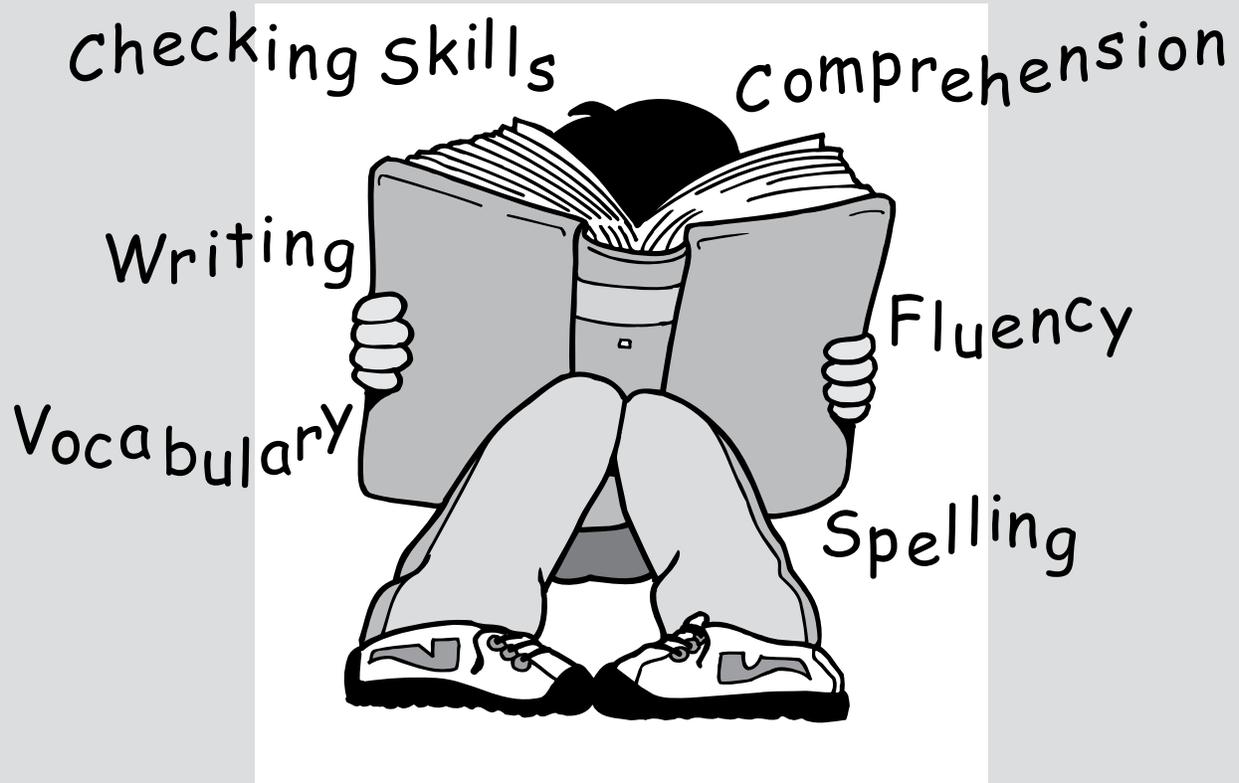


STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

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



GRADE 3
Theme 6

Student Name _____

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

Summer at the Farm

Pat Bush

Lenny could hardly believe his ears when his Uncle Ed called. He asked, “How would you like to spend the summer on the farm with Aunt Susan and me?” Lenny jumped at the chance. He had read many books about animals and life on a farm.

His family lived in the city. They rented an apartment on the third floor of a large building. When Lenny looked out his bedroom window, all he could see was the building across the street. He often daydreamed about visiting his uncle’s farm.

Early Saturday morning, Lenny and his family got in the car. It was a long day’s drive to the farm, but Lenny didn’t mind. From the back seat he watched the tall buildings slowly disappear. Telephone poles and fences began to line the highway. Then it narrowed and became a two-lane road. White farmhouses with red barns dotted the countryside. It was all very exciting to him.

Lenny’s mother turned around in the front seat and said, “We’re almost there. It’s just around the next curve.” A minute later his father said, “That’s Uncle Ed’s farm over there. It’s the one surrounded by those tall oak trees.”

As they drove up the long gravel driveway, they saw Uncle Ed and Aunt Susan. They were standing on the front porch steps waving excitedly. As soon as the car stopped, Lenny jumped out. He gave his aunt and uncle a quick hug and ran to the barnyard. There were ducks, geese, and chickens pecking in the grass. Milk cows were heading toward the barn for their evening milking. A horse with her baby foal stood in the shade under a tree. It was just as he imagined it would be; what a great summer vacation he would have.

Now answer the questions about this part of the story.

1. Where does Lenny live?
 - A. In the country
 - B. In the city
 - C. On a farm
 - D. In the mountains

2. What does the author mean when she wrote, “he watched the tall buildings slowly disappear”?
 - A. Magic made the buildings disappear.
 - B. Lenny could always see the buildings from the car.
 - C. As the car got farther from the buildings, they appeared to get smaller.
 - D. The buildings were imaginary.

3. How did Lenny’s parents describe which farm belonged to Uncle Ed and Aunt Susan?
 - A. It was near the highway and around a curve.
 - B. It had a white farmhouse.
 - C. It had a red barn.
 - D. It was surrounded by tall oak trees.

The next morning, Lenny could smell a delicious aroma coming from the kitchen. Aunt Susan had fixed homemade biscuits and gravy, sausage, scrambled eggs, and fried potatoes. They all sat down together. What a feast!

After breakfast, Lenny said good-bye to his parents. He would miss his mom and dad, but he knew his summer vacation would be an adventure. Lenny watched as his parents drove out of sight. Just as he was imagining the fun he was about to have, his thoughts were interrupted. “OK, son, it’s time to get to work,” his uncle said. Lenny’s dad had explained to him that there would be lots of farm chores, and he would need to help. His mom told him there would still be time for fun.

Uncle Ed said, “I’ll feed the cows while you feed the chickens.”

“Come along, Lenny,” said Aunt Susan. “I’ll show you where the cracked corn is and how to put it in the chicken feeders.” After showing Lenny how to feed the chickens, Aunt Susan went back to the farmhouse.

Lenny cleaned the feeders and filled them with corn. He then opened the coop to let the chickens out. As he walked to the house, he heard the chickens clucking. Looking back, he saw he’d left the gate to the pen open and chickens were running all over the barnyard. Lenny discovered chasing chickens was easier said than done. The minute some were back inside, others had gotten out. Finally, after dashing and diving for chickens, Lenny collapsed on the ground. Breathlessly, he began to laugh and thought how funny he must have looked. But at least all the chickens were safe in the pen.

Just as Lenny was standing up and brushing off his jeans, Uncle Ed walked out of the barn. He laughingly called out, “Those chickens can be a handful!” Then Uncle Ed asked, “How would you like to ride on the tractor with me? I have to drive down to the lower field to mend fences, and I could use your help.” Uncle Ed quickly gathered the tools needed to repair the fences. He handed a thermos of cold water to Lenny as they both climbed onto the tractor. Uncle Ed let Lenny steer the tractor as they drove out of the barn and down the hill.

Now answer the questions about this part of the story.

4. When did Lenny's parents leave the farm?

- A. after Lenny got out of the car
- B. in the morning after breakfast
- C. at the end of the week
- D. in the evening after dinner

5. Lenny thought his vacation would be

- A. adventurous.
- B. dangerous.
- C. uneventful.
- D. mysterious.

6. How did the chickens get out of the pen?

- A. Aunt Susan let them out of the pen when she fed them.
- B. The gate to the chicken pen was always open.
- C. The chicken pen didn't have a gate.
- D. Lenny didn't close the gate when he left the chicken pen.

7. Uncle Ed asked Lenny to help him mend the fences.

The word *mend* means to

- A. repair.
- B. build.
- C. gather.
- D. brush.

After several hours of fixing fences, they had worked up an appetite. Uncle Ed said, “Aunt Susan will have a hearty lunch waiting for us by the time we get back to the house.” That sounded good to Lenny. He was starving!

When they were done clearing the table after lunch, Aunt Susan asked Lenny if he had ever ridden a horse. Lenny responded that he never had but would love to learn. The two of them walked to the barn where there was a chestnut-colored horse named Red. Aunt Susan explained how to feed and safely work around horses. Lenny petted Red and gave him some apple slices. Then Lenny brushed Red’s coat and got him ready to be saddled.

A brown, leather saddle hung on a stall. Lenny helped put the saddle on Red. Aunt Susan pulled the cinch tightly around the horse’s stomach. Then the reins were placed over Red’s head and the bit was gently put in his mouth. Lenny climbed onto the saddle. He felt like a real cowboy. Aunt Susan said, “Lenny, you need to wear this.” Then she handed him his very own, brand-new, cowboy hat. Lenny grinned from ear to ear as Aunt Susan led them out of the barn and into the corral. He looked forward to being able to ride Red all summer long.

That evening as the sun began to set, Lenny and his uncle went out to milk the cows. While they were milking, two little kittens came up and started meowing. When they opened their mouths, Uncle Ed squirted a stream of milk at them. Lenny tried to mimic what his uncle had done, but he missed the cats and squirted his uncle instead. They both laughed out loud.

After dinner when all the chores of the day were done, they sat in the swing on the front porch. Lenny was very quiet. Finally he said, “I really like the farm. This is going to be the best summer of my life.”

His uncle agreed, “It will be for us, too.”

Now answer the questions about this part of the story.

8. Before he ate lunch, Lenny was starving because

- A. he hadn't eaten all day.
- B. lunch was served later than usual.
- C. he had been working for several hours.
- D. Lenny was always hungry.

9. Aunt Susan gave Lenny a

- A. new pony.
- B. saddle.
- C. cowboy hat.
- D. kitten.

10. This story is about

- A. driving to the country.
- B. Lenny's adventures on his uncle's farm.
- C. chasing chickens around the farmyard.
- D. riding horses.

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10

Read each sentence. On the line next to the sentence, write the **adjectives**, including the **articles**.

1. Little Pepita ducked behind the white fence. _____

2. Miguel bounced a rubber ball three times. _____

3. Juan ate two crispy, crunchy tacos. _____

Read each sentence. Choose the correct form of the **adjective** listed in parentheses to complete each sentence. Write the word on the line.

4. The house was the _____ it had ever been for Big Mama's and Aunt Viney's visit. (cleaner, cleanest)

5. The chimes of the grandfather clock were _____ than the creaking rocking chair. (quieter, quietest)

6. Poppa's new pants were _____ than his black pants. (shortest, shorter)

7. Grandma Tiny hemmed the pants _____ than Big Mama. (fastest, faster)

Read each sentence and circle the **adverbs**.

8. Suddenly, Picky-picky ran outside.

9. Beezus quietly asked if she could go to Mary Jane's house.

10. The Quimbys cheerfully drove to the nearest Whopperburger.

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. I gave my brother a striped sweater for his birthday.
 - B. Listen carefully to the question before you give the answer.
 - C. What color did you paint your bedroom?
 - D. No mistake
2. A. The puppy was so exhausted it didn't even wiggle its tail.
 - B. Did your travle agent make the hotel reservation for you?
 - C. Please sharpen your pencil before you take the test.
 - D. No mistake
3. A. The greatest victories are achieved by doing your best.
 - B. That is the prettiest tree in our neighborhood.
 - C. Your puppy is so much livelier than mine.
 - D. No mistake
4. A. Please close the door completely so the bugs can't get in.
 - B. She sang the anthem loudly and joyfully.
 - C. The small living room had a warm, airy feel.
 - D. No mistake
5. A. Grandmother bought her first cordless phone yesterday.
 - B. The brightness of our teacher's smile made us feel welcome.
 - C. People were surprised by the suddenness of the storm.
 - D. No mistake

6. A. Children were happily skipping down the sidewalk.
- B. Have you seen your grandmother lately?
- C. The family was glad they could finaly move into their new home.
- D. No mistake
7. A. Our flight was delayed because of mechanical problems.
- B. The tiny kingdom was located betwene two rivers.
- C. Which senator voted against the bill?
- D. No mistake
8. A. Where did the traffic acident happen?
- B. The doctor and nurses had concerned looks on their faces.
- C. I would like to have apple sauce and pork chops for dinner.
- D. No mistake
9. A. Please don't smuge the mirror with your fingerprints.
- B. His mother took him to register for the baseball team.
- C. His apology was thoughtful and genuine.
- D. No mistake
10. A. Luckily, toxic fumes weren't leaking from the broken gas tank.
- B. Arn't you going to the dentist's office today?
- C. We should make plans to meet at seven o'clock.
- 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. He became sullen when his mother said he couldn't go to the park.
 - A. rumped
 - B. grumbly
 - C. blissful
 - D. curdled

2. Today's rainy weather report discouraged our picnic plans.
 - A. encouraged
 - B. vexed
 - C. draped
 - D. hemmed

3. The companionable train passengers made the trip to the city go quickly.
 - A. rustling
 - B. plaid
 - C. unfriendly
 - D. Spanish

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 student had to dart across the playground to avoid being late for school.

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

 - A. My uncle taught me how to throw a dart.
 - B. The seamstress sewed a dart on my shirt to make it fit better.
 - C. The mosquito stung me with its sharp dart.
 - D. I watched the child dart behind bushes to hide from friends.

5. The sales lady seemed to be cross with all her customers.

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

 - A. Don't forget to look both ways before you cross the street.
 - B. The spoiled and cross child refused to leave the store.
 - C. Be sure you cross all your *t*'s before turning in your spelling paper.
 - D. The new mall is located where Elm Street and Walnut Street cross.

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 indignant players yelled at each other after losing the game.
 - A. wheezed
 - B. angry
 - C. genuine
 - D. feeble

7. The sun broke through the rain clouds, and a colorful rainbow emerged.
 - A. crouched
 - B. scurried
 - C. relented
 - D. appeared

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. Her dismal mood affected everyone around her.
 - A. vague
 - B. dreary
 - C. pelting
 - D. ceaseless

9. Grandmother asked the tailor to mend her coat.
 - A. dribble
 - B. inhabit
 - C. mute
 - D. repair

10. The hungry and exhausted hikers were thrilled to reach camp.
 - A. weary
 - B. stern
 - C. cognitive
 - D. obedient

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.

Lou was the oldest of three children. He thought 9
 he was ready to learn how to budget money. He 19
 asked his parents for a weekly allowance. The boy’s 28
 parents were not very excited about the idea. Lou 37
 explained the subject was important. After all, he 45
 was ten years old. He wanted to learn how to be 56
 responsible. 57
 Lou’s parents decided to have a meeting. 64
 Family talks usually took place after dinner. The 72
 boy helped clear the table. He put away the leftover 82
 food. Finally, they were seated. Everyone was ready 90
 to discuss the boy’s request. To Lou’s surprise, the 99
 first issue was not about his allowance. Instead, 107
 they talked about sharing chores. This had not been 116
 part of his plan. He just wanted them to say he 127
 could have some spending money, but his parents 135
 offered to pay him for doing chores. 142
 His parents listed several jobs. They asked 149
 him to choose at least three. He could help carry 159
 out the garbage. He might choose to wash the 168
 dishes on weekends. Perhaps he’d watch his baby 176
 brother when his mother needed help. The other 184
 choices were dusting the furniture or sweeping the 192
 sidewalks. Lou began to realize that money did not 201
 grow on trees. He was going to have to earn his 212
 allowance. 213

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)	= 114

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.

Ginny laid a handful of coins on the table. There were quarters, nickels, and pennies. She studied them for a while. Ginny planned to write about the history of money for a school project. She had been doing research at the library. She pulled out her notebook and reread the information.

Long ago, many different items were used for money. This idea amazed Ginny. People in some cultures paid for goods with beads and shells. For instance, brightly colored shells were used in India. Some nations traded with whales’ teeth or large stone disks.

She had learned the first metal coins were a mixture of gold and silver. They were made in little, round nuggets. These ancient coins were invented nearly three thousand years ago. Later, money was made from various metals. Their value depended on the size and weight of the object. These coins had to be weighed each time they changed hands. This process was not practical. Finally, coins were weighed and stamped with their value. That was the beginning of money as we know it today.

Her planning phase was finished. She had learned a lot about the history of money. Now Ginny was ready to start drafting her report.

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) = 114

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.

Persuasive Writing Prompt

Writing Situation: You are thinking about why you should receive an allowance.

Purpose: To persuade your reader to think in a certain way

Audience: Your parent

Writing Directions: Write a persuasive essay to convince your parent to give you an allowance. Make an idea web to plan the reasons that will persuade your parent to agree with you.

Student Checklist:

Revising
<p>_____ Did you state your position clearly at the beginning of the essay?</p> <p>_____ Have you used good reasons to support your position?</p> <p>_____ Have you used convincing words?</p> <p>_____ Does your closing sentence restate your position?</p>
Proofreading
<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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Sixth Edition

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