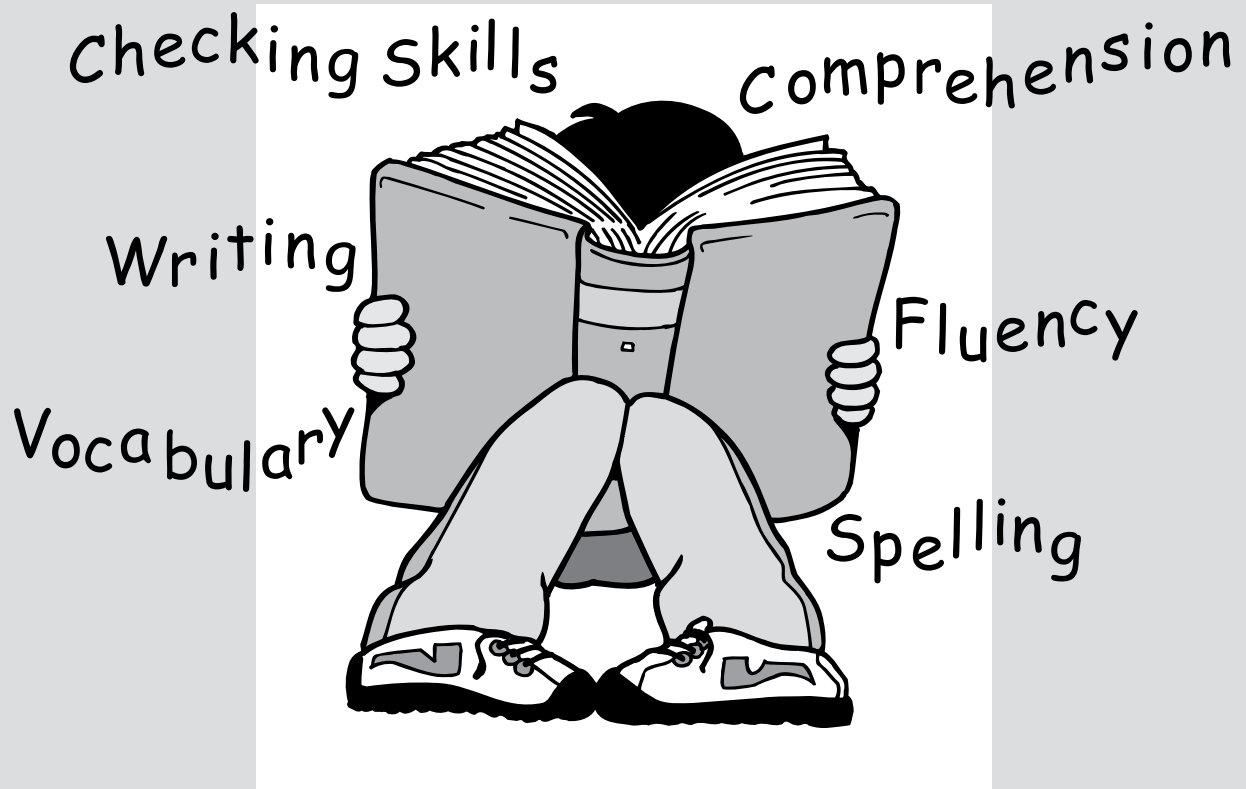


STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

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



GRADE 4 Theme 2

Student Name _____

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

Go For It!

Margaret Roberts

Mark Wellman, U.S. park ranger, had wanted to climb the soaring vertical rock face of El Capitan for as long as he could remember. *How could a man, partially paralyzed from the waist down, unable to use his legs, have the nerve to try to climb the highest vertical cliff on earth?* El Capitan is immense. It is an unbroken mass of granite in California's beautiful Yosemite Valley. The huge rock is almost three-quarters of a mile high, straight up. Mark could not accomplish the climb alone. His friend Mike Corbett, an expert rock climber, would be there to lend a helping hand.

In the early morning of Wednesday, July 19, 1989, Mike helped Mark out of his wheelchair. Mike put Mark onto the ground. Clipped to Mike's waist was an assortment of metal clamps and other rock-climbing equipment. He also had several looped nylon ropes. The free end of one of the ropes was attached to a big sack. The sack contained the men's food, water, and super-light sleeping bags.

Mike grabbed his first handhold on the rock. Then he positioned his feet and began to climb. Mike knew El Capitan well. He and a few other intrepid rock climbers had made it to the summit many times. He knew where all the handholds and footholds were. He also knew where to find good ledges wide enough for two men to rest on. He and Mark thought it would take seven days to reach the top.

About 100 feet up, Mike hammered a piton into the granite. A piton is a heavy aluminum pin used by rock climbers. Mike clipped one end of a 165-foot nylon rope to the piton. Then he let the rope's free end fall down. Mark was wearing a nylon harness that circled the upper half of his body. Mark caught the rope and attached it to the harness with an ingenious clamp. The clamp would let Mark move upward, but would prevent him from slipping down even as much as a single inch. He next reached above his head and attached a T-bar to the nylon rope, using the same kind of clamp.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

1. Why is climbing El Capitan a difficult challenge for any rock climber?
 - A. It has deep, dangerous cracks.
 - B. It is covered with ice.
 - C. It is the highest vertical cliff in the world.
 - D. It is covered with clouds.

2. In the first paragraph, the author describes El Capitan as an immense mass of granite. What does the word *immense* mean?
 - A. huge
 - B. assortment
 - C. smooth
 - D. super-light

3. Which of the following indicates Mike Corbet knew El Capitan well?
 - A. He stayed close behind in case Mark fell.
 - B. He knew where the handholds, footholds, and ledges were.
 - C. He was a U.S. park ranger.
 - D. He had climbed to the summit one time.

When all was secured, Mark took a deep breath. He pushed the T-bar up almost as far as his arms could reach. Then he began the first of the 7,000 pull-ups it would take to reach the summit. His useless legs, encased in protective leather leggings, dangled beneath him. Mike had designed these special leggings just for this climb. High above, Mike let out a cheer. "You're on your way, pal," he yelled down.

Before the climb began, the two men had decided that the best rate of ascent for Mark would be about six inches at a time. Now, having successfully raised himself the first half foot, Mark loosened his grasp and tested the clamp. He reassured himself that it held his weight. Then he pushed the T-bar up again and began his second pull-up.

When Mark looked down at mid-afternoon, he could still see his wheelchair on the ground below. Every pull-up was another step toward fulfillment of his dream. *He was climbing El Capitan at last!*

For the past six months, Mark had trained rigorously. His training included swimming, paddling his kayak, lifting weights, and working out in the gym. Seven years before, at the age of twenty-one, he had slipped on loose pebbles while mountain climbing. He had fallen 100 feet, injuring his spine. The fall cost him the use of his legs. Yet he never lost his love of adventure nor his joyful spirit. Even so, as he looked straight up the forbidding 3,593-foot rock face, he wondered if he was trying for an impossible goal. He still had 6,500 pull-ups to go. The temperature was 96 degrees, and he was bathed in sweat.

Mark wisely decided to put all this out of his mind. He *had* to succeed, not just for himself and Mike. The whole world was watching. This climb was an incredible attempt by a man who, in a wheelchair, carried on his job as a naturalist and assistant supervisor of the visitor's center in Yosemite National Park. Dozens of newspaper writers and photographers, radio announcers, and television reporters were gathered on the ground below. They were carefully tracking the hourly progress of the climb.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

4. How could Mark Wellman expect to climb El Capitan when he was partially paralyzed from the waist down?
- A. He had read about mountain climbing in a book.
 - B. He had been training for the climb.
 - C. He had made it to the summit many times.
 - D. Mountain climbing isn't difficult.
5. Why did the climb take so long?
- A. Their sack of supplies was too heavy.
 - B. Mark had not trained enough.
 - C. Mark had to stop and rest often.
 - D. Mark could only climb six inches at a time.
6. Which word **best** describes Mark Wellman?
- A. foolish
 - B. conceited
 - C. determined
 - D. forgiving

In the late afternoon, Mike called down to Mark. Mike said that he had reached a level ledge where they would spend the night. There are many good, solid ledges of varying width on El Capitan. Climbers have slept on them many times over the years, secured by clamps and sturdy ropes pinned into the rock. Now the two men sat on the ledge and began pulling up the rope that held their food, water, and sleeping bags. Soon they were wolfing down their supper of cold canned foods, nuts, and dried fruits. It all tasted delicious after the exertions of the day. As darkness fell, they curled up in their sleeping bags. At dawn, they were wide-awake and ready to go again.

For the first four days, the two men moved steadily upward without problems. On the fifth day, a searing, hot wind began to blow. As the day wore on, it became stronger and stronger, causing Mark to sway perilously on his rope. Suddenly a powerful gust swung him ten feet out, away from the rock. The sensation of hanging way out there in the wind, dangling in space, would have been terrifying to an ordinary person. Mark was by no means ordinary. Although his hands were swollen and sore and his arms ached unmercifully, he kept on doggedly pushing up the T-bar and pulling himself up. Nevertheless, he had to admit that he felt a lot better when the wind finally died down and his body touched solid rock again.

Later, Mike told reporters, “I just couldn’t get him to complain, no matter how tough it got. He just kept right on inching his way up, calm as you please!”

It took them one day more than they had estimated. On July 26, at 1:45 p.m., the crowd of people waiting on the summit went wild with joy as the two weary heads appeared over the rim, silhouetted against the sky.

Mark Wellman had shown that if you set your heart and mind on a goal, no wall is too high, no dream impossible. When asked what he had to say about his marvelous accomplishment, he thought for only a minute before he replied, “If you want to do something bad enough and you feel you can do it, *go for it!*”

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

7. Where did Mark and Mike sleep at night?
- A. in a cave
 - B. on a ledge
 - C. in a cabin
 - D. on the top of the summit
8. How long did it take Mark and Mike to reach the summit?
- A. They didn't reach the summit because of searing, hot winds.
 - B. one day
 - C. four days
 - D. one day longer than they had estimated
9. Which of the following **best** expresses Mark Wellman's feelings about people with physical disabilities?
- A. They can do anything they set their mind to do.
 - B. They need special help.
 - C. They shouldn't take risks.
 - D. They need encouragement from others.
10. Mike Corbett, Mark's friend, can best be described as
- A. reckless.
 - B. trustworthy.
 - C. funny.
 - D. independent.

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10

Read each sentence. Underline the proper nouns.

1. He traveled to Texas and Iowa to work with his family.
2. We learned Spanish from our teacher, Mr. Garcia.

Read each sentence. Circle each singular common noun and underline each plural common noun.

3. Quilts were displayed in the sitting parlor.
4. Behind the farmhouse, we found orchards with ripe apples.
5. Rainy days were spent playing a game of checkers.

Read each sentence. Underline the correct possessive noun form in parentheses.

6. In the United States, all (citizen's, citizens') rights are protected by the Constitution.
7. Each person repeated the oath in the (judges', judge's) chamber.
8. We attended several (family's, families') celebrations outside the courthouse.
9. Robert attended his best (friends', friend's) citizenship ceremony.
10. Each citizen carries an American flag, a symbol of our (country's, countries') independence.

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10

NOTES

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 could tell by her frown she was not happy.
 - B. The basketball coach taught them how to do a bounce pass.
 - C. Use a hammer to paund these nails into that wooden beam.
 - D. No mistake
2. A. Mother uses fresh tomatoes to make our favorite pasta sauce.
 - B. My brother has dron a map with directions to our house.
 - C. As dawn approached, birds began chirping to greet the sun.
 - D. No mistake
3. A. Shape the clay into smooth, long cylinders.
 - B. May I use this four-legged stool to reach the top shelf?
 - C. Yesterday was a perfect day for hot vegetable soop.
 - D. No mistake
4. A. Put this earthworm on your fishing huk.
 - B. Push the replay button if you want to see the movie again.
 - C. The boys enjoyed throwing stones into the bubbling brook.
 - D. No mistake
5. A. How much do you charge for football tickets on the fifty-yard line?
 - B. The high pitch of the alarm clock woke me up.
 - C. This movie is a delight for the young at heart.
 - D. No mistake

6. A. The hairy beast frightened small animals in the forest.
- B. Make a circle, a triangle, and a squair on your paper.
- C. Father removed the spare tire from the trunk of his car.
- D. No mistake
7. A. A black snake was cerled up under a rock.
- B. Her energetic, little baby had just learned how to crawl.
- C. The dirty, scared stray cat ran into the bushes.
- D. No mistake
8. A. It was time to replace the worn tires on our car.
- B. You may play outside after you do your household chores.
- C. He wasn't surprised to get a splinter from such a rough bord.
- D. No mistake
9. A. Remember to take pictures while you're at the park.
- B. What's your favorite rainy day activity?
- C. Our garden withered when it din't rain for a month.
- D. No mistake
10. A. When is the mens basketball championship game going to be broadcast?
- B. Mother's wedding dress is stored in a large, white box.
- C. All of the scouts in our troop were planning a camping trip.
- 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 swim team was ready and eager to leave for the pool.
 - A. enthusiastic
 - B. gathering
 - C. glaring
 - D. unexcited

2. We expressed our satisfaction with the service by leaving the waitress a tip.
 - A. allegiance
 - B. dissatisfaction
 - C. contentment
 - D. arrangements

3. Grandma was determined to make all the pies for the party.
 - A. undecided
 - B. persisted
 - C. reassured
 - D. enriched

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. Where do you keep the extra pencils, pens, and paper?

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

 - A. The sign warned us to keep out of the building.
 - B. This creamy dessert won't keep; if it's not refrigerated, it will spoil.
 - C. The librarian always reminds us to keep our voices down.
 - D. We keep our cereal and canned goods in the pantry.

5. Yesterday the mechanic pulled the engine out of his car to repair it.

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

 - A. The second-place winner pulled a leg muscle during the race.
 - B. I wiggled my baby tooth and pulled it out of my mouth.
 - C. The police officer pulled the speeding car over to the curb.
 - D. We waved to the bride and groom as the limousine pulled away from the church.

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. If you think our dress code is strict, you should compare the rules at other schools.
- A. picturesque
- B. concise
- C. harsh
- D. jittery
7. The old wrangler quenched his thirst with a long swig of water.
- A. aroma
- B. gulp
- C. uproar
- D. gear

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. The new citizens took an oath to defend the United States of America.
- A. vow
- B. storyteller
- C. adventure
- D. chamber
9. As early pioneers built homes on the prairie, there was less open range for the buffalo.
- A. derbies
- B. petitioners
- C. examiners
- D. settlers
10. Our coach reminded us to be ready to score a goal whenever there was an opportunity.
- A. citizenship
- B. chance
- C. reunion
- D. certificate

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.

Weasel stalked between the trees. Hostile and 7
starving, he watched a beautiful peacock and 14
peahen strutting in the meadow. He had been 22
unsuccessful while hunting food for his large family. 30
In the twilight, he observed the birds. The pair was 40
ignoring their nest. It contained two freshly laid 48
eggs. Weasel was frantic. The birds’ razor-sharp 56
beaks made stealing the eggs a dangerous mission. 64
However, tonight he was willing to put aside all 73
wisdom, instinct, and fear to feed his family. 81
Desperate, Weasel crept closer to the nest. 88
He kept a watchful eye on Farmer O’Neal, who 97
was at the chicken coop. The farmer was blissfully 106
feeding the chickens a stale loaf of bread. The birds 116
had just finished their evening walk and were 124
headed back to their nest. The farmer had no reason 134
to suspect mayhem was about to take place in the 144
barnyard. So, the mild-mannered man continued 151
feeding the chickens. 154
Weasel grunted softly. His nose was twitching 161
as he crouched closer to the nest. He reached it just 172
as the birds arrived. Suddenly, Farmer O’Neal 179
heard the peacock’s shrill shrieking. He looked up 187
and spotted Weasel frozen in fear, a front paw on an 198
egg. He ran across the yard screaming and waving 207
his arms! Slowly, Weasel backed away from the nest 216
and then scurried off. Tonight, Weasel would have 224
to look elsewhere for food for his hungry family. 233

EVALUATING CODES FOR ORAL READING	
sky (l)	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.

Although the two children were twins, they were 8
quite different. Both wanted to take part in school 17
activities to make new friends. Marta was timid and 26
took very few risks. She especially avoided sports 34
and academic contests. Carlos, on the other hand, 42
had a lot of confidence. He would try out for anything. 53
However, he did not practice before tryouts, so he 62
did not always make the team. One day the twins 72
discussed their different personalities. Each decided 78
there was a trait they wanted to change. 86

Marta wanted to be more outgoing. She hesitantly 94
agreed to audition for the school’s spelling bee. Much 103
to her surprise, she won first place. She was going to 114
represent her age group in the state contest. At the 124
state finals, she won fourth place. This scholastic 132
triumph was the best anyone at her school had ever 142
achieved. 143

Carlos decided to focus and excel in one 151
specialized area. He wanted to be the lead actor 160
in the class play. He knew it would take energy, 170
preparation, and practice to learn the long speeches. 178
For weeks, Carlos rehearsed his lines and acting 186
techniques. He attempted to express just the right 194
amount of pain and emotion when his character died. 203
He was so well prepared that he got the part. He 214
gave an eloquent performance. Marta and Carlos 221
were both pleased with their efforts. 227

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: You are thinking of a place you know well. You want your reader to experience this place as if he or she were there.

Purpose: To describe a place in a descriptive essay

Audience: Your teacher

Writing Directions: Write an essay that describes a place you know well. Use exact, vivid words to create a picture of the place in the reader’s mind. Make an idea web to plan your description.

Student Checklist:

Revising
<p>___ Does your first paragraph have a topic sentence?</p> <p>___ Have you made your reader feel that he or she is in the place you are describing?</p> <p>___ Did you use detail words that have to do with the five senses: seeing, hearing, smelling, touching, and tasting?</p> <p>___ Does your ending wrap up the description?</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	

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Sixth Edition

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