**Constructed Response Questions from SBAC samples - Grade 3**

This list was compiled from the questions in SBAC samples tests for Grade 3 2014 at SBAC.com

**A Few New Neighbors**

By Kerry McGee

One afternoon, Jessie spotted a tiny bird fluttering around Mrs. Baxter’s front door. Mrs. Baxter had just moved into the apartment.

*It’s probably looking for somebody to fill the bird feeders*, Jessie thought.

The bird perched on the edge of the wreath. Then it disappeared.

Disappeared? Jessie ran over to Mrs. Baxter’s door.

Where had it gone?

A jumble of sticks and grass stuck out from the middle of the wreath. Suddenly, Jessie understood. A nest! A bird’s nest sat right in the middle of Mrs. Baxter’s wreath. The bird poked its head out and looked at Jessie. Then it fluttered away.

Jessie crept up to the front door. Tucked inside the nest were four speckled blue eggs.

Jessie ran home to call Mrs. Baxter. “Guess who moved into your old wreath?” Jessie said. “A family of birds!”

Mrs. Baxter sounded just as excited as Jessie was. “Tell me what they look like. What color are the eggs?”

Jessie and Mrs. Baxter talked about the birds for a while. “They sounded like house finches,” Mrs. Baxter said. “Keep an eye on them for me, will you?”

“I will,” Jessie said.

And she did. Jessie checked the nest whenever she could. Sometimes the mother finch was there. Other days, the red-headed papa was nearby. Jessie tried to notice everything so she could tell Mrs. Baxter.

One morning, Jessie saw a pink head poking out of the nest. Babies! Jessie strained her neck to get a better look.

Jessie told her dad about the baby birds at Mrs. Baxter’s house.

“That reminds me,” Dad said. “Mrs. Baxter has movers coming tomorrow to clear out the house. I told her I’d unlock the door for them.”

But what about the nest?

Dad shook his head. “We’ll just have to tell the movers to be careful.”

Jessie thought about the movers tromping in and out, squeezing heavy boxes and furniture past the tiny nest. She thought about the door swinging and slamming all day long. It seemed risky.

The next morning, Jessie watched the moving truck pull up in front of Mrs. Baxter’s house.

Dad saw the truck, too, and came outside with the key.

Jessie jumped up. She ran ahead of the movers and Dad to Mrs. Baxter’s front door. “Wait!” she shouted, spinning around to face them.

Behind her, mama bird burst out of its nest. It landed in a tree. The movers looked at Jessie in surprise.

“You can’t use this door,” Jessie said, holding her arms out stiff.

“I’m sorry,” one of the movers said. “We have a job to do.”

Jessie didn’t move. “There’s a nest under the wreath,” Jessie explained. “If you open the door, I will fall.”

The other mover sighed. “Do you have any ideas?”

Jessie nodded. “I do have an idea. Dad, can I have the key?”

As carefully as she could, Jessie unlocked the front door and eased it open. When it was just wide enough to slip through, she ducked into Mrs. Baxter’s house.

She’s been there many times, so it didn’t take her long to find the side door and unlock it from the inside.

“Got it!” Jessie called, running around the front of the house. “The side door is open!”

One of the movers was peering into the wreath. “Hey,” he said. “There are babies in there.” He grinned at Jessie. “I bet mama bird is glad you are watching out for her babies.”

Jessie smiled as she and Dad thanked the movers for their help. Then she ran and disappeared into her own house. She couldn’t wait to call Mrs. Baxter.

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**Grade 3**

**Question Sample 2551**

What inference can be made about the author’s message about animals? **Include information from the passage to support your answer.**

**Type your answer here**

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**What’s in Your Back pack?**

By Mona Pease

Are you carrying a forest on your back? Of course not! But if you dig through your backpack, you will probably find many things that come from the forest. You might have books, pencils, and even a sweet candy treat, all from the forest. Is your pack feeling heavier yet?

**Let’s explore some of these things and see how they get from the woods to your backpack. Let’s start with the paper…**

Papermaking begins in the forest, where the trees are marked to be cut down. Once the trees are cut, the biggest branches are removed. The logs, as they are now called, are stacked in huge piles at the edge of the forest. A logging truck takes them to the paper mill. At the mill, the logs go through many steps to be made into paper. After the bark is removed, the wood is chipped, then cooked with chemicals. This turns the wood into a mushy pulp. Next, the pulp is washed, bleached, and drained. Then it is sprayed onto big screens to dry. The finished sheets of paper are put onto giant rolls. Some of these rolls of paper weigh as much as 50,000 pounds! Finally, the paper is lined, cut, or folded for people to use.

**Let’s check back in that backpack…**

Your pencils come from the forest, too. They are made from the wood of a cedar tree. At the pencil factory, cedar logs are sawed into chunky blocks, then sliced thin to make flat slats. Next, narrow grooves are cut into the slats to hold graphite, which is the “lead” part you write with. After the graphite is set in place, two slats are glued together, sandwiching the graphite inside. Then the pencils are cut and painted. Finally, the eraser is added.

**Now, what about that special treat you have? Mmm…maple sugar candy, made from the sap of sugar maple trees.**

People who make maple syrup must read the signs of the season to know when to get to work. In the early spring, when daytime and nighttime temperatures are just right, the trees can be tapped. First, a small hole is drilled into the tree. Then the tap—a short tube—is placed in the hole. Sap drips through the tap into a bucket. When the bucket is full, the dap is taken to the sugarhouse. There, the sap is boiled and boiled until it thickens into a syrup. If you boil the the syrup even longer, it crystallizes (hardens) into maple sugar. Then, it is quickly put into molds to give it a pretty shape. Paper. Pencils. Candy. Your backpack is full. Can you believe that so many things you carry around every day come from forests?

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**Question Sample 2663**

What inference can be made about why the author includes the backpack in the passage? **Support your answer with details from the text.**

**Type your answer here**

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**Question Sample 2554**

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**Type your answer here**

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