


STUDENT TEST BOOKLET – LAUSD



6-8 Week
Skills
Assessments

Developed for
Los Angeles Unified School District Teachers
Using *Open Court Reading 2002*

G **R** **A** **D** **E** **3**

Unit 2

Student Name _____

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

Nature in the City: Plants

Joan Elma Rahn

How often have you admired the flowers in the window of a florist's shop? Most likely, every time you pass one. How many times have you admired the plants growing in the alley next to a florist's shop? Most likely, not very often. Yet, if you looked closely at some of these wild plants, you might find them very pretty, too.

Often we call plants growing in the country wild flowers. We call plants growing wild in the city weeds. But, a weed is simply a plant that is growing where it is not wanted. Pretty roses might be considered weeds if they grew in a lawn. Flowers in a vegetable garden might be called weeds if they shade the beans and carrots. If a plant made an alley pretty, why would you call it a weed?

In any city, you can find many weeds or wild flowers. Use whichever name pleases you. This selection describes two of the plants that grow wild in many cities. They may be hard to find where you live. Perhaps you will see them when you visit a friend or take a trip.

You can find many of these plants growing along streets and alleys. They also grow under fire escapes, in vacant lots, and in gardens and lawns. Some grow in the cracks in sidewalks. Others grow between the bricks of a street. People rarely mow closer than within an inch or two of telephone poles, traffic signs, fire hydrants, or fences. Check these places for interesting plants. School yards and city parks are other places to look.

Now answer the questions about this part of the story.

1. Where would you most likely find plants growing wild in the city?
 - A. window ledges
 - B. a florist's shop
 - C. the countryside
 - D. vacant lots

2. Based on the text, the **best** definition of a weed is
 - A. a wild flower growing in the country.
 - B. a plant growing in the park.
 - C. a plant growing where it is not wanted.
 - D. flowers in the window of a florist's shop.

3. The author says you should look closely at weeds growing in alleys or sidewalk cracks because
 - A. weeds can be beautiful.
 - B. some weeds are poisonous.
 - C. some weeds have stickers.
 - D. weeds are not very interesting.

4. Fences and telephone poles are good places to look for wild flowers because
 - A. they only grow around fences and telephone poles.
 - B. fences and telephone poles are shady places.
 - C. these areas are seldom bothered by people.
 - D. people plant wild flower seeds beside fences and telephone poles.

The two plants described below are considered weeds in the city. You don't have to worry about getting into trouble if you pick them. However, there are places where you are not allowed to pick any plants. This includes weeds. Of course, you should never trespass or walk onto private property without permission.

Dandelion

If you asked people to name just one weed, most would say the dandelion. Almost everyone knows about dandelions. They are among the most common weeds found in lawns and gardens.

The edge of each dandelion leaf is notched. The leaf looks like a row of teeth. These notches gave dandelions their name. Our English name for them comes from the French name *dent de lion*. This means, "tooth of the lion." The leaves are good to eat in the spring when they are still small and tender. You can eat the leaves raw in a salad or cooked as a vegetable. Later in the year, they become tough and bitter.

A dandelion plant has several stems, each with a head of flowers at its tip. When the heads become older, they close. Then, small fruits with tiny seeds form. When the fruits are ripe, the heads open again. Each fruit is topped by a parachute of fine hairs. The hairs make the head look white and fluffy. The parachute helps the fruit to be carried by the wind. Another name for dandelion is blowball.

Now answer the questions about this part of the story.

5. The story mentions that you should never trespass on private property. In this sentence, *trespass* means
- A. entering property without being told it is okay.
 - B. finding plants growing along streets.
 - C. planting flowers on someone's property.
 - D. picking weeds on your property.
6. What does the name *dandelion* mean?
- A. mane of the lion
 - B. hair of the lion
 - C. tooth of the lion
 - D. tail of the lion

Tree-of-Heaven

In the United States, the tree-of-heaven is more common in cities than the country. The tree-of-heaven comes from China and Japan. It did not grow in the United States until 1820 when a few trees were planted in New York City. They grew so well in the smoke and pollution that they were planted in other cities. The seeds from the trees often grew into new trees.

You may find tree-of-heaven in two different kinds of places in cities. Some of them grow along streets where they were planted. Many more grow as weeds in vacant lots. You can also find them under fire escapes, along alleys, and in cracks in sidewalks.

When they are young, trees-of-heaven look a little like smooth sumac. Unlike the smooth sumac, they grow into large trees. The leaves have eleven to forty-one leaflets. Each leaf may be as long as three feet.

The flowers are small and greenish. They occur in large, loose sprays. The twisted fruits have one seed in the center. The fruits turn yellow or orange by midsummer. They stay on the tree until winter.

Trees-of-heaven grow rapidly. They can provide a great deal of shade in just a few years.

Now answer the questions about the story.

7. How can you recognize the tree-of-heaven?
- A. by its rough bark
 - B. by its leaves that grow up to three feet in length
 - C. by its large, red flowers
 - D. by its small, red berries
8. What is the **main** reason the tree-of-heaven grows well in cities?
- A. People plant it for shade.
 - B. It has hard bark.
 - C. It grows rapidly.
 - D. Smoke and pollution don't bother it.
9. How is the tree-of-heaven different from the sumac?
- A. When it is young, its bark is smoother than the sumac.
 - B. It grows bigger than the sumac.
 - C. The sumac doesn't have flowers.
 - D. The sumac grows faster.
10. In the story, *Nature in the City: Plants*, the **main** idea is
- A. people should plant more wild flowers.
 - B. the dandelion is a pesky, city weed.
 - C. the tree-of-heaven is a beautiful shade tree.
 - D. people should take joy in all plants that grow in the city.

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10

Fill in the bubble next to the answer that correctly completes the sentence.

1. Yesterday we read the poem _____

- A. A Full Moon in October.
- B. “A Full Moon in October”.
- C. “A Full Moon in October.”
- D. A Full Moon in October.

2. The children exclaimed, _____

- A. “What beautiful flowers!”
- B. “What beautiful flowers”!
- C. What beautiful flowers!
- D. “What beautiful flowers.”

3. _____ said to the crowd.

- A. “The park closes at dusk, the ranger,”
- B. The park closes at dusk, “the ranger”
- C. “The park closes at dusk,” the ranger
- D. “The park closes at dusk,” “the ranger”

Rewrite the sentences below adding commas where needed.

4. Weeds can be found growing in lawns gardens and fields.

5. Raccoons squirrels chipmunks and possums are common city critters.

Fill in the bubble beside the words that correctly complete the sentence.

6. The new city park is located in _____

- A. pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- B. Pittsburgh, pennsylvania.
- C. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- D. pittsburgh, pennsylvania.

7. The President of the _____

- A. united states lives at the white house.
- B. United States lives at the white house.
- C. united states lives at the White House.
- D. United States lives at the White House.

8. The _____ is a wonderful place to visit.

- A. San Francisco public Library
- B. san francisco Public Library
- C. San Francisco public library
- D. San Francisco Public Library

Read the sentences below. Are the sentences punctuated correctly? Fill in the bubble beside your answer.

9. Look! The flowers we planted in the fall are blooming.

- yes
- no

10. Can you go on a nature walk through Central Park with us.

- yes
- no

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. Would you like to <u>share</u> this fruit salad?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. Father sat in his favorite <u>chare</u> and read the newspaper.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. His <u>hair</u> was short, black, and curly.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> | <p>4. <input type="radio"/> A. The queen received <u>royal</u> treatment when she visited our town.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. <u>Peopal</u> cheered when the band began to play.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. The soccer referee blows his <u>whistle</u> when he sees a foul.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> |
| <p>2. <input type="radio"/> A. The <u>nirse</u> took the young patient’s temperature.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. Did you hear a <u>bird</u> singing in your yard this morning?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. You seldom see cows and horses in an <u>urban</u> area.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> | <p>5. <input type="radio"/> A. The dictionary will be <u>usful</u> for this assignment.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. In the <u>future</u> he hoped to become an airplane pilot.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. There are a <u>few</u> seats left in the front row.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> |
| <p>3. <input type="radio"/> A. He accidentally <u>tor</u> his jacket on the jagged fence.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. Grandmother sat in the <u>porch</u> swing and admired her garden.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. Please wash your hands <u>before</u> you eat lunch.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> | |

6. A. Will you please count the number of students who are absent?
- B. A crown of olive branches was placed on the marathon runner's head.
- C. Replace that froun with a happy smile.
- D. No mistake
7. A. A healthy child rarely gets sick and misses school.
- B. Grandmother forgetfully misplaces her glasses.
- C. The dog loyaly followed its owner along the path.
- D. No mistake
8. A. Mom uses a quiet voyce when the baby is sleeping.
- B. The raging fire destroyed many acres of forestland.
- C. Unruly children disrupted campers by making too much noise.
- D. No mistake
9. A. Aren't you going to the dentist's office today?
- B. School council members said they're planning a carnival.
- C. I wonder if they'll want chocolate mint ice cream for dessert.
- D. No mistake
10. A. The angry judge glared at the lawyer.
- B. Servants fanned the emperor with large palm leaves.
- C. We hurried home to watch our favorite television show because it was getting late.
- 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 enormous mountain was visible through the clouds.
 - A. delightful
 - B. huge
 - C. small
 - D. windswept

2. The vacant apartment seemed lonely and deserted.
 - A. occupied
 - B. abandoned
 - C. decorated
 - D. empty

3. The children waded in the shallow pond.
 - A. concrete
 - B. deep
 - C. observation
 - D. shadowed

PART 2 — Multiple Meanings

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

4. The large oak tree shades their front yard.

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

- A. There are many shades of blue in the artist's painting.
 - B. The baseball cap shades the boy's face.
 - C. He closed the shades in the living room.
 - D. The famous actor wore dark shades to hide his identity.
-
5. We learned that car exhaust harms the environment.
- In which sentence is the word exhaust used **in the same way** as in the sentence above?
- A. The scientist was determined to exhaust every avenue in an attempt to find a cure.
 - B. We must be careful not to exhaust our camping supplies before the end of our trip.
 - C. The marathon runner tried not to exhaust himself in the middle of the race.
 - D. Exhaust drifted upward from the factory's smokestack.

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 dwelling had lots of living space for the large family.
- A. cavity
 - B. organization
 - C. laboratory
 - D. house
7. The bird made its home in a large crevice in the building.
- A. habitat
 - B. slope
 - C. skyscraper
 - D. crack

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 original painting is more colorful than the copy.
- A. first
 - B. cozy
 - C. flimsy
 - D. urban
9. This territory used to be a wilderness.
- A. population
 - B. responsibility
 - C. land
 - D. plume
10. Some birds don't migrate to warmer places in the winter.
- A. beckon
 - B. relocate
 - C. clamor
 - D. burst

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.

Dawn did not like vegetables! Once, she took an 9
 oath claiming she would never try them again. In 18
 fact, she disliked vegetables so much she wouldn’t 26
 feed them to Ming, her pet turtle. She fed Ming the 37
 same foods she liked to eat. She even fed her turtle 48
 her favorite dessert, blueberry cobbler. Now, Dawn 55
 loves vegetables! What happened that made her 62
 change her mind? 65

Ming had become sluggish and slept all the time, 74
 refusing to come out of his shell. Dawn didn’t know 84
 what was wrong. She carried him to her mother and 94
 exclaimed, “Ming is sick and won’t eat! What’s the 103
 matter with him?” Her mother immediately knew 110
 why Ming didn’t feel well. Mother told her to feed 120
 him fresh vegetables and assured her Ming would 128
 soon feel better. 131

After several weeks, Ming was the active turtle 139
 he had been. Helping Ming get well was much easier 149
 than Dawn thought. She had learned how important 157
 vegetables were to a healthy diet. They were also 166
 quite tasty. Dawn started going to the store with 175
 her mother every Friday to buy fresh produce. She 184
 enjoyed making salads for her family. 190

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) = 86

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.

Daylight was just breaking. The sun was 7
 beginning to peek over the horizon. Jessie sat 15
 quietly in his tree house. He was looking down on 25
 his backyard. He noticed that heavy dew had settled 34
 on the lawn overnight. Jessie pulled his coat tighter 43
 around him. He thought about his class assignment. 51
 It was to study animals that had adapted to city life. 62
 He had chosen squirrels because of their ability to 71
 survive. 72

Jessie watched as squirrels slowly crept out of 80
 their nests. The youngest ones chased each other. 88
 They scampered from limb to limb. Older squirrels 96
 busily gathered supplies for the winter. The first 104
 frost was only a few weeks away. Leaves were 113
 turning brilliant, fall colors. Soon snow would 120
 cover the ground. Then, it would be too late for 130
 the squirrels to hide acorns. 135

A shadow glided across the treetops. It was a 144
 hawk hungrily exploring for food. The bird saw 152
 the squirrels in the huge, old, oak tree. The hawk 162
 plunged down to pursue a tasty morning meal, but it 172
 was too late. The squirrels had already taken cover. 181
 They were hiding in their homes. Jessie sighed with 190
 relief. He had given many of them names, and he 200
 considered them friends. 203

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) = 86

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 [Description] Writing Assessment Prompt

Writing Situation: You are writing a description about wildlife found in the city.

Audience: Other students

Directions for Writing: Think about the stories you read in the *City Wildlife* unit. Think about how wild animals and plants survive in the city. Select one wild animal or plant. Write at least one paragraph describing the habitat of your animal or plant and how it survives in the city. Write a topic sentence and use sensory details to support your ideas.

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

Revising for Genre: Description

You should:

- _____ write at least one paragraph describing the habitat and how your wildlife survives in the city.
- _____ use sensory details in your sentences.

Revising for Writing Strategies (Traits)

You should:

- _____ write at least one paragraph with a topic sentence.
- _____ use supporting facts and details.
- _____ write clear sentences that make sense.

Proofreading for Conventions

You should:

- _____ use correct punctuation, capitalization, and grammar.
- _____ use correct spelling (remember to check the Sound Spelling Cards).
- _____ write legibly so your paper can be clearly read.

TOTAL SCORE: _____/4

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES

Seventh Edition

© 2008 Reading Lions Center

**Unauthorized reproduction of this booklet, or any part thereof, is strictly prohibited.
Permission to reproduce materials must be obtained in writing from the Reading Lions Center.**

Every effort has been made to contact the copyright holders of any material reproduced in this booklet.
Any omissions will be rectified in subsequent printings if notice is given to the publishers.