials (e.g., an informational text, an informational poster, digital sources)
- six objects from the writing routine, all of which should have unique properties (e.g., color, size, shape, texture) that distinguish them from each other
- three objects for arriving at school
- three objects for packing a backpack
- three objects for packing a bag

- three pairs of similar objects
- 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 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
- four tactually different objects
- one bag
- 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 jacket
- one pen
- one piece of chalk
- one pillow
- one shoe or shoe represented in a tactile graphic
- one sock
- one symbolic representation of a bag
- 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 jacket
- one symbolic representation of a pen
- one symbolic representation of a piece of chalk
- one symbolic representation of a pillow
- one symbolic representation of a shoe
- one symbolic representation of a sock
- one symbolic representation of a wooden block
- one symbolic representation of an eraser
- one towel or towel represented in a tactile graphic

- one toy house or house represented in a tactile graphic
- one wooden block
- two pairs of tactually similar 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 objects or pictures that are not in the art supplies category
- five objects or pictures that belong to the art supplies category
- one ball
- one bottle
- one colored pencil
- one crayon
- one cup
- 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 helping in the library
- the person associated with serving lunch
- the person associated with teaching art
- the person associated with teaching geography
- the person associated with teaching gym class
- the person associated with teaching technology
- three different objects
- three familiar objects related to the topic of a familiar book, two of which are from a first category and one which is from a second category
- three objects or pictures not in the ball category
- three objects or pictures not in the dishes category
- three objects or pictures not of an animal
- three objects or pictures of an animal

- 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

COMMON MATERIALS USED TO ADMINISTER TESTLETS FOR GRADE 7 STUDENTS WHO ARE BLIND OR HAVE VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

- one backpack or backpack represented in a tactile graphic
- one bag
- one ball
- one blanket or blanket represented in a tactile graphic
- one book
- one bottle
- one bottle of water
- one brush
- one cup
- one doll
- one jacket
- one jar
- one notebook
- one paintbrush
- one pen
- one pencil
- one plate
- one sock or sock represented in a tactile graphic
- one spoon
- one stuffed animal
- one symbolic representation of a bag
- one symbolic representation of a ball
- one symbolic representation of a book
- one symbolic representation of a bottle
- 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 doll
- 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
- three different 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 comb
- one cup
- one flashlight
- one object needed for cooking
- one object needed for going outside
- one object needed for waking up
- one object needed for washing hands
- one object needed to complete a writing activity
- one object needed to complete arriving at school
- one object needed to complete brushing teeth
- one object needed to complete checking out a book
- one object needed to complete drawing
- one object needed to complete getting ready for school
- one object needed to complete getting ready to go home
- one object needed to complete gym class
- one object needed to complete handing in homework
- one object needed to complete packing a bag
- one object needed to complete reading a book
- one object needed to complete the lunch routine
- one object needed to complete unpacking a bag
- one object needed to make music
- one object needed to wash cups
- one object not for arriving at school
- one object not for brushing teeth
- one object not for checking out a book
- one object not for cooking
- one object not for drawing
- one object not for going outside
- one object not for gym class
- one object not for handing in homework
- one object not for making music

- one object not for packing a bag
- one object not for reading
- one object not for the lunch routine
- one object not for waking up
- one object not for washing cups
- one object not for washing hands
- one object or picture in the clothes category
- one object or picture in the dishes category
- one object or picture not in the clothes category
- one object or picture not in the dishes category
- one pair of sunglasses
- one pen
- one pencil
- one ruler
- one spoon
- six objects related to swimming
- ten notecards
- the person associated with getting the student from the bus
- the person associated with giving the student lunch
- the person associated with going to the library
- the person associated with greeting in the morning
- 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 art
- the person associated with teaching the student to read
- three different objects
- three pairs of similar (but not identical) objects
- two dishes
- two familiar objects used as part of a familiar routine and one familiar object from a second familiar routine
- 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 from the clothing category
- five objects or pictures not from the clothing category
- four objects or pictures from the calendars subgroup
- four objects or pictures from the paper subgroup
- four objects or pictures from the pencil 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 that have unique properties (e.g., color, size, shape, texture) that distinguish them from each other
- six symbolic representations
- three objects for studying
- three objects or pictures from the dishes category
- three objects or pictures from the worker category
- three objects or pictures not from the dishes category
- three objects or pictures not from the worker category
- two objects or pictures from the eraser subgroup
- two objects or pictures from the notebook subgroup

COMMON MATERIALS USED TO ADMINISTER TESTLETS FOR GRADES 11–12

- any symbolic representation of an action associated with being in the snow
- any symbolic representation of an action associated with going outside
- any symbolic representation of an action associated with going to the park
- any symbolic representation of an action associated with library time
- any symbolic representation of an action associated with reading a book
- any symbolic representation of an action associated with washing hands
- any writing tools used by the student during instruction
- examples of informational topics used during instruction
- five objects or pictures from the vegetable category
- five objects or pictures not from the vegetable category
- nine notecards
- one notecard with any letter not in the student's first name
- one notecard with the first letter of the student's first name
- resource materials that include some vocabulary words used in instruction
- six objects from the same familiar routine that have unique properties (e.g., color, size, shape, texture) that distinguish them from each other
- six symbolic representations
- three objects for hand washing
- three objects or pictures from the plant category
- three objects or pictures not from the plant category
- two familiar objects used as part of a familiar routine and one familiar object from a second familiar routine