SKILLS LIST and SAMPLE ITEMS

FOR

PRACTICE TEST FOR READING, GRADE 6 - FORM B

(Test items developed for skills measured in CRCT)

Skills

1.0 Vocabulary
- **1.1 Word Recognition/Word Attack**
- **1.2 Applies Word Recognition Strategies**
- **1.3 Context Clues**
- **1.4 Analyzes Meaning of Words and Phrases**

2.0 Locating and Recalling Information
- **2.1 Recalls Data**
- **2.2 Applies/Evaluates Information**
- **2.3 Relevancy of Data**
- **2.4 Recognizes Important and Supporting Details**

3.0 Reading Comprehension
- **3.1 Underlying Themes and Concepts**
- **3.2 Recognizes Literary Forms and Purposes of Text**
- **3.3 Common Elements of Poetry**
- **3.4 Sequence of Events**
- **3.5 Structure of Information**
- **3.6 Story Development/Literary Elements**
- **3.7 Main Idea and Details**

4.0 Reading for Critical Analysis
- **4.1 Reading Elements/Styles/ Techniques**
- **4.2 Author's Intent (Mood, Tone, etc.)**
- **4.3 Predicts Plot/Characters' Actions**
- **4.4 Main Idea; Underlying Theme and Concepts**
- **4.5 Cultural Experiences and Differences**
- **4.6 Fact/Fiction**
- **4.7 Similarities and Differences in Characters or Text**
- **4.8 Draws Conclusions**

(OVER)

CRCT PRACTICE TEST IN READING - GRADE 6 - FORM B

THE PLATYPUS

A group of zoologists once looked at a platypus. Some of them could not believe that the platypus was a real animal. They thought it was a hoax. The animal looked so odd that the scientists thought somebody had sewn together parts of different animals in order to trick them.

The platypus has the fur of an otter and the tail of the beaver. It has the bill and webbed feet of a duck and can swim underwater. The platypus can also dig tunnels underground because it has the claws of a rat. In addition, the male platypus can spray poison at its enemies, just like an insect.

The platypus lays eggs. It does not give birth to its young alive, like most mammals. However, because the platypus produces milk for its young, it is still classified as a mammal.

The combination of an egg-laying, poison-spraying animal with bill, claws, fur, and webbed feet is awfully hard to put in any category. Some scientists think the platypus's ancestors were a link between reptiles and mammals that lived 150 million years ago. They call the platypus a living fossil.

It stands to reason that people would like to get a look at such an unusual creature. However, the platypus does not generally do well in captivity. If you want to see one, you'll probably have to find it in the wild – and platypuses only live in Australia and Tasmania.

1. What is the main idea of this article?

   A. Platypuses live only in Australia and Tasmania.
   B. The platypus is a very unusual creature.
   C. The platypus has the claws of a rat.
   D. The platypus is a living fossil.

2. Why is the platypus considered a mammal?

   A. It produces milk.
   B. It has fur.
   C. It has lungs instead of gills.
   D. It lays eggs.

3. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of a platypus?

   A. fur like an otter
   B. males spray poison
   C. tail like a beaver
   D. gives birth to live young

THE ART OF POTTERY

The creation of a beautiful piece of pottery takes several steps. By following the steps carefully many types of fine work can be produced.

The first step in pottery making is to work the clay. Often clay which has been stored will be cold and difficult to shape. Working a mound of clay with the hands softens it and removes air bubbles which could weaken the final clay object.

After the clay has been properly worked to prepare it, it is then shaped. Shaping the clay can be done with the hands or by using a mold. Various tools such as the coil and wheel can produce many different effects in the piece.

The shaped clay object is next decorated. The clay may be painted, jabbed, scratched, or pinched to improve the appearance. Often a glaze is applied as further decoration and also to waterproof the object.

The last step in pottery making is to fire the piece. This means baking the object at a very high temperature in a special oven called a kiln. This baking changes the molecules of the clay to make the object harder and stronger. After it has been fired and cooled slowly, the object is ready for use.