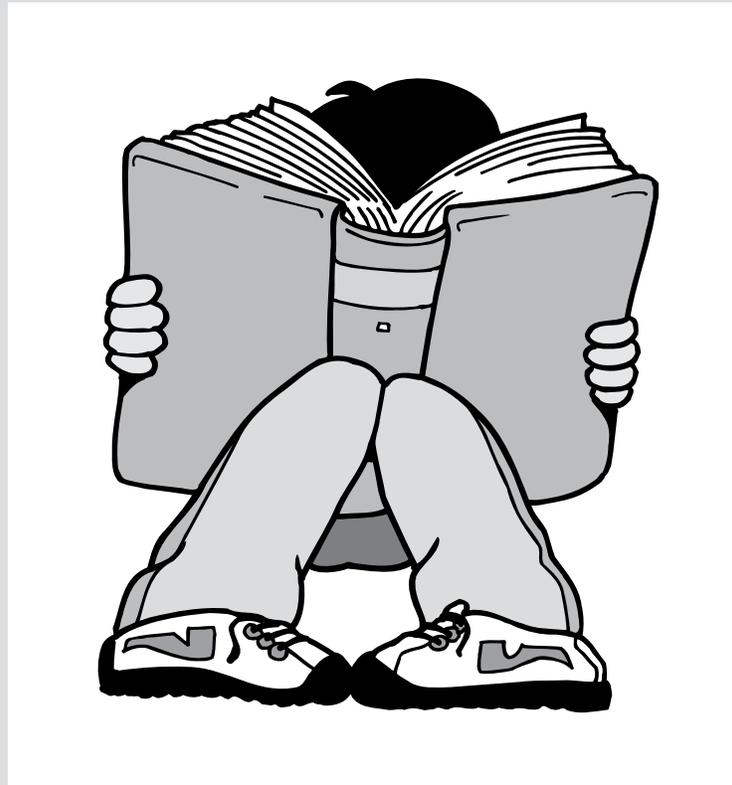


# STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

6-8 Week Skills Assessments for  
Reading Comprehension and Fluency



**GRADE 2**  
**Weeks 24-36**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the story carefully. Then read each question and fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

## Cockroaches Are Here to Stay

*Pat Bush*

The cockroach is a brown or black insect. It lives in warm, dark places. Many people think it's a household pest. This insect has six legs with three joints on each leg. Little claws on their feet help them climb walls. They have long feelers that let them know when they are close to an object. The feelers keep them from bumping into things even in the dark. The skin of a cockroach is thick and hard. This is their skeleton. It holds the insect together.

There are thousands of different kinds of cockroaches. They live in almost every part of the world. They are even found at the North and South Poles. In these very cold places they survive by moving in with humans. The cockroach looks like a common bug. But it is much more.

Cockroaches were living before dinosaurs roamed the earth. We know this because fossils of these insects have been found. Fossils are the hardened remains of animals or plants that lived long ago. The cockroach fossils that were found are almost three hundred million years old. They said hello to the dinosaurs and goodbye. They welcomed the woolly mammoths and then watched them die off.

*Now answer the questions about this part of the story.*

1. A cockroach

- A. has four legs.
- B. is a plant.
- C. is an insect.

2. How many different kinds of cockroaches are there?

- A. hundreds
- B. thousands
- C. millions

3. We know cockroaches lived before the dinosaurs because

- A. cockroach fossils were found.
- B. cockroaches look very old.
- C. cockroaches live in warm, dark places.

Why have these insects survived when other animals have not? The dinosaurs and many other animals of the ice age became extinct. They were not able to survive as the earth changed. The cockroaches did. They handled the earth's changes. They always found food and a place to live. They lived on.

One reason the cockroach has survived is its diet. They like food scraps but will eat almost anything. They eat plants and dead animals. If it is rotten and disgusting, it is a feast for them. These bugs also like paper and paste. They often make paper boxes and bags their home. Lunch is always handy. Kitchen cupboards provide snacks all day long.

The cockroach has also survived because it is quick. It can quickly get away from people or animal predators. These are fast moving bugs. They can run at speeds up to three miles an hour. That is faster than any other known living bug. This makes it very difficult to catch them. Try to step on one. It will zigzag in twenty-five directions in one second. It's even quicker than Michael Jordan. To escape their enemies, they can crawl into spaces as thin as a quarter. Their babies can zip into a thin, dime-sized crack.

*Now answer the questions about this part of the story.*

4. Why did some animals become extinct?
- A. They were too big.
  - B. They couldn't survive the earth's changes.
  - C. All animals died during the ice age.
5. Cockroaches eat
- A. plants.
  - B. dead animals.
  - C. all of the above.
6. What are two reasons cockroaches have survived for such a long time?
- A. They are brown and can climb walls.
  - B. They are household pests and live in kitchen cupboards.
  - C. They can quickly escape their enemies and eat almost anything.

This insect can do some amazing things. It can hold its breath for about forty minutes. So drowning it doesn't work. It is able to survive without food for a month. It can lose its head and live for a week. Another interesting fact is about its heart. It doesn't beat when the insect is moving. It beats when the insect is still.

The cockroach is not a common bug. It is unique. It has learned to adapt to life on earth over millions of years. In time, other animals may become extinct like the dinosaurs. But the cockroach is here to stay.

*Now answer the questions about this part of the story.*

7. Why does the author think cockroaches are amazing?
- A. This insect does things other animals can't do.
  - B. This insect is interesting.
  - C. This insect does not have a heart.
8. The word **unique** means
- A. not common.
  - B. amazing.
  - C. extinct.
9. The author's purpose for writing this article is to tell why cockroaches
- A. eat scraps.
  - B. are household pests.
  - C. have lived for such a long time.
10. "Cockroaches Are Here to Stay" is
- A. fiction.
  - B. nonfiction.
  - C. a fable.

**STOP**

*Please do not turn the page.  
You may go back and check your work.*

TOTAL SCORE: \_\_\_\_/10

Passage #1

Refer to “General Directions for **One-Minute** Administration of Reading Passages.”

Say these specific directions to the student:

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People come from far away to visit a 8  
 park in the desert. This area has trees that 17  
 have turned into stone. These tree fossils 24  
 lay scattered on the sandy ground. It is an 33  
 amazing sight to see. The red, blue, green, 41  
 and yellow remains of the trees sparkle in 49  
 the sun. 51  
 How did the trees turn into stone? 58  
 Why do the fossils have different colors? 65  
 Long ago the trees died. They fell to the 74  
 ground. When the wind blew, sand and dirt 82  
 covered the trees. Each time it rained, 89  
 minerals dissolved in the soil. Rain helped 96  
 the minerals seep into the dead trees. 103  
 The minerals were different colors. 108  
 The water evaporated in the hot sun. 115  
 The minerals stayed in the trees. They filled 123  
 the cracks of the trees’ trunks and branches. 131  
 The wood rotted away. The minerals had 138  
 replaced the wood. The trees had turned into 146  
 fossils that were shaped just like the trees. 154  
 Some are small. Others are huge. 160  
 Laws help preserve this park for future 167  
 visitors. 168

**EVALUATING CODES FOR ORAL READING**

sky (/) word read incorrectly  
 blue ^ sky (^) inserted word  
 (□) after the last word read

Comments:

**FLUENCY SCORE**

Number of Words Read Per Minute: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Errors:                    —    \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Words Read Correctly:    \_\_\_\_\_

Passing Criterion (50th %ile)       =    85

Errors include: 1) words read incorrectly; 2) words left out or inserted; 3) mispronounced words; 4) dropped endings or sounds; and 5) reversals. Self-corrections and word repetitions are NOT marked as errors.

Passage #2

Refer to “General Directions for **One-Minute** Administration of Reading Passages.”

Say these specific directions to the student:

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During the summer, Tom and his father 7  
 took long walks. They stopped to rest under 15  
 an elm tree on warm days. The huge tree 24  
 stood beside a narrow river. This was their 32  
 favorite resting spot. Tom would remove his 39  
 sandals and dangle his feet in the cool water. 48  
 One day, Tom was gazing at rocks and 56  
 pebbles in the mud. He noticed something 63  
 strange. It was a rock with an unusual 71  
 pattern. He quickly picked it up and asked 79  
 his father, “What is this? It looks like the 88  
 drawing of a skeleton.” 92  
 “You have found an animal fossil,” replied 99  
 his father. “A fossil is what’s left of a plant or 110  
 animal that lived long ago.” 115  
 “How did the animal become a fossil?” 122  
 Tom asked. 124  
 “When it died, the animal’s body was 131  
 trapped in the soil. It turned into the stone 140  
 you found. You might enjoy collecting fossils,” 147  
 said Tom’s father. “Would you like to learn 155  
 more about them? I know several books you 163  
 could read.” 165  
 Tom read the books. He began to look for 174  
 more fossils. Soon he had eight in his precious 183  
 collection. 184

**EVALUATING CODES FOR ORAL READING**

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Comments:

**FLUENCY SCORE**

Number of Words Read Per Minute: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Errors:                    — \_\_\_\_\_  
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**DIRECTIONS:** Read the story carefully. Then read each question and fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

## Miss Emily Comes to Stay

*Diane Fletcher*

“Don’t feed that cat,” said Grandpa.

“Don’t feed that cat,” said Daddy.

“If you feed that cat, it will never go away,”  
Grandpa told Alix.

But Alix felt sorry for the white and gray cat that had wandered into the farmyard. It looked at her with big, sad, green eyes. She could see its ribs through the dirty, white fur.

Daddy and Grandpa went back inside the house while Alix tried to pet the frightened cat. She held out her hand, but it backed away.

Mother came out of the house and said, “What are you doing, Alix?”

“Oh, please, can we feed her, Mom? Look how thin she is. She’ll die if she doesn’t get something to eat!”

“Poor little thing,” said Mother. “Someone must have driven all the way out here just to leave her. That’s sad, but we can’t take in all the stray animals that come into our yard. Come in and wash up for supper. Maybe she’ll find her way home.”

*Now answer the questions about this part of the story.*

1. What does Grandpa say will happen if you feed a stray cat?
  - A. You will have bad luck.
  - B. The cat will never go away.
  - C. You will get scratched.
  
2. Why did Alix want to feed the stray cat?
  - A. It looked cute.
  - B. It was starving.
  - C. It looked funny.
  
3. Why does Alix's mother tell her not to feed the cat?
  - A. It is dirty.
  - B. It might belong to someone else.
  - C. They can't help every stray animal they see.

When Alix went back outside, the cat was still there. She was lying in the flowerbed by the back porch, too weak to go one more step.

“I can’t let you starve,” said Alix as she took a small piece of cheese from her pocket and put it down in front of the cat. She sniffed it, then gratefully ate it all.

Mother came out after Alix had gone upstairs to bed.

“I can’t let you starve,” Mother said as she took a small piece of chicken from her apron pocket and held it out to the cat. “You look just like a cat my aunt Emily used to have. If you belonged to us, Miss Emily would be a nice name for you.”

After Mother went inside, Daddy came out to sit on the steps and read the newspaper.

“I can’t let you starve,” Daddy said as he opened his hand. He laid another piece of chicken down in front of the cat and scratched her head.

Now, the house was quiet. Mother, Daddy, and Alix were sound asleep. Grandpa came out to sit on the back steps.

“I can’t let you starve,” Grandpa said and placed a saucer of milk in front of the cat. The cat looked up at Grandpa with sad, green eyes. She lapped up the milk until it was all gone.

*Now answer the questions about this part of the story.*

4. Who was the first person to feed the cat?

- A. Alix
- B. Alix's mother
- C. Alix's grandpa

5. From the choices below, who else fed the cat?

- A. the grandmother
- B. the brother
- C. the grandfather

6. Why did the mother call the cat "Miss Emily"?

- A. It belonged to Aunt Emily.
- B. It looked like Aunt Emily's cat.
- C. It belonged to her friend, Miss Emily.

The next morning, Alix ran downstairs and out the back door to see if the cat was still there. She was sitting up, washing herself. Her eyes didn't look as sad and frightened as they had the previous day.

When Mother, Daddy, and Grandpa came out, Alix said, "I gave her some cheese last night because you said I should always share."

"Oh, so you're the reason that cat is still here. She'll never leave now," said Grandpa. He winked at Alix.

"You fed her, so you'll have to take care of her," said Daddy. He winked at Alix, too.

"Come on, Alix," said Mother as she gave her a hug. "Miss Emily will need a place to sleep. Let's get the old laundry basket for her."

Miss Emily was purring as she curled up in the basket and went to sleep. She was safe and home at last.

*Now answer the questions about this part of the story.*

7. Who was the only person who admitted to feeding the cat?

- A. Alix
- B. Mother
- C. Daddy

8. Alix's family was not angry that the cat was still there because

- A. they needed a cat to catch mice.
- B. they were afraid of dogs.
- C. all of them had fed the cat.

9. Which word **best** describes Alix?

- A. soft-hearted
- B. foolish
- C. forgetful

10. At the end of the story, Miss Emily was purring because

- A. she was scared.
- B. she wanted more food.
- C. she felt safe.

**STOP**

*Please do not turn the page.  
You may go back and check your work.*

TOTAL SCORE: \_\_\_\_/10

Passage #1

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A long time ago, Gus’s family had a dairy 9  
 farm. They sold dairy products. Each day 16  
 Gus would wake up while it was still dark. 25  
 He always helped his father. He would herd 33  
 the cows into the barn. His father would 41  
 guide them into their stalls. Then together 48  
 they milked the animals. Gus liked to hear 56  
 the milk hit the bottom of the buckets. After 65  
 they finished milking, they quickly cooled the 72  
 liquid. The milk was packed in ice from the 81  
 icehouse. 82  
 When their chores were finished, Gus 88  
 would excitedly run home. His father often 95  
 took a bucket of fresh milk to the kitchen. 104  
 The hard work always made them tired and 112  
 hungry. When Gus sat down, he took a few 121  
 hazelnuts from a bowl on the table. Mother 129  
 usually served eggs, biscuits, and cheese for 136  
 breakfast. 137  
 Cheese was just one of the things they 145  
 made from milk. The family also produced 152  
 butter. It is made from milk fat. The cream 161  
 is churned until the fat turns into butter. 169  
 How does the butter separate from the milk? 177  
 It was a mystery to Gus. However, he liked 186  
 the taste of it on his morning biscuits. 194

**EVALUATING CODES FOR ORAL READING**

sky (/) word read incorrectly  
 blue sky (^) inserted word  
 (□) after the last word read

Comments:

**FLUENCY SCORE**

Number of Words Read Per Minute: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Errors: — \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Words Read Correctly: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Passing Criterion (50th %ile) = 90

Errors include: 1) words read incorrectly; 2) words left out or inserted; 3) mispronounced words; 4) dropped endings or sounds; and 5) reversals. Self-corrections and word repetitions are NOT marked as errors.

Passage #2

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The family sat on the front porch of their 9  
 brick home. Soon they heard the siren of a fire 19  
 truck. That meant trouble. They wondered 25  
 what might have happened. The oldest boy 32  
 guessed a building was on fire. His younger 40  
 brother thought it might be an accident. 47  
 Their little sister was sure the firemen were 55  
 hurrying to help find a lost puppy. 62

That evening the family sat in the kitchen. 70  
 The mother and father talked to their 77  
 children. The parents were concerned. What 83  
 would the family do in an emergency? How 91  
 would they escape if their house were on fire? 100  
 They discussed the problem. They decided on 107  
 a plan. 109

The family needed to stay calm. First, 116  
 they had to get out quickly. If the house was 126  
 smoky, crawling on their hands and knees was 134  
 a good idea. Then they would meet in the front 144  
 yard. Once they were all together, they would 152  
 know everyone was safe. The oldest would use 160  
 the neighbor’s phone to call 9-1-1. The rest of 169  
 the family would wait for help. 175

**EVALUATING CODES FOR ORAL READING**

sky (/) word read incorrectly  
 blue (^) sky (^) inserted word  
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Comments:

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**DIRECTIONS:** Read the story carefully. Then read each question and fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

## Just the Right Time

*Pat Bush*

Maria and her twin brother, Sam, were camping with their parents by a river. They had put up their tent before eating lunch. In the afternoon, they all went on a nature hike. The children were hoping to see some wildlife. Maria took her paint set with her. She liked to paint nature pictures. Sam liked to take animal pictures with his camera. He took it with him on the hike. Maria sometimes painted pictures from Sam's photos.

As the sun sat low in the sky, the children returned to the campsite disappointed. They hadn't seen any wildlife at all.

Now, the twins sat on the ground at the edge of the river. Puddles, their little puppy, dug holes in the wet sand. They watched as the sun began to set. Purple, pink, and red colors filled the sky. It was quiet and peaceful. On the other side of the river, the leaves were turning fall colors. Sam looked at the camera in his lap. Maria played with her paintbrush.

*Now answer the questions about this part of the story.*

1. What was the first thing the family did in the story?

- A. They ate lunch.
- B. They put up their tent.
- C. They went on a hike.

2. Why were the children disappointed?

- A. They did not like camping.
- B. The nature walk made them tired.
- C. They did not see any animals.

3. This story takes place in the

- A. spring.
- B. summer.
- C. fall.

Suddenly, there was a rustling sound in the brush. Puddles stopped digging and stood with his nose in the air. He smelled something. Maria's eyes widened. Sam told her to sit very still. He did not want to scare away whatever it was. Sam hoped he might be able to get a picture of what made the sound. Maybe it was a wild animal. He aimed his camera across the river toward the noise.

They heard the noise again. It sounded close to the edge of the water. Just then, a deer poked its head through the brush. Large, brown eyes scanned the shore. The deer walked out of the brush and down to the river. It was a mother deer with her two fawns. The two baby deer followed close behind her. The doe stood guard while her little ones got a drink. She was very protective as she looked around. At one point, the doe appeared to look directly at the children. Sam and Maria held their breath. Neither of them moved a muscle. Even Puddles was still. When the mother deer was sure it was safe, she put her head down. As she began to drink, Sam snapped a picture. When the deer heard the click of the camera, they looked up and leaped back into the brush. Puddles ran to the edge of the water and barked wildly at the departing deer.

*Now answer the questions about this part of the story.*

4. Sam told Maria to sit still because

- A. Puddles was digging holes in the sand.
- B. he heard something in the bushes.
- C. Maria's eyes widened.

5. Why did Sam point his camera across the river?

- A. Maria was pointing to the trees.
- B. He hoped to get a picture of the thing that made the noise.
- C. He was taking a picture of the sunset.

6. One way the mother deer protected her fawns was to

- A. take a drink of water.
- B. walk out of the brush.
- C. look around.

7. Why did the deer leap back into the brush?

- A. They heard Sam's camera click.
- B. They had finished drinking.
- C. Puddles was barking.

8. In the story, the word **departing** means

- A. protective.
- B. leaving.
- C. wild.

Sam knew he had just taken a wonderful picture. When he got back from their camping trip, he put it with other special photos. Maria said she would like to copy it. It would be perfect for one of her paintings.

Later that year, she painted a picture of the deer by the river. She displayed it at the school art show. Her painting was chosen for the county art contest. The judges told Maria she might be a famous painter someday. The next week Sam entered his photo in a contest and won a blue ribbon. They were both happy they were sitting on the bank of the river at just the right time.

*Now answer the questions about this part of the story.*

9. Maria wanted a copy of Sam's photo to

- A. show to her friends.
- B. look at while she painted her picture.
- C. put in her scrapbook.

10. The children were happy they were sitting by the river at just the right time because

- A. they got a picture of the doe and her fawns.
- B. they were with their dog.
- C. it was fun to sit on a river bank.

**STOP**

*Please do not turn the page.  
You may go back and check your work.*

TOTAL SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_/10

Passage #1

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Marcus was an eight-year-old boy who 8  
 had a brown and white puppy named Rex. 16  
 Most of the time, he and his dog had fun. 26  
 Today, the little boy was angry at his puppy. 35  
 He wanted Rex to mind him, but the puppy 44  
 had not even learned how to sit. Marcus 52  
 kicked a stone with his toe. He sighed, “I’ve 61  
 been trying to teach you a few tricks, and now 71  
 I’m too tired and frustrated!” The puppy was 79  
 scared and ran behind an oak tree. 86  
 Marcus’s father was watching the 91  
 situation. He smiled and said, “I’ll give you a 100  
 few clues. Learning is not easy. Treat your 108  
 puppy with kindness and show him you are 116  
 pleased when he obeys. Then he’ll learn how 124  
 to behave.” 126  
 The next day, Marcus took his puppy to 134  
 the wheat field behind their barn. He wanted 142  
 to teach Rex how to sit on command. The little 152  
 boy had stuffed crispy snacks into his pocket 160  
 to use as rewards. “Come on, Rex,” Marcus 168  
 said. Rex wagged his tail. The puppy jumped 176  
 up and licked his trainer’s face. Each time 184  
 Rex obeyed, Marcus told him he was a good 193  
 dog and gave him a tasty snack. Marcus 201  
 learned a lesson. Little deeds of kindness can 209  
 make a big difference. 213

**EVALUATING CODES FOR ORAL READING**

sky (/) word read incorrectly  
 blue sky (^) inserted word  
 (□) after the last word read

Comments:

**FLUENCY SCORE**

Number of Words Read Per Minute: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Errors:                   — \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Words Read Correctly: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Passing Criterion (50th %ile)       =     94

Errors include: 1) words read incorrectly; 2) words left out or inserted; 3) mispronounced words; 4) dropped endings or sounds; and 5) reversals. Self-corrections and word repetitions are NOT marked as errors.

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Becky was the new girl in gym class. 8  
 She was sitting alone on a bench. She leaned 17  
 on a steel post. She looked quietly at the 26  
 children as they practiced flips and turns. 33  
 Becky was having a hard time making 40  
 friends. She had just moved into town with 48  
 her family. She wished she had friends like 56  
 the other children. Nobody seemed to notice 63  
 her, and she was feeling left out. 70  
 Coach Margo watched her from across 76  
 the gym floor. The coach wondered if Becky 84  
 knew any of the skills that she had taught 93  
 the team. 95  
 When Becky saw the coach walking 101  
 toward her, she tried not to look nervous. 109  
 Margo slowly approached the shy girl. “Hi, 116  
 are you Becky?” she asked. 121  
 “Yes,” replied the girl. “I don’t know 128  
 anyone.” 129  
 Margo offered to show her some of their 137  
 balance beam routines. She taught Becky 143  
 some new tricks. Then she introduced her to 151  
 other members in the gym class. Becky was 159  
 grateful for Coach Margo’s kindness. After 165  
 that, she made many new friends. 171

**EVALUATING CODES FOR ORAL READING**

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# NOTES

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**First Edition**

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