


# STUDENT TEST BOOKLET



6-8 Week  
**S**kills  
Assessments

Developed for Districts  
Using *Open Court Reading 2002*

**G** **R** **A** **D** **E** **4**

**Unit 4**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Kenji Moto the Hermit

*Alan Romanoff*

There once was a man in Japan named Kenji Moto. Kenji was a hermit by choice. He had been crippled as a boy and had decided to live alone on the side of a hill. He didn't want to stay among people who might pity or scorn him. So, slowly and painfully, he tilled a small rice field for food. He traded the food for fish in the nearby village.

From his humble house on the hill, Kenji could see the village of his birth. It was nearly an hour's walk away. Just beyond the village was the ocean, stretching out as far as the eye could see.

The villagers were mostly fishermen who hauled their living from the ocean. A few of the men and most of the women and children worked in the rice fields which reached from the edge of the village to the slope just below Kenji's hut.

One afternoon as Kenji was toiling in his field, he paused for a moment's rest and gazed out toward the ocean. His casual glance became an intense stare as he saw something strange and frightening on the horizon.

The sky above the ocean was threateningly dark. The ocean seemed to be rising up to engulf the sky. Kenji looked in wonderment, trying to understand what was happening.

Suddenly, he knew what the darkened sky and towering waters meant. Many years ago, long before anyone now living in the village had been born, a tidal wave had come rushing in from the sea. Kenji had heard his grandfather tell how, within an hour, the entire village had been swept away and the land covered with ocean water.

*Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.*

1. Which word **best** describes Kenji Moto at the beginning of the story?
  - A. independent
  - B. angry
  - C. bored
  - D. energetic
  
2. Why does Kenji see the tidal wave long before the villagers are aware of the danger?
  - A. The villagers are asleep in their homes.
  - B. Kenji lives high on a hill.
  - C. Kenji has a telescope.
  - D. The villagers are busy working in their fields.
  
3. Kenji knew what the towering waters meant. The word ***towering*** means
  - A. darkened.
  - B. high.
  - C. signaling.
  - D. retreated.

“I must warn the villagers,” thought Kenji. “But how? By the time I could get down there with my crippled leg, the tidal wave would be upon them.”

Desperately, he looked around for some method to signal a warning. However, nothing was large enough to be seen that far away. Then, an idea came to him.

“A fire!” he thought. “A fire would be seen for miles.”

Kenji knew of only one thing large enough to make a fire that bright. He lit a torch and, with quiet resignation, set fire to the rice crop he had cultivated so painfully and that meant life itself to him. Within seconds, the field was ablaze, and Kenji retreated some distance away. When he turned his attention toward the steadily darkening sky, he saw that the wall of water was much closer. He guessed that the full impact of the tidal wave would strike within the hour.

Anxiously, Kenji stared down at the village. “They have to see the fire,” he muttered. “They have to!”

Meanwhile, in the village below, many eyes had spotted the fire on the hill, and an excited crowd had gathered.

“It’s Kenji’s rice field,” said one man.

“Yes,” agreed another, “and if the fire spreads, it will take all our fields.”

“We must hurry and put out the fire, or there will be no rice for any of us this year.”

Within minutes, all the villagers were hastening toward the top of the hill. Even those who were too young or too old to help fight the fire went along to watch.

*Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.*

4. What is Kenji's first concern when he sees the tidal wave?
- A. to save his house
  - B. to save his rice crop
  - C. to save the villagers' rice crop
  - D. to warn the villagers of the danger
5. Why doesn't Kenji go down the hill and tell the villagers of the approaching tidal wave?
- A. Kenji can't walk fast enough.
  - B. The tidal wave is still far away.
  - C. He was too frightened.
  - D. The tidal wave washed out the road.
6. Why does Kenji set fire to his rice crop?
- A. to get the villagers' attention
  - B. to harvest his rice crop
  - C. to save his rice crop from the tidal wave
  - D. to burn the villagers' rice fields
7. Why do the villagers rush up the hill?
- A. They want to escape the tidal wave.
  - B. They want to save Kenji.
  - C. They want to save their own rice crops.
  - D. They want to watch the tidal wave.

From his position on the hillside, Kenji saw the parade making its way up the slope. He compared the progress of the villagers to the oncoming wave. “Why don’t they hurry?” he worried aloud. “The big wave is almost here.”

As the villagers climbed higher and higher, they were able to see the wall of water for the first time. Swift runners were sent back to the village to gather important records and to make certain that everyone had left. The rest of the group hurried even faster up the hill.

When the villagers arrived at Kenji’s house, they gathered around him. “It’s fortunate that your rice field caught fire,” said one, “for it brought us here, safe from the giant wave.”

“How did the fire get started?” asked another.

“With this,” said Kenji quietly, holding up the charred and smoking torch.

Only then did the villagers realize that Kenji had deliberately set fire to his field in order to warn them. Not even the most eloquent among them could find words to express their gratitude.

Silently everyone turned to watch the huge wave draw nearer and nearer. When it struck, it would destroy everything they owned. Thanks to Kenji, they were saved and they would rebuild.

Each of them silently vowed there would always be a place in his new home for Kenji Moto, the hermit.

*Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.*

8. When do the villagers finally realize the danger?

- A. when they are climbing the hill
- B. when they reach Kenji's house
- C. when the tidal wave hits the village
- D. after they put out the fire

9. The genre of this story is

- A. autobiography.
- B. nonfiction.
- C. realistic fiction.
- D. a play

10. Another **good** title for this story is

- A. "Villagers Save Their Crops."
- B. "Kenji Moto the Hero."
- C. "No More Rice."
- D. "The Humble House."

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10
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**Read each of the following sentences. Underline the correct form of the adjective or adverb.**

1. The sky over the oncoming wave was the (darker, darkest) Kenji had ever seen.
2. Japanese villagers were (safer, safest) on the hill than in the rice fields.
3. Blue dolphins swam (most slowly, more slowly) around Karana's canoe than they swam in the open sea.
4. The (more, most) frightening part of the journey was when the angry walruses tossed the whale boat.

**Read each of the following sentences. Circle the coordinating and subordinating conjunctions.**

5. Before the big wind came, Josh McBroom had already lost his shingle roof in the prairie wind.
6. Jiya lost his family in the tidal wave, but he learned to live bravely.



**Read each of the following sentences. Circle all prepositions and underline all prepositional phrases.**

7. Anne Frank lived with her family above a warehouse.

8. Homes by the canal were the secret hiding places of many Jewish families.

**Read each of the following sentences. Circle the word that correctly completes the sentence.**

9. (Your, You're) going to learn about the hardships of slavery from well-known spirituals.

10. Without freedom, (their, there) lives as slaves were difficult and sad.

**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. Watching <u>monkeys</u> frolic in the zoo is entertaining.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. There are five <u>ferries</u> that go to San Juan Island daily.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. Arctic <u>foxs</u> have adapted to the harsh climate.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p>   | <p>4. <input type="radio"/> A. The house was cold, so we gathered around the <u>fireplase</u> to get warm.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. Are you going skiing with us in <u>December</u>?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. Please put your <u>bicycle</u> away when you finish riding it.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> |
| <p>2. <input type="radio"/> A. Don't be <u>stingy</u> and eat all of the cookies without sharing!</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. The first of <u>January</u> marks the beginning of a <u>new</u> calendar year.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. Grandma's kisses made lipstick <u>smuges</u> all over the baby's cheeks.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> | <p>5. <input type="radio"/> A. The <u>clouds</u> moved lazily across the sky.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. My <u>growchy</u> neighbor never smiles in the morning.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. We had to stand in line for <u>hours</u> to purchase the concert tickets.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p>            |
| <p>3. <input type="radio"/> A. The <u>gopher</u> peeked its head out of its burrow.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. On cold, <u>phrosty</u> mornings, we enjoy a hot cup of cocoa.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. We decided to place the hockey <u>trophy</u> on the mantel.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p>  |   |

6.  A. Mom bought a satchel that matched her shoes.
- B. If you scrach your mosquito bite, it will itch even more.
- C. I do not know which sandwich is mine.
- D. No mistake
7.  A. Slice the tomatoes and onions and put them in the salad bowl.
- B. The warring countrys met to discuss a peace agreement.
- C. Place the heaviest package on the bottom of the pile.
- D. No mistake
8.  A. The shortest month of the year is Febuary.
- B. The White House is on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C.
- C. Let's continue this discussion after recess.
- D. No mistake
9.  A. The athlete's speady recovery surprised his coach and doctor.
- B. There are many different species of eagles.
- C. Let's put the dog on his leash and go to the park.
- D. No mistake
10.  A. I was so nervous that my hands wouldn't stop shaking.
- B. Use caution when steping on those wet, mossy boulders.
- C. The mountain climber was slowly inching his way up the steep cliff.
- 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. She was unconscious because of her injuries from the accident.
  - A. idle
  - B. aware
  - C. unaware
  - D. listless
  
2. The rambunctious toddler ran through the house and scattered toys everywhere.
  - A. sorrowful
  - B. noisy
  - C. unfortunate
  - D. peaceful
  
3. As dawn approached, a faint ray of light could barely be seen through the thick clouds.
  - A. dim
  - B. stifled
  - C. bright
  - D. peculiar

**PART 2 — Multiple Meanings**

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

4. Eskimos use sealskin traces to connect their dogs to the sled.
 

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

  - A. The boy traces the picture of the dog into his notebook.
  - B. Leather traces on the harness helped to guide the plow horse.
  - C. We followed traces of the dog's footprints.
  - D. There were no traces of anger in the friendly barks of the dogs.
  
5. The high winds forced a brace of geese out of the sky.
 

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

  - A. Each time I go skiing, I must wear a special brace to protect my knee.
  - B. Brace yourself in case the bus stops too quickly.
  - C. A brace of wild game landed in the pond.
  - D. The carpenter used a brace to hold the bookshelves in place.

## 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. Their musical heritage was handed down from their ancestors to help preserve the history of previous generations.
- A. tradition
- B. misery
- C. tribute
- D. portion
7. We ran out of gasoline because we did not calculate the distance carefully enough.
- A. ration
- B. renew
- C. confide
- D. measure

## 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. After packing his gear, the man joined the expedition to Antarctica.
- A. journey
- B. wreckage
- C. glacier
- D. concentration
9. The high school senior was persuaded to pursue her dream of college.
- A. desert
- B. follow
- C. skirt
- D. falter
10. We have distinct strategies to learn about cold weather survival techniques.
- A. hardship
- B. specific
- C. arctic
- D. trifling

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10
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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.

Sam and his younger sister were looking for red squirrels and foxes in the backwoods. Suddenly they realized they had wandered far from camp and were lost in unfamiliar terrain. Luckily, Sam had taken a survival course and knew the importance of staying calm. Panicking would only make matters worse.

By the angle of the sun, Sam was able to calculate it was mid-morning. He stood facing east, the direction of the sun. He explained to his sister south was to his right and north was to his left. West was at his back. He knew their family’s campground was on the west edge of a small river. Concentrating on these helpful clues, Sam drew a crude map in the dirt with a stick. They decided to head east.

Walking toward the sun, they soon reached the riverbank. There, they quickly gathered dry twigs. They located a sandy clearing beside the water and used matches from Sam’s survival kit to start a small fire. The kindling began to burn. Sam and his sister steadily placed green leaves and pine needles on the hot flames. Thick, pungent smoke billowed up over the trees. A rescue squad saw the alarming smoke signal and came to investigate. They transported the two siblings safely back to camp.

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)	= <u>116</u>

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.

Plant life is abundant in the deserts of Arizona and New Mexico. There the average rainfall is only about seven inches a year. How have plants learned to survive in these arid, southwestern regions? They have adapted in a variety of ways to this harsh terrain.

Desert plant life does not bloom during phases of drought. If it did, the flowers would wither and die in the remorseless sun. These unique plants are capable of lying dormant for years until it rains. Then once the plants have enough water, flowers quickly mature and bloom.

Most cactus plants have thorns instead of leaves. The surface area of thorns is much smaller than leaves. This reduces the plant’s exposure to the parched, hot air. Therefore, not much moisture can evaporate from the vegetation.

The barrel cactus is short and fat. It is shaped like a round accordion. This allows it to expand during rainfall. When water is absorbed through its roots, it gets bigger. As it loses moisture during the dry season, it contracts.

The creosote bush thrives in the desert. It does not grow in bunches because it doesn’t like sharing the scarce water. It has an unpleasant, acrid aroma. This smell keeps other flora from growing nearby.

These are ways plant life endures the deserts of the United States.

**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) = 116

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 - Response to Literature

**Writing Situation:** You have read “McBroom and the Big Wind.” You are thinking about how you know it is a tall tale and why the story is humorous.

**Purpose:** To describe exaggeration in a tall tale

**Audience:** Your teacher

**Writing Directions:** Write at least one paragraph explaining how the author uses exaggeration to tell the events in “McBroom and the Big Wind.” You may include information about characters, setting, or events. Use a graphic organizer to plan your paper. Refer to your anthology to write this essay.

### Student Checklist:

<b>Revising</b>
<p>_____ Do you have an effective beginning that pulls the reader into your response?</p> <p>_____ Did you use details that describe why the characters are humorous?</p> <p>_____ Have you described the setting that created the humorous mood?</p> <p>_____ Did you use examples of exaggeration?</p> <p>_____ Do you have a strong and effective story ending?</p> <p>_____ Did you use interesting words that help the reader understand your ideas?</p>
<b>Proofreading</b>
<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	<b>TOTAL RUBRIC SCORE: _____ /4</b>
Genre Score: _____ /4	
Writing Traits Score: _____ /4	



# NOTES

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