

**Grade 3**  
**English Language Arts/Literacy**  
**End of Year Short/Medium**  
**Informational Text**

**2019 Released Items**

## **2019 Released Items: Grade 4 End-of-Year Short/Medium Informational Text Set**

The End-of-Year short/medium (S/M) informational text set requires students to read a literary text and answer questions.

The 2019 blueprint for the grade 3 End-of-Year S/M informational text set includes Evidence-Based Selected Response/Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response items.

### **Included in this document:**

- Answer key and standards alignment
- PDFs of each item with the associated text(s)

### **Additional related materials not included in this document:**

- Sample scored student responses with annotations and practice papers
- Scoring Rubric for Prose Constructed Response Items
- Guide to English Language Arts/Literacy Released Items: Understanding Scoring

**Release Items Answer and Alignment Document ELA/ Literacy:  
Grade 3**

<b>Text Type:</b> S-M Info		
<b>Passage(s):</b> "Winter's Tail"		
<b>Item Code</b>	<b>Answer(s)</b>	<b>Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment</b>
<b>VH046601</b>	<b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A: C</b> <b>Part B: A</b>	L 3.4.1 RI 3.1.1 RI 3.4.1
<b>VH046617</b>	<b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A: A</b> <b>Part B: C</b>	RI 3.1.1 RI 3.7.1
<b>VH046620</b>	<b>Item Type: TECR</b> 	RI 3.1.1 RI 3.2.2
<b>VH046283</b>	<b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A: C</b> <b>Part B: D</b>	RI 3.1.1 RI 3.3.2

Read the article "Winter's Tail." Then answer the questions.

Winter's Tail

*by* Shannon Teper

- 1** In Mosquito Lagoon, a two-month-old dolphin struggled to break free from the rope wrapped around her. Seeing a crab trap in the Florida waters, she had become curious and swam too close. The line attached to the trap coiled around her tail. The harder she pulled to swim away, the tighter the rope became.
- 2** Luckily, a fisherman saw the injured baby dolphin and called for help. A rescue team brought the dolphin to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium in Florida. There the baby was given the name Winter.

A Struggle to Survive

- 3** When she arrived, the flat part of Winter's tail was thin and white, like paper. Over the next few weeks, it fell off. All that was left was a rounded stump where her tail had once been. No dolphin had ever survived losing an entire tail before.
- 4** More than 150 volunteers and veterinarians cared for Winter around the clock. They fed her a special mix of baby formula and mashed-up fish. Winter grew healthier each day. She even learned to swim without a tail.
- 5** But Winter wasn't swimming like a dolphin. Dolphins move their tails up and down. Since Winter had no tail, she whipped her whole body from side to side and swam like a shark. Veterinarians worried that Winter would injure her spine by twisting it in an unusual way.

## A New Tail for Winter



- 6 That's when Kevin Carroll got involved. He heard Winter's story on the radio and called the aquarium. He told them he made artificial limbs for animals. He had made body parts for dogs, an ostrich, and even a duck. Maybe he could make a tail for Winter. Winter had no tail at all. So Carroll designed a bendable plastic tail that would slip over the end of her body. A gel would be used to hold the artificial tail in place and protect Winter from getting sore when the tail rubbed against her skin.
- 7 First, trainers helped Winter stretch and bend certain parts of her body, strengthening the muscles she needed to use for swimming. Then they attached her new tail, helping her learn how to move it up and down. Soon, Winter could use her new tail to swim like other dolphins.
- 8 Now, people from all over the world come to meet Winter. Her determination to swim with an artificial tail inspires visitors who also have disabilities.
- 9 Bailee Lorg from Knoxville, Tennessee, watched Winter splash and swim. "It's great that she has a fake leg like me," said the four-year-old. "I love her, and I'm so glad that we're both special together."

"Winter's Tail" by Shannon Teper, photographs courtesy of Clearwater Marine Aquarium, from HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN, INC. Copyright © 2010

**1. Part A**

What does the word **designed** mean as it is used in paragraph 6 of the article?

- A. took an action meant to help people or animals
- B. made a step toward healing and recovering
- C. created a plan for building
- D. controlled a problem in a new way

**Part B**

Which statement supports the answer to Part A?

- A. “. . . he could make a tail for Winter.”
- B. “A gel would be used to hold the artificial tail in place. . . .”
- C. “First, trainers helped Winter stretch and bend certain parts of her body. . . .”
- D. “. . . they attached her new tail, helping her learn how to move it up and down.”

**2. Part A**

How does the picture of Winter with a person help the reader understand more about Winter?

- A. It shows what the tail looks like.
- B. It shows how strong Winter has become.
- C. It shows what a dolphin looks like when swimming.
- D. It shows that Winter is a completely healthy dolphin.

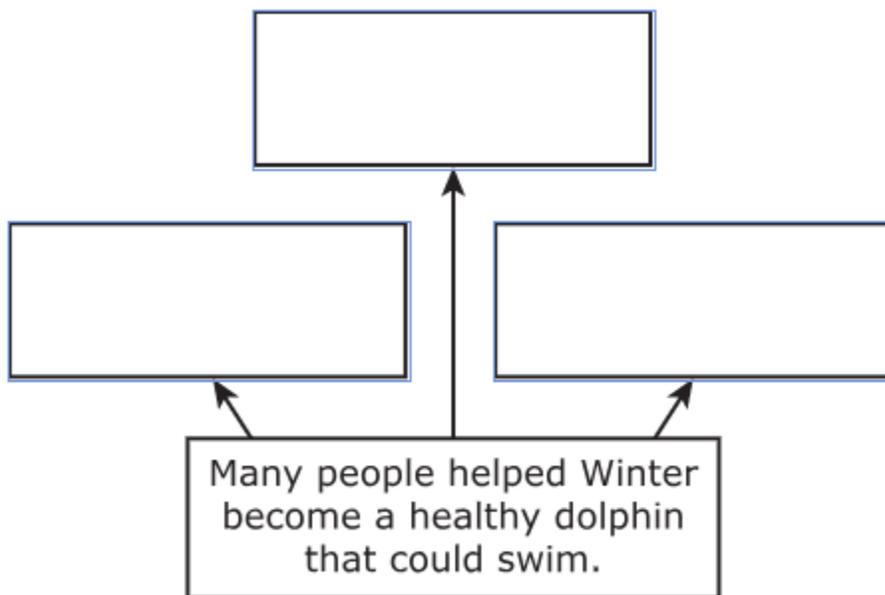
**Part B**

Which paragraph from the article **best** describes what is shown in the picture of Winter with a person?

- A. paragraph 4
- B. paragraph 5
- C. paragraph 7
- D. paragraph 8

3. Many people helped Winter become a healthy dolphin that could swim. Select **three** statements that describe how people helped Winter. Drag and drop each statement into one of the blank spaces in the graphic organizer.

People from all over the world came to cheer Winter on.	Veterinarians fed her baby formula and fish.
A fisherman found the dolphin and sent for aid.	Bailee Lorg helped Winter grow stronger each day.
Trainers stretched her muscles to make her stronger.	



**4. Part A**

What effect did Winter's new tail have on her swimming?

- A. It allowed her to swim when she was far from people.
- B. It allowed her to swim from one side to another.
- C. It allowed her to swim the way she used to.
- D. It allowed her to swim in a small area.

**Part B**

Which statement from the article supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "She even learned to swim without a tail."
- B. ". . . when the tail rubbed against her skin."
- C. "Then they attached her new tail. . . ."
- D. ". . . could use her new tail to swim like other dolphins."