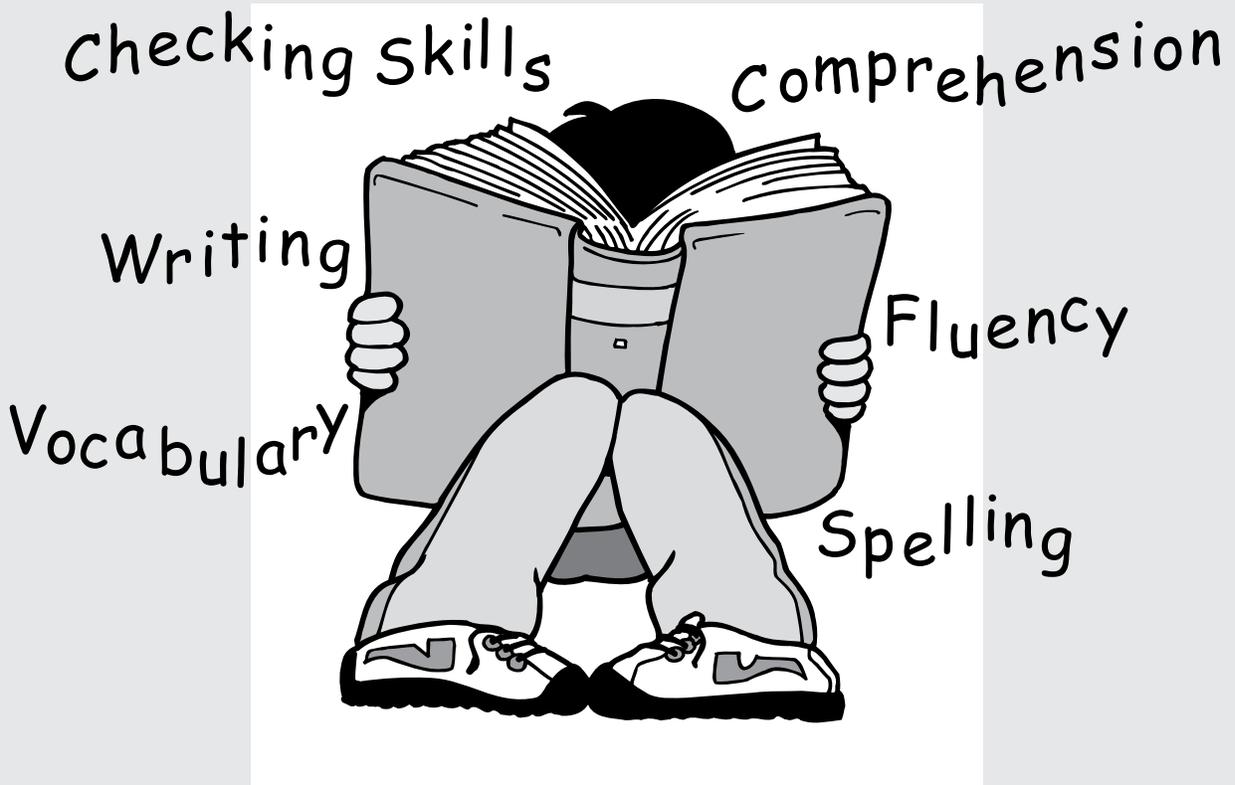


STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

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



GRADE 5 Theme 2

Student Name _____

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

Marco Polo

Gian Paolo Ceserani

At the top right side of the boot-shaped country that is Italy, there lies the famous seaport of Venice. It is built right on the water. Its houses spring up from islands connected to each other by bridges flung every which way. The streets themselves are winding canals that rise and fall with the tide. People travel by gondolas—long, flat-bottomed boats that curve up like a smile on either end.

During the thirteenth century, Venice was called “the Queen of the Seas.” It was also at the height of its powers. Its harbor was crammed with vessels coming in and going out. Right in the middle of this busy, thriving century, Marco Polo was born. He would travel farther than any ship in the harbor. He would become as famous as any Venetian ever born.

Most of the people in Venice were engaged in the business of buying and selling, trading, and shipping. The men in the Polo family were merchants, too. When Marco was born, his father, Niccolo Polo, and his uncle, Maffeo Polo, were away on one of their frequent trading voyages. As he grew up, young Marco had no idea where his father and uncle were or if they were even alive. Marco was fifteen years old when Niccolo and Maffeo Polo arrived back in Venice. They had been all the way to China, they said. They had stayed at the court of the Great Kublai Khan!

This famous Mongol ruler was wealthy and powerful. He was also curious. He wanted to know how different people lived, what they knew, and what they thought. He wanted the Polos to return to his court.

Marco was seventeen years old when his uncle and father were finally ready for their return trip. They invited Marco to go along. On a summer day in 1271, Marco Polo said good-bye to Venice. He was starting on his great adventure.

The most dangerous part of the adventure was crossing the great Gobi desert. It took thirty days. Nothing grew in this endless sand. Nothing lived on it, and nothing flew over it.

The Polos rested for a week before starting across the desert. They loaded their camels and horses with supplies of food and water. They tied bells around the necks of all their caravan animals so none would get lost. Fortunately, they managed to stay together and came through the ordeal of the Gobi without harm.

For some time, the Polos traveled through the land of the Mongols. Under Kublai Khan’s grandfather, these people had conquered much of the world. However, the Mongols that Marco Polo saw were shepherds. They wandered over the countryside, setting up their round, felt-covered tents wherever they found grass for their animals.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

1. How were the Polos like most other people in Venice at that time?

- A. They made frequent voyages to China.
- B. They traveled for years at a time.
- C. They made their living by trading and shipping.
- D. They admired Kublai Khan.

2. Why did Kublai Khan like the Polos?

- A. They brought him jewels and other expensive gifts.
- B. They brought him news of the rest of the world.
- C. They served as his bodyguards.
- D. They taught him how to print paper money.

3. What caused Marco's father and uncle to return to China?

- A. Khan wanted Marco to teach him about the world.
- B. Khan wanted the Polos to return to his court.
- C. Khan wanted to trade goods with Marco's father.
- D. Khan wanted the Polos to take him to Venice.

The Polos' journey was long and slow. During one part of the trip, Marco became very sick. The travelers stayed in one city for a whole year while he recovered. They had been away from home for over three-and-a-half years before they finally reached the land of Kubla Khan.

It was summer when they arrived. Kublai Khan was in Shangtu at his summer palace. Climbing the marble steps, the Polos were greeted by buglers, soldiers, and noblemen dressed in their ceremonial robes. Khan was delighted to see Niccolo and Maffeo again.

“But who is this young man?” he asked, pointing to Marco.

Niccolo bowed low. “Sir, this is my son who will serve you well.”

Marco was impressed by the lavishness of the palace. Indeed, there seemed to be nothing that the Great Khan could want that he did not have. He even had astrologers on the rooftop to chant magic words for keeping storm clouds away.

In the fall, Khan, his court, and the Polos, moved to the capital city. The city was laid out in squares like a chessboard, with twelve gates and three sets of walls, one behind the other. In the center stood the palace, more splendid than anything Marco could ever have imagined. In and out of the palace was a constant procession of soldiers, bodyguards, noblemen, and servants, all eager to wait on the Khan. Whenever Kublai Khan took a drink, everyone in his presence knelt, and a band played until he set his glass down again.

The Mongols in China had learned much from the Chinese, whose civilization was older and more advanced. No one was more eager to learn than Kublai Khan himself. Marco Polo (who by this time could speak the Mongol language) found that the Khan was always asking him questions. Since Marco was both curious and observant, the two became great friends.

When the Khan went hunting, he took Marco with him. What grand occasions these were! According to Marco, ten thousand men were assigned to watch for game.

Kublai Khan soon began sending Marco out on special missions. He was pleased with how well he did. Indeed, the Khan said that Marco was the only one of his emissaries who ever gave him news on his return. He provided Marco with a sedan chair, many coolies, and a procession of soldiers and workers.

It seemed that wherever Marco went, he found surprises. Paper money is one example. Europeans had never thought of making paper money, but here it was the common currency. The Chinese called it “flying money.” Printed on pieces of black, clothlike paper, each bill was stamped with the Emperor's red seal.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

4. The Polos' journey from Venice to China can best be described as
- A. a smooth, trouble-free ocean voyage.
 - B. a rough trip on the open seas.
 - C. a long, bold, and dangerous adventure.
 - D. a long trek through the desert.
5. Kublai Khan can best be described as
- A. eager to learn.
 - B. unwilling to share his wealth.
 - C. greedy and unfriendly.
 - D. unwilling to change his ways.
6. Marco Polo discovered that the Chinese civilization
- A. was more advanced than the Mongols.
 - B. did not know how to speak Mongolian.
 - C. lived the same way as the people in Venice.
 - D. did not care about other countries.

Coal was still another surprise. “Coal,” Marco wrote, “is a black stone dug out of the mountains. When it is lit, it keeps the flame much better than wood.” The Chinese used fire not only for cooking and heating, but also for warming water for baths. Marco Polo, who came from a part of the world where people rarely took baths, was amazed that the Chinese took as many as three baths a week.

Marco Polo was twenty-one years old when he arrived in China. He stayed for seventeen years—until he was thirty-eight. The Khan had turned into a frail old man in his seventies. Then it was time for the Polos to return to Venice.

In 1292, they set sail. Although the voyage was marked by one disaster after another, they arrived safely in Venice in 1295.

At first, the Polos had a hard time convincing their family and friends that they were really Marco, Niccolo, and Maffeo back from China. People laughed at Marco’s stories. “Master Millions,” they called him, for he sprinkled his adventures with such huge figures that no one could believe them. The Khan had a bodyguard of 12,000 horsemen, he said. Every year on his birthday he was given 100,000 white horses. He received so many presents it took 5,000 elephants and a train of camels to carry them all!

At the moment, however, no one had much time for listening. Genoa and Venice were at war. In 1296, Marco Polo, sailing in an armed merchant ship, was captured and taken as a prisoner to Genoa, where he remained for a year.

Marco thought that if his stories could be read in print, people would believe them. While he was in prison, he dictated an account of his adventures to another prisoner, who was a scribe. Marco didn’t just talk about places he had actually seen. Sometimes he included accounts he had only heard. Although he had never been to Japan, for instance, he depicted it in glowing detail.

When people read his book, *The Travels of Marco Polo*, some believed his stories and some did not. Christopher Columbus, who read the book more than one hundred years after Marco’s death, believed every word—even the part about Japan. In a way, this was too bad because Marco had put Japan in the wrong place, and that, of course, confused Columbus.

People now agree that when Marco described what he’d seen firsthand, he was, for the most part, a good reporter, leaving the world with information it would not otherwise have had. But in his own day, he was accused of outright lying. Indeed, as he lay on his deathbed, he was asked to take back the parts of the book that were untrue.

Marco replied, “I have not written down half of those things I saw.”

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

7. Which of the following best describes the stories in *The Travels of Marco Polo*?
- A. well-documented facts
 - B. pure fiction
 - C. outright lies
 - D. some fact, some fiction
8. How did the people of Venice react to Marco Polo’s stories of China?
- A. They wanted to write their own stories about their adventures.
 - B. They admired his bravery but thought he was conceited.
 - C. Some believed him and some did not.
 - D. They laughed at him, yet they felt sorry for him at the same time.
9. People today think of Marco Polo as a man who
- A. kept news of other places secret.
 - B. made up stories to impress people.
 - C. was an unimportant explorer.
 - D. shared important discoveries with the world.
10. Which of the following literary characteristics does **not** appropriately describe this selection?
- A. informational text
 - B. tall tale
 - C. nonfiction
 - D. expository text

| |
|-----------------------|
| TOTAL SCORE: _____/10 |
|-----------------------|

Read each sentence. Fill in the blank with the correct possessive form of the noun in parentheses.

1. In the Olympics, the (women) _____ competition takes place in the first week.
2. Michele practiced her skating (program) _____ most difficult elements.
3. Her (skates) _____ edges needed to be sharpened before the exhibition.

Read each sentence. Underline the action verb and circle the direct object in each sentence.

4. He played his trumpet loudly in the talent show.
5. The karate kid punched the board into two pieces.
6. He made a flashlight from a bulb and battery.

Read each sentence. Underline the simple predicate. Then write the main verb and the helping verb on the lines provided.

7. He was waiting on the narrow ledge.

main verb

helping verb

8. Doug had followed the cat above the rocky canyon floor.

main verb

helping verb

Read each sentence. Underline the linking verb and circle the predicate noun or predicate adjective.

9. The climb will be an adventure for Doug.

10. His journey was difficult at times.

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.”

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. <input type="radio"/> A. The new citizens pledged to be <u>loial</u> to their country.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. This plant prefers <u>moist</u> soil and filtered sunlight.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. The queen received <u>royal</u> treatment when she visited their town.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> | <p>4. <input type="radio"/> A. When the senator died, Congress <u>paused</u> for a moment of silence.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. A quiet chirping noise was the only <u>audible</u> sound we heard.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. Everyone said the old house was <u>haunted</u>.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> |
| <p>2. <input type="radio"/> A. The boat was docked in the <u>shipyard</u> for several months.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. Arctic foxes have adapted to the <u>harsh</u> climate.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. Stranded sailors set off a <u>flar</u> to mark their location.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> | <p>5. <input type="radio"/> A. Do your <u>grandparents</u> live close to you?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. Scientists built a <u>snare</u> to catch the rare bird.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. His new <u>wheelchare</u> was much smaller and easier to use.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> |
| <p>3. <input type="radio"/> A. Her new baby weighed eight pounds, two <u>ownces</u>.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. A <u>coward</u> will run away when faced with a scary situation.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. On the <u>prowl</u> for food, a sneaky weasel lurked in the bushes.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> | |

6. A. Scouts had to earn their first aid badges before they went camping.
- B. Would you like to talk to a salesperson about the warranty?
- C. Take the ternpike for three miles and exit on Oceanside Avenue.
- D. No mistake
7. A. Torches lit up the dark cave for the daring explorers.
- B. Early American folkloar is interesting to read.
- C. The deep gorge was so narrow we had to walk single file.
- D. No mistake
8. A. Everybody should cheer when their team runs onto the field.
- B. My brother-in-law helped us move into our new home.
- C. Construction equipment blocked the highway and caused a traffic jam.
- D. No mistake
9. A. I hope you found mother's perl necklace.
- B. Pack tonight so we can leave early tomorrow morning.
- C. Can you see the robin perched in the apple tree?
- D. No mistake
10. A. Cheerleader tryouts will be held after school next week.
- B. She smears the jelly on the bread before adding peanut butter.
- C. Even though the weather was dreery, we had a fun picnic.
- 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. Amateur photographers will take better pictures with an automatic-focus camera.
 - A. talented
 - B. professional
 - C. orbit
 - D. debut

2. My piano teacher says practicing one hour each day is required if I'm going to play skillfully.
 - A. stamina
 - B. essential
 - C. unnecessary
 - D. rehearsal

3. Cautious rafters wear life jackets while white-water rafting down the Snake River.
 - A. careful
 - B. specialist
 - C. presentation
 - D. reckless

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 surface of the object was smooth, but the edges were sharp and jagged.

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

 - A. They need sharp scissors to cut through the thick cardboard.
 - B. Many people told me I was wearing a sharp outfit today.
 - C. Today's meeting is scheduled to end at 3:00 PM sharp.
 - D. Mother buys only sharp cheddar cheese for our sandwiches.

5. Colonists often met in the square for community meetings and celebrations.

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

 - A. Draw a circle, triangle, and square on your paper.
 - B. A square meal includes foods from all food groups.
 - C. Four is the square root of the number two.
 - D. Do you want to go to the concert at the town square tonight?

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. Once we repositioned the table and chairs, we were pleased with the way the room looked.
 - A. eroded
 - B. launched
 - C. relocated
 - D. engulfed

7. While Marco Polo was in prison, his perilous journey to China was recorded by his scribe.
 - A. artistic
 - B. satellite
 - C. technical
 - D. dangerous

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. We were dismayed when our trip was cancelled because of rain.
 - A. reassured
 - B. troubled
 - C. distributed
 - D. maneuvered

9. When taking a test, it is important to concentrate on each question.
 - A. focus
 - B. spew
 - C. factor
 - D. compete

10. Mother was embarrassed when she found the missing eyeglasses on her head.
 - A. pressured
 - B. self-conscious
 - C. immobile
 - D. terrified

| |
|-----------------------|
| 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.

Local folktales referred to the dangerous 6
 shoreline. Apparently, no one had ever tried 13
 mapping the hidden, jagged boulders beneath the 20
 surface of the sea. Unaware of the danger, Captain 29
 Ahab was routinely steering his ship into port. 37
 Suddenly, a strong wind ripped the main sail. The 46
 ship uncontrollably veered toward the sharp rocks, 53
 piercing the boat and cutting a huge hole in the 63
 stern. It was moments from sinking. 69
 Captain Ahab weighed his options. Knowing it 76
 was possible that his ship would be torn apart by 86
 the wind and waves hammering his vessel, he tried 95
 to save his crew. Roaring over his bullhorn, he 104
 ordered the crew to abandon ship. He assured his 113
 crew everyone would safely escape. Ahab would be 121
 the last man to leave his post. As captain, he was 132
 prepared to go down with his ship. When all hope of 143
 salvation was lost, a fishing trawler drew close and 152
 fired a lifeline to the men. 158
 The thankful captain heard his men cheer 165
 each time another shipmate was pulled to safety. 173
 When he knew the last of his crew was aboard the 184
 rescue ship, he grabbed the lifeline and joined his 193
 men. Fortunately, due to the wise judgment of the 202
 captain, he and all crewmates were saved. 209

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) = 119

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.

When most women were not even driving cars, 8
 Amelia Earhart was flying airplanes. In fact, she 16
 made a daring attempt to become the first woman 25
 to fly around the world. Toward the end of this 35
 dangerous journey, she mysteriously vanished. 40

The attempt to fly around the globe began when 49
 she flew east from Oakland, California. Earhart 56
 piloted her plane over twenty thousand miles. 63
 She nearly completed the flight. She was only a 72
 hundred miles from a tiny Pacific Island when 80
 the U.S. Coast Guard lost track of her. Her final 90
 message was at 8:30 PM on June 29, 1937. 99

Since then, no trace of her has ever been found. 109
 What happened to her? There are many theories. 117
 Some suggested she was on a spy mission for the 127
 President. They think he asked her to fly over 136
 the Pacific Ocean to observe Japanese activities. 143
 Others say she was shot down and captured. Some 152
 insist she crashed in the ocean. No one may ever 162
 know what really happened to this famous pilot. 170

Earhart is best known for her fateful mission. 178
 Yet, she had many other flying achievements. She 186
 was the first to fly solo from Hawaii to California. 196
 She was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic 206
 Ocean. She soon followed Charles Lindbergh’s 212
 flight across the Atlantic. This made her the second 221
 person to solo across the Atlantic. 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) = 119

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 (Summary) Prompt

Writing Situation: You have read the story The Fear Place. You are thinking about the main events and characters.

Purpose: To restate the important points of a story in your own words

Audience: Your teacher

Writing Directions: Write a summary of The Fear Place that retells the main points of the story. Use a graphic organizer to plan your paper. Refer to your anthology to write this summary.

Student Checklist:

| Revising |
|---|
| <p>___ Does your first sentence tell who and what the story is about?</p> <p>___ Did you include only the most important events and characters?</p> <p>___ Have you paraphrased the author’s words?</p> <p>___ Does your summary cover the entire story in a brief way?</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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Sixth Edition

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