SAMPLES OF STANDARDS STUDENTS ARE LEARNING THIS NINE WEEKS:

2nd Grade ELA

STANDARDS: RI.2.6, RI.2.8, RL.2.4, RL.2.7, W.2.2

RI.2.6 – Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe.

A Cloudy Day

Next time you go outside, take a close look at the clouds in the sky. You will probably see that some of them are light and some of them are dark. You will also see that they have different shapes. Some of them are round and puffy, while some of them look almost flat. Some of them block sunlight, but some seem very, very thin.

Scientists also look at the shapes and appearances of clouds. The way a cloud looks tells them what kind of cloud it is. It can also help them tell what the weather might be in the future.

The sky is filled with tiny drops of water called water vapor. Water vapor is like steam or mist. When there is only a little water vapor in the sky, you cannot see it or feel it. But when there is a lot of water vapor in one place, it sticks together. This is how a cloud is made.

When enough water sticks together, the cloud gets heavy. When a cloud gets too heavy, water falls from the cloud. If the cloud is high up in the sky, it will be in cold air. When water falls from this cloud, it freezes and we get snow. If the cloud is lower in the sky, it is in warmer air. When water falls from a lower cloud, we get rain.

The amount of water and the amount of air in a cloud will cause it to be a certain shape and color. Clouds are named for the different shapes they have.

Some clouds are large, white, and puffy. There is a lot of air layered in these clouds. These clouds often tell scientists that the weather is going to be fair, or nice. Fair weather is sunny, but not too hot. Fair weather can be breezy, but not too windy. Fair weather clouds can grow in size and become thunderstorm clouds.

Some clouds look like a blanket. These clouds may be very low and close to the ground. They may also be higher in the sky. These clouds may cause the weather to drizzle or be misty, but they will not bring snow.

Other clouds look like little streaks of white paint across the sky. When you see these kinds of clouds, it often means that the weather is going to be fair. These clouds are light and have only a little water. Therefore, they do not drop any rain.

And still other clouds are dark storm clouds. They may look bumpy, or puffy. They may also be smooth in some places. The darker a cloud is, the more water it holds. These clouds are often parts of thunderstorms, which can cause heavy rain, strong wind, and even hail.

It is nice to watch clouds change as they float across the sky, but you can also learn a lot from these changes.

You can learn a lot from clouds as they change from one shape and color to another. But sometimes it is fun just to watch them float across the sky.

What was the author's purpose for writing "A Cloudy Day?"

A. To entertain

B. To teach a lesson

C. To give information

Rationale: Option C is the correct answer. The story gives lots of details and information about clouds.

RI.2.8 – Describe how reasons support specific points the author makes in a text.

Excerpt from "What Is Earth?"

Earth is our home planet. Scientists believe Earth and its moon formed around the same time. Earth is the fifth largest planet in the solar system. Earth is the third closest planet to the sun. Read the passage below for more information about Earth.

1 Earth has been called the "Goldilocks planet." In the story "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," a little girl named Goldilocks liked everything just right. Her porridge couldn't be too hot or too cold. Her bed couldn't be too hard or too soft. On Earth, everything is just right for living things! It's warm, but not too warm. Earth has water, but not too much water.

2 Earth is the only planet known to have lots of liquid water. Liquid water is important for life. Earth is the only planet where life has been found.

What Does Earth Look Like?

3 From space, Earth looks like a blue marble with white swirls. Some parts are brown, yellow, green and white. The blue part is water. Water covers most of Earth. The white swirls are clouds. The brown, yellow and green parts are land. The white parts are ice and snow.

4 The equator is a make-believe line. It goes around the center of Earth. Mapmakers use the line to divide Earth into two halves. The northern half is called the Northern Hemisphere. The southern half is called the Southern Hemisphere. The most northern point on Earth is called the North Pole. The most southern point is called the South Pole.

How Does Earth Move?

5 Earth travels around the sun. The path Earth follows is called an *orbit*. The planet takes 365 days to make a full trip around the sun. We call one trip around the sun a *year*. Earth spins as it travels around the sun. Earth makes a full spin once every 24 hours. We call this a *day*.

Why Do We Have Day and Night?

6 Day and night happen as Earth spins. When places on Earth are facing toward the sun, it is daytime. When they are facing away from the sun, it is nighttime.

Why Does Earth Have Seasons?

7 Earth has seasons because it is tilted. The season depends on whether a place is tilted toward or away from the sun.

8 In the summer, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted toward the sun. The sun's rays hit the Northern Hemisphere. The days are long and hot. The opposite happens in winter. Then, the north is tilted away from the sun. The days are short and dark. When it is summer in the northern half of Earth, it is winter in the southern half.

9 In the spring and fall, the sun shines evenly on both hemispheres.

What Are Earth's Different Parts?

10 Earth is made up of land, air, water and life. Mountains, valleys and flat places make up the land. The air is made of different gases. One of the gases is oxygen. Oceans, lakes, rivers, streams, rain, snow and ice are made of water. Earth has many different kinds of life. People, animals and plants live on Earth. Some living things are very tiny. Others may be very large.

11 Each part of Earth connects to and works with the other parts. Here are some of the ways:

- Clouds in the air drop rain and snow on land.
- Water gives life to plants and animals.
- Volcanoes on land send gas and dust into the air.
- People breathe air and drink water.

Why and How Does NASA Study Earth?

12 Earth's parts - land, air, water and life - are always changing. NASA studies Earth to learn how it changes. Some of the changes are natural. Some are caused by humans. Scientists want to know how Earth has changed in the past. They want to know how it is changing now. This helps them predict how Earth might change in the future.

Which sentence best **explains why Earth is the only planet known to have life?**

A. **"Earth is the only planet known to have lots of liquid water." (paragraph 2)**

B. **"Mapmakers use the line to divide Earth into two halves." (paragraph 4)**

C. **"When places on Earth are facing toward the sun, it is daytime." (paragraph 6)**

D. **"This helps them predict how Earth might change in the future." (paragraph 12)**

Rationale: Option A is correct. Paragraph 2 explains that liquid water is important for life and that earth is the ONLY planet where life has been found.

RL.2.4 - Describe how words and phrases supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem, or song.

The Leap-Frog
Hans Christian Anderson

Read the story below about three animals and a strange contest.

1 A Flea, a Grasshopper, and a Leap-frog once wanted to see which could jump highest. They invited the whole world to come to see the contest. They all met together in the castle.

2 "I will give my daughter in marriage to him who jumps highest," said the King.

3 The Flea was the first to step forward. He had great manners and bowed to the company on all sides, for he was noble of birth. He was also the lightest in weight.

4 Then came the Grasshopper. He was much heavier and wore a green uniform. He was highly thought of in his house. The fact was that he had been just brought out of the nearby fields. He was then put in a cardboard house with doors and windows made from a box of playing cards. "I sing so well," said he, "that sixteen grasshoppers with no house built of cards to live in grew thinner. They were full of sorrow when they heard me sing."

5 This was how the Flea and the Grasshopper presented themselves. They thought they were quite good enough to marry a Princess.

6 The Leap-frog said nothing. People thought he was the best. When the housedog sniffed at him

with his nose, he said the Leap-frog was of good family. The old man agreed that the Leap-frog was the likely winner. Everyone listened to the old man. He could predict the next season's weather and was very wise.

7 "I say nothing, it is true," cried the King; "but I have my own ideas."

8 Now the trial was to take place. The Flea jumped so high that nobody could see where he went. They all decided he had not jumped at all. That was not fair!

9 The Grasshopper jumped only half as high. He leaped into the King's face. The King thought this was very wrong.

10 The Leap-frog stood still for a long time, lost in thought. The King thought he would not jump at all.

11 "I only hope he is not sick," said the housedog.

12 Then, pop! The Leap-frog made a jump into the lap of the Princess. She just happened to be sitting on a little golden stool close by.

13 Then the King said, "There is nothing above my daughter. To jump up into her lap is the highest jump that can be made. The Leap-frog is clever. He understands this rule. He is the bravest and wisest.

14 And so the Leap-frog married the Princess.

15 "She may have the old Leap-frog, for all I care. I jumped the highest," said the jealous Flea.

16 The Grasshopper sat on a green bank and said, "Yes, a fine uniform is everything. That is what people care about." And then he began chirping his sad, dejected song.

17 The Flea and the Grasshopper spent the rest of their lives as lonely as you can be!

Read the sentence from paragraph 12.

Then, pop!

What does the word pop tell us about the Leap-frog's action?

- **A. It was loud.**
- **B. It was sudden.**
- **C. It was scary.**
- **D. It was planned.**

Rationale: Option B is the correct answer. The Leap-frog jumped suddenly into the lap of the Princess.

RL.2.7 – Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.

Many stories have **words** and **pictures**. Both words and pictures can include details about characters, setting, or events.

Here are questions you can ask about words and pictures:

- What do the words say?
- What do the pictures show? Look carefully.
- Do the pictures show more than the words tell?

Noticing details in words and pictures will help you understand more about the characters, setting, and events in a story.

W.2.2- Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.

What Is Information?

Information tells facts and details about a topic.

What Is Informational Writing?

Writers use facts to tell about real people, places, or things. Writers explain what something is, how something happened, or how something works.

Informational Writing has:

- a **beginning** that introduces the topic
- a **middle** that tells facts and details about the topic
- an **end** that sums up the information

Write an informational paragraph telling how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

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