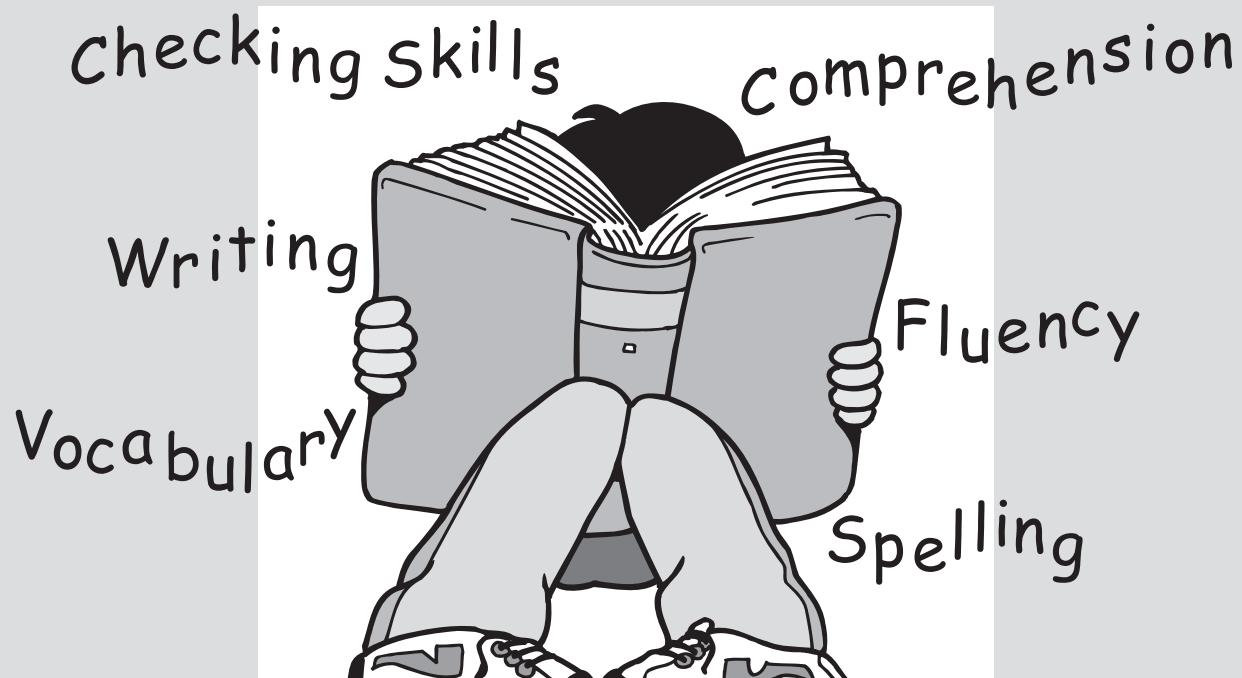


# STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

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



**GRADE 6**  
**Theme 3**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Yasha, Sasha & Misha

*Toby Joan Rosenstrauch*

On the outskirts of St. Petersburg there once lived a wealthy Russian merchant. He had a large shop that sold the finest wares. His home was a huge stone mansion where he lived with his wife and three sons, Yasha, Sasha, and Misha.

The sons were as different from one another as they could possibly be. They did not eat the same foods, enjoy the same work, or have the same opinions about anything. Even their hair and eyes were different. Yasha had red hair and brown eyes, Sasha had blond hair and blue eyes, and Misha had black hair and gray eyes.

One morning the merchant looked in his mirror and saw that his hair was turning gray. He knew that one day in the not-too-distant future he would be too old to take care of his business. He wanted to leave it to his three sons, but they did not get along together. When he brought them to the shop to teach them how to run it, they could never agree on anything. If Yasha said, "Papa, buy furs," Sasha said, "Papa, buy jewels," and Misha said, "Papa, buy silks." If Yasha said, "Charge three rubles," Sasha said, "Charge five rubles," and Misha said, "Charge eight rubles."

One evening the merchant called his sons into the parlor and spoke to them with sadness in his heart. "I am growing old," he said, "and soon I shall give my shop to one younger and stronger than myself. I had hoped you could all work together, but, alas, that can never be. So I have decided to send all of you out into the world for a while to see what you will do with the money I shall give you."

To each son he gave a large sack of rubles and a horse.

"Go," he said, "and return to me in four years' time. Whichever one of you brings me the best wares to sell shall have the shop as his own."

*Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.*

1. Which word best describes the wealthy merchant at the beginning of the story?  
 A. worried  
 B. content  
 C. proud  
 D. angry
  
2. Why does the merchant send his sons away for four years?  
 A. They are always arguing with one another.  
 B. He wants to give them a chance to make money on their own.  
 C. They refuse to work in the family business.  
 D. He wants to find out who is best suited to take over the family business.

Yasha, Sasha, and Misha each took one sack of rubles, mounted their horses, and galloped off in different directions.

As the years passed, the merchant became grayer and more wrinkled, and his shoulders were bent with age. He tired easily and longed for the day when he could give the shop to another to run. He looked forward to the return of his sons with great eagerness.

The first to come back was Yasha, but he was so changed that his father could barely recognize him and took him at first for a beggar. Yasha stood in rags before his father, his eyes downcast in shame.

“What wares have you brought for me?” asked the merchant.

“Oh, Papa,” cried Yasha, “I traveled far and purchased the finest furs. But one night, on the way back to St. Petersburg, I slept in a forest. As I slept, thieves came and took the furs, the rest of my money, and even the horse. It was only through the kindness of a farmer who gave me a ride in his wagon that I was able to come back to you today.”

The merchant was happy to see his son home safely, but he was saddened that Yasha had brought no goods to show for all the time and money. Clearly this was not the son to whom the merchant could entrust his business.

A few days later, Sasha arrived home. He, too, had tattered clothes and no horse or money. He, too, had no wares for his father.

“Oh, Papa,” he said, “I sold my horse. Then, with the money you gave me, I boarded a ship for the Orient. There I bought the finest jewels. But one night, as I was returning to Russia by sea, there was a terrible storm. All the merchandise on the ship was washed overboard. I and the other merchants were lucky to escape with our lives.” Sasha hung his head, and a few tears trickled down his face. He was sorry that he had disappointed his father.

The merchant was thankful that Sasha’s life had been spared, but he knew that this son was not suited to run his business, either.

*Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.*

3. What does Sasha do during the four years he is away from home?

- A. He travels far and purchases the finest furs.
- B. He goes to the Orient to buy jewels.
- C. He prospects for gold in India.
- D. He goes to college in St. Petersburg.

4. When Yasha and Sasha return home empty-handed, the merchant decides that he can't entrust the family business to them because they

- A. cannot get along with each other.
- B. are not responsible enough to protect their property.
- C. don't appreciate the value of money.
- D. didn't take advantage of the opportunity he gave them to become rich.

5. Sasha arrives home in tattered clothes. The word **tattered** means

- A. brand-new.
- B. dirty.
- C. ragged.
- D. second-hand.

Days passed, and the merchant waited anxiously for the return of Misha. Then, one bright morning, the merchant looked out the window and saw Misha walking up the hill to the house. Misha had no horse and carried nothing in his arms. The merchant's heart sank, but he tried not to make a judgment before he had spoken to his son.

"Oh, Papa," Misha said, "I hope you will be pleased with me. I have no furs, no jewels, and no silks to give you, but I have something more valuable. I have not traveled far—only to St. Petersburg, to the university. I have spent all the money and sold the horse, but I have received a fine education. What I have learned can never be taken away from me. It cannot be lost. It cannot be stolen. I hope you will feel that I have used my money wisely."

The merchant heard Misha, and the joy in his heart made his face light up. "The shop shall be yours," he said, "because you have indeed brought something even more valuable than wares."

To Misha the father gave his business, secure in the knowledge that this educated son would run it well. Misha, with love for his brothers, secured work for each as an apprentice with local tradesmen. When the father died, he died in peace, knowing that his sons were provided for and that his business would continue to grow and prosper.

*Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.*

6. Misha tells his father he has something more valuable than furs, jewelry, and silk. What does Misha have that is so valuable?

- A. knowledge
- B. gold
- C. health
- D. happiness

7. Misha spends his money wisely because

- A. what he learned can never be taken away.
- B. he doesn't have tattered clothes.
- C. he stays in St. Petersburg.
- D. his father gives him the business.

8. The merchant decides to turn his business over to Misha because the youngest son

- A. is his favorite.
- B. demonstrates he knows how to run a business.
- C. is friendly, agreeable, and intelligent.
- D. has proved he knows how to spend time and money wisely.

9. Which word best describes the merchant at the end of the story?

- A. confused
- B. anxious
- C. contented
- D. disappointed

10. What lesson does the author want you to learn from this story?

- A. Parents shouldn't criticize children when they fail.
- B. Education is a wise investment for the future.
- C. Not everyone can learn how to run a business.
- D. You have to have a lot of luck to run a business successfully.

TOTAL SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_ /10

**Read each sentence. Underline the verb phrase. Fill in the bubble next to the correct verb tense.**

1. Billy will have saved his money for two years.

present perfect       past perfect       future perfect

2. Grandpa had ordered the dogs from a kennel in Kentucky.

present perfect       past perfect       future perfect

3. He has traveled twenty miles to the depot in town.

present perfect       past perfect       future perfect

**Read each sentence. Underline the verb or verb phrase in parentheses that correctly completes the sentence.**

4. Jose (had seen, had saw) the racket in Stinger's backpack.

5. Estela (had went, had gone) to the courts to meet Jose.

6. My friends (takes, took) handball lessons at the park.

7. We (have rode, have ridden) our bikes to school.

8. In the morning, Grandpa Izzy (sits, sets) on the beach.

9. Dad asked me to (lie, lay) the eggs on the table.

10. When the water (raises, rises), the turtles will return to the sea.

**TOTAL SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_/10**

## NOTES

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**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 tasty chocolate chip cookies were instantly devoured.  
 B. Nimble dancers glided gracefuly across the stage.  
 C. Try to divide the work equally so everyone finishes at about the same time.  
 D. No mistake
  
2.  A. Football fans groaned when the encomplete pass hit the ground.  
 B. His impoliteness prevented him from getting a promotion.  
 C. She was placed on the inactive list after she injured her knee.  
 D. No mistake
  
3.  A. Did your principal authorize the new school dress code?  
 B. Be sure to itemize the cost of all of the party supplies.  
 C. Do you think the government will privatize state-owned utilities next year?  
 D. No mistake
  
4.  A. Wearing seatbelts is a requirement in California; people who disobey are fined.  
 B. Advancement in the company is based upon your knowledge and experience.  
 C. If we can't find a replacment for the lead singer, we will have to cancel the concert.  
 D. No mistake
  
5.  A. The principal gave his assent for our class field trip.  
 B. Before making a final decision, we should dissect key parts of the plan.  
 C. The rapid ascent of the hot air balloon worried people on the ground.  
 D. No mistake

6.  A. Our attempts to cheer up the crying child were usless.  
 B. I had to eat bland, flavorless food when I had the flu.  
 C. Her options seemed to be limitless after she graduated from college.  
 D. No mistake

7.  A. Everyone agreed the brave firemen deserved our deepest gratitude.  
 B. Skaters slipped on the ice and fell down in the middle of the rink.  
 C. City council members permitted Main Street to be blocked during the political event.  
 D. No mistake

8.  A. Grandmother forgetfully called us three times to ask us the same question.  
 B. Forcful winds toppled trees and blew shingles off many rooftops.  
 C. Our vacation to Yellowstone National Park was especially wonderful.  
 D. No mistake

9.  A. Grandmother was sitting in her rocking chair and knitting a baby blanket.  
 B. Rescuing the ship-wrecked survivors was a hazardous undertaking.  
 C. Various flowers, includeing roses and mums, were used to decorate the school float.  
 D. No mistake

10.  A. The artist's complicated design fascinated the owner of the gallery.  
 B. We continue to search for oil to meet the demands of gasoline consumers.  
 C. Luckily, the pilot was able to regain control of the plane and landed safely.  
 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. I felt very awkward when I forgot my teacher's name while introducing him to my parents.  
 A. previous  
 B. clumsy  
 C. comfortable  
 D. attentive
  
2. On my way to school each morning, I see my neighbor briskly walking his dog.  
 A. energetically  
 B. slowly  
 C. subtly  
 D. absently
  
3. There was a sense of urgency in the message left on the answering machine.  
 A. resettling  
 B. pressing  
 C. daydreaming  
 D. unimportance

**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 baker gave a sigh of relief when his cake was chosen for the wedding.

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

- A. After the rescue, we expressed our relief by cheering and clapping.
- B. Geologists use a relief map to study land features.
- C. Along the top edge of the building are animals carved in relief.
- D. The team's relief pitcher was named rookie of the year.

5. The pioneer spirit can still be found today in astronauts and deep-sea explorers.

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

- A. Our friends are with us in spirit even though they live far away.
- B. At the beginning of the journey, they shared a spirit of hope and adventure.
- C. Her kind spirit was reflected in her volunteer work.
- D. The young lawyer's argument was based on the spirit of the law.

**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. Because the news reporter exaggerated the number of people demonstrating, we were afraid to go shopping.

- A. noticed
- B. magnified
- C. permitted
- D. encouraged

7. Because I was very young when we visited my grandmother, I have only vague memories of her.

- A. brilliant
- B. official
- C. managed
- D. unclear

**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 trail guide gave us a list of provisions we needed for our journey.

- A. supplies
- B. kennels
- C. depots
- D. opportunities

9. Until yesterday we had never visited such a desolate place as the ghost town of Bodie.

- A. routine
- B. relieved
- C. deserted
- D. illegible

10. Babysitting my younger sister is always interfering with my weekend plans.

- A. bragging
- B. volunteering
- C. meddling
- D. commuting

TOTAL SCORE: _____ /10
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## 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.*

The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 doubled the size of a young United States. Purchasing this vast, fertile land helped our country rise to world-power status. The events leading up to history's largest peaceful land transfer are extremely interesting.

The sale of the Louisiana Territory to the United States by Napoleon was the result of a complex chain of events. France first claimed the land as its own. The French and Indian War shifted the balance of power among France, England, and Spain. At the end of the war in 1762, France gave the land to Spain. Forty years later, Spain began to decline as a world power. France again became interested in Louisiana. During secret talks, France convinced Spain to return the territory.

When news reached President Thomas Jefferson in the States, he conferred with France. He wanted to purchase New Orleans and Louisiana. The United States wanted this land. Many American settlers and merchants lived in the region.

France was having financial problems. It could no longer defend the territory. Napoleon talked officials into selling the entire area. The land was purchased for fifteen million dollars. This was a mere three cents an acre. Today, this region is often referred to as "the nation's breadbasket." It provides an abundance of the country's food products.

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**EVALUATING CODES FOR  
ORAL READING**

sky (/*)* word read incorrectly  
blue <sup>^\wedge</sup> sky (^\wedge) inserted word  
(*\square*) 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) = \_\_\_\_\_ 140

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.*

In 1979, Jan Scruggs, an honored Vietnam War veteran, had an idea. The idea was to build a memorial. Its purpose was to honor the soldiers who had died during this unpopular war. 7  
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The following year, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund held a national design contest. Maya Lin, a young, talented woman was studying structural design and sculpture at Yale. She entered the contest. Her entry was a polished, black-granite, v-shaped wall. It was inscribed with the names of the 58,000 who had perished. Maya won the competition. Some people felt the design was not suitable. They wanted a different tribute to the fallen heroes. Critics were split into supporters and opponents. Both sides were eventually satisfied. The parties agreed to erect a statue of three soldiers with a flag at the entrance. The wall was completely funded through private donations. It has become one of our most valued monuments. People visit it daily seeking the names of friends and relatives who died. Photographs, flowers, and mementos are tearfully placed on the sidewalk in front of the wall. These items are kept and cataloged in a building near the site. A scaled-down version of the wall travels throughout the country. This allows people unable to visit Washington D.C. to see the names of their loved ones.

### EVALUATING CODES FOR ORAL READING

sky (/*)* word read incorrectly  
blue <sup>^\wedge</sup> sky (^\wedge) inserted word  
(*\square*) 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)	=	140

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 have read Last Summer with Maizon. You are thinking about the characters and events in the story.

**Purpose:** To respond to literature in a problem-solution composition

**Audience:** Your teacher

**Writing Directions:** Write a problem-solution composition describing how a character solved a problem in the story, Last Summer with Maizon. Use a graphic organizer to plan your ideas. Refer to your anthology to write this composition.

### Student Checklist:

#### Revising

- \_\_\_\_\_ Does your introductory sentence tell who or what you are writing about?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is your character's problem identified in the first paragraph?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Did you give details that lead to the solution?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have a concluding sentence?

#### 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  
Genre Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /4  
Writing Traits Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /4

**TOTAL RUBRIC SCORE:** \_\_\_\_\_ /4

## NOTES

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## NOTES

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## NOTES

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**Sixth Edition**

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