

# 2022 MCAS Sample Student Work and Scoring Guide

## Grade 3 English Language Arts

### Question 13: Constructed-Response

**Reporting Categories:** Reading

**Standard:** R.PK-12.9 - Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

**Item Description:** Write a paragraph that compares an important point presented in both the story and the passage, using important details from both texts.

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### Constructed-Response Prompt

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Based on *A Grand Old Tree* and "How the Forest Grew," write a paragraph that explains how trees are important to animals. Support your response with important details from the story and the passage.

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### Scoring Guide

Select a score point in the table below to view the sample student response and annotations that describe elements of the response that contributed to its score.

Score*	Description
<a href="#">3A</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Demonstrates full understanding of the reading material</li><li>Includes important and specific evidence/details for support</li></ul>
<a href="#">3B</a>	
<a href="#">2A</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Demonstrates partial understanding of the reading material</li><li>Includes some important evidence/details for support</li></ul>
<a href="#">2B</a>	
<a href="#">1A</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Demonstrates minimal understanding of the reading material</li><li>Includes little or no evidence/details for support</li></ul>
<a href="#">1B</a>	
<a href="#">0</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Demonstrates no understanding of the reading material</li><li>Includes insufficient evidence/details for support</li></ul>

\*Letters are used to distinguish between sample student responses that earned the same score (e.g., 3A and 3B).

**Score Point 3A**

The constructed response clearly explains how trees are important to animals by providing specific details from both the story and the passage. Details selected from *A Grand Old Tree* show that the tree “bore fruit, and sowed seeds” and provided homes for birds and a place for squirrels, caterpillars, and ladybugs to crawl on, explaining that trees are an important source of food and shelter. The quote selected from “How the Forest Grew” explains that growing trees attract brush-dwelling birds that replace field dwellers, as well as weasels and foxes. The paragraph demonstrates a full understanding of the reading material and provides important details from both the story and the passage.

Trees are important to animals because they give shelter and food. One example is in paragraph 4 in *A Grand Old Tree*. It states "The grand old tree flowered, bore fruit, and sowed seeds." Another example is in paragraph 3 in *The Grand Old Tree*, it states "She was home to many creatures. Birds nested among her branches, squirrels scurried through her leaves, caterpillars and ladybugs crawled about." The last example is that in paragraph 9 in *How The Forest Grew*, it states "As the pine trees grew, brush-dwelling birds moved onto the land, replacing field dwellers. Weasels and foxes who caught mice, rabbits and birds moved in, too." That is why trees are important to animals.

[Back to Scoring Guide](#)

**Score Point 3B**

The constructed response clearly explains how trees are important to animals by providing specific details from both the story and the passage. Details selected from “How the Forest Grew” explain that trees provide seeds as a food source for animals and as a nesting place for birds. The quote selected from *A Grand Old Tree* provides an example of how trees are important: “Raccoons nested in the tree[']s trunk.” The paragraph demonstrates a full understanding of the reading material by providing important details from both the story and the passage.

This is how trees are important to animals. For example in "How the Forest Grew" animals need trees because the trees blew seeds and some animals eat seeds. Based on what I read I know that animals need trees because birds need a place for their nest and squirrels need their nuts for food. According to the text animals need trees because in "A Grand Old Tree" in paragraph 12 "Raccoons nested in the trees trunk." Those are the reasons how trees are important to animals.

[Back to Scoring Guide](#)

**Score Point 2A**

The constructed response partially explains how trees are important to animals by providing some details from both the story and the passage. The response explains that in *A Grand Old Tree*, the tree provided a home to “birds, caterpillars, ladybug[s] and more!” While the response also explains that in “How the Forest Grew,” “birds, weasels, foxes, rabbits and more lived in the [one] tree,” it lacks specificity and indicates only a partial understanding of the passage. The response further states that “Trees are homes, places for babies, and food storage for animals” but no additional explanation is provided. The response demonstrates a partial understanding of the reading material by providing some supporting details from both the story and the passage.

In "A Grand Old Tree", the old tree was a home to birds, caterpillars, ladybuga and more! The old tree had many squirrels scurrieing everywere. In "How The Forest Grew", Many anilmals like birds, weasels, foxes, rabbits and more lived in the oine tree. Thoose animals from "How The Forest Grew" moved in the pine tree when it was still growing. Trees are home's, places for babies, and food storage for animals.

[Back to Scoring Guide](#)

**Score Point 2B**

The constructed response partially explains how trees are important to animals by providing some details from both the story and the passage. The response states that the tree was important in *A Grand Old Tree* because animals “made homes and nests on her and ate her fruit.” The details selected from “How the Forest Grew” state that “black berries grew and birds ate them” and “hawks and owl[s] hunted for their food.” However, the response does not clearly explain how these details are connected to the idea that trees are important to animals. The response demonstrates partial understanding of the reading material by providing some supporting details from both the story and the passage.

In a grand old tree many animals lived on her and made homes and nests on her and ate her fruit. And in how the forest grew black berries grew and birds ate them. Birds rabbits moles woodchuks and more came hawks and owl hunted for their food snakes came to eat little creatures. Thats how i think trees are important for animals

[Back to Scoring Guide](#)

**Score Point 1A**

The constructed response provides a minimal explanation of how trees are important to animals. The response does not make clear whether the little information it provides comes from the story or the passage, as both texts mention animals making homes in trees. The response demonstrates only minimal understanding of the reading material by not providing enough supporting details to explain how trees are important to animals.

The trees are good to the animals becus the animals can make a home out of the trees and some bugs like to eat dead trees and the trees help animals breth.

[Back to Scoring Guide](#)

**Score Point 1B**

The constructed response provides a minimal explanation of how trees are important to animals. The response does not include specifics beyond listing that trees provide a place to “live, sleep and eat.” It is not clear if the information comes from the story or the passage. The response demonstrates minimal understanding of the reading material about how trees are important to animals.

the trees give the animals a place to live, sleep and eat.

[Back to Scoring Guide](#)

**Score Point 0**

The constructed response includes a sentence that mentions both *A Grand Old Tree* and “How the Forest Grew,” but does not explain how trees are important to animals. The sentence does not demonstrate understanding of the reading material as it relates to the question.

The grand old tree explains how there was a grand old tree. And How the forest grew Is more about facts.

[Back to Scoring Guide](#)