STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

6-8 Week Skills Assessments

Developed for Districts Using Open Court Reading 2002

GRADE 6

Unit 1

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Theodate, the Different
by Mary Evans Andrews

“Effie, Effie! Still in your school dress?”

Eight-year-old Effie Pope looked up from her drawing as her beautiful mother entered
the playroom. “Hurry, now. Our guests will soon be here. Iris will help you dress and bring
you down for tea.”

“Oh, Mama, do I have to?”

Effie’s parents were tall and handsome. She was short, plump, and “plain.” When they
met her, most grownups would look surprised and politely admire her expensive dresses.
Then they talked to each other while she stood by feeling awkward and bored.

“Please come see what I’m drawing, Mama. It’s my biggest house yet.”

With a sigh, Effie’s mother stepped over to her desk.

“It’s very nice, dear, but you mustn’t spend all your time drawing houses. You should be
wearing your pretty clothes and going to parties like other girls.”

In 1868, when Effie was born, proper young ladies grew up to be wives and mothers.
Her parents could not believe their only child would want to do anything else. Effie’s father
was a millionaire; her mother was a popular and stylish society leader.

Growing up in a large Cleveland, Ohio, house, Effie was surrounded by servants—and
she was lonely. The place she liked best was her grandmother’s house in Salem, Ohio. There
she could play with her cousins and even slide down the banisters. She wrote:

“Christmas morning: cousins laughing in the upstairs hall, legs thrown over the
mahogany stair rail. Swish, and I am caught in the curve of the newel post. Tree and
gifts wait inside the library. Its locked door refuses to open to determined rattling.
Run to see the new snow through four-colored glass of the entry door. Blue makes
a ghastly dawn, rose a cheery pink morning. Climbing on a chair, we see a golden
world, and stretching on tiptoe, a violent red one.”

When Effie was eight, she gave her parents a “portfolio” of her best drawings. Watching
nervously, hoping for “expressions of delight,” she received only halfhearted thank-yous.

At school, shy Effie was only interested in art and reading and didn’t enjoy her
classmates’ games. Her rich parents traveled a lot, so she had plenty of time to read—
and think. She decided that Effie was no name for a future architect. In fact it sounded
downright silly. She changed her name to that of her grandmother, Theodate (which means
“God’s gift” or “God-given”). From that day, she refused to answer anyone who called her
Effie.

Luckily, Theodate and her favorite cousin, Elizabeth, were sent off to a boarding school
together. It was the famous Miss Porter’s School in Farmington, Connecticut. Theodate
loved the charming, little town with its beautiful, old homes. Privately, she resolved to live
here, not in crowded, busy Cleveland.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.
1. Theodate’s main interest when she was growing up was
   - A. dressing up in fancy dresses.
   - B. going to parties.
   - C. drawing houses.
   - D. playing school sports.

2. Theodate changed her name from Effie to Theodate because
   - A. she never liked the name “Effie.”
   - B. Theodate was her nickname.
   - C. she wanted to make her grandmother proud.
   - D. she felt nobody would take an architect named Effie seriously.

3. The last sentence on page 2 states that Theodate was privately resolved to live in Farmington, Connecticut, not Cleveland. The word **resolved** means
   - A. determined.
   - B. solved.
   - C. refusing.
   - D. surrounded.
Of course, her parents had other plans. When she graduated, they took her on a “grand tour” of Europe. Theodate was thrilled by the beauty of foreign art and architecture. She sketched buildings everywhere, especially in England. The sturdy, stone villages in the Cotswolds near London made a lasting impression on her. She knew she would enjoy building houses more than anything.

Back in Cleveland, Mrs. Pope made an effort to launch her daughter into the social whirl. Theodate loved her parents, so she tried to please them—briefly. But going to parties dressed in Paris finery simply bored her to death.

Finally, she persuaded them to let her return to Farmington. She had a place picked out, a modest, eighteenth-century house. “They thought I would be tired of it in three months,” she wrote later. “How wrong they were.”

The old house needed repairs. She bought it and a cottage next-door, which she attached to the big house. Restoring them both, inside and out, was her first experience as a builder. Working on the house only made Theodate more interested in buildings. She realized that to use her imagination and creativity fully, repairing and restoring were not enough. She was determined to become a professional architect.

She decided to study at Princeton, though the school did not admit women. Theodate solved this problem by moving to the town and employing university professors as her private tutors. She was allowed to sit in on some classes in architecture, but she wasn’t given college credit. Theodate didn’t mind. All she wanted was information—to pass the exam for her architect’s license.

Besides classroom study, Theodate knew she needed experience with an established architect. She convinced her parents to move to Farmington, and she began to design a large country house for them.

McKim, Mead, and White, the largest architectural firm in New York in 1898, was hired to provide the drawings for the house. Theodate worked closely with the firm, and her ideas influenced the final design.

Theodate was interested in creating a new sort of house, one that looked original. She wanted it to remind people of their American background; she wanted it to be comfortable and homely, yet stand tall and proud. She used George Washington’s Mount Vernon home as a model. Theodate’s house was called Hill-Stead. One famous guest, Theodore Roosevelt, commented, “Hill-Stead is the ideal of what an American country home should be.”

Theodate passed her architect’s exam in 1910. Her first large job was to design a girl’s school in Middlebury, Connecticut. Finished in 1912, the original building forms a handsome quadrangle, or hollow square. Students can walk from their rooms to classes, to meals, chapel, or library without going out in bad weather. Westover School, a boarding high school, still stands today.

Mary Hillard, Theodate’s good friend, was the new school’s first headmistress. Theodate used to visit several times a year, sometimes without warning. Whenever “The Yellow Peril,” her big, powerful, sports car, roared up the drive, Miss Hillard would dismiss classes for the rest of the day. The girls were delighted.

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.
4. When Theodate began to restore the old house in Farmington, her parents thought

○ A. they should support her efforts to become an architect.
○ B. she would be tired of it in three months.
○ C. she would do a good job.
○ D. she would go on to design office buildings.

5. Theodate wanted to study architecture at Princeton, but the school didn’t admit women. How did she get an education if she couldn’t attend classes?

○ A. She studied by herself at the university library.
○ B. She asked for help from other students.
○ C. She hired the professors to teach her.
○ D. She persuaded professors to let her take the exams without attending classes.

6. Theodate realized she needed practical experience before she could take the exam for her architect’s license. How did she solve that problem?

○ A. She got a job with an architectural firm.
○ B. She helped design a house for her parents.
○ C. She hired and trained the local builders.
○ D. She bought and rebuilt a modest eighteenth-century home in Farmington.

7. What was Theodate’s first job after getting an architect’s license?

○ A. She designed a girl’s boarding school in Connecticut.
○ B. She restored an old house and cottage in Connecticut.
○ C. She built Hill-Stead for Theodore Roosevelt.
○ D. She restored Mary Hillard’s country home.
In 1918, Theodate became a distinguished member of the American Institute of Architects. The Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association chose her to rebuild the former president’s birthplace in New York City. The townhouse had been torn down, and she had to start over from the original plans. She also had to add a wing to serve as a museum and furnish the home in the style of 1865.

When the National Park Service took over and spruced up the house more than fifty years later, they discovered how accurate she had been. Every detail down to the nails and cupboard hinges belonged to the correct period.

Theodate and her husband, the American diplomat John Wallace Riddle, had no children, but they raised three boys whose parents, all missionaries, had died. Perhaps because she had been so lonely and “different” as a child, Theodate always sympathized with young people. She would listen by the hour to their hopes and problems. “Be yourself,” she advised. “Let the world think what it likes.”

She believed that every individual has talent. She decided to build a school for boys that would help each student discover and develop his own talent. In her school, a boy would learn from books, and he would learn to work with his hands also. He would spend part of each day in community service.

Theodate bought 2,500 acres along the Farmington River: forest and farmland, a quarry, and ponds. Over a period of years, she tramped across the land, picturing in her mind the buildings and where each would stand. That was how she always worked, seeing a building whole in her mind before she drew a line on paper.

One Sunday afternoon, she jumped up from her chair on the porch at Hill-Stead and called an assistant to meet her at the nearby studio. As fast as he could pin paper on the drawing board, she sketched. In minutes, the rough outlines of all eighteen buildings appeared.

She brought builders from the Cotswolds in England who used seventeenth-century tools and methods. In time, they trained about 250 local workers. Red-brown stone was quarried on the place, and oaks were cut from its forest. Slate shingles and most other materials were shaped by hand. When the buildings rose, they looked as if they had grown where they stood.

Two quadrangles were made up of dormitories, classrooms, a chapel, a library, and even a bank! The school had its own water tower, power plant, carpenter and blacksmith shops, and a working farm, with sheep, cattle, and horses.

Theodate planned and supervised not only the construction, but also the program of studies. Her ideals were so high that she was not easy to work with. But her idea worked. Avon Old Farms School is still flourishing, with a student body of 300 to 400 boys from all parts of the United States.

Carved above its gate is Theodate’s personal motto, *Aspire and Persevere.* “Be glad you are different,” she would add. “The ways in which people differ are more important than the ways they are alike.”

Now answer the questions about this part of the selection.
8. Which of the following choices best explains why Theodate became a distinguished member of the American Institute of Architects?

○ A. She spent time with young people and respected and encouraged them.
○ B. She had traveled through Europe.
○ C. She was a careful designer who paid attention to the smallest details.
○ D. She raised three boys whose parents had died.

9. Why did the Avon Old Farms School buildings look “as if they had grown where they stood?”

○ A. Theodate hired local builders to do most of the work.
○ B. McKim, Mead, and White provided the drawings for the school.
○ C. The school had its own tower and power plant.
○ D. Theodate carefully planned her design using stones and other natural materials from the property.

10. What advice do you think Theodate would give to parents?

○ A. Be strict when children are growing up.
○ B. Encourage children to follow their interests and talents.
○ C. Take children to Europe if you can afford it.
○ D. Always sympathize with young people.
In the following sentences decide if the underlined word is an action verb or a state-of-being verb. Fill in the bubble next to the answer.

1. The fire smoldered all night and kept the young boy warm while he slept in the cave.
   ○ action ○ state-of-being

2. The tall building appeared massive compared to its surroundings.
   ○ action ○ state-of-being

3. The young pup snapped at the bees buzzing around its head.
   ○ action ○ state-of-being

In the following sentences, decide which answer identifies the kind of noun the underlined word is. Fill in the bubble next to the answer.

4. Six young immigrants pledged their allegiance to their new country during their citizenship ceremony.
   ○ A. common, abstract
   ○ B. proper, abstract
   ○ C. common, concrete
   ○ D. proper, concrete

5. Hillary wore several heavy layers of clothing which provided adequate insulation on mountain excursions.
   ○ A. common, abstract
   ○ B. proper, abstract
   ○ C. common, concrete
   ○ D. proper, concrete
Read the sentence. Choose which pair of pronouns could be used to complete the sentence. Fill in the bubble beside the correct answer.

6. The young person’s friends were waiting for_______ to arrive so they could play ball.
   ○ A. them/they
   ○ B. him/she
   ○ C. he/her
   ○ D. her/him

7. When the sudden summer rain came,________ plans for a picnic were spoiled.
   ○ A. his/its
   ○ B. their/his
   ○ C. our/them
   ○ D. her/him

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Read the sentences. Decide if each sentence has a compound subject, a compound predicate, both, or neither. Fill in the bubble beside the correct answer.

8. The climbers gathered up their gear and began their trek up the mountain peak.
   ○ A. compound subject
   ○ B. compound predicate
   ○ C. both
   ○ D. neither

9. Orville and Wilbur worked and improved their flying machine after every failed flight.
   ○ A. compound subject
   ○ B. compound predicate
   ○ C. both
   ○ D. neither

10. Jesse tied one Olympic running record, and he set a new world long jump record.
    ○ A. compound subject
    ○ B. compound predicate
    ○ C. both
    ○ D. neither

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. He **happily** jumped up and down when he saw the new puppy.
   ○ B. I was invited to go boating, and **naturally**, my brother wanted to go with me.
   ○ C. **Ordinaryl**y we wash our faces and brush our teeth before we go to bed.
   ○ D. No mistake

2. ○ A. Place the butter **knifes** on the right-hand side of the plate.
   ○ B. The shaman’s **beliefs** were unusual and alien to the villagers.
   ○ C. **Wolves** are the earliest ancestors of dogs.
   ○ D. No mistake

3. ○ A. The doctor held the stethoscope and asked the patient to **breathe** normally.
   ○ B. When the bald eagle was **reliesed** from captivity, everyone cheered.
   ○ C. She didn’t **receive** an invitation because it was lost in the mail.
   ○ D. No mistake

4. ○ A. Sometimes it is difficult to **maintayn** a daily exercise program.
   ○ B. People were asked to **vacate** the building after the earthquake.
   ○ C. The **equator** is an imaginary line that divides the earth into the northern and southern hemispheres.
   ○ D. No mistake

5. ○ A. The gymnast sprained his **wrist** while doing a cartwheel.
   ○ B. Divers discovered the ancient **shipreck** had become home to a huge octopus.
   ○ C. The actor’s **rapid** ascent to stardom was unexpected.
   ○ D. No mistake

6. ○ A. It is important to be **accurate** when you calculate the distance.
   ○ B. A white flag was used to signal the **serrender**.
   ○ C. When the **admiral** shouted orders, the sailors immediately obeyed.
   ○ D. No mistake
7.  O  A.  To **improve** his endurance, the tennis player ran three miles every day.

    O  B.  She decided it was time to change her **routine** and do something exciting.

    O  C.  The interior decorator checked every furniture store to find a **suitable** chair for the client’s family room.

    O  D.  No mistake

8.  O  A.  The man **confided** to his lawyer that he was responsible for the accident.

    O  B.  When you get home from school, clean and **organize** your bookshelves.

    O  C.  If you **reply** to my message today, we can schedule the meeting for tomorrow.

    O  D.  No mistake

9.  O  A.  The old chest they found in the attic was **valuable** for sentimental reasons.

    O  B.  If you could look ten years into the **future**, what would you see?

    O  C.  The **popular** country music band drew a record crowd at the stadium.

    O  D.  No mistake

10.  O  A.  The most comfortable seats are located in the middle of the theatre.

     O  B.  The wheels on the old, covered wagon had wooden **spokes**.

     O  C.  Canisters of oxygen were stored in the hospital’s supply room.

     O  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. Cupping his hands around his mouth, he bellowed orders for his troops to withdraw.
   ○ A. whispered
   ○ B. calculated
   ○ C. brandished
   ○ D. severed

2. The family was elated when they were finally able to move into their new home.
   ○ A. smoldered
   ○ B. joyful
   ○ C. insulated
   ○ D. unhappy

3. This perilous stunt should not be attempted by amateurs.
   ○ A. intimidating
   ○ B. treacherous
   ○ C. safe
   ○ D. prejudice

PART 2 — Multiple Meanings

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

4. The scientist carefully examined the strange object.
   In which sentence is the word object used in the same way as in the sentence above?
   ○ A. Money was no object for the wealthy businessman, so he rented a limousine.
   ○ B. The surface of the object was smooth, but the edges were sharp and jagged.
   ○ C. The lawyer stood up to object to the judge’s remarks.
   ○ D. The direct object of a verb identifies the receiver of the action.

5. The architect created a scale replica of the building to help people visualize how it would look.
   In which sentence is the word scale used in the same way as in the sentence above?
   ○ A. The crusty old miner proudly placed his bag of gold on the scale.
   ○ B. The hungry fisherman used a sharp knife to scale the trout.
   ○ C. Scale model airplanes hang from the boy’s bedroom ceiling.
   ○ D. Rock climbers visit Zion National Park to scale its rugged cliffs and buttes.
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 girls were prepared to seek revenge after the boys played a trick on them.
   - A. forgiveness
   - B. retaliation
   - C. armor
   - D. ascent

7. The doctor was worried about my erratic heartbeat that developed after I completed the marathon.
   - A. stabilized
   - B. spectacle
   - C. changeable
   - D. descent

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 angry grizzly bear stood on its hind legs and let out a vicious roar.
   - A. dwindling
   - B. initial
   - C. devoured
   - D. fierce

9. Dams and levees were built to avert flooding in the central valley and protect people’s homes and lives.
   - A. prevent
   - B. summit
   - C. ration
   - D. brandish

10. My doubts about the test were dispelled when my teacher smiled after she graded my paper.
    - A. exhibited
    - B. segmented
    - C. banished
    - D. compacted

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.

Jackie Robinson excelled in sports at the University of California in Los Angeles. He played baseball, track, football, and basketball. He was the first athlete to letter in four sports in the same year at UCLA. This means he received four achievement awards in sports.

After leaving school, he was drafted into the army. While serving, he refused to sit in the back of a bus. He was protesting this common act of racial discrimination. Although he was almost court-martialed over his refusal, the charges were dropped.

Early in the last century, African-American athletes were not allowed to play professional baseball with Major League ball teams. In 1945 Branch Rickey, the general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, knew it was wrong. He also knew it would take an extremely unusual talent to overcome the long-standing race barrier. When one of his scouts told him about Jackie Robinson, Rickey was certain he had the right man. By hiring Jackie Robinson, he defied strong resistance.

Robinson signed on knowing he would face many hardships. Even some of his teammates hurled racial slurs at him. He had promised Rickey he would control his anger and not respond to the abuse. He kept his word.

Robinson played second base. Soon others would follow: Satchel Paige, Willie Mays, and Hank Aaron, the first hitter to beat Babe Ruth’s home run record. Each is a legend, but Jackie Robinson was the first to persevere and break the race barrier.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVALUATING CODES FOR ORAL READING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sky (✓) word read incorrectly</td>
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<tr>
<td>blue sky (%) inserted word</td>
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<tr>
<td>(✓) after the last word read</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Comments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>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.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FLUENCY SCORE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Words Read Per Minute:</td>
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<td>Number of Errors: —</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Words Read Correctly:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passing Criterion (50th %ile) = 127</td>
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Ann Bancroft was born in 1955. She spent her early childhood in a rural area of Minnesota. Ann overcame a learning disability and graduated from college. She taught physical education and wilderness survival.

In 1986, Ann heard that a group was forming an expedition to the North Pole. She displayed her first risk-taking traits by becoming part of the six-member team.

The group was going to replicate the experiences of adventurers that had first traveled this cold and desolate land long ago. They wanted the journey to match the expedition of earlier explorers. The team had to be self-sufficient. Taking only what they needed, they used dogsleds and walked. No plans were made for additional supplies to be provided during their trek. Ann was the first woman to arrive at the North Pole under these primitive and arduous conditions. It took fifty-six days.

Ms. Bancroft has continued to explore. She became the first woman to ski across Greenland. She led the first team of women on a skiing odyssey over six hundred miles to the South Pole. Traveling about ten miles each day, the undertaking lasted sixty-seven days. Ann’s message to others: “Girls should go on thinking there is a world out there that is theirs for the taking.”
**Narrative Writing Prompt**

**Writing Situation:**
You are remembering a time in your life when you had to persevere to achieve a goal.

**Purpose:** To inform the reader about a time you persevered

**Audience:** Your classmates

**Writing Directions:**
Think about a goal you have achieved and how you persevered to reach it. Consider the challenges or obstacles you faced. Write a personal narrative that shows how you reached your goal and why this experience was important.

**Student Checklist:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Revising</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Does your beginning pull the reader into the story?</td>
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<td>2. Did you develop the narrative with vivid details and a logical sequence of events?</td>
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<td>3. Is perseverance the main point of your narrative?</td>
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<td>4. Did you use first person point of view?</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Does your conclusion show the importance of this experience in your life?</td>
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<tr>
<th>Proofreading</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Did you use a variety of sentence structures with proper subject and verb agreement?</td>
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<td>2. Do your sentences have a smooth flow so they can be easily read?</td>
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<td>3. Did you write in well-organized paragraphs?</td>
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<td>4. Did you use correct capitalization and punctuation?</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Is every word spelled correctly?</td>
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Conventions Score: ____/4  Genre Score: ____/4  Writing Traits Score: ____/4

TOTAL RUBRIC SCORE: ____/4