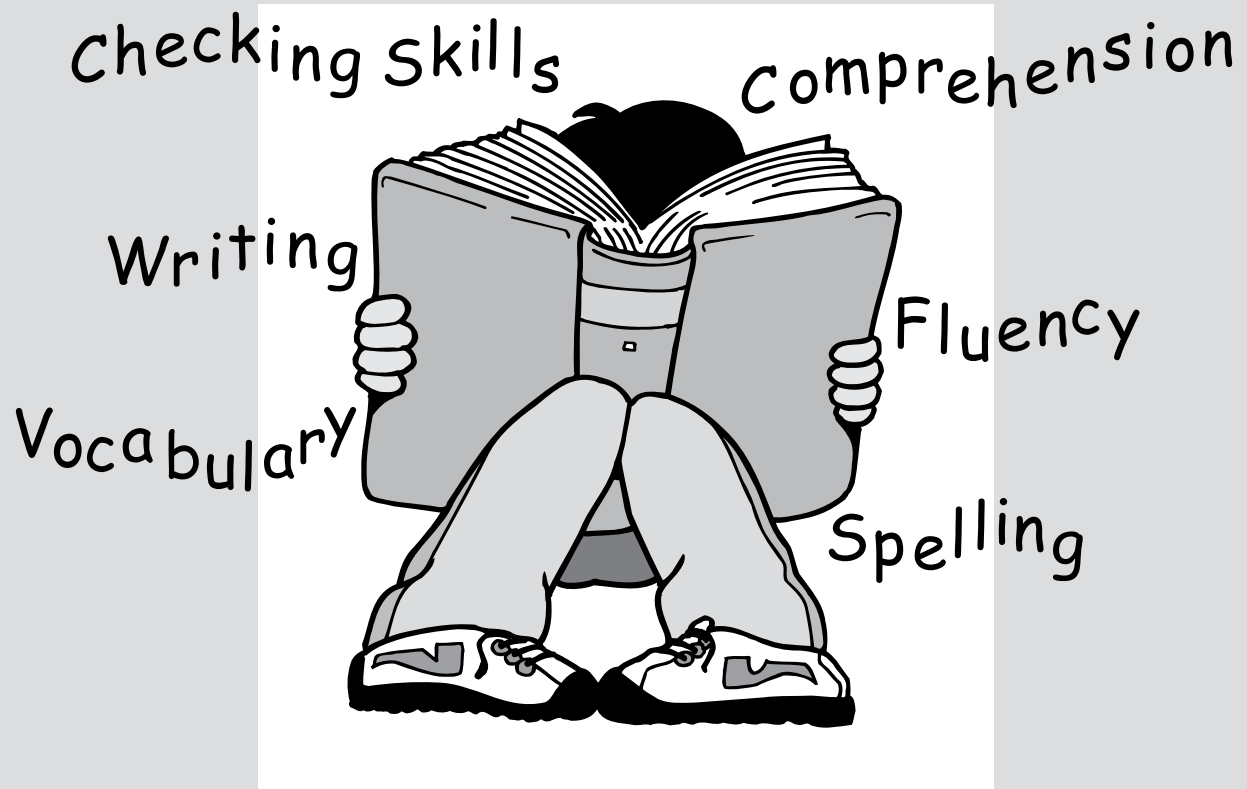


# STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

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



## GRADE 3 Theme 1

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

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

## The Lonely Dragon

*Nancy Antle*

The average dragon's idea of a good time is to kidnap a princess, burn down a village, and scare the wits out of everyone. But Charles was a sweet, good-natured fellow who wanted nothing to do with those kinds of things, so he had no dragon friends. Unfortunately, he looked exactly like all the other mean and nasty dragons, and no human ever stayed around long enough to find out how nice he really was. He was often lonely.

One day Charles decided that he'd had enough of being lonely and was going to do something about it. He headed off across the countryside in search of a friend.

The first person he met was a woodcutter in the forest. Charles managed to sneak up on him, so the man didn't have time to run away.

"Will you be my friend?" he asked rather timidly.

The man realized from the tone of Charles's voice that he was not the usual fearsome sort of dragon. He took a minute to think. Then he said, "Friends are supposed to do things for each other. If I'm your friend, what will you do for me?"

Charles thought a moment, then he turned and knocked over five trees with a single blow of his tail.

"Perfect!" shouted the woodcutter, and he took Charles home to supper.

As Charles entered the woodcutter's yard, he turned to ask a question and knocked over the fence with his tail. He became flustered and turned around quickly to apologize. He knocked a hole in the front wall of the man's house.

"This will never do," the woodcutter said. "You are much too big to be my friend!" And he sent Charles back from where he had come.

Charles was very depressed, but he kept traveling. Soon he saw an old woman plowing her field. Luckily, the old woman was nearsighted and didn't realize Charles was a dragon until he was right beside her.

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

1. Why was Charles lonely at the beginning of the story?
  - A. He had no friends.
  - B. He was lost in the forest.
  - C. He had no family.
  - D. The man ran away.
  
2. Charles didn't want to make friends with other dragons because they were
  - A. big and lazy.
  - B. mean and nasty.
  - C. huge and had scales.
  - D. timid and shy.
  
3. Charles had trouble making friends because most people
  - A. didn't like the way he talked.
  - B. didn't like the way he laughed.
  - C. were shy with dragons.
  - D. were afraid of dragons.

“Will you be my friend?” he asked, even more timidly.

The old farmer peered in the direction of his voice. “Friends are supposed to do things for each other,” she said. “If I’m your friend, what will you do for me?”

Charles thought a moment and said, “I could go home ahead of you and start a fire and warm your supper. I’m very good with fires.”

“Perfect,” said the woman. “I’m always too tired in the evening to fix myself a hot meal. A fire-starter is just what I need.”

That evening Charles went to the old woman’s house, started the fire with one breath, and began warming her supper. The old woman’s house was even smaller than the woodcutter’s, but somehow Charles managed to control his tail and not knock anything over. His new friend seemed pleased with the supper he prepared, and she even gave him a kiss on the cheek before she went to bed.

Charles finally found a big enough space under one of the windows and lay down. He was so happy that he let out a long sigh of contentment. Unfortunately, his sigh set the curtains on fire.

“This will never do,” the old woman cried as she jumped up to douse the curtains with water. “You are much too hot to be my friend!” She sent Charles out the door and back from where he had come.

Now Charles was even more depressed. He walked slowly back through the woods. He hadn’t gone very far, though, when he came upon a little man sitting in a clearing. The man was huddled in the morning sun with a blanket around his shoulders and a crown on his head. He didn’t look any happier than Charles.

Charles thought the man would run away. But he didn’t. So Charles sat down and sighed. So did the man. Charles sighed again. So did the man.

“I’ve had a rotten day,” Charles finally said.

“Me, too,” the man replied.

“Why was your day so rotten?” Charles asked politely.

“You first,” the man said.

“Well, it isn’t just this day especially,” Charles said. “My whole life is rotten.”

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

4. The woodcutter and the woman liked friends who

- A. were kind and thoughtful.
- B. were fun.
- C. could do something for them.
- D. liked the same things.

5. Which word **best** describes Charles?

- A. good-natured
- B. grumpy
- C. uncaring
- D. creative

6. In the story, the old woman jumped up to douse the curtains with water. The word *douse* means

- A. dry.
- B. soak.
- C. burn.
- D. grease.

The man nodded, and Charles began telling him how lonely he was and how he had gone in search of a friend. He told him about the woodcutter and how his tail got in the way. He told him about the farmer and how his breath had ruined everything.

“Why didn’t you run away when you saw me coming?” he asked.

“I thought you were the answer to my problems,” the man said. “I figured if you ate me, at least I wouldn’t be lonely any more.”

“You are lonely, too?” Charles asked.

The man nodded and pointed to his crown. “See this?” he asked. “Do you know what this means? It means I’m a king. Wonderful. I collect taxes and rent from my subjects, have a party once a year, and that is the only time I ever have any fun.

“No one ever comes to my door and says, ‘Oh, I was just passing by and thought I would pop in for tea.’ Nobody asks me over for dinner, or wants me to come have a peek at their new baby. Nobody thinks a king would want to do any of those ordinary things. But I’m really just an ordinary guy.”

“To make matters worse I live alone in a drafty 300-room castle. I can never keep a fire going, so I’m always cold. Lonely and cold—that’s the story of my life.”

The king sniffed and wrapped the blanket tighter around himself, and then he looked at Charles.

“I don’t suppose you’d be interested in being my friend?” he asked.

Charles felt his heart leap, but he hardly dared to agree. “They say that friends are supposed to do things for each other,” he said. “If I’m your friend, what can you do for me?”

“Why, I’ll be your friend,” the king replied.

“Perfect!” said Charles.

The king took Charles back to his dragon-sized castle, and Charles got a fire going in the fireplace. They kept each other company and roasted marshmallows and lived happily ever after.

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

7. The king has trouble making friends because
- A. he was mean to people who came to his door.
  - B. he was interested in different things.
  - C. people didn't like kings.
  - D. people didn't realize he was an ordinary guy.
8. Charles agreed to become friends with the king because
- A. he wanted to live in a castle.
  - B. he wanted to eat the king.
  - C. he liked the king, and the king liked him.
  - D. everyone wanted to be friends with a king.
9. The king said, "I live alone in a drafty, 300-room castle."  
In this story, the word *drafty* means
- A. lonely and quiet.
  - B. ordinary.
  - C. slightly windy and chilly.
  - D. warm and cozy.
10. What lesson does this story teach about friendship?
- A. Only tall people make the best friends.
  - B. Friends are the same age.
  - C. Friends don't do things for each other.
  - D. True friends are hard to find.

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10
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Read each group of words. On the line provided, write **sentence** if the words are a complete sentence. Write **fragment** if the words are **not** a complete sentence.

- 1. Worried about the Lost and Found. \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 2. Mona and her friends plunged into the bin. \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 3. Unusual, lucky hats. \_\_\_\_\_

Read and classify each sentence. Write **statement, question, command, or exclamation** on the first line provided. On the next line, rewrite the sentence using **correct capitalization** and **punctuation**.

- 4. was Mulan triumphant \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 5. tell the troops to escort Mulan on her trip \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 6. mulan endured harsh nights as a soldier \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 7. the girl shouted, "Hurray" \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Read each sentence. Write the **complete subject** and the **complete predicate** of each sentence on the lines provided.

8. Rapids and slippery boulders were found in the river.

**complete subject**

**complete predicate**

\_\_\_\_\_

9. My brother and I scouted the ledges along the canyon.

**complete subject**

**complete predicate**

\_\_\_\_\_

10. The driftwood sculpture reminds our family of the waterfall.

**complete subject**

**complete predicate**

\_\_\_\_\_

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

**DIRECTIONS:** Read all of the sentences. If an underlined word is misspelled, fill in the bubble next to the sentence. If none of the underlined words are misspelled, fill in the bubble next to “No mistake.”

1.  A. The car’s fresh paint has a glossy finish.
  - B. This rabbit trape should safely catch the lost animal.
  - C. Use your imagination and form the clay into interesting shapes.
  - D. No mistake
2.  A. This pillow is softer than that one.
  - B. Don’t start the movie befor the popcorn is ready.
  - C. This new, wider bridge has a sidewalk so people can walk across it.
  - D. No mistake
3.  A. A faint ray of light peeked through the thick clouds.
  - B. We will try to arrive at the party on time.
  - C. Campers built a bonfir and told stories every night.
  - D. No mistake
4.  A. Sloly, the determined snail inched its way up the flower pot.
  - B. Large, red signs warned skiers of the dangerous mountain slope.
  - C. The cute, yellow duck swam across the pond.
  - D. No mistake
5.  A. Would you like to have an ice cube in your glass of water?
  - B. Hundreds of turtles hatched on the beach overnight.
  - C. Did you see the rocket on the hug launch pad?
  - D. No mistake

6.  A. The worm wiggled across the sidewalk.
- B. Many people planned to settle in the country.
- C. The bathtub was full of soapy bubbells.
- D. No mistake
7.  A. My grouchy neighbor never smiled in the morning.
- B. The smileing waitress seemed kind and friendly.
- C. Would you mind calling me tomorrow if you want to go to the game?
- D. No mistake
8.  A. We rode our bikes around a large puddle of water.
- B. A tree branch fell across the road.
- C. We were surprised when the inexperienced actor received a starring role.
- D. No mistake
9.  A. We took our famly vacation in July.
- B. Father asked me to rake the leaves into the street.
- C. My sister took her driving test today.
- D. No mistake
10.  A. This hat is much too small for my head.
- B. The sudden downpour spoiled our picnic.
- C. I asked my frend if I could borrow his bike.
- D. No mistake

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. The distant mountains are visible on a clear day.
  - A. sheer
  - B. canyons
  - C. hidden
  - D. cauldrons
  
2. Mom’s new business card has an unusual design on it.
  - A. uncommon
  - B. ordinary
  - C. canyon
  - D. rapids
  
3. All of the players on the football team were comrades.
  - A. armored
  - B. troops
  - C. enemies
  - D. companions

**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. Miners worked for months digging their claim without finding gold.
 

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

  - A. We completed the insurance claim form and returned it to the manager.
  - B. Winners of the race were asked to claim their prizes in front of the grandstand.
  - C. My uncle staked his claim and recorded it with the Department of Mines.
  - D. The witness continued to claim he was telling the truth.
  
5. We found traces of a picnic lunch after the children left the park.
 

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

  - A. The boy traces the picture of the dog into his notebook.
  - B. The house was so clean there were no traces that someone lived there.
  - C. When the sled dogs are connected to traces, they are ready to leave.
  - D. Did you hear traces of anger in the speaker’s voice?

**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. I was dismayed when our cat Fluffy didn't come home for dinner.
  - A. worried
  - B. lugged
  - C. swift
  - D. frail
  
- 7. We were astonished to hear the coach scold the young baseball player.
  - A. lectured
  - B. scrawny
  - C. amazed
  - D. snuggled

**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. My sister felt triumphant when she received her college diploma.
  - A. shocked
  - B. yearning
  - C. sorrowful
  - D. victorious
  
- 9. The hikers could barely endure climbing the steep mountain.
  - A. prospect
  - B. continue
  - C. examine
  - D. bridle
  
- 10. The clown presented himself in some very silly situations.
  - A. summons
  - B. ledges
  - C. directions
  - D. conditions

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10
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### 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.*

Marta felt lonely as she sat on the front porch 10  
 steps. Her family had moved to a new city, and she 21  
 was missing her old friends. She stared at the kids 31  
 playing in the yard across the street. Marta was 40  
 timid and shy, so making new friends was difficult. 49

Marta’s mother came outside and sat on the edge 58  
 of the steps beside her daughter. “Why are you so 68  
 gloomy?” she gently asked. 72

“I miss my old friends, and the kids across the 82  
 street are having so much fun,” replied the girl. 91

“They look friendly, and they’re about your age. 99  
 Since you know how to play hopscotch, you might 108  
 ask to join them,” encouraged her mother. 115

Marta whispered, “I’m afraid they won’t let me 123  
 play.” 124

“You’ll never know if you don’t try. I’ll wait here 134  
 while you walk over to them. Please be careful while 144  
 crossing the street. Remember to look both ways,” 152  
 Marta’s mother said lovingly. 156

Marta checked for oncoming cars in each 163  
 direction before crossing the road. She quietly went 171  
 over to where the children were playing hopscotch. 179  
 They welcomed her and asked if she would like to 189  
 join them. Marta smiled and waved to her mother. 198

**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) = 79

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.

It was a sunny day, and Jerome was sick with 10  
 the flu. Feeling sorry for himself, he sat on the 20  
 couch. He looked out the window at his backyard 29  
 swing set. It wasn’t exactly the swings that were 38  
 on his mind. Today was circus day, and he couldn’t 48  
 go. He was terribly disappointed. He would miss 56  
 watching the trapeze act. While playing on his 64  
 swing, Jerome often imagined he was a famous 72  
 trapeze artist swinging high above the crowd. 79  
 He decided to rest by taking a short nap. 88  
 When he woke up, the room had become very 97  
 dark. The outside windowpane had been magically 104  
 covered by a piece of cloth! “What in the world 114  
 happened?” he wondered. 117  
 Slowly, two friends pulled the cloth open like 125  
 curtains on a stage. Out of his window, Jerome saw 135  
 more friends. They were swinging, running, and 142  
 jumping around his yard. They had decided if 150  
 Jerome couldn’t go to the circus, the show would 159  
 come to him. 162  
 They played catch with large hoops and walked 170  
 along the top edge of a brick wall pretending it was 181  
 a high wire act. His friends looked so ridiculous! 190  
 Jerome curled over and roared with laughter. He 198  
 felt better now. Jerome thought it was wonderful to 207  
 have such good friends. 211

**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) = 79

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.

## Friendly Letter Writing Prompt

**Writing Situation:** You are thinking about a gift you have received.

**Purpose:** To tell about a gift in a friendly letter

**Audience:** Your friend

**Writing Directions:** Write a letter to a friend describing a gift someone gave to you. Explain why the gift is so special. Plan your letter before you begin writing.

### Student Checklist:

<b>Revising</b>
<p>___ Did you include the five parts of a good letter?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Heading (Date)</li> <li>___ Greeting (Salutation)</li> <li>___ Body</li> <li>___ Closing</li> <li>___ Signature</li> </ul> <p>___ Does your letter sound like you are talking to your friend?</p> <p>___ Is your letter interesting?</p> <p>___ Does your letter show why your gift is special?</p>
<b>Proofreading</b>
<p>___ Did you indent paragraphs?</p> <p>___ Did you use correct capitalization and punctuation?</p> <p>___ Did you use correct grammar?</p> <p>___ Did you spell all words correctly?</p>

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



# NOTES

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# NOTES

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# NOTES

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