

## Grade 3 Informative/Explanatory Writing Standard W.3.2

### Grade 3 Informative/Explanatory

W.3.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information clearly.

- a. Introduce a topic and group related information together; include illustrations when useful to aiding comprehension.
- b. Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details.
- c. Use linking words and phrases (e.g., also, another, and, more, but) to connect ideas within categories of information.
- d. Provide a concluding statement or section

### The Reading/Thinking/Writing Task

Students read Robert Munsch's book *The Paper Bag Princess* multiple times before summarizing and discussing the text as a group. Students were then given the focusing question, *How is Elizabeth smart in the book?*

The students constructed their own note-taking sheet and then received guidance in the structure of a basic essay. Colored paper was used to help students learn the parts of the essay (introduction-red, thesis-green, body paragraphs-blue and yellow, conclusion-yellow+blue = green) and the thinking represented in each paragraph.

*Note: Some of the pieces in this set did not originally have titles. Each was given a basic title for ease of reference.*

### Focus of the Writing Task

*How is Elizabeth smart in the book, The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch?*

# The Writing Task in the Curriculum

## *How is it embedded in curriculum/content?*

- ★ *Class: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade ELA*
  - focus on inferential thinking in literature
- ★ *Curriculum unit*
  - students analyze the characters in literature
  - emphasis on finding evidence in text, recording that evidence, and writing a basic essay
- ★ *Standards*
  - Reading: RL.3.1, RL.3.3, RL.3.10
  - Writing: W.3.2, W.3.4, W.3.10

## *How did students build the knowledge they needed?*

- ★ *Text*
  - *The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch
- ★ *Reading and re-reading*
  - students read and re-read texts independently
  - students took notes on text independently

## *What instructional approaches were used to teach writing?*

- ★ *Craft lessons*
  - students were introduced to basic expository structure (Painted Essay® in many forms) including such elements as introductions, grouping related information, using linking words and phrases, and conclusions.
  - students were taught how to use quotations as a lead in a response to text
- ★ *Writing approaches*
  - students were reminded of the elements that make up a strong essay in the directions. They then wrote and proofread independently.

## *What was the timeframe?*

Brief (2-3 class periods)

*Standard W.3.2*  
*Grade 3*  
*Proficient*

### **Dragons Can Be Beaten**

“Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us dragons can be beaten”

--Neil Gaiman

The story of The Paper Bag Princess Tells that a dragon can be beaten. Princess Elizabeth, the main character, is a very smart princess.

Princess Elizabeth was very intelligent. One reason is she knew how to find the dragon because she was quick thinking, and saw his trail of burnt forest. Another reason is when the dragon told her to go away she didn't because the dragon said he would love to eat a princess tomorrow.

One more reason is she compliments the dragon to get his attention. The next reason is she makes him use all of his fire and tires him out and

makes him run around the world a lot of times. Then, she yells in his ear

to make sure he is sleeping and saves Prince Ronald. The last thing is

she doesn't marry Prince Ronald like she was going to because he was mean and only liked her for her looks.

Elizabeth was an extremely intelligent princess. This is not your traditional fairytale. This makes it fun to read and a perfect fairytale.

*Standard W.3.2*  
*Grade 3*  
*Approaching*

### **Elizabeth is Smart**

“I keep “ The paper bag Princess’ by Robert Munsch on my shelf to remind me that my prince will love me no matter what I wear.” Brittany Snow. “The Paper bag Princess by Robert Munsch tells us about fairy tales. Princess Elizabeth, the main character, is a very smart princess. Elizabeth is smart because she doesn’t leave the dragon because he will eat her tomorrow. Also she is smart because she tricks the dragon twice. Elizabeth is smart because she doesn’t marry prince Ronald. Another reason why she’s smart is because she knew how to find the dragon from the horse bones. Elizabeth is smart to save Ronald because the dragon was tied so her plan worked. Last she puts a paper bag on so she’s not naked in public and she is creative/uses resources.

Elizabeth is a very intelligent girl. This story is not my favorite story and it is unusual for me.

**Standard W.3.2**  
**Grade 3**  
**Beginning**

### **Princess Elizabeth**

roor said the Dragan in the story the paper Bag princess By Robert Munch. Princess Elizabeth is very smart.

Princess Elizabeth is very smart Because when the Dragen Burnt all her clothes off she did not sit a cry she found a paper Bag and made clothes out uf it. Then she saw the dragens trail of Burnt forest and dear Bones and followed it and it led her to the Dragens cave. So when she gets to the Dragens cave she Bangs on the dor and the Dragen answe're's and the Dragen said COME BACK TOMORO I ALLREADY ATE A HOLL CASTLE But the princess thot and she decided not to come Back tomorrow. Because she knew that tomorrow he will eat her all up. so she bangs on the door again and he finally comes out. So then she tricks him By saying this "I herd that you can Burn dow 50 forests in one Blow" So he Blows a Big clowd of fire and it did Burn dow 50 forest. And then he tried to Blow again But all he had was a tiny clowd of smoke. "then she said I herd that you can fly around the world in 10 seconds"

Intelagent is a way to deskride princess ElizaBeth. This story's lesson is not to marry someone that is mean to you.

*Standard W.3.2*  
*Grade 3*  
*Exceeds*

### **Intelligence**

Intelligence: being smart or clever. In the book *The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch Elizabeth the main character is intelligent. Princess Elizabeth, the main character is very smart.

She was smart because she puts on a paper bag so she won't be naked. she was also creative.

Elizabeth knew how to find the dragon because she was quick thinking and saw his trail. Also, she doesn't leave the dragon because he says "Go away I would love to eat a princess but I've already eaten a whole castle. Come back tomorrow." She also tricks the dragon by compliments asking if he was the smartest and most fierce dragon in the world. Then Elizabeth tricks him twice more, by burning his fire out and tires him out. She yells in his ear to make sure he's sleeping. Elizabeth saves Ronald because her smart plan worked. She leaves and doesn't marry Ronald because he is rude, mean and a bully. He only likes her for her looks. Brilliant is a word for Elizabeth. This is not your traditionally story.

*Standard W.3.2*  
*Grade 3*  
*Proficient*

### **Dragons Can Be Beaten**

“Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us dragons can be beaten”

--Neil Gaiman

The story of The Paper Bag Princess Tells that a dragon can be beaten.

Princess Elizabeth, the main character is a very smart princess.

Princess Elizabeth was very intelligent. One reason is she knew how to find the dragon because she was quick thinking, and saw his trail of burnt forest. Another reason is when the dragon told her to go away she didn't because the dragon said he would love to eat a princess tomorrow. One more reason is she compliments the dragon to get his attention. The next reason is she makes him use all of his fire and tires him out and makes him run around the world a lot of times. Then, she yells in his ear to make sure he is sleeping and saves Prince Ronald. The last thing is she doesn't marry Prince Ronald like she was going to because he was mean and only liked her for her looks.

Elizabeth was an extremely intelligent princess. This isn't your traditional fairytale. This makes it fun to read and a perfect fairytale.

**Introduces the topic** with an appropriate quotation

**Introduces the topic** by providing the title of the text, a main idea about the text, and a sentence that states the focus/point of the piece

**Develops the topic with facts and details** that support the focus: evidence is supplied chronologically, which helps the reader follow the thinking

**Related information** is **grouped together** and organized into an introduction, body, and conclusion.

**Uses linking words and phrases to connect ideas**

**Provides a concluding statement** that restates the focus of the piece and reflects on the information provided

**Final Thoughts**  
**(Gr 3 Informative: Proficient)**

Overall, this third grade essay shows solid understanding of the topic, the ways Elizabeth is smart in *The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch. The focus is clearly stated at the beginning and restated at the end of the piece, and is sustained throughout the piece. The essay is organized into sections (introduction, body, conclusion). Within the body, the writer uses chronological order to organize the evidence that shows that Elizabeth is smart.

The writer uses concrete examples from the text to support the focus. Most of the examples clearly show how Elizabeth is smart.

**A Word About Language and Conventions**  
**(Gr 3 Informative: Proficient)**

Although there are some errors, the writer shows *overall control* over grade-level language and conventions.



**Standard W.3.2**  
**Grade 3**  
**Approaching**

**Elizabeth is Smart**

“I keep “ The paper bag Princess’ by Robert Munsch on my shelf to remind me that my prince will love me no matter what I wear.” Brittany Sbow. “The Paper bag Princess by Robert Munsch tells us about fairy tales. Princess Elizabeth, the main character, is a very smart princess. Elizabeth is smart because she dosen’t leave the dragon because he will eat her tomorrow. Also she is smart because she tricks the dragon twies. Elizabeth is smart because she dose not marry prince Ronald. Another reason why shes smart is because she knew how to find the dragon from the horse bones. Elizabeth is smart to save Ronald because the dragon was tierd so her plan worked. Last she puts a paper bag on so shes not naked in public and she is creative/uses resources.

Elizabet is a very intelligent girl. This story is not my pirtrcle story and it is unusuall for me.

**Introduces the topic** with a quotation that relates only vaguely to the task

The writer states the focus/point of the piece of writing, that Princess Elizabeth is a smart princess.

**Groups related information** into sections

Insufficiently **develops the topic with details** from the text: evidence that supports the focus is listed randomly in the body of the piece, and lacks context to help the reader understand the evidence.

Connects ideas **using linking words and phrases** inconsistently and insufficiently throughout the piece

**Provides a concluding statement** that restates the focus and attempts to reflect

**Final Thoughts**  
**(Gr 3 Informative: Approaching)**

Overall, this third grade essay shows some understanding of the topic, the ways Elizabeth is smart in the book, *The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch. The focus is clearly stated at the beginning and re-stated at the end of the piece, but the evidence is randomly given and lacks context to make it clear to the reader that it does support the focus that Elizabeth is smart.

The writer would benefit from a conference with the teacher to help him arrange evidence in a way that helps the reader follow the writer’s thinking and gives adequate context for evidence.

**A Word About Language and Conventions**  
**(Gr 3 Informative: Approaching)**

Although there are some errors, the writer shows *overall control* over grade-level language and conventions.

**Standard W.3.2**  
**Grade 3**  
**Beginning**

**Princess Elizabeth**

roor said the Dragan in the story the paper Bag princess By Robert Munch. Princess Elizabeth is very smart.

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Intelagent is a way to deskride princess ElizaBeth. This story's lesson is not to marry someone that is mean to you.

**Introduction** is attempted using the sound of the dragon

The focus/point of the piece, that Elizabeth is smart, is clear.

The writer attempts to **develop the topic with details** from the text. The body of the essay is a retelling of some of the text.

**Uses linking words**

**Related information** is **grouped together** and organized into an introduction, body, and conclusion. It is unclear why the writer ended the body of the piece in mid-sentence.

Provides a **concluding statement** that restates the focus and reflects on a possible lesson for the story

**Final Thoughts**  
**(Gr 3 Informative: Beginning)**

Overall, this essay shows some understanding of the topic. The writer, however, appears to show a misunderstanding of the task, which is to develop the idea that the main character, Elizabeth, is smart, by selecting relevant evidence from the text to support the focus. The writer uses empty space to divide the piece into an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. The body of the piece ends mid-sentence suggesting the writer neglected to re-read the piece for revision and editing.

This student would benefit from instruction in the difference between a retelling and a focused essay that analyzes a character in a story.

**A Word About Language and Conventions**  
**(Gr 3 Informative: Beginning)**

Minimal Control of Conventions: The writer shows little control over language and conventions. The lack of control of conventions and language interferes with the reader's understanding of the piece.

**Standard W.3.2**  
**Grade 3**  
**Exceeds**

**Intelligence**

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She was smart because she puts on a paper bag so she won't be naked. she was also creative. Elizabeth knew how to find the dragon because she was quick thinking and saw his trail. Also, she doesn't leave the dragon because he says "Go away I would love to eat a princess but I've already eaten a whole castle. Come back tomorrow." She also tricks the dragon by compliments asking if he was the smartest and most fierce dragon in the world. Then Elizabeth tricks him twice more, by burning his fire out and tires him out. She yells in his ear to make sure he's sleeping. Elizabeth saves Ronald because her smart plan worked. She leaves and doesn't marry Ronald because he is rude, mean and a bully. He only likes her for her looks. Brilliant is a word for Elizabeth. This is not your traditionally story.

**Introduces the topic** by defining the word intelligence and naming the title and author of the text

The focus/point is clearly communicated and strongly maintained throughout the piece, using synonyms for "smart."

The writer **develops the topic** in depth with well-chosen, relevant **details** and appropriate context.

The progression of ideas is logical from beginning to end. The writer consistently **uses linking words and phrases to connect ideas within categories of information.**

**Related information** is **grouped together** and organized into an introduction, body, and conclusion.

**Provides a concluding section** that restates the focus and reflects on the story in general

**Final Thoughts**  
**(Gr 3 Informative: Exceeds)**

Overall, this piece exceeds the standard for proficient. It meets all the criteria for proficient, showing solid understanding of the topic, that Elizabeth, the main character in the story, is smart. The writer consistently sticks to that focus with relevant and specific details from the story.

In addition, the writer expands on the definition of “smart” with such terms as “quick-thinking,” “tricks” and “brilliant.” This nuance adds depth of insight to the focus and shows a deeper level of understanding of the text.

**A Word About Language and Conventions**  
**(Gr 3 Informative: Exceeds)**

Although there are some errors, the writer shows *overall control* over grade-level language and conventions.