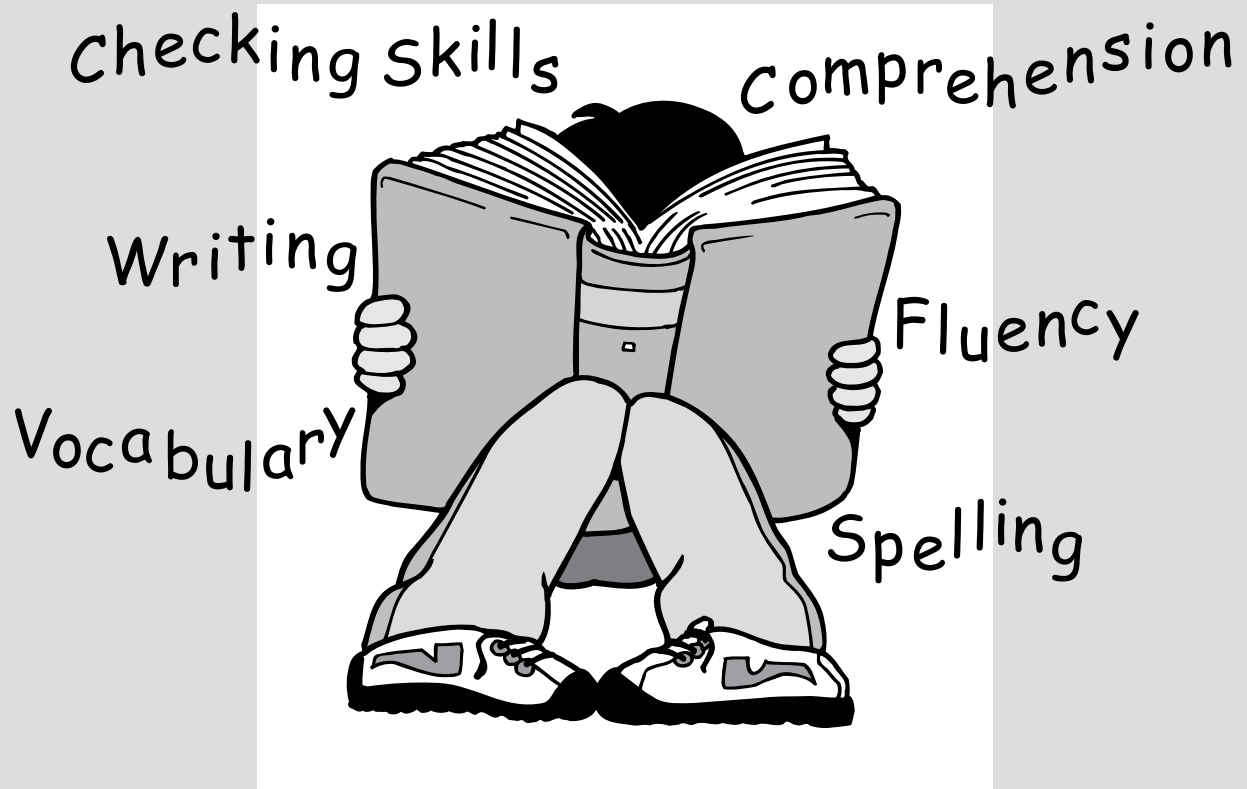


# STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

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



## GRADE 3 Theme 4

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

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

## Nature in the City: Plants

*Joan Elma Rahn*

How often have you admired the flowers in the window of a florist's shop? Most likely, every time you pass one. How many times have you admired the plants growing in the alley next to a florist's shop? Most likely, not very often. Yet, if you looked closely at some of these wild plants, you might find them very pretty, too.

Often we call plants growing in the country wild flowers. We call plants growing wild in the city weeds. But, a weed is simply a plant that is growing where it is not wanted. Pretty roses might be considered weeds if they grew in a lawn. Flowers in a vegetable garden might be called weeds if they shade the beans and carrots. If a plant made an alley pretty, why would you call it a weed?

In any city, you can find many weeds or wild flowers. Use whichever name pleases you. This selection describes two of the plants that grow wild in many cities. They may be hard to find where you live. Perhaps you will see them when you visit a friend or take a trip.

You can find many of these plants growing along streets and alleys. They also grow under fire escapes, in vacant lots, and in gardens and lawns. Some grow in the cracks in sidewalks. Others grow between the bricks of a street. People rarely mow closer than within an inch or two of telephone poles, traffic signs, fire hydrants, or fences. Check these places for interesting plants. School yards and city parks are other places to look.

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

1. Where would you most likely find plants growing wild in the city?
  - A. window ledges
  - B. a florist's shop
  - C. the countryside
  - D. vacant lots
  
2. Based on the text, the **best** definition of a weed is
  - A. a wild flower growing in the country.
  - B. a plant growing in the park.
  - C. a plant growing where it is not wanted.
  - D. flowers in the window of a florist's shop.
  
3. The author says you should look closely at weeds growing in alleys or sidewalk cracks because
  - A. weeds can be beautiful.
  - B. some weeds are poisonous.
  - C. some weeds have stickers.
  - D. weeds are not very interesting.
  
4. Fences and telephone poles are good places to look for wild flowers because
  - A. they only grow around fences and telephone poles.
  - B. fences and telephone poles are shady places.
  - C. these areas are seldom bothered by people.
  - D. people plant wild flower seeds beside fences and telephone poles.

The two plants described below are considered weeds in the city. You don't have to worry about getting into trouble if you pick them. However, there are places where you are not allowed to pick any plants. This includes weeds. Of course, you should never trespass or walk onto private property without permission.

### **Dandelion**

If you asked people to name just one weed, most would say the dandelion. Almost everyone knows about dandelions. They are among the most common weeds found in lawns and gardens.

The edge of each dandelion leaf is notched. The leaf looks like a row of teeth. These notches gave dandelions their name. Our English name for them comes from the French name *dent de lion*. This means, "tooth of the lion." The leaves are good to eat in the spring when they are still small and tender. You can eat the leaves raw in a salad or cooked as a vegetable. Later in the year, they become tough and bitter.

A dandelion plant has several stems, each with a head of flowers at its tip. When the heads become older, they close. Then, small fruits with tiny seeds form. When the fruits are ripe, the heads open again. Each fruit is topped by a parachute of fine hairs. The hairs make the head look white and fluffy. The parachute helps the fruit to be carried by the wind. Another name for dandelion is blowball.

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

5. The story mentions that you should never trespass on private property. In this sentence, *trespass* means

- A. entering property without being told it is okay.
- B. finding plants growing along streets.
- C. planting flowers on someone's property.
- D. picking weeds on your property.

6. What does the name *dandelion* mean?

- A. mane of the lion
- B. hair of the lion
- C. tooth of the lion
- D. tail of the lion

### Tree-of-Heaven

In the United States, the tree-of-heaven is more common in cities than the country. The tree-of-heaven comes from China and Japan. It did not grow in the United States until 1820 when a few trees were planted in New York City. They grew so well in the smoke and pollution that they were planted in other cities. The seeds from the trees often grew into new trees.

You may find tree-of-heaven in two different kinds of places in cities. Some of them grow along streets where they were planted. Many more grow as weeds in vacant lots. You can also find them under fire escapes, along alleys, and in cracks in sidewalks.

When they are young, trees-of-heaven look a little like smooth sumac. Unlike the smooth sumac, they grow into large trees. The leaves have eleven to forty-one leaflets. Each leaf may be as long as three feet.

The flowers are small and greenish. They occur in large, loose sprays. The twisted fruits have one seed in the center. The fruits turn yellow or orange by midsummer. They stay on the tree until winter.

Trees-of-heaven grow rapidly. They can provide a great deal of shade in just a few years.

*Now answer the questions about the story.*

7. How can you recognize the tree-of-heaven?

- A. by its rough bark
- B. by its leaves that grow up to three feet in length
- C. by its large, red flowers
- D. by its small, red berries

8. What is the **main** reason the tree-of-heaven grows well in cities?

- A. People plant it for shade.
- B. It has hard bark.
- C. It grows rapidly.
- D. Smoke and pollution don't bother it.

9. How is the tree-of-heaven different from the sumac?

- A. When it is young, its bark is smoother than the sumac.
- B. It grows bigger than the sumac.
- C. The sumac doesn't have flowers.
- D. The sumac grows faster.

10. In the story, *Nature in the City: Plants*, the **main** idea is

- A. people should plant more wild flowers.
- B. the dandelion is a pesky, city weed.
- C. the tree-of-heaven is a beautiful shade tree.
- D. people should take joy in all plants that grow in the city.

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10
-----------------------

Complete each sentence by using a word from the box. Fill in the blank with the correct form of the **verb to be** that matches the subject. Use the **verb tense** named in parentheses.

be      is      are      was      were

1. Puffins \_\_\_\_\_ the “clowns of the sea.” (present tense)
2. Halla \_\_\_\_\_ a friend of the chicks. (past tense)
3. A puffling \_\_\_\_\_ ready to fly over the village. (present tense)

Read each sentence. Circle the **helping verb** and underline the **regular verb** it is helping.

4. Seals have basked in the warm sun.
5. Ben and the seal have shared the music of Beethoven.
6. A dark shape has swooped under the board.



Complete each sentence with the correct **past tense** form of the **verb** in parentheses.

7. Deer \_\_\_\_\_ into the garden to eat the new lettuce. (go)
8. Many neighbors \_\_\_\_\_ the beautiful animals in the city. (see)
9. The animal control officers \_\_\_\_\_ to rescue the deer. (come)
10. Carl Jackson \_\_\_\_\_ the deer to a new home in the woods. (take)

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 mule carried heavy supplies on its back.
  - B. When I was young, I enjoyed saving money in a piggy bank.
  - C. We'll have to stop at the gas station before leaveing town.
  - D. No mistake
2.  A. The twists and turns of the mystery story excited my imagination.
  - B. Ocean divers wear goggles and use fippers to help them swim easily.
  - C. Cats, mice, and rats all have whiskers.
  - D. No mistake
3.  A. The baby slept peacefully in his carriage.
  - B. Scientists carefully examined the strange object.
  - C. Hold the puppy gently in your arms.
  - D. No mistake
4.  A. Three black bears crossed the raging river.
  - B. I still need to sell five boxes of candy.
  - C. Mother made several batches of cookies for the meeting.
  - D. No mistake
5.  A. The blacksmith watched the iron horseshoe turn red hot in the fire.
  - B. The crowd became quiet when the speaker approatched the stage.
  - C. There were seashells all over the beach.
  - D. No mistake

6.  A. Saying farewell to friends when they move away is difficult.
- B. The team thought the rule was unfair.
- C. Are you wearing a new pair of gloves?
- D. No mistake
7.  A. Would you like to chare this fruit salad?
- B. The librarian hushed the rowdy students.
- C. Cooks chopped garlic, onions, and herbs to put in the soup.
- D. No mistake
8.  A. I was so proud when classmates said my story was wonderful.
- B. We wrapped the present with newspaper and ribbon.
- C. Did you rest in bed wile you were sick?
- D. No mistake
9.  A. Her wet hair was tangled after she shampooed it.
- B. The bear cub tried to scare the rabbit by growling fiercely.
- C. “Those pears are not ripe,” said Mother.
- D. No mistake
10.  A. We begged grandfather to retell his favorite fishing story.
- B. Students were hopefull they would earn enough money for the field trip.
- C. There was no sign of anger in the friendly barks of the dogs.
- 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 turtles felt safe laying their eggs on the uninhabited island.
  - A. surrounding
  - B. populated
  - C. mountainous
  - D. speckled
  
2. Many animals instinctively follow a yearly migration route.
  - A. thoughtfully
  - B. solemnly
  - C. broadly
  - D. elatedly
  
3. We appreciated the freshly-baked pie Grandmother made for dessert.
  - A. surfed
  - B. swooped
  - C. hated
  - D. exhaled

**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. The photographer needed three models to pose for the photo shoot.  
 In which sentence is the word shoot used **in the same way** as in the sentence above?
  - A. Suddenly, bright rays of light began to shoot through the clouds.
  - B. Shoot that message to the boss right away!
  - C. Water began to shoot out of the fountain and soak the spectators.
  - D. My camera broke in the middle of the shoot for the sports magazine.
  
5. Surfers rode the huge swell all the way to the beach.  
 In which sentence is the word swell used **in the same way** as in the sentence above?
  - A. Membership in the club began to swell after fees were lowered.
  - B. Put ice on your injured knee so it won't swell.
  - C. Everyone had a swell time playing miniature golf.
  - D. The weatherman warned of large ocean swells due to hurricane force winds.

## 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 vacant apartment seemed lonely and deserted.
- A. rumbled
- B. buffeted
- C. empty
- D. dissolved
7. The anxious contestant paced back and forth while trying to think of the correct answer.
- A. reformed
- B. worried
- C. swerving
- D. protesting

## 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. While the parents set up tents, the children wandered into the forest and became lost.
- A. nestled
- B. roamed
- C. burrowed
- D. molted
9. A crowd gathered to watch the launching of the space shuttle.
- A. basking
- B. venture
- C. flickering
- D. send-off
10. Two starving deer knocked over the garbage cans.
- A. grazing
- B. panicking
- C. hungry
- D. stranded

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.*

Dawn did not like vegetables! Once, she took an oath claiming she would never try them again. In fact, she disliked vegetables so much she wouldn’t feed them to Ming, her pet turtle. She fed Ming the same foods she liked to eat. She even fed her turtle her favorite dessert, blueberry cobbler. Now, Dawn loves vegetables! What happened that made her change her mind?

Ming had become sluggish and slept all the time, refusing to come out of his shell. Dawn didn’t know what was wrong. She carried him to her mother and exclaimed, “Ming is sick and won’t eat! What’s the matter with him?” Her mother immediately knew why Ming didn’t feel well. Mother told her to feed him fresh vegetables and assured her Ming would soon feel better.

After several weeks, Ming was the active turtle he had been. Helping Ming get well was much easier than Dawn thought. She had learned how important vegetables were to a healthy diet. They were also quite tasty. Dawn started going to the store with her mother every Friday to buy fresh produce. She enjoyed making salads for her family.

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)	= <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

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.*

Daylight was just breaking. The sun was 7  
beginning to peek over the horizon. Jessie sat 15  
quietly in his tree house. He was looking down on 25  
his backyard. He noticed that heavy dew had settled 34  
on the lawn overnight. Jessie pulled his coat tighter 43  
around him. He thought about his class assignment. 51  
It was to study animals that had adapted to city life. 62  
He had chosen squirrels because of their ability to 71  
survive. 72

Jessie watched as squirrels slowly crept out of 80  
their nests. The youngest ones chased each other. 88  
They scampered from limb to limb. Older squirrels 96  
busily gathered supplies for the winter. The first 104  
frost was only a few weeks away. Leaves were 113  
turning brilliant, fall colors. Soon snow would 120  
cover the ground. Then, it would be too late for 130  
the squirrels to hide acorns. 135

A shadow glided across the treetops. It was a 144  
hawk hungrily exploring for food. The bird saw 152  
the squirrels in the huge, old, oak tree. The hawk 162  
plunged down to pursue a tasty morning meal, but it 172  
was too late. The squirrels had already taken cover. 181  
They were hiding in their homes. Jessie sighed with 190  
relief. He had given many of them names, and he 200  
considered them friends. 203

**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) = 105

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:** For the second time this week, your friend has asked to copy your math homework.

**Purpose:** To describe how you would solve a problem

**Audience:** Your teacher

**Writing Directions:** Write an essay telling one way you would solve the problem of your friend asking to copy your homework. Explain why and tell what you think might happen. Plan your problem-solution essay before you begin writing.

### Student Checklist:

<b>Revising</b>
<p>_____ Did you begin by clearly stating the problem?</p> <p>_____ Did you describe how you would solve the problem?</p> <p>_____ Did you include the reasons for your decision?</p> <p>_____ Does your ending tell what might happen?</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

---

# NOTES

---

# NOTES

---

**Sixth Edition**

**© 2008 Reading Lions Center**

**Unauthorized reproduction of this booklet, or any part thereof, is strictly prohibited.  
Permission to reproduce materials must be obtained in writing from the Reading Lions Center.**

Every effort has been made to contact the copyright holders of any material reproduced in this booklet.  
Any omissions will be rectified in subsequent printings if notice is given to the publishers.