

# 7th Grade Passages

## Between MOY and EOY Student Packet

Passage 1      *Caroline Herschel*

Passage 2      *Let's Do It Again*

Passage 3      *The Parthenon*

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

9

astronomers began her career as a maid?

16

Caroline Herschel was one of six children. When

24

Caroline was small, she suffered from a disease

32

called typhus. She recovered, but her growth was

40

permanently stunted. She only grew to be four feet

49

three inches tall. Her father told her that the only

59

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

70

Her brother, William, felt sorry for her. He

78

took her to England to live with him. She was

88

his housekeeper. William had a job as a chorus

97

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

107

had an interest in astronomy. He began to make

116

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

## 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

## The Parthenon

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.

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,



121 annihilated the Persian fleet. This victory by the  
129 Greeks led all Persian forces to retreat within one  
138 year. About 30 years later the building of the  
147 Parthenon began. Construction took place between  
153 447 and 432 B.C. during the rule of Pericles. The  
163 Parthenon was constructed on the same site as an  
172 unfinished structure intended to honor the men  
179 who had lost their lives in an earlier battle against  
189 the Persians. The Parthenon would stand as a  
197 symbol of the strength and importance of the Greek  
206 people.

207 Many important cities in ancient Greece had  
214 an acropolis, or "high city," on which people  
222 constructed important buildings. The acropolis was  
228 the highest and most defensible location, so it also  
237 served as a fortress in the event of enemy attack.  
247 The Parthenon is located about 500 feet above  
255 the city of Athens. Before the Parthenon could be  
264 built, some areas of the acropolis had to be leveled

274 down, and other areas had to be built up. Then  
284 a large, solid foundation was constructed out of  
292 limestone blocks. The entire area was buttressed by  
300 a reinforcing wall.

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

357 One extraordinary aspect of the Parthenon is its  
365 construction. It required between 20,000 and  
371 30,000 tons of marble that had to be precisely  
380 carved so that huge blocks of it could be fitted  
390 together without mortar to form the columns and  
398 the interior walls.

401 Perhaps even more impressive are the “optical  
408 corrections” that were used. The columns bulge  
415 slightly in the middle because experience had  
422 shown the Greeks that perfectly straight columns  
429 would not look straight to the viewer. Because  
437 corner columns normally appear smaller than  
443 others, the corner columns of the Parthenon  
450 were made slightly thicker and were placed closer  
458 to the other columns. The columns were also  
466 designed to lean inward slightly because perfectly  
473 perpendicular columns seem to slant outward.  
479 Furthermore, the platform on which the Parthenon  
486 sits was made to curve upward in the middle  
495 because a perfectly level floor would appear to sag  
504 in the center.

507 The Parthenon stands today despite the centuries  
514 that have passed. It is a timeless tribute to the  
524 enduring culture of the Greek people and is  
532 considered a model of excellence in concept and

540 construction. It established the classic style of  
547 architecture seen today in many public buildings,  
554 such as the White House and the Lincoln Memorial  
563 in Washington, D.C. This architectural style is a  
571 lasting gift from the ancient Greeks to the modern  
580 world.  
581