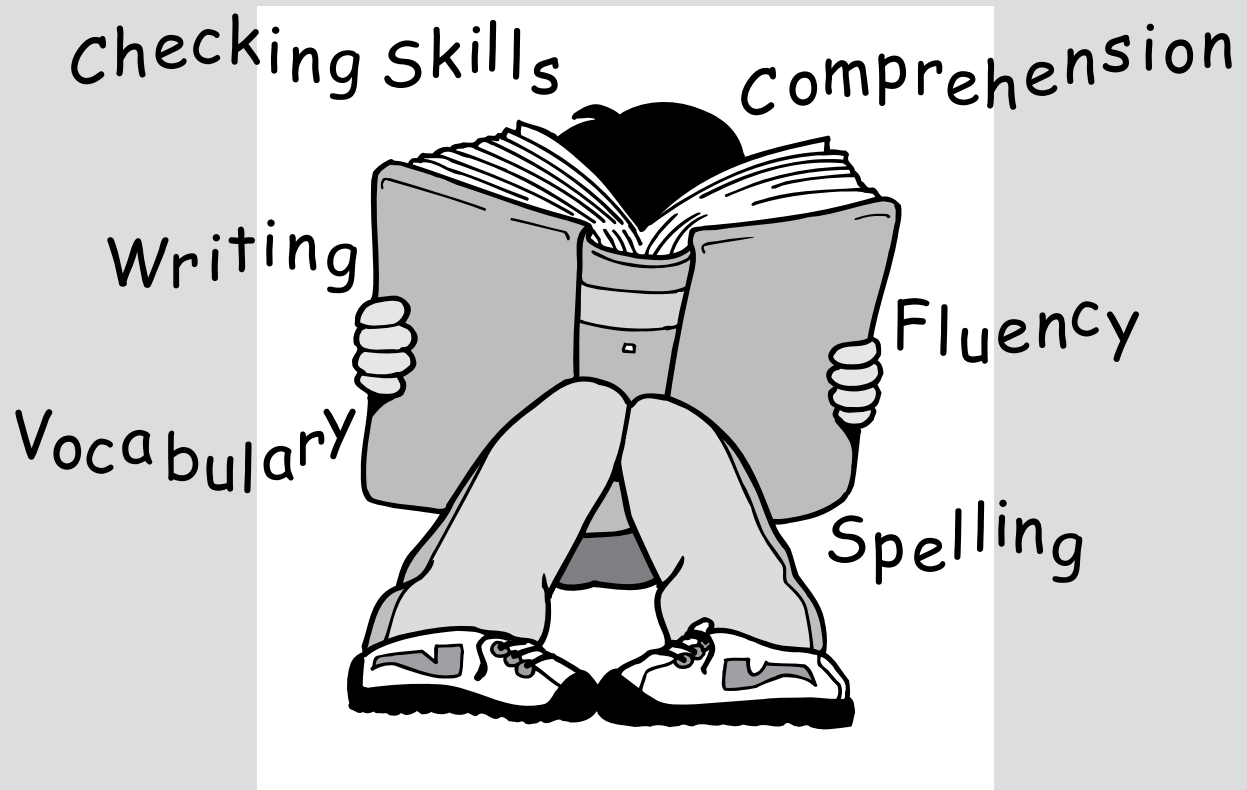


STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

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



GRADE 4 Theme 1

Student Name _____

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

A Four-Hundred-Year-Old Mystery

Ann Feetham

“It’s a daughter!” Ananias Dare shouted proudly from the door of his two-room log house. “My Eleanor has given birth to a baby girl!”

The men were busy felling trees and clearing thick underbrush around their village. They stopped working and cheered. A smiling woman stepped outside into the bright sunlight. She had assisted the young mother throughout her labor. She was holding a tiny bundle in her arms.

John White, governor and leader of the group, hurried forward. He began pumping young Ananias’s hand vigorously. The governor slapped him on the back. “My granddaughter is the first English babe to be born in this great New World. What will be her name?”

“We will call her Virginia,” the new father said. Then he beamed.

“Ah, it’s fitting that she should bear the name of our village, the city of Raleigh at Virginia,” the grandfather agreed.

There was much merrymaking that day. Virginia’s birth on August 18, 1587, was considered a good omen. The 117 men, women, and children had recently arrived in America. Just a few weeks before, they had come ashore at Roanoke Island off the North Carolina coast. Later, they had moved cautiously inland. They were awed by their new surroundings.

The soil was fertile. The thick forests were rich with timber. Fruits and berries grew abundantly in the woods. There were deer, foxes, rabbits, wild turkeys, and other game. There were also many kinds of fish in the rivers and streams.

When the settlers came upon Fort Raleigh, it was abandoned. It had been the site of an earlier unsuccessful colony. The settlers decided to live there. Right away, the men began repairing the dilapidated log houses. They also raised new buildings. The women busied themselves setting up housekeeping. The children helped in any way they could.

The only other people living in America at that time were scattered Native-American tribes. Not all of them were friendly. Some tribes were frightened of the strange white people who had arrived in “white-winged ships.” But the Croatoans were different. They were friendly. They helped the settlers in many ways.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

1. Why was Virginia Dare's birth considered a good *omen*, meaning a sign or prophecy, for the colonists?
 - A. The women in the colony were happy to have a new baby boy.
 - B. It signified the birth or beginning of the colonists' new life in Virginia.
 - C. Governor White had a new daughter.
 - D. The birth of the child meant the other children would have a new playmate.

2. What is the **main** reason the colonists decided to settle on Roanoke Island?
 - A. It had good soil, abundant food, and natural resources.
 - B. They were tired of traveling and thought the land was beautiful.
 - C. Governor White owned the land.
 - D. They would be safe from pirates.

3. The men immediately began repairing the dilapidated log houses. What does the word *dilapidated* mean?
 - A. well built
 - B. rundown
 - C. mysterious
 - D. new

Nine days after Virginia was born, her grandfather, Governor White, called a meeting. He wanted to send their ships back to England for needed farm tools and other supplies. Everyone agreed. They felt that one or more of the nine assistant governors should return with the fleet. But none wanted to leave. Reluctantly, Governor White agreed to go.

At the meeting, the people talked of moving the settlement fifty miles inland. They believed weather conditions inland would be more favorable for farming. They also thought there would be less danger from unfriendly Native Americans and Spanish pirate ships.

“If you leave this place while I’m away, leave a sign. Then I will know where you have gone,” the governor said.

What kind of sign?” someone asked. “Carve your destination on some place easy to find. A tree, post, or door would work.” He suggested, “If there is danger when you leave, carve a cross over the letters.”

The next day the governor kissed little Virginia and said good-bye. “I’ll be back soon,” he promised. But when he arrived in England, he found his country prepared for war with Spain. This turn of events delayed his return to the colony for three long years.

It was May 20, 1590, when Governor White set sail again for the New World. The journey was slow. The captain, John Watts, was a notorious privateer commander. He was more concerned with taking prizes along the way than reaching the colonists.

They finally landed on the shores of Roanoke Island. The governor could hardly wait to see his beautiful granddaughter. “She’s three years old now. She will call me Grandfather,” he boasted to the crew.

They hurried to the place where the settlement had been. However, instead of a happy reunion, they found the village deserted. The area was overgrown with grass and weeds. Most things of value were missing. Looters or the weather had destroyed what remained.

Governor White stood silently. He stared at the ruins. Where is everyone? He wondered.

“Over here, Governor!” one of the men shouted. “I’ve found something!” He pointed to the word CROATOAN carved on a post.

“What does it mean, sir?” another man asked.

“It’s the name of a Native-American tribe from a nearby island,” Governor White replied. He explained that his people were to leave a sign if they left before his return.

The governor looked closely at the letters on the post. “There is no cross or sign of distress,” he said. He felt encouraged. “Let us pray my people are safe with the Croatoans.”

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

4. Why did Governor White leave the colony after Virginia Dare was born and go back to England?
- A. He was sick.
 - B. His granddaughter was sick.
 - C. The colony needed to stay in touch with family members in England.
 - D. The colony needed farm tools and other supplies.
5. Why did it take Governor White three years to get back to Roanoke Island?
- A. He ran out of money.
 - B. His ships got lost in a storm.
 - C. His ships were captured by pirates.
 - D. England was prepared for war with Spain.
6. What did Governor White find when he finally returned to Roanoke Island?
- A. Some of the colonists were sick.
 - B. The colonists had disappeared.
 - C. Most of the colonists were dead.
 - D. Many of the colonists were starving.

An approaching storm cut short the search around the fort. Everyone scurried back to the ships. Governor White planned to sail to Croatoan Island, but the storm worsened. One ship was almost driven onto the beach. So, the ships put to sea. Damage to the ships and a short supply of food and fresh water forced the crews to return to England.

Back home, Governor White's efforts to organize another rescue expedition failed. There was a lack of interest in England. He did not have enough money to finance the trip himself. The governor believed that some of the colonists, including his daughter and Virginia, were still alive. He grieved over the hardships they might be facing.

Twelve years passed before Sir Walter Raleigh sent a ship and crew to search for the colonists. However, when Captain Mace and his men reached the Cape Fear area, they spent a month gathering roots and bark. These items were in strong demand in England for use as medicines. By the time Mace and his crew were finished, the weather was too stormy. Plans to search for the colonists were abandoned.

All other attempts to locate the colonists also failed. In a letter to a friend, written from his home on February 4, 1598, Governor White reported the failure of his fifth and final voyage to Virginia. In the letter, he prayed for the "merciful help of the Almighty." The governor still believed his people were alive. Later, the English settled in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. The new settlers had heard rumors of mysterious Europeans living at a Roanoke River town. However, it seemed unlikely to them that any of the last Virginians could have survived for twenty years. Besides, the new settlers had too many problems of their own. So, the whereabouts of Governor White's people remained a mystery.

There are many theories about what happened to these lost colonists. One is that they were attacked and killed by hostile Native Americans. Another is that they escaped to Croatoan Island and were killed later by enemy tribes. Still another is that some of the colonists remained with the Native Americans.

No one will ever know what really happened. Four hundred years have passed. The fate of the lost colonists is still a mystery. The people of Roanoke Island, however, have not forgotten their first English citizens. They especially remember little Virginia. The island where she was born was named Dare County in her honor, and the people there still celebrate her birthday every August.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

7. According to the story, which of the following statements is **not** true?
- A. Governor White made five voyages to Virginia to search for the colonists.
 - B. Some people thought the lost colonists had been attacked by hostile Native Americans.
 - C. All Native-American tribes in the New World were unfriendly.
 - D. Several unfortunate mishaps prevented Governor White from finding the lost colonists.
8. Why didn't Jamestown settlers try to find Governor White's people?
- A. They didn't know about the lost settlers.
 - B. They heard rumors that the mysterious Europeans had returned to England.
 - C. English people were not friendly with Europeans.
 - D. They had too many problems of their own.
9. Which word describes how Governor White must have felt after all attempts to find the colonists failed?
- A. content
 - B. silly
 - C. sorrowful
 - D. jubilant
10. Why will no one ever know what happened to the lost colonists?
- A. Captain Samuel Mace could find no trace of the colonists.
 - B. The colonists didn't want to be found.
 - C. So many years have passed that finding reliable clues would be impossible.
 - D. The people of Roanoke Island were forgotten by the people who live there.

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10

Read each sentence. Draw a vertical line between the complete subject and the complete predicate of each sentence. Write the simple subject and the simple predicate on the lines provided.

1. My grandfather visited many places in North America.

simple subject

simple predicate

2. The beauty of San Francisco Bay excited the young man from Japan.

simple subject

simple predicate

3. His journey by steamship brought him to the New World.

simple subject

simple predicate

Read each sentence. Underline each of the two sentences that have been combined in a compound sentence. Circle the conjunction that joins them.

4. Thousands of icebergs drift in the ocean, but many melt before they reach busy shipping lanes.
5. Special ships patrol the North Atlantic, and their crews use radar to spot icebergs.
6. Shippers use valuable information from the Coast Guard, but shipping can still be a risky business.

Read each sentence. Write the common nouns in each sentence on the lines provided.

7. Trains in Plum Creek had whistling engines.

8. Lumberyards were seen from the open window.

9. Girls traveling together wore straw hats with ribbons.

10. Fields and farmhouses were left behind as we traveled West.

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. Children formed animal shapes out of clay.
 - B. Aspirin is used to relieve minor aches and payns.
 - C. Gray squirrels scampered up the walnut tree.
 - D. No mistake
2. A. The step ladder helped him reech the tallest shelf.
 - B. Mother’s perfume has a sweet smell.
 - C. Snow White was named for her creamy, white skin.
 - D. No mistake
3. A. These pears are riper than the ones we ate last week.
 - B. That is the steepst cliff I’ve ever seen.
 - C. Vegetables at the farmers’ market are cheaper than at grocery stores.
 - D. No mistake
4. A. We were able to coast down the hill on our bikes.
 - B. Grandfather had grown a beard, and I didn’t recognize him.
 - C. They wrot an article for the school newspaper.
 - D. No mistake
5. A. The five senses are hearing, touch, taste, sight, and smell.
 - B. Detectives said the crime had occurred at midnight.
 - C. She dashed across the street before the lite turned red.
 - D. No mistake

6. A. I hope a few seats are left in the front row.
- B. The cowboy sat on the fence and whistled a toon.
- C. My tube of toothpaste is almost empty.
- D. No mistake
7. A. When the quarterback threw the pass, the crowd cheered.
- B. Is it true you are moving out of town?
- C. May I please have a glass of orange juce?
- D. No mistake
8. A. Weight here and watch the man load the truck.
- B. They had to wait at the bus stop for over an hour.
- C. The weight of the suitcase was more than I could lift.
- D. No mistake
9. A. Lost hikers blindly wandered through the forest.
- B. The dancer gracefully glided across the stage.
- C. Before you go into the woods, you must learn how to safly build a campfire.
- D. No mistake
10. A. We should have our picnic over there beside the lake.
- B. Their school books were by the front door.
- C. He said they're having a party next week.
- 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. Because firemen are often in dangerous situations, they must be courageous.
 - A. brave
 - B. rugged
 - C. cowardly
 - D. volunteers

2. The newspaper hired an experienced reporter to cover the race.
 - A. suspected
 - B. unskilled
 - C. practiced
 - D. unsinkable

3. The driver's bewildering explanation of the accident confused the police officer.
 - A. lurching
 - B. jolting
 - C. puzzling
 - D. clarifying

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. In the hospital, the man showed symptoms of lapsing into shock.
 In which sentence is the word shock used **in the same way** as in the sentence above?
 - A. A shock of white hair fell over the old man's face.
 - B. The shock of the earthquake destroyed the building.
 - C. The doctor explained the patient was in shock.
 - D. To avoid an electric shock, do not use a hair dryer near water.

5. The hermit lived in a remote area of Alaska because he wanted to be far away from civilization.
 In which sentence is the word remote used **in the same way** as in the sentence above?
 - A. Mother says she can never find the TV's remote control when she wants to change the channel.
 - B. The candidate's remote personality turned off voters.
 - C. The children said they had only a remote chance of winning the game.
 - D. We spent a week hiking in remote forests of the Rocky Mountains.

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 ball players were drenched by the sudden, afternoon rainstorm.
- A. soaked
- B. stilled
- C. funneled
- D. surrounded
7. When the distress call came in from the boaters, the rescue team left immediately.
- A. platform
- B. trouble
- C. frigid
- D. traditional

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. Uncle Jack's train arrived at the depot ahead of schedule.
- A. blizzard
- B. station
- C. wreckage
- D. shanty
9. Last night for homework we finished reading a story about the Pilgrims' voyage to America.
- A. monument
- B. homeland
- C. refuge
- D. journey
10. The children marveled as the magician pulled a rabbit out of his hat.
- A. wondered
- B. loomed
- C. longed
- D. burrowed

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.

Not long ago, the majestic condor was nearly 8
 extinct. This huge bird has a wingspan of nine feet or 19
 more. During the 1980s, the Los Angeles Zoo began 28
 a program to save these giant scavengers. At that 37
 time, only twenty-seven existed in the entire nation. 46
 All but one of them lived in captivity. In 1987, the 57
 last wild condor was caught. It was a nineteen-pound 67
 male. 68

Many people feared condors would perish in the 76
 zoo. They didn’t want to have the last of its kind 87
 removed from nature. Those who opposed confining 94
 the bird chained themselves to the zoo gate. This 103
 forced the keepers to ship the condor to the San Diego 114
 Zoo. The purpose of this act was to get the bird 125
 away from the protestors. A year later, the bird was 135
 returned to L.A. 138

One of the females captured in 1986 was named 147
 Adult Condor-8. While at the zoo, she produced 156
 nine babies. She remained in captivity for fourteen 164
 years. This bird was the first to be given her freedom. 175
 At the same time, two juveniles born at the zoo were 186
 released. The youngsters were placed under the 193
 watchful care of Adult Condor-8. People rejoiced 201
 when the birds were able to freely soar the skies of 212
 their natural habitat. 215

Still considered endangered, condor numbers had 221
 grown to 198 in the year 2002. Over one-third of the 233
 birds live in the wild. 238

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) = 99

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.

America got many of its ideas about freedom from 9
 William Penn. He was born in England. His father 18
 was a member of the Church of England. From an 28
 early age, Penn did not like the teachings of this 38
 church. After hearing a sermon by a preacher, he 47
 joined the Quaker church. At that time, this religion 56
 had been outlawed in England. 61
 Penn was expelled from college because of his 69
 beliefs. He was sent to prison six times for stating his 80
 opinions. He became bothered by the lack of spiritual 89
 freedom in his country. So, he moved to America. 98
 There, he created a safe haven. In his colony, people 108
 lived free from religious bias. 113
 Penn was a champion of human rights. He 121
 insisted that women deserved equal rights with men. 129
 He is also known for his fair treatment of Indians. 139
 He made a treaty with Indians living in his colony. 149
 It was intended to last “as long as the sun gave light.” 161
 Penn was put in jail for treason on a return trip 172
 to England. The authorities thought he wanted to 180
 overthrow the king. He was cleared of the charges. 189
 Then he returned to America. The people living in 198
 his colony still wanted more freedom. Penn listened. 206
 The resulting document was called “The Charter of 214
 Privileges.” 215

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)	= 99

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.

Narrative Writing Prompt

Writing Situation: You are thinking of a memorable event in your life that changed you in some way.

Purpose: To tell about a memorable event that changed you

Audience: Your friends

Writing Directions: Write a three-paragraph paper describing a time in your life that changed the way you think or feel. It can be about a person or event that helped you change or see things in a different way. Include an introduction, supporting paragraph, and conclusion. Use an idea web to plan your narrative.

Student Checklist:

Revising
<p>_____ Does your first paragraph include a topic sentence?</p> <p>_____ Do you use details that tell why your experience is memorable?</p> <p>_____ Do you use the first-person point of view?</p> <p>_____ Do you include only important details that focus on the main point?</p> <p>_____ Did you organize your paper in a sequential order?</p> <p>_____ Does your ending conclude your story?</p>
Proofreading
<p>_____ Did you write in well-organized paragraphs?</p> <p>_____ Did you use a variety of sentence structures with proper subject-verb agreement?</p> <p>_____ Did you use correct grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling?</p>

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

NOTES

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NOTES

Sixth Edition

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