

# READING BENCHMARK ASSESSMENTS

2nd grade

## Monarch Migration

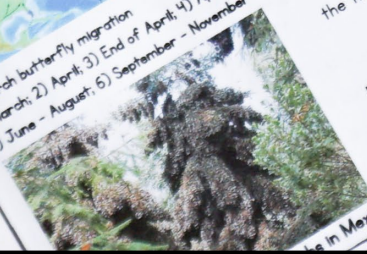
Monarch butterflies are spectacular. They are unable to survive cold weather. Therefore, they migrate. Monarchs migrate in September and October. They travel about 2,500 miles. They stay at their roosts during winter. At roosts, they group together. They hibernate. The amazing thing is Monarchs roost at the same trees every year.



Monarch butterflies are spectacular. They are unable to survive cold weather. Therefore, they migrate. Monarchs migrate in September and October. They travel about 2,500 miles. They stay at their roosts during winter. At roosts, they group together. They hibernate. The amazing thing is Monarchs roost at the same trees every year.



Monarch butterfly migration  
1) March - June  
2) April - June  
3) End of April  
4) April - June  
5) June - August  
6) September - November



Monarchs migrate back north in March. Individual butterflies do not complete the trip. The journey takes longer than their lifespan. It takes four generations. Females lay eggs on the trip. Then the following generation continues the trip. This happens in four cycles each year. Monarchs are in trouble. The trees they roost on are being cut down. What will happen to them if they do not have their roosts? You can help save monarchs. Plant their favorite food, which is milkweed. Donate to a cause that helps monarchs.

Find evidence in the color indicated

Message? (RI.2.4)

Inter. Therefore, they

Beginning, Middle, & End of year



# WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- **3 Benchmark Assessments for beginning, middle, and end of year.**
- **Separate assessments for literature and informational text.**
- **Data Analysis Excel Sheet**

→ Each benchmark includes 6 passages with approximately 4 questions per second grade standard.

→ All passages are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Common Core Text Complexity Band (420L-820L).

→ All passages have certified Lexile® levels.

→ Data tracking sheet to show student progress and target areas of focus.

[illegible]

# PEDAGOGY

It is important to track student progress.

To accurately track progress, I recommend administering the assessment at 3 points throughout the year with consistent testing conditions. I have split the fiction and nonfiction assessments up, so teachers can break testing up into at least two days.

At the **beginning of the year**, it is important to assess student's knowledge to help you make informed decisions about instruction.

## How to Use Results

- Determine which students are above, below, or on grade level.
- Determine general trends for the entire class. What are areas of focus for all students?

During the **middle of the year**, assessing student growth and areas of weakness helps teachers implement appropriate instruction and interventions.

## How to Use Results

- Track student progress by comparing results to the beginning of the year.
- Determine which standards need to be retaught whole class, in small groups, or individually.
- Target students for interventions

At the **end of the year**, assess students to track student growth over the year. This serves as a tool to teachers to show student improvement and also tells teachers if students are performing at grade level expectations.

## How to Use Results

- Track student progress by comparing results to the beginning and middle of the year.
- Determine if students are performing at grade level.
- Develop goals with students and parents

# ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS



MagiCore Learning, LLC is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Common Core State Standards uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure students are college and career ready by the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Common Core Expectations
K-1	N/A
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	1185L-1385L

Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Common Core Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."





# BENCHMARK ASSESSMENT #1

2<sup>nd</sup> grade

\*This product includes 12 leveled passages in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Common Core Text Complexity Band (the range for 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade is 420-820).

## Table of Contents:

### Fiction

1. The Case of the Missing Rainboot- 490L
2. Your World- Poem
3. Cinderella- 640L
4. Ye Xian- 590L
5. The Sheep and the Pig- 780L

### Nonfiction

1. Monarch Migration- 640L
2. How to Make Scrambled Eggs- 480L
3. Bengal Tigers- 590L
4. One Giant Step- 770L
5. Wilma Rudolph- 500L
6. Janet Collins- 640L



**FICTION**

# Your World

By Georgia Douglas Johnson

Your world is as big as you make it.

I know, for I used to abide

In the narrowest nest in a corner,

My wings pressing close to my side.

But I sighted the distant horizon

Where the skyline encircled the sea

And I throbbed with a burning desire

To travel this immensity.

I battered the cordons around me

And cradled my wings on the breeze,

Then soared to the uttermost reaches

With rapture, with power, with ease!



## Benchmark Assessment: One Giant Step

Answer the following Questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

7. How does the mood change in each stanza of this poem? (RL.2.4)

- a. The first stanza is sullen. The second stanza is hopeful. The third stanza is joyful.
- b. The first stanza is upset. The second stanza is gloomy. The third stanza is thrilled.
- c. The first stanza is grateful. The second stanza is thankful. The third stanza is pleased.
- d. The first stanza is hopeful. The second stanza is negative. The third stanza is depressed.

8. The author refers to wings multiple times in this poem. What do wings represent? (RL.2.4)

- a. a bird flying
- b. a butterfly traveling far
- c. the things people cannot reach
- d. the things a person can accomplish

9. Read the following line from the poem:

*Your world is as big as you make it.*

What is the meaning of this simile? (RL.2.4)

- a. The world looks big to birds.
- b. The world is big if you travel around the world.
- c. The world is big to some people, but small to others.
- d. Your opportunities will be as large as the risks you take.

10. The author uses a ABCB rhyme scheme in this poem. Look at the last verse. Why might the author have chosen *breeze* and *ease* to rhyme? (RL.2.4)

- a. These words help the reader visualize someone who is stuck.
- b. These words help the reader visualize a person jumping for joy.
- c. These words emphasize the proud and joyful tone of this verse.
- d. These words emphasize the worried and nervous tone of this verse.



# Ye Xian

Ye Xian was a beautiful and kind young girl. She lived with her father, her stepmother, named Jin, and her stepsister. Her stepmother was jealous of her beauty. She treated Ye Xian poorly because her own daughter was not as lovely as Ye Xian. Ye Xian's father died. Jin forced Ye Xian to be their servant. Jin and her daughter teased Ye Xian. Ye Xian would always do as she was told. She was never unkind in return.

One day, while she was gathering water at the pond, Ye Xian met a beautiful fish. Every day when she came to the pond, the fish would greet her. They became friends.

Jin did not want Ye Xian to be happy or to have a friend. She dressed in Ye Xian's rag dress and went to the pond to catch the fish. Once she caught it, she took it home and cooked it for dinner.

When Ye Xian found out what Jin had done she cried and said, "How could you do such a terrible thing?"

Jin laughed at her and mocked her, "You are such a silly girl! Why would you cry over a fish?"

Ye Xian ran into the garden, feeling very alone. Suddenly, the spirit of her mother came to her. She said, "If you find the fish bones and bury them, they will grant your wishes. Be careful with them! Only use them when you are in great need!"

Ye Xian did as her mother's spirit had told her.

Time passed and it was the day of the spring festival. At the festival, young women would meet gentlemen who were looking for a bride. It was a special day and all the young girls would wear beautiful dresses. Jin would not let Ye Xian go. She forced her to stay at home so it would not hurt her own daughter's chances of finding a husband.

When Jin and her daughter left for the festival, Ye Xian prayed to the fish bones. At once, she was dressed in a dress that was covered with colorful fish scales with golden shoes that were as light as a feather.

When she arrived at the festival, all of the young men were in awe of Ye Xian. They wanted to dance with her.

Then, Jin and her daughter caught sight of her. They said, "That pretty girl looks just like Ye Xian!"



Ye Xian was afraid of being punished, so she ran home. In her haste, she left one of her golden shoes behind. When she got home, she put her rags back on and went to bed. Jin and her daughter came home. They saw Ye Xian asleep, so they did not know it was her at the festival.

The golden slipper that Ye Xian left behind got sold many times to different merchants. Eventually, the king got hold of it. The king wanted to find the owner of the delicate shoe. He had every young girl in the kingdom try on the shoe, but it did not fit on anyone's foot.

Finally, he arrived at the home of Ye Xian. Jin insisted that the shoe would fit her daughter. When she tried it on, it was much too small. Ye Xian said, "I would like to try the shoe on!"

Jin was mad and said, "This shoe came from a wealthy maiden. You are not fit to try on the shoe!" The king insisted, and the golden shoe was a perfect fit for Ye Xian. The king took Ye Xian to the castle and made her his queen. Ye Xian left her stepmother and stepsister in misery.

The End

## Benchmark Assessment: One Giant Step

Answer the following Questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

17. What happened after Ye Xian's father died? (RL.2.1) (Choose all that apply.)

- a. Father married Jin.
- b. Jin had another daughter.
- c. Ye Xian wanted to go to the festival.
- d. Jin forced Ye Xian to be her servant.

18. How does Ye Xian respond to Jin when she found out she captured and cooked her fish friend? (RL.2.3)

- a. Ye Xian quietly cried.
- b. Ye Xian ran far away.
- c. Ye Xian continued to obey Jin.
- d. Ye Xian questioned her stepmother about how she could be so cruel.

19. How does Ye Xian feel after her fish friend is gone? (RL.2.6)

- a. lonely
- b. grateful
- c. annoyed
- d. ashamed

20. Why does Ye Xian leave the festival quickly? (RL.2.5)

- a. Ye Xian needs to go home to rest.
- b. It is midnight, so the magic is almost over.
- c. Jin spotted Ye Xian and Ye Xian does not want her to punish her.
- d. Ye Xian does not want her stepmother or stepsister to see her.

21. What is the moral of this story? (RL.2.2)

- a. Magic can save you.
- b. Kind people become wealthy.
- c. It is difficult to overcome misfortune.
- d. Good people get what they deserve, and mean people get what they deserve.

22. How does Ye Xian feel when her stepmother and stepsister see her at the festival? Use details from the text and illustration to help you. (RL.2.7)

- a. Ye Xian is worried they will recognize her.
- b. Ye Xian is proud that she is more beautiful.
- c. Ye Xian is upset that they do not think she is beautiful.
- d. Ye Xian is thankful for being able to go to the festival.

23. How are Ye Xian and Cinderella similar? (RL.2.9)

- a. Both characters marry a prince.
- b. Both characters have father's who died.
- c. Both characters have friends that are animals.
- d. Both characters are kind and sweet, despite being mistreated.

24. Which event happens in both stories that incorporates magic? (RL.2.9)

- a. Cinderella and Ye Xian lose their shoes.
- b. Cinderella and Ye Xian have talking animal friends.
- c. Cinderella and Ye Xian are transformed into beautiful gowns to go to the dance.
- d. Cinderella and Ye Xian request to try on the missing shoe, despite their stepmother's anger.

25. How does the ending in each story differ? (RL.2.9) (Choose all that apply.)

- a. Both girls end up marrying royalty.
- b. Cinderella forgives her stepmother and stepsisters, while Ye Xian did not.
- c. The missing shoe fits on Cinderella, while the missing shoe does not fit on Ye Xian.
- d. Cinderella was already in love with the prince in the end, while Ye Xian just met the king.

26. Which of the following statement about the theme of both stories is true? (RL.2.9)

- a. Both stories include the theme of forgiveness.
- b. Both stories include the theme of good vs. evil.
- c. Cinderella includes magic, while Ye Xian is realistic.
- d. Cinderella includes a theme of friends helping, while Ye Xian does not.

**NONFICTION**



# Bengal Tigers

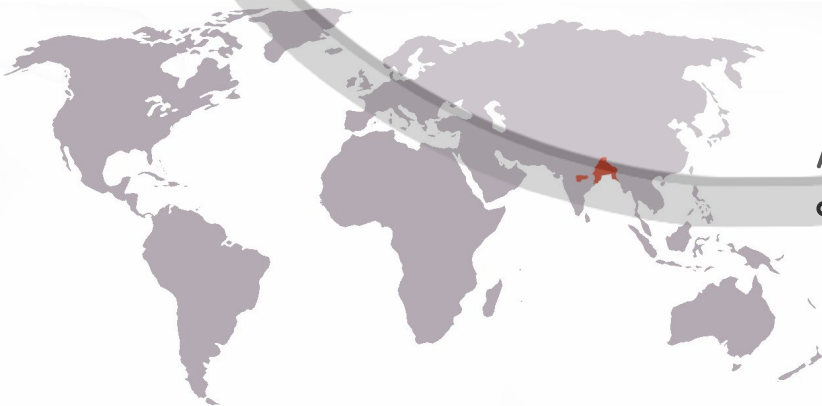
Bengal tigers live in India. They also live in Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, China, and Myanmar. There are only 2,500 wild Bengal tigers left. They are in danger. They are **poached** by hunters. Their habitat is being destroyed. Bengal tigers live in mangrove forests. These forests are threatened because of climate change.

This species used to be protected. China has lifted their ban on using tiger parts. They allow their parts to be used for traditional medicine. This results in tigers being poached by humans. This will impact their survival.

Bengal tigers are important. Tigers are at the top of the food chain. Protecting tigers keeps nature balanced. Without them, other species of plants and animals will be impacted. Each tiger saves 25,000 acres of forest. People and animals depend on forests for water, food, and health.



A dead Bengal tiger in 1903. Poaching was a sport at this time.



Habitat of the Bengal tiger

## Benchmark Assessment: One Giant Step

Answer the following Questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

16. Where do Bengal tigers live? (Choose all that apply.) (RI.2.1)

- a. India
- b. China
- c. America
- d. Australia

17. What reasons does the author include to support her point that Bengal tigers are in danger? (Choose all that apply.) (RI.2.8)

- a. Bengal tigers live in India.
- b. Their habitat is being destroyed.
- c. There are only 2,500 wild Bengal tigers left.
- d. China has lifted their ban on using tiger parts.

18. What is the meaning of the word *poached* as it is used in this passage? (RI.2.4)

- a. saved
- b. eaten
- c. hunted
- d. watched

19. Based on the text and text features, which of the following facts is true about poaching? (Choose all that apply.) (RI.2.5)

- a. In 1903, poaching was a sport.
- b. Poaching only happens in India.
- c. Bengal tigers are not poached today.
- d. Using tiger parts for traditional Chinese medicine causes more poaching.

## Benchmark Assessment: One Giant Step

20. What is the map in this article showing? (RI.2.7)

- a. where Bengal tigers live
- b. where Bengal tigers are poached
- c. the zoos you can find Bengal tigers in
- d. the countries that protect Bengal tigers

21. What is the main purpose of this text? (RI.2.6)

- a. The author describes the Bengal tiger's habitat.
- b. The author describes why Bengal tigers are endangered.
- c. The author explains the steps we can take to save Bengal tigers.
- d. The author wants to answer the question, "Why are Bengal tigers important?"

22. In the last paragraph the author claims "Bengal tigers are important." Which reasons does the author use to support this point? (Choose all that apply.) (RI.2.8)

- a. "Protecting tigers keeps nature balanced."
- b. "China has lifted their ban on using tiger parts."
- c. "These forests are threatened because of climate change."
- d. "Each tiger saves 25,000 acres of forest." People and animals depend on forests for water, food, and health."

# Wilma Rudolph

Wilma Rudolph was born on November 12, 1944. As a child, she was sick. Rudolph had polio. Polio left her disabled. She wore a leg brace until she was 12. Because she was black, she had to get treatment at a black hospital 50 miles from her home. In high school, Wilma became interested in sports. She played basketball. A track coach noticed Wilma. She was fast. He asked her to join the track team.

Wilma became a sprinter. She was a record breaker. Wilma was an Olympic champion. She won many medals in the Olympic games. In the 1960s, Rudolph was declared the fastest woman in the world. She was the first American woman to win three gold medals in one Olympic game. She became famous. Wilma was an inspiration to black women who wanted to be athletes. Rudolph is a **pioneer** of civil rights and women's rights.



At the peak of her career, she retired from track. Rudolph graduated college. She became an educator and coach. Wilma died suddenly in 1994. She had cancer. Today, Wilma Rudolph is remembered. She is an inspiration. She is a sports icon.

Rudolph wins the women's 100 meter dash at the 1960 Summer Olympics.



# Janet Collins

Janet Collins was born on March 7, 1917. She had a love for ballet. Few teachers would work with her because she was African American. At the age of 10, she took private ballet lessons. At 16, she was accepted into a prestigious dance school. The school wanted Collins to paint her skin white. Collins refused to join the company. Her performances earned her great reviews. She even performed on Broadway.



Janet Collins in 1951.

Janet became a famous ballet dancer. Despite her talent, she faced racism. She couldn't even perform in the south. Collins worked hard. She paved the way for other African-American dancers. In 1951, Collins was the first African American to be hired as a full-time dancer for the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Janet Collins helped break the race barrier in classical dance.

March 7, 1917  
Janet was born

1948  
Janet moved  
to New York

1951  
Janet won an  
award for her  
dancing on  
Broadway.

1949  
Janet was on Broadway.

May 28, 2003  
Janet died

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990



## Benchmark Assessment: One Giant Step

Answer the following Questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

29. Which event cause Wilma Rudolph to become engaged in track and field? (RI.2.3)

- a. Wilma wanted to be in the Olympics.
- b. Wilma had to wear a leg brace as a child.
- c. A track coach noticed Wilma was fast.
- d. Wilma was inspired by African American women.

30. Read this sentence from the passage *Wilma Rudolph*:

Rudolph is a pioneer of civil rights and women's rights.

What is the meaning of the word pioneer? (RI.2.4)

- a. a woman
- b. an athlete
- c. a track star
- d. someone who does something first

31. What is the main topic of the article *Janet Collins*? (RI.2.2)

- a. Janet Collins's struggles
- b. Janet Collins's childhood
- c. Janet Collins' personal life
- d. Janet Collins' dance career

32. What happened soon after Janet Collins moved to New York? (RI.2.7)

- a. Janet was on Broadway.
- b. Janet won an award for dancing.
- c. Janet took private ballet lessons.
- d. Janet was accepted into a prestigious dance school.

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