

## Third Grade 2018 -2019 ELA Study Guide First Nine Weeks

*Students will be taking a nine-week English Language Arts (ELA) test at the end of the nine-week grading period. This nine-week test and study guide will help students prepare for their end of grade ELA test.*

*For this test, students will have to read a non-fictional, fictional, folktale and poetry selection. Each selection contains questions based on a passage. Below you will find a sample passage with questions. This packet also includes examples of question stems and vocabulary words the students will see on the test.*

*A great way to study is to practice these question stems with your child's AR book. This will help them understand the wording in the questions.*

### Important ELA Vocabulary

<b><u>adjective</u></b> A part of speech that describes a person, place or thing	<b><u>central message</u></b> The main idea or most important part of a written selection; theme	<b><u>character</u></b> A person, thing, or animal in a story, poem, book, play or movie
<b><u>character's feelings</u></b> The emotions or opinions expressed by a character	<b><u>character's motivation</u></b> The cause of a character's actions or feelings	<b><u>character trait</u></b> A description of a character that may include physical appearance, personality, speech, behavior actions, thoughts, feelings, or interactions with other characters
<b><u>conclusion</u></b> The closing or ending of a written selection	<b><u>event</u></b> A happening in a story, book, play or poem	<b><u>fable</u></b> A story that is meant to teach a useful lesson
<b><u>folktale</u></b> A story passed down from one generation to another by people of a country or region	<b><u>genre</u></b> A category used to classify literature	<b><u>illustration</u></b> A picture, diagram, drawing, or map used to explain or decorate
<b><u>detail</u></b> A small part of a whole; specific information about the main idea	<b><u>main idea</u></b> The most important thought or message in a paragraph or story	<b><u>mood</u></b> The feeling that a literary work conveys to readers
<b><u>noun</u></b> A part of speech that names a person, place, thing or idea	<b><u>plot</u></b> The actions or events in a story, book, movie, or play	<b><u>poem</u></b> A composition written in verse that often uses rhythm and/or rhyme
<b><u>setting</u></b> The time and place of a story	<b><u>solution</u></b> The answer to a problem	<b><u>stanza</u></b> A group of lines that makes up a verse of a poem or a song
<b><u>sequence</u></b> The order in which things are arranged, actions are carried out, or events happen	<b><u>text feature</u></b> An element that stands out from other parts of a text to help the reader understand	<b><u>theme</u></b> The main idea or most important part of a selection

**Sample Passage. Read the passage and answer questions 1-12.**

### **Birds**

1 Many birds make their nests in the spring. Most nests are shaped like a cup. Birds make their nests out of dry grass and small twigs. Some birds use string or yarn they find on the ground, too.

2 Birds make nests so they can lay their eggs. The mother bird sits on the eggs. Her body keeps the eggs from getting cold. She sits on them until they hatch. Most eggs hatch after about two weeks. Baby birds look very funny. They have no feathers yet. Their bodies are covered with fluff. Their feathers grow in after a few weeks.

3 Baby birds are born with their eyes open. Some birds have small eyes. Other birds have big eyes. All birds can see well now matter how big their eyes are. Birds can see better than people.

4 Baby birds like to eat. They are always hungry. Mother birds are very busy. They are always looking for food for their babies. Sometimes they bring worms. Other times they bring bugs. The mother bird crushes the food in her beak first. Then she gives the food to the babies. Baby birds open their mouth and wait for the food. Sometimes a baby taps its mother's beak. That is the baby's way of saying, "I'm hungry!"

5 Baby birds are ready to fly about two weeks after they hatch. That is when their bones are strong. That is also when they have all their feathers. Birds learn to fly much like a child learns to walk. They have to practice. Sometimes it takes a while for baby birds to get the hang of flying.

6 Baby birds often fall out of the nest as they learn how to fly. They hop around on the ground and call for their parents. The parents show them how to stay safe under bushes. If you see a baby bird on the ground, leave it alone. It might be learning how to fly. Its parents are probably close by.

7 Baby birds live in the nest for a while longer after they learn to fly. They still need help finding food. Their parents also **protect** them from

animals that could hurt them. Baby birds are ready to live on their own after about two months. That is when they leave their parents and their nest.

**Use the passage Birds to answer questions 1-12.**

1. What is the main idea of the selection?

- A. Birds make great pets.
- B. How birds begin to fly.
- C. The stages of a bird's life.
- D. Birds are born with their eyes open.

(3.RI.2)

2. How long does it take bird eggs to hatch?

- A. two days
- B. two weeks
- C. two months
- D. two years

(3.RI.1)

3. What does a mother bird do before she gives food to her baby?

- A. She crushes the food.
- B. She tastes the food.
- C. She eats the food.
- D. She taps the food.

(3.RI.3)

4. According to the selection why does a mother bird sit on her eggs?

- A. The mother bird sits on the eggs so they will not hatch.
- B. The mother bird sits on the eggs so they do not get warm.
- C. The mother bird sits on the eggs so they do not get cold.
- D. The mother bird sits on the eggs so they do not fall from the nest.

(3.RI.1)

5. What do you think the baby bird will do once its bones get strong?

- A. The baby bird will try to fly.
- B. The baby bird will grow feathers.
- C. The baby bird will find its own food.
- D. The baby bird will go live on its own.

(3.RI.3)

6. In paragraph 7 what is the best meaning of the word **protect**?

- A. fly away      B. find food      C. care for      D. keep safe      (3.RI.4)

7. What conclusion can you draw from the passage?

- A. Birds make their nests all during the year.  
B. Baby birds do not always live with their parents.  
C. Not all baby birds learn to fly.  
D. Birds can see better than most animals.      (3.RI.2)

8. Which question can be answered by reading paragraph 5?

- A. What do baby birds eat?      C. When can baby birds fly?  
B. Why do birds make nests?      D. Who helps the baby bird?  
(3.RI.1)

9. The story says, "**It takes a while to get the hang of flying.**"

What do the words **get the hang of** mean?

- A. try to do something      C. get help doing something  
B. learn how to do something      D. watch others do something      (L.5a)

10. According to the passage, why should you leave a baby bird alone if you see it on the ground?

- A. It is looking for food.      C. The bird is tired.  
B. The baby is learning to fly.      D. The bird is looking for its parents.  
(3.RI.1)

11. Which detail supports the main idea of paragraph 4?

- A. "Baby birds often fall out of the nest as they learn how to fly."
- B. "Baby birds are born with their eyes open."
- C. "Baby birds like to eat."
- D. "Their feathers grow in after a few weeks."

(3.RI.5)

12. According to the text, why do baby birds look funny?

- A. "Birds can see better than people."
- B. "The baby bird taps its mother's beak."
- C. "They have no feathers. Their bodies are covered with fluff."
- D. "All birds can see well no matter how big their eyes are."

(3.RI.8)

Below are examples of standards and question stems your child will see on the Nine Week Test and the End of Grade Test. Use the sample question stems as a review. This guide will help your child be able to read and understand the questions on the test. You can use these question stems as practice with your child's AR book.

**RI.3.1** Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring **explicitly** to the text as the basis for the answers.

**RI.3.1** Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring **explicitly** to the text as the basis for the answers

**Examples:**

**Informational**

- Which question can be answered by reading paragraph 2?
- Who, what, where, when and why questions.

**Fiction**

- At the beginning of the story why did....?
- In paragraph 7, what made...?
- Which question is answered in paragraph 1?
- Which lines of the poem tell you....?
- Why did...?

**RI.3.2** Determine the **main idea** of a text; **recount** the **key details** and explain how they support the **main idea**

**RL.3.2** **Recount** stories, including **fables, folktales, and myths** from **diverse cultures**; determine the **central message, lesson, or moral** and explain how it is conveyed through **key details** in the text.

**Examples:**

**Informational**

- What is the central message of the story?
- What is the main idea of paragraph 2?
- What is the main idea of the entire selection?

**Fiction**

- Which detail could be left out when recounting the important events in the story?
- Which sentence from the selection shows that...?
- Which line from the story tells you that.....?

**RI.3.3** **Describe** the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in **technical procedures** in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.

**RL.3.3** **Describe characters** in a story and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events

**Examples:**

**Informational**

- What happens when...?
- Which sentence from the story tells how \_\_\_\_\_ affected \_\_\_\_\_? (cause and effect)

**Fiction**

- How does stanza 1 of the poem build on stanza 2 of the poem?
- Which word best describes the narrator?
- Which word best describes how the character felt at the beginning of the story?
- How does the character's feelings change from the beginning of the story to the end of the story?
- What might happen next time...?

**RI.3.4** Determine the meaning of **general academic** and **domain-specific** words and **phrases** in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area

**RL.3.4** Determine the meaning of words and **phrases** as they are used in a text, identifying words that impact the meaning in a text.

**Informational**

- In the section below, what is the meaning of \_\_\_\_\_?
- In paragraph 5, what is the meaning of \_\_\_\_\_?

**Fiction**

- What does the word \_\_\_\_\_ mean as used in this poem?

**RI.3.7** Use information gained from illustrations and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text.

**Informational**

- Using the passage and the diagram in this selection...?

Answers to the passage "Birds"
1. C
2. B
3. A
4. C
5. A
6. D
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. D
11. C
12. C