

2027 MCAS Sample Student Work and Scoring Guide

Grade 3 English Language Arts Practice Test

Question 13: Extended Response

Reporting Categories: Language and Writing

Standard: [L.PK-12.1](#) – Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

Standard: [L.PK-12.2](#) – Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Standard: [L.PK-12.3](#) – Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

Standard: [W.PK-12.1](#) – Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Standard: [W.PK-12.4](#) – Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Extended Response Prompt

Write a response that is about **one paragraph** in length.

Be sure to:

- Include an opinion based on the passage.
- Use evidence from the passage to support the opinion.
- Use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Based on “The Wind in His Mustache,” write a response that states an opinion about which challenge was the **most** difficult for George to overcome on his journey. Use evidence from the passage to support your response.

Continue to the following page to see the scoring guides for this question. Sample student responses begin on page 3.

Scoring Guide for Written Expression

Select a score point in the table below to view the sample student response.

Score*	Description
<u>3A</u> <u>3B</u>	- clearly explains ideas - thoroughly uses evidence to support ideas - clearly organizes ideas
<u>2A</u> <u>2B</u>	- partially explains ideas - adequately uses evidence to support ideas - partially organizes ideas
<u>1A</u> <u>1B</u>	- minimally explains ideas - insufficiently uses evidence to support ideas - minimally organizes ideas
<u>0A</u> <u>0B</u>	does not address the question or incorrectly responds to the question

Scoring Guide for Standard English Conventions

Select a score point in the table below to view the sample student response.

Score*	Description
<u>2A</u> <u>2B</u> <u>2C</u>	- mostly consistent control of sentence structure relative to the length of the response - mostly consistent control of grammar, usage, and mechanics relative to the length of the response - any errors do not interfere with communication
<u>1A</u> <u>1B</u> <u>1C</u>	- some control of sentence structure relative to the length of the response - some control of grammar, usage, and mechanics relative to the length of the response - some errors begin to interfere with communication
<u>0A</u> <u>0B</u>	- incorrectly formed sentences with no control of grammar, usage, and mechanics and/or sentences of insufficient length - contains many errors that interfere with communication

*In both Scoring Guides, letters are used to distinguish between sample student responses that earned the same score (e.g., 2A and 2B).

Written Expression—Score Point 3A**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 2A**

There are a lot of problems in the story that George Lothar solves. I think his biggest problem is the hills because he had no brakes on his bike. I know this because in paragraph 23 it says “Hills were bad. He had to get off his bike and push it up steep slopes, then walk it down since he had no brakes. Coaster brakes wouldn’t be invented for another three years.” This was a big problem because he had no brakes. It was solved by him getting an idea to slow down at the end of the hill. I know this because in paragraph 26 it says “At the top of the next hill George gathered some branches, tied them together, and leaped onto his bike. He coasted downhill dragging the brush to slow himself down, raising a cloud of dust that could be seen for miles.” This is how I know he solved his biggest problem that is the hills.

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Written Expression—Score Point 3B**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 2B**

In my opinion the most difficult challenge for George is crossing the streams and rivers. George had a lot of challenges but I think this was the hardest one. The text says “If hills were a problem, water was worse.” Sometimes the streams were a little too deep and there was no bridge so he had to hold his bicycle over his head. He would get all wet but also had to make sure that the bicycle did not get wet. In the text it says “When a stream was too high to pedal through, he would wade across, holding his bike and supplies overhead.” That is how George overcame the most difficult challenge on the journey.

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Written Expression—Score Point 2A**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 2C**

It was difficult for George to keep his bike working. He had to keep putting air in his tires and he had to fix the handlebars and chain. It said George "replaced and repaired so many parts that it could hardly be said he was riding the same bicycle." I think it was a really big challenge to keep the bike working but he did it.

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Written Expression—Score Point 2B**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 1A**

At the beginning George faces the biggest challenge of hitting a stake and flying over his handlebars down an embankment I can tell because in paragraph 21 it says “Luckily some railroad folks threw him a rope, or he might have been stuck there for days.” This sentence helps me understand George faced a really big challenge on his adventure!!!

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Written Expression—Score Point 1A**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 1B**

George overcomes a big challenge. Because on paragraphs 28 it says “George dropped his “brakes’ and held on for dear life, zipping across the tracks just before the train zoomed by, fluttering his mustache in the breeze of passing.”

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Written Expression—Score Point 1B

Standard English Conventions—Score Point 0A

two kids popped the wheels. his tires got popped so. he had to pump them it took long to get there.

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Written Expression—Score Point 0A

Standard English Conventions—Score Point 1C

He's on his bike. He likes to explore. He can do a wheelie. You can ride with your friends. It have a seat. It have handles.

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Written Expression—Score Point 0B

Standard English Conventions—Score Point 0B

he interested in the club and feeled confindint

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