

National Assessments
5 -14

English language

Reading - Level A
(Information)

My Old School

Name

Date.....



Assessment is for Learning

AssessmentID: 000 - TaskID: 000

Flora is a very old lady. She is going to visit her old school. The outside of the building has not changed much but inside a lot has changed.

The classroom

Flora can see many things in the classroom which help the children to learn. The children are working in small groups. There is a lot going on!

When Flora started school the teacher sat at a desk at the front of the class. The children sat in rows. They had to sit very still and listen to the teacher.

Learning to read and write

At reading time the children were all given a copy of the same book. They opened the book at the same page. Then the teacher chose someone to read out loud. The children learned to write on slates with slate pencils. When they were older they wrote on paper with an ink pen. The inkwells were filled every day.

Heating and lighting

Flora's classroom did not have electricity. There were oil lamps hanging from the ceiling. There was a coal fire called a 'tortoise stove'. It was cold and gloomy in winter.

"I was lucky. My desk was near the stove. Some of the children had to keep their coats on all day. Sometimes the ink froze in the inkwells."

Lessons for boys and girls

Sometimes the boys and girls had different lessons. The girls learnt how to cook and make clothes. The boys did woodwork and gardening. They learnt how to grow vegetables.

"I learnt how to make cabbage pie. When my mum was ill I made cabbage pie every day at home. My brothers didn't like it."

Playtime and Break

The children played skipping games and hopscotch at playtime. They played with hoops and marbles and spinning tops. All the children had a small bottle of milk at break. At Flora's school there were no school dinners. Everyone had to go home for dinner.

An adapted extract from *Schools* by Julia Cigman (Ginn and Company)

Section A

Choose the correct answer to complete each sentence. **Underline** your answer.

a little girl.

1. Flora is an old lady.
a teacher.

the same as it is today.

2. When Flora was a girl, school was easier than it is today.
different from today.

on the floor.

3. Today the children are working in groups.
in rows.

pen and ink.

4. For writing, Flora first used paper and pencil.
slate and slate pencil.

oil.

5. Flora's classroom was lit by electricity.
candles.

wore her coat.

6. At school, in winter, Flora was warm enough.
almost froze.

always

7. Flora sometimes had dinner at school.

never

Section B

Look at these sentences about the passage. Decide whether each sentence is **true** or **false** or whether you **can't tell** because the passage doesn't say.

Tick (✓) your choice.

		True	False	Can't Tell
1.	When Flora went to school children sat very still.			
2.	The children all had different reading books.			
3.	Sometimes the children read aloud.			
4.	Children were very good at writing.			
5.	The classroom was heated by coal.			
6.	The classroom was too hot in winter.			
7.	The boys learned to make things from wood.			

Section C

Here are some sentences about Flora's lessons.
Choose words from the box to fill the spaces.

sew	different	clothes	vegetables
read	cook	cabbage pie	easy
wood	write	garden	

All the children learned how to _____₁ and _____₂.

However, lessons for boys and girls were often _____₃.

Only girls were taught how to _____₄ and _____₅.

Flora's brothers did not like her _____₆.

Sometimes the boys worked outside in the _____₇.

Last Page

This is the last page of the Assessment.

It can be discarded.