| 3rd Grade Standard Benchmark Assessment 2 | | | | | |
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| Standards: | | | | | |
| RL.3.2  RL.3.3  RL.3.6  RL.3.9 | RI.3.3  RI.3.5  RI.3.6  RI.3.8  RI.3.9 | | L.3.1  L.3.2  L.3.4 | | |
| Passage # 1 | | | | | |
| Passage 1  A Friend in Need  1 Long ago, in a frozen land of ice and snow, a girl named Helga had a dream. She dreamed that a woman stood beside her bed and whispered in her ear, “Helga, my little daughter needs milk. Will you please help us? Put a quart of milk outside your door for her. If you do this every day for a month, I will give you a gift.”  2 Helga told her father about the woman in her dream. “Should I give her the milk?” she asked.  3 Her father thought for a moment, scratching his beard. “Dreams are like teachers,” he said. “I think you should do what the woman asks. Our goats are healthy. We don’t have any extra milk, but we can get by with a little less to help someone in need.” So Helga put a quart of milk on the porch before she went to bed. When she woke up, she ran to the door, opened it, and saw that the quart of milk was gone.  4 Helga did this every day, just as the woman in her dream had asked. Every night she placed the milk on the porch, and every morning, it was gone. In a month, Helga had another dream. The same woman stood near her bed and whispered to her again. “Thank you, Helga,” she said. “My little girl is happy and strong. Look under your pillow when you wake up, and you will find your gift.”  5 At dawn the next day, Helga reached under her pillow. She felt something smooth, hard, and cool to the touch. To her surprise, an enormous blue diamond sparkled in the sunlight!  6 When Helga showed her father, he smiled. “I’m glad you listened to your dreams. That was a wise thing to do.” They admired the beautiful diamond and agreed that it was a valuable gift. They were thankful to the mother who needed help, for she had repaid them many times over. | | | | | |
| Standard | | Question | | | |
| RL.3.2 | | What is the moral or lesson learned from the story "A Friend in Need"?   1. Dreams are meaningless and should be ignored. 2. It is important to always follow instructions from strangers in dreams. 3. Helping others, even in small ways, can lead to unexpected rewards. 4. Gifts from dreams are always valuable and should be expected. | | | |
| RL.3.3 | | Which word best describes the father’s character in paragraph 3?   1. Selfish 2. Generous 3. Indecisive 4. Unkind | | | |
| RL.3.6 | | How does the dad’s perspective support the title of the passage, “A Friend in Need”?   1. Dad thinks Helga should ignore the request, they do not have enough milk to spare. 2. Dad encourages Helga to share milk to help someone in need. 3. Dad thinks dreams are teachers and Helga could learn something by sharing the milk. 4. Dad is curious about the gift and wanted Helga to share the milk so she would receive the gift. | | | |
| L.3.4 | | Read this sentence from “A Friend in Need”. “To her surprise, an enormous blue diamond sparkled in the sunlight!” Now read the dictionary entry for the word diamond.    Which meaning of the word diamond fits the way it is used in the sentence?   1. Meaning 1 2. Meaning 2 3. Meaning 3 4. Meaning 4 | | | |
| Passage # 2 | | | | | |
| Passage 2  Paul and Paula    Paul loved goats. He loved their horns and their hooves. He loved their faces and the beards under their chins. He loved the sound of their bleats and their sweet, rich milk. His favorite book was *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. In the summer before fourth grade, Paul asked his mother if he could have a goat.  “We don’t have money to buy a goat,” his mother said. If he could find a way to pay for a goat, Paul thought, his mother might change her mind.  In early September, Paul’s class went on a field trip to the fair. The night before the trip, Paul dreamed that he was milking a goat. Her name was Paula, and she was brown with white spots. His dream felt so real that he even smelled goat when he woke up.  At the fair, Paul ran excitedly to the goat barn. Dozens of goats were inside. They bleated together like singers in a chorus. In a corner stall was a brown and white goat with huge brown eyes. The sign said that her name was Paula, and she was for sale.  “How much?” Paul asked the tall farmer with kind eyes and a red vest. “That depends,” answered the farmer. “I want her to have a good home. She makes lots of milk, so she’ll pay for herself in no time.”  The farmer’s words were like music to Paul’s ears! That night, he talked to his mother. She agreed to go to the fair on Saturday to meet the farmer. They talked for a very long time. When she returned to where Paul was waiting, she smiled and said, “He convinced me.”  The week after that, Paul and his mother built a fence around their toolshed. The farmer brought the goat to their house in his truck. He knew the goat would have a good home. He had agreed to let Paul pay for the goat with the money Paul would make from selling her milk.  Paul and Paula became best friends. | | | | | |
| Standard | | Question | | | |
| RL.3.3 | | What does Paul’s mother do that changes her mind about having a goat?    A. She finds a way to pay for the goat.  B. She has a long talk with the farmer.  C. She tells Paul they cannot afford a goat.  D. She helps Paul build a fence around the shed. | | | |
| RL.3.2 | | Which sentence BEST describes the story's theme?   1. Parents always know what is best for you. 2. Don’t give up when you face a challenge. 3. A smooth talker always talks himself out of a problem and gets his way. 4. Dreams come true when you work hard and save up. | | | |
| RL.3.6 | | Based on the passage, what can be inferred about Paul's perspective on getting a goat compared to his mother's perspective?  A) Paul believed they had enough money to buy a goat, while his mother was unsure  B) Paul was hesitant about getting a goat, while his mother was excited  C) Paul was determined to get a goat, while his mother initially refused because they did not have enough money  D) Paul's mother wanted a goat, but Paul did not | | | |
| RL.3.9 | | How are Helga in “A Friend in Need” and Paul in “Paul and Paula” alike?  A. Both of them dream about goats.  B. Both of them get help from a parent.  C. Both of them change from happy to sad.  D. Both of them give away something they care about. | | | |
| RL.3.9 | | Which statements are true about the settings of “A Friend in Need” and “Paul and Paula” ? Select two answers.   1. In both passages, the characters are dreaming. 2. In both passages, the characters are in a school. 3. In both passages, the characters are on a farm. 4. In both passages, the characters are in a frozen land. | | | |
| Passage #1 & #2 | | | | | |
| Passage 3  Desert Variety  What do you think of when you hear the word “desert”? You may imagine sand dunes, camels, and endless sunshine. You may think of canyons, cactus, and dry riverbeds. All deserts are very dry, but that is where the similarities end.  Some deserts are full of plants. There are saguaro cacti that are twice as tall as the tallest person you know. There are tiny button cacti only an inch or two tall. Some trees that grow in the desert are all green, even the bark. There are also wildflowers of every color that bloom for a few weeks every year. The Sonoran Desert is lush with interesting plants like ocotillos, which look like a bunch of tall spiny sticks that bloom bright red flowers.  Some deserts are freezing cold. Deserts in Greenland and Antarctica are covered in snow year-round. The snow does not melt enough for mammals or green plants to survive in these deserts. In Antarctica, rain has not fallen in millions of years. In places this cold and dry, only some kinds of bacteria or tiny worms can live. Sometimes pink algae grows if the sun melts the surface of the snow just enough and the wind blows in the right kind of nutrients. This interesting occurrence is sometimes called “watermelon snow.” | | | | | |
| Standard | | Question | | | |
| RI.3.3 | | Why does pink algae form in snow covered deserts?   1. It forms from food coloring added to the snow 2. It forms from worms eating flowers and moving through the dirt. 3. It forms from flowers melting in the snow. 4. It forms from snow melting and the wind blowing in the right kind of nutrients. | | | |
| RI.3.5 | | How does the author organize the passage “Desert Variety”?   1. Cause and effect 2. Compare and contrast 3. Problem and solution 4. Time order | | | |
| L.3.4 | | What does "variety" mean in the passage?   1. different kinds of a thing 2. to make something change 3. a type of land 4. a type of weather | | | |
| RI.3.6 | | Select two statements to describe how the author shows their perspective that all deserts are interesting in the passage, “Desert Variety”.   1. by including descriptive language about deserts 2. by providing examples of dangerous plants and animals that live in deserts. 3. by describing the animals that live in deserts. 4. by providing pictures of the plants and animals found in snow-covered deserts. | | | |
| RI.3.8 | | Select the statement that best states the author’s claim in the passage.   1. The writer claims all deserts are dry, dusty and full of sand. 2. The writer claims all deserts are dry and have sand dunes, camels, endless sunshine, and only some have cacti. 3. The writer claims that even though deserts are dry, they can look very different from each other with their own plants and animals. 4. The writer claims that deserts are lush with all green trees, interesting plants and “watermelon snow”. | | | |
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| Passage 4  Visiting a Desert  No two deserts are the same. In some, you can see cacti and trees full of thorns. In others, you can see miles of orange, white, or brown sand dunes. You might spot lizards, snakes, or tiny mice. You could see big sandstone rocks shaped by the wind or deep canyons carved by rivers. In the United States, there are several deserts to visit.  The Sonoran Desert is in southern Arizona. Here, you can see huge saguaro cacti that are taller than a two-story building. You need to be careful when you hike in the Sonoran Desert—almost all the plants have spines or stickers. This protects them from being eaten. Many animals also live here, but you will probably not see too many of them. Most hide under rocks or in holes during the hot days. You might see lizards or small desert mice running from rock to rock.  The Great Basin Desert covers much of Nevada and Utah. It is the largest desert in the United States. You will hike many beautiful canyons and see interesting rock formations in this desert. Many of the rocks are shades of red and orange. This is caused by minerals like iron in the sandstone. Because sandstone is soft, wind and water carve it into interesting shapes over the years. Many animals also live in the Great Basin Desert, but like the Sonoran, you will probably not see too many of them. If you are lucky, you could see hawks flying high. | | | | | |
| L.3.4 | | In the second paragraph of the passage, “Visiting a Desert”, what does "protects" mean?   1. allows 2. guards 3. stickers 4. dangers | | | |
| RI.3.5 | | Read paragraph 1. Select two details from this paragraph to support how the author is comparing and contrasting deserts.   1. “No two deserts are the same.” 2. “In others, you can see miles of orange, white, or brown sand dunes.” 3. “You might spot lizards, snakes, or tiny mice.” 4. “In the United States, there are several deserts to visit.” | | | |
| RI.3.3 | | According to the passage, why do desert plants have spines?   1. because they do not have flowers 2. because there is little water 3. to keep from being eaten 4. to help animals hide | | | |
| RI.3.6 | | Select the sentence that best describes the author’s perspective.   1. Deserts offer different landscapes, vegetation, and wildlife to explore and appreciate. 2. Deserts do not support life; they are too hot and too dry. 3. You can survive off of the plants in the desert, even though almost all the plants have spines or stickers. 4. All deserts are considered beautiful because of the many shades of red and orange that make up the sand dunes. | | | |
| RI.3.8 | | What does the author claim about hiking in the Great Basin Desert in "Visiting a Desert"?   1. It is very dangerous to hike there. 2. You will see beautiful and interesting rocks. 3. The plants there are dangerous. 4. It is very windy in the Great Basin Desert. | | | |
| RI.3.9 | | Which two questions are answered in both texts, "Desert Variety” and “Visiting a Desert"?   1. What should you wear when you go to a desert? 2. Where can you find freezing-cold deserts? 3. Which animals live in the Sonoran Desert? 4. What do all deserts have in common? 5. Which plants grow in the Sonoran Desert? | | | |
| RI.3.9 | | What is a common purpose of these texts, "Desert Variety” and “Visiting a Desert"?   1. To tell which are the best deserts 2. To explain why deserts are different from each other 3. To give details about different deserts 4. To show how deserts became the driest places on Earth | | | |
| RI.3.9 | | What can you learn about in "Visiting a Desert” and “Desert Variety”?   1. Saguaro cacti 2. Watermelon snow 3. Spiny plants 4. The Great Basin Desert | | | |
|  | | Editing and Mechanics | | | |
|  | | **Read the following passage, and then answer the following questions.**  As Mom and I drove into Gilroy, California, we could see mountains in the distance. But they (1) weren’t headed to the mountains. There was a strong smell in the air, but we (2) were looking for the source.  Is this really the garlic capital of the world? (3) I asked Mom. She telled (4) me it was and explained that the town has acres and acres of garlic farms. As I inhaled, the aroma became even stronger. It reminded me of my grandmother’s delicious (5) cooking. I could almost taste her homemade spaghetti and meatballs covered in garlicky tomato sauce.  Fortunately, it was almost lunchtime. We would soon be eating lots of great garlicky’s food. (6) We were going to the Gilroy Garlic Festival. | | | |
| L.3.1 | | What is the best choice for the underlined phrase 2?   1. No change 2. the air, yet we 3. the air, as we 4. the air, and we | | | |
| L.3.2 | | What should the underlined phrase 3 be replaced with?  A. No change  B. Is this really the “garlic capital” of the world?  C. “Is this really the garlic capital of the world?”  D. “Is this really, the garlic capital, of the world?” | | | |
| L.3.1 | | What is the best choice for the underlined word 4?  A. No change  B. telling  C. tolded  D. told | | | |
| L.3.2 | | What is the best choice for the underlined phrase 6?  A. No change  B. We would soon be eating lots of great garlicky food.  C. Soon would eat lots of great garlicky food.  D. And soon be eating lots of great garlicky food. | | | |

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