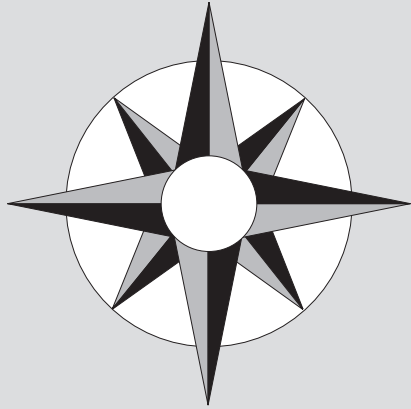


STUDENT TEST BOOKLET



Skills Assessments

Developed for Districts
Using *Open Court Reading 2000*

G **R** **A** **D** **E**

2

Unit 3

Student Name _____

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

Alligators

Frank Staub

Pretend that a monster is walking into your yard. It is ten feet long, and its skin is dark and scaly. Its mouth is full of sharp teeth, and its strong jaws could break your bones. Creatures like this really do walk into people's yards. But they are not monsters. They are alligators.

Alligators spend most of their time floating in or lying next to water. They live in wetlands. Wetlands are land covered with water. Water may stay in a wetland all the time or just during part of the year. Rivers, lakes, and swamps are freshwater wetlands. A freshwater wetland has little or no salt in it.

Many wetlands are gone now. People have filled them in with dirt and rocks. They wanted to make dry land for their houses. Some alligators in those areas have nowhere else to go. So, every now and then, an alligator crawls into someone's yard. It's probably looking for food in what used to be its home. An alligator can run fast. It can stand on its toes and lift its body off the ground to run. Small dogs watch out! A small dog would make a tasty meal for an alligator.

Now answer the questions about this part of the story.

1. Alligators
 - A. have moist, smooth skin.
 - B. have strong jaws and sharp teeth.
 - C. can not run fast.

2. Alligators spend most of their time
 - A. floating in or lying next to water.
 - B. lying on rocks.
 - C. swimming in the ocean.

3. Alligators are usually found in
 - A. swimming pools.
 - B. oceans.
 - C. freshwater wetlands.

4. Why are the wetlands gone?
 - A. The wetlands were flooded.
 - B. It stopped raining.
 - C. People filled them with dirt and rocks.

5. Why are alligators sometimes found in people's yards?
 - A. They are looking for food.
 - B. They are searching for water.
 - C. They are lonely.

Some people think alligators are big lizards. But they are not. Lizards don't grow nearly as big as alligators. Alligators are more like dinosaurs. Like dinosaurs and lizards, alligators are reptiles. All reptiles breathe air, have dry, scaly skin, and are cold-blooded. This means their blood gets cold when it is cold outside. Snakes and turtles are reptiles, too.

Alligators are strong predators. Predators are animals that hunt and eat other animals. Alligators can catch food on land and in water. They eat animals, not plants. The animals they hunt are called its prey. Young alligators eat insects, small fish, and crabs. As alligators grow, they catch bigger and bigger prey. Adult alligators eat fish, birds, snakes, turtles, and other alligators. A big alligator may even try to catch a deer.

Alligators do most of their hunting at night. Darkness is not a problem. At night they use their good sense of smell. Even during the day, alligators use their noses as well as their eyes and ears to find food.

Now answer the questions about this part of the story.

6. Alligators are more like

- A. snakes.
- B. dinosaurs.
- C. turtles.

7. Why are alligators reptiles?

- A. They are cold-blooded and have dry, scaly skin.
- B. They are warm-blooded and have dry, scaly skin.
- C. They are strong and have smooth skin.

8. Alligators eat

- A. vegetables.
- B. plants.
- C. other animals.

9. As alligators grow, they

- A. catch bigger and bigger prey.
- B. spend more time in the water.
- C. eat less food.

10. Darkness is not a problem for alligators when they hunt at night because

- A. they can see better at night than most animals.
- B. they have a good sense of smell.
- C. they sleep all day.

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10

Underline the **adverb** in each of the following sentences:

1. The alligator crawled slowly up the bank of the river.
2. Can you see that alligator quietly sneaking up on its prey?
3. The zookeeper walked carefully through the alligator's exhibit.

Underline the **subject** of the sentence. Then fill in the bubble that tells whether the subject is **singular or plural**.

4. An alligator runs fast on its toes.
 singular plural
5. Snakes make a tasty meal for an alligator.
 singular plural
6. A new tooth grows in to take the place of a lost tooth.
 singular plural

Place **quotation marks** where they belong in the following sentences:

7. Watch out for that alligator behind you! yelled Dad.
8. My teacher asked, Do you know why an alligator is so hard to see in the water?
9. Alligators, snakes, and turtles are all reptiles, said the scientist.
10. The speaker inquired, Can you count how many teeth that baby alligator has?

TOTAL SCORE: ____/10

DIRECTIONS: Read all of the sentences. Decide which one of the underlined words is misspelled. Then fill in the bubble next to the answer.

1. A. Cheetahs are sleek cats that run very fast.
 - B. We will meet here before leaving for the parade.
 - C. Make a wish and your dreme will come true.
 - D. The deer jumped across the stream and ran up the hill.
2. A. The full moon looks perfectly round.
 - B. Her frown tells me she is not happy.
 - C. Dad drove down to the lake to go fishing.
 - D. The leaves on that tree are turning broun.
3. A. Mom thinks the common housfly is very annoying.
 - B. I saw an odd-looking blowfish in a tank at the aquarium.
 - C. I bought some new snowshoes this weekend.
 - D. Did you see that groundhog peek its head out of the hole?
4. A. My father is a great cook!
 - B. Mother touk a pie to the neighbor's house.
 - C. The pond on my brother's farm is stocked with trout.
 - D. There's a lot of soot in the chimney.
5. A. The left fielder made a good catch.
 - B. She won third place in the track meet.
 - C. Can you mach these shapes?
 - D. The torch lit up the dark cave.

6. A. The caramel ice cream tasted awesome.
- B. The animal got caught in the trap.
- C. Stack your dirty laundry in the basket.
- D. I thought you were leaving tomorrow morning.
7. A. Did you enjoy the first part of the movie?
- B. Can you join us for lunch on Tuesday?
- C. If you leave food in the refrigerator too long, it will spoil.
- D. Did you see the coyn I brought back from France?
8. A. The lawn needs to be mowed and watered.
- B. She wore a straw hat and carried a purse.
- C. When did your baby brother start to cral?
- D. The gymnast performed a perfect vault.
9. A. Poot the presents on the top of the table.
- B. He is running because he's late for school.
- C. Do you know what time the show starts?
- D. The rainfall was very heavy last night.
10. A. The bride and grume walked happily hand in hand.
- B. I saw a large, brown hawk quickly swoop down on its prey.
- C. Please use the outside broom to sweep the porch.
- D. The mule kicked the fence with its hind legs.

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 children wondered about the peculiar sounds in the garage.
 - A. prowling
 - B. normal
 - C. strange
 - D. delicious

2. The car’s fresh paint has a glossy finish.
 - A. natural
 - B. dull
 - C. glistened
 - D. shiny

3. I cautiously crossed the busy street.
 - A. carefully
 - B. invisibly
 - C. carelessly
 - D. warily

PART 2 — Multiple Meanings

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

4. They sat on the front stoop listening to birds sing and watching cars zoom past their house.

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

 - A. Be careful when you stoop to pick up that rock.
 - B. A potted plant decorated the stoop in front of the house.
 - C. Because the opening was small, we had to stoop before entering the dark cave.
 - D. The thief was willing to stoop to any level to get his way.

5. Did you see the ducks skim the water as they landed?

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

 - A. The doctor recommended skim milk for his patient’s diet.
 - B. Dad likes to skim the newspaper in the morning.
 - C. I only eat yogurt made from skim milk.
 - D. The boy tried to skim the toy sailboat across the pond.

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. My dog can't run fast because of its stubby legs.
- A. short
 - B. cloudy
 - C. scrambled
 - D. threatening
7. Moles burrow underground when making their homes.
- A. mimic
 - B. swoop
 - C. echo
 - D. tunnel

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 mountain lion silently stalked the deer.
- A. peered
 - B. tangled
 - C. gripped
 - D. followed
9. An animal can camouflage itself by changing colors.
- A. disguise
 - B. view
 - C. confuse
 - D. wake
10. During the night, the cat hunted for its prey.
- A. predator
 - B. surroundings
 - C. food
 - D. costume

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.

Misha opened her birthday present. It 6
 was from her grandmother. She was excited. 13
 “Cool, this is my best birthday gift ever!” 21
 Her new present wasn’t a toy. It was a 30
 camera. Now she could take pictures of birds 38
 in the park. 41
 Misha was a bird watcher. She knew 48
 it was a good idea to try to be invisible 58
 when studying animals in the wild. Misha 65
 wanted her clothing to blend with the colors 73
 of the ground, trees, and shrubs. Bright reds 81
 and yellows might frighten the birds. She 88
 didn’t want them to fly away. Misha looked 96
 through her closet. She found her camping 103
 clothes. She thought they would be perfect 110
 for bird watching. 113
 At the park, she took a photograph of a 122
 red-breasted robin. It was looking for worms. 130
 She caught a glimpse of a hawk gliding 138
 across the sky. The bird darted away before 146
 she could focus her camera. Next, she 153
 snapped a picture of a blue jay scolding a 162
 squirrel. The birds did not see her. Even her 171
 friends walked right past her. They did not 179
 notice Misha crouching in the bushes. 185

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) = 78

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.

Nature has given animals ways to fool 7
 their enemies. An insect called the walking 14
 stick is an example. This insect is skinny 22
 and brown or green in color. It is a strange- 32
 looking bug. When it stands still on a twig, it 42
 looks exactly like a stick. This helps it avoid 51
 being eaten by birds. 55

Some lizards can change their color, 61
 helping them blend into the background. 67
 One such lizard is a gecko. It can change 76
 color when it is afraid. 81

The coloring of a fawn helps it blend into 90
 nature. A baby fawn is light brown. It has 99
 white spots on its back. When its mother is 108
 away, it snuggles in tall grass to hide. 116

Some birds change the color of their 123
 feathers with the seasons. They become 129
 white in the winter to blend in with the 138
 snow. In the summer, they turn brown. 145

Hawks are speckled with a mix of brown, 153
 tan, and white. This camouflage helps them 160
 hide when they are perched in trees. 167

Animals have different ways to hide. 173
 The next time you walk in the forest, look 182
 for clues of hiding animals. 187

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) = 78

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 Prompt

Writing Situation: You are thinking about your favorite animal.

Purpose: To explain why you like this animal

Audience: Your classmates

Writing Directions: Think about your favorite animal. Write a paragraph that describes the animal and explains why you like it. Write your ideas on a sheet of paper before you begin writing.

Student Checklist:

Revising
<p>___ Is your topic sentence the first sentence in the paragraph?</p> <p>___ Does your topic sentence tell your main idea?</p> <p>___ Do your sentences give details about the main idea?</p> <p>___ Is your paragraph well organized?</p> <p>___ Did you include all of your ideas?</p>
Proofreading
<p>___ Is every paragraph indented?</p> <p>___ Did you capitalize proper nouns and the beginnings of sentences?</p> <p>___ Did you use correct grammar?</p> <p>___ Did you use correct punctuation?</p> <p>___ Is every word spelled correctly?</p>

Conventions Score: ___/4	TOTAL RUBRIC SCORE: ___/4
Genre Score: ___/4	Writing Traits Score: ___/4

NOTES

Tenth Edition

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