**Writing Standards in Action Project**

**Abbreviated Commentary**

Abbreviated Commentary consists of the following:

* A student writing sample that illustrates what performance to grade level standards looks like—in action
* General information about the sample
* Massachusetts learning standards met by the sample
* Highlights that describe how the sample meets standards in the *Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts and Literacy (2017)* and other content frameworks when applicable

**Please note:**

Student writing samples may contain inaccuracies in wording and content or shortcomings in the use of standard English conventions.

**General Information:**

**Writing Sample Title:** Hello

**Text Type and Purpose:** Inform/Explain andNarrate

**Grade level/Content areas:** Grade 3 English language arts; Grade 3 history/social science

**Type of Assignment­­­­­­­­­:** Letter to Describe Hardships Experienced by Pilgrims in the New World

**Standards Addressed:** (W.3.3), (W.3.8), (L.3.1), (L.3.3), (L.3.5), (History and Social Science 3.10)

**Highlights from the Sample:**

This sample of student work meets grade level standards. It demonstrates the following attributes of effective writing. The sample:

* Introduces a Pilgrim narrator who tells a clear, compelling story of harsh living conditions endured during the first winter in the New World *(My winter here has been very cold and bitter…* *And for most of winter we stayed on the ship as before.)*
* Reveals through descriptions of thoughts and feelings the narrator’s responses to life in the New World *(...the dread ship...But Ah when spring comes...)*
* Features vivid figurative language and descriptive details to develop the narrator’s experiences *(...the wind whistles through the boards as frost creeps through the house... cold fresh water from the stream... he taught us to plant corn with a fish...)*
* Reinforces in an effective closing statement the harshness of living conditions in the New World *(The ink is freezing...)*
* Uses words and phrases evocative of the period to lend authenticity to the narrator’s voice *(...the sickness... Ah when spring comes we shall... We all have had our bout... But some fare...* *as before...)*

Hello,

My winter here has been very cold and bitter. Mother died from the sickness. And the wind whistles through the boards as frost creeps through the house. And we are still eating what we ate on the dread ship. But Ah when spring comes we shall plant the crops and will gather all the fruits and refresh ourselves with cold fresh water from the stream. We saw a Wampanoag today and as spring is near he taught us to plant corn with a fish and help us in many other ways. We all have had our bout with the sickness. But some fare mo well with it than others. And for most of winter we stayed on the ship as before.

The ink is freezing.