6-8 Week Skills Assessments

Developed for Districts
Using *Open Court Reading 2002*

**Grade 3**

Unit 1

Student Name ____________________________

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

The Lonely Dragon

Nancy Antle

The average dragon’s idea of a good time is to kidnap a princess, burn down a village, and scare the wits out of everyone. But Charles was a sweet, good-natured fellow who wanted nothing to do with those kinds of things, so he had no dragon friends. Unfortunately, he looked exactly like all the other mean and nasty dragons, and no human ever stayed around long enough to find out how nice he really was. He was often lonely.

One day Charles decided that he’d had enough of being lonely and was going to do something about it. He headed off across the countryside in search of a friend.

The first person he met was a woodcutter in the forest. Charles managed to sneak up on him, so the man didn’t have time to run away.

“Will you be my friend?” he asked rather timidly.

The man realized from the tone of Charles’s voice that he was not the usual fearsome sort of dragon. He took a minute to think. Then he said, “Friends are supposed to do things for each other. If I’m your friend, what will you do for me?”

Charles thought a moment, then he turned and knocked over five trees with a single blow of his tail.

“Perfect!” shouted the woodcutter, and he took Charles home to supper.

As Charles entered the woodcutter’s yard, he turned to ask a question and knocked over the fence with his tail. He became flustered and turned around quickly to apologize. He knocked a hole in the front wall of the man’s house.

“This will never do,” the woodcutter said. “You are much too big to be my friend!” And he sent Charles back from where he had come.

Charles was very depressed, but he kept traveling. Soon he saw an old woman plowing her field. Luckily, the old woman was nearsighted and didn’t realize Charles was a dragon until he was right beside her.

Now answer the questions about this part of the story.
1. Why was Charles lonely at the beginning of the story?

- A. He had no friends.
- B. He was lost in the forest.
- C. He had no family.
- D. The man ran away.

2. Charles didn’t want to make friends with other dragons because they were

- A. big and lazy.
- B. mean and nasty.
- C. huge and had scales.
- D. timid and shy.

3. Charles had trouble making friends because most people

- A. didn’t like the way he talked.
- B. didn’t like the way he laughed.
- C. were shy with dragons.
- D. were afraid of dragons.
“Will you be my friend?” he asked, even more timidly.

The old farmer peered in the direction of his voice. “Friends are supposed to do things for each other,” she said. “If I’m your friend, what will you do for me?”

Charles thought a moment and said, “I could go home ahead of you and start a fire and warm your supper. I’m very good with fires.”

“Perfect,” said the woman. “I’m always too tired in the evening to fix myself a hot meal. A fire-starter is just what I need.”

That evening Charles went to the old woman’s house, started the fire with one breath, and began warming her supper. The old woman’s house was even smaller than the woodcutter’s, but somehow Charles managed to control his tail and not knock anything over. His new friend seemed pleased with the supper he prepared, and she even gave him a kiss on the cheek before she went to bed.

Charles finally found a big enough space under one of the windows and lay down. He was so happy that he let out a long sigh of contentment. Unfortunately, his sigh set the curtains on fire.

“This will never do,” the old woman cried as she jumped up to douse the curtains with water. “You are much too hot to be my friend!” She sent Charles out the door and back from where he had come.

Now Charles was even more depressed. He walked slowly back through the woods. He hadn’t gone very far, though, when he came upon a little man sitting in a clearing. The man was huddled in the morning sun with a blanket around his shoulders and a crown on his head. He didn’t look any happier than Charles.

Charles thought the man would run away. But he didn’t. So Charles sat down and sighed. So did the man. Charles sighed again. So did the man.

“I’ve had a rotten day,” Charles finally said.

“Me, too,” the man replied.

“Why was your day so rotten?” Charles asked politely.

“You first,” the man said.

“Well, it isn’t just this day especially,” Charles said. “My whole life is rotten.”

Now answer the questions about this part of the story.
4. The woodcutter and the woman liked friends who

- A. were kind and thoughtful.
- B. were fun.
- C. could do something for them.
- D. liked the same things.

5. Which word best describes Charles?

- A. good-natured
- B. grumpy
- C. uncaring
- D. creative

6. In the story, the old woman jumped up to douse the curtains with water. The word *douse* means

- A. dry.
- B. soak.
- C. burn.
- D. grease.
The man nodded, and Charles began telling him how lonely he was and how he had gone in search of a friend. He told him about the woodcutter and how his tail got in the way. He told him about the farmer and how his breath had ruined everything.

“Why didn’t you run away when you saw me coming?” he asked.

“I thought you were the answer to my problems,” the man said.

“I figured if you ate me, at least I wouldn’t be lonely any more.”

“You are lonely, too?” Charles asked.

The man nodded and pointed to his crown. “See this?” he asked.

“Do you know what this means? It means I’m a king. Wonderful. I collect taxes and rent from my subjects, have a party once a year, and that is the only time I ever have any fun.

“No one ever comes to my door and says, ‘Oh, I was just passing by and thought I would pop in for tea.’ Nobody asks me over for dinner, or wants me to come have a peek at their new baby. Nobody thinks a king would want to do any of those ordinary things. But I’m really just an ordinary guy.”

“To make matters worse I live alone in a drafty 300-room castle. I can never keep a fire going, so I’m always cold. Lonely and cold—that’s the story of my life.”

The king sniffed and wrapped the blanket tighter around himself, and then he looked at Charles.

“I don’t suppose you’d be interested in being my friend?” he asked.

Charles felt his heart leap, but he hardly dared to agree. “They say that friends are supposed to do things for each other,” he said. “If I’m your friend, what can you do for me?”

“Why, I’ll be your friend,” the king replied.

“Perfect!” said Charles.

The king took Charles back to his dragon-sized castle, and Charles got a fire going in the fireplace. They kept each other company and roasted marshmallows and lived happily ever after.

_Now answer the questions about this part of the story._
7. The king has trouble making friends because

○ A. he was mean to people who came to his door.
○ B. he was interested in different things.
○ C. people didn’t like kings.
○ D. people didn’t realize he was an ordinary guy.

8. Charles agreed to become friends with the king because

○ A. he wanted to live in a castle.
○ B. he wanted to eat the king.
○ C. he liked the king, and the king liked him.
○ D. everyone wanted to be friends with a king.

9. The king said, “I live alone in a drafty, 300-room castle.”
   In this story, the word *drafty* means

○ A. lonely and quiet.
○ B. ordinary.
○ C. slightly windy and chilly.
○ D. warm and cozy.

10. What lesson does this story teach about friendship?

○ A. Only tall people make the best friends.
○ B. Friends are the same age.
○ C. Friends don’t do things for each other.
○ D. True friends are hard to find.
Decide whether the underlined word in the following sentences is a common noun, a proper noun, or neither one. Fill in the bubble next to your answer.

1. Charles knocked over five trees with a blow of his tail.
   ○ common noun   ○ proper noun   ○ neither one

2. One day he decided that he would search for a friend.
   ○ common noun   ○ proper noun   ○ neither one

3. The average dragon’s idea of a good time is to kidnap a princess.
   ○ common noun   ○ proper noun   ○ neither one

Decide whether the underlined word is an action or state-of-being verb. Then fill in the bubble next to your answer.

4. The dragon knocked a hole in the wall.
   ○ action   ○ state-of-being

5. He saw an old woman plowing her field.
   ○ action   ○ state-of-being

6. The old woman didn’t realize Charles was a dragon.
   ○ action   ○ state-of-being
Add the correct punctuation mark to the following sentences. Then fill in the bubble next to the type of sentence it is.

7. The old woman yelled, “You are burning my house down ______”
   ○ declarative  ○ interrogative  ○ exclamatory  ○ imperative 
   (statement)  (question)  (exclamation)  (command)

8. The dragon wanted a friend ______
   ○ declarative  ○ interrogative  ○ exclamatory  ○ imperative 
   (statement)  (question)  (exclamation)  (command)

9. Did Charles and the king live happily ever after ______
   ○ declarative  ○ interrogative  ○ exclamatory  ○ imperative 
   (statement)  (question)  (exclamation)  (command)

10. Put the napkins on the table ______
    ○ declarative  ○ interrogative  ○ exclamatory  ○ imperative 
    (statement)  (question)  (exclamation)  (command)
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. Please keep your desk neat and clean during the school year.
   ○ B. A flock of ducks were swimming in the lake.
   ○ C. Did you see a fishing hook in the tackle box?
   ○ D. No mistake

2. ○ A. Use this brush to apply the paint.
   ○ B. Sunglasses protect my eyes from the bryt sun.
   ○ C. The football game continued despite the rain.
   ○ D. No mistake

3. ○ A. The theme for this unit is friendship.
   ○ B. The baseball player’s position was in right field.
   ○ C. We bought popcorn and lollipops at the candie shop.
   ○ D. No mistake

4. ○ A. Use a needle and blue thred to fix your jeans.
   ○ B. I lost my favorite sweater on the playground.
   ○ C. When is your next doctor’s appointment?
   ○ D. No mistake

5. ○ A. For the moment, they forgot their worries and had fun.
   ○ B. The pastry chef’s pie crusts are always tender and flaky.
   ○ C. Do you have any special hobbys you enjoy doing?
   ○ D. No mistake
6. ○ A. He scraped his elbow when he fell on the cement.
   ○ B. Did the doctor check your sore throat?
   ○ C. Tods were hopping along the bank of the pond.
   ○ D. No mistake

7. ○ A. What flavor of frosting would you like on your cupcakes?
   ○ B. He wore a white, kotton t-shirt with jeans.
   ○ C. We spent hours watching kites soar in the sky.
   ○ D. No mistake

8. ○ A. Remember to meet me at the tran station in the morning.
   ○ B. The secret agent proclaimed the spy had been captured.
   ○ C. Slowly, the determined snail inched its way up the flower pot.
   ○ D. No mistake

9. ○ A. The hungry cat stoped in its tracks when it saw the mouse.
   ○ B. The race horse proudly trotted around the track.
   ○ C. For my birthday, my brother baked a chocolate cake.
   ○ D. No mistake

10. ○ A. The shoe store is just three blocks down the street.
    ○ B. The football player dodged his opponent and scored a touchdown.
    ○ C. Several trees grew near the ege of the pond.
    ○ 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 young piano student was apathetic about practicing every day.
   - A. beautiful
   - B. uninterested
   - C. interested
   - D. teased

2. The tennis player was stiff and sore after playing three matches.
   - A. proud
   - B. flexible
   - C. humiliated
   - D. lonely

3. His extraordinary talent as a soccer player helped the team win the championship.
   - A. marvelous
   - B. tyrant
   - C. magnificent
   - D. ordinary

PART 2 — Multiple Meanings

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

4. Write your name in the top margin of your paper.
   In which sentence is the word margin used in the same way as in the sentence above?
   - A. My friend won the election by a margin of eighty-six votes.
   - B. Driving classes help lessen the margin of error on the road by reducing accidents.
   - C. Use your computer to adjust the left margin of your report.
   - D. On the highway, the extra space between cars gave us a margin of safety.

5. The student had to dart across the playground to avoid being late for school.
   In which sentence is the word dart used in the same way as in the sentence above?
   - A. My uncle taught me how to throw a dart.
   - B. I watched the playful child dart behind bushes to hide from her friend.
   - C. The seamstress sewed a dart on my shirt to make it fit better.
   - D. The mosquito stung me with its sharp dart.
**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. Jackie Robinson faced bitter **hostility** from angry, white players during the long baseball season.
   - A. unfriendliness
   - B. peering
   - C. experiments
   - D. gleaming

7. The fierce mountain lion **provoked** the protective mother bear to fight.
   - A. jangled
   - B. thrilled
   - C. caused
   - D. scrawled

**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 **honorable** principal always tried to be fair with the students.
   - A. serious
   - B. disgraced
   - C. respectable
   - D. champion

9. It makes me nervous when the older kids try to **intimidate** me.
   - A. prejudice
   - B. scare
   - C. appoint
   - D. astonish

10. The teacher reminded his students to use proper **manners** in the cafeteria.
    - A. mocking
    - B. trainers
    - C. commands
    - D. behavior

**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.

Marta felt lonely as she sat on the front porch steps. Her family had moved to a new city, and she was missing her old friends. She stared at the kids playing in the yard across the street. Marta was timid and shy, so making new friends was difficult.

Marta’s mother came outside and sat on the edge of the steps beside her daughter. “Why are you so gloomy?” she gently asked.

“I miss my old friends, and the kids across the street are having so much fun,” replied the girl.

“They look friendly, and they’re about your age. Since you know how to play hopscotch, you might ask to join them,” encouraged her mother.

Marta whispered, “I’m afraid they won’t let me play.”

“You’ll never know if you don’t try. I’ll wait here while you walk over to them. Please be careful while crossing the street. Remember to look both ways,” Marta’s mother said lovingly.

Marta checked for oncoming cars in each direction before crossing the road. She quietly went over to where the children were playing hopscotch. They welcomed her and asked if she would like to join them. Marta smiled and waved to her mother.

EVALUATING CODES FOR ORAL READING

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

Comments:

Number of Words Read Per Minute: ______
Number of Errors: — ______
Number of Words Read Correctly: ______
Passing Criterion (50th %ile) = 79

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.

It was a sunny day, and Jerome was sick with the flu. Feeling sorry for himself, he sat on the couch. He looked out the window at his backyard swing set. It wasn't exactly the swings that were on his mind. Today was circus day, and he couldn't go. He was terribly disappointed. He would miss watching the trapeze act. While playing on his swing, Jerome often imagined he was a famous trapeze artist swinging high above the crowd.

He decided to rest by taking a short nap. When he woke up, the room had become very dark. The outside windowpane had been magically covered by a piece of cloth! “What in the world happened?” he wondered.

Slowly, two friends pulled the cloth open like curtains on a stage. Out of his window, Jerome saw more friends. They were swinging, running, and jumping around his yard. They had decided if Jerome couldn't go to the circus, the show would come to him.

They played catch with large hoops and walked along the top edge of a brick wall pretending it was a high wire act. His friends looked so ridiculous! Jerome curled over and roared with laughter. He felt better now. Jerome thought it was wonderful to have such good friends.

FLUENCY SCORE

Number of Words Read Per Minute: 
Number of Errors: 
Number of Words Read Correctly: 
Passing Criterion (50th %ile) = 79

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 Prompt

Writing Situation: You are telling your classmates about a time when you went out of your way to be a friend.

Purpose: To tell about an event in your life

Audience: Your classmates

Writing Directions: Consider the qualities that make a person a good friend. Write a personal narrative about a time when you were a friend to someone who needed you. Use a graphic organizer to plan your narrative.

Student Checklist:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revising</th>
<th>4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is your main idea in the first paragraph?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Do all of your sentences stay on the topic?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Does your narrative have a beginning, middle, and end?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you use words that describe friendship?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you show why this event is memorable?</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proofreading</th>
<th>4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is every paragraph indented?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Did you capitalize proper nouns and the beginnings of sentences?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Did you use correct grammar?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Did you use correct punctuation?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is every word spelled correctly?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL RUBRIC SCORE: 4