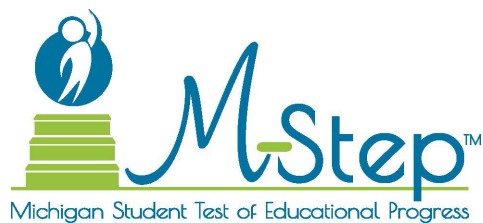




# English Language Arts

Sample Passage-Based Writing (PBW) Prompts  
with Sample Scored Student Essays

**Grade 3**



## Passage

Carefully read the passage. Then complete the task that follows.

### The Rhinoceros and the Bird

The rhinoceros was the grumpiest animal in all of Africa. He was always in a horrible mood. He stamped his feet, charged at any animal that passed by, and frightened all animals with his long, pointed horn. He seemed to almost enjoy throwing his weight around. He was so unpleasant and mean, none of the other animals would have anything to do with him. Because of this, he was also very lonely. That made him even grumpier.

One day, the rhinoceros stood alone snorting and grumbling to himself under a ginkgo tree. He noticed a little bird perched cheerfully on a branch above him.

"Hello down there," chirped the bird.

"Go away and leave me alone!" huffed the rhinoceros.

"I would like to ask you a question," the bird insisted.

The rhinoceros was so surprised that the bird was still speaking to him, he forgot to be grumpy. "Aren't you afraid of me?" asked the rhinoceros.

"Not at all," answered the bird. He was safely out of reach of the rhinoceros. Besides, the bird was too curious to be afraid.

"I was just wondering," continued the bird, "what in the world makes you so grumpy? You must know that's why you have no friends."

The rhinoceros stamped impatiently. "I know. I can't help it," he snapped. "You would feel bothered too, if your back were always as itchy as mine."

The bird looked down at the rhinoceros's back. "I see your problem!" tweeted the bird, as he hopped excitedly on his branch. "You have little bugs crawling all over your back."

"Well, now I know the reason," the rhinoceros shook his head. "But it still doesn't solve anything."

The little bird fluttered down to a lower branch to look more closely. "I think I can help you," said the bird.

"You?" The rhinoceros laughed. "How?"

The bird replied, "You are itchy, and I am hungry. Those bugs look delicious. If you will let me ride along on your back, I will get rid of those unwelcome visitors for you."

The rhinoceros thought about this. "Won't I look foolish walking around with a little bird on my back?" he worried.

"Some might say you look pretty foolish now," reasoned the bird, "standing here grumbling to yourself under a tree."

The rhinoceros could not argue with the bird's point. He agreed, and the little bird hopped onto his back.

The next day, the other animals saw an amazing sight. The rhinoceros was trotting across the plain with a tiny bird perched on his wrinkled shoulder. The rhinoceros felt so much better without the bugs on his back. He felt so good that he did not mind the strange looks he got from the others. His itch and his loneliness were both gone.

Even today, in Africa, you can still see little birds riding on the back of a rhinoceros.

## Passage-based Writing Prompt Student Responses

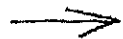
The bird is important to the story. **Write an essay explaining how the rhinoceros changes because of the actions of the bird.** Use evidence from the passage to support your response.

You may reference the passage as often as you need.

Remember, a well-written essay:

- shows understanding of the text
- uses details from the text for support
- is organized with an introduction and conclusion
- uses transitions and clear language
- follows rules of spelling, punctuation, and grammar

The rhinoceros changes throughout the beginning of the story to the end. In the beginning of the story the rhinoceros was the grumpiest animal in all of Africa, according to the passage. One reason of how I know that the rhinoceros was grumpy in the beginning of the story is because the author states that the rhinoceros was always in a horrible mood. And a horrible mood is a grumpy mood. Another reason why I know that he is so unhappy is because the passage said, "He was so unpleasant and mean, none of the other animals would have anything to do with him. Because of this, he was also very lonely. That made him even grumpier." I don't think it would be very nice to be so lonely so the rhinoceros is definitely grumpy. He is also probably pretty mean too. A reason of how I think he is probably mean is because before the little bird solved his problem of being so itchy (which was because there was bugs crawling all over his back), according to the passage, and said that he could help him, the rhinoceros



## PBW Final Response

just laughed and said, "You? How?" According to the passage. At the end of the story, the rhinoceros got a lot more happy. The rhinoceros got a lot more happy because he agreed to let the bird help him take away his itch by eating the bugs off his back. "I would be happy if someone helped me not be itchy." The rhinoceros felt so much better without the bugs on his back." So that is how the bird helped the rhinoceros change from grumpy to happy.

## The Rhinoceros and the Bird A-1 Score 4

This is a strong example of a 4. The response focuses on the changes of the rhinoceros due to the actions of the bird, and explains those changes with thorough analysis that is consistently and accurately supported by relevant text. Some of the analysis within this response successfully uses the student's opinion to explain the changes the rhinoceros experienced, and each example cited is linked to the task and the text. A less skillful response using the phrase of "I think" or "I know" may have veered off onto an unrelated opinion providing extraneous information about rhinos or birds, thereby losing focus of the task and text. The organization within the response is logical and consistent and is combined with thorough analysis that is related to the task.

- **Effectively addresses all parts of the task to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the text:** The student successfully comprehends the task of explaining how the rhinoceros changes because of the actions of the bird and uses substantial text to support his/her response.
- **Strong organizational structure and focus on the task:** This response is strongly focused on the change in the rhinoceros and has a logical progression of ideas that demonstrate the change based on the actions of the bird. There is an effective introduction, body, and conclusion.
- **Thorough analysis based on explicit and implicit meanings from the text:** *"because the auther states that the rhinoceros was always in a horrible mood. And a horrible mood is a grumpy mood."* *"Another reason why I know that his is so unhappy is because the passage said..."* *"I don't think it would be very nice to be so lonely so the rhinoceos is definetly grumpy."*, *"before the little bird solved his problem of being so itchy"* *"I would be happy if someone helped me not be itchy."* *"So that's how the bird helped the rhinoceros change from grumpy to happy."*
- **Substantial reference to the text and main ideas of the text:** *"In the beginning of the story the rhinoceros was the grumpiest animal in all of Afica, according to the passage."* *"He was so unpleasant and mean, none of the other animals would have anything to do with him. Because of this, he was also very lonely. That made him even grumpier."* *"The rhinoceros felt so much better without the bugs on his back."*
- **Skillful use of transitions to link ideas:** These transitions skillfully link ideas. *"In the beginning"* *"One reason"* *"Another reason"* *"Because of this"* *"He is also"* *"At the end"* *"So that is how"*
- **Effective use of precise language and domain-specific vocabulary drawn from the text:** *"throughout the beginning"* *"according to the passage"* *"definetly"* *"solved his problem"*
- **Few errors are present in conventions:** There are a few errors in spelling that do not interfere with meaning: The use of quotations followed by the phrase "according to the passage", which although not seamlessly integrated, is an attempt at a higher level writing skill.

## PBW Final Response

The rino was always grumpy. He also always thought about the negatives in life. But when bird came along he was always telling rino the positives. It made rino so happy he forgot to be mean to bird! So when rino was happy bird made a deal with rino. The deal was: If bird got to ride on rino's back he will take all the bug and ants off his back by eating them. (The bugs were making rino so mean and mad.) Rino was not quite sure about this but he finally decided he said, "OK then." Rino still didn't know if it was a good idea but he just went with it. Till that day rino was not mean or mad. And bird... well bird lets just say he was lucky he is still alive. Rino and bird





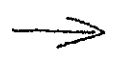
### The Rhinoceros and the Bird A-2 Score 3

This response is an example of a 3 that opens with some very insightful thought where the student has internalized and made an inference about the rhinoceros being negative and the bird being positive. This clearly connects to the text of the bird helping the rhinoceros not be mad anymore and ends with the two being friends.

- **Adequately addresses all parts of the task to demonstrate sufficient understanding of the text:** This response shows a clear understanding of how the actions of the bird affect how the rhinoceros changes.
- **Appropriate organizational structure and focus on the task:** There is a logical organizational structure starting with the rhinoceros being negative until he meets the bird (who is positive), moving through the bird helping the rhino and ending with the two being friends. The organization would be stronger if after the sentence “*Till (the student probably meant “After” based on the rest of the paper) that day rino was not mean or mad*” the student had added an explanation more clearly explaining why. For example, if the response had continued “because the itchy bugs were gone” it would be more evident why the rino was not mean or mad. The introduction and conclusion are appropriate, rather than strong.
- **Clear analysis based on explicit and implicit meanings from the text:** The analysis in the opening paragraph is very strong. “*he also always thought about the negatives in life. But when bird came along he was always telling rino the positives. It made rino so happy he forgot to be mean to bird! So when rino was happy bird made a deal with rino.*” There are more examples of analysis with “*Rino still didn’t know if it was a good idea but he just went with it. Till that day rino was not mean or mad.*” “*Rino and bird are still friends. They always have been and always will be friends.*”
- **Sufficient reference to the text and main ideas of the text:** The text chosen clearly connects to the analysis that the student set on paper. “*The deal was: If bird got to ride on rinos back he will take all the bug and ants of his back by eating them. (The bugs were making rino so mean and mad)*”
- **Appropriate use of transitions to link ideas:** “*he also always thought*” “*But when*” “*So when*” “*Till that day*” Ideas are linked appropriately within this response
- **Appropriate use of precise language and domain-specific vocabulary drawn from the text:** “*thought about the negatives in life.*” “*telling rino the positives.*” “*made a deal with*” These are examples of precise language beyond the text.
- **Some errors are present in conventions:** This response has errors in spelling, usage, and punctuation that seldom interfere with meaning.

PBW Final Response

<sup>he</sup> ~~First~~ <sup>was grumpy</sup> ~~one~~ <sup>rhinoceros</sup> of the reasons  
 is the ~~rhino~~ <sup>rhinoceros</sup> was very lonely. Another  
 reason is he had small, itchy  
 bugs all over his back. Also,  
 when the bird came one day  
 the rhinoceros was under  
 a tree and when the  
 bird found out what his  
 problem was he helped.  
 I know because the text  
 says he was under a "ginko tree"  
 and "I see your problem! I ~~fixed~~  
 the bird, as he hopped excitedly  
 on his branch. You have little  
 bugs crawling all over  
 your back." Further more,  
 the bird decided it would  
 help the rhino <sup>if he eat the bugs</sup> and the rhino  
 agreed. The next day "the  
 rhino was trotting across  
 the plain with a tiny bird



A3b

**PBW Final Response**

on his shoulder. I think he  
was as happy as he could  
be. In summary, I told you  
about how the rhinoceros  
and the bird fixed his problem.

### The Rhinoceros and the Bird A-3 Score 3

A clear understanding of the task and text is shown in this response. The student begins by pointing out why the rhinoceros was grumpy. Next, he/she identifies that the bird understands the problem and has a solution. Finally, the response ends with the rhinoceros being as happy as he could be. This highlights the transformation the rhino has gone through because of the bird's actions. The response integrates the quotes within the piece well, with the text chosen being appropriately connected to the student's analysis. This is an adequate response.

- **Adequately addresses all parts of the task to demonstrate a sufficient understanding of the text:** This response targets how the rhinoceros changes because of the actions of the bird.
- **Appropriate organizational structure and focus on the task:** An appropriate organizational structure is demonstrated here with a logical organization that points out the problem of the rhino and shows how the bird fixes the problem, thus showing the change in the rhinoceros. The introduction is adequate. A stronger introduction would have clarified how the explanation was going to develop rather than jumping right in to point out why the rhino was grumpy.
- **Clear analysis based on explicit and implicit meanings from the text:** Clear analysis which relates to the task of how the rhinoceros changes because of the actions of the bird is seen throughout the response. *“when the bird found out what his problem was he helped.”* *“Furthermore, the bird decided it would help the rhino if he eat the bugs”* *“I think he was as happy as he could be.”* *“the bird fixed his problem.”*
- **Substantial reference to the text and main ideas of the text:** The selected text chosen supports the analysis of the bird helping the rhino and the rhino's change. *“one of the reasons he was grumpy is the rhinoceros was very lonely.”* *“he had small itchy bugs all over his back.”* *“I see your problem! Tweeted the bird, as he hopped excitedly on his branch. You have little bugs crawling all over your back.”* *“The next day “the rhino was trotting across the plain with a tiny bird on his shoulder.”*
- **Appropriate use of transitions to link ideas:** *“First”* *“Also”* *“I know because”* *“Furthermore”* *“In summary”*.
- **Appropriate use of precise language and domain-specific vocabulary drawn from the text:** This response has vocabulary and language from and beyond the passage. *“Furthermore”* *“the bird decided it would help”* *“as happy as he could be”* *“In summary”*
- **Some errors are present in conventions:** Spelling and usage errors are seen in the response, but do not interfere with the meaning.

## PBW Final Response

Everyday so many animals run away from the rhinoceros. But inside he cares. He is so afraid to ask the other animals to be his friend. So every day he sits under a little ginkgo tree trying to scare away the other animals. He was always so lonely and would not be brave enough to just ask them to stay. So as he sits under the little ginkgo tree he hears a little bird he looks up the bird said hello. The rhinoceros said go away. But the bird kept talking. The rhinoceros was surprised that the bird was still talking to him. Aren't you afraid of me the rhinoceros said. No the bird was so curious to be afraid. You have bugs on your back said the bird hey if I take off the bugs on your back can I eat them. Yes but I would look like a fool with a bird

A4b

PBW Final Response

ON MY back. Im sure you will not. Then  
lets go. Now the rhinoceros and the bird  
became friends and lived happily ever  
after! The end

### The Rhinoceros and the Bird A-4 Score 3

This response is an example of a low 3. The paper begins with some very insightful analysis which the student has inferred from the reading of the passage. It is a logical interpretation that shows understanding of what the passage means. Following this analytical introduction, however, is a large chunk of retelling what happened in the passage. It is relevant, but heavy on the text. The final sentence is further analysis which saves the paper from dropping to a 2, because it refers back to the friendship of the rhino and the bird, thus connecting to the beginning paragraph about the rhino being friendless. A change has been shown in the rhino, due to the bird's actions. This response is adequate and shows an understanding of the task and text. If the retelling portion had not been so relevant to the task and without the final sentence, this paper would be scored a 2.

- **Adequately addresses all parts of the task to demonstrate a sufficient understanding of the text:** An understanding of how the bird's actions bring about a change in the rhinoceros is addressed here.
- **Appropriate organizational structure and focus on the task:** This response borders on the lower end of appropriate, due to the fact that a large part of the body turns into a retelling. The introduction is appropriate in that it sets up the paper referring to the rhino's loneliness. This is followed by a relevant retelling that clearly explains the bird's actions that lead to a change. The conclusion *"Now the rhinoceros and the bird became friends and lived happily ever after!"* wraps up the change that occurred showing the rhino is no longer alone.
- **Clear analysis based on explicit and implicit meanings from the text:** Very clear analysis is demonstrated in the beginning of the response. *"Everyday so many animals run away from the rhinoceros. But inside he cares. He is afraid to ask the other animals to be his friend. So every day he sits under a little ginko tree trying to scare away the other animals. He was always so lonely and would not be brave enough to just ask them to stay."* The final sentence is also analysis. *"Now the rhinoceros and the bird became friends and lived happily ever after!"*
- **Sufficient reference to the text and main ideas of the text:** *"So as he sits under the little ginkgo tree he hears a little bird...Then let's go"* This large portion of relevant text would have been better if it had been combined with explanation or analysis throughout the response.
- **Appropriate use of transitions to link ideas:** *"But inside"* *"So everyday"* *"So as he sits"* *"Now"* There are appropriate transitions. The summary portion is the weakest in the linking of ideas.
- **Appropriate use of precise language and domain-specific vocabulary drawn from the text:** *"inside he cares"* *"be his friend"* *"brave enough"* *"became friends"*
- **Some errors are present in conventions:** There are some errors in spelling and usage, and punctuation, but they seldom interfere with meaning.



The rhinoceros changes because he had bugs on his back and now the bird eats the bugs and now he is happy. The actions of the rhinoceros at the middle of the story he was grumpy because he said he felt so much better without bugs on his back. The bird was important to the rhinoceros because he helps him with the bugs on his back. The rhinoceros thought he would look foolish with a bird on his back. The bird and the rhinoceros got along well. The rhinoceros was itchy and the bird was hungry so, the bird ate the bugs and the rhinoceros felt good and wasn't grumpy any more.

## The Rhinoceros and the Bird A-5 Score 2

Limited analysis of text and inconsistent writing is demonstrated in this response. It consists of disconnected ideas that are accurate to the text, but are unexplained. Although the student demonstrates an understanding of the rhinoceros's change from grumpy to not grumpy due to the bird, these ideas are not well supported by relevant text, explained, or organized. There is little evidence of preplanning in this response.

- **Inconsistently addresses some parts of the task to demonstrate a partial understanding of the text:** A partial understanding is shown as to how the rhinoceros changes because of the actions of the bird. The student relayed some of what happened in the passage, but did not clearly explain why it happened. Why is the rhino now happy? How does the bird help him?
- **Weak organizational structure and focus on the task:** There is a weak organizational structure where many ideas are introduced, but not explained. The organization consists of ineffectively grouped ideas and is repetitive.
- **Inconsistent analysis based on explicit and/or implicit meanings from the text:** This response goes beyond a summary with analysis that shows some understanding of the change in the rhinoceros due to the actions of the bird. *“and now he is happy.” “The bird was important to the rhinoceros because he helps him with the bugs on his back” “The bird and the rhinoceros got along well.” “and wasn’t grumpy any more.”* Clear analysis would have told us why these inferences are true. These are missed opportunities.
- **Limited and/or vague reference to the text and main ideas of the text:** *“because he had bugs on his back and now the bird eats the bugs and” “The rhinoceros thought he would look foolish with a bird on his back.” “the rhinoceros was itchy and the bird was hungry”* These quotes are examples of text that are mostly unsupported and unexplained. The student has not provided the links between the chosen text and the analysis. These are missed opportunities.
- **Limited use of transitions to link ideas:** There are limited transitions which do not effectively link ideas. *“at the middle”*
- **Inconsistent use of precise language and domain-specific vocabulary drawn from the text:** Most of the vocabulary is from the text.
- **Some errors are present in conventions:** There are errors in spelling and punctuation but they do not interfere with meaning.

## PBW Final Response

The Rhino and the bird  
The bird was helpful because the rhino had bugs on his back and he did not like it. So the bird ate the bugs. Then the rhino was happy. First, the rhino was grumpy. He did not want any one pass him and if they did he would charge at them. Next, the bird went on his back to eat the bugs so the rhino was not itchy. Last, the rhino was happy and did not care what other animals said. In conclusion I think the rhino and the bird could be friends.

## The Rhinoceros and the Bird A-6 Score 2

This response is more than a summary and shows the student understood what happened in the passage. There is very little analysis or original thought to explain why the student understood how the actions of the bird affected the change in the rhinoceros. It somewhat follows the chronology of the text, with limited explanations of why the rhino changed with the help of the bird. Had the student extended the original thought or explanations and clearly connected those explanations to text details, the response would have been stronger.

- **Inconsistently addresses some parts of the task to demonstrate a partial understanding of the text:** The student has demonstrated they understand the change in the rhino from grumpy to happy and that the bird was helpful in that change, but the evidence is brief and the analysis or original thought is very limited.
- **Weak organizational structure and focus on the task:** The organization is choppy moving from one idea to the next very abruptly. There is a weak introduction and conclusion, in addition to limited development.
- **Inconsistent analysis based explicit and/or implicit meanings from the text:** There is limited analysis which shows some understanding of the change of the rhino in relation to the bird. *“The bird was helpful” “the rhino had bugs on his back and he did not like it.” “Last, the rhino was happy” “I think the rhino and the bird could be friends.”* A stronger response would have then gone further with these statements and explained why and how. This is a missed opportunity.
- **Limited reference to the text or main ideas of the text:** Limited and vague references to the text were made in this response. *“because the rhino had bugs on his back” “the rhino was grumpy. H did not want anyone pass him and if they did he would charge at them.” “didn’t care what other animals said.”* The student does not clearly explain why the text cited was chosen. The overall effect is vague.
- **Limited use of transitions to link ideas:** Although there are many transitional words within the piece, *“So” “Then” “First” “Next” “last” “In counclousion”* they are not actually transitioning between ideas. They are mostly highlighting what happens next in the text.
- **Inconsistent use of precise language and domain-specific vocabulary drawn from the text:** Most of the language is from the text.
- **Some errors are present in conventions:** There are errors in spelling, punctuation, and usage, but they do not interfere with meaning.

A7

Sample Response A7

PBW Final Response

One reason I think rhinoceroses changed because the little bride helped rhinoceroses get all the bugs off his back and I can't believe he was brave enough to go up and talk to a grumpy rhinoceros and you know how mean they can be. The second reason I think rhinoceroses changed because someone went up to talk to him and be nice. And those are some of the reasons I thought rhinoceroses has changed

## The Rhinoceros and the Bird A-7 Score 2

Although some nice conclusions were drawn showing the student understood at least part of the text, this response is weak and inconsistent. The analysis given is not clearly supported by text and the limited amount written does not allow for more than a limited response.

- **Inconsistently addresses some parts of the task to demonstrate a partial understanding of the text:** A partial understanding of the text is demonstrated with the limited references to how the rhinoceros changed due to the actions of the bird.
- **Weak Organizational structure and focus on the task:** This response begins with a weak introduction, followed by a small body with two inconsistently supported reasons, and finally closes with a weak conclusion.
- **Inconsistent analysis based explicit and/or implicit meanings from the text:** *“I thank rhinoseros canged because the little bride helped rhinoceros get all the bugs of his back and I can’t bleva he was brave enght to go up and talk to a grumpie rhinoceros and you know how mean they can be.” “because someone wen’t up to talk to him and be nice.”* These statements show some insight into how the actions of the bird have an effect on the rhinoceros, but because they are inadequately supported by relevant text the analysis is not clear.
- **Limited reference to the text and main ideas of the text:** There is limited reference to the main ideas of the text. *“little bride helped the rhinoceros get all the bugs of his back” “grumpie rhinoceros”*
- **Limited use of transitions to link ideas:** *“One reson” “The second reson” “And tose are some”*
- **Inconsistent use of precise language and domain-specific vocabulary drawn from the text:** There is some precise language in this very brief response.. *“brave enough to go up” “ someone went up to talk to him”*
- **Many errors are present in conventions:** There are many errors in spelling, usage, and punctuation that do sometimes interfere with meaning.

## PBW Final Response

How the Rhinoceros changed

Once upon a time there was a grumpy and very lonely Rhinoceros that had no friends. One day the Rhinoceros was under a cinkap tree stamping his feet. Then a bird saw the Rhino and asked it a question the bird asked him why he was so grumpy. But the Rhino just said "I can't help it." All of the sudden the bird used birds eye view on the Rhino's back and the bird said "I see your problem." Then the bird ate all of the bugs off of the Rhino's back. After that, the other animals saw an amazing sight they saw the Rhino trotting down the plain without any bugs on his back. This is



A8b

PBW Final Response

how the Rhinoceros changed his actions.



## The Rhinoceros and the Bird A-8 Score 1

A misunderstanding of the task, without an attempt at analysis, is the issue that holds this paper to a score of 1. The response is merely retelling a portion of the passage related to the rhinoceros and the bird. There is no analysis or even original thought within this response explaining how the rhinoceros changes due to the actions of the bird. Some of the text chosen is relevant to the task, but the student did not attempt to explain why he chose this information.

- **Minimally addresses part of the task to demonstrate an inadequate understanding of the text:** The student is summarizing part of the passage and not explaining how the rhinoceros's actions changed because of the actions of the bird. The task is being minimally addressed.
- **Minimal evidence of an organizational structure and focus on the task:** The organization follows the timeline of a portion of the passage. The phrase "*Once upon a time*" is an unsuccessful attempt at an introduction, and although there is a small conclusion, "*This is how the Rhinoceros changed his actions.*", it does not connect back to the ideas in the passage.
- **Minimal analysis based the text:** There is no original thought or analysis within this response.
- **Insufficient and minimal reference to the text and main ideas of the text:** This is merely a retelling of the passage and shows no understanding of the task.
- **Few if any transitions to link ideas:** There is a limited use of transitions within the piece. "*Then*" "*All of a sudden*" "*After that*" "*This is how*" They are not connecting ideas but rather retelling the text.
- **Little or no use of precise language:** The student uses some precise language "*birds eye view.*" However, this is not analysis and does not help explain the actions of the bird.
- **Some errors are present in conventions:** There are some errors in capitalization and sentence formation but they do not interfere with meaning.

PBW Final Response

The bird helps a rino  
not to be so mean.  
He also helps him with  
his bug problem to. but  
the rino does not agree  
with him because he thinks  
it will make him  
look silly. the bird  
says no it wont. So the  
rino says ok. The  
bird helped him with his  
his anger ishws and  
bug problem to.

1

## The Rhinoceros and the Bird A-9 Score 1

This response is a minimal analysis with a brief piece of text that is not relevant to the analysis given. The student understands that the bird helps the rhino with his bug problem and anger ishiws (issues), but does explain how. If the student had chosen relevant text details to support the analysis, the response would have been strengthened. For example, had been information about the bird eating the itchy bugs off the rhino's back which led the rhino to feeling better, the analysis would have been supported. As it is, there is not sufficient text to support the analysis provided.

- **Minimally addresses part of the text to demonstrate an inadequate understanding of the text:** There is a minimal understanding that the bird helps the rhino not to be so mean, but not enough is written to support this.
- **Minimal evidence of an organizational structure:** This response consists of a list of ideas which have no connection to each other. The beginning and ending sentences could be considered as an intro and conclusion. The organization is minimal.
- **Minimal analysis based on the text:** *“The bird helps a rino not to be so meen. He also helps him with his bug problem to.” “The bird helped him with his anger ishiws and bug problem to.”* These two pieces of analysis basically say the same thing. They show a partial understanding of how the bird helped the rhinoceros and also indicate a change in the rhinoceros from being mean and angry to not being mean.
- **Minimal and insufficient reference to the text and main ideas of the text:** *“but the rino does not agree with him because he thinks it will make him look silly the bird says no it won't”* This is an irrelevant piece of text. It has no connection with the analysis cited.
- **Minimal reference to the main ideas and relevant details of the text:** There is a minimal reference to the main idea of the text. *“He also helps him with his bug problem to.” “ishiws and bug problem to.”*
- **Few, if any, transitions to link ideas:** *“He also” “So”*
- **Little or no use of precise language or domain-specific vocabulary drawn from the text:** *“anger ishiws”*
- **Errors are present in conventions:** There are errors in spelling, usage, capitalization, and punctuation and they sometimes interfere with meaning.

PBW Final Response

The bird is important to the passage because he helps the rhino change his mood. It was mostly because he had bugs on his back. Therefore, he was very itchy. So, the bird helped the rhino lose his grump.

## The Rhinoceros and the Bird A-10 Score 1

This response demonstrates minimal analysis of the text and inadequate writing. Although this response has correct information partially explaining the change of the rhinoceros and does have references to the main idea of the text, there are many questions as to what actually happened. Why is the rhino grumpy? How did the bird help the rhino? How does having bugs on his back make the rhino grumpy? How did his mood change after he lost his grump? This is an example of a low 1.

- **Minimally addresses part of the task to demonstrate an inadequate understanding of the text:** A minimal understanding of the task and text is demonstrated here.
- **Minimal evidence of an organizational structure:** There is an attempt to organize this brief response, with a small intro and a small conclusion, but because of the brevity of the response the organization is considered minimal.
- **Minimal analysis based on the text:** Within this brief response, the two pieces of general analysis are *“because he helps the rhino change his mood”* *“So the bird helped the rhino lose his grump.”*
- **Minimal and insufficient reference to the text and main ideas of the text:** *“the rhino lose his grump”* *“he had bugs on his back”*.
- **Few, if any, transitions to link ideas:** *“Therefore”* *“So”* It is difficult to adequately link ideas in a brief response such as this.
- **Little or no use of precise language or domain-specific vocabulary drawn from the text:** *“mood”* *“lose his grump”* There is little use of precise language in this response.
- **Few errors, if any, are present in conventions:** There is a spelling error in this response that does not interfere with meaning.

PBW Final Response

The wind changed  
actions because the bird  
ate the bugs on his back

I

## The Rhinoceros and the Bird A-11 Score Insufficient

This response is too insufficient to be assessed by the criteria on the rubric. This one sentence response is correct in stating that the rhino changed actions because the bird ate the bugs, but reflects an answer to a question and not an attempt at an essay.

PBW Final Response

The bird is important  
because they can help  
echoter and do good.  
and have fun.

The end

I



## The Rhinoceros and the Bird A-12 Score Insufficient

This response is too insufficient to be assessed by the criteria on the rubric. This one sentence response may have some understanding that the bird and rhino help each other, but one very vague sentence is not sufficient to be scorable.

PBW Final Response

The rhinoceros changes because the bird from the story had to support his response.

I

The Rhinoceros and the Bird A-13 Score Insufficient

This response is too insufficient to be assessed by the criteria on the rubric. This response is comprised mainly of the prompt words.

The rhinoceros changes his actions because of the bird. The rhinoceros was the grumpiest animal in all of Africa. He was so unpleasant and mean, none of the other animals would have anything to do with him. Because of this, he was also very lonely. That made him even grumpier. The rhinoceros was so surprised that the bird was still speaking to him, he forgot to be grumpy. "Aren't you afraid of me?" asked the rhinoceros. The little bird fluttered down to a lower branch to look more closely. "I think I can help you," said the bird. "Why?" The rhinoceros laughed. "How?" The rhinoceros thought about this. "Won't I look foolish walking around with a little bird on my back?" he worried. The rhinoceros

## PBW Final Response

could not argue with bird's point. He agreed and the little bird hopped onto his back. The rhinoceros felt so much better without the bugs on his back. He felt so good, that he didn't mind the strange looks he got from others. His itch and his loneliness were both gone. That was how the bird changes the rhinoceros actions.

C

## The Rhinoceros and the Bird A-14 Score Copied

This response is not scorable based on the criteria on the rubric. The first line and last line have rearranged the words of the prompt. The body of the response is fully copied following the passage chronologically, although some sections have been skipped.

## Acknowledgments

Sampler material used with permission of the South Carolina Department of Education. The grade 3 anchor set displayed with this sampler was developed from the field test items administered in October 2017.