


# STUDENT TEST BOOKLET



6-8 Week  
**S**kills  
Assessments

Developed for Districts  
Using *Open Court Reading 2002*

**G** **R** **A** **D** **E** **5**

**Unit 5**

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

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

## Charley Parkhurst

*Pat Bush*

“Charlotte shivered in the cold New Hampshire morning. Her mother and father had been recently killed in a wagon accident. It was tragic to lose her parents at such an early age. It was more traumatic when her uncle decided to send her and her brother to an orphanage. As she neatly braided her long hair, she wondered what living in an orphanage would be like. She knew her brother would probably not stay long since boys could become an apprentice in trades such as carpentry or blacksmithing. Charlotte envied him. She knew it was unthinkable for a girl to have such opportunities. Sighing, she took her small bundle of belongings and walked to the living room where the trustees for the orphanage were waiting for the two children. Departing in the carriage, Charlotte left behind the life she had always known.

Soon after arriving, Charlotte’s brother became an apprentice and left the orphanage. Before leaving he secretly gave Charlotte some of his clothes, as they both realized it was the only way she could support herself outside of the orphanage.

Then one night she cut her hair and left quietly, embarking on an odyssey that would take her on a lifelong journey of danger and deception. Masquerading as a boy, she changed her name to Charley. She found a job as a stable boy on a farm. From that time on everyone thought Charley was a boy. For a long time she mucked the stalls, and she walked and fed the horses. When her employers realized how good she was with horses, Charley was allowed to ride them for their daily exercise. A natural progression from menial duties, she drove a stagecoach to and from neighboring towns.

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

1. Why did Charlotte envy her brother?

- A. He was a boy.
- B. She wanted to be a blacksmith.
- C. Boys didn't have to do housework.
- D. Boys who had jobs could leave the orphanage.

2. In paragraph 3, the author states that Charlotte embarked on an odyssey.  
The word *odyssey* means

- A. danger and deception.
- B. an extended adventure.
- C. masquerade.
- D. change your name.

At a time when a lady's options were limited to household duties, Charlie enjoyed her time outside working with horses. Keeping her real identity from fellow workers became too burdensome, so she decided to head West. In this wild, unsettled, and rugged land, nobody asked questions about one's past. Charlie continued life as a man driving a stagecoach during the gold-rush days in California.

Charley was only about 5'6" in height, slim and wiry, and had attentive gray eyes. She did not speak very often, and when she did, her voice was oddly sharp and high-pitched. Charley wore a patch over one eye either to distract people from the lack of a beard, or because she had been injured by a horse. She refused to bunk with the other drivers. Instead, she slept in barns with the horses to maintain her privacy.

A skilled driver, Charley took danger and hardship in stride. On one trip, one-eyed Charley was carrying a large amount of gold. Sensing danger, she felt the hair on the back of her neck rise. Suddenly two masked gunmen jumped from behind a pile of boulders. The outlaws pointed six-shooters at her and demanded the gold. Too fast for the thieves to know what was happening, Charley swung her shotgun around and fired. They dropped. Charley put down her gun, ignoring the cheers of her passengers. She was only doing her job. From that time on, no outlaw dared mess with Charley. They were afraid of meeting the same fate.

In Charley's day, women were not allowed to vote. But Charley was not known to be female. Ulysses S. Grant ran for president in 1868. Charley cast her vote in November of that year, becoming the first woman ever to vote in a presidential election.

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

3. Why did Charley move to the West?
- A. It would be easier to keep her secret.
  - B. She wanted to join the gold rush miners.
  - C. She was slim and wiry.
  - D. She was looking for her brother.
4. What was one of the ways Charley kept her secret?
- A. She spoke with a high-pitched voice.
  - B. She took hardships in stride.
  - C. She slept in barns with the horses.
  - D. She enjoyed working outside.
5. Why did Charley ignore the cheers of her passengers after she saved them and the gold shipment?
- A. Charley was too frightened.
  - B. Charley was just doing her job.
  - C. Charley thought the cheers were silly.
  - D. Charley was too embarrassed.
6. Charley was the first woman to vote for a president because
- A. people thought she was a man.
  - B. she was responsible.
  - C. everyone in California was allowed to vote.
  - D. she was good with horses.

She gained the respect of almost all of the people in the towns and stations she served. She helped women during childbirth, set broken bones, donated money to needy causes, and kissed babies. Charley was plagued by arthritis after long years of heat, cold, rain, and snow. Aches and pains were part of her daily routine. However, people knew her stagecoach would arrive on time. Nothing could stop her, neither wrecks in flooded washes nor wild pigs in the road. More than once she had to pull flailing passengers from a shattered coach. Still the passengers and mail continued to be delivered.

Charley woke one morning so stiff she was reluctant to take the stagecoach on its run. As she painfully walked across the barn floor, she decided it was time to retire. She purchased a stagecoach station because a sedentary life was not for her. Each day, drivers knew she would be patiently waiting for them to come around the bend. She would wave at the first sound of horses pulling another load of the gold seekers.

One day Charley was not outside. The driver pulled up and gave a loud “whoa” to stop the horses; still Charley was nowhere in sight. The driver knew something was wrong. When he entered the small station house, he found Charley. She had died in her sleep. Until that day, nobody had suspected this extraordinary pioneer was a woman.

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

7. Charley gained the respect of others because
- A. she decided to retire.
  - B. she wore a patch over one eye.
  - C. she voted for president in 1868.
  - D. her stagecoach was always on time.
8. One of the jobs listed below was not something Charley did. What is the job she did **not** do?
- A. stable boy
  - B. carpenter
  - C. stagecoach driver
  - D. stagecoach station owner
9. The theme of this story is
- A. the West is a dangerous place to live.
  - B. everyone liked Charley.
  - C. stagecoach drivers developed lots of aches and pains from exposure to heat, cold, rain, and snow.
  - D. women are capable of performing jobs that many thought only men could do.
10. This story is an example of
- A. a play.
  - B. science fiction.
  - C. historical fiction.
  - D. autobiography.

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10
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Read the following sentence fragments. Are the fragments missing a subject, a predicate, or both? Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

1. without fresh horses for the next day  
 subject     predicate     both
  
2. Outlaws, waiting in the canyon,  
 subject     predicate     both
  
3. trusted Charley with valuable shipments  
 subject     predicate     both

Read each of the following sentences. Insert commas where they are needed.

4. Traveling in keelboats along the Missouri River Lewis and Clark slowly made their way westward.
  
5. For the Plains Indians of North America the buffalo provided jerky moccasins and tools.

On the lines provided, rewrite the address of a business letter using correct capitalization and punctuation.

Mr. Charles Walker

Director of Marketing

Walker Productions

6. 804 seaside way \_\_\_\_\_

7. los angeles CA 90210 \_\_\_\_\_



Read the following sentences. Add commas where they are needed.

8. Wong Ming-Chung and Uncle were working abandoned claims but fortunately they found valuable gold flakes on the cabin floor.
  
9. Because Arliss would not let go of her cub the mother bear was ready to attack.
  
10. Bill Pickett a bulldogger from Texas performed all around the world in traveling Wild West shows.

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.”

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. <input type="radio"/> A. The audience waited patiently for the <u>curtain</u> to rise so the play could begin.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. After it started raining, coaches and referees met for a brief <u>diskussion</u> about the field conditions.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. Construction workers drove <u>stakes</u> into the ground with large sledge hammers.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> | <p>4. <input type="radio"/> A. Because the doctor wanted to be close to her family, she accepted a <u>permanent</u> position at a hospital in her home town.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. The covered wagon was a <u>prominant</u> form of transportation in the westward migration.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. Initially we were <u>hesitant</u> about going to the museum, but we found it very enjoyable.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p> |
| <p>2. <input type="radio"/> A. It was time to pass the budget, but legislators were still <u>disagreeing</u> about the tax hike.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. Mom bought <u>tracing</u> paper so I could practice my cartoon drawing.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. I observed a hawk <u>captureing</u> its prey with its sharp talons.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p>  | <p>5. <input type="radio"/> A. The company’s new athletic shoe <u>promosion</u> was presented in a clever and artistic way.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. The earthquake of 1906 was the cause of overwhelming <u>destruction</u> in San Francisco.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. Skilled magicians are able to baffle audiences by creating <u>illusions</u> that appear real.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p>                                  |
| <p>3. <input type="radio"/> A. After the ball is kicked, players <u>scrambal</u> to their offensive positions.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. His boss was confident the rookie reporter would be able to <u>handle</u> the new assignment.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. Patriots were accused of being <u>disloyal</u> to the king of England.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. No mistake</p>                                   |   |

6.  A. When my bike tire made a huge splash, I realized I had misjudged the size of the mud puddle.
- B. To honor the American flag, we recite “The Pledge of Allegance.”
- C. The team’s first place position in the league is contingent upon winning Saturday’s game.
- D. No mistake
7.  A. The witness’s vursion of the incident is different than the defendant’s testimony.
- B. As citizens of a diverse nation, we must all strive to be tolerant of cultural differences.
- C. The young man hoped he would have his job for the duration of the year.
- D. No mistake
8.  A. Dad mislaid his glasses and asked for our help in locating them.
- B. The remorseful girl bowed her head in disgrace.
- C. Grandmother filled the glass contayner with chocolate chip cookies.
- D. No mistake
9.  A. Everyone was feeling lazy, so we decided to spend the day relaxing and reading books.
- B. Life experiences, whether good or bad, can make you wizer.
- C. My uncle is the resident handyman for our apartment complex.
- D. No mistake
10.  A. The old clock was constantly breaking and in need of repair.
- B. Weathermen were traking the tornado’s path.
- C. Always disconnect the lamp’s power source when changing a light bulb.
- D. No mistake

TOTAL SCORE: _____/10
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**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 terrible drought caused the crops to die; people in the village were starving.
  - A. wetness
  - B. slaughter
  - C. employee
  - D. trek
  
2. As we approached the deserted fort, we wondered about the people who had built it.
  - A. desperate
  - B. inhabited
  - C. abandoned
  - D. distinct
  
3. The capable soccer player kicked a goal from center field.
  - A. challenged
  - B. tethered
  - C. spooked
  - D. unskilled

**PART 2 — Multiple Meanings**

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

4. Miners worked for months excavating their claim without finding gold.
 

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

  - A. We completed the insurance claim form and returned it to our agent.
  - B. Winners of the race were asked to claim their prizes in front of the grandstand.
  - C. My uncle staked his claim and registered it with the Department of Mines.
  - D. The defendant continued to claim his innocence throughout the trial.
  
5. In 1897 thousands of adventurers rushed to Klondike, Alaska, to prospect for gold.
 

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

  - A. The woman approaching the sales counter appeared a likely prospect for our new perfume.
  - B. We were disappointed when the weather forecaster announced the prospect of rain for the weekend.
  - C. The lakeside lot presented a pleasant prospect for the location of our new home.
  - D. We continue to prospect for oil to meet the demands of gasoline consumers.

**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. The children played with the toy less often because their interest in it had dwindled.
  - A. decreased
  - B. seared
  - C. regarded
  - D. captivated
  
7. The general’s well-known list of accomplishments in the army is legendary.
  - A. merciful
  - B. famous
  - C. ceremonial
  - D. registered

**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. Five large pizzas were sufficient for the softball party.
  - A. secure
  - B. established
  - C. enough
  - D. provisions
  
9. The children made a frantic search through the house for the lost keys.
  - A. worried
  - B. adventurous
  - C. parched
  - D. feisty
  
10. The art dealer claimed the oil on canvas was a genuine William T. Ranney painting.
  - A. brazen
  - B. preserved
  - C. splendid
  - D. real

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.

In the summer of 1896, gold fever spread like wildfire across North America. According to rumors, someone had found gold near the Klondike River in Canada. Hopeful men and women were stricken with gold fever. People combed western Canada and Alaska in search of the precious metal. Nome, Alaska, was first settled as a mining camp. It became an important hub of the gold rush. Fortune seekers relied on the growing city for supplies.

Prospectors grumbled but were willing to face the hardships. They chose to endure the harsh, frigid weather for a chance to become wealthy. Lives were lost in the freezing, arctic climate. Gritty miners searched the land for hidden riches. Burros plodded beside their masters with huge boxes of mining supplies. They were also laden with food items such as flour, beef jerky, and beans. Fresh vegetables were scarce.

There were many other hazards. Danger lurked everywhere. A ghastly fate awaited anyone who stumbled upon a grizzly bear. Bandits often robbed miners of their gold.

Some lucky miners struck gold in the mother lode. They filled their coffers with treasure. Most, however, returned home empty handed.

**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) = 135

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.*

The Oregon Trail began in Saint Louis, Missouri. 8  
 Pioneers were hoping to establish homesteads in the 16  
 West. Settlers were advised to only pack basic food 25  
 items. With drinking water, clothing, and cooking 32  
 utensils, a covered wagon weighed more than three tons. 41  
 Some people tried to take too much. So the trail was 52  
 littered with abandoned belongings. 56  
 The westward migration began in early spring. 63  
 Pioneers needed to make it across the mountains before 72  
 winter. The people and livestock required water. 79  
 They also needed relief from the sizzling sun. For these 89  
 reasons, the trail followed various rivers. Oregon’s 96  
 Columbia River marked the final leg of the journey. 105  
 Pioneers were robust people. They had a great sense 114  
 of adventure. Fathers drove the wagons. Mothers and 122  
 young children rode in the wagons. Older sons and 131  
 daughters herded animals alongside the caravan. 137  
 The wooden wagon seats were hard and uncomfortable. 145  
 To get relief, banged and bruised riders jumped off their 155  
 wagons and walked. 158  
 Encounters with hostile Indians were not very 165  
 common. Contrary to old, western movies, “circle the 173  
 wagons” was not a cry to fend off Indians. It was an 185  
 order by the wagon master. It meant it was time to form 197  
 a corral for horses and oxen. 203  
 The journey wasn’t always unbearable. Settlers took 210  
 time to have fun. They told stories, sang, and danced 220  
 around the campfire. 223

**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) = 135

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 - Business Letter

**Writing Situation:** You are thinking of a sport you would like your school to offer.

**Purpose:** To make a request in a business letter

**Audience:** Mrs. Lane, Principal  
 Washington Elementary  
 1604 Elm Street  
 Jackson, Texas 32108

**Writing Directions:** Think about an after-school sport you would like your school to provide. Write a letter to your principal stating your reasons for wanting this new after-school activity. Ask the principal to consider your request.

**Student Checklist:**

<b>Revising</b>							
<p>_____ Did you include all of the parts of a business letter?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding-left: 40px;">_____ Heading</td> <td style="width: 50%; padding-left: 40px;">_____ Body</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">_____ Inside Address</td> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">_____ Closing</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">_____ Salutation</td> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">_____ Signature</td> </tr> </table> <p>_____ Did you identify your purpose in the opening paragraph?</p> <p>_____ Are your paragraphs organized around main points?</p> <p>_____ Have you maintained your focus throughout the paper?</p> <p>_____ Did you use convincing words that will engage your audience?</p> <p>_____ Is your request restated in the conclusion?</p>		_____ Heading	_____ Body	_____ Inside Address	_____ Closing	_____ Salutation	_____ Signature
_____ Heading	_____ Body						
_____ Inside Address	_____ Closing						
_____ Salutation	_____ Signature						
<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	TOTAL RUBRIC SCORE: _____/4
Genre Score: _____/4	Writing Traits Score: _____/4



# NOTES

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**Seventh Edition**

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