

# 8th Grade Passages

## Middle of Year (MOY) Examiner Packet

Passage 1      *A Great Comet*

Passage 2      *Let's Do It Again*

Passage 3      *The Parthenon*

### 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 *A Great Comet*

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

## Passage 2 *Let's Do It Again*

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

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

**A Great Comet**  
**TCLD Title: A Great Comet**  
**Lexile: 780 – 8th Grade MOY #1**  
**Source: TAAS 2000**

18  
40

For six months in 1997, people watched a glowing object in the night sky. Comet Hale-Bopp made a show in the sky that lasted from January to June. Its head shone as brightly as a star. Its tail swept back like a fan. Some people thought it might be the best comet to pass by Earth in 20 years.

60  
79  
98  
117  
134  
152

Comets begin as dirty chunks of rock in an icy fog. Some of these rocks move toward the sun when its gravity pulls them. Once the rocks get near the sun, they begin to look like comets. Each comet forms a tail and a round head that are characteristic of all comets. The round head and tail make a comet easy to recognize. Comets travel in orbits, or circles, around the sun. These orbits can be big or small. Comets that make small orbits around the sun come near Earth every 200 years or less. They are not very bright, but we see them more often.

166  
186

Hale-Bopp is a comet that makes big orbits around the sun. It will not pass near Earth again for about 2,400 years.

189  
209  
225  
245  
263  
280

In the 1990s about 12 comets a year were discovered. Most of these could not be seen in the sky without special equipment because they did not come very close to Earth. Even though Hale-Bopp was far away from Earth, it could be seen because its head was huge. The heads of most comets are no larger than six miles in diameter. Hale-Bopp's head was about 25 miles across. Because of its size, Hale-Bopp glowed brightly. Most of the famous comets have had long, thin tails that streamed for millions of miles. Hale-Bopp's tail was wider and shorter.

291  
306  
324  
341  
362  
368

People enjoyed watching Hale-Bopp for several reasons. It glowed brightly. Hale-Bopp could be seen without a telescope for six months, from an hour after sunset until an hour before sunrise each day. Everyone had sufficient time to see this bright traveler. There were plenty of chances to look at it. There will continue to be many more comets for us to see. Like Hale-Bopp, they will look like glowing balls in the night sky.

**Let's Do It Again**  
**TCLD Title: Let's Do It Again**  
**Lexile: 840 – 8th Grade MOY #2**  
**Source: SDAA 2005**

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.

**The Parthenon**  
**TCLD Title: The Parthenon**  
**Lexile: 1050 – 8th Grade MOY #3**  
**Source: TAAS 2001**

The Parthenon, a building in Athens, Greece, is perhaps one of the most memorable structures on Earth. Built 25 centuries ago, it is one of the great architectural achievements of the ancient world. There are many reasons for its greatness.

16

33

Athens was the most important city in ancient Greece. In 480 B.C. Greece was under attack by both the Persian army and the Persian navy. The Athenian commander, Themistocles, knew that his forces could not defeat the Persian army then marching toward Athens. Hoping instead to make a stand against the Persians at sea, Themistocles and his forces fled Athens for a nearby island. Although the Persian army overwhelmed Athens and left it in ruins, the Greek navy, led by Themistocles, annihilated the Persian fleet. This victory by the Greeks led all Persian forces to retreat within one year. About 30 years later the building of the Parthenon began. Construction took place between 447 and 432 B.C. during the rule of Pericles. The Parthenon was constructed on the same site as an unfinished structure intended to honor the men who had lost their lives in an earlier battle against the Persians. The Parthenon would stand as a symbol of the strength and importance of the Greek people.

40

57

71

86

103

119

134

150

166

185

202

Many important cities in ancient Greece had an acropolis, or “high city,” on which people constructed important buildings. The acropolis was the highest and most defensible location, so it also served as a fortress in the event of enemy attack. The Parthenon is located about 500 feet above the city of Athens. Before the Parthenon could be built, some areas of the acropolis had to be leveled down, and other areas had to be built up. Then a large, solid foundation was constructed out of limestone blocks. The entire area was buttressed by a reinforcing wall.

207

222

235

254

272

290

The Parthenon is a rectangular structure consisting of two inner areas surrounded by columns. There are eight columns at each end and seventeen columns along each side. It is a large structure, considering when it was built. It is about 200 feet long and about 100 feet wide. It stands about 60 feet high.

303

317

335

355

One extraordinary aspect of the Parthenon is its construction. It required between 20,000 and 30,000 tons of marble that had to be precisely carved so that huge blocks of it could be fitted together without mortar to form the columns and the interior walls.

357

371

390

Perhaps even more impressive are the “optical corrections” that were used. The columns bulge slightly in the middle because experience had shown the Greeks that perfectly straight columns would not look straight to the viewer. Because corner columns normally appear smaller than

401

415

429

443

458

473

486

505

others, the corner columns of the Parthenon were made slightly thicker and were placed closer to the other columns. The columns were also designed to lean inward slightly because perfectly perpendicular columns seem to slant outward. Furthermore, the platform on which the Parthenon sits was made to curve upward in the middle because a perfectly level floor would appear to sag in the center.

507

524

540

554

570

581

The Parthenon stands today despite the centuries that have passed. It is a timeless tribute to the enduring culture of the Greek people and is considered a model of excellence in concept and construction. It established the classic style of architecture seen today in many public buildings, such as the White House and the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. This architectural style is a lasting gift from the ancient Greeks to the modern world.

## Grade 8 Passage Reading Fluency Equating Table MOY – *A Great Comet*

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



# 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	
17	The comet Hale-Bopp	was in the sky	could be seen	for six months	from January to June		1	
34	It The comet Hale-Bopp	had a tail like a fan					or	2
	The comet's Hale-Bopp's	head	glowed shone shined	brightly as bright as a star				
60	People thought	it the comet Hale-Bopp	was the best in	a long time many years 20 years			3	
67	Comets	start begin	as rocks chunks of rock				4	
106	Comets	have are recognized by their	round heads and tails			or	5	
	The head and tail of the comet	form are made	when it gets	near close to close by	the sun			
132	Comets	move travel orbit circle	around the sun				6	
155	Comets	in that make	small	orbits circles	are	not very bright not as bright seen more often seen more frequently seen sooner seen every 200 years or less	7	
175	Hale-Bopp	makes big	orbits circles			or	8	
		won't be seen for	2,400 years a long time many years					

Table continues on the next page.

# of Words Read	⊗ Recalled Idea Unit				Ⓜ Maximum Possible Idea Units
212	Comets discovered	in the 1990s not long ago	did not come close to Earth us	or were hard to see needed special equipment to be seen	9
239	Hale-Bopp could be seen because it		was huge was really large had a huge head had a large head		10
260	Hale-Bopp's head was 25 miles		wide across in diameter		11
289	Hale-Bopp's tail was	wider than shorter than	most other	comets	12
302	People liked enjoyed	Hale-Bopp because it	glowed brightly	or could be seen viewed without a telescope special equipment	13
358	There will be	other more	comets	like Hale-Bopp that look like glowing balls in the sky	14

## Grade 8 Passage Reading Fluency Equating Table MOY – *Let's Do It Again*

WCPM	Equated Score	WCPM	Equated Score	WCPM	Equated Score	WCPM	Equated Score
<29	38	99	95	169	152	238-239	209
30-31	39	100	96	170	153	240	210
32	40	101-102	97	171	154	241	211
33	41	103	98	172-173	155	242	212
34	42	104	99	174	156	243-244	213
35-36	43	105	100	175	157	245	214
37	44	106-107	101	176	158	246	215
38	45	108	102	177-178	159	247	216
39	46	109	103	179	160	248	217
40	47	110	104	180	161	249-250	218
41-42	48	111	105	181	162	251	219
43	49	112-113	106	182	163	252	220
44	50	114	107	183-184	164	253	221
45	51	115	108	185	165	254-255	222
46-47	52	116	109	186	166	256	223
48	53	117-118	110	187	167	257	224
49	54	119	111	188-189	168	258	225
50	55	120	112	190	169	259-260	226
51	56	121	113	191	170	261	227
52-53	57	122	114	192	171	262	228
54	58	123-124	115	193	172	263	229
55	59	125	116	194-195	173	264	230
56	60	126	117	196	174	265-266	231
57-58	61	127	118	197	175	267	232
59	62	128-129	119	198	176	268	233
60	63	130	120	199-200	177	269	234
61	64	131	121	201	178	>270	235
62	65	132	122	202	179		
63-64	66	133	123	203	180		
65	67	134-135	124	204	181		
66	68	136	125	205-206	182		
67	69	137	126	207	183		
68-69	70	138	127	208	184		
70	71	139-140	128	209	185		
71	72	141	129	210-211	186		
72	73	142	130	212	187		
73	74	143	131	213	188		
74-75	75	144	132	214	189		
76	76	145-146	133	215	190		
77	77	147	134	216-217	191		
78	78	148	135	218	192		
79-80	79	149	136	219	193		
81	80	150-151	137	220	194		
82	81	152	138	221-222	195		
83	82	153	139	223	196		
84-85	83	154	140	224	197		
86	84	155	141	225	198		
87	85	156-157	142	226	199		
88	86	158	143	227-228	200		
89	87	159	144	229	201		
90-91	88	160	145	230	202		
92	89	161-162	146	231	203		
93	90	163	147	232-233	204		
94	91	164	148	234	205		
95-96	92	165	149	235	206		
97	93	166-167	150	236	207		
98	94	168	151	237	208		

# 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
21	A boy A girl This person	was	nervous scared worried anxious	1
	His/her This person's	heart was beating so loudly he/she thought it could be heard over the motor		
31	He She	was	going skiing waterskiing learning how to water ski	2
60	His/her mother His/her mom		was encouraging him/her was smiling at him/her	3
80	He She		used to be excited was excited at first	4
145	He She		was trying to remember all the instructions	5
	There were too many instructions to remember			
162	His/her little sister Nikki was	cheering jumping	in the boat	6
176	She * Nikki The little sister	had learned to ski	already at a young age before him (her big brother)/her (her big sister)	7
185	He She †	liked	scuba diving underwater sports	8
220	He She	wanted an activity the whole family could	do together enjoy together	9
225	He She	tried to stay calm as dad drove the boat		10
	told reminded	himself/herself	to take a deep breath to breathe deeply	

\* The pronoun "she" is acceptable only if it clearly refers to "the little sister/Nikki."

† The pronoun "she" is acceptable only if it clearly refers to the main character.

Table continues on the next page.

# of Words Read	⊗ Recalled Idea Unit		Ⓜ Maximum Possible Idea Units	
286	He She	got up stood on the skis was standing on the skis	11	
303	He She	fell down landed facedown	in the water	12
351	He She	said it felt like flying	13	
355	He She	wanted told his/her dad he/she wanted	to do it again	14

## Grade 8 Passage Reading Fluency Equating Table MOY – *The Parthenon*

WCPM	Equated Score	WCPM	Equated Score	WCPM	Equated Score	WCPM	Equated Score	WCPM	Equated Score
<19	53	71	110		167	176	224	229	283
20	54	72	111	124	168		225	230	284
21	55	73	112	125	169	177	226	231	285
22	56	74	113	126	170	178	227	232	286
23	57	75	114	127	171	179	228	233	287
24	58	76	115	128	172	180	229	234	288
25	59	77	116	129	173	181	230	>235	289
26	60	78	117	130	174	182	231		
27	61	79	118	131	175	183	232		
28	62	80	119	132	176	184	233		
	63	81	120	133	177	185	234		
29	64		121	134	178	186	235		
30	65	82	122		179		236		
31	66	83	123	135	180	187	237		
32	67	84	124	136	181	188	238		
33	68	85	125	137	182	189	239		
34	69	86	126	138	183	190	240		
35	70	87	127	139	184	191	241		
36	71	88	128	140	185	192	242		
37	72	89	129	141	186	193	243		
38	73	90	130	142	187	194	244		
39	74	91	131	143	188	195	245		
	75		132	144	189	196	246		
40	76	92	133		190	197	247		
41	77	93	134	145	191		248		
42	78	94	135	146	192	198	249		
43	79	95	136	147	193	199	250		
44	80	96	137	148	194	200	251		
45	81	97	138	149	195	201	252		
46	82	98	139	150	196	202	253		
47	83	99	140	151	197	203	254		
48	84	100	141	152	198	204	255		
49	85	101	142	153	199	205	256		
	86	102	143	154	200	206	257		
50	87		144	155	201	207	258		
51	88	103	145		202		259		
52	89	104	146	156	203	208	260		
53	90	105	147	157	204	209	261		
54	91	106	148	158	205	210	262		
55	92	107	149	159	206	211	263		
56	93	108	150	160	207	212	264		
57	94	109	151	161	208	213	265		
58	95	110	152	162	209	214	266		
59	96	111	153	163	210	215	267		
60	97	112	154	164	211	216	268		
	98		155	165	212	217	269		
61	99	113	156		213	218	270		
62	100	114	157	166	214	219	272		
63	101	115	158	167	215	220	273		
64	102	116	159	168	216	221	274		
65	103	117	160	169	217	222	275		
66	104	118	161	170	218	223	276		
67	105	119	162	171	219	224	277		
68	106	120	163	172	220	225	278		
69	107	121	164	173	221	226	279		
70	108	122	165	174	222	227	280		
	109	123	166	175	223	228	281		

# 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
6	The Parthenon is a building a structure in Greece in Athens	1
21	It The Parthenon is an architectural achievement or a great an old an ancient building structure or was built 25 centuries ago a long time ago	2
60	Greece Athens was at war with was attacked by was under attack by Persia the Persians the Persian military	3
78	The Greek commander The Athenian commander Themistocles * knew his army his forces he couldn't beat couldn't defeat couldn't win against the enemy forces the Persians the Persian army	4
95	The Greeks (Athenians) The commander and his forces Themistocles and his forces left fled to an island or He Themistocles hoped wanted to make a stand to fight the Persians at sea	5
125	Themistocles The Greek navy The Greek fleet beat defeated annihilated the Persian navy the Persian fleet or made the Persians retreat leave within one a year	6
149	They The Greeks started building the Parthenon 30 years after the war around 447 B.C. or It The Parthenon was constructed 30 years after the war around 447 B.C.	7

\* Students should not be penalized for mispronouncing "Themistocles."

Table continues on the next page.

Retell Scoring Guide (cont.)

# of Words Read	⊗ Recalled Idea Unit				Ⓜ Maximum Possible Idea Units
201	It The building The Parthenon	was a symbol of stood for represented	strength honor importance	<i>or</i>	8
		was built on a site that honored	the dead soldiers the fallen men	of the Persian war from the Persian war	
225	The high part of the city The high city The acropolis	was where the Greeks	built constructed	important buildings their fortresses defense from enemies	9
259	They The Greeks The Athenians	had to	build up even out level	the area the place	where they built the Parthenon
		<i>or</i>			10
	The Parthenon	was built is located	500 feet above Athens		
290	It The Parthenon	was supported with	a solid foundation limestone blocks a reinforcing wall		11
330	The building The Parthenon	has	several many 25	columns	around it on the ends and sides
340	It The Parthenon	is	200 ft long 100 ft wide 60 ft high	<i>or</i>	13
		was	large big	for its time at the time it was built	
391	They The Greeks The Athenians	had to carve	tons of a lot of	marble to fit together	<i>or</i>
	Marble was used to	form make	the columns and	interior walls inside walls	
433	They The Greeks The Athenians	made the columns	look straight with optional corrections		15
462	The corner columns	are	thicker than closer to	the other columns	16



# of Words Read	⊗ Recalled Idea Unit					Ⓜ Maximum Possible Idea Units
479	The columns	lean tilt slant	inward so they don't look like they	lean tilt slant	out outward	17
504	The platform The base	curves	up upward in the middle	so it doesn't look like it's sagging		18
522	The Parthenon	is	a model a tribute	that is timeless that has stood for centuries		19
554	The White House The Lincoln Memorial Many public buildings today		are in the same style			20