



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
EDUCATION

Iphondo leMpuma Kapa: Isebe leMfundo
Provinsie van die Oos Kaap: Department van Onderwys
Porafensie Ya Kapa Boljahlaba: Lefapha la Thuto

GRADE 8 MARCH TEST

ENGLISH FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

Stanmorephysics.com

TIME: 2 HOURS

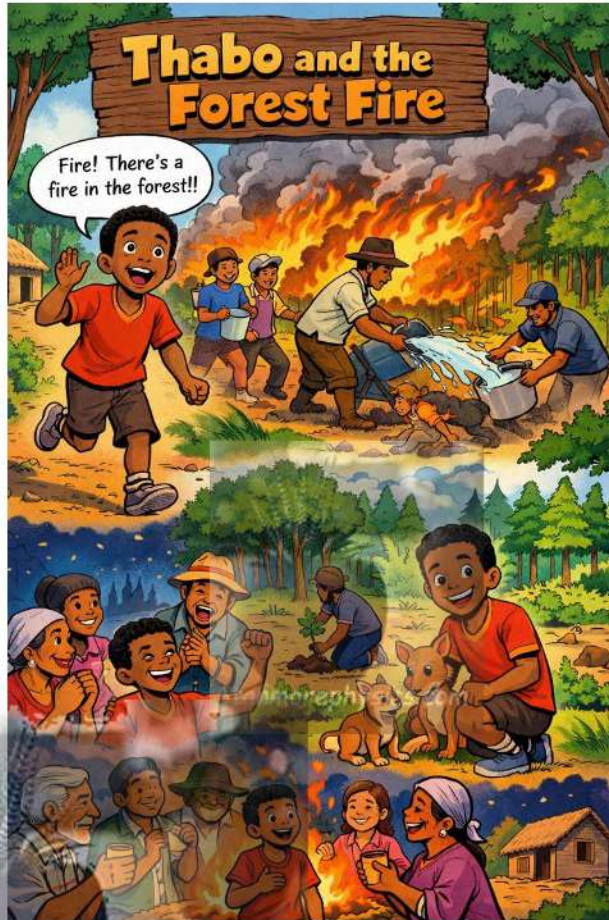
MARCH 2026

MARKS: 60

SECTION A: COMPREHENSION (20 Marks)

Read TEXT A below and answer the questions that follow.

TEXT A: Thabo and the Forest Fire



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Thabo was twelve years old, but he had a courage and sense of responsibility that often surprised the adults in his village. One sunny morning, he walked to the river to fetch water. While passing the forest path, he noticed a thick column of smoke rising far above the treetops. His heart raced, and he immediately knew something was wrong.

He ran as fast as he could back to the village, shouting for anyone who would listen. "Fire! There's a fire in the forest!" he cried. Many villagers shook their heads. "It's probably just smoke from

cooking,” some muttered. But Thabo did not give up. He explained exactly where he had seen the smoke and described how quickly it seemed to spread.

At first, only a few villagers believed him. They grabbed buckets and rushed to the edge of the forest. To everyone’s horror, the fire was real and growing fast. The villagers called their neighbours to help contain it. Thabo stayed with the adults, helping guide them and pointing out the most dangerous areas.

By working together, the villagers managed to control the fire and prevent it from reaching the village homes. The animals trapped in the forest were rescued, and the burnt areas were later replanted with new trees. Everyone praised Thabo’s bravery and quick thinking. He had shown that courage, honesty, and persistence, no matter your age, could save lives and protect the community.

That evening, as the villagers celebrated, Thabo realized that one small action could make a big difference, and that sometimes doing the right thing meant standing alone at first.

GLOSSARY

1. Column – a tall, vertical mass; in the story, “a thick column of smoke” means a tall, rising mass of smoke.

2. Horrific – very shocking or frightening; similar to the feeling of terror when the fire spreads quickly.

3. Persistence – continuing to do something even when it is difficult; Thabo’s persistence helped convince the villagers.

4. Courage – the ability to face danger or difficulty without fear; Thabo showed courage by running to warn the villagers.

5. Replanted – to plant again; after the fire, the burnt areas were replanted with new trees.

Answer the following questions:

QUESTIONS

MARK

1. Who is the main character in the story? (1)
2. What did Thabo see at the river? (2)
3. Why did some villagers not believe Thabo at first? (2)
4. Explain how Thabo showed courage in the story. (3)
5. Identify two ways Thabo helped the villagers during the fire. (2)
6. What lesson or moral does this story teach? (3)
7. Find one word in the story that shows Thabo's bravery. (1)
8. Rewrite this sentence in your own words: "One small action could make a big difference." (2)
9. Describe the villagers' reaction when the fire was confirmed (2)
10. Predict what might happen if Thabo had ignored the smoke. (2)

TOTAL=20 MARKS

SECTION B: QUESTION 2- VISUAL TEXT (10 Marks)

Look at the picture below and answer the questions that follow:



	QUESTION	MARKS
1.	What message does the sign “ Rescue & Replant Area ” communicate about what the people in the picture are doing?	(2)
2.	Identify two actions in the picture that show people are helping the environment.	(2)
3.	How do the children’s facial expressions and body language show their feelings about helping the animals and planting trees?	(2)
4.	What visual evidence suggests that a fire recently occurred in the area?	(2)
5.	In your opinion, what important lesson about community responsibility does this picture teach?	(2)

TOTAL=10 MARKS

SECTION C: SUMMARY WRITING (10 Marks)

Write a summary of the story “Thabo and the Forest Fire.”

(10)

- Include **main events only**.
- Write **6–7 sentences**.
- Use your own words as much as possible.



Marks:

- Main ideas correctly included: 5
- Logical order of events: 3
- Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation: 2

TOTAL=10 MARKS

SECTION D: LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT (20 Marks)

Answer the questions below based on the sentences from TEXT A and general language rules.

QUESTIONS

(20)

1. Identify all the verbs in the following sentence: (2)

"Thabo ran as fast as he could back to the village, shouting for anyone who would listen."

2. Write the plural form of these words:

2.1. village (1)

2.2. Child (1)

2.3. forest (1)

3. Fill in the blanks with the correct adjective:

3.1. The fire was _____ (danger/dangerous). (1)

3.2. Thabo showed _____ (brave/bravely) behaviour. (1)

- 4.. Identify the pronouns in this sentence: (2)

"He explained exactly where he had seen the smoke and described how quickly it seemed to spread."

5. Correct the punctuation in the following sentence: (2)

thabo shouted fire the villagers did not believe him at first

6. Find the word in the story that is a **synonym** for "fearless." (2)

7. Write a sentence using the word "courage" correctly. (2)

8. Identify whether the following sentence is in **simple present tense or simple past tense**: (1)

"The villagers managed to control the fire and rescue the animals."

9. Explain the meaning of the sentence: (2)

"One small action could make a big difference."

10. Give an example of a compound noun from the story. (2)

TOTAL=20



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GRADE 8 MARCH TEST

MARKING GUIDELINES

ENGLISH FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

TIME: 2 HOURS

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MARCH 2026

MARKS: 60

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SECTION A: COMPREHENSION (20 Marks)

Read **TEXT A** below and answer the questions that follow.

TEXT A: Thabo and the Forest Fire

Thabo was twelve years old, but he had a courage and sense of responsibility that often surprised the adults in his village. One sunny morning, he walked to the river to fetch water. While passing the forest path, he noticed a thick column of smoke rising far above the treetops. His heart raced, and he immediately knew something was wrong.

He ran as fast as he could back to the village, shouting for anyone who would listen. "Fire! There's a fire in the forest!" he cried. Many villagers shook their heads. "It's probably just smoke from cooking," some muttered. But Thabo did not give up. He explained exactly where he had seen the smoke and described how quickly it seemed to spread.

At first, only a few villagers believed him. They grabbed buckets and rushed to the edge of the forest. To everyone's horror, the fire was real and growing fast. The villagers called their neighbours to help contain it. Thabo stayed with the adults, helping guide them and pointing out the most dangerous areas.

By working together, the villagers managed to control the fire and prevent it from reaching the village homes. The animals trapped in the forest were rescued, and the burnt areas were later replanted with new trees. Everyone praised Thabo's bravery and quick thinking. He had shown that courage, honesty, and persistence, no matter your age, could save lives and protect the community.

That evening, as the villagers celebrated, Thabo realized that one small action could make a big difference, and that sometimes doing the right thing meant standing alone at first.

Answer the following questions:

QUESTIONS

MARK

1. **Who is the main character in the story?** (1)

Thabo ✓

2. **What did Thabo see at the river?** (2)

He saw a thick column of smoke rising above the forest trees. ✓✓

3. **Why did some villagers not believe Thabo at first?** (2)

They thought the smoke was just from cooking fires and not a real forest fire. ✓✓

4. **Explain how Thabo showed courage in the story.** (3)

- He ran back to the village to warn people. ✓✓✓
- He continued warning villagers even when they did not believe him. ✓✓✓
- He helped guide villagers to control the fire. ✓✓✓

(Any relevant explanation)

5. **Identify two ways Thabo helped the villagers during the fire.** (2)

- Warning the villagers. ✓
- Guiding people to the fire area. ✓
- Helping them control the fire. ✓

(Any TWO)

6. **What lesson or moral does this story teach?** (3)

- Courage and persistence are important. ✓
- One person can make a difference. ✓
- Doing the right thing can help others. ✓

(Any correct explanation)

7. **Find one word in the story that shows Thabo's bravery.** (1)

- Courage ✓
- Bravery ✓

- Persistence ✓

8. Rewrite this sentence in your own words: "One small action could make a big difference." (2)

- A small act can have a big impact. ✓✓
- Even a small action can help many people. ✓✓

9. Describe the villagers' reaction when the fire was confirmed (2)

They were shocked / worried and rushed to help control the fire. ✓✓

10. Predict what might happen if Thabo had ignored the smoke. (2)

- The fire could have spread to the village. ✓✓
- Homes, animals, and trees might have been destroyed. ✓✓
- People might have been in danger. ✓✓

(Any reasonable prediction)



TOTAL=20 MARKS

SECTION B: QUESTION 2- VISUAL TEXT (10 Marks)

Look at the picture below and answer the questions that follow:

QUESTION

MARKS

1. What message does the sign "Rescue & Replant Area" communicate about what the people in the picture are doing? (2)

People are rescuing animals and replanting trees to restore the forest after the fire. ✓✓

2. Identify two actions in the picture that show people are helping the environment. (2)

- Planting trees ✓
- Watering plants ✓
- Rescuing animals ✓

- Cleaning the area ✓

(Any TWO)

3. **How do the children's facial expressions and body language show their feelings about helping the animals and planting trees?** (2)

They look happy / determined / proud because they are helping animals and planting trees. ✓✓

4. **What visual evidence suggests that a fire recently occurred in the area?** (2)

- Burnt trees ✓✓
- Smoke ✓✓
- Blackened ground ✓✓

(Any correct observation)

5. **In your opinion, what important lesson about community responsibility does this picture teach?** (2)



- People should work together to protect the environment. ✓✓
- Communities must help repair damage caused by fires. ✓✓
- Everyone has a role in caring for nature. ✓✓

(Any relevant explanation)

TOTAL=10 MARKS

SECTION C: SUMMARY WRITING (10 Marks)

Write a summary of the story "Thabo and the Forest Fire." (10)

- Include **main events only**.
- Write **6–7 sentences**.
- Use your own words as much as possible.



Marks:

- Main ideas correctly included: 5
- Logical order of events: 3
- Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation: 2

Criteria	Marks
Main ideas included	5
Logical order	3
Language (grammar, spelling, punctuation)	2

TOTAL=10 MARKS

SECTION D: LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT (20 Marks)

Answer the questions below based on the sentences from TEXT A and general language rules.



QUESTIONS

(20)

1. **Identify all the verbs in the following sentence:** **(2)**

“Thabo ran as fast as he could back to the village, shouting for anyone who would listen.”

- ran ✓
- shouting ✓
- listen ✓

2. **Write the plural form of these words:**

2.1. Villages ✓ (1)

2.2. Children ✓ (1)

2.3. Forests ✓ (1)

3. **Fill in the blanks with the correct adjective:**

3.1. The fire was **dangerous**. ✓ (1)

3.2. Thabo showed **brave** behaviour. ✓ (1)

4.. Identify the pronouns in this sentence: (2)

“He explained exactly where he had seen the smoke and described how quickly it seemed to spread.”

Pronouns: He, he, it ✓✓

5. Correct the punctuation in the following sentence: (2)

thabo shouted fire the villagers did not believe him at first

Thabo shouted, “Fire!” The villagers did not believe him at first. ✓✓

6. Find the word in the story that is a synonym for “fearless.” (2)

- Courage ✓✓
- Bravery ✓✓

7. Write a sentence using the word “courage” correctly. (2)

Thabo showed great courage when he warned the villagers about the fire. ✓✓ (Any correct sentence)

8. Identify whether the following sentence is in simple present tense or simple past tense: (1)

“The villagers managed to control the fire and rescue the animals.”

Simple past tense ✓

9. Explain the meaning of the sentence: (2)

“One small action could make a big difference.”

Even a small action can have an important or positive impact. ✓✓

10. Give an example of a compound noun from the story. (2)

- Forest fire ✓✓
- Village homes ✓✓

TOTAL=20