


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 3

Student Name _____

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

Ether Day

William W. Hull

Cancha, a young Inca girl, was lying on a stone table in the middle of a large chamber inside the great sun temple. A priest named Curiaco was leaning over Cancha. He was operating on her head. Her screams echoed throughout the huge stone room and into the settlement outside. Cancha's brother was standing in the shadows of the room. He was praying to stop his sister's pain.

The priest was trying to repair a bone in Cancha's head that had been broken in a fall. Long ago, priests were considered doctors. They often performed operations such as this one. But they had no drugs to put people to sleep or to prevent pain. Such operations had to be done with the patient fully awake.

For almost 10,000 years, similar operations were performed throughout the world. Most patients like Cancha died. This happened because they couldn't stand the pain. In fact, for centuries doctors knew how to repair the human body. However, they couldn't prevent the pain caused by operations. It was this pain more than the injury itself that often proved fatal.

The doctors had tried many different methods of putting their patients safely to sleep. They knew that if the patients could sleep, they wouldn't feel any pain. In ancient times, a Roman naturalist described how the root of the mandrake plant could be used to deaden pain. During the Middle Ages, doctors invented the "sleep sponge." A sponge was boiled all day in water with seeds and roots. When the "sleep sponge" was held under a patient's nose, the patient fell asleep. It was not always successful. Nothing was very successful.

Finally, in the 1830's, a great breakthrough occurred in the United States. A tall, young man named Samuel Colt was giving traveling shows from the back of a covered wagon. He was trying to make money to perfect a pistol he was inventing (the famous Colt pistol). During his show, he would ask volunteers to breathe a gas called nitrous oxide. When they did this, they would break into loud laughter. Sometimes they would dance and sing.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

1. Long ago, doctors performed operations on people when they were awake because

- ☐ A. they were cruel.
- ☐ B. they thought it was safer to keep them awake.
- ☐ C. they thought it was unnecessary.
- ☐ D. they had no drugs to put people to sleep.

2. During operations of long ago, most patients died because

- ☐ A. the operation was too painful.
- ☐ B. the doctors were unschooled.
- ☐ C. their wounds became infected.
- ☐ D. the doctors couldn't stop the bleeding.

One time Mr. Colt was putting on a show. At this show, he had some volunteers breathe the gas. However, he had given them too much. Instead of dancing and singing, they fell asleep. Mr. Colt thought his show was a failure. He stopped using the gas. He didn't realize he had discovered a safe way to put people to sleep for operations.

A few years later, Dr. C.W. Long from Georgia did realize how important this gas was. He heard some medical students talking about Colt's gas, which was often called "laughing gas." The students told Dr. Long how to make the gas. But he didn't have the right equipment to manufacture it.

Then he remembered that one of his medicines also made people laugh sometimes when they smelled it. He tried this medicine on some volunteers. He soon discovered that if he let people inhale just the right amount of this drug, called sulfuric ether, they would fall asleep. When he tried it on himself, he awoke after a long sleep. His arms and legs were covered with bruises. He realized that he had banged into things when he was moving about in his sleepy state. Yet, he had felt no pain!

In early March of 1842, Dr. Long had a patient inhale ether long enough to fall asleep. The doctor then cut a large growth from the patient's body. When the patient awoke, he was charged two dollars and sent on his way. He had felt no pain at all.

Dr. Long knew then that he had made an important discovery. He had found something that might be used to stop the horrible pain of operations. Ether might give doctors enough time to operate properly. Yet, Dr. Long did not want to report his discovery. He needed to try it out on more patients. He wanted to control how long his patients slept. He had to learn how to administer just the right amount of ether.

Although Dr. Long was probably the first doctor to use ether this way, he was never given full credit for its discovery. Instead, ether came into general use because of the work of a dentist, Dr. William T.G. Morton. Morton had learned to use laughing gas on his patients to kill pain. He was also studying medicine. He had learned that ether was much like laughing gas in its effect on people. And ether was more reliable.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

3. What part did Samuel Colt play in the discovery of a safe way to put people to sleep?
- ☐ A. He discovered the “sleep sponge.”
 - ☐ B. He discovered that nitrous oxide puts people to sleep.
 - ☐ C. He discovered ether.
 - ☐ D. He discovered that ether puts people into a deep sleep.
4. How did Dr. Long find out about laughing gas?
- ☐ A. He read about it in a newspaper.
 - ☐ B. Samuel Colt told him about it.
 - ☐ C. Dr. Morton told him about it.
 - ☐ D. He heard medical students talking about it.
5. Why was ether better than nitrous oxide for putting patients to sleep?
- ☐ A. It didn’t matter how much of it you gave the patients.
 - ☐ B. It was cheaper.
 - ☐ C. It was more reliable.
 - ☐ D. It was easy to get.
6. Who was the first person to use ether during an operation?
- ☐ A. Dr. Morton
 - ☐ B. Dr. Long
 - ☐ C. Mr. Colt
 - ☐ D. a student of Dr. Long

Morton convinced Dr. J. C. Warren that ether could be used to prevent pain during surgery. They arranged for a special demonstration of the use of ether. It took place in October of 1846, at a hospital in Boston. Many people, including a few reporters, doctors, and medical students, came to see this special operation performed by Dr. Warren. This event played a very important part in the history of medicine.

Before the operation, the patient inhaled some ether. Then the patient fell into a deep sleep. Dr. Warren performed the surgery quickly and successfully. As the still-unconscious patient was wheeled from the operating room, the doctor knew that something had finally been found that could prevent the awful pain of operations. That day was declared “Ether Day.” It is still remembered today.

Just a month after this event, Dr. Morton received a letter from Oliver Wendell Holmes, a doctor and novelist. Dr. Holmes praised him on his wonderful discovery. He suggested a name for the discovery: *anesthesia*. This word comes from two Greek words meaning “without sensation.”

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

7. This selection is called “Ether Day” in recognition of the day when
- ☐ A. the word *anesthesia* was suggested.
 - ☐ B. Dr. Long discovered that ether works.
 - ☐ C. Dr. Warren was told about ether.
 - ☐ D. Dr. Warren demonstrated a pain-free operation.
8. What is the story **mainly** about?
- ☐ A. how ancient doctors repaired broken bones
 - ☐ B. how dentists used laughing gas to kill pain
 - ☐ C. how doctors discovered anesthesia
 - ☐ D. how, long ago, most patients died from the pain of surgery
9. The word ***anesthesia*** comes from two Greek words meaning
- ☐ A. without sensation.
 - ☐ B. sleep inducing.
 - ☐ C. painless surgery.
 - ☐ D. laughing gas.
10. Another good title for this selection is
- ☐ A. “Dr. Warren Discovers Nitrous Oxide.”
 - ☐ B. “Cruel Operations.”
 - ☐ C. “Operations Are Unsafe.”
 - ☐ D. “An Important Medical Breakthrough.”

| |
|----------------------|
| TOTAL SCORE: ____/10 |
|----------------------|

Read each sentence. Fill in the bubble next to the sentence that has apostrophes where they are needed.

1. ☐ A. Volunteers in Samuel Colts' traveling show didn't always dance and sing.
 ☐ B. Volunteers in Samuel Colt's traveling show didn't always dance and sing.
 ☐ C. Volunteers in Samuel Colt's traveling show didnt always dance and sing.

2. ☐ A. Were studying the importance of Dr. Long's discovery.
 ☐ B. We'r studying the importance of Dr. Longs' discovery.
 ☐ C. We're studying the importance of Dr. Long's discovery.

3. ☐ A. At first, doctors couldn't explain ether's effect on patients.
 ☐ B. At first, doctors couldnt explain ether's effect on patients.
 ☐ C. At first, doctors couldn't explain ethers' effect on patients.

Read the sentences. Fill in the bubble beside the word that correctly completes the sentence.

4. Many early methods _____ unsuccessful in putting patients to sleep safely.
 ☐ was ☐ is ☐ were

5. Dr. Morton's unrelenting determination to prove surgery could be painless _____ courageous.
 ☐ are ☐ was ☐ were

6. Some dentists today _____ anesthesia to put reluctant patients to sleep before performing routine dental work.
- ☐ use ☐ uses ☐ used
7. The discovery of ether _____ doctors a way to perform painless surgery in the 1840s.
- ☐ gives ☐ gave ☐ give

Read the sentences. Fill in the bubble beside the word that correctly completes the sentence. Then circle the articles.

8. Did _____ who inhaled the ether for Mr. Colt receive a gratuity?
- ☐ this ☐ those ☐ them ☐ that
9. The dosage must be properly administered. _____ is known to cause people to fall into a deep sleep.
- ☐ This ☐ Those ☐ Them ☐ These
10. The doctor used a planner to remind _____ about important appointments.
- ☐ itself ☐ hisself ☐ themselves ☐ himself

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. The judge somberly walked into his chamber when the trial ended.
 - ☐ B. If the new dam is built, the power plant's generation of electricity will triple.
 - ☐ C. How do you know this letter with George Washington's signature is jenuine?
 - ☐ D. No mistake
2. ☐ A. Passengers were informed that their flight was delayed for two hours.
 - ☐ B. His greatest ambishon was to become an astronaut.
 - ☐ C. The ambitious business man lowered the prices on all of his cars in the lot.
 - ☐ D. No mistake
3. ☐ A. Dr. Morton received a speshal letter from Oliver Wendell Holmes.
 - ☐ B. The author planned to publish his book in April.
 - ☐ C. Ants and bees are social insects.
 - ☐ D. No mistake
4. ☐ A. The novice gymnast felt shaky as she practiced her balance beam routine.
 - ☐ B. The singer was nervous and edgy before her performance.
 - ☐ C. The lucky golfer hit a hole-in-one on the first green.
 - ☐ D. No mistake
5. ☐ A. Pack your luggage tonight so we can leave early tomorrow morning.
 - ☐ B. Slice the cheese into wedges and place them on the platter.
 - ☐ C. It took the group hours to reach the gordge.
 - ☐ D. No mistake

6. ☐ A. Rumors about the new sheriff circulated around the town.
- ☐ B. How did you conseive such a brilliant idea?
- ☐ C. The leaky faucet kept me awake all night.
- ☐ D. No mistake
7. ☐ A. The hawk was perched in our redwood tree.
- ☐ B. The collie rolled over so I could scrach its belly.
- ☐ C. Make a quick sketch of the building.
- ☐ D. No mistake
8. ☐ A. If you rub the lamp three times, a genie will appear.
- ☐ B. We could hear truck tires screeching when the man slammed on his brakes.
- ☐ C. This musical peece was composed by Beethoven.
- ☐ D. No mistake
9. ☐ A. Heroic firemen rescued the campers from the forest fire.
- ☐ B. The mayor had to make an official announcement before talking to reporters.
- ☐ C. Did you notice if our newspaper was delivered today?
- ☐ D. No mistake
10. ☐ A. My favorite mistry novel character is Nancy Drew.
- ☐ B. Tremendous advancements in medicine occurred in the twentieth century.
- ☐ C. The cowboy put a fancy leather saddle on his horse before riding in the parade.
- ☐ 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 sick puppy was listless and didn't want to play with its owner.
 - ☐ A. enchained
 - ☐ B. suspended
 - ☐ C. feeble
 - ☐ D. energetic

2. The condemned defendant quietly accepted the guilty verdict.
 - ☐ A. innocent
 - ☐ B. controversial
 - ☐ C. desolate
 - ☐ D. ominous

3. The skeptic groaned when the governor stated he would lower everybody's taxes.
 - ☐ A. doubter
 - ☐ B. believer
 - ☐ C. colleague
 - ☐ D. physician

PART 2 — Multiple Meanings

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

4. In the hospital, the man showed symptoms of lapsing into shock.
 In which sentence is the word shock used **in the same way** as in the sentence above?
 - ☐ A. A shock of white hair fell over the old man's face.
 - ☐ B. The shock of the earthquake destroyed the building.
 - ☐ C. To avoid a dangerous electric shock, the repairman turned off the building's electricity.
 - ☐ D. The doctor explained that the patient was in shock.

5. The unstable log began to pitch as the bear ran across the wobbly bridge.
 In which sentence is the word pitch used **in the same way** as in the sentence above?
 - ☐ A. The sales pitch did not convince the customer to buy the property.
 - ☐ B. If you stand that ladder on this pile of rocks, it could pitch and you might fall.
 - ☐ C. To strike out the batter, he needed to pitch a curve ball.
 - ☐ D. The sharp angle or pitch of the roof made it difficult to repair.

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. We needed some antibiotics to fight the disease.

☐ A. symptoms
☐ B. bacteria
☐ C. lulling
☐ D. medicine

7. The scientist was on the verge of making a big discovery.

☐ A. vaccine
☐ B. alternative
☐ C. brink
☐ D. epidemic

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. Sometimes our water supply can become contaminated with dangerous chemicals.

☐ A. maneuvered
☐ B. sterilized
☐ C. strained
☐ D. unclean

9. The vet had to make an incision in the cat's paw to remove the thorn.

☐ A. suture
☐ B. anesthesia
☐ C. cut
☐ D. herb

10. The detective discovered a significant clue that could solve his case.

☐ A. threshold
☐ B. important
☐ C. superstitious
☐ D. theory

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.

During the early 1900s, an awful sickness struck 8
many children. It made victims’ muscles become 15
lifeless. This disease was called polio. Doctors didn’t 23
know what caused the dreadful illness. Some people 31
believed the hot, humid days of August were the 40
reason. Another theory was that swimming in cold 48
rivers and lakes brought on the disease. Others 56
thought peach fuzz was the culprit. So mothers wore 65
rubber gloves to hold the peaches while peeling them. 74
Because the disease was widespread, people were 81
looking for a quick way to ease the suffering. 90
A nurse in Australia developed a way to help 99
ailing children. She rubbed the patients’ paralyzed 106
muscles. She claimed it helped improve mobility. 113
Some doctors didn’t approve of her method. The most 122
serious cases were taken to the hospital. Children 130
were placed in iron lungs. These machines were 138
tightly sealed metal tubes. They helped children 145
breathe. They forced patients’ lungs to inhale and 153
exhale air. Neither of these treatments was a cure. 162
The search for a cure was a priority. In 1954, 172
Doctor Jonas Salk took a scientific approach. First, 180
he found out polio was a virus. Then he developed 190
the first vaccine to combat the illness. School children 199
took part in a blind study. Some were given a shot of 211
sugar water. Others were given the actual vaccine. 219
Dr. Salk wanted to see if his cure would work. It did. 231
To his credit, millions of children have been spared 240
unnecessary anguish and pain. 244

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) = 112

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.

Long ago, pioneers didn’t live close to a doctor. 9
People were treated with homemade cures when 16
they were sick. These household mixtures were 23
made from herbs, salt, and ointments. The remedies 31
were used for a variety of diseases. To treat a cold, 42
raw onions were wrapped in a towel and placed on 52
the ailing person’s chest. A piece of bread soaked 61
in milk and placed on a wound was said to heal 72
an infection. Sterilized cotton rags were used for 80
bandages. A black, silk ribbon loosely tied around 88
the neck was thought to stop a terrible hacking 97
cough. 98
Many children became ill with chicken pox, 105
measles, and mumps. These childhood diseases 111
were common. They often went untreated. When 118
children were ill, they were kept in darkened rooms. 127
The family tried to take good care of them, but 137
they had to get well on their own. If an illness was 149
contagious, a quarantine sign would be placed on 157
their front door. They had to wait until everyone in 167
the home was no longer sick. All contaminated 175
materials were burned to prevent an epidemic. 182
As doctors moved westward, medicine was easier 189
to get. However, doctors had to make house calls to 199
reach people in rural areas. They often had to ride 209
several miles to reach the home of a sick patient. 219

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) = 112

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.

Information Report [Article] Writing Assessment Prompt

Writing Situation: The school nurse has asked you to write an article for the school newspaper to explain how scientific medicine and folk medicine are being used today.

Audience: Readers of the school newspaper

Directions for Writing: Think about the stories you read in the *Mystery to Medicine* unit. Write a multiple-paragraph article about a condition in which both scientific (modern) and folk medicine could be used. Include an introductory paragraph that describes the condition. Include a main idea in each paragraph. Include details that explain the use of both scientific and folk medicine. Conclude with a summary paragraph. Make your ideas clear and focused.

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

Revising for Genre: Expository

You should:

- _____ state the central idea of your article.
- _____ stick to the topic (a condition in which both scientific and folk medicine could be used).
- _____ use details that explain the use or use of both scientific and folk medicine.

Revising for Writing Strategies (Traits)

You should:

- _____ use multiple paragraphs that explain your ideas and include:
 - _____ an introductory paragraph that describes the condition.
 - _____ supporting paragraphs with details.
 - _____ a concluding paragraph to summarize.
- _____ have a topic sentence for each paragraph.
- _____ make the writing clear and focused.

Proofreading for Conventions

You should:

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

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.**