

# 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 5

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

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

## Stories from a Time Before

*Valiska Gregory*

Always there were stories. We ate them with our daily bread. We swallowed them whole and begged for more. “Tell us about the Old Country,” my brothers and I would say at supper. “Tell us about when you came over on the boat from Czechoslovakia.”

“But I’ve already told you *that* one,” Papa would say. Then he’d smile as if he knew more stories than he’d ever have time to tell. I loved the Old Country stories because they came from a time before. It was a time I could barely taste, yet wanted to know more.

Mama was spooning vanilla ice cream into bowls. “Of course,” Papa said, “we didn’t have refrigerators in the Old Country. We kept our vegetables outside during the winter, in a pit covered with straw.”

“Is that why you came? To get a refrigerator?” asked my brother.

Papa laughed. “Well, partly yes, and partly no. We did hope for a better life, but we weren’t absolutely sure we’d get one. We lived in a small village of about two hundred people, near the city of Palin. Our house had a dirt floor that your grandma swept clean every day. We were called *kmetz*, peasants. We had a small farm, but the taxes on the land were very high.”

“Is that why you came? So you wouldn’t have to pay such high taxes?” asked my brother.

“Well,” said my papa, “partly yes, and partly no.”

***Now answer the question about this part of the story.***

1. Why did the children want to hear the “Old Country” stories?
  - A. They wanted to learn about Papa’s past.
  - B. They wanted to avoid doing their homework.
  - C. They wanted to write a story about Papa.
  - D. They wanted to eat more ice cream.

“Everybody said the streets of America were paved with gold. But not everyone believed it. More important than money was the chance to be what we wanted to be. In the Old Country, if a man was a farmer, his son was a farmer. We were allowed to go to school, but not past the sixth grade. At school we had to speak Hungarian. At home we spoke only Slovak. I got spanked once for mixing up the two languages.”

We giggled because we couldn’t imagine Papa being spanked. “I wanted to stay in school more than anything,” Papa said. “Your grandma said that I was such a bookworm. I’d rock my brother’s cradle with my feet so I could turn book pages with my hands.”

“Is that why you came? So you could go to school?” I asked.

“Well,” said Papa, “partly yes, and partly no. That’s why I wanted to come. But that’s not why your grandpa wanted to come. In the Old Country, if you were the oldest son, you inherited all your father’s property. If you were a younger son, you had to make your own fortune. Your grandpa was a younger son in a very poor family. So he decided to try America.”

“That doesn’t seem fair to the youngest son,” I said.

“But that was the custom,” Papa said. “Your grandpa went to America alone and lived with some relatives. He needed to save enough money to send for the rest of us. He took a job setting dynamite in the Pennsylvania coal mines. Lighting fuses was dangerous. It paid only \$3.62 for ten long hours of work each day. But to my Pa, the money seemed like a fortune. We couldn’t leave Czechoslovakia until we could buy the proper stamps for our passports. It took Pa a few years to save enough for the steamship tickets. While we waited, we heard stories about people who had taken the long voyage and died on board.”

“Were those stories true? Did people really die?” I asked.

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

2. The main reason people wanted to live in America was because
- A. people had refrigerators.
  - B. taxes were lower.
  - C. the streets were paved with gold.
  - D. people had the opportunity to be what they wanted to be.
3. Which statement was **not** part of Papa's story?
- A. Teachers spoke Hungarian, not Slovak.
  - B. Grandpa wanted to be a farmer.
  - C. Grandpa had to make his own fortune.
  - D. Papa could only get a sixth-grade education in the Old Country.
4. How long did it take Grandpa to save enough money so his family could come to America?
- A. three months
  - B. six months
  - C. one year
  - D. more than two years

“Yes,” said Papa. “The boats were so crowded with people. There were many diseases. Sometimes whole families died before they ever got to America. It was not an easy journey. We traveled first by train. Then we got on a huge ship at Cherbourg, France. We took from home only what we could carry. To save space, we all wore as many clothes as we could—sweaters and coats and shawls. I even wore two hats. We carried food wrapped in a linen tablecloth.”

“Were you scared, Papa?” asked my brother.

“Well,” said Papa, “partly yes, and partly no. I was twelve. I was big enough to be a man, I thought. I’d never been to a big city. I had never seen an ocean nor traveled on a boat before. I was much more excited than scared. We had steerage tickets. This meant our cabins were far below and very crowded. The berths where we slept were bunk beds. The beds were made of iron, and the mattresses were filled with straw. On our boat, steerage had only two washrooms for almost two hundred people. When the weather was bad, many people got seasick. The smell was awful. When the weather was good, we would all climb the stairs and spend the day on deck where the air was fresh.”

“Tell us about the Statue of Liberty,” I begged.

“I could never forget the Statue of Liberty,” he said. “She was what we all talked about during the long days on board the boat. When she finally came in sight, we all cheered and waved. Ma told me to hold my brother up though he was just a baby then. She wanted him to see her, too.

“Before we could actually set foot in America, we had to go through customs at Ellis Island. It seemed a fearsome place. It had huge red-and-white brick buildings. We waited with hundreds of other immigrants in a large, white room. The center of the room was like a maze. There were bars between the lines of people to keep the lines straight. You could hear a dozen languages being spoken all at once.

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

5. The longest and most dangerous part of the journey to America was

- A. the train ride to Cherbourg.
- B. the ocean voyage to New York.
- C. waiting in line at Ellis Island.
- D. the train ride to Chicago.

6. How did the family react when they saw the Statue of Liberty?

- A. They worried about landing on shore.
- B. They were surprised.
- C. They cheered and waved.
- D. They huddled together.

7. Based on the story, what is the best definition of the word *steerage*?

- A. a place where passengers went when the weather was bad
- B. a crowded cabin on a lower level of a ship
- C. the wheel used for steering a ship
- D. a ship's cabin with a view of the ocean

Finally we filled out our papers and had our medical examinations. When the last man finally stamped our papers, Ma told us all to stand tall. “Boh je dobrativy,” she said, “God is kind.”

Mama sat down with us at the table, and Papa took her hand in his. “At first,” he said, “we stayed with relatives, first in New York, and then in Pennsylvania, but work was scarce there. My father decided to move on. ‘Get off the train when you see smokestacks,’ our relatives said. ‘Where there are smokestacks you can always find work.’ And so we did. A family from our village had settled here in Chicago, and we stayed with them until your grandpa found a job in the steel mill and could afford a house.”

“Is that why you came to America?” my brother asked.  
“So Grandpa could buy a house?”

“Well,” said Papa, squeezing Mama’s hand, “partly yes, and partly no. We did want a home, a place, as my pa used to say, where our children’s children could be happy. It was also the excitement we were after, the chance to start a new life. The minute we saw the Statue of Liberty, we knew we would find the strength to make it through the hard times. She was the most beautiful lady I’ve ever seen—except for your mother, of course.”

Mama smiled and gave Papa a quick kiss on the cheek. Papa looked at each of us, studying our faces as if we were letters in a book. “Now for *this*,” he said as he wrapped my brothers and me in a giant hug, “it was worth coming to America.”

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

8. Why did Papa's relatives suggest that the family get off the train when they saw smokestacks?
- A. Chicago needed bakers.
  - B. The weather was better in cities with smokestacks.
  - C. Smokestacks indicated a job might be available.
  - D. Houses were cheaper in cities with smokestacks.
9. At the end of the story, Papa said, "Now for *this*, it was worth coming to America." What did he mean by *this*?
- A. a chance to have a better job
  - B. a chance to have a better education
  - C. a chance to have a better life for his children
  - D. a chance to have a larger house
10. *Stories from a Time Before* is an example of
- A. realistic fiction.
  - B. fable.
  - C. drama.
  - D. fantasy.

TOTAL SCORE: _____ /10
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Read each of the following sentences. Underline the **conjunctions**. Then decide if the sentence is a **simple** or a **compound** sentence. Fill in the bubble next to the answer.

1. Papa told stories about the Old Country and his journey to America.

simple       compound

2. They had a farm in the country, but the taxes were very high.

simple       compound

3. Grandpa could stay with relatives in New York or travel on to Chicago.

simple       compound

Rewrite each part of the following business letter on the lines provided.

Place **commas** and **capital**s where they are needed.

4. Heading: 8148 Main Street

hollywood CA 90201

June 15 2002

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5. Greeting: dear Mr. Martinez:

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Closing : sincerely yours

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Read each of the following sentences. Use **proofreading marks** to show where **capital letters** are needed.

6. uncle jackson told stories about crossing the rocky mountains.
7. My grandparents spoke spanish before coming to america.
8. The ship docked at san juan, an island in washington.

Read each of the following sentences. Underline the **titles** once. Use **proofreading marks** to show where **capital letters** are needed.

9. There is a story about the Civil War in this issue of kids discover.
10. M.J. Shapiro wrote the book statue of liberty.

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.”

1.  A. Pirates aimed their cannons at the unsuspecting ship.  
 B. The dog groomer washed and combed our cocker spaniel.  
 C. Grandmother always cept her house neat and tidy.  
 D. No mistake
2.  A. When the kitchen is clean, we can watch a movie.  
 B. Please latch the gate before you leave.  
 C. Are you tall enough to reatch the top shelf?  
 D. No mistake
3.  A. The boxs were loaded onto the truck.  
 B. In the spring, gardens are in full bloom.  
 C. The crowd cheers as the band marches down the street.  
 D. No mistake
4.  A. Her teacher was quite surprised when the girl brought her pet snake to school.  
 B. In 1906 San Francisco experienced a major earthquake.  
 C. A brown skwirrel was sitting in our walnut tree.  
 D. No mistake
5.  A. Our nice picnic was spoiled by an unexpected rainstorm.  
 B. Nobody told me you knew I liked to read science fiction novels.  
 C. The track star was unable to compete because of an injured nee.  
 D. No mistake

6.  A. I gently sprinkled the flowers with drops of water from the hose.
- B. My sister knited a blue, wool scarf for our father.
- C. The mailman tripped on the broken step.
- D. No mistake
9.  A. The iron hinj on our gate is broken.
- B. Should we play on the jungle gym or the slide?
- C. Like magic, a beautiful rainbow appeared in the sky.
- D. No mistake
7.  A. The cook made his spaghetti sause with garlic and mushrooms.
- B. She wore a red dress with white stripes.
- C. Since it is almost time for lunch, you shouldn't eat that cookie.
- D. No mistake
10.  A. Shooting stars were racing across the night sky.
- B. When she fell off the swing, her hand hit the ground and she hurt her rist.
- C. Did you read about the automobile wreck on Highway 99?
- D. No mistake
8.  A. Everyone in the room was quiet as a mouse.
- B. May I have another piece of bread?
- C. The feild was muddy from the rain.
- D. No mistake

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10
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**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 enjoy looking at wild birds in their natural environment.

- A. artificial
- B. dainty
- C. untamed
- D. boisterous

2. Folk and fairy tales have inspired musicians to compose songs.

- A. recited
- B. befriended
- C. discouraged
- D. grieved

3. Please replenish the bowl of potato chips because I'm still hungry.

- A. drench
- B. haul
- C. flavor
- D. empty

**PART 2 — Multiple Meanings**

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

4. Doctors suggest that parents use a soft cloth to clean their babies' gums.

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

- A. Stepping on chewing gum that has been thrown on the sidewalk is very annoying.
- B. The gum area around my loose tooth is very sore and makes chewing difficult.
- C. Those scissors won't work well if you gum them up by cutting sticky tape.
- D. Babies gum their food before they have teeth.

5. Record each client's name and address in a computer file.

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

- A. The Olympic swimmer shattered the world freestyle record.
- B. Grandfather's old stereo record player is sitting on a shelf in the closet.
- C. The principal looked closely at each student's school record.
- D. After the votes are counted, record the results at city hall.

**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 red-faced lawyer was furious when his witness lied to the court.

- A. defenseless
- B. overcome
- C. angry
- D. tranquil

7. The dancer's fancy, colorful costumes were flamboyant and added excitement to the performance.

- A. showy
- B. symbolic
- C. dull
- D. tattered

**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 totem poles had important characters carved on them from different Indian myths and legends.

- A. trinkets
- B. decades
- C. bouquets
- D. folklore

9. Our recollections about the vacation were saved in photographs.

- A. traditions
- B. descendants
- C. memories
- D. silliness

10. The young prince inherited the kingdom when he was nine years old.

- A. rescued
- B. addressed
- C. repeated
- D. received

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.*

Everyone called him Gramps. Of course, he wasn't	8
everyone's grandfather. However, he did have nineteen	15
grandchildren. It just seemed natural to call him Gramps.	24
He wanted to buy a new Model T Ford. The car had just	37
been invented. It was the first auto ever offered for sale.	48
He thought he would enjoy taking the children for a ride.	59
Gramps hurried to the dealership. There was no	67
problem choosing the color. The motor company had told	76
its work crew to paint all of the automobiles black.	86
With much fanfare, Gramps came chugging home.	93
He proudly honked the car's horn. He rapidly approached	102
the driveway. Just then, he realized he didn't know how	112
to stop! Luckily, the coal wagon was not parked in front	123
of the house. Wildly waving his arms, Gramps went	132
bouncing between his home and the next-door neighbor's	141
house. He narrowly missed them. The skinny, car wheels	150
straddled Grandma's row of gooseberry bushes. The car	158
rolled across her garden. It destroyed bunches of tomatoes	167
before crashing through the side of the chicken coop. All	177
the while Gramps was yelling, “Whoa! Whoa! You crazy	186
Tin Lizzy!”	188
The automobile didn't understand. It kept going.	195
After many huffs and hisses, the engine died. The auto	205
finally came to a stop. There it sat covered with tomatoes	216
and dripping with juice. Chickens and feathers were	224
scattered everywhere in the yard.	229

**EVALUATING CODES FOR  
ORAL READING**

- sky** (I) 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) = 110

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.*

The girl sat quietly in her tire swing watching  
her great uncle. She was anxious for him to finish  
making her a new wooden flute. He was carving on  
a thin, straight branch. He hollowed out the center  
of the stick and peeled back the loose bark. As he  
created the instrument, he retold a story about his  
childhood.

"Many people did not have jobs in the 1930s.  
This desperate time was called the Depression," he  
said. The girl's uncle skillfully dug holes along the  
top of the flute. He sliced one end at an angle and  
plugged the other end with a wooden peg. He spoke  
again saying, "Many kids didn't have warm coats.  
They wore shoes with holes in the bottoms during  
icy, cold winters. Times were tough for everyone. To  
save money, people planted gardens. They gathered  
nuts and fruit in the woods. Women cooked and  
stored the food in tightly sealed, sterilized, mason  
jars."

"Some people found work with the government.  
They joined a work force and built bridges, dams,  
roads, and parks all across the country. Men with  
families found jobs with local city projects. They  
dug sewers, laid water pipes, and paved streets."

The Depression was hard for families. Yet,  
people were resourceful and worked together. That  
is how they were able to survive.

9  
19  
29  
38  
49  
58  
59

**EVALUATING CODES FOR  
ORAL READING**

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

**Comments:**

68  
76  
85  
97  
107  
115  
124  
133  
140  
149  
157  
158  
165  
174  
183  
191  
199

**FLUENCY SCORE**

Number of Words Read Per Minute:	_____
Number of Errors:	- _____
Number of Words Read Correctly:	_____
Passing Criterion (50th %ile)	= _____
	110

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.

**Narrative [Personal Story] Writing Assessment Prompt**

**Writing Situation:** Your class is creating a book of memorable experiences.

**Audience:** Third Grade Classmates

**Directions for Writing:** Think about the stories you read in the ***Storytelling*** unit. Write a personal story about a memorable experience you had. Use well chosen details to develop the plot. Use concrete sensory details to describe the setting. Tell why the experience was memorable.

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

**Revising for Genre: Narrative (Personal Story)**

**You should:**

- write a personal story about a memorable experience.
- use details to develop the plot.
- use sensory details to describe the setting and experience.
- tell why the experience was memorable.

**Revising for Writing Strategies (Traits)**

**You should:**

- have a topic sentence.
- write at least one paragraph with sentences that make sense.
- use supporting details that tell about the memorable experience.

**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

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**Seventh Edition**

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