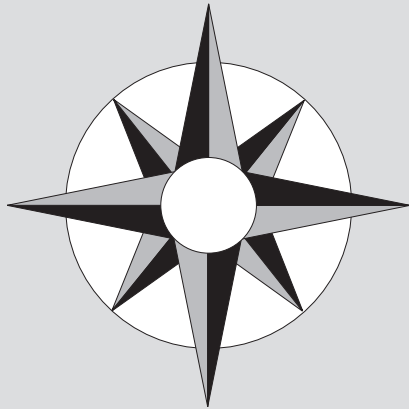


STUDENT TEST BOOKLET - LAUSD



Skills Assessments

Developed for
Los Angeles Unified School District Teachers
Using *Open Court Reading 2000*

G **R** **A** **D** **E**

5

Unit 2

Student Name _____

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

The Demon Star

David Warner

Many of the world's famous astronomers lived in the desert lands of Arabia, where the blazing daytime heat often made traveling at night a necessity. Men led camel caravans through the empty desert darkness, and like the first sailors, they had only the stars to guide them. Night after night, they watched the lights in the sky. They learned to recognize them and gave them names.

One star was different from the others. They called it *Algol*, which is Arabic for "The Ghoul." The reason for this ghostly name is that, now and then, Algol almost disappears. In the ancient stories, the star was a glittering demon who slowly and mysteriously winked his eye, as though he knew a dark secret.

What could cause a star's light to dim and grow bright again? What could cause such a thing, again and again, year after year? Nobody knew. Algol kept its secret for centuries.

The puzzle was finally solved in 1783 by a young man in England. He was eighteen years old, and his name was John Goodricke. John was born totally deaf and spent his early years not knowing how to speak. In those days most people believed that deaf children could not be educated. But there was a school for deaf children in Scotland, and John went there and learned to speak, read, and write. He also learned to be curious. Later he became an excellent mathematics student.

When John's schooling was finished, he went home to live with his family. One of his neighbors, a friend of John's father, was an amateur astronomer. John had probably studied a bit of astronomy at school before he and the older man became friends.

John's curiosity was aroused when his neighbor told him about the demon star. He began to watch Algol and one night was amazed to see it almost blink out. He was fascinated and continued to observe the star for many, many nights.

John did not have a telescope, but he had sharp eyes. He watched the star carefully and, using an accurate clock, discovered that Algol's dimming kept to a precise schedule. John calculated that every 2 days, 20 hours, and 49 minutes the star almost blinked out after fading for 5 hours. Then, over a 5-hour period, it became steadily brighter.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

1. Which of the following answers best explains why Arabian men were interested in the stars?
 - A. They believed the stars were demons.
 - B. Famous Arabian astronomers lived in the desert and studied the stars.
 - C. They often made up stories about the stars.
 - D. They used stars to find their way in the dark.

2. The Arabs called Algol a demon because
 - A. it is bright orange.
 - B. it has a ghost-like shape.
 - C. it dims and brightens.
 - D. mysterious things happen when it dims.

3. In John Goodricke's day, some people were surprised when he solved the puzzle of Algol because
 - A. he was deaf.
 - B. he was curious.
 - C. he studied mathematics.
 - D. he was an amateur astronomer.

4. How did John learn about the demon star?
 - A. He read about it in a newspaper.
 - B. He studied astronomy in school.
 - C. His neighbor told him about it.
 - D. He saw it outside his window.

5. Which of the following instruments played a significant role in John's discovery?
 - A. calculator
 - B. clock
 - C. telescope
 - D. calendar

But why did Algol blink? After days of studying and thinking, John had an idea. Algol dims, he figured, because there is a planet revolving around it. As regularly as the second hand on an enormous watch, the planet passes in front of the star and blocks most of its light.

John's answer was almost correct. Years later, with the help of high-powered telescopes, the actual answer was found. Algol is not one star, but two. One star is smaller and brighter than the other. The stars circle each other and are so close together that when they are side by side, they look like a single bright light. When the fainter star moves in front of the other, the light from the star behind is blocked, and the star seems to dim.

Sharp-eyed John continued to gaze at the heavens and discovered several other blinking stars, which astronomers call *variables*. They had always been there, of course, but their dimming had been so slight that no one, before John, had ever noticed them. One variable star that John discovered in the constellation Cepheus turned out to be an important clue in measuring the size of the universe.

Astronomers with modern telescopes have found hundreds of variable stars. It all started with Algol and with John Goodricke who discovered that the demon star was really no demon at all.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

6. Which question did John want to answer?
- A. Why do some stars shine more brightly than others?
 - B. Why do stars appear in the same place in the sky?
 - C. Why would astronomers name a star “The Ghoul”?
 - D. Why would a star “blink?”
7. John Goodricke reasoned that a planet revolving around Algol made the star dimmer. The word *revolve* means
- A. to get larger then smaller.
 - B. to circle another object.
 - C. to brighten and dim.
 - D. to change into another object.
8. The change in Algol’s brightness can best be compared to what happens when
- A. the moon passes in front of the sun.
 - B. a person wears dark glasses on a sunny day.
 - C. the sun slowly sinks below the horizon.
 - D. the moon shines through a window.
9. Without a high-powered telescope, John could not see that Algol
- A. is part of a constellation.
 - B. is a demon star.
 - C. is actually two stars.
 - D. has several planets orbiting the star.
10. What do astronomers call stars that have their light blocked for short periods of time by other stars?
- A. blinking stars
 - B. variables
 - C. demon stars
 - D. black holes

TOTAL SCORE: ____/10

Read each sentence. Underline the complete subject in each sentence.

1. The demon star winked at desert travelers.
2. High-powered telescopes helped to solve the mystery.
3. Astronomers study planets and stars.

Read each sentence. Draw two lines under the complete predicate in each sentence.

4. The stars look like a single, bright light.
5. Variable stars have been discovered by astronomers.

Read each sentence and fill in the bubble next to the correct verb form needed to complete the sentence.

6. Algol _____ its secret for centuries.
 keep are keeping were keeping has kept
7. John might _____ about astronomy at school before he and the older man became friends.
 learns has learned have learned will have learned
8. Astronomers with modern telescopes _____ hundreds of stars like Algol.
 finds have found is finding has found

Choose the correct pronoun and write it in the blank to complete the sentence.

9. When the students were quiet, the teacher read _____ a story.
(them *or* they)
10. My best friend and _____ are going to a jazz concert.
(me *or* I)

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10

DIRECTIONS: Read all of the sentences. If an underlined word is misspelled, fill in the bubble next to the answer you have chosen. If none of the underlined words are misspelled, fill in the bubble next to “No mistake.”

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. <input type="radio"/> A. She left her <u>bicycle</u> outside.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. The children held hands and formed a <u>cercle</u>.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. <u>Citizens</u> lined the street to cheer for the new mayor of the town.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> | <p>4. <input type="radio"/> A. Did your <u>frend</u> try out for the swimming team?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. We need more chairs for <u>people</u> in the meeting.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. <u>Though</u> it was raining, she decided to go for a walk.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> |
| <p>2. <input type="radio"/> A. Water contains <u>hydrogan</u> and oxygen molecules.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. The baby slept peacefully in his <u>carriage</u>.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. The <u>gigantic</u> skyscraper dwarfed the other buildings.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> | <p>5. <input type="radio"/> A. A computer is used to identify <u>galaxies</u> in outer space.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. <u>Boxs</u> of miniature doll houses sat on the shelf.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. The storyteller <u>mixes</u> fact with fiction to keep our attention.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> |
| <p>3. <input type="radio"/> A. How many letters make up the English <u>alphabet</u>?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. The chemist made a <u>significant</u> breakthrough in his research.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. The <u>photografs</u> she took in Europe are beautiful!</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> | <p>6. <input type="radio"/> A. The bright sun made the man <u>squint</u> when he removed his sunglasses.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. I watched the baby <u>skwirm</u> as he awakened in his crib.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. The brave knight raised his <u>sword</u> and prepared for battle.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> |

7. A. The roller coaster ride was scary but thrilling.
- B. My computer keyboard is broken.
- C. The inside curve of my contact lens is koncave.
- D. No mistake
8. A. Looking at the night sky, the astronomer charted thowsands of stars.
- B. The alarm sounded while the firemen raced to their truck.
- C. Remove the frown from your face and show me a happy smile.
- D. No mistake
9. A. Which planet is smaller, Earth or Mars?
- B. Jupiter is the bigest planet in our solar system.
- C. It wasn't the smartest cat in the neighborhood, but it was the bravest.
- D. No mistake
10. A. Scientists closely tracked the movement of the satellite.
- B. They watched breathlessly as the rocket left the launch pad.
- C. When do you usually go to bed on weekends?
- 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. Variable weather conditions made tomorrow’s forecast difficult.
 - A. globular
 - B. visible
 - C. constant
 - D. accelerated

2. The engineer reported that the damage to the main jet was insignificant.
 - A. particles
 - B. trifling
 - C. stabilized
 - D. important

3. The caveman’s tools were primitive but skillfully crafted.
 - A. magnified
 - B. modern
 - C. transparent
 - D. three-dimensional

PART 2 — Multiple Meanings

DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence. Read and answer the question. Fill in the bubble next to the answer.

4. The children gazed at the celestial body projected onto the ceiling of the observatory.

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

 - A. Remember to indent each paragraph in the body of your letter.
 - B. Specially formulated shampoo was designed to give her hair more body.
 - C. The astronomer observed the interesting heavenly body just above the horizon.
 - D. The legislative body of our government writes and enforces laws.

5. There was a short circuit in my radio so I couldn’t hear my favorite song.

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

 - A. Every year the Earth makes a complete circuit around the sun.
 - B. The repairman came to fix the broken circuit in the washing machine.
 - C. Their dad is a circuit court judge.
 - D. My brother is ranked tenth on the professional tennis circuit.

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. Dense clouds obscured the view and made the telescope useless.
- A. clarified
 - B. probed
 - C. hid
 - D. attended
7. The would-be king renounced the throne to marry a commoner.
- A. rejected
 - B. interrogated
 - C. aligned
 - D. summoned

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 wise old woman ignored the vain, self-centered man.
- A. blemished
 - B. conceited
 - C. alien
 - D. ingenious
9. The discovery of the telescope revolutionized the study of the heavens.
- A. domesticated
 - B. ceased
 - C. demolished
 - D. changed
10. During the night, the worried doctor frequently checked on his sick patient.
- A. often
 - B. extraordinarily
 - C. simultaneously
 - D. astronomically

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.

Captain Gore, an android, had a new mission. He 9
 had been summoned from his home planet, Zan, located 18
 in the Star Galaxy. He was assigned to guard agents 28
 returning to Zan from Earth. The diplomats were 36
 carrying secret documents to their homeland. Word had 44
 reached them that cruel and hostile invaders were 52
 roaming the universe. The agents had requested Gore’s 60
 protection. Soon a convoy retrieved the agents and 68
 headed back to Zan. 72

The fleet of starships whizzed around several galaxies. 80
 Then without warning, the main ship’s computer broke 88
 down. The convoy was stranded between two stars. 96
 Hastily, the captain’s engineer fixed the broken 103
 mainframe. 104

During the stop, Gore received a dire message. 112
 It was sent by high-frequency waves. The commander 121
 was alarmed. An armada of attacking raiders was 129
 headed their way. He quickly sought the advice of his 139
 most trusted crewman. When the assistant arrived, Gore 147
 explained the situation. He asked for suggestions. The 155
 assistant helped his captain consider all possible options. 163

Suddenly lights flashed. Sirens blared. The ship’s 170
 gadgets had detected a huge comet. It was speeding 179
 directly at Gore’s transport vehicle. Right away, he 187
 shouted “Mach 90!” He had to prevent his fleet from 197
 being demolished. Luckily, the spaceships narrowly 203
 avoided the impending collision. The attacking raiders 210
 were taken off guard. The rogues were destroyed. 218

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.

Ancient cultures observed the stars and wondered
 about their origin. Ursa Major is visible in northern
 skies. This star pattern is one of the better known and
 easier to find constellations. It is often the first star
 formation people learn to recognize. Ursa Major is one of
 the largest celestial groups and contains the famous Big
 Dipper.

People once thought the Big Dipper looked like a
 wagon. Others thought it was a plow or a bull’s thigh.
 They often named star groups after gods or other mythical
 creatures. Lacking scientific knowledge, elaborate stories
 were created. These tales helped explain why the shining
 images appeared in night skies.

Native American Indians created myths, too. They
 called the Big Dipper the Great Bear. The handle of the
 Dipper was the Great Bear’s tail, and the Dipper’s cup
 was the Bear’s flank. Other Indians believed the “bowl”
 was a giant bear and the last stars of the handle were
 three warriors chasing it. Because the Big Dipper sits
 low in the autumn sky, it was thought that hunters had
 injured the bear. American Indians believed the blood
 from the bear’s injury caused the trees to change color.
 This legend helped explain why leaves turned red in the
 fall.

The best time to observe the Big Dipper is on a
 moonless night when stars appear to be brightest.

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>119</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 Assessment Prompt

Writing Situation: You are writing an informational article on space exploration for a magazine called *Kid's Astronomy*.

Audience: Children

Directions for Writing: Think about the information that you have read in the *Back Through the Stars* unit. Select one major scientific invention used to explore outer space. Write a multiple-paragraph informational article with an introduction. Give at least two examples of how this invention has helped space exploration. Include supporting facts and details. Write a concluding paragraph that summarizes important points.

You will score the most points if you use the following checklist.

Revising for Genre: Expository

You should:

- _____ select one main idea (scientific invention)
- _____ give at least two reasons why this invention is important
- _____ develop the topic with facts and details

Revising for Writing Strategies (Traits)

You should:

- _____ write an introduction
- _____ write a multiple-paragraph article that includes at least two reasons
- _____ develop the topic with important ideas
- _____ provide details and transitional expressions that link your paragraphs
- _____ write a concluding paragraph that summarizes the important ideas

Proofreading for Conventions

You should:

- _____ use correct punctuation, capitalization, and grammar
- _____ use correct spelling
- _____ use a variety of sentence styles to make your writing interesting and connect ideas

TOTAL SCORE: _____/4

NOTES

Tenth Edition

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