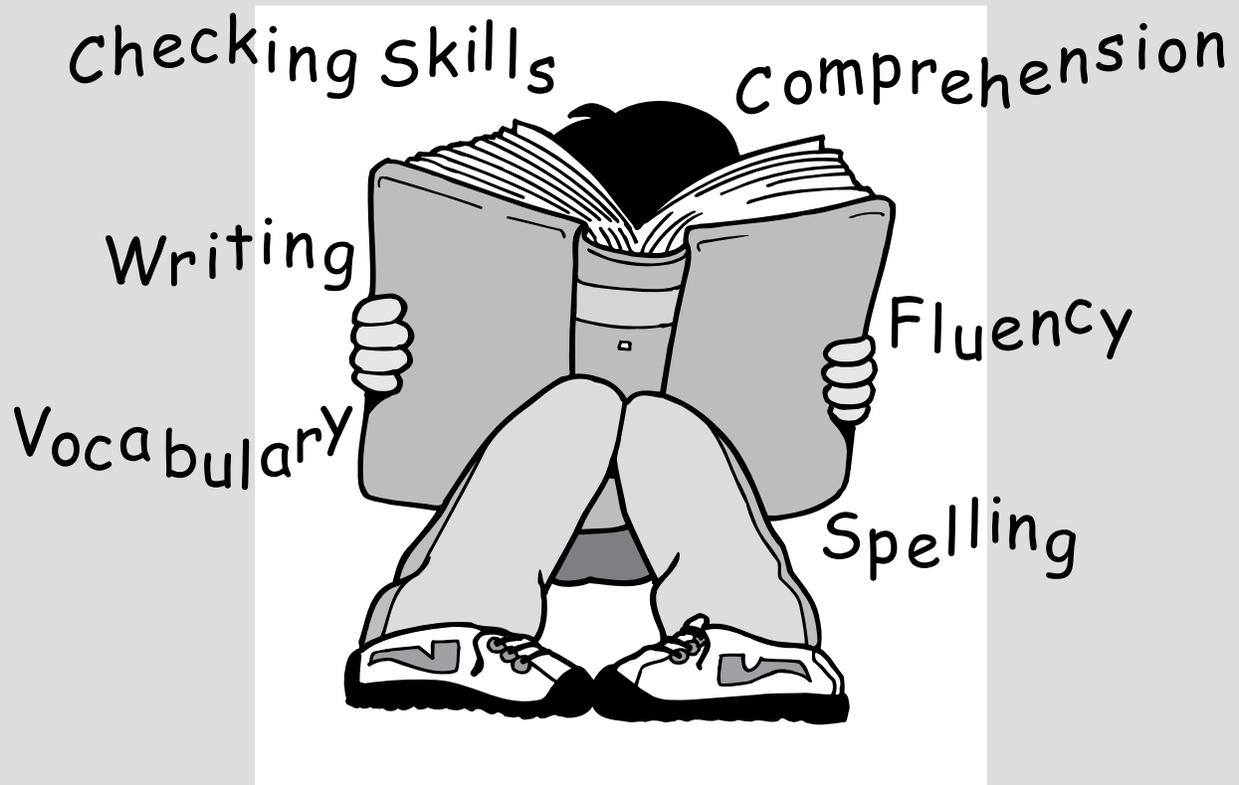


STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

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



GRADE 4 Theme 4

Student Name _____

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

Stuck on the Ground Floor: Otis Elevators

Nathan Aaseng

In Elisha Otis's time, the average person was not interested in riding an elevator. They thought elevators were too dangerous. Otis improved elevators. He worked hard to overcome people's fears by showing that his elevator was safe. Before he died, Otis was slowly winning over the public. He paved the way for modern skyscrapers.

Otis was born in 1811. He grew up on a farm, but he had no interest in raising crops. Otis tried many different jobs. He built a gristmill in Vermont but did not earn enough money to keep it going. After building carriages for several years, he tried operating a sawmill. Business was no better for Otis than it had been in the old days. So he gave up milling for good.

After working briefly as an inventor and a mechanic, Otis opened a shop in Albany, New York. He intended to build small machines. He had barely begun his business, using water from a stream for power, when the city claimed the stream for its water supply.

Otis was still looking for a way to use his talents. In 1852, a company hired him as a master mechanic. It was expanding its business into New Jersey. Heavy, bulky equipment had to be hauled up to the second floor. Otis had to build an elevator that could move the freight safely.

A tinkerer by nature, Otis tried to improve the elevator designs then in use. He noticed that elevators depended too much on a single cable. If that cable snapped, nothing could prevent the whole works from crashing down. Otis thought the system was too risky to lift thousands of pounds of machinery. He looked for a backup system. He wanted to prevent disaster if the rope should break.

The device he came up with used a simple wagon spring. The ends of the spring were attached to the top of the elevator platform. The middle of the spring was connected to the overhead lifting cable. If the cable broke, the tension on the spring would disappear, and the spring would straighten out. Its ends would then catch in ratchets on the side rails of the elevator shaft. The platform would be held in place. Then a new cable could be attached.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

1. Before building elevators, which of the following was **not** an occupation of Elisha Otis?
 - A. carriage builder
 - B. gristmill operator
 - C. tightrope walker
 - D. mechanic

2. In 1852, a company hired Elisha Otis to
 - A. keep its passenger elevators operating.
 - B. build a safe freight elevator.
 - C. build a machine factory.
 - D. manufacture small machines.

3. Otis improved the elevator designs then in use by
 - A. installing a safety device.
 - B. making the cable stronger.
 - C. adding a second cable.
 - D. installing a warning light.

4. Which word **best** describes Elisha Otis's approach to building elevators?
 - A. aimless
 - B. inventive
 - C. unskilled
 - D. wealthy

The safety hoist worked well. The company completed its move with no problems. Otis didn't realize that he might have invented something of value to many people. He was satisfied knowing the job was done well. Then it was time to move on to something else.

Otis was still searching for a successful career. The tales of the gold strike in the West impressed him. So, Otis prepared to take his family to California. Just before he left he received an urgent request. A cable on a freight hoist at a factory had recently snapped. This caused a terrible accident. The owner had heard about Otis's safety device. He wanted it for his factory. Otis postponed his move. He agreed to install two safety elevators at the plant. Before he had finished this job, a picture frame business asked if he could build a similar hoist for them.

This sudden interest made Otis realize that he had found something very valuable. He formed the E.G. Otis Company in 1853. However, his business floundered almost as soon as he started it. The initial interest in his safety elevator was followed by silence. Stories of awful elevator accidents were far too common. Everyone could imagine the terror of hearing the cable snap, then feeling the elevator fall out from under them. Otis received only a few requests from merchants. They were not willing to trust their goods to the strength of a cable rope.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

5. Otis decided to start his own elevator company because
- A. he was fired from his job.
 - B. he didn't want to work for other people.
 - C. he was searching for a successful career.
 - D. the company went out of business.
6. After Otis started his elevator company, why did he have trouble selling elevators to other stores?
- A. The stores thought the elevators were too expensive.
 - B. The stores didn't think elevators were necessary.
 - C. The elevators were too small for people.
 - D. People still thought elevators were too dangerous.
7. What does the word *floundered* mean in the third paragraph?
- A. ran into trouble
 - B. improved
 - C. failed
 - D. succeeded

His latest enterprise was sinking quickly. Otis desperately sought a way to prove his elevator was safe. The chance came in 1854. The American Institute Fair had allowed him to set up a demonstration in the main hall of New York's Crystal Palace. Otis set up the most dramatic situation he could imagine. He created elevator accidents with himself aboard!

He built a large elevator in the hall. While people watched, he stepped onto the elevator platform. He had it lifted four stories above the crowd. An assistant cut the cable. Then the platform plummeted toward the ground. The onlookers gasped and screamed in horror. Each time, Otis's safety device brought the elevator to a quick halt in midfall.

Repeated demonstrations of Otis's safety device slowly overcame the public's fear of elevators. He installed 15 elevators in 1855 and 27 the following year. All of them were designed to handle freight and not people. In 1857 he was asked to construct the world's first safety passenger elevator. It was built in a five-story china store in New York City.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

8. Otis finally convinced the public that his passenger elevators were safe when he
- A. demonstrated how his safety device worked.
 - B. advertised his elevators in newspapers.
 - C. gave people free elevator rides.
 - D. helped a company complete its move.
9. Otis went from one business to another until he finally built a successful elevator manufacturing business. What does this show about Otis?
- A. He didn't like working with people.
 - B. He wasn't very responsible.
 - C. He never gave up.
 - D. He only liked to build elevators.
10. In the first paragraph of the story (on page 2), the author says that Otis paved the way for modern skyscrapers. What does the author mean?
- A. Otis built modern skyscrapers.
 - B. Otis took satisfaction in a job well done.
 - C. Elevators were designed to handle freight, not people.
 - D. Skyscrapers may never have been built without safe elevators.

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10

Read each sentence. Choose the form of *be* that goes with the subject. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

1. Maria's greatest wish _____ to be called by her real name.
 were was are

2. Marcos and Emmanuel _____ sharing traditions from other countries.
 were was is

3. Plans for the Winter Pageant _____ being made by our class.
 is was are

Read each sentence. Complete each sentence by writing the correct past tense form of the verb given in parentheses.

4. In the north woods, Marven had _____ his cut-down overcoat every day. (wear)

5. Lumberjacks _____ their saws and axes to the forest yesterday. (bring)

6. Mr. Murray had _____ the men flapjacks, steak, and oatmeal for breakfast. (give)

7. He _____ that Marven was afraid of grizzly bears. (know)

Read each sentence. Underline the adjectives (including the articles) and circle the nouns they modify.

8. Peter found an old costume.

9. Dragon had ten pairs of black legs.

10. Special friends helped him repair the dragon.

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. Squirrels scampered up the farmer’s walnut trees.
 - B. The witness was asked to answer the question honestly.
 - C. I am taking deep-sea diving lessons at the aquatic center.
 - D. No mistake
2. A. Scientists recaptured the animals to measure their growth.
 - B. I exchanged the shoes because they hurt my feet.
 - C. The missmanaged store went out of business last year.
 - D. No mistake
3. A. This is the first hokey game I’ve played at this ice rink.
 - B. Newscasters warned the public of a shark attack at the beach.
 - C. The electric scoreboard failed when the power went out during the game.
 - D. No mistake
4. A. Would you like to have another blanket on your bed?
 - B. Hot apple cider spiced with cloves and cinnamon is a delicious drinc.
 - C. Some public libraries are not open on Sundays.
 - D. No mistake
5. A. He accidentally tore his jacket on the jagged fence.
 - B. The rickety brige was too hazardous to cross.
 - C. Fans cheered as the football player dodged tacklers and scored a touchdown.
 - D. No mistake

6. A. We have been next-door neighbors for over thirtey years.
- B. The cafeteria serves turkey noodle soup for lunch every Thursday.
- C. When will the cake be ready to frost?
- D. No mistake
7. A. Grandmother mixed chopped cabbage, carrots, onions, and raisins to make cole slaw.
- B. Mountain climbers were aware of the danger, but no one wanted to turn back.
- C. The strangar in town was eager to meet new people.
- D. No mistake
8. A. We were enchanted by the beauty of the painting's vivid colors.
- B. He was hungrie because he skipped lunch.
- C. They viewed the movie on a large screen.
- D. No mistake
9. A. Chances are slim, but she believes she can get elected.
- B. The children have known each other since they were in preschool.
- C. The farmer fertilized his fields twise a year.
- D. No mistake
10. A. Community work days are a comon practice for people in my town.
- B. We are deciding whether to rent a video or go to the park.
- C. It was two degrees below zero, far too cold for us to play outside.
- 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 immense, new football stadium could seat three times as many fans as the previous building.
 - A. jazzy
 - B. small
 - C. glinting
 - D. severed

2. A fierce, black dog named Bear guarded the junkyard each night.
 - A. fragrant
 - B. suspicious
 - C. gentle
 - D. scraggly

3. The nervous singer paced back and forth in her dressing room before her performance.
 - A. classical
 - B. frantic
 - C. unconcerned
 - D. misunderstanding

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. He learned to write each character of the alphabet.

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

 - A. My friend is truthful and has a lot of character.
 - B. The character I liked best in the story was the prince.
 - C. Mom’s grumpy mood was really out of character.
 - D. My teacher asked me to draw the character for the letter “B.”

5. Our teacher handed each of us a fish scale to examine and describe in our science journal.

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

 - A. The scales of the goldfish glistened in the sunshine.
 - B. The crusty old miner proudly placed his bag of gold on the scale.
 - C. Scale model airplanes hang from the boy’s bedroom ceiling.
 - D. Rock climbers visit Zion National Park to scale its rugged cliffs.

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 foreigner's beliefs were unusual and alien to the villagers.
- A. unfamiliar
- B. murmuring
- C. prominent
- D. distributed
7. After the rainstorm, the hot, sultry air prevented us from playing outside.
- A. teeming
- B. humid
- C. timber
- D. landscaped

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. To pay homage to their beloved king, the people showered him with gifts.
- A. disappointment
- B. stride
- C. debut
- D. honor
9. If you are attentive while the speaker is talking, you will be ready to ask questions when he is finished.
- A. amplified
- B. dismayed
- C. alert
- D. troublesome
10. Neighbors complained about the blaring noise at the outdoor rock concert.
- A. revolving
- B. synthetic
- C. sprightly
- D. harsh

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.

Most of Paul’s friends are football fanatics. They 8
 watch the Super Bowl every year. However, Paul 16
 prefers viewing televised stock-car races. He likes 24
 watching the cars speed around the raceway. Each 32
 driver wants to take first place. It is exciting to him 43
 when a driver comes from behind and surpasses the 52
 leader. 53
 The day of his favorite auto race was fast 62
 approaching. The weather forecasters predicted 67
 rain. Paul earnestly hoped the speedway would not 75
 get too slick. Wet asphalt could delay the contest. 84
 The roadway was designed to drain water from 92
 the track. Nevertheless, rainwater could still cause 99
 grease to splatter on the cars’ powerful engines. This 108
 could ignite an engine fire and end the competition 117
 for the driver and his team. 123
 Paul tried to predict who would win. He kept 132
 penciled notes of critical speeds and the number 140
 of laps drivers completed. During the race, he 148
 pretended he was riding with his favorite driver. 156
 He would worry when precious moments were lost 164
 during pit stops. 167
 This avid young fan hopes to someday become 175
 a stock car racer. He wants to win trophies and 185
 earn big prize money. At one time, Paul had thought 195
 it was an impossible dream. Now he was more 204
 determined than ever to pursue his greatest desire. 212

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) = 116

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.

To follow dreams, one must overcome trying 7
 conditions. Maya Angelou is a person who overcame 15
 obstacles. She was raised in a small, rural town in 25
 the south. There, she survived a violent attack at the 35
 age of eight. For quite some time, she was mute. This 46
 means she was unable to speak. Her humble start in 56
 life was the subject of her first book. It was entitled 67
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. 74

Maya has unlimited talents. She is well known 82
 in several artistic fields. She is a famous author of 92
 poetry and children’s stories. She was the first 100
 African-American woman to have a screenplay 107
 become a feature film. She was a stage performer 116
 and sang in a modern opera. This versatile woman 125
 studied dance with a famous dance instructor. She 133
 also acted in movies and on TV. 140

Her talents have achieved acclaim across the 147
 nation. Maya received a special request from 154
 President Bill Clinton. He asked her to read a poem 164
 when he was sworn into office at the White House. 174
 She was awarded the National Medal of Arts. 182
 Ms. Angelou has won the hearts of people around 191
 the world. 193

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) = 116

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: Next year your school will require all students to wear uniforms. As the student representative, you have been asked to write a persuasive report for the school faculty.

Purpose: To convince your readers to think a certain way

Audience: The school faculty

Writing Directions: Consider the advantages and disadvantages of this new policy. Take a position and write a persuasive essay either supporting the uniform policy or opposing it. Use a graphic organizer to plan your essay.

Student Checklist:

Revising
<p>_____ Did you identify your purpose and state your position in the first paragraph?</p> <p>_____ Do your paragraphs have topic sentences with supporting facts and strong reasons?</p> <p>_____ Did you maintain your focus throughout the paper?</p> <p>_____ Did you use convincing words to persuade your audience?</p> <p>_____ Did you restate your opinion in your conclusion?</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 Genre Score: _____ /4 Writing Traits Score: _____ /4	TOTAL RUBRIC SCORE: _____ /4
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Sixth Edition

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