

Student: _____

Date: _____

Testing Condition: <i>(circle one)</i> Student's Oral Reading Adult Reader Text Reader

Oral Reading, # Words at 1 Minute: _____ (Student's Oral Reading condition only) Misread Words/Omissions/Substitutions
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Passage: A Mill Girl's Story**Narrative 9.4**

The Industrial Revolution in America was in full swing during the early 1800s. At that time, agents of the Boston Manufacturing Company of Lowell, Massachusetts traveled the countryside recruiting Yankee girls from farms and villages. Their promises of monthly cash wages and pleasant accommodations enticed girls to leave home to go to work in the cotton textile mills. At the same time, a growing number of New England farm families faced severe economic difficulty.

As was typical for the times, Elizabeth Harney had completed her formal education by the age of ten. Girls faced lives of domestic chores, marriage, and motherhood; there were few respectable ways for a girl to earn money. Elizabeth signed a contract promising to obey the company regulations. Excited about her prospects for independence, she agreed to work at the mill for at least one year.





Once Elizabeth arrived in Lowell, she learned that she would be required to work fourteen hours every weekday and eight hours on Saturdays. Her starting wage was \$1 per week with half deducted for room and board. Elizabeth lived in a company-owned boarding house with a "house mother" who strictly enforced the rules. There were eight girls crowded into each cramped room, two per bed. The strong community of girls influenced Elizabeth's manner of speaking and dress and helped her adjust to factory life.

Elizabeth started out as a "doffer," changing the bobbins on the spinning machines. Her small size enabled her to maneuver around the machines. Elizabeth wrote to her family and sent money to them when she could. Spirited, determined "mill girls" like Elizabeth helped to forge the path for future generations of women; those prepared to make sacrifices in order to gain financial independence.

Question	Incorrect	Correct	Type
1.What is this story about? (any logical response: "mill girls" in the 1800s, the conditions young women faced working in the textile mills)			Main Idea
2. At the time of the Industrial Revolution, what did New England farmers face? (difficult economic conditions)			Fact
3. In the early 1800s, at what age did American girls usually complete their formal education? (age 10)			Fact
4. According to this passage, why did mill work appeal to girls from farms and villages? (it was a respectable way to earn money, the promise of response:)			Fact
5. What did new mill girls learn about their working conditions when they arrived at the mill? (that they had to work long hours for very little/meager pay)			Fact

6. In order to control all aspects of the workers' lives, what did companies require each girl to sign? (a contract, to agree to follow company rules and regulations)			Fact
7. Who helped newcomers adjust to living and working at the mill? (the community of girls/mill girls)			Fact
8. Why was a girl's size an advantage in working in a textile mill? (small sized girls could maneuver around the machinery)			Fact
9. Based on this passage, why do you think Elizabeth was willing to put up with the working conditions at the mill? (any logical response; young women in the 1800s had very few other opportunities to live independently/achieve financial independence, she may have wanted more from her life than marrying and taking care of a family)			Inference
10. Why were parents willing to allow their daughters to go to work in the textile mills? (any logical response; their daughters could earn money to help pay off family debts, it would be one less child at home for the family to have to feed and clothe)			Inference
11. In the same way that the strong community of girls influenced Elizabeth's manner of speaking and dress and helped her adjust to factory life, how do your friends influence your life? (any logical response; friends influence the way we talk, dress and act)			Inference
12. In this story, what does the word "enticed" mean? (tempted, lured, attracted, persuaded)			Vocabulary
Total (circle the outcome) Green 10-12 Correct Yellow 4-9 Correct Red 1-3 Correct			

Question Type	Correct	Incorrect
Main Idea		
Fact		
Inference		
Vocabulary		

Likert Scale Rating:			
1	2	3	4
			
I really did NOT like it.	I did not like it much.	I liked it a little.	I really liked it.

Comments/Observations: