

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** **5**

Unit 2

Student Name _____

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

The Demon Star

David Warner

Many of the world's famous astronomers lived in the desert lands of Arabia, where the blazing daytime heat often made traveling at night a necessity. Men led camel caravans through the empty desert darkness, and like the first sailors, they had only the stars to guide them. Night after night, they watched the lights in the sky. They learned to recognize them and gave them names.

One star was different from the others. They called it *Algol*, which is Arabic for "The Ghoul." The reason for this ghostly name is that, now and then, Algol almost disappears. In the ancient stories, the star was a glittering demon who slowly and mysteriously winked his eye, as though he knew a dark secret.

What could cause a star's light to dim and grow bright again? What could cause such a thing, again and again, year after year? Nobody knew. Algol kept its secret for centuries.

The puzzle was finally solved in 1783 by a young man in England. He was eighteen years old, and his name was John Goodricke. John was born totally deaf and spent his early years not knowing how to speak. In those days most people believed that deaf children could not be educated. But there was a school for deaf children in Scotland, and John went there and learned to speak, read, and write. He also learned to be curious. Later he became an excellent mathematics student.

When John's schooling was finished, he went home to live with his family. One of his neighbors, a friend of John's father, was an amateur astronomer. John had probably studied a bit of astronomy at school before he and the older man became friends.

John's curiosity was aroused when his neighbor told him about the demon star. He began to watch Algol and one night was amazed to see it almost blink out. He was fascinated and continued to observe the star for many, many nights.

John did not have a telescope, but he had sharp eyes. He watched the star carefully and, using an accurate clock, discovered that Algol's dimming kept to a precise schedule. John calculated that every 2 days, 20 hours, and 49 minutes the star almost blinked out after fading for 5 hours. Then, over a 5-hour period, it became steadily brighter.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

1. Which of the following answers best explains why Arabian men were interested in the stars?
 - A. They believed the stars were demons.
 - B. Famous Arabian astronomers lived in the desert and studied the stars.
 - C. They often made up stories about the stars.
 - D. They used stars to find their way in the dark.

2. The Arabs called Algol a demon because
 - A. it is bright orange.
 - B. it has a ghost-like shape.
 - C. it dims and brightens.
 - D. mysterious things happen when it dims.

3. In John Goodricke's day, some people were surprised when he solved the puzzle of Algol because
 - A. he was deaf.
 - B. he was curious.
 - C. he studied mathematics.
 - D. he was an amateur astronomer.

4. How did John learn about the demon star?
 - A. He read about it in a newspaper.
 - B. He studied astronomy in school.
 - C. His neighbor told him about it.
 - D. He saw it outside his window.

5. Which of the following instruments played a significant role in John's discovery?
 - A. calculator
 - B. clock
 - C. telescope
 - D. calendar

But why did Algol blink? After days of studying and thinking, John had an idea. Algol dims, he figured, because there is a planet revolving around it. As regularly as the second hand on an enormous watch, the planet passes in front of the star and blocks most of its light.

John's answer was almost correct. Years later, with the help of high-powered telescopes, the actual answer was found. Algol is not one star, but two. One star is smaller and brighter than the other. The stars circle each other and are so close together that when they are side by side, they look like a single bright light. When the fainter star moves in front of the other, the light from the star behind is blocked, and the star seems to dim.

Sharp-eyed John continued to gaze at the heavens and discovered several other blinking stars, which astronomers call *variables*. They had always been there, of course, but their dimming had been so slight that no one, before John, had ever noticed them. One variable star that John discovered in the constellation Cepheus turned out to be an important clue in measuring the size of the universe.

Astronomers with modern telescopes have found hundreds of variable stars. It all started with Algol and with John Goodricke who discovered that the demon star was really no demon at all.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.

6. Which question did John want to answer?
- A. Why do some stars shine more brightly than others?
 - B. Why do stars appear in the same place in the sky?
 - C. Why would astronomers name a star “The Ghoul”?
 - D. Why would a star “blink”?
7. John Goodricke reasoned that a planet revolving around Algol made the star dimmer. *Revolve* means
- A. to get larger then smaller.
 - B. to circle another object.
 - C. to brighten and dim.
 - D. to change into another object.
8. The change in Algol’s brightness can best be compared to what happens when
- A. the moon passes in front of the sun.
 - B. a person wears dark glasses on a sunny day.
 - C. the sun slowly sinks below the horizon.
 - D. the moon shines through a window.
9. Without a high-powered telescope, John could not see that Algol
- A. is part of a constellation.
 - B. is a demon star.
 - C. is actually two stars.
 - D. has several planets orbiting the star.
10. What do astronomers call stars that have their light blocked for short periods of time by other stars?
- A. blinking stars
 - B. variables
 - C. demon stars
 - D. black holes

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10

Read each sentence and fill in the bubble next to the sentence that is punctuated and capitalized correctly.

1. A. The teacher asked, is your favorite poem found in Walt Whitman’s book, Leaves of Grass?
- B. The teacher asked, “Is your favorite poem found in Walt Whitman’s book, Leaves of Grass?”
- C. The teacher asked, “Is your favorite poem found in Walt Whitman’s book, Leaves of Grass?”
- D. The teacher asked, “is your favorite poem found in Walt Whitmans book, Leaves of Grass?”

2. A. We welcomed president and mrs. Bush at a reception on Saturday, august 30 at 7:30 PM.
- B. We welcomed President and Mrs. Bush at a reception on Saturday august 30, at 7:30 PM.
- C. We welcomed President and Mrs. Bush at a reception on saturday, august 30, at 7:30 PM.
- D. We welcomed President and Mrs. Bush at a reception on Saturday, August 30, at 7:30 PM.

Use proofreading marks to show which letters should be capitalized.

3. The astronomical observations of Greeks and Arabs have been researched
in *national geographic*.

4. In the eighteenth century, john goodricke, an english astronomer, studied
a variable star in the constellation Cepheus.

5. Our class would like to visit a Civil War battlefield in richmond, virginia.

Rewrite the inside address with the correct punctuation and capitalization.

- 6. dr andrew miller _____
- 7. 1041 hillside avenue _____
- 8. sydney australia 53981 _____

Read each sentence. Fill in the bubble next to the sentence that has quotation marks, underlining, and apostrophes used correctly.

- 9. A. Their' reading the short story "Gone to the Moon" next week.
- B. They're reading the short story Gone to the Moon next week.
- C. They're reading the short story "Gone to the Moon" next week.
- D. The're reading the short story Gone To The Moon next week.

- 10. A. You're going to enjoy The Road Less Traveled, a famous poem by Robert Frost.
- B. You're going to enjoy "The Road Less Traveled," a famous poem by Robert Frost.
- C. Your going to enjoy The Road Less Traveled, a famous poem by Robert Frost.
- D. Your'e going to enjoy "The Road Less Traveled," a famous poem by Robert Frost.

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 dramatic scene in the play startled the audience.
 - B. The moon cycles around the earth once a month.
 - C. How many authors will be at the bookstore to recite their poems?
 - D. No mistake
2. A. What famous places will you visit during your gourney?
 - B. Weathercasters warned people about the danger of flooding in lowland areas.
 - C. Giant boulders the size of houses tumbled down the mountain.
 - D. No mistake
3. A. While camping, I bathed in the icy waters of the American River.
 - B. The curious neighbor peered through his living room window.
 - C. Dissatisfied customers should go to the service department to complayn to the manager.
 - D. No mistake
4. A. Fortunately, the rescue team was able to lokate the stranded ship.
 - B. New Yorkers will always remember the day their skyline changed.
 - C. Did you see the funny cartoon about the mayor in the newspaper yesterday?
 - D. No mistake
5. A. I used an umbrella to shield myself in the rainstorm.
 - B. The anxious student clambered onto the stage to recieve his award.
 - C. A sudden drop in temperature might freeze the farmer’s orange crop.
 - D. No mistake
6. A. Continue writing your first draft until the bell rings.
 - B. People around the world wonder how global warming will affect the fewture.
 - C. Stargazers observed an unusual blinking star in the heavens.
 - D. No mistake

7. A. A disease was causing forest pine trees to drop their needles.
- B. Monkeys were swinging from branch to branch through the jungle.
- C. The teenager denys being anywhere near the store when the window was broken.
- D. No mistake
8. A. The trapeze act was always the hilight of the circus.
- B. Meteorologists are studying changes in the earth's climate.
- C. The artist's complicated design fascinated the owner of the gallery.
- D. No mistake
9. A. The cruise ship left the port on its way to Mexico.
- B. Would you prefer to have chicken or vegetable soop for lunch?
- C. The piece of chocolate I ate had a smooth, minty center.
- D. No mistake
10. A. The reporter started his article with a quot from the congressman.
- B. The wrestler grabbed the microphone and began to boast about his accomplishments.
- C. The tropical forest floor was shaded by overgrown trees and vines.
- 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. Variable weather conditions made tomorrow’s forecast difficult.
 - A. globular
 - B. visible
 - C. constant
 - D. extraordinary

2. The engineer reported that the damage to the main jet was insignificant.
 - A. particles
 - B. trifling
 - C. celestial
 - D. serious

3. The caveman’s tools were primitive but skillfully crafted.
 - A. magnified
 - B. modern
 - C. concave
 - D. apparatus

PART 2 — Multiple Meanings

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

4. The children gazed at the celestial body projected onto the ceiling of the observatory.

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

 - A. Remember to indent each paragraph in the body of your letter.
 - B. The specially formulated shampoo was designed to give her hair more body.
 - C. The astronomer observed the interesting heavenly body just above the horizon.
 - D. The legislative body of our government writes and enforces laws.

5. Dense fog started to settle over the valley and cloud the vision of drivers on the highway.

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

 - A. The mayor worried his opponents would cloud the issue for the city’s voters.
 - B. Pollutants have begun to cloud the previously crystal clear waters of Lake Tahoe.
 - C. A cloud of despair hung over the family after the flood destroyed their home.
 - D. The single, fluffy cloud turned vibrant shades of orange and red as the sun set.

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. Dense trees obscured the view and made the telescope useless.
- A. duplicated
 - B. observed
 - C. hid
 - D. reconstructed
7. Being vain and self-centered is an undesirable personality trait.
- A. conceited
 - B. organic
 - C. interplanetary
 - D. ingenious

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 would-be king renounced the throne to marry a commoner.
- A. interrogated
 - B. rejected
 - C. aligned
 - D. summoned
9. The discovery of the telescope revolutionized the study of the heavens.
- A. transcribed
 - B. ceased
 - C. demolished
 - D. changed
10. The doctor frequently checked on his sick patient.
- A. often
 - B. briefly
 - C. simultaneously
 - D. astronomically

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.

Captain Gore, an android, had a new mission. He had been summoned from his home planet, Zan, located in the Star Galaxy. He was assigned to guard agents returning to Zan from Earth. The diplomats were carrying secret documents to their homeland. Word had reached them that cruel and hostile invaders were roaming the universe. The agents had requested Gore’s protection. Soon a convoy retrieved the agents and headed back to Zan.

The fleet of starships whizzed around several galaxies. Then without warning, the main ship’s computer broke down. The convoy was stranded between two stars. Hastily, the captain’s engineer fixed the broken mainframe.

During the stop, Gore received a dire message. It was sent by high-frequency waves. The commander was alarmed. An armada of attacking raiders was headed their way. He quickly sought the advice of his most trusted crewman. When the assistant arrived, Gore explained the situation. He asked for suggestions. The assistant helped his captain consider all possible options.

Suddenly lights flashed. Sirens blared. The ship’s gadgets had detected a huge comet. It was speeding directly at Gore’s transport vehicle. Right away, he shouted “Mach 90!” He had to prevent his fleet from being demolished. Luckily, the spaceships narrowly avoided the impending collision. The attacking raiders were taken off guard. The rogues were destroyed.

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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)	= 119

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.

Ancient cultures observed the stars and wondered 7
 about their origin. Ursa Major is visible in northern 16
 skies. This star pattern is one of the better known and 27
 easier to find constellations. It is often the first star 37
 formation people learn to recognize. Ursa Major is one of 47
 the largest celestial groups and contains the famous Big 56
 Dipper. 57
 People once thought the Big Dipper looked like a 66
 wagon. Others thought it was a plow or a bull’s thigh. 77
 They often named star groups after gods or other mythical 87
 creatures. Lacking scientific knowledge, elaborate stories 93
 were created. These tales helped explain why the shining 102
 images appeared in night skies. 107
 Native American Indians created myths, too. They 114
 called the Big Dipper the Great Bear. The handle of the 125
 Dipper was the Great Bear’s tail, and the Dipper’s cup 135
 was the Bear’s flank. Other Indians believed the “bowl” 144
 was a giant bear and the last stars of the handle were 156
 three warriors chasing it. Because the Big Dipper sits 165
 low in the autumn sky, it was thought that hunters had 176
 injured the bear. American Indians believed the blood 184
 from the bear’s injury caused the trees to change color. 194
 This legend helped explain why leaves turned red in the 204
 fall. 205
 The best time to observe the Big Dipper is on a 216
 moonless night when stars appear to be brightest. 224

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) = 119

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 Writing Assessment Prompt

Writing Situation: You are writing an informational article on space exploration for a magazine called *Kid's Astronomy*.

Audience: Children

Directions for Writing: Think about the information that you have read in the ***Astronomy*** unit. Select one major scientific invention used to explore outer space. Write a multiple-paragraph informational article with an introduction. Give at least two examples of how this invention has helped space exploration. Include supporting facts and details. Write a concluding paragraph that summarizes important points.

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

Revising for Genre: Expository

You should:

- _____ select one main idea (scientific invention).
- _____ give at least two reasons why this invention is important.
- _____ develop the topic with facts and details.

Revising for Writing Strategies (Traits)

You should:

- _____ write an introduction.
- _____ write a multiple-paragraph article that includes at least two reasons.
- _____ develop the topic with important ideas.
- _____ provide details and transitional expressions that link your paragraphs.
- _____ write a concluding paragraph that summarizes the important ideas.

Proofreading for Conventions

You should:

- _____ use correct punctuation, capitalization, and grammar.
- _____ use correct spelling.
- _____ use a variety of sentence styles to make your writing interesting and connect ideas.

TOTAL SCORE: _____/4

NOTES

Seventh Edition

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