

# Third Grade Opinion Writing Task

## STOP BUGGING ME!

*Worms, Bees and Ants: Pests or Pals to Plants and Humans?*

*By Beryl Irene Bailey, Ed.D., CCC/SLP*



### Student Edition

- 1. Garden Helpers** ( *The Comprehension Toolkit by Harvey & Goudvis*)
- 2. Making Honey** ( *The Comprehension Toolkit by Harvey & Goudvis*)
- 3. The Super Ant** ( *The Comprehension Toolkit by Harvey & Goudvis*)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

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**Task #1**

Grade 3 Shared Reading Article: *Our Garden Helpers*

1. The author writes, "Worms are wet and wiggly." **Identify** the literary device the author uses to describe worms.
  - a) alliteration
  - b) hyperbole
  - c) personification
  - d) simile
  
2. Reread your article, *Our Garden Helpers*, **circle the letter or letters** of the text feature(s) that the author provides the reader to help her to know the parts of the worm. **(Circle all that apply.)**
  - a) bold print
  - b) inset
  - c) Labeled diagram
  - d) Photograph
  - e) Side bar
  - f) Title
  
3. "Worms are good diggers. They dig tunnels. These tunnels help our plants. The tunnels loosen the soil so that air and water can reach the roots of the plants."

**Reread** the sentence above and **determine** how the author has structured this sentence. **Circle** the letter of the text structure.

- a) cause & effect
- b) compare & contrast
- c) problem & solution
- d) sequence

4. **Describe** how a worm digs tunnels without fingers.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Task #2

Grade 3: **Making Honey**

5. The author writes, *“Another worker bee is waiting to suck the honey out of the returning bee’s backpack. She sits around and chews on it for a half hour or so before she **deposits** it into a bunch of holes in the hive known as a honeycomb.”*

The word **deposits**, in this context, most nearly means \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) drops
- b) leaves
- c) puts
- d) stores

6. The author writes, *“Water evaporates from the chewed-up nectar, making it pretty thick. The bee **seals** off the hole in the honeycomb with a kind of wax to protect the honey.”*

The word **seals**, in this context most nearly means \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) closes
- b) conceals
- c) corners
- d) circles

7. The author writes, *“The beekeeper **harvests** a lot of the honey but leaves enough for the bees to live on during seasons when flowers are not in bloom.”*

The word **harvests**, in this context most nearly means \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) cleans
- b) collects
- c) covers
- d) creates

8. **Sequence** the steps that bees take to make honey. Use sequence or signal words and **evidence from the text**. Use the word bank to help you write your answer.

a) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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d) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

|                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Word Bank                                                                     |
| Worker bee, backpack, nectar, flowers, collect, evaporate,<br>honeycomb, suck |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Task #3

Grade 3 Shared Reading Article *The Super Ant*

9. The author writes, “*You have probably seen a single ant scurrying across the kitchen floor. You can be certain that where there is one ant, there are several. Or more like several thousand.*”

The concept of several thousand most likely represents \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) One thousand ants
- b) Two thousand ants
- c) Three hundred ants
- d) Four thousand ants

10. **Explain** how the author’s choice of words in paragraph 6 might help the reader to understand what ants use to find food. **Identify** the literary device used and **infer** what the author meant.

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11. Use evidence from the text, and write the context clues that the author used to help the reader know what the word **peril** means.

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## Grade 3 Opinion Performance Writing

### STOP BUGGING ME!

#### Worms, Bees and Ants: Pests or Pals to Plants and Humans?

**Directions:** Do worms take over the sidewalk after it rains? Do bees bother you when they buzz in your ear or sting you? Do ants help themselves to your food when you leave it out? If you answered yes to these questions, you may think that these insects or bugs are pests and do not help anyone. Although some bugs or insects might bother people, they are sometimes useful. **Read the articles and write a two page opinion essay informing your teacher whether worms, bees or ants are pests or pals to plants and humans. Include key details about the insects and bugs in your response.**

|                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>S</b>                                                                                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Stated the topic or name of the article in my response.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Stated my opinion in my response.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Supplied reasons to support my opinion                                |
| <b>U</b>                                                                                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Used pictures and details from the articles in my response.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Used words from the bank and classroom discussions.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Used capital letters and end punctuation marks. |
| <b>R</b>                                                                                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed my response for neatness.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>E</b>                                                                                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Every high frequency word is spelled correctly.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Ended my opinion with a conclusion sentence (last, finally)                                                                                 |
| <p><b>Word Bank</b></p> <p><b>Nectar, scurrying, pollen, scent, bristles, castings, soil, dig pollinate</b></p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |



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