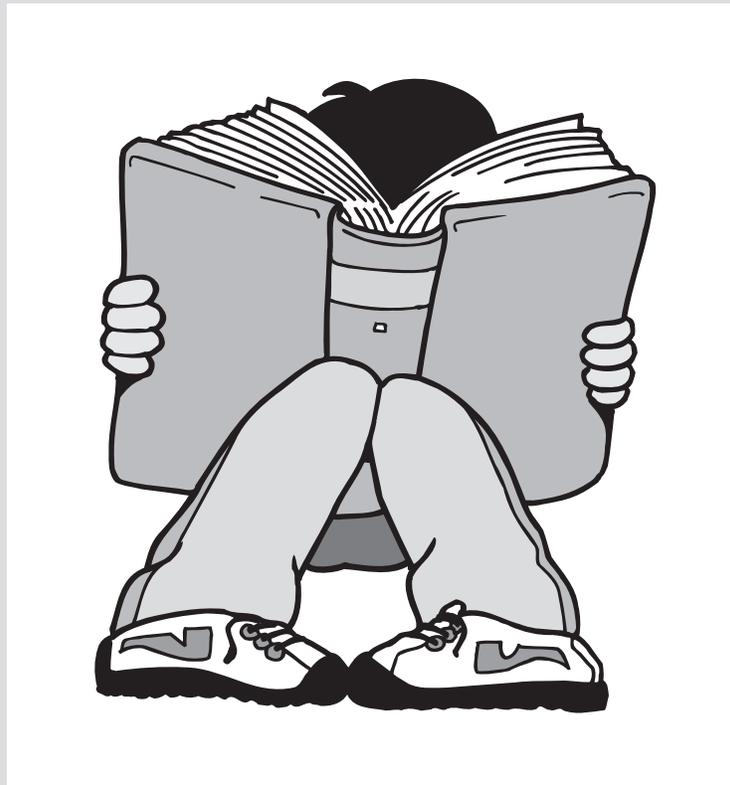


STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

6-8 Week Skills Assessments for
Reading Comprehension and Fluency



GRADE 4
Weeks 6-18

Student Name _____

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

A Four-Hundred-Year-Old Mystery

Ann Feetham

“It’s a daughter!” Ananias Dare shouted proudly from the door of his two-room log house. “My Eleanor has given birth to a baby girl!”

The men were busy felling trees and clearing thick underbrush around their village. They stopped working and cheered. A smiling woman stepped outside into the bright sunlight. She had assisted the young mother throughout her labor. She was holding a tiny bundle in her arms.

John White, governor and leader of the group, hurried forward. He began pumping young Ananias’s hand vigorously. The governor slapped him on the back. “My granddaughter is the first English babe to be born in this great New World. What will be her name?”

“We will call her Virginia,” the new father said. Then he beamed.

“Ah, it’s fitting that she should bear the name of our village, the city of Raleigh at Virginia,” the grandfather agreed.

There was much merrymaking that day. Virginia’s birth on August 18, 1587, was considered a good omen. The 117 men, women, and children had recently arrived in America. Just a few weeks before, they had come ashore at Roanoke Island off the North Carolina coast. Later, they had moved cautiously inland. They were awed by their new surroundings.

The soil was fertile. The thick forests were rich with timber. Fruits and berries grew abundantly in the woods. There were deer, foxes, rabbits, wild turkeys, and other game. There were also many kinds of fish in the rivers and streams.

When the settlers came upon Fort Raleigh, it was abandoned. It had been the site of an earlier unsuccessful colony. The settlers decided to live there. Right away, the men began repairing the dilapidated log houses. They also raised new buildings. The women busied themselves setting up housekeeping. The children helped in any way they could.

The only other people living in America at that time were scattered Native-American tribes. Not all of them were friendly. Some tribes were frightened of the strange white people who had arrived in “white-winged ships.” But the Croatoans were different. They were friendly. They helped the settlers in many ways.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

1. Why was Virginia Dare's birth considered a good *omen*, meaning a sign or prophecy, for the colonists?
 - A. The women in the colony were happy to have a new baby boy.
 - B. It signified the birth or beginning of the colonists' new life in Virginia.
 - C. Governor White had a new daughter.
 - D. The birth of the child meant the other children would have a new playmate.

2. What is the **main** reason the colonists decided to settle on Roanoke Island?
 - A. It had good soil, abundant food, and natural resources.
 - B. They were tired of traveling and thought the land was beautiful.
 - C. Governor White owned the land.
 - D. They would be safe from pirates.

3. The men immediately began repairing the dilapidated log houses. What does the word *dilapidated* mean?
 - A. well built
 - B. rundown
 - C. mysterious
 - D. new

Nine days after Virginia was born, her grandfather, Governor White, called a meeting. He wanted to send their ships back to England for needed farm tools and other supplies. Everyone agreed. They felt that one or more of the nine assistant governors should return with the fleet. But none wanted to leave. Reluctantly, Governor White agreed to go.

At the meeting, the people talked of moving the settlement fifty miles inland. They believed weather conditions inland would be more favorable for farming. They also thought there would be less danger from unfriendly Native Americans and Spanish pirate ships.

“If you leave this place while I’m away, leave a sign. Then I will know where you have gone,” the governor said.

What kind of sign?” someone asked. “Carve your destination on some place easy to find. A tree, post, or door would work.” He suggested, “If there is danger when you leave, carve a cross over the letters.”

The next day the governor kissed little Virginia and said good-bye. “I’ll be back soon,” he promised. But when he arrived in England, he found his country prepared for war with Spain. This turn of events delayed his return to the colony for three long years.

It was May 20, 1590, when Governor White set sail again for the New World. The journey was slow. The captain, John Watts, was a notorious privateer commander. He was more concerned with taking prizes along the way than reaching the colonists.

They finally landed on the shores of Roanoke Island. The governor could hardly wait to see his beautiful granddaughter. “She’s three years old now. She will call me Grandfather,” he boasted to the crew.

They hurried to the place where the settlement had been. However, instead of a happy reunion, they found the village deserted. The area was overgrown with grass and weeds. Most things of value were missing. Looters or the weather had destroyed what remained.

Governor White stood silently. He stared at the ruins. Where is everyone? He wondered.

“Over here, Governor!” one of the men shouted. “I’ve found something!” He pointed to the word CROATOAN carved on a post.

“What does it mean, sir?” another man asked.

“It’s the name of a Native-American tribe from a nearby island,” Governor White replied. He explained that his people were to leave a sign if they left before his return.

The governor looked closely at the letters on the post. “There is no cross or sign of distress,” he said. He felt encouraged. “Let us pray my people are safe with the Croatoans.”

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

4. Why did Governor White leave the colony after Virginia Dare was born and go back to England?
- A. He was sick.
 - B. His granddaughter was sick.
 - C. The colony needed to stay in touch with family members in England.
 - D. The colony needed farm tools and other supplies.
5. Why did it take Governor White three years to get back to Roanoke Island?
- A. He ran out of money.
 - B. His ships got lost in a storm.
 - C. His ships were captured by pirates.
 - D. England was prepared for war with Spain.
6. What did Governor White find when he finally returned to Roanoke Island?
- A. Some of the colonists were sick.
 - B. The colonists had disappeared.
 - C. Most of the colonists were dead.
 - D. Many of the colonists were starving.

An approaching storm cut short the search around the fort. Everyone scurried back to the ships. Governor White planned to sail to Croatoan Island, but the storm worsened. One ship was almost driven onto the beach. So, the ships put to sea. Damage to the ships and a short supply of food and fresh water forced the crews to return to England.

Back home, Governor White's efforts to organize another rescue expedition failed. There was a lack of interest in England. He did not have enough money to finance the trip himself. The governor believed that some of the colonists, including his daughter and Virginia, were still alive. He grieved over the hardships they might be facing.

Twelve years passed before Sir Walter Raleigh sent a ship and crew to search for the colonists. However, when Captain Mace and his men reached the Cape Fear area, they spent a month gathering roots and bark. These items were in strong demand in England for use as medicines. By the time Mace and his crew were finished, the weather was too stormy. Plans to search for the colonists were abandoned.

All other attempts to locate the colonists also failed. In a letter to a friend, written from his home on February 4, 1598, Governor White reported the failure of his fifth and final voyage to Virginia. In the letter, he prayed for the "merciful help of the Almighty." The governor still believed his people were alive. Later, the English settled in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. The new settlers had heard rumors of mysterious Europeans living at a Roanoke River town. However, it seemed unlikely to them that any of the last Virginians could have survived for twenty years. Besides, the new settlers had too many problems of their own. So, the whereabouts of Governor White's people remained a mystery.

There are many theories about what happened to these lost colonists. One is that they were attacked and killed by hostile Native Americans. Another is that they escaped to Croatoan Island and were killed later by enemy tribes. Still another is that some of the colonists remained with the Native Americans.

No one will ever know what really happened. Four hundred years have passed. The fate of the lost colonists is still a mystery. The people of Roanoke Island, however, have not forgotten their first English citizens. They especially remember little Virginia. The island where she was born was named Dare County in her honor, and the people there still celebrate her birthday every August.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

7. According to the story, which of the following statements is **not** true?
- A. Governor White made five voyages to Virginia to search for the colonists.
 - B. Some people thought the lost colonists had been attacked by hostile Native Americans.
 - C. All Native-American tribes in the New World were unfriendly.
 - D. Several unfortunate mishaps prevented Governor White from finding the lost colonists.
8. Why didn't Jamestown settlers try to find Governor White's people?
- A. They didn't know about the lost settlers.
 - B. They heard rumors that the mysterious Europeans had returned to England.
 - C. English people were not friendly with Europeans.
 - D. They had too many problems of their own.
9. Which word describes how Governor White must have felt after all attempts to find the colonists failed?
- A. content
 - B. silly
 - C. sorrowful
 - D. jubilant
10. Why will no one ever know what happened to the lost colonists?
- A. Captain Samuel Mace could find no trace of the colonists.
 - B. The colonists didn't want to be found.
 - C. So many years have passed that finding reliable clues would be impossible.
 - D. The people of Roanoke Island were forgotten by the people who live there.

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:

When I say “Begin,” start reading aloud at the top of this page. Read across the page (DEMONSTRATE BY POINTING). Try to read each word. If you come to a word you don’t know, I will say the word for you. Read as quickly and accurately as you can, but do not read SO fast that you make mistakes. Do your best reading.

Not long ago, the majestic condor was nearly 8
 extinct. This huge bird has a wingspan of nine feet or 19
 more. During the 1980s, the Los Angeles Zoo began 28
 a program to save these giant scavengers. At that 37
 time, only twenty-seven existed in the entire nation. 46
 All but one of them lived in captivity. In 1987, the 57
 last wild condor was caught. It was a nineteen-pound 67
 male. 68

Many people feared condors would perish in the 76
 zoo. They didn’t want to have the last of its kind 87
 removed from nature. Those who opposed confining 94
 the bird chained themselves to the zoo gate. This 103
 forced the keepers to ship the condor to the San Diego 114
 Zoo. The purpose of this act was to get the bird 125
 away from the protestors. A year later, the bird was 135
 returned to L.A. 138

One of the females captured in 1986 was named 147
 Adult Condor-8. While at the zoo, she produced 156
 nine babies. She remained in captivity for fourteen 164
 years. This bird was the first to be given her freedom. 175
 At the same time, two juveniles born at the zoo were 186
 released. The youngsters were placed under the 193
 watchful care of Adult Condor-8. People rejoiced 201
 when the birds were able to freely soar the skies of 212
 their natural habitat. 215

Still considered endangered, condor numbers had 221
 grown to 198 in the year 2002. Over one-third of the 233
 birds live in the wild. 238

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) = 99

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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America got many of its ideas about freedom from 9
 William Penn. He was born in England. His father 18
 was a member of the Church of England. From an 28
 early age, Penn did not like the teachings of this 38
 church. After hearing a sermon by a preacher, he 47
 joined the Quaker church. At that time, this religion 56
 had been outlawed in England. 61
 Penn was expelled from college because of his 69
 beliefs. He was sent to prison six times for stating his 80
 opinions. He became bothered by the lack of spiritual 89
 freedom in his country. So, he moved to America. 98
 There, he created a safe haven. In his colony, people 108
 lived free from religious bias. 113
 Penn was a champion of human rights. He 121
 insisted that women deserved equal rights with men. 129
 He is also known for his fair treatment of Indians. 139
 He made a treaty with Indians living in his colony. 149
 It was intended to last “as long as the sun gave light.” 161
 Penn was put in jail for treason on a return trip 172
 to England. The authorities thought he wanted to 180
 overthrow the king. He was cleared of the charges. 189
 Then he returned to America. The people living in 198
 his colony still wanted more freedom. Penn listened. 206
 The resulting document was called “The Charter of 214
 Privileges.” 215

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)	= 99

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.

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

Go For It!

Margaret Roberts

Mark Wellman, U.S. park ranger, had wanted to climb the soaring vertical rock face of El Capitan for as long as he could remember. *How could a man, partially paralyzed from the waist down, unable to use his legs, have the nerve to try to climb the highest vertical cliff on earth?* El Capitan is immense. It is an unbroken mass of granite in California's beautiful Yosemite Valley. The huge rock is almost three-quarters of a mile high, straight up. Mark could not accomplish the climb alone. His friend Mike Corbett, an expert rock climber, would be there to lend a helping hand.

In the early morning of Wednesday, July 19, 1989, Mike helped Mark out of his wheelchair. Mike put Mark onto the ground. Clipped to Mike's waist was an assortment of metal clamps and other rock-climbing equipment. He also had several looped nylon ropes. The free end of one of the ropes was attached to a big sack. The sack contained the men's food, water, and super-light sleeping bags.

Mike grabbed his first handhold on the rock. Then he positioned his feet and began to climb. Mike knew El Capitan well. He and a few other intrepid rock climbers had made it to the summit many times. He knew where all the handholds and footholds were. He also knew where to find good ledges wide enough for two men to rest on. He and Mark thought it would take seven days to reach the top.

About 100 feet up, Mike hammered a piton into the granite. A piton is a heavy aluminum pin used by rock climbers. Mike clipped one end of a 165-foot nylon rope to the piton. Then he let the rope's free end fall down. Mark was wearing a nylon harness that circled the upper half of his body. Mark caught the rope and attached it to the harness with an ingenious clamp. The clamp would let Mark move upward, but would prevent him from slipping down even as much as a single inch. He next reached above his head and attached a T-bar to the nylon rope, using the same kind of clamp.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

1. Why is climbing El Capitan a difficult challenge for any rock climber?
 - A. It has deep, dangerous cracks.
 - B. It is covered with ice.
 - C. It is the highest vertical cliff in the world.
 - D. It is covered with clouds.

2. In the first paragraph, the author describes El Capitan as an immense mass of granite. What does the word *immense* mean?
 - A. huge
 - B. assortment
 - C. smooth
 - D. super-light

3. Which of the following indicates Mike Corbet knew El Capitan well?
 - A. He stayed close behind in case Mark fell.
 - B. He knew where the handholds, footholds, and ledges were.
 - C. He was a U.S. park ranger.
 - D. He had climbed to the summit one time.

When all was secured, Mark took a deep breath. He pushed the T-bar up almost as far as his arms could reach. Then he began the first of the 7,000 pull-ups it would take to reach the summit. His useless legs, encased in protective leather leggings, dangled beneath him. Mike had designed these special leggings just for this climb. High above, Mike let out a cheer. "You're on your way, pal," he yelled down.

Before the climb began, the two men had decided that the best rate of ascent for Mark would be about six inches at a time. Now, having successfully raised himself the first half foot, Mark loosened his grasp and tested the clamp. He reassured himself that it held his weight. Then he pushed the T-bar up again and began his second pull-up.

When Mark looked down at mid-afternoon, he could still see his wheelchair on the ground below. Every pull-up was another step toward fulfillment of his dream. *He was climbing El Capitan at last!*

For the past six months, Mark had trained rigorously. His training included swimming, paddling his kayak, lifting weights, and working out in the gym. Seven years before, at the age of twenty-one, he had slipped on loose pebbles while mountain climbing. He had fallen 100 feet, injuring his spine. The fall cost him the use of his legs. Yet he never lost his love of adventure nor his joyful spirit. Even so, as he looked straight up the forbidding 3,593-foot rock face, he wondered if he was trying for an impossible goal. He still had 6,500 pull-ups to go. The temperature was 96 degrees, and he was bathed in sweat.

Mark wisely decided to put all this out of his mind. He *had* to succeed, not just for himself and Mike. The whole world was watching. This climb was an incredible attempt by a man who, in a wheelchair, carried on his job as a naturalist and assistant supervisor of the visitor's center in Yosemite National Park. Dozens of newspaper writers and photographers, radio announcers, and television reporters were gathered on the ground below. They were carefully tracking the hourly progress of the climb.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

4. How could Mark Wellman expect to climb El Capitan when he was partially paralyzed from the waist down?
- A. He had read about mountain climbing in a book.
 - B. He had been training for the climb.
 - C. He had made it to the summit many times.
 - D. Mountain climbing isn't difficult.
5. Why did the climb take so long?
- A. Their sack of supplies was too heavy.
 - B. Mark had not trained enough.
 - C. Mark had to stop and rest often.
 - D. Mark could only climb six inches at a time.
6. Which word **best** describes Mark Wellman?
- A. foolish
 - B. conceited
 - C. determined
 - D. forgiving

In the late afternoon, Mike called down to Mark. Mike said that he had reached a level ledge where they would spend the night. There are many good, solid ledges of varying width on El Capitan. Climbers have slept on them many times over the years, secured by clamps and sturdy ropes pinned into the rock. Now the two men sat on the ledge and began pulling up the rope that held their food, water, and sleeping bags. Soon they were wolfing down their supper of cold canned foods, nuts, and dried fruits. It all tasted delicious after the exertions of the day. As darkness fell, they curled up in their sleeping bags. At dawn, they were wide-awake and ready to go again.

For the first four days, the two men moved steadily upward without problems. On the fifth day, a searing, hot wind began to blow. As the day wore on, it became stronger and stronger, causing Mark to sway perilously on his rope. Suddenly a powerful gust swung him ten feet out, away from the rock. The sensation of hanging way out there in the wind, dangling in space, would have been terrifying to an ordinary person. Mark was by no means ordinary. Although his hands were swollen and sore and his arms ached unmercifully, he kept on doggedly pushing up the T-bar and pulling himself up. Nevertheless, he had to admit that he felt a lot better when the wind finally died down and his body touched solid rock again.

Later, Mike told reporters, “I just couldn’t get him to complain, no matter how tough it got. He just kept right on inching his way up, calm as you please!”

It took them one day more than they had estimated. On July 26, at 1:45 p.m., the crowd of people waiting on the summit went wild with joy as the two weary heads appeared over the rim, silhouetted against the sky.

Mark Wellman had shown that if you set your heart and mind on a goal, no wall is too high, no dream impossible. When asked what he had to say about his marvelous accomplishment, he thought for only a minute before he replied, “If you want to do something bad enough and you feel you can do it, *go for it!*”

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

7. Where did Mark and Mike sleep at night?
- A. in a cave
 - B. on a ledge
 - C. in a cabin
 - D. on the top of the summit
8. How long did it take Mark and Mike to reach the summit?
- A. They didn't reach the summit because of searing, hot winds.
 - B. one day
 - C. four days
 - D. one day longer than they had estimated
9. Which of the following **best** expresses Mark Wellman's feelings about people with physical disabilities?
- A. They can do anything they set their mind to do.
 - B. They need special help.
 - C. They shouldn't take risks.
 - D. They need encouragement from others.
10. Mike Corbett, Mark's friend, can best be described as
- A. reckless.
 - B. trustworthy.
 - C. funny.
 - D. independent.

STOP

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

TOTAL SCORE: ____/10

Passage #1

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Weasel stalked between the trees. Hostile and 7
starving, he watched a beautiful peacock and 14
peahen strutting in the meadow. He had been 22
unsuccessful while hunting food for his large family. 30
In the twilight, he observed the birds. The pair was 40
ignoring their nest. It contained two freshly laid 48
eggs. Weasel was frantic. The birds’ razor-sharp 56
beaks made stealing the eggs a dangerous mission. 64
However, tonight he was willing to put aside all 73
wisdom, instinct, and fear to feed his family. 81
Desperate, Weasel crept closer to the nest. 88
He kept a watchful eye on Farmer O’Neal, who 97
was at the chicken coop. The farmer was blissfully 106
feeding the chickens a stale loaf of bread. The birds 116
had just finished their evening walk and were 124
headed back to their nest. The farmer had no reason 134
to suspect mayhem was about to take place in the 144
barnyard. So, the mild-mannered man continued 151
feeding the chickens. 154
Weasel grunted softly. His nose was twitching 161
as he crouched closer to the nest. He reached it just 172
as the birds arrived. Suddenly, Farmer O’Neal 179
heard the peacock’s shrill shrieking. He looked up 187
and spotted Weasel frozen in fear, a front paw on an 198
egg. He ran across the yard screaming and waving 207
his arms! Slowly, Weasel backed away from the nest 216
and then scurried off. Tonight, Weasel would have 224
to look elsewhere for food for his hungry family. 233

EVALUATING CODES FOR ORAL READING	
sky (l)	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)	= <u>105</u>

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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Although the two children were twins, they were 8
quite different. Both wanted to take part in school 17
activities to make new friends. Marta was timid and 26
took very few risks. She especially avoided sports 34
and academic contests. Carlos, on the other hand, 42
had a lot of confidence. He would try out for anything. 53
However, he did not practice before tryouts, so he 62
did not always make the team. One day the twins 72
discussed their different personalities. Each decided 78
there was a trait they wanted to change. 86

Marta wanted to be more outgoing. She hesitantly 94
agreed to audition for the school’s spelling bee. Much 103
to her surprise, she won first place. She was going to 114
represent her age group in the state contest. At the 124
state finals, she won fourth place. This scholastic 132
triumph was the best anyone at her school had ever 142
achieved. 143

Carlos decided to focus and excel in one 151
specialized area. He wanted to be the lead actor 160
in the class play. He knew it would take energy, 170
preparation, and practice to learn the long speeches. 178
For weeks, Carlos rehearsed his lines and acting 186
techniques. He attempted to express just the right 194
amount of pain and emotion when his character died. 203
He was so well prepared that he got the part. He 214
gave an eloquent performance. Marta and Carlos 221
were both pleased with their efforts. 227

**EVALUATING CODES FOR
ORAL READING**

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

Comments:

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

The Surprise

Roberta Wiegand

One Friday in August, Sarah's Poppa left in the buggy at noon and told the family he wouldn't be home until tomorrow.

"Just keep your shirts on—all of you—because when I come back, I'll bring you a real surprise."

The Lewis family spent the afternoon guessing what the surprise would be. Sarah thought it might be a set of encyclopedias, but the older boys, Harry and Charlie, thought it might be another bicycle.

"Do you suppose it could be a new washing machine?" Momma murmured.

"It's a baby sister!" Maryrose chanted. Georgie said that another dog would be better, a young *boy* dog!

When Poppa came home the next morning, he grinned and unfolded a piece of pink paper in his hand and waited. He looked like a magician who was showing them he had nothing up his sleeve. Then he laid the paper in the center of the kitchen table. BILL OF SALE it said across the top.

Now the magician waved his wand.

"This goes with what you'll see in front of the house," he announced.

The family rushed outside to look; however, what they saw never came from a magician's hat!

It was long and shiny with a copper-colored body and a coal-black top. It had brass lamps at the front and black leather seats and black wheels and fenders. This was not the first automobile they'd ever seen, but no one in their town had ever owned one.

"It's a Jackson," Poppa said proudly. "It has the same name as the first man to drive all the way across the United States."

The Lewis children raced to the street and ran around and around the car. They shouted at each other. "Look at this! Hey, see this!" They scrambled into and over the seats. Poppa had to take hold of Charlie's shoes and pull him out from underneath the automobile.

Then Poppa collapsed the top of the auto and folded it across the back of the rear seat. "We'll leave it like that while we take our first ride," he said. Now Sarah noticed that the auto was indeed all set to go. Its radiator was already pointed right down the Main Street hill.

Momma asked, "But, Herb—what about the buggy? It's brand-new."

"Why, I traded it, of course," Poppa said matter-of-factly. "No one needs a car and a buggy."

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

1. Everyone is excited when Poppa brings home a new automobile because
 - A. Poppa is going to take the family on a vacation.
 - B. Poppa is going to teach everyone how to drive.
 - C. it's the first automobile the family has ever owned.
 - D. it's the best automobile the family has ever had.

2. How did Poppa pay for the new car?
 - A. He traded the buggy for the car.
 - B. He sold the washing machine and used the money to pay for the car.
 - C. He sold a set of encyclopedias.
 - D. He traded his old car for a new one.

3. The setting of this story is
 - A. one summer day in the future.
 - B. an August day in the present.
 - C. one day last week.
 - D. one summer day many years ago.

Sarah didn't say a word. She quickly ran to the backyard, tugged open the door to the carriage house, and discovered it was completely empty inside.

She walked slowly back to tell the others. "He sold Old Belle, too," Sarah said.

Everyone looked accusingly at Poppa. Georgie started to whimper as the others began muttering.

"Naturally I sold her. Why would we keep a horse without a buggy? We have over twenty horsepower parked here. These are new times; we have to change with them. Now everyone get washed, and we'll go for our first ride."

Sarah stomped up to her room, but she didn't get cleaned up. She thought about all the years they'd had Old Belle. Her nose burned inside, and she could tell she was getting ready to cry. She decided to look at the car because she needed something to think about fast.

Outside, Harry was sitting bolt upright behind the wheel of the automobile with his new tweed cap on. Beside him sat old Bowser, staring straight down Main Street as if he expected to go along on the ride.

Sarah skipped down the walk. She wanted to tell Harry how funny they both looked. She knew he hadn't seen her because he kept on turning the wheel and pretending to drive. He pretended that he was moving some of the levers and knobs. He did it so well Sarah almost believed he knew what he was doing. It even looked as if the wheels on the car were going around.

The wheels *were* going around.

Sarah hollered at Harry to stop.

Harry and Bowser turned to look at her, their brown eyes wide with surprise. Then Sarah knew that Harry hadn't meant to go anywhere at all! The car started moving faster, and now Harry was too busy to look at her any more.

Sarah yelled for Poppa, who saw what was happening and dashed to the street, shouting at Harry as he ran. The car swerved gently across the road and then back again. Poppa chased the car as fast as he could. His long legs were moving so fast that he looked like a skinny spider.

When the car reached the corner by the Opera House, Everett Wagner started across with a cartload of watermelons. Harry swung the car behind it. Everett and his horse stopped as if they were frozen in the middle of the street, but one of Everett's watermelons fell off the cart and tumbled after them down the hill.

Now Harry seemed to be getting used to the steering wheel. He guided the beautiful, copper-colored Jackson on down the Main Street hill just as he did his sled in the wintertime. Poppa galloped along behind.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

4. The author says that after Sarah discovered Poppa had sold Old Belle, she stomped out of the room. How does a person who “stomps out of a room” feel?
- A. angry
 - B. joyous
 - C. gloomy
 - D. tired
5. Poppa sold Old Belle because
- A. he didn't think anyone would mind.
 - B. Old Belle was too old to pull the buggy.
 - C. he thought the family didn't need a horse without a buggy.
 - D. he needed the money to buy the automobile.
6. Which of the following experiences would help you understand how Sarah felt after she discovered Poppa had sold Old Belle?
- A. trading in an old car when you buy a new one
 - B. giving away a dog when you move to an apartment
 - C. getting a new coat of paint in your bedroom
 - D. having a friend who went on a trip without you
7. Harry managed to steer the Jackson down the street because
- A. he had driven a car many times.
 - B. Poppa told Harry how to drive as he chased the car.
 - C. he had taken driving lessons.
 - D. he steered the car just as he did his sled in the winter.

Finally the car neared the bottom of the hill. People were lined up on both sides of the road waiting for it to come, but ready to run if they needed to. It crossed Church Lane and aimed itself right at the courthouse door.

“It’s going inside!” Sarah thought frantically.

Luckily, the proud Jackson rolled majestically up onto the lawn. It came to a perfect stop with its radiator just touching the bottom step of the stone courthouse building.

Poppa was there almost at once.

By the time the rest of the Lewises panted down the hill, there was a great crowd around the car. Even Momma arrived at last.

Poppa reached in and pulled Harry out of the car. Sarah couldn’t tell if he was clapping Harry on the back for driving so well or hitting him because he was mad. Poppa didn’t seem to know either; Harry looked even more unsure. Bowser sat on the front seat and barked.

Eventually everyone decided to laugh. Harry managed a sickly grin, and at last the whole family piled into the Jackson. Bowser jumped in the car, too! This time Poppa cranked it, and the engine finally started. They chugged up the hill.

Sarah was excited with the ride, of course. But she remembered all the times Old Belle had pulled them up the same hill. She quietly cried herself to sleep that night. She could still feel Old Belle’s velvety lips slurping sugar from her hand. She could see the long, bony ridges on her nose and the soft, dark gray of her nostrils.

Early on Sunday the family took a long, bumpy ride in the country. This time Harry rode in the back seat.

The next morning Sarah was tired when she took Bowser’s breakfast to him. That was when she heard the noise. It seemed to come from the carriage house. When she peeked in the door, she saw the shiny Jackson where the buggy used to be. Then Sarah’s eyes grew used to the dark, and she could see the lumpy slope of Old Belle’s back.

Sarah rushed inside and threw her arms around the old horse’s neck. Belle smelled of oats and leather and the warm sweetness of something alive.

Sarah ran back into the kitchen where Poppa was already eating his breakfast. She threw her arms around his neck. “Oh, Poppa,” she squealed. “You got Old Belle back for us! Oh, I love you! I love you!”

Poppa sputtered and unclasped her arms from around his neck; his face was red. “Don’t make such a fuss, Sarah. You’re really a goose.” He gave her a friendly swat on her rear.

“When I took the car over those roads yesterday, I found out they’re terrible. I can see we’ll still need the sleigh this winter. You don’t think I’m going to pull it myself, do you?”

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

8. What reason does Poppa give Sarah for buying Old Belle back?

- A. He didn't realize Sarah would miss Old Belle.
- B. They will need Old Belle to pull the sleigh next winter.
- C. He found out the new owner didn't want Old Belle.
- D. They will need Old Belle if the automobile breaks down.

9. What is the author's message in this story?

- A. Life was simpler in the good old days.
- B. The old ways are always better than the new.
- C. There is value in both the old and the new.
- D. Modern ways are always better.

10. At the end of the story, Sarah can best be described as

- A. joyful.
- B. furious.
- C. depressed.
- D. puzzled.

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:

When I say “Begin,” start reading aloud at the top of this page. Read across the page (DEMONSTRATE BY POINTING). Try to read each word. If you come to a word you don’t know, I will say the word for you. Read as quickly and accurately as you can, but do not read SO fast that you make mistakes. Do your best reading.

Jan listened to her favorite music on the radio. 9
 She had decided she wanted to be a disk jockey. She 20
 didn’t want anything to get in the way of her future 31
 goal. She asked her school counselor what she 39
 should do to make her dream come true. He said that 50
 having a pleasant voice would increase her chances. 58
 He suggested she practice talking into a recorder. 66
 Jan was to play it back and listen to the tape. 77
 Practice would help to improve her voice quality. 85
 He also encouraged her to use proper grammar. 93
 He told her to study different music labels to 102
 learn which artists had signed contracts. Becoming 109
 familiar with various music companies might also 116
 help. It would give her a greater understanding of 125
 music trends. She was told to learn as much as 135
 possible on her own. College courses would round 143
 out her education. 146
 Not being very studious, Jan thought this seemed 154
 complicated. She had hoped all she needed for success 163
 was desire. She thought sitting in the studio, playing 172
 music, and telling jokes were all she would have to do. 183
 Now Jan understood. Wanting a career in a certain 192
 field and getting it were two different things. It would 202
 take lots of preparation. Yet, she was not discouraged. 211
 She had great passion for radio announcing and was 220
 an ambitious, young girl. It would be worth all her 230
 efforts when she succeeded and landed her first job. 239

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) = 112

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:

When I say “Begin,” start reading aloud at the top of this page. Read across the page (DEMONSTRATE BY POINTING). Try to read each word. If you come to a word you don’t know, I will say the word for you. Read as quickly and accurately as you can, but do not read SO fast that you make mistakes. Do your best reading.

At one time, language only consisted of simple grunts and gestures. It took thousands of years for writing to evolve. Ancient man carved symbols and pictures in rocks. Some of those early drawings are still visible in caves and on canyon walls.

Some cultures used these pictures to record their daily activities. Others created an alphabet. Pen and paper made sharing one’s thoughts possible. A messenger could take news from one place to another. Yet, news only traveled as far as man could walk, ride, or sail. It often took months for a package to arrive.

In the 1840s, the Morse code was invented. The phone and radio came next. News could be sent long distances by wire or air. These devices changed the way people shared ideas. TV was viewed as a miracle of modern science sixty years ago. This brought moving pictures into people’s homes. Today, people can exchange ideas over the Internet. People can talk around the world almost instantly.

New inventions are made every day. With each idea, the world seems smaller. Imagine what communication will be like in the future!

EVALUATING CODES FOR ORAL READING

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Number of Words
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NOTES

NOTES

First Edition

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