

# STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

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



## GRADE 3 Theme 2

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

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

## Anansi and the Talking Melon

*Eric A. Kimmel*

One fine day Anansi the Spider sat in a thorn tree looking down into Elephant's garden. Elephant was hoeing his melon patch. The ripe melons seemed to call out to Anansi, "Look how juicy and sweet we are! Come eat us!"

Anansi loved to eat melons, but he was much too lazy to grow them himself. So he sat up in the thorn tree, waiting.

Soon it was too hot to work. Elephant put down his hoe and went inside his house to take a nap.

Anansi had been waiting for this moment. He broke off a thorn and dropped down into the melon patch. He used the thorn to bore a hole in the biggest, ripest melon.

Anansi squeezed inside and started eating. He ate and ate until he was as round as a berry.

"I'm full," Anansi said at last. "Elephant will be coming back soon. It is time to go."

Anansi tried to squeeze back through the hole he had made. He didn't fit! The hole was big enough for a thin spider, but much too small for a round one.

"I'm stuck!" Anansi cried. "I can't get out!"

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

1. What seemed to say, “Look how sweet we are! Come eat us”?

- A. the thorn tree
- B. Anansi
- C. the melons
- D. nobody

2. Why didn't Anansi have his own melons to eat?

- A. He was too lazy to grow them.
- B. Elephant grew them for Anansi.
- C. Anansi didn't like to eat melons.
- D. Anansi liked to work in the garden.

3. Anansi “ate and ate until he was round as a berry.”

This sentence means

- A. Anansi ate food and got thinner.
- B. Anansi ate a lot and grew bigger.
- C. Anansi turned into a berry.
- D. Anansi turned into a melon.

4. Why couldn't Anansi squeeze back out of the hole he had made?

- A. The hole had gotten smaller.
- B. The hole was plugged up.
- C. Anansi was too big to squeeze through the hole.
- D. Anansi was too lazy to squeeze through the hole.

Anansi sat down on a pile of melon seeds and waited. Time passed slowly. He was bored and wished he had something to do.

Late in the day, Elephant returned to the garden. Anansi had an idea. "I will say something. Elephant will think the melon is talking. What fun!" Elephant walked over to the melon patch. "Look at this fine melon. How big and ripe it is!" he said, picking it up.

"Ouch!" cried Anansi.

Elephant jumped. "Aah! Who said that?"

"I did, the melon," Anansi said.

"I didn't know melons could talk," said Elephant.

"Oh, we talk. The trouble is, no one listens."

Elephant exclaimed, "A talking melon! I must show this to the king."

Elephant ran down the road carrying the melon with Anansi inside. As he came before the king, Elephant bowed low and placed the melon at the king's feet.

The king looked down. "Why did you bring me a melon?" he asked Elephant. "I have hundreds of melons growing in my garden."

"You don't have a talking melon," Elephant said.

"A talking melon? Say something, melon."

The melon said nothing.

"Melon," the king said in a slightly louder voice, "I only want to hear you talk."

The melon still said nothing. The king grew impatient. "This is a stupid melon!" he said.

Just then the melon spoke. "Stupid, am I? Why do you say that? I'm not the one who talks to melons!"

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

5. After Anansi sat down on the melon seeds, time passed slowly. He was bored. The word *bored* means
- A. having a fun time.
  - B. not having something interesting to do.
  - C. being afraid.
  - D. working too hard.
6. The story says that Anansi had an idea. What was his idea?
- A. to get someone to listen to him
  - B. to frighten Elephant
  - C. to ask Elephant to take him to the king
  - D. to make Elephant think melons can talk
7. Did the king think the melon was special the first time he saw it?
- A. Yes, this melon was bigger than his melons.
  - B. Yes, the king liked melons.
  - C. No, the king already had hundreds of melons.
  - D. No, the king didn't like to eat melons.
8. How do you know the king thought melons could talk?
- A. The king spoke to the melon in a loud voice.
  - B. The king didn't trust Elephant.
  - C. The king said that the melon was smart.
  - D. The melon said nothing.

“How dare this melon insult me!” the king shouted. He picked up the melon and hurled it all the way to Elephant’s garden. KPOM! It smashed into the thorn tree and burst into pieces. Anansi picked himself up from among the bits of melon rind. Now that he was out of the melon, he was hungry again. Anansi climbed a banana tree. He sat in the middle of a big bunch of bananas and started eating.

Elephant returned to his melon patch. “You melons got me in trouble with the king!” he said. “From now on, I’m not listening to a word you say!”

“Good for you, Elephant!” Anansi called from the banana tree. “We bananas should have warned you. Talking melons are nothing but trouble.”

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

9. Why did Anansi climb the banana tree?

- A. He was tired of sitting in the melon.
- B. He was hungry again.
- C. He wanted to trick Elephant again.
- D. He wanted a better view of Elephant's garden.

10. Did Elephant know Anansi had tricked him?

- A. Yes, Anansi told him.
- B. Yes, that is why Elephant broke the melon.
- C. No, that's why he yelled at the other melons.
- D. No, Elephant just wanted to trick the king.

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

Read each sentence. Circle all of the **common nouns**.

1. Anna’s mother made a quilt from an old dress.
  
2. Gold and flowers were wedding gifts.
  
3. Stories about the animals were told at every gathering.

Read each sentence. On the line provided, write the **proper nouns** in each sentence.

4. On Sunday the mission church in Guadalupe is crowded.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
5. People in Mexico have a holiday in May.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read each sentence. Underline all of the **plural common nouns**.

6. Aunt Phoebe has seen many places and collected many things.
  
7. The symbols on her cloth are signs of faith, power, or love.



Read each sentence. Circle all of the **plural nouns**.

8. Curt's ancestors were elders in the tribe.
  
9. Men and women from many families dance together.
  
10. Relatives bake loaves of bread and cookies.

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. My sister braids her long brown hair.
  - B. I earned five dollars for mowing my naibors lawn.
  - C. An elephant weighs more than a lion.
  - D. No mistake
2.  A. When you leeve the yard, please bolt the gate.
  - B. The senator will give his speech in the morning.
  - C. Put a bandage on your skinned knee after you clean it.
  - D. No mistake
3.  A. The rusty park benchs were repainted last month.
  - B. Today’s nature programs were cancelled due to the rain.
  - C. The ladies collected money for the school carnival.
  - D. No mistake
4.  A. The soccer referee blows his whistle when he sees a foul.
  - B. The balloon floted skyward and disappeared in the clouds.
  - C. They put on warm coats and gloves before going out in the snow.
  - D. No mistake
5.  A. Would you like to have butter or jelly spead on your bread?
  - B. Some of the bottles we throw away can be recycled.
  - C. The runner began to sprint toward the finish line.
  - D. No mistake

6.  A. I was a nervous wreck during baseball tryouts.
- B. I am taking lessons because I don't know how to swim.
- C. Grandmother likes to rite poetry in our birthday cards.
- D. No mistake
7.  A. Let's have stew for dinner tonight.
- B. The young scout wanted to carve his statue out of cherry wood.
- C. Firefighters bravely searched the burning building to rescew the cat.
- D. No mistake
8.  A. The vase was filled with brite, colorful flowers.
- B. "Is it my turn?" asked the child.
- C. The baby giggled with delight when he saw the kitten.
- D. No mistake
9.  A. Mother used a sewing machine to fix the seam on my jeans.
- B. Skaters seemed to glide effortlessly across the ice.
- C. Knead the dough with your hands and then let it rise for two hours.
- D. No mistake
10.  A. Call a plumer to fix our clogged bathroom sink.
- B. Grandpa bought a bright, shiny new car.
- C. The detective matched the thumb print and solved the case.
- D. No mistake

<b>TOTAL SCORE: _____/10</b>
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**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. Children should always honor their parents.
  - A. flourish
  - B. needle
  - C. disrespect
  - D. respect
  
2. The expert climber led the group up the steep mountain.
  - A. unskilled
  - B. royalty
  - C. embroidered
  - D. skilled
  
3. The lace was sewn on the border of her dress.
  - A. collection
  - B. center
  - C. scraps
  - D. rodeo

**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. It was a beautiful day for the track meet.  
 In which sentence is the word meet used **in the same way** as in the sentence above?
  - A. We all worked frantically to meet the deadline.
  - B. Would it be possible to meet with you after school?
  - C. There is a lovely, large park where the two main streets meet.
  - D. The swimming meet will be held next Saturday.
  
5. The ranger used the beam of light on his miner’s hat to guide us through the cave.  
 In which sentence is the word beam used **in the same way** as in the sentence above?
  - A. When will the workers replace the broken beam?
  - B. Did you see the actress beam as they gave her the award?
  - C. My sister walked across the balance beam in gym class.
  - D. The beam from her flashlight helped her read in the dark.

**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 shiny, green plants in her office were artificial.
- A. sewn
  - B. metallic
  - C. real
  - D. unnatural
7. The artist was well known for his unique style of painting.
- A. rare
  - B. common
  - C. celebrity
  - D. wealthy

**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. People arrived early to watch the Fourth of July fireworks exhibition.
- A. ingredient
  - B. sacrifice
  - C. gathering
  - D. display
9. A flag is a symbol of a nation's independence.
- A. ancestor
  - B. ceremony
  - C. design
  - D. performer
10. Mockingbirds imitate the calls of other birds.
- A. offend
  - B. copy
  - C. thread
  - D. impair

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.*

As Grandmother sat on her covered porch, 7  
 she watched the cows come in from the meadow. 16  
 She had many fond memories of her childhood. 24  
 She remembered when she was a young milkmaid. 32  
 Grandmother had milked cows by hand. She 39  
 loved the animals’ steamy breath on cold, winter 47  
 mornings and the smell of straw and hay. She 56  
 was happiest feeding the calves milk from buckets. 64  
 She remembered every year her father and 71  
 mother drove to the hatchery. There they 78  
 purchased newly hatched baby chicks. The chicks 85  
 were kept in a warming box. This large, boxy 94  
 device was kept in the pantry. It was heated with 104  
 electricity. The chicks were fed finely ground corn 112  
 and fresh water. When their feathers developed, 119  
 they were turned loose into the yard. The chickens 128  
 liked to scratch in the grass and catch bugs. 137  
 Each of the four seasons was enjoyable, but 145  
 spring was best. She looked forward to seeing the 154  
 crops sprouting in the fields. She thought of running 163  
 after pink, squealing piglets. It made her laugh out 172  
 loud. 173  
 Grandmother was happy she still lived on the 181  
 farm. However, country life had changed. Almost 188  
 everything was automated. She realized machines 194  
 were useful, and life was easier now. Perhaps some 203  
 change is good. 206

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)	= 86

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.*

Joyce and Ben lived in the city. Their house was one mile west of Uncle Mack’s ranch. The children often went with their father to visit when he worked at the ranch. Roaming around the farm and riding ponies were always an adventure. Now they were older and expected to help on weekends.

It did not take long before Joyce and Ben realized farming was very hard work. Uncle Mack’s business depended on raising sheep, calves, and crops. To increase his income, he was also a horse trader. He knew almost every horse, colt, and pony in six counties. Most profitable for him was trading ponies. When he acquired a new pony, he would invite the kids for a ride. They tried not to become too attached with each new, adorable horse. They were aware it would soon be sold or traded.

One day they fell in love with a wonderful, little, brown and white spotted pony. It had a golden, flowing mane and tail. Secretly, they named him Scout. They were disappointed one Saturday afternoon when they rode their bicycles to the ranch. Scout was nowhere to be found. They turned and asked where the pony was. Uncle Mack smiled and answered, “You mean Scout? He is at the feed store being fitted for a new saddle.” Scout was theirs to keep.

**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) = 86

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.

## Expository Writing Prompt

**Writing Situation:** You are thinking about what you do to get ready for school.

**Purpose:** To give instructions

**Audience:** Your classmates

**Writing Directions:** Write instructions that tell how to get ready for school. Include the steps you do and what you need to get ready for school. Plan your instructions before you begin writing.

### Student Checklist:

<b>Revising</b>
<p>_____ Is your topic sentence the first sentence in your paragraph?</p> <p>_____ Did you use time-order words such as first, next, then, and finally?</p> <p>_____ Did you include every step?</p> <p>_____ Are your steps in the correct order?</p> <p>_____ Are your directions clear?</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	<b>TOTAL RUBRIC SCORE: _____ /4</b>
Genre Score: _____ /4	
Writing Traits Score: _____ /4	



# NOTES

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