



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dr. Jennifer McCormick
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Working Together for Student Success

ISTEP+ Part 1 Item Sampler for English/Language Arts

Grades 3-8

Updated September 2016

Part 1 ISTEP+

Sample Items:

The following items are samples, designed for use with

- teachers, as part of professional development, and
- students, to familiarize them with items aligned to the college-and-career-ready 2014 Indiana Academic Standards.

There are two types of ELA sections found in Part 1 of ISTEP+:

- A nonfiction or literature passage with **constructed-response** questions
- A nonfiction or literature passage or passage pairing with a **writing prompt**

Item Information

Sample Item Information for Teachers

Item Type: Constructed-Response

Grade: 3

Scoring: 2-point Constructed-Response Rubric [Link to ISTEP+ Rubrics](#)

Indiana Academic Standard 3.RN.4.1- Distinguish between fact and opinion; explain how an author uses reasons and facts to support specific points in a text.

Depth of Knowledge: 3 [Link to DOK Wheel](#)

Passages

Excerpt from *The Wind in the Willows*

by Kenneth Grahame

Mole loses patience with spring cleaning and decides to leave his home for a while. He ends up by the river, where he meets an interesting character.

The River Bank

1 As he sat on the grass and looked across the river, a dark hole in the bank opposite, just above the water's edge, caught his eye, and dreamily he fell to considering what a nice snug dwelling-place it would make for an animal with few wants and fond of a bijou¹ riverside residence, above flood level and remote from noise and dust. As he gazed, something bright and small seemed to twinkle down in the heart of it, vanished, then twinkled once more like a tiny star. But it could hardly be a star in such an unlikely situation; and it was too glittering and small for a glow-worm. Then, as he looked, it winked at him, and so declared itself to be an eye; and a small face began gradually to grow up round it, like a frame round a picture.

2 A brown little face, with whiskers.

3 A grave round face, with the same twinkle in its eye that had first attracted his notice. Small neat ears and thick silky hair.

Constructed-Response Item

Explain how Buck changes after he is rescued by John Thornton. Support your answer with details from the excerpt.

Constructed-Response Item: Example Answer

As Buck begins to heal, he starts to feel the love and companionship of John Thornton that he never felt with any other master he had in the past like Judge Miller. The narrator says, “Love, genuine passionate love, was his for the first time.”

Writing Prompt

You have read the article “The Benefits of Homework.” The author makes the claim that homework can positively affect student performance in school. Think about the evidence the author provides and consider if it fully supports the claim. Using details from the article, write an argument analyzing how effectively the author supports this claim.

Be sure to include

- your position on how well the author supports the claim
- details from the article to support your position
- an introduction, a body, and a conclusion

Resources

- Item Sampler
- Released Items and Scoring Notes
- Rubrics
- Guidelines to Applying the Rubrics
- Editing Checklists

Questions

- Please contact the following staff members if you have questions regarding English/Language Arts:
 - Jennifer Stargel, Grades 3-5, at jstargel@doe.in.gov.
 - Erin Thompson, Grades 6-8 and 10, at ethompson@doe.in.gov.
- For other questions, please contact the Office of Student Assessment by calling (317) 232-9050 or via email at INassessments@doe.in.gov.



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