

# 8th Grade Passages

Between BOY and MOY Examiner Packet

Passage 1      *Laura*

Passage 2      *The King's Gold*

Passage 3      *The Return of the Boomerang*

## Directions

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### Passage 1

"I want you to read this passage out loud and do your best reading. If you get stuck or come to a word you cannot read, I will tell you the word so you can keep reading. When I say 'Stop,' I will ask you to tell me about what you read. Do you understand? ... Okay, you will begin as soon as I turn the page."

- Read the title of the passage.
- Start timing when the student says the first word.
- As he or she is reading, mark any words incorrect that are misread (i.e., substitutions, omissions, reversals, skips, or numerals read incorrectly).
- If the student hesitates for more than 3 seconds on a word, mark it as an error. Provide the word and then say, "Go on."
- If the student skips a line, stop and redirect the student to the beginning of the line. Count the first word of the line as an error. Do not stop the timer.
- After 60 seconds, say, "Stop." Circle the last word read.
- If the student finishes all the words before the time is up, note the time required to read all the words.
- COMPREHENSION RETELL: Give the initial retell prompt: "Can you tell me everything you remember reading in the passage?" Each time the student pauses, use the follow-up prompt ("Do you remember anything else?") until the student can recall no other information.

### Passages 2 & 3

"Now try this passage: (Title). Ready? ... Begin."

Follow guidelines listed above.

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# Record Sheet: Passage Reading Fluency

Student Name		Date		Gender	
Examiner (and Title)		School		Grade	

## Passage 1 *Laura*

Last word read		Word number	
<b>A</b> Time in seconds		Number of errors	
		<b>B</b> Number of words read correctly	
		$(60 \times \mathbf{B}) \div \mathbf{A} =$ Words correct per minute (WCPM)	
			<b>C EQUATED SCORE</b>
Comprehension Retell			
<b>X</b> Recalled idea units		<b>Y</b> Maximum possible idea units	
		$\mathbf{X} \div \mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{Z}$ <b>PASSAGE RETELL SCORE</b>	

## Passage 2 *The King's Gold*

Last word read		Word number	
<b>A</b> Time in seconds		Number of errors	
		<b>B</b> Number of words read correctly	
		$(60 \times \mathbf{B}) \div \mathbf{A} =$ WCPM	
			<b>C EQUATED SCORE</b>
Comprehension Retell			
<b>X</b> Recalled idea units		<b>Y</b> Maximum possible idea units	
		$\mathbf{X} \div \mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{Z}$ <b>PASSAGE RETELL SCORE</b>	

*Scoring continues on the next page.*

# Record Sheet: Passage Reading Fluency (cont.)

Student Name	
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## Passage 3 *The Return of the Boomerang*

Last word read		Word number	
Ⓐ Time in seconds		Number of errors	
		Ⓑ Number of words read correctly	
		$(60 \times \text{Ⓑ}) \div \text{Ⓐ} = \text{WCPM}$	
		<b>Ⓒ EQUATED SCORE</b>	
Comprehension Retell			
Ⓐ Recalled idea units		Ⓓ Maximum possible idea units	
		$\text{Ⓐ} \div \text{Ⓓ} = \text{Ⓔ PASSAGE RETELL SCORE}$	

Total equated scores (add all Ⓒ's)	
Divide by 3 for <b>AVERAGE EQUATED SCORE</b>	

Total passage retell scores (add all Ⓔ's)	
Divide by 3 for <b>AVERAGE RETELL SCORE</b>	

**Laura**  
**Lexile: 600 – 8th Grade Between BOY & MOY #1**  
**Source: TPRI**

17  
35  
52  
67  
85  
102

Laura Ingalls Wilder is a famous author. She wrote children’s books about pioneer life in the late 19th Century. Laura was born in 1867 in a log house in Wisconsin. She was the second daughter of Charles and Caroline Ingalls. Laura had an older sister named Mary. They were very close. The Ingalls family moved frequently. They went wherever their father could find a job. Shortly after Laura’s birth, the family moved to Missouri. A few years later, they moved to Kansas to start their own farm. A third daughter, Carrie, was born there. When Laura was 13, they left Kansas and returned to Wisconsin to be near family.

109  
128  
145  
161  
178  
199  
217  
237  
253  
270

The girls were happy to be there, but their father longed to farm again. So, four years later, in 1874, the family moved to Walnut Grove, Minnesota. They built a house and farmed the land. The three girls had many adventures there. But the family suffered many tragedies as well. During their first year there, Charles had grown a good wheat crop. It was destroyed by grasshoppers. This was repeated the next year as well. The family was blessed by a baby boy in 1875, but he died of an illness at only 9 months. The family suffered yet another tragedy when Mary lost her eyesight as a result of a stroke. That same year, Charles took a job with the railroad. They moved to De Smet in the Dakota Territories. When the railroad job was finished, they acquired some land. He began to farm again. A harsh winter made farming difficult that first year. But they persevered and were able to save enough money to send Mary to a school for the blind.

283  
299  
317  
333  
347  
364  
380

When Laura was 15, she earned her teaching certificate. She began teaching at a small school several miles from her home. It was at this time that she met a farmer named Almanzo Wilder. They married three years later. They had a healthy baby girl named Rose. They had many misfortunes as well, however. Severe storms ruined their crops. This forced them into debt. Almanzo worked hard in the fields, but he got sick and became crippled. During this time, Laura was pregnant with their second child. He died shortly after birth, unnamed. Soon after, their house burned down when something in the kitchen caught fire.

389  
403  
419

The family then moved to Florida, where the warm conditions improved Almanzo’s health. They eventually returned to De Smet. But, in 1894, they relocated to Missouri. Here they would spend the rest of their lives. They bought a farm there and prospered.

431  
448  
464

Laura was a great storyteller. Her daughter Rose convinced her to write her stories so that other children could enjoy them too. Laura did so. In all, she wrote seven children’s books. These comprised her Little House series. They have been widely read and admired. She and Almanzo

479

500

507

spent the rest of their lives at their Missouri farm. Laura died in 1957, at the age of 90. Their farm is now open for people to visit.

**The King's Gold**  
**TCLD Title: The King's Gold**  
**Lexile: 920 – 8th Grade Between BOY & MOY #2**  
**Source: TAKS Information Booklet 2004**

17  
36  
52

The king's castle was only a day's walk from the edge of the forested mountains. Everyone who lived in the area had heard stories of the king's great wealth. One morning the king woke to find that many of his gold coins were missing. He immediately summoned every guard and soldier in his castle.

54  
70  
87

"Search the countryside!" demanded the king. "Some of my gold has disappeared, and I want the thief brought to justice. I will greatly reward the one who brings me the wrongdoer." The room quickly cleared as every guard and soldier left to find the guilty person.

100  
116  
135

One of the castle guards went to search the king's cocoa plantation. He angrily questioned dozens of workers as they snipped ripe cocoa pods from the trees. Then he marched over to two men who were breaking open cocoa pods and placing the beans in baskets.

146

"What are you doing?" the guard asked the first man, who sat quietly next to his basket.

163  
184

"I am opening cocoa pods," he answered. "I am weak, so it takes me a long time to fill one basket. I cannot move about as quickly as my partner."

193  
211  
226

"I see," snapped the guard. He watched the second man moving busily from one basket to the next and slipping cocoa beans into his pockets. "These two baskets are completely filled with beans. And your pockets are quite heavy."

232  
250

"It takes several hundred beans to make a pound of chocolate, so I must work quickly," the second man said, nervously moving away from the guard.

258  
272

"Not so fast," the guard ordered. "Empty your pockets!" The man followed the guard's instructions, and hundreds of cocoa beans spilled to the ground.

282

"You thief!" the guard shouted. "How dare you steal the king's cocoa beans!"

295  
311  
328

"No, please listen. There are not enough baskets," the man stammered. "I don't want to stop working, so I often fill my pockets with beans until the wagon comes. Then I empty everything and begin again."

331

“I find your methods extremely questionable,” said the guard. “And you’re as jumpy as a cat.”

347

“I am just a simple peasant, and I am not used to being questioned by guards,” the man replied.

366

Just then the guard spotted a gold coin lying on the ground between the two men. “Aha! This

384

proves it!” shouted the guard as he picked up the coin. “Come with me, thief,” he demanded. “The

402

king will want to know where you’ve stashed the rest of the gold.” The guard left hastily with the

421

second man. The guard was eager to receive the great reward the king had promised.

436

The first man watched until the two men had vanished into the distance. Then he stood up and

454

slowly walked away, careful not to spill the heavy gold coins he had hidden in his pockets.

471

**The Return of the Boomerang**  
**TCLD Title: The Return of the Boomerang**  
**Lexile: 1050 – 8th Grade Between BOY & MOY #3**  
**Source: TAAS 2000**

19  
39  
53  
71

Nothing says “Summer is here!” quite like the smack of a baseball as it is caught in a baseball glove. But what if no one is available to play catch? Then maybe it’s time to trade in the baseball and glove for a boomerang. Over the past decade boomeranging has become increasingly popular. All over the world, this activity is capturing the interest of young and old. Even those who have seen a boomerang still marvel that a curved stick can circle back to the person who threw it.

89  
102  
117  
132

Boomerangs have been around for thousands of years. Many peoples, including the ancient Egyptians, the people of southern India, and the Hopi Indians, used throwing sticks that were similar to boomerangs. But it was the natives of Australia, known as Aborigines, who developed the amazing returning version. The Aborigines used boomerangs for hunting and as digging tools.

146  
161  
179  
195  
210

It wasn’t until the mid-1800s that people began to study the scientific principles behind boomerang flight. Perhaps one reason it took so long to understand the science of boomerangs is that not all boomerangs fly in exactly the same way. Because early boomerangs were made by hand, it was virtually impossible to produce two boomerangs with exactly the same wing surface. The ability of all boomerangs to return results essentially from two scientific principles.

220  
238  
257  
274  
293  
310

The first of these principles is that the shape and curve of a boomerang produce lift. Much like airplane wings, a boomerang is flat on one side and curved on the other. As air flows over the slope of the curved surface of the boomerang’s wing, it forces the curved edge upward. At the same time, the air flowing under the wing’s flat surface pushes it up from the bottom. The result of these forces is lift. Thus, the principles of aerodynamics can be applied to the boomerang to help understand its flight.

313  
330  
349  
368  
386  
406  
425  
443  
460

The second factor affecting the boomerang’s ability to return is that it spins like a gyroscope. A good example of a gyroscope is a toy top. Tops are easily set to spinning, but once spinning, they are very hard to move. In fact, if pushed while spinning, a gyroscope will twist at a right angle from the direction in which it was pushed. For instance, a spinning top pushed to the north will actually tilt to the east. When a boomerang is thrown, the force of the lift causes it to turn toward one side rather than straight up. As it spins and moves forward, air flows faster over the top surface of the boomerang and gives it more lift. This extra lift tries to twist the boomerang off course. Since it is spinning very fast, the boomerang begins turning away from the twisting force. As a result, it arcs back to its thrower with relative exactitude.



470

487

505

523

539

545

Just because a well-designed boomerang can return nearly to its point of origin does not mean that it automatically does so. Learning to throw a boomerang so that it will return is a challenge. Catching a boomerang spinning at speeds of up to 60 miles per hour takes even more practice. For anyone who masters the art of throwing and catching a boomerang, playing catch with a baseball may have forever lost its thrill.

**Grade 8 Passage Reading Fluency Equating Table Between BOY & MOY – Laura**

WCPM	Equated Score	WCPM	Equated Score	WCPM	Equated Score
<42	42	98	99	153	156
43	43	99	100	154	157
44	44	100	101	155	158
45	45	101	102	156	159
46	46		103	157	160
47	47	102	104	158	161
48	48	103	105	159	162
49	49	104	106	160	163
50	50	105	107	161	164
51	51	106	108	162	165
52	52	107	109	163	166
53	53	108	110	164	167
54	54	109	111	165	168
55	55	110	112	166	169
56	56	111	113	167	170
57	57	112	114	168	171
58	58	113	115	169	172
59	59	114	116	170	173
60	60	115	117	171	174
61	61	116	118	172	175
	62	117	119	173	176
62	63	118	120	174	177
63	64	119	121	175	178
64	65	120	122	176	179
65	66	121	123	177	180
66	67	122	124	178	181
67	68	123	125	179	182
68	69	124	126	180	183
69	70	125	127	181	184
70	71	126	128		185
71	72	127	129	182	186
72	73	128	130	183	187
73	74	129	131	184	188
74	75	130	132	185	189
75	76	131	133	186	190
76	77	132	134	187	191
77	78	133	135	188	192
78	79	134	136	189	193
79	80	135	137	190	194
80	81	136	138	191	195
81	82	137	139	192	196
82	83	138	140	193	197
83	84	139	141	194	198
84	85	140	142	195	199
85	86	141	143	196	200
86	87		144	197	201
87	88	142	145	198	202
88	89	143	146	199	203
89	90	144	147	200	204
90	91	145	148	201	205
91	92	146	149	202	206
92	93	147	150	>203	207
93	94	148	151		
94	95	149	152		
95	96	150	153		
96	97	151	154		
97	98	152	155		

# Retell Scoring Guide

Each row of the table represents an idea unit and is worth 1 point.

# of Words Read	⊗ Recalled Idea Unit	Ⓜ Maximum Possible Idea Units
7	A girl A lady Laura was a writer author or wrote children's books	1
24	She Laura was born in a log house in Wisconsin in 1867	2
37	She Laura was close to her older sister had an older sister named Mary or was the second daughter of Charles Caroline	3
65	They Her family had to move so her wherever their dad father could find get work a job because her dad didn't have	4
72	They Her family moved after Laura was born to Missouri	5
82	They Her family moved to start a farm to Kansas where her sister Carrie was born	6
105	They Her family moved back to Wisconsin to be near family	7
122	They Her family moved in 1874 to Walnut Grove to Minnesota or Her dad/father Charles wanted longed to farm	8
151	The girls The kids Laura and her sisters had many adventures	9
176	Grasshoppers Bugs ate destroyed their crops their wheat crop	10

Table continues on the next page.

# of Words Read	⊗ Recalled Idea Unit	Ⓜ Maximum Possible Idea Units
197	Their baby boy died	11
215	Mary had a stroke went blind lost her eyesight	12
233	They The family moved to De Smet to the Dakota Territories so the dad (Charles) could work with the railroad	13
255	The dad Charles farmed again They The family acquired got some land <i>or</i>	14
283	They The family saved money to send Mary to a school for the blind	15
295	Laura started teaching when she was 15	16
319	She Laura got married married a farmer (Alonzo Wilder)	17
327	They Laura and Almonzo had a baby had a baby named Rose	18
342	Storms ruined their crops <i>or</i> They went into debt	19
357	Her husband Almonzo got sick became crippled	20
372	Their second baby Her (Laura's) second baby died	21
382	Their house burned down	22

Table continues on the next page.

# Retell Scoring Guide (cont.)

# of Words Read	⊗ Recalled Idea Unit			Ⓜ Maximum Possible Idea Units
395	They Laura and Almonzo	moved	around a lot to Florida to De Smet	23
424	They Laura and Almonzo	bought a farm settled down spent the rest of their lives in Missouri		24
436	Laura	could tell stories was a storyteller		25
	Her (Laura's) daughter Rose	wanted convinced	Laura to write her stories	
463	She Laura	wrote	seven books the Little House series books read by many people	26
			books people	
493	She Laura	died	in 1957 at the age of 90	27
			Their farm is	

**Grade 8 Passage Reading Fluency Equating Table Between BOY & MOY – *The King's Gold***

WCPM	Equated Score	WCPM	Equated Score	WCPM	Equated Score	WCPM	Equated Score
<33	43	97	100	160	157	223	214
34-35	44	98	101	161	158	224	215
36	45	99	102	162	159	225	216
37	46	100	103	163	160	226	217
38	47	101	104	164	161	227	218
39	48	102	105	165	162	228-229	219
40	49	103	106	166	163	230	220
41	50	104	107	167-168	164	231	221
42	51	105-106	108	169	165	232	222
43	52	107	109	170	166	233	223
44-45	53	108	110	171	167	234	224
46	54	109	111	172	168	235	225
47	55	110	112	173	169	236	226
48	56	111	113	174	170	237	227
49	57	112	114	175	171	238-239	228
50	58	113	115	176	172	240	229
51	59	114	116	177-178	173	241	230
52	60	115	117	179	174	242	231
53	61	116-117	118	180	175	243	232
54-55	62	118	119	181	176	244	233
56	63	119	120	182	177	>245	234
57	64	120	121	183	178		
58	65	121	122	184	179		
59	66	122	123	185	180		
60	67	123	124	186	181		
61	68	124	125	187-188	182		
62	69	125	126	189	183		
63	70	126-127	127	190	184		
64	71	128	128	191	185		
65-66	72	129	129	192	186		
67	73	130	130	193	187		
68	74	131	131	194	188		
69	75	132	132	195	189		
70	76	133	133	196	190		
71	77	134	134	197-198	191		
72	78	135	135	199	192		
73	79	136-137	136	200	193		
74	80	138	137	201	194		
75-76	81	139	138	202	195		
77	82	140	139	203	196		
78	83	141	140	204	197		
79	84	142	141	205	198		
80	85	143	142	206	199		
81	86	144	143	207	200		
82	87	145	144	208-209	201		
83	88	146-147	145	210	202		
84	89	148	146	211	203		
85-86	90	149	147	212	204		
87	91	150	148	213	205		
88	92	151	149	214	206		
89	93	152	150	215	207		
90	94	153	151	216	208		
91	95	154	152	217	209		
92	96	155	153	218-219	210		
93	97	156	154	220	211		
94	98	157-158	155	221	212		
95-96	99	159	156	222	213		

# Retell Scoring Guide

Each row of the table represents an idea unit and is worth 1 point.

# of Words Read	⊗ Recalled Idea Unit	✓ Maximum Possible Idea Units
29	The king was rich was wealthy had a lot of money	1
44	Some of his (the king's) gold was gone was missing or Someone stole his (the king's) gold	2
71	He The king made demanded ordered his guards soldiers find search for look for the thief or wanted the thief brought to justice	3
85	He The king offered promised a reward for catching the thief or The guards The soldiers wanted to get the reward for catching the thief	4
112	One guard A guard questioned workers on the went to search the farm plantation	5
146	The guard saw went over to marched over to two men putting beans in baskets	6
173	One man The first man The quiet man said he couldn't work fast was weak	7
218	The other The second Another man was putting beans in his pockets	8
243	The second man The man with beans in his pockets said he was trying to work fast or said it took hundreds of a lot of so many beans to make chocolate	9

Table continues on the next page.

# Retell Scoring Guide (cont.)

# of Words Read	⊗ Recalled Idea Unit			Ⓜ Maximum Possible Idea Units
295	The guard accused ----- The guard said	the second man the man with beans in his pockets	of stealing the king's beans ----- or was stealing the king's beans	10
303	The man said	there were not enough baskets he always emptied his pockets into the wagon		11
344	The guard didn't	trust believe	the man because he was jumpy nervous	12
378	The guard saw a gold coin on the ground			13
415	The guard took the second man to the king to	get the reward find out where the rest of the gold was		14
471	The first man The man sitting on the ground	was	the real thief the one who really stole the gold the one who had the gold in his pockets	15



**Grade 8 Passage Reading Fluency Equating Table Between BOY & MOY – *The Return of the Boomerang***

WCPM	Equated Score	WCPM	Equated Score	WCPM	Equated Score	WCPM	Equated Score
<52	42	98	99	144	156	190	213
53	43	99	100	145	157	191	214
54	44	100	101	146	158	192	215
55	45	101	102	147	159	193	216
	46		103		160		217
56	47	102	104	148	161	194	218
57	48	103	105	149	162	195	219
58	49	104	106	150	163	196	220
59	50	105	107	151	164	197	221
	51		108		165		222
60	52	106	109	152	166	198	223
61	53	107	110	153	167	199	224
62	54	108	111	154	168	200	225
63	55	109	112	155	169	201	226
	56		113		170	202	227
64	57	110	114	156	171		228
65	58	111	115	157	172	203	229
66	59	112	116	158	173	204	230
67	60	113	117	159	174	205	231
	61		118	160	175	206	232
68	62	114	119		176		233
69	63	115	120	161	177	207	234
70	64	116	121	162	178	208	235
71	65	117	122	163	179	>209	236
	66	118	123	164	180		
72	67		124		181		
73	68	119	125	165	182		
74	69	120	126	166	183		
75	70	121	127	167	184		
76	71	122	128	168	185		
	72		129		186		
77	73	123	130	169	187		
78	74	124	131	170	188		
79	75	125	132	171	189		
80	76	126	133	172	190		
	77		134		191		
81	78	127	135	173	192		
82	79	128	136	174	193		
83	80	129	137	175	194		
84	81	130	138	176	195		
	82		139		196		
85	83	131	140	177	197		
86	84	132	141	178	198		
87	85	133	142	179	199		
88	86	134	143	180	200		
	87		144	181	201		
89	88	135	145		202		
90	89	136	146	182	203		
91	90	137	147	183	204		
92	91	138	148	184	205		
	92	139	149	185	206		
93	93		150		207		
94	94	140	151	186	208		
95	95	141	152	187	209		
96	96	142	153	188	210		
97	97	143	154	189	211		
	98		155		212		

# Retell Scoring Guide

Each row of the table represents an idea unit and is worth 1 point.

# of Words Read	⊗ Recalled Idea Unit	✓ Maximum Possible Idea Units
20	Catching Throwing Playing catch with a baseball says makes it seem like it's summer	1
44	If no one is around available to play catch, you could try play with a boomerang trade the baseball the glove for a boomerang or	2
53	People all over the world of all ages marvel at like are impressed by are interested in the boomerang or	3
	In the past decade 10 years the boomerang has become popular	
97	Boomerangs Sticks like boomerangs have been used around for thousands of years in different countries by Egyptians by Indians	4
136	Natives of Australia Aborigines created developed first made boomerangs throwing sticks that return or a returning version of the boomerang throwing stick	5
142	Natives of Australia Aborigines created developed first made used boomerangs for hunting digging	6
162	For a long time Until the mid-1800s people didn't understand how boomerangs work fly or After a long time In the mid-1800s people began to study the science of boomerang flight how not all boomerangs fly in the same way	7
193	Boomerangs were all different No two boomerangs were alike the same because they were made by hand had different wing surfaces	8

*Table continues on the next page.*

# of Words Read	⊗ Recalled Idea Unit	✓ Maximum Possible Idea Units		
229	One reason One scientific principle	why boomerangs return is their shape curve flat and curved sides	9	
272	Air	forces the curved edge upward or pushes up on the flat surface from the bottom	10	
329	Another A second	reason a boomerang returns is because it spins like a top is like a gyroscope	11	
364	Spinning tops Gyroscopes	twist tilt move at an angle	when pushed	12
408	The force of the lift makes the boomerang turn to the side		13	
454	As the boomerang spins, the force from the air flowing over it (the lift)		twists it turns it away	14
505	It is difficult It is hard It is a challenge	to know to learn how	to throw a boomerang so that it returns arcs back	15
522	Catching a boomerang takes practice		16	
545	Throwing and catching the boomerang may be	better more fun	than playing with a baseball	17