Skills Preview

This preview will give you an idea of what you will do in this book. Before you begin Unit 1, complete as much of this preview as you can. Share your work with your instructor.

Reading Skills Preview

Read each passage and answer the questions that follow.

A Family Story

When Leo Kent turned 42, his life changed. Before Leo even took a bite of his birthday dinner, his wife, Julie, said, “Leo, I have something to tell you. You’re going to be a father.”

Leo’s world turned upside down. He had thought they could not have kids. Now, after 15 years of marriage, they would have to prepare for one. Leo hugged Julie, but he began to think. How would a baby change his life? Could he adjust to the changes? Was he too old? Did he even want a child anymore?

A few nights later, Leo found Julie crying. “What’s the matter honey?” Leo asked.

Julie looked him straight in the eye. “I don’t think you want this baby,” she said. Leo stared at his wife. Suddenly he knew the truth. He was scared, but he did want this child. Leo took a deep breath. He was ready to tell Julie how he felt.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. What problem does Leo face in this story?
   (1) saving his marriage
   (2) becoming a father unexpectedly
   (3) understanding his wife
2. Because of all the questions Leo asks himself, you can infer that he feels
(1) happy         (2) angry         (3) worried

3. Julie is the kind of person who
(1) is direct and honest  (2) keeps her feelings to herself  (3) hates surprises

We Shall Overcome

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
We shall overcome some day.
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We shall overcome some day.

We'll go hand in hand,
We'll go hand in hand,
We'll go hand in hand some day.
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We'll go hand in hand some day.

Choose the best answer for each question.

4. What is the theme of this song?
   (1) Hardship and pain are in all people's lives.
   (2) Working together and believing deeply will lead to change.
   (3) Everyone should work to help the poor.

5. Which of these people would most likely sing this song?
   (1) the leader of a nation
   (2) a civil rights worker
   (3) the president of a company

Write About It

On a separate paper, write about the topic below. Use the revising checklist on page 10 to check your draft. Give your draft to your instructor for feedback.

Topic: Write about a great expectation you have, for yourself or for someone you love. Explain why you have this dream.
Skills Preview Answers

Reading Skills Preview
1. (2)
2. (3)
3. (1)
4. (2)
5. (2)

Revising Checklist
Revise your draft. Check that your draft
____ includes your important ideas
____ has details to explain what you mean
____ is clear and easy to understand

Make changes on your first draft to improve your writing. Then share your draft with your instructor.

Skills Chart
The questions in the Skills Preview assess students' familiarity with the following skills:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Reading Skill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>understand plot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>make inferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>understand character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>find the theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>identify viewpoint</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Skills Review

This Skills Review will let you see how well you can use the skills taught in this book. When you have completed Units 1–4, do this review. Then share your work with your instructor.

Reading Skills Review

Read each passage and answer the questions that follow.

Grandma Moses

Age should not limit a person. That statement was proved by a woman called Grandma Moses. Grandma Moses was born Anna Mary Robertson in New York State in 1860. When Anna was 27, she married Thomas Salmon Moses. Anna spent much of her life on farms in northern New York. She was a hardworking farm wife. When she had a little time to relax, she did needlework.

When Anna was in her 70s, a joint disease made it difficult for her to hold sewing needles. But Anna discovered that she could still hold paintbrushes. She had never had an art lesson in her life, but she began to paint. Anna painted simple but lively and brightly colored pictures of life in the country. Her paintings were inspired by memories of her youth.

An art collector discovered Anna’s paintings in the 1930s. Art reviewers began to praise her work. They called it fresh and new and charming. Because of Anna’s age, people started calling her Grandma Moses. Grandma Moses painted for more than 20 years. She died when she was 101. But she proved that you are never too old to find new ways to express yourself.
Choose the best answer for each question.

1. What is the main idea of this short biography?
   (1) Grandma Moses's real name was Anna Mary Robertson.
   (2) A joint disease made Grandma Moses give up needlework.
   (3) Grandma Moses proved you are never too old to start something new.

2. Which of the following details supports the main idea?
   (1) Grandma Moses was born Anna Mary Robertson.
   (2) Grandma Moses started painting after she was 70.
   (3) Grandma Moses lived past 100.

3. Which of the following can you infer about Grandma Moses' paintings?
   (1) They were unlike most paintings done at the time.
   (2) They were praised only because she was old.
   (3) They showed how hard life was in the country.

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The New Shop

Marcus was sitting alone in the new shop. He looked out at the busy street. Why wasn't anybody coming in? Marcus remembered how excited he and his friends were when they first got the idea for the shop. James, Les, and he were trying to earn money. It was James who first thought about a sandwich shop and bakery.

"Les, you're a great cook, and your wife is the best baker I know. This neighborhood needs a place to buy good, quick food. The factory has reopened. The workers want a decent place to buy lunch. Many would probably stop for breakfast, too."

So James had thought of the idea, and his uncle had lent him some money to start the business. Les and his wife were
the cook and baker. Marcus's job was to sell the food. But he hadn't been able to do that.

Marcus kept watching the people pass by. Not one noticed the "Grand Opening" signs in the window. Then he saw some boys playing on the corner. Suddenly Marcus got an idea. If people would not come to their food, he would bring the food to the people.

"Hey, kids, come here for a minute," he called to two boys. Marcus promised the boys all they could eat. But they had to eat their sandwiches and baked goods on the corner. And they had to talk loudly about how good the food was and where it came from.

Marcus's idea worked. Within half an hour, the shop had its first customer. Within a week, the friends' dream of owning their own shop began to come true.

Choose the best answer for each question.

4. What is Marcus's problem in this story?
   1. getting people to come into a shop
   2. getting the factory to reopen
   3. keeping boys away from his shop

5. Which term best describes Marcus?
   1. lazy
   2. clever
   3. unsure

6. The setting of this story is a shop in
   1. the country
   2. a factory
   3. a city neighborhood
Writing Skills Review

Edit the paragraph. Correct any mistakes you find in compound and complex sentences. Fix sentence fragments. Use commas correctly.

Alderman Ramon Mendez is known as a man who gets the job done. Mendez represents. A largely Latino neighborhood. Before Mendez was elected four years ago this neighborhood got poor service from the city. Garbage pickup was not steady and potholes pitted the streets. Police patrols were few and far between. However, Mendez changed that. He began to speak up, as soon as he became alderman. He said that his neighborhood had waited too long. It was time for the city. To give equal service to all areas. Now services have improved greatly. Although there arc still some problems. The neighborhood is cleaner and safer. Mendez is proud of his work.

Write About It

On a separate piece of paper, write about the topic below. Follow steps 1–3 of the Writing Process on page 128 to write and revise your draft. Then give your draft to your instructor for some feedback.

Topic: What do you think is the most important thing a parent can teach his or her child? Explain why you think so.
Skills Review Answers

Reading Skills Review
1. (3)  4. (1)
2. (2)  5. (2)
3. (1)  6. (3)

Writing Skills Review

Alderman Ramon Mendez is known as a man who gets the job done. Mendez represents a largely Latino neighborhood. Before Mendez was elected four years ago, this neighborhood got poor service from the city. Garbage pickup was not steady, and potholes pitted the streets. Police patrols were few and far between. However, Mendez changed that. He began to speak up as soon as he became alderman. He said that his neighborhood had waited too long. It was time for the city to give equal service to all areas. Now services have improved greatly. Although there are still some problems, the neighborhood is cleaner and safer. Mendez is proud of his work.

Write About It

Write a final draft using steps 4 and 5 of the Writing Process. Share your final draft with your instructor.