

7th Grade Passages

Between BOY and MOY Student Packet

Passage 1 *Caroline Herschel*

Passage 2 *Mrs. Mason's Gift*

Passage 3 *Let's Do It Again*

Texas Middle School Fluency Assessment—Version 2.0 © 2010 Texas Education Agency, University of Houston, and The University of Texas System

These materials are copyrighted © by and are the property of the Texas Education Agency, the University of Houston, and The University of Texas System and may not be reproduced without their written permission, except by Texas public school educators in Texas under the following conditions:

1. any portion reproduced will be used exclusively for nonprofit educational purposes;
2. any portion reproduced will be reproduced in its entirety and remain unedited, unaltered, and unchanged in any way; and
3. no monetary charge is made for the reproduced materials or any document containing them; however, a reasonable charge to cover only the cost of reproduction and distribution may be charged.

Caroline Herschel

Did you know that one of the first women astronomers began her career as a maid?

16

Caroline Herschel was one of six children. When Caroline was small, she suffered from a disease called typhus. She recovered, but her growth was permanently stunted. She only grew to be four feet three inches tall. Her father told her that the only thing she could do in life was to be a maid.

32

48

70

Her brother, William, felt sorry for her. He took her to England to live with him. She was his housekeeper. William had a job as a chorus director. He was very skilled in music. But he really had an interest in astronomy. He began to make very powerful telescopes.

89

107

119

Soon, people realized how well-made his telescopes were. He began making and selling them. He quit his chorus job. William became very respected in the field of astronomy. He even discovered Uranus.

135

151

152

Caroline spent years watching her brother. She began to develop an interest in astronomy too. She learned all she could from him. Soon, she was helping him build telescopes. She kept wonderful notes about their observations.

168

184

188

William even gave her her own telescope. He knew she would want to make observations on her own.

205

206

Her first big accomplishment came when she discovered a comet. She would go on to discover 7 more.

223

224

Caroline won several awards for her work in astronomy. She was even honored in other countries, including Germany and Prussia. In 1835, she became an honorary member of the Royal Astronomical Society. She was one of the first women to achieve this goal.

240

254

267

Caroline lived to be 98 years old. She had many friends. When she died, everyone who knew her was sad.

285

287

Mrs. Mason's Gift

15
33
51
67
83

Gina climbed the steps to Mrs. Mason's porch. She enjoyed visiting the former schoolteacher and listening to her stories. Mrs. Mason was sitting with a book on her lap, surrounded by her cats and the many plants she tended. Today was the day Gina would say good-bye until next summer. School would start next week. Her stay with her grandmother and the afternoons spent with her grandmother's neighbor Mrs. Mason were over for this year. Gina's parents were waiting for her in the car.

85
102
117

"Thanks for all the cookies and stories, Mrs. Mason. From what you've told me, school sure must have been different when you were teaching. It's hard to believe that computers weren't around then."

118
135

Mrs. Mason smiled and said, "I have something for you." She handed Gina the book she was holding. The pages were blank. The word Journal was printed on the cover.

148
164
183
201

After waving good-bye to her grandmother and thanking Mrs. Mason for the gift, Gina settled down in the back seat for the long drive home. She opened the journal Mrs. Mason had given her and found a letter inside. After reading it carefully, she knew she would soon fill her journal with memories of the summer and hopes for the new school year.

212

Dear Gina,

214
234
251
270
289
307
325
343

Use this journal as a tool to focus on yourself and the world around you. You can write about your thoughts, memories, and daily life. Your journal will then be a personal record of things that are important to you. To keep a journal, follow these simple steps. 1. Set aside a time to write every day. Decide what time of day is best for you. 2. Write about things that interest you. People, places, and everyday happenings are good topics. You may choose to stick to prose or try some poetry. 3. Write the day's date before each entry. What you write will become more interesting to you as time goes by. Later you'll have fun reading your first entries. Once you start writing, you will get more ideas. I hope this little book will lead to many years of journal writing. See you next summer.

361
363
365

Your friend,
Mrs. Mason

Let's Do It Again

19
37
59

My heart was beating so loudly that I was sure everyone could hear it over the slow rumbling of the motor. I jumped into the water and put on my skis. Slowly the boat crept forward, tightening up the ski rope. I held on for dear life to the handle on the end of the rope while Mom smiled encouragingly at me from the back of the boat.

68
85
102
122
142
160

I was trying very hard to recover my earlier feelings of excitement about learning to water-ski. “Whose bright idea was this anyway?” I asked myself anxiously. I sat in the cool water bobbing gently in my bright orange life jacket. I tried to keep the tips of my water skis pointing up out of the water as I had been shown. A wave of fear washed over me. There were just too many instructions to remember. My little sister Nikki cheered as she jumped up and down in the back of the boat next to Mom.

165
184
204

Nikki had learned to water-ski at a very young age. I, on the other hand, always liked underwater sports such as scuba diving. Moving on top of the water was going to be very different for me. But once I mastered this, we would have another activity that the whole family could enjoy together.

220
237

“Deep breath,” I reminded myself. Dad pulled back the lever to open up the throttle. The motor roared to life. “Here we go,” I thought wildly.

246
265
287
305
326

Mom gave me a big thumbs-up, and the boat lurched forward and gave a mighty pull. I pushed up on my legs as hard as I could and let out a yell. I was actually standing on my skis, skimming across the water, but not for long. I fell forward and landed facedown in the water. Thank goodness I remembered to let go of the rope. My skis came off, and my life jacket kept me floating on the surface of the lake.

330
350

“I don’t believe it,” I thought, flipping over to my back with a grin. “I almost felt like I was flying.”

351
369

“Let’s do it again,” I called to Dad as he circled the boat around to pick me up.