

STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

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



GRADE 4 Theme 6

Student Name _____

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

Kenji Moto the Hermit

Alan Romanoff

There once was a man in Japan named Kenji Moto. Kenji was a hermit by choice. He had been crippled as a boy and had decided to live alone on the side of a hill. He didn't want to stay among people who might pity or scorn him. So, slowly and painfully, he tilled a small rice field for food. He traded the food for fish in the nearby village.

From his humble house on the hill, Kenji could see the village of his birth. It was nearly an hour's walk away. Just beyond the village was the ocean, stretching out as far as the eye could see.

The villagers were mostly fishermen who hauled their living from the ocean. A few of the men and most of the women and children worked in the rice fields which reached from the edge of the village to the slope just below Kenji's hut.

One afternoon as Kenji was toiling in his field, he paused for a moment's rest and gazed out toward the ocean. His casual glance became an intense stare as he saw something strange and frightening on the horizon.

The sky above the ocean was threateningly dark. The ocean seemed to be rising up to engulf the sky. Kenji looked in wonderment, trying to understand what was happening.

Suddenly, he knew what the darkened sky and towering waters meant. Many years ago, long before anyone now living in the village had been born, a tidal wave had come rushing in from the sea. Kenji had heard his grandfather tell how, within an hour, the entire village had been swept away and the land covered with ocean water.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

1. Which word **best** describes Kenji Moto at the beginning of the story?
 - A. independent
 - B. angry
 - C. bored
 - D. energetic

2. Why does Kenji see the tidal wave long before the villagers are aware of the danger?
 - A. The villagers are asleep in their homes.
 - B. Kenji lives high on a hill.
 - C. Kenji has a telescope.
 - D. The villagers are busy working in their fields.

3. Kenji knew what the towering waters meant. The word ***towering*** means
 - A. darkened.
 - B. high.
 - C. signaling.
 - D. retreated.

“I must warn the villagers,” thought Kenji. “But how? By the time I could get down there with my crippled leg, the tidal wave would be upon them.”

Desperately, he looked around for some method to signal a warning. However, nothing was large enough to be seen that far away. Then, an idea came to him.

“A fire!” he thought. “A fire would be seen for miles.”

Kenji knew of only one thing large enough to make a fire that bright. He lit a torch and, with quiet resignation, set fire to the rice crop he had cultivated so painfully and that meant life itself to him. Within seconds, the field was ablaze, and Kenji retreated some distance away. When he turned his attention toward the steadily darkening sky, he saw that the wall of water was much closer. He guessed that the full impact of the tidal wave would strike within the hour.

Anxiously, Kenji stared down at the village. “They have to see the fire,” he muttered. “They have to!”

Meanwhile, in the village below, many eyes had spotted the fire on the hill, and an excited crowd had gathered.

“It’s Kenji’s rice field,” said one man.

“Yes,” agreed another, “and if the fire spreads, it will take all our fields.”

“We must hurry and put out the fire, or there will be no rice for any of us this year.”

Within minutes, all the villagers were hastening toward the top of the hill. Even those who were too young or too old to help fight the fire went along to watch.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

4. What is Kenji's first concern when he sees the tidal wave?
- A. to save his house
 - B. to save his rice crop
 - C. to save the villagers' rice crop
 - D. to warn the villagers of the danger
5. Why doesn't Kenji go down the hill and tell the villagers of the approaching tidal wave?
- A. Kenji can't walk fast enough.
 - B. The tidal wave is still far away.
 - C. He was too frightened.
 - D. The tidal wave washed out the road.
6. Why does Kenji set fire to his rice crop?
- A. to get the villagers' attention
 - B. to harvest his rice crop
 - C. to save his rice crop from the tidal wave
 - D. to burn the villagers' rice fields
7. Why do the villagers rush up the hill?
- A. They want to escape the tidal wave.
 - B. They want to save Kenji.
 - C. They want to save their own rice crops.
 - D. They want to watch the tidal wave.

From his position on the hillside, Kenji saw the parade making its way up the slope. He compared the progress of the villagers to the oncoming wave. “Why don’t they hurry?” he worried aloud. “The big wave is almost here.”

As the villagers climbed higher and higher, they were able to see the wall of water for the first time. Swift runners were sent back to the village to gather important records and to make certain that everyone had left. The rest of the group hurried even faster up the hill.

When the villagers arrived at Kenji’s house, they gathered around him. “It’s fortunate that your rice field caught fire,” said one, “for it brought us here, safe from the giant wave.”

“How did the fire get started?” asked another.

“With this,” said Kenji quietly, holding up the charred and smoking torch.

Only then did the villagers realize that Kenji had deliberately set fire to his field in order to warn them. Not even the most eloquent among them could find words to express their gratitude.

Silently everyone turned to watch the huge wave draw nearer and nearer. When it struck, it would destroy everything they owned. Thanks to Kenji, they were saved and they would rebuild.

Each of them silently vowed there would always be a place in his new home for Kenji Moto, the hermit.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

8. When do the villagers finally realize the danger?

- A. when they are climbing the hill
- B. when they reach Kenji's house
- C. when the tidal wave hits the village
- D. after they put out the fire

9. The genre of this story is

- A. autobiography.
- B. nonfiction.
- C. realistic fiction.
- D. a play.

10. Another **good** title for this story is

- A. "Villagers Save Their Crops."
- B. "Kenji Moto the Hero."
- C. "No More Rice."
- D. "The Humble House."

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10

Read each sentence. Underline the two adverbs in each sentence and circle the verbs they describe.

1. Kodiak bears hunt alone as they skillfully catch salmon.
2. Alex carefully baits the hook and patiently waits for it to drop to the bottom.
3. Often scavengers eat the salmon scraps and they rarely leave leftovers for the bears.

Read each sentence. Write the correct form of the adverb given in parentheses to complete each sentence.

4. During the wind-driven fires of 1988, firefighters worked _____ of all. (hard)
5. Some forest plants grow _____ after a fire than before the area burned. (fast)
6. After a fire, ants and wood beetles appear _____ than larger animals. (early)

Read each sentence. Underline the two prepositions in each sentence. Write each of the prepositional phrases on the line provided under the sentence.

7. Rain had not come to the prairie for many weeks.

8. Wildflowers and roses by the fence had withered without rain.

9. A phonograph for Sarah was on the table.

10. Clouds of dust followed the wagon down the road.

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 brave night raised his sword and prepared for battle.
 - B. Be careful when you hammer that nail so you don't injure your thumb.
 - C. She knitted the sweater with ivory-colored lambs' wool.
 - D. No mistake
2. A. You can reuse that wrapping paper if it isn't too wrinkled.
 - B. The principal said he was onored to receive the award for his school.
 - C. My brother looked handsome in his new suit and tie.
 - D. No mistake
3. A. The majority of the student council voted against postponing the carnival.
 - B. Our house guest thanked us before he left.
 - C. Crossing gards help children cross the street safely.
 - D. No mistake
4. A. When writing an essay, try to use a variety of sentence types.
 - B. The famous actor lived in a New York stile apartment.
 - C. Frontier guides blazed the trail by marking trees along the path.
 - D. No mistake
5. A. Did you see the funny cartoon in the newspaper yesterday?
 - B. Please put pickles and mustard on my hamburger.
 - C. Photographers aimed their camuras at the towering mountain cliffs.
 - D. No mistake

6. A. Grandmother sat in her favarite chair and quilted my new blanket.
- B. It is important to be accurate when you measure the box.
- C. The carpenter built new cupboards in the garage.
- D. No mistake
7. A. The expert climber had a wealth of information about hiking safety rules.
- B. Your helth is important, so eat lots of fruits and vegetables.
- C. Road crews repaired several potholes in the street.
- D. No mistake
8. A. Use a pencil to mark your answers.
- B. Sofen the clay with your hands before you begin to shape it.
- C. Please listen to the directions carefully before you begin writing.
- D. No mistake
9. A. She claimed she was guiltless and had done nothing wrong.
- B. After the violent thunderstorm, an eerie calmness settled over the town.
- C. They all agreed that togetherness would help them win the game.
- D. No mistake
10. A. Do you have any new magazene subscriptions?
- B. Doctors put their patients in quarantine to prevent others from getting ill.
- C. Oil companies raised the price of gasoline last 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. At the library, we hoped to find an abundance of literature on forest fire prevention.
 - A. lure
 - B. excess
 - C. terrain
 - D. scarcity

2. The aggressive basketball player charged down the court.
 - A. slumped
 - B. passive
 - C. adjusted
 - D. deprived

3. Lack of rainfall created a drought; people could no longer water their yards.
 - A. cycle
 - B. ember
 - C. scraps
 - D. abundance

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 coach's sharp words and angry looks caused the tennis player to lose confidence.

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

 - A. Beavers gnaw on tree branches with their sharp front teeth.
 - B. The sharp angle of the roof kept snow from collecting on top of the cabin.
 - C. Father's sharp criticism about our behavior made us realize we had disappointed him.
 - D. Police asked the public to keep a sharp lookout for a black van that was used in the robbery.

5. Trees in the green belt beside the river provide welcome shade from the hot sun.

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

 - A. The leather belt was decorated with a large, silver buckle.
 - B. Acres of crops grow in the fertile soil of the corn belt.
 - C. A conveyor belt carried the peaches into the canning room.
 - D. An accidental belt by a foul ball caused a bruise on the fan's arm.

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 rickety, old cabin was torn down and replaced with a new structure.
 - A. flammable
 - B. scavenger
 - C. building
 - D. spawn

7. Ripe olives will last for a long time if they are cured with salt and layered in a wooden box.
 - A. renewed
 - B. abandoned
 - C. preserved
 - D. decreased

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. Dangerously hot coals and ashes told the story; the fire had consumed everything.
 - A. destroyed
 - B. accumulated
 - C. simulated
 - D. flourished

9. Charred beyond recognition, the home was covered with ashes and smoke.
 - A. dense
 - B. expended
 - C. burned
 - D. entangled

10. Curious about his heritage, the man searched the Internet for information about his ancestors.
 - A. corral
 - B. forefathers
 - C. prairie
 - D. fledglings

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.

Sam and his younger sister were looking for red squirrels and foxes in the backwoods. Suddenly they realized they had wandered far from camp and were lost in unfamiliar terrain. Luckily, Sam had taken a survival course and knew the importance of staying calm. Panicking would only make matters worse.

By the angle of the sun, Sam was able to calculate it was mid-morning. He stood facing east, the direction of the sun. He explained to his sister south was to his right and north was to his left. West was at his back. He knew their family’s campground was on the west edge of a small river. Concentrating on these helpful clues, Sam drew a crude map in the dirt with a stick. They decided to head east.

Walking toward the sun, they soon reached the riverbank. There, they quickly gathered dry twigs. They located a sandy clearing beside the water and used matches from Sam’s survival kit to start a small fire. The kindling began to burn. Sam and his sister steadily placed green leaves and pine needles on the hot flames. Thick, pungent smoke billowed up over the trees. A rescue squad saw the alarming smoke signal and came to investigate. They transported the two siblings safely back to camp.

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>123</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.

Plant life is abundant in the deserts of Arizona 9
and New Mexico. There the average rainfall is only 18
about seven inches a year. How have plants learned 27
to survive in these arid, southwestern regions? They 35
have adapted in a variety of ways to this harsh 45
terrain. 46

Desert plant life does not bloom during phases of 55
drought. If it did, the flowers would wither and die 65
in the remorseless sun. These unique plants are 73
capable of lying dormant for years until it rains. 82
Then once the plants have enough water, flowers 90
quickly mature and bloom. 94

Most cactus plants have thorns instead of 101
leaves. The surface area of thorns is much smaller 110
than leaves. This reduces the plant’s exposure to the 119
parched, hot air. Therefore, not much moisture can 127
evaporate from the vegetation. 131

The barrel cactus is short and fat. It is shaped 141
like a round accordion. This allows it to expand 150
during rainfall. When water is absorbed through its 158
roots, it gets bigger. As it loses moisture during the 168
dry season, it contracts. 172

The creosote bush thrives in the desert. It does 181
not grow in bunches because it doesn’t like sharing 190
the scarce water. It has an unpleasant, acrid aroma. 199
This smell keeps other flora from growing nearby. 207

These are ways plant life endures the deserts of 216
the United States. 219

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>123</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.

Expository Writing Prompt - Response to Literature

Writing Situation: You are thinking about the information in the story Wildfires.

Purpose: To inform

Audience: Your classmates

Writing Directions: Write an essay that describes some of the positive and negative consequences of wildfires. Use a graphic organizer to list some of the good and bad effects you have learned in the story. Refer to your anthology to write this essay.

Student Checklist:

Revising

- ___ Did you begin with an interesting opening sentence?
- ___ Do your paragraphs contain topic sentences and supporting facts?
- ___ Does your essay show your understanding of wildfires?
- ___ Does your ending tell what you learned?

Proofreading

- ___ Did you write in well-organized paragraphs?
- ___ Did you use a variety of sentence structures with proper subject-verb agreement?
- ___ Did you use correct grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling?

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

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Sixth Edition

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