

On the CD, the students will hear:

Look at the directions on Page 2. Directions: Listen to the passage. Then answer Question 1. Fill in the correct circle on your answer sheet. The question will be read only once.²

Now listen carefully.

The title of the passage is “Monarch Butterflies and Milkweed.”

Monarch butterflies are well known for their long-distance migrations. Each autumn, a generation of monarch butterflies migrates 2,000 miles south to central Mexico. Upon their return north, the female monarch begins the reproduction process. She lays her eggs exclusively on the milkweed plant. The eggs hatch into larvae that become caterpillars. Then, the caterpillars eat the milkweed leaves. Later, they will form cocoons, and eventually transform into butterflies. People everywhere appreciate the magnificent orange color of the monarchs and plant milkweed to help them survive.

Unfortunately, every year since 1996, fewer monarch butterflies have migrated to Mexico. Scientists believe this migration is mainly due to American farmers using herbicides. In order to promote crop growth, many farmers use these chemicals to kill weeds on farmland in the United States. Milkweed is one weed affected by this practice. Since milkweed is an essential part of the monarchs’ life cycle, limiting herbicide use near milkweed is critical to the survival of monarch butterflies.

Pause for about 5 seconds.

Look at Question 1. Listen to this sentence from the passage again.

“Since milkweed is an essential part of the monarchs’ life cycle, limiting herbicide use near milkweed is critical to the survival of monarch butterflies.”

Which sentence from the passage helps explain the meaning of herbicide?

- A She lays her eggs exclusively on the milkweed plant.
- B Unfortunately, every year since 1996, fewer monarch butterflies have migrated to Mexico.
- C In order to promote crop growth, many farmers use these chemicals to kill weeds on farmland in the United States.
- D Milkweed is one weed affected by this practice.

Pause for about 15 seconds.

¹ Listening is a section within a Listening, Reading, Writing / Global Theme NYSESLAT Session.

² Only one passage and one item are presented here as a sample.

In the Test Booklet³, the students will see:

Directions

Listen to the passage. Then answer Question 1. Fill in the correct circle on your answer sheet.

Monarch Butterflies and Milkweed



Monarch butterfly

- 1** Which sentence from the passage helps explain the meaning of herbicide?
- A She lays her eggs exclusively on the milkweed plant.
 - B Unfortunately, every year since 1996, fewer monarch butterflies have migrated to Mexico.
 - C In order to promote crop growth, many farmers use these chemicals to kill weeds on farmland in the United States.
 - D Milkweed is one weed affected by this practice.

TARGET OF MEASUREMENT:
TOM.L.9–12.3

Students can determine the *literal*, figurative, or connotative *meaning* of Tier 1 and Tier 2 *vocabulary* and the cumulative meaning of words and phrases, and their impact in grade-level spoken discourse.

HOW ITEM MEASURES TOM.L.9–12.3:

This item requires students to *determine the literal meaning of vocabulary* in grade-level spoken discourse.

HOW ITEM TARGETS THE COMMANDING PROFICIENCY LEVEL

The item requires students to identify a context clue in grade-level spoken discourse to *determine the literal meaning of vocabulary*. In this item, the grade-level vocabulary word is “herbicide.”

KEY: C

WHY “C” IS CORRECT: Students who select “C” are able to identify a context clue in the passage that determines the literal meaning of “herbicide.”

WHY OTHER CHOICES ARE INCORRECT: Answer choices A, B, and D are other phrases or sentences from the passage that do not provide a context clue for the target word.

³ During each of the Listening sections, students listen to two passages, which may be short or long, and answer a series of 3–6 questions associated with each passage. The questions for each passage progress in difficulty based on the Performance Level Descriptions (PLDs). Not all PLDs are represented with each passage. Only one passage and one item are presented here as a sample. For more information, please see NYSESLAT Webinette Series on EngageNY at <https://www.engageny.org/content/nyseslat-webinettes>.