


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** **4**

Unit 1

Student Name _____

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

Go For It!

Margaret Roberts

Mark Wellman, U.S. park ranger, had wanted to climb the soaring vertical rock face of El Capitan for as long as he could remember. *How could a man, partially paralyzed from the waist down, unable to use his legs, have the nerve to try to climb the highest vertical cliff on earth?* El Capitan is immense. It is an unbroken mass of granite in California's beautiful Yosemite Valley. The huge rock is almost three-quarters of a mile high, straight up. Mark could not accomplish the climb alone. His friend Mike Corbett, an expert rock climber, would be there to lend a helping hand.

In the early morning of Wednesday, July 19, 1989, Mike helped Mark out of his wheelchair. Mike put Mark onto the ground. Clipped to Mike's waist was an assortment of metal clamps and other rock-climbing equipment. He also had several looped nylon ropes. The free end of one of the ropes was attached to a big sack. The sack contained the men's food, water, and super-light sleeping bags.

Mike grabbed his first handhold on the rock. Then he positioned his feet and began to climb. Mike knew El Capitan well. He and a few other intrepid rock climbers had made it to the summit many times. He knew where all the handholds and footholds were. He also knew where to find good ledges wide enough for two men to rest on. He and Mark thought it would take seven days to reach the top.

About 100 feet up, Mike hammered a piton into the granite. A piton is a heavy aluminum pin used by rock climbers. Mike clipped one end of a 165-foot nylon rope to the piton. Then he let the rope's free end fall down. Mark was wearing a nylon harness that circled the upper half of his body. Mark caught the rope and attached it to the harness with an ingenious clamp. The clamp would let Mark move upward, but would prevent him from slipping down even as much as a single inch. He next reached above his head and attached a T-bar to the nylon rope, using the same kind of clamp.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

1. Why is climbing El Capitan a difficult challenge for any rock climber?
 - A. It has deep, dangerous cracks.
 - B. It is covered with ice.
 - C. It is the highest vertical cliff in the world.
 - D. It is covered with clouds.

2. In the first paragraph, the author describes El Capitan as an immense mass of granite. What does the word *immense* mean?
 - A. huge
 - B. assortment
 - C. smooth
 - D. super-light

3. Which of the following indicates Mike Corbet knew El Capitan well?
 - A. He stayed close behind in case Mark fell.
 - B. He knew where the handholds, footholds, and ledges were.
 - C. He was a U.S. park ranger.
 - D. He had climbed to the summit one time.

When all was secured, Mark took a deep breath. He pushed the T-bar up almost as far as his arms could reach. Then he began the first of the 7,000 pull-ups it would take to reach the summit. His useless legs, encased in protective leather leggings, dangled beneath him. Mike had designed these special leggings just for this climb. High above, Mike let out a cheer. "You're on your way, pal," he yelled down.

Before the climb began, the two men had decided that the best rate of ascent for Mark would be about six inches at a time. Now, having successfully raised himself the first half foot, Mark loosened his grasp and tested the clamp. He reassured himself that it held his weight. Then he pushed the T-bar up again and began his second pull-up.

When Mark looked down at mid-afternoon, he could still see his wheelchair on the ground below. Every pull-up was another step toward fulfillment of his dream. *He was climbing El Capitan at last!*

For the past six months, Mark had trained rigorously. His training included swimming, paddling his kayak, lifting weights, and working out in the gym. Seven years before, at the age of twenty-one, he had slipped on loose pebbles while mountain climbing. He had fallen 100 feet, injuring his spine. The fall cost him the use of his legs. Yet he never lost his love of adventure nor his joyful spirit. Even so, as he looked straight up the forbidding 3,593-foot rock face, he wondered if he was trying for an impossible goal. He still had 6,500 pull-ups to go. The temperature was 96 degrees, and he was bathed in sweat.

Mark wisely decided to put all this out of his mind. He *had* to succeed, not just for himself and Mike. The whole world was watching. This climb was an incredible attempt by a man who, in a wheelchair, carried on his job as a naturalist and assistant supervisor of the visitor's center in Yosemite National Park. Dozens of newspaper writers and photographers, radio announcers, and television reporters were gathered on the ground below. They were carefully tracking the hourly progress of the climb.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

4. How could Mark Wellman expect to climb El Capitan when he was partially paralyzed from the waist down?
- A. He had read about mountain climbing in a book.
 - B. He had been training for the climb.
 - C. He had made it to the summit many times.
 - D. Mountain climbing isn't difficult.
5. Why did the climb take so long?
- A. Their sack of supplies was too heavy.
 - B. Mark had not trained enough.
 - C. Mark had to stop and rest often.
 - D. Mark could only climb six inches at a time.
6. Which word **best** describes Mark Wellman?
- A. foolish
 - B. conceited
 - C. determined
 - D. forgiving

In the late afternoon, Mike called down to Mark. Mike said that he had reached a level ledge where they would spend the night. There are many good, solid ledges of varying width on El Capitan. Climbers have slept on them many times over the years, secured by clamps and sturdy ropes pinned into the rock. Now the two men sat on the ledge and began pulling up the rope that held their food, water, and sleeping bags. Soon they were wolfing down their supper of cold canned foods, nuts, and dried fruits. It all tasted delicious after the exertions of the day. As darkness fell, they curled up in their sleeping bags. At dawn, they were wide-awake and ready to go again.

For the first four days, the two men moved steadily upward without problems. On the fifth day, a searing, hot wind began to blow. As the day wore on, it became stronger and stronger, causing Mark to sway perilously on his rope. Suddenly a powerful gust swung him ten feet out, away from the rock. The sensation of hanging way out there in the wind, dangling in space, would have been terrifying to an ordinary person. Mark was by no means ordinary. Although his hands were swollen and sore and his arms ached unmercifully, he kept on doggedly pushing up the T-bar and pulling himself up. Nevertheless, he had to admit that he felt a lot better when the wind finally died down and his body touched solid rock again.

Later, Mike told reporters, "I just couldn't get him to complain, no matter how tough it got. He just kept right on inching his way up, calm as you please!"

It took them one day more than they had estimated. On July 26, at 1:45 p.m., the crowd of people waiting on the summit went wild with joy as the two weary heads appeared over the rim, silhouetted against the sky.

Mark Wellman had shown that if you set your heart and mind on a goal, no wall is too high, no dream impossible. When asked what he had to say about his marvelous accomplishment, he thought for only a minute before he replied, "If you want to do something bad enough and you feel you can do it, *go for it!*"

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

7. Where did Mark and Mike sleep at night?
- A. in a cave
 - B. on a ledge
 - C. in a cabin
 - D. on the top of the summit
8. How long did it take Mark and Mike to reach the summit?
- A. They didn't reach the summit because of searing, hot winds.
 - B. one day
 - C. four days
 - D. one day longer than they had estimated
9. Which of the following **best** expresses Mark Wellman's feelings about people with physical disabilities?
- A. They can do anything they set their mind to do.
 - B. They need special help.
 - C. They shouldn't take risks.
 - D. They need encouragement from others.
10. Mike Corbett, Mark's friend, can best be described as
- A. reckless.
 - B. trustworthy.
 - C. funny.
 - D. independent.

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10

Read each sentence. Look at the underlined verb, then fill in the bubble next to the answer that tells what kind of verb it is.

1. His hands became swollen and sore.
 action linking helping

2. He had attached the T-bar to the rope above his head.
 action linking helping

3. Mark Wellman climbed to the top of Half Dome in Yosemite.
 action linking helping

Read the sentences. Circle the complete subject in each sentence. Underline the complete predicate in each sentence.

4. Mike and Mark accomplished their goal.

5. A crowd waited on the summit.

6. The men sat on the ledge.

Read each sentence. From the choices below each sentence, find two pronouns that would correctly complete the sentence. Fill in the bubbles beside the answers.

7. Sarah brought _____ gifts from the sea.

- her I we them he

8. _____ hitch the horses to the wagon in the morning.

- She I We He His

9. In the evening, Mama sang songs for _____.

- mine me we us hers

10. _____ receives letters from Sarah every week.

- Us Him He She They

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. <u>Science</u> was her favorite school subject.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. The gate was temporarily <u>wired</u> shut until the latch could be fixed.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. The miners used <u>dynamight</u> to dislodge the huge pile of boulders.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> | <p>4. <input type="radio"/> A. The weather was <u>glorious</u> so we decided to have a picnic at the park.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. Crossing the Atlantic alone in a sailboat is <u>dangerous</u>.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. The magician, dressed in a black cape and top hat, looked <u>mysteryous</u>.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> |
| <p>2. <input type="radio"/> A. Use a <u>crayon</u> to complete your illustration.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. Why did the lawyer <u>claym</u> his client was unable to testify?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. The forest ranger drove his jeep on the rocky mountain <u>trail</u>.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> | <p>5. <input type="radio"/> A. A desperate fly buzzed against the glass <u>window</u> but couldn't escape.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. He ate the <u>whole</u> apricot pie by himself.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. She made a small <u>boal</u> of cereal and berries for breakfast.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> |
| <p>3. <input type="radio"/> A. <u>Don't</u> eat dessert before you have dinner.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. While mother goes to the grocery store, <u>wi'll</u> set the table.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. Call me tomorrow morning if <u>you'd</u> like to go to the movie.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> | |

6. A. Your essay should be at least three pages long.
- B. When the thief tried to leave, he triggered the alarm.
- C. Thin strips of seaweed were wrapped around the vegetable and rice roll.
- D. No mistake
7. A. Warriors bravly fought the invaders to protect their land.
- B. They used a trolley to carry their luggage through the airport terminal.
- C. Carefully cut the bread into five slices.
- D. No mistake
8. A. The road crew repaired several pot holes in the street.
- B. The lawyer needed prufe his client was innocent.
- C. Her fingers seemed to dance as she played her silver flute.
- D. No mistake
9. A. The acrobat jumped into the air and fliped over backwards.
- B. The food cooking on the grill smelled fantastic.
- C. Runners were training every day for the Boston Marathon.
- D. No mistake
10. A. Ducks and geese were loudly squawking near the pond.
- B. The lioness stalked the unsuspecting antelope.
- C. The fly ball was caght by the left fielder.
- 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. Making new friends was difficult for the timid woman.
 - A. bold
 - B. pesky
 - C. shy
 - D. troublesome

2. The sympathetic mother gently encouraged her son after he broke his arm.
 - A. uncaring
 - B. fascinated
 - C. consoling
 - D. relieved

3. The injured hawk was in captivity so its broken wing could be treated.
 - A. specialized
 - B. excelled
 - C. freedom
 - D. commotion

PART 2 — Multiple Meanings

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

4. We could not see the ground when the plane banked to line up with the airport's landing strip.

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

 - A. He banked all of his money.
 - B. My dad banked the boat to the right to avoid the buoy.
 - C. I banked on your support knowing you would help me get elected.
 - D. The farmer banked the dirt around his field.

5. The young boy herded the cattle into the village compound and closed the gate.

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

 - A. The teacher explained that flies have compound eyes.
 - B. Unfortunately, the horse's leg had a compound fracture.
 - C. Barnyard is a compound word.
 - D. The dog guarding the compound barked fiercely.

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 gorilla's menacing look was meant to frighten me away.
- A. plunged
- B. envious
- C. threatening
- D. appealing
7. The qualified pilot smoothly landed his plane despite the foggy conditions.
- A. dubious
- B. asserted
- C. fierce
- D. capable

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 feisty puppy dug in the garden all day.
- A. energetic
- B. snared
- C. alarmed
- D. delectable
9. The treacherous waters were unforeseen by the river rafters.
- A. overlapping
- B. comfortable
- C. dangerous
- D. doused
10. The clown's efforts to cheer the crying child were ineffective.
- A. marvelous
- B. cunning
- C. accomplished
- D. useless

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.

Weasel stalked between the trees. Hostile and 7
starving, he watched a beautiful peacock and 14
peahen strutting in the meadow. He had been 22
unsuccessful while hunting food for his large family. 30
In the twilight, he observed the birds. The pair was 40
ignoring their nest. It contained two freshly laid 48
eggs. Weasel was frantic. The birds’ razor-sharp 56
beaks made stealing the eggs a dangerous mission. 64
However, tonight he was willing to put aside all 73
wisdom, instinct, and fear to feed his family. 81
Desperate, Weasel crept closer to the nest. 88
He kept a watchful eye on Farmer O’Neal, who 97
was at the chicken coop. The farmer was blissfully 106
feeding the chickens a stale loaf of bread. The birds 116
had just finished their evening walk and were 124
headed back to their nest. The farmer had no reason 134
to suspect mayhem was about to take place in the 144
barnyard. So, the mild-mannered man continued 151
feeding the chickens. 154
Weasel grunted softly. His nose was twitching 161
as he crouched closer to the nest. He reached it just 172
as the birds arrived. Suddenly, Farmer O’Neal 179
heard the peacock’s shrill shrieking. He looked up 187
and spotted Weasel frozen in fear, a front paw on an 198
egg. He ran across the yard screaming and waving 207
his arms! Slowly, Weasel backed away from the nest 216
and then scurried off. Tonight, Weasel would have 224
to look elsewhere for food for his hungry family. 233

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) = 99

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.

Although the two children were twins, they were 8
quite different. Both wanted to take part in school 17
activities to make new friends. Marta was timid and 26
took very few risks. She especially avoided sports 34
and academic contests. Carlos, on the other hand, 42
had a lot of confidence. He would try out for anything. 53
However, he did not practice before tryouts, so he 62
did not always make the team. One day the twins 72
discussed their different personalities. Each decided 78
there was a trait they wanted to change. 86

Marta wanted to be more outgoing. She hesitantly 94
agreed to audition for the school’s spelling bee. Much 103
to her surprise, she won first place. She was going to 114
represent her age group in the state contest. At the 124
state finals, she won fourth place. This scholastic 132
triumph was the best anyone at her school had ever 142
achieved. 143

Carlos decided to focus and excel in one special- 152
ized area. He wanted to be the lead actor in the class 163
play. He knew it would take energy, preparation, 171
and practice to learn the long speeches. For weeks, 180
Carlos rehearsed his lines and acting techniques. 187
He attempted to express just the right amount of pain 197
and emotion when his character died. He was so well 207
prepared that he got the part. He gave an eloquent 217
performance. Marta and Carlos were both pleased 224
with their efforts. 227

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)	= 99

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 Writing Assessment Prompt

Writing Situation: Your friend has asked if he could copy your periodic math test.

Audience: Your Classmates

Directions for Writing: Think about the stories you read in the *Risks and Consequences* unit. Consider the risks and consequences of allowing your friend to copy your test. Write a personal story. Tell your point of view and give your decision about your friend’s request. Use concrete sensory details to tell about your feelings and thoughts about your friend’s request. Give reasons for your decision. Stay focused on risks and consequences of your decision.

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

Revising for Genre: Narrative

You should:

- _____ write a personal story explaining what the risks and consequences might be in the math homework situation.
- _____ use concrete sensory details to describe and relate
 - _____ your thoughts _____ your feelings _____ your reasons

Revising for Writing Strategies (Traits)

You should:

- _____ stay focused on risks and consequences of your decision.
- _____ tell your story in a logical order.
- _____ tell the story in the first person point of view (using words like: I, me, and my).

Proofreading for Conventions

You should:

- _____ use correct punctuation, capitalization, and grammar.
- _____ use correct spelling.
- _____ use simple and compound sentences in your writing.

TOTAL SCORE: _____ /4

NOTES

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Seventh Edition

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