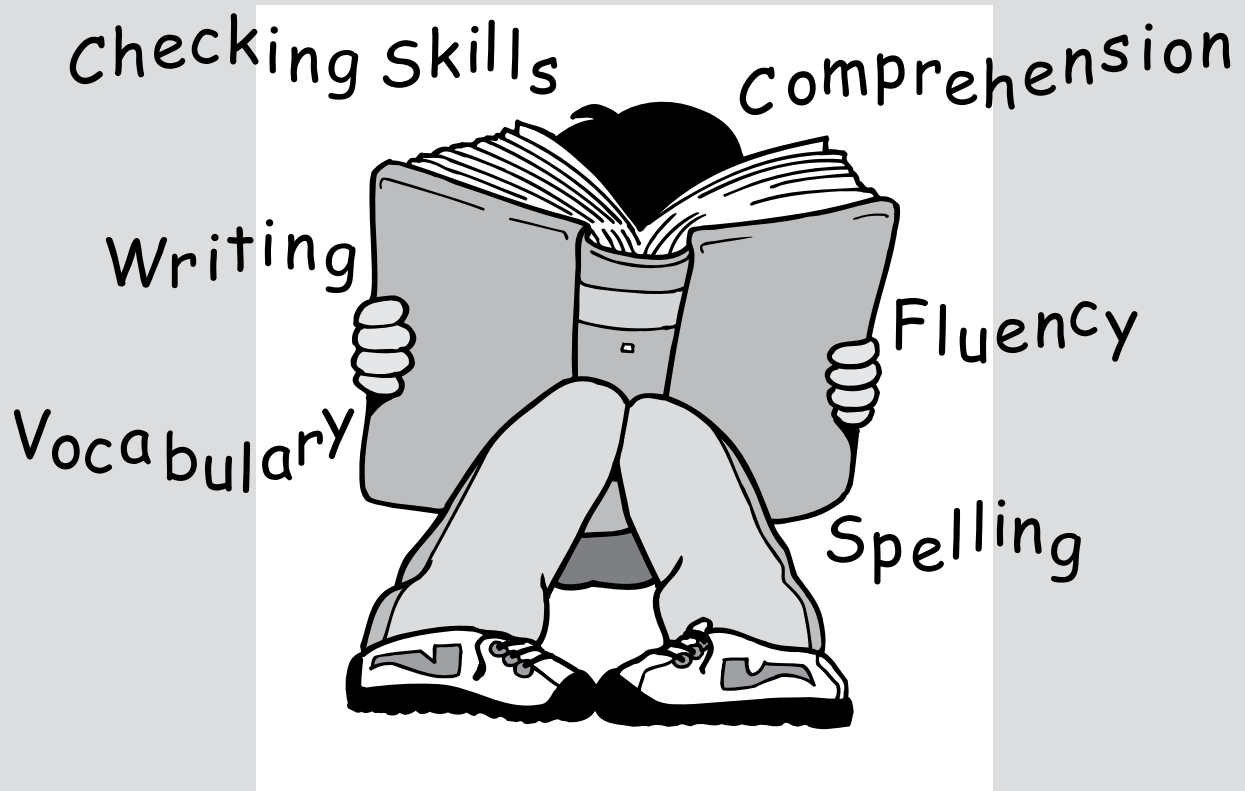


STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

6-8 Week Skills Assessments Developed for
Districts Using *Houghton Mifflin Reading*



GRADE 2
Theme 3

Student Name _____

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

Alligators

Frank Staub

Pretend that a monster is walking into your yard. It is ten feet long, and its skin is dark and scaly. Its mouth is full of sharp teeth, and its strong jaws could break your bones. Creatures like this really do walk into people's yards. But they are not monsters. They are alligators.

Alligators spend most of their time floating in or lying next to water. They live in wetlands. Wetlands are land covered with water. Water may stay in a wetland all the time or just during part of the year. Rivers, lakes, and swamps are freshwater wetlands. A freshwater wetland has little or no salt in it.

Many wetlands are gone now. People have filled them in with dirt and rocks. They wanted to make dry land for their houses. Some alligators in those areas have nowhere else to go. So, every now and then, an alligator crawls into someone's yard. It's probably looking for food in what used to be its home. An alligator can run fast. It can stand on its toes and lift its body off the ground to run. Small dogs watch out! A small dog would make a tasty meal for an alligator.

Now answer the questions about this part of the story.

1. Alligators

- A. have moist, smooth skin.
- B. have strong jaws and sharp teeth.
- C. can not run fast.

2. Alligators spend most of their time

- A. floating in or lying next to water.
- B. lying on rocks.
- C. swimming in the ocean.

3. Alligators are usually found in

- A. swimming pools.
- B. oceans.
- C. freshwater wetlands.

4. Why are the wetlands gone?

- A. The wetlands were flooded.
- B. It stopped raining.
- C. People filled them with dirt and rocks.

5. Why are alligators sometimes found in people's yards?

- A. They are looking for food.
- B. They are searching for water.
- C. They are lonely.

Some people think alligators are big lizards. But they are not. Lizards don't grow nearly as big as alligators. Alligators are more like dinosaurs. Like dinosaurs and lizards, alligators are reptiles. All reptiles breathe air, have dry, scaly skin, and are cold-blooded. This means their blood gets cold when it is cold outside. Snakes and turtles are reptiles, too.

Alligators are strong predators. Predators are animals that hunt and eat other animals. Alligators can catch food on land and in water. They eat animals, not plants. The animals they hunt are called its prey. Young alligators eat insects, small fish, and crabs. As alligators grow, they catch bigger and bigger prey. Adult alligators eat fish, birds, snakes, turtles, and other alligators. A big alligator may even try to catch a deer.

Alligators do most of their hunting at night. Darkness is not a problem. At night they use their good sense of smell. Even during the day, alligators use their noses as well as their eyes and ears to find food.

Now answer the questions about this part of the story.

6. Alligators are more like

- A. snakes.
- B. dinosaurs.
- C. turtles.

7. Why are alligators reptiles?

- A. They are cold-blooded and have dry, scaly skin.
- B. They are warm-blooded and have dry, scaly skin.
- C. They are strong and have smooth skin.

8. Alligators eat

- A. vegetables.
- B. plants.
- C. other animals.

9. As alligators grow, they

- A. catch bigger and bigger prey.
- B. spend more time in the water.
- C. eat less food.

10. Darkness is not a problem for alligators when they hunt at night because

- A. they can see better at night than most animals.
- B. they have a good sense of smell.
- C. they sleep all day.

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10

Read the sentences. Underline all the **naming** words in each sentence.

1. The apartment is near the park.
2. Use a truck to deliver the fresh crabs.
3. My grandmother teaches me about holidays.

Read the sentences. Underline the **proper or special noun** in each sentence.

4. The fire trucks in California have special equipment.
5. Mr. Johnson explains how the pole helps the firefighters move fast.
6. Even Spot has a bed inside the firehouse.

Read each sentence. Underline the **nouns** that name **more than one** thing.

7. Mrs. Cortez took the costumes out of the box.

8. Ricky found the dishes in the kitchen.

9. The play was about Mexican and French soldiers.

10. His mother looked under the park benches for the mustache.

TOTAL SCORE: ____/10

DIRECTIONS: Read all of the sentences. Decide which one of the underlined words is misspelled. Then fill in the bubble next to the answer.

1. A. We can rake the leaves into a big pile.
 - B. The dog trainer taught the puppy how to stay on command.
 - C. Follow the trale down the hill and along the river.
 - D. She received the birthday invitation in the mail.
2. A. I hope you found Grandma's pearl necklace.
 - B. Her frown told me that she was not happy.
 - C. This lemonade tastes sour and needs more sugar.
 - D. We laughed at the funny cloun on the tightrope.
3. A. Cleen your room after you finish your homework.
 - B. Please put these crayons away in the drawer.
 - C. Did you see the large fish swimming in the stream?
 - D. Beavers use their sharp teeth to cut down trees.
4. A. Several buildings were damaged in the storm.
 - B. The hungry shork darted toward the school of fish.
 - C. The artist painted a picture of a purple cow.
 - D. How many cards do you have left in your hand?
5. A. Please take this bath towel to swim practice.
 - B. Let's look for shells as we walk along the beach.
 - C. Did you see that dog shase my cat up the tree?
 - D. Which cartoon character do you like best?

6. A. Smash the clay with your hands to make it flat.
- B. Chickens clucked quietly as they pecked for food.
- C. The scouts spent many hours working to earn their volunteer pach.
- D. I need to stitch the tear in my dress.
7. A. It was raining when the children rode to school on the bus.
- B. The elderly woman wore a shawl over her shoulders.
- C. The young man asked the barber to cut his hair short.
- D. The bride tossed her flowers to the excited crowd of womans.
8. A. A growling bear frightened the rabbit.
- B. Students were facing the flag as they recited the pledge.
- C. Will the mayor be nameing a new assistant soon?
- D. Look at the cute baby hugging his stuffed puppy.
9. A. We have to stop at the gas stashun before leaving town.
- B. Nature lovers wanted to save the redwood forests.
- C. What do you see in the picture?
- D. The movie was full of action and adventure.
10. A. Each day Father hurrys home to help fix dinner.
- B. Who is going to wash dishes tonight?
- C. I lost my glasses while I was at the store.
- D. The puppy cries every night for its mother.

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10

PART 1 — Antonyms

DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence. Choose the word that means the **opposite** of the underlined word. Then fill in the bubble next to the word you have chosen.

1. Mother said my hair was too bushy for a ball cap.
 - A. smeared
 - B. flat
 - C. fluffy
 - D. musty

2. We want the operator to dispatch the urgent message quickly.
 - A. deliver
 - B. keep
 - C. develop
 - D. examine

3. The young man was wearing a handsome, new outfit.
 - A. favorite
 - B. emergency
 - C. ugly
 - D. good-looking

PART 2 — Multiple Meanings

DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence. Read and answer the question. Fill in the bubble next to the answer you have chosen.

4. She has an ear for music and easily learned the new song.

In which sentence is the word ear used **in the same way** as in the sentence above?

 - A. Please get an ear of corn out of the refrigerator.
 - B. He seems to have an ear for learning Spanish.
 - C. After swimming practice, my ear began to hurt.
 - D. The speaker hoped he had everyone's ear.

5. The seal on the package had been broken.

In which sentence is the word seal used **in the same way** as in the sentence above?

 - A. A small, black seal playfully swam in the ocean.
 - B. Father gave his seal of approval for our party plans.
 - C. The artist painted the state seal on each china plate.
 - D. Knowing there was money inside, he excitedly ripped the seal of the envelope.

PART 3 — Context Meaning

DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence. Using context, choose the word that means the **same**, or **about the same**, as the underlined word. Then fill in the bubble next to the word you have chosen.

6. The barking dogs seemed furious with the people walking by their yard.
- A. angry
- B. worried
- C. medicinal
- D. token
7. The graceful dancer looked elegant as she moved across the stage.
- A. tough
- B. chief
- C. awkward
- D. smooth

PART 4 — Synonyms

DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence. Choose the word that means the **same**, or **about the same**, as the underlined word. Then fill in the bubble next to the word you have chosen.

8. Everyone came to the party dressed in disguises for the contest.
- A. silence
- B. mustaches
- C. collections
- D. costumes
9. The mule carried the gear on its back.
- A. equipment
- B. booth
- C. mirror
- D. recipe
10. The celebration began when the dancers and clowns arrived.
- A. station
- B. subway
- C. rejoicing
- D. soldier

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.

It was recess, and Sidney was worried. 7
 He was trying to decide what to do. Two of 17
 his best friends were having an argument. 24
 He was afraid their quarreling might turn 31
 into a fistfight. 34
 Sidney thought and thought about the 40
 problem. Finally, he had an idea. He would 48
 try to talk them out of fighting. Sidney 56
 wanted to help them use better judgment. 63
 Their class was planning a trip to the 71
 museum next Tuesday. He knew they would 78
 not want to miss the trip. 84
 Outside, on the playground, Sidney 89
 said, “I understand why you are both angry. 97
 Do you know what could happen to you for 106
 fighting? You could be suspended if you let 114
 this problem get out of control. You might 122
 miss next week’s field trip, or you could 130
 get hurt. Shake hands and forget about 137
 arguing.” The friends angrily yelled at 143
 Sidney. They told him to stay out of their 152
 business. 153
 Sidney persisted. “Look, if you want to 160
 fight, go ahead. I’ll find new friends who 168
 will get along.” The two boys realized the 176
 argument wasn’t worth losing a good friend, 183
 so they shook hands. 187

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) = 78

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.

Danny was concerned because he had 6
 lied to his teacher. He was afraid to tell the 16
 truth, so he decided to talk to his friend, 25
 Debra. He asked her if she always told the 34
 truth. 35
 “Well, I know it’s better,” Debra calmly 42
 said as she tightened her scarf. “My mother 50
 says lying just makes things worse. She says 58
 when we stretch the truth we lose a little 67
 piece of trust. I know I feel terrible even 76
 when I exaggerate.” 79
 “I know,” groaned Danny. “I’m upset 85
 because I broke a window at school. I said 94
 I didn’t do it. I blamed someone else. Now I 104
 feel awful about fibbing.” Debra felt sorry 111
 for Danny. She told him to explain what 119
 happened to his teacher. After a while, he 127
 agreed. 128
 The next day, Danny confessed. He was 135
 relieved. His teacher was grateful he had the 143
 courage to tell the truth. His parents were 151
 proud he had been honest. He felt so good. 160
 Danny did extra chores at home. He stayed 168
 after school to help his teacher. Everyone 175
 was happy because Danny finally told the 182
 truth. 183

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 Read Per Minute: _____
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Friendly Letter Narrative Writing Prompt

Writing Situation: You are thinking about what you like to do after school.

Purpose: To tell what you do after school

Audience: Your friend

Writing Directions: Write a letter to a friend telling what you enjoy doing after school. Include details to make your friendly letter interesting. Make an idea web before you write your letter.

Student Checklist:

Revising	
<input type="checkbox"/> Did you include the five parts of a good letter?	<input type="checkbox"/> Date
	<input type="checkbox"/> Greeting (Salutation)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Body
	<input type="checkbox"/> Closing
	<input type="checkbox"/> Name (Signature)
<input type="checkbox"/> Does the body of your letter include interesting details?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Does your letter show something about you?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Do you have complete sentences?	
Proofreading	
<input type="checkbox"/> Did you capitalize proper nouns and the beginnings of sentences?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Did you end all sentences with the correct punctuation?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Did you spell all words correctly?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Did you indent paragraphs?	

Conventions Score: _____ /4	TOTAL RUBRIC SCORE: _____ /4
Genre Score: _____ /4	
Writing Traits Score: _____ /4	

NOTES

Sixth Edition

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