6-8 Week Skills Assessments

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

GRADE 3

Unit 4

Student Name ____________________________________________

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

Hopalong

Concetta C. Doucette

I’ve been lucky. I’ve found lots of things while delivering newspapers on foot.

My route runs about two miles. I used to deliver the papers on my bike, even in bad weather. Last Friday afternoon, my front wheel collapsed—it had rusted. I groaned. I knew my parents wouldn’t feel sorry for me because they’d told me not to leave my bike in the rain and snow. Now the frame was badly rusted and the bike probably wasn’t worth the cost of repairs.

The only way to pay for a new bike was with my route money. But I had already spent all of my savings for Christmas gifts. So I’d have to walk my route for at least two months. On Lincoln’s Birthday, I had just started my route when a sudden rainstorm hit. The wind was blowing so hard that I could barely hang onto my papers. Branches and shingles were all over the place.

I had just started to run home when I heard a yipping noise. Although I was a bit afraid to track down the sound, I took a few steps into the woods. It was cold and dark. The wind was bending saplings every which way, making shadowy figures that looked like forest monsters. I was beginning to think I’d imagined the noise and was just about to run back when I tripped over something.

Now answer the questions about this part of the story.
1. How does the main character earn spending money?
   - A. doing chores for his mother
   - B. delivering newspapers
   - C. running errands
   - D. fixing bicycles for his friends

2. Why wasn’t the bike worth fixing?
   - A. The main character wanted a new bike.
   - B. The bike was too old.
   - C. The repairs would cost more than the value of the bike.
   - D. The main character was not responsible.

3. In the story, the word route means
   - A. spending all of your savings.
   - B. bending saplings.
   - C. a definite path someone takes.
   - D. cost of repairs.
I fell to my knees. It was a puppy! He was covered with leaves and branches and lying in a hole that had filled with water. His struggling had created a pit of mud. Cautiously, I lifted him out. He gave a small cry, and I saw that his left back leg had a lump bigger than a baseball. He wasn’t wearing a collar or dog license, so I put him inside my canvas bag and carried him home. He felt much lighter than my load of newspapers.

My mother warmed some milk while I towed the dog dry. “He’s just a little pup. Let’s take him to Doc Burnett.”

“We can’t possibly afford a vet bill now, Rocky. I’m sorry. We’ll have to take the pup to the animal shelter.”

I couldn’t let that happen! I knew no one else would want such a sick mutt, and the shelter would have to get rid of him. I couldn’t hold back the tears. “Please, Mom,” I begged. “Drive us to the vet. I’ll pay the expenses with my route money.”

“But what about the new bike?” she asked.

“It’ll wait. I don’t mind walking. Please, Mom!”

“If it’s what you really want…”

“Yes. Yes,” I said.

“O.K.,” she said, taking her raincoat off the hook. “I’ll warm up the car. Come out when I honk the horn.”

I gently bundled up the puppy in an old blanket. His muscles were all loose and floppy. He didn’t try to wriggle free. It seemed as if he were too sick, too tired to move. I think he knew I was trying to help.

Now answer the questions about this part of the story.
4. Rocky volunteered to pay for the vet because

○ A. he felt guilty about damaging his bicycle.
○ B. his parents couldn’t afford it.
○ C. he felt guilty about hurting the pup.
○ D. his parents didn’t want the pup to go to the vet.

5. Which word **best** describes Rocky’s mother?

○ A. understanding
○ B. funny
○ C. uncaring
○ D. rich

6. Rocky changed his plans to buy a bike after he found the puppy because

○ A. the puppy needed to see a vet.
○ B. the puppy had been treated cruelly.
○ C. his mother didn’t want him to have a pet.
○ D. Doc Burnett was a good vet.
When Doc Burnett saw the pup’s leg, he scratched his beard. He took out his instruments and examined the dog thoroughly.

When he was finished, he asked, “Where are your folks?”

“Mom’s in the waiting room,” I told him.

He motioned for me to get her. Then he suggested that I wait outside.

My mother knew how much I hated being treated like a child. She told the vet, “Rocky’s sacrificing his route earnings to pay for this. I’d appreciate your discussing the case with him.”

It was great to be treated like an adult. But it wasn’t so great to be responsible for someone else.

Doc Burnett got right to the point. “I’ll have to amputate the leg to save the dog’s life,” he said. “If you agree, I can do the surgery tomorrow morning.”

I tried hard not to cry, but the tears came anyway. “Do what you have to,” I croaked out. Then I bent over the table and gave the mutt a big hug. “You’ll be O.K.,” I whispered in his ear. “Doc Burnett’s the best.”

I had a million questions in my mind. When the vet’s assistant took the mutt into the kennel area, I asked, “Doc, will he be able to walk with three legs?”

“He’ll get along just fine,” Doc Burnett said earnestly. “Do you know Jelly Bean, the Strenharts’ dog?”

I shook my head.

“The Strenharts live on Miller Road. Call them. I’m sure they’ll let you see their dog. Jelly Bean’s been minus a leg for almost four years now; she’s healthy, frisky, and lovable.”

Now answer the questions about this part of the story.
7. Rocky’s mother showed respect for Rocky by
   ○ A. telling Rocky she was proud of him.
   ○ B. letting Rocky keep the puppy as a pet.
   ○ C. asking Doc Burnett to operate for free.
   ○ D. asking Doc Burnett to speak to Rocky.

8. Doc Burnett had to amputate the pup’s leg to save his life. What does the word *amputate* mean?
   ○ A. to bandage
   ○ B. to cut off
   ○ C. to sew up
   ○ D. to take an x-ray
Wednesday morning my parents let me stay home from school. They knew I wouldn’t be able to think about anything but the pup anyway.

My dad arranged to get home early. Late that afternoon, the three of us rode to the veterinary hospital and visited the mutt.

He was still pretty doped up, but Doc Burnett said the surgery had been a success and the puppy should recover quickly, with the proper care. He’d have to stay in the hospital a couple of weeks.

Funny thing—we didn’t even think about naming the puppy. Doc Burnett called him Dog Braden. The next time we visited, we decided the pup deserved a personal name. We eventually settled on Hopalong—because he hopped and licked us every time we saw him.

The day Hopalong came home, I placed an engraved collar around his neck. He hopped all over the kitchen, licking each one of us. I knew he felt like part of our family now.

Doc Burnett is letting me pay off Hopalong’s bill a little at a time. It’s going to be a long time before I’ll have the money to buy a new bike, but I don’t care. If I hadn’t been walking, I’d never have found Hopalong. Delivering the papers isn’t such a long and lonely job, now that Hopalong comes with me.

Now answer the questions about this part of the story.
9. Which word **best** describes Rocky?

- A. rude
- B. unselfish
- C. careless
- D. forgetful

10. Which of the following sentences **best** explains Rocky’s attitude about money?

- A. He spent it foolishly.
- B. He was stingy.
- C. He was greedy.
- D. He spent it wisely.
Read the sentences below. Circle the preposition and underline the prepositional phrase.

1. Rocky delivered newspapers on his bike.

2. The young boy heard a sound coming from the woods.

3. The dirty, injured puppy was lying in the mud.

Read each sentence below. Is the underlined word or words the subject or predicate? Fill in the bubble next to the answer.

4. Rocky’s mother warmed the milk and gave it to the puppy.

   ○ subject       ○ predicate

5. Rocky hated being treated like a child.

   ○ subject       ○ predicate

6. Mother and Dr. Burnett said the puppy could run on three legs.

   ○ subject       ○ predicate
Read each sentence below. Choose the correct **verb** for each sentence. Fill in the bubble next to the answer.

7. The three-legged puppy _______ around the house and yard.
   - hop
   - hops

8. Rocky and Hopalong ________________ together all day long.
   - play
   - plays

Read each sentence below. Choose the correct **adverb** to correctly complete the sentence. Write your answer on the line.

9. Rocky was able to start delivering papers (sooner, soonest) than he thought. ________________

10. The dog helped the young boy deliver his papers (most quickly, more quickly) than before. ________________
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. Not inviting our aunt to the wedding was **unthinkable**.
    ○ B. The old fishing pole was broken and **unfixable**.
    ○ C. Everyone admired her **unshakeable** desire to always do her best.
    ○ D. No mistake

2.  ○ A. Is your **diner** open for breakfast on Sunday mornings?
    ○ B. **Dinner** will be served on the patio tomorrow night.
    ○ C. What are you planning to do during **summer** vacation?
    ○ D. No mistake

3.  ○ A. The children **unhappily** said good-bye on their last day of school.
    ○ B. She was **prettily** dressed in a blue and white gown.
    ○ C. I **hastily** finished my meal.
    ○ D. No mistake

4.  ○ A. She was **relieved** when she heard the answer was correct.
    ○ B. We **received** a bonus check for our hard work.
    ○ C. The deceitful **thief** knew he was bound to be caught.
    ○ D. No mistake

5.  ○ A. Would you like a bowl of **berries** for dessert?
    ○ B. I earned five **dollars** for mowing my neighbor’s lawn.
    ○ C. We met many **familys** in the campground on our vacation.
    ○ D. No mistake
6.   ○ A. The mailman puts our letters in a box beside our front door.
   ○ B. We heard the ice cream truck driving through the neighborhood.
   ○ C. Let’s meet at the playground after school to play ball.
   ○ D. No mistake

9.   ○ A. This new conditioner was created for untangling wet hair.
   ○ B. The hare was faster than the turtle, but the rabbit was lazy and lost the race.
   ○ C. Each spring the farmer shears his sheep and sells the wool.
   ○ D. No mistake

7.   ○ A. Put this insect repellent on to keep the mosquitoes from biting you.
   ○ B. That was a most unusual guessing game.
   ○ C. “No Diving” signs were posted around the lake.
   ○ D. No mistake

10.  ○ A. At first glance, I thought those donkeys were small horses.
    ○ B. The rickety, shaky old bridge was too dangerous to cross.
    ○ C. My brownies were rubbery and had an awful taste.
    ○ D. No mistake

8.   ○ A. Won’t you please help me clean my room?
    ○ B. You’d never guess that this was our first tournament.
    ○ C. If you bring the food, they’ll bring the drinks.
    ○ D. No mistake
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 talented magician made the rabbit vanish before our eyes.
   ○ A. disappear
   ○ B. appear
   ○ C. glare
   ○ D. pretend

2. The plane was delayed until the weather cleared.
   ○ A. rushed
   ○ B. returned
   ○ C. examined
   ○ D. volunteered

3. Please remain in your seat until the show is over.
   ○ A. inspect
   ○ B. fail
   ○ C. leave
   ○ D. official

PART 2 — Multiple Meanings

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

4. Mother bought the whole bolt of beautiful, red fabric.
   In which sentence is the word bolt used in the same way as in the sentence above?
   ○ A. Over the tree tops we saw a bright bolt of lightning.
   ○ B. When you leave the yard, please bolt the gate.
   ○ C. Did you see the little girl bolt when the dog jumped toward her?
   ○ D. Her wedding dress was made from a bolt of delicate lace.

5. The farmer showed our class how he would card the wool and then spin it.
   In which sentence is the word card used in the same way as in the sentence above?
   ○ A. Dad’s new business card has an unusual design on it.
   ○ B. My fun-loving brother was a real card at my party.
   ○ C. Which card game would you like to play first?
   ○ D. After you card the fiber, I will make the yarn.
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. When the freezer has a malfunction, the ice cream melts.
   ○ A. suspicion
   ○ B. emblem
   ○ C. glitch
   ○ D. wound

7. She saw her own reflection in the pond.
   ○ A. charity
   ○ B. image
   ○ C. earnings
   ○ D. formula

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. After turning off the fan, there was no air circulation.
   ○ A. operation
   ○ B. movement
   ○ C. measurement
   ○ D. equipment

9. The mile-long roller coaster was absolutely the most thrilling ride of the day.
   ○ A. unconsciously
   ○ B. profitably
   ○ C. tenderly
   ○ D. positively

10. We walked right by the movie star and didn’t recognize her.
    ○ A. determine
    ○ B. collect
    ○ C. identify
    ○ D. exchange

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.

Lou was the oldest of three children. He thought he was ready to learn how to budget money. He asked his parents for a weekly allowance. The boy’s parents were not very excited about the idea. Lou explained the subject was important. After all, he was ten years old. He wanted to learn how to be responsible.

Lou’s parents decided to have a meeting. Family talks usually took place after dinner. The boy helped clear the table. He put away the leftover food. Finally, they were seated. Everyone was ready to discuss the boy’s request. To Lou’s surprise, the first issue was not about his allowance. Instead, they talked about sharing chores. This had not been part of his plan. He just wanted them to say he could have some spending money, but his parents offered to pay him for doing chores.

His parents listed several jobs. They asked him to choose at least three. He could help carry out the garbage. He might choose to wash the dishes on weekends. Perhaps he’d watch his baby brother when his mother needed help. The other choices were dusting the furniture or sweeping the sidewalks. Lou began to realize that money did not grow on trees. He was going to have to earn his allowance.

EVALUATING CODES FOR ORAL READING

sky (/) word read incorrectly
blue ( ) inserted word
( ) after the last word read

Comments:

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.

FLUENCY SCORE

Number of Words Read Per Minute: _______
Number of Errors: — _______
Number of Words Read Correctly: _______
Passing Criterion (50th %ile) = 105
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.

Ginny laid a handful of coins on the table. There were quarters, nickels, and pennies. She studied them for a while. Ginny planned to write about the history of money for a school project. She had been doing research at the library. She pulled out her notebook and reread the information.

Long ago, many different items were used for money. This idea amazed Ginny. People in some cultures paid for goods with beads and shells. For instance, brightly colored shells were used in India. Some nations traded with whales’ teeth or large stone disks.

She had learned the first metal coins were a mixture of gold and silver. They were made in little, round nuggets. These ancient coins were invented nearly three thousand years ago. Later, money was made from various metals. Their value depended on the size and weight of the object. These coins had to be weighed each time they changed hands. This process was not practical. Finally, coins were weighed and stamped with their value. That was the beginning of money as we know it today.

Her planning phase was finished. She had learned a lot about the history of money. Now Ginny was ready to start drafting her report.

EVALUATING CODES FOR ORAL READING

| Sky (/) | word read incorrectly |
| Sky ( ) | inserted word |
| Four brackets ( [ ] ) | after the last word read |

Fluency Score

Number of Words
Read Per Minute: ______
Number of Errors: — ______
Number of Words
Read Correctly: ______
Passing Criterion (50th %ile) = 105

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.
Personal Friendly Letter Writing Assessment Prompt

Writing Situation: You are writing a letter to a friend explaining to him/her how to earn and save money.

Audience: Your friend

Directions for Writing: Think about the stories you read in the Money unit. Write a letter to a friend. Explain in detail how to earn and save money. Tell why it is wise to earn and save money.

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

Revising for Genre: Friendly Letter

You should:

_____ write a letter that includes the following elements:

_____ date  _____ closing

_____ proper salutation  _____ signature

_____ body

_____ tell why you are writing this letter.

_____ include details to describe how to earn and save money.

_____ tell why it is wise to earn and save money.

Revising for Writing Strategies (Traits)

You should:

_____ write at least one paragraph with a topic sentence.

_____ use supporting details.

Proofreading for Conventions

You should:

_____ use correct punctuation, capitalization, and grammar.

_____ use correct spelling (remember to check the Sound Spelling Cards).

_____ write legibly so that your letter can be clearly read.