

# 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*

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## Caroline Herschel

Did you know that one of the first women

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astronomers began her career as a maid?

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Caroline Herschel was one of six children. When

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Caroline was small, she suffered from a disease

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called typhus. She recovered, but her growth was

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permanently stunted. She only grew to be four feet

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three inches tall. Her father told her that the only

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thing she could do in life was to be a maid.

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Her brother, William, felt sorry for her. He

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took her to England to live with him. She was

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his housekeeper. William had a job as a chorus

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director. He was very skilled in music. But he really

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had an interest in astronomy. He began to make

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very powerful telescopes.

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

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

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

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

224    Caroline won several awards for her work in  
232    astronomy. She was even honored in other

239 countries, including Germany and Prussia. In 1835,  
246 she became an honorary member of the Royal  
254 Astronomical Society. She was one of the first  
262 women to achieve this goal.

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

287

## Mrs. Mason's Gift

Gina climbed the steps to Mrs. Mason's porch.

8 She enjoyed visiting the former schoolteacher and

15 listening to her stories. Mrs. Mason was sitting

23 with a book on her lap, surrounded by her cats

33 and the many plants she tended. Today was the

42 day Gina would say good-bye until next summer.

51 School would start next week. Her stay with her

60 grandmother and the afternoons spent with her

67 grandmother's neighbor Mrs. Mason were over for

74 this year. Gina's parents were waiting for her in the

84 car.

85 "Thanks for all the cookies and stories, Mrs. Mason.

94 From what you've told me, school sure must have

103 been different when you were teaching. It's hard to

112 believe that computers weren't around then."

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

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

212 Dear Gina,

214 Use this journal as a tool to focus on yourself and  
225 the world around you. You can write about your  
234 thoughts, memories, and daily life. Your journal  
241 will then be a personal record of things that are  
251 important to you. To keep a journal, follow these

260 simple steps. 1. Set aside a time to write every  
270 day. Decide what time of day is best for you.  
280 2. Write about things that interest you. People,  
288 places, and everyday happenings are good topics.  
295 You may choose to stick to prose or try some  
305 poetry. 3. Write the day's date before each entry.  
314 What you write will become more interesting to you  
323 as time goes by. Later you'll have fun reading your  
333 first entries. Once you start writing, you will get  
342 more ideas. I hope this little book will lead to many  
353 years of journal writing. See you next summer.

361 Your friend,

363 Mrs. Mason

365

## Let's Do It Again

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

68 I was trying very hard to recover my earlier feelings  
78 of excitement about learning to water-ski. "Whose  
86 bright idea was this anyway?" I asked myself  
94 anxiously. I sat in the cool water bobbing gently  
103 in my bright orange life jacket. I tried to keep the  
114 tips of my water skis pointing up out of the water  
125 as I had been shown. A wave of fear washed over  
136 me. There were just too many instructions to



144 remember. My little sister Nikki cheered as she  
152 jumped up and down in the back of the boat next to  
164 Mom.

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

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

246 Mom gave me a big thumbs-up, and the boat  
256 lurched forward and gave a mighty pull. I pushed  
265 up on my legs as hard as I could and let out a  
278 yell. I was actually standing on my skis, skimming  
287 across the water, but not for long. I fell forward

297 and landed facedown in the water. Thank goodness  
305 I remembered to let go of the rope. My skis came  
316 off, and my life jacket kept me floating on the  
326 surface of the lake.

330 "I don't believe it," I thought, flipping over to my  
340 back with a grin. "I almost felt like I was flying."

351 "Let's do it again," I called to Dad as he circled the  
363 boat around to pick me up.

369