

Grade 3 Opinion Writing Standard W.3.1

Grade 3 Opinion

W.3.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

- a. Introduce a topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons.
- b. Provide reasons that support the opinion.
- c. Use linking words and phrases (e.g., because, therefore, since, for example) to connect opinion and reasons.
- d. Provide a concluding statement or section.

The Reading/Thinking/Writing Task

Students listened to the text, *The Red Balloon*, read aloud and read the text independently, and then worked with the Focusing Question “*Does Pascal care more for the balloon or himself?*” They then saw the movie and had a discussion about how the movie and the book are similar and different. Students discussed the focusing question in depth before writing independently.

This question requires that students evaluate the information on two sides of a topic before making a claim, find evidence to support their claim, and develop their ideas into a well-focused, well-developed essay.

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

Does Pascal care more for the balloon or himself?

The Writing Task in the Curriculum

How is it embedded in curriculum/content?

★ *Class: 3rd grade ELA class*

★ *Curriculum unit*

- students were studying the characteristics of main characters, their behaviors, feelings, and motivation
- emphasis on selecting and organizing information that supports their argument

★ *Standards*

- Reading: RI.3.1, RI.3.3, RI.3.7, RI.3.10
- Writing: W.3.1, W.3.10

How did students build the knowledge they needed?

★ *Texts*

- *The Red Balloon* by Albert Lamorisse
- video of the movie

★ *Reading and re-reading*

- teacher read text aloud while students read along in their heads
- students re-read text independently
- students took notes on text independently using common graphic organizers

What instructional approaches were used to teach writing?

★ *Craft lessons*

- students were just beginning to be introduced to basic expository structures (Painted Essay® in many forms and more) including such elements as introductions, grouping related information together, linking words, and conclusions

★ *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.3.1
Grade 3
Proficient

A Red Balloon and a Boy

My class read “The Red Balloon” by Albert Lamorisse. “The Red Balloon” is about a little boy named Pascal and a red balloon that he finds on the way to school. “The Red Balloon” takes place in Paris. Pascal is a very interesting kid. At some points of the book he cares more for himself than his balloon but, sometimes he cares more for the balloon than himself. At the end I thought that he cared the best for his red balloon.

These are the ways I opt to say that he cared more for the balloon than himself. One way is that he asked if he could let his balloon go under people’s umbrellas instead of him be under the umbrellas. The way I think he cared for his balloon in that moment is because he could have gone under the umbrellas instead of the balloon. Another reason is that when the big boys came he let go. The reason is that the big boys could’ve popped the balloon if he did not let go. The last way I am going to tell you about is when Pascal was crying over the balloon. Usually when you cry over something you care about it.

As you can see these are some ways he cares more for his balloon. As you can see again there are people who care more for their friends than themselves and some people care more for themselves.

Standard W.3.1
Grade 3
Approaching

The Red Balloon

In “The Red Balloon” by Albert Lamorisse a boy named Pascal finds a red magical balloon and Pascal does not know. They soon become friends and had a lot of fun. Now we are doing an opinion essay and some people think that Pascal cares more for himself but I think he cares more for his balloon.

Three reasons I think Pascal cares more for his balloon are, at one point he risked being late for school and he could have just let his balloon go. Another reason is he took it inside when he wasn’t supposed to and he could have gotten in trouble. The last reason I think Pascal cared more for his balloon is he found it on lamp post and climbed up it and he could have fallen and gotten hurt.

Those are the reasons I think Pascal cares more for his balloon. That’s what friends are for!

Standard W.3.1
Grade 3
Beginning

Fast Friends

We read the book The Red Balloon by Albert Lamourisse. In the book The Red Balloon there was a little boy named Pascal who one day was walking to school and he found a red balloon. Once he found the balloon they became fast friends and Pascal brought the balloon everywhere. The bad news was that the other kids at school wanted to pop the balloon. This story takes place in a town in Paris. I think that in the story The Red Balloon Pascal cared more for his balloon.

This story will be talking about three ways Pascal cared more for his balloon. One way that pascal cared for his balloon is that when his mom threw the balloon outside Pascal brought it back in. After that pascal tried to keep the balloon away from his mother so she would not pop it. A second reason is that when the other at school were trying to get the balloon Pascal risk getting hurt to save the balloon. By risking that Pascal really wanted to save the balloon and that's what good friends do. And last but not least when the boys were trying to pop the balloon Pascal told the balloon to fly away and save itself. Pascal told him to leave him there so he would not get popped. And when he got popped Pascal was really sad, and then balloons from all over that town came and lifted Pascal high above the sky.

In conclusion I think that having friends can make you a much happier person. And I think I could tell you much more but I would rather stop right here. This matters because this was a important event in history and it is a very good book and movie.

Standard W.3.1
Grade 3
Exceeds

A Great Friendship

My class and I read “The Red Balloon” by Albert Lamorisse. This story takes place in Paris, where a boy named Pascal and a balloon develop a great friendship. They care for each other and keep each other safe. Some parts of the story, Pascal cares more for himself than the balloon, but in other parts he cares more for the balloon than himself. Overall, I think Pascal cares more for his balloon than himself. Here is some evidence to support my claim.

One reason is, Pascal opted to walk home when the bus didn’t allow balloons. Even though he would have walk in the rain or just let the balloon go, he still walked. Another piece of evidence is, when the boys were chasing him, he let the balloon go, ran up the steps, and called for it so the boys didn’t get it. The boys wanted to teach it tricks. Last but not least, when the boys tried again to attack it, pascal told the balloon to fly away and he would deal with the boys. Pascal also took the balloon and ran and ran away from the boys to try to protect it.

Overall, I think Pascal’s balloon is more cared for than himself. This is important because you learn more about friendship.

Standard W.3.1
Grade 3
Proficient

A Red Balloon and a Boy

My class read “The Red Balloon” by Albert Lamorisse. “The Red Balloon” is about a little boy named Pascal and a red balloon that he finds on the way to school. “The Red Balloon” takes place in Paris.

Introduces the text and provides some context

Pascal and the balloon are the characters you hear most about. Pascal is a very interesting kid. At some points of the book he cares more for himself than his balloon but, sometimes he cares more for the balloon than himself. At the end I thought that he cared the best for his red balloon.

Opinion is clearly **stated** and the focus is maintained

These are the ways I opt to say that he cared more for the balloon than himself. One way is that he asked if he could let his balloon go under people’s umbrellas instead of him be under the umbrellas. The way I think he cared for his balloon in that moment is because he could of gone under the umbrellas instead of the balloon. Another reason is that when the big boys came he let go. The reason is that the big boys could’ve popped the balloon if he did not let go. The last way I am going to tell you about is when Pascal was crying over the balloon. Usually when you cry over something you care about it.

Provides reasons that support the opinion: the writer uses multiple pieces of evidence to support the opinion.

Creates an organizational structure that lists reasons

Uses linking words and phrases to connect opinion and ideas

As you can see again there are people who care more for their friends than themselves and some people care more for themselves.

Provides a concluding statement

Final Thoughts
(Gr 3 Opinion: Proficient)

Overall, this third grade essay shows an understanding of the text, *The Red Balloon*, by Albert Lamorisse. The writer uses paragraphing to help create an organization structure as well as transitional phrases to link reasons to each other and to the claim. This writer used an introductory paragraph to establish context and make a claim, a paragraph that included reasons to support the claim, and a concluding paragraph that tied the conclusion to the opinion. The writer supported their reasons with additional evidence and elaboration that tied back to the opinion. This helped deepen the reader's understanding of this writer's claim.

The writer could benefit from instruction in how to conclude so that she will begin to understand the function of a well-crafted conclusion that supports, reflects on, and extends the opinion presented.

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

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

Standard W.3.1
Grade 3
Approaching

The Red Balloon

In “The Red Balloon” by Albert Lamorisse a boy named Pascal finds a red magical balloon and Pascal does not know. They soon became friends and had a lot of fun. Now we are doing an opinion essay and some people think that Pascal cares more for himself but I think he cares more for his balloon.

Three reasons I think Pascal cares more for his balloon are, at one point he risked being late for school and he could have just let his balloon go. Another reason is he took it inside when he wasn’t supposed to and he could have gotten in trouble. The last reason I think Pascal cared more for his balloon is he found it on lamp post and climbed up it and he could have fallen and gotten hurt.

Those are three reasons I think Pascal cares more for his balloon. That’s what friends are for!

Introduces the text they are writing about but introduction lacks enough context about the text

States an opinion about the text

Creates an organizational structure that list reasons which could benefit from more textual evidence and elaboration to support the claim

Connects opinion and reasons using linking words and phrases

Provides a concluding section

Final Thoughts
(Gr 3 Opinion: Approaching)

Overall, this third grade essay shows an understanding of the text, *The Red Balloon*, by Albert Lamorisse. The opinion is clearly stated and the writer uses paragraphing and transitional phrases to create an organization structure that lists and links reasons to support the claim.

This student could benefit from support in revising the first paragraph to include more context about the text, in addition to support revising the second paragraph to include more evidence and elaboration that supports the claim.

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

Control of Conventions: Although there are some errors, particularly in spelling, the writer shows *overall control* over grade-level language and conventions.

Standard W.3.1
Grade 3
Beginning

Fast Friends

We read the book *The Red Balloon* By Albert Lamorisse. In the book *The Red Balloon* there was a boy named Pascal who one day was walking to school and he found a red balloon. Once he found the balloon they became fast friends and Pascal brought the balloon everywhere. The bad news was that the other kids at school wanted to pop the balloon.

This story takes place in a town in Paris. I think that in the story *The Red Balloon* Pascal cared more for his balloon.

This story will be talking about three ways Pascal cared more for his balloon. One way that pascal cared for his balloon is when his mom threw the balloon outside Pascal brought it back in. After that Pascal tried to keep the balloon away from his mother so she would not pop it. A second reason is that when the other at school were trying to get the balloon Pascal risk getting hurt to save the balloon. By risking that Pascal really wanted to save the balloon and that's what good friends do. And last by not least when the boys were trying to pop the balloon Pascal told the balloon to fly away and save itself. Pascal told him to leave him there so he would not get popped. And when it popped Pascal was really sad, and then balloons from all over that town came and lifted Pascal high above the sky.

Introduces the text, but provides a summary of the text instead of pertinent context

States an opinion about the text

Provides evidence and reasons to support the opinion: the writer attempts to link the **reasons** to the opinion, but the evidence is often insufficient and more a retelling than analysis.

The writer **creates an organizational structure to connect opinion and reasons**

In conclusion I think that having friends can make you a much happier person. And I think that I could tell you much more but I would rather stop right here. This matters because this was a important event in history and it is a very good book and movie.

Provides a concluding section that attempts a relationship to the opinion but is confusing to the reader and includes misinformation

Final Thoughts
(Gr 3 Opinion: Beginning)

Overall, this essay shows some understanding of the text, *The Red Balloon*, by Albert Lamorisse. The writer creates a structure of paragraphs and language within paragraphs to list reasons. This organizational structure also contains an introduction that states a claim, a body paragraph that lists reasons to support the claim, and a concluding paragraph.

This writer would benefit from more instruction on the function of different paragraphs, and how to conclude an essay that relates back to the opinion and reasons.

A Word About Language and Conventions
(Gr 3 Opinion: 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.3.1
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Exceeds

A Great Friendship

My class and I read “The Red Balloon” by Albert Lamorisse.

This story takes place in Paris, where a boy named Pascal and a balloon develop a great friendship. They care for each other and keep each other safe. Some parts of the story, Pascal cares more for himself than the balloon, but in other parts he cares more for the balloon than himself. Overall, I think Pascal cares more for his balloon than himself. Here is the evidence to support my claim.

One reason is, Pascal opted to walk home when the bus didn’t allow balloons. Even though he would have walk in the rain or just let the balloon go, he still walked. Another piece of evidence is, when the boys were chasing him, he let the balloon go, ran up the steps, and called for it so the boys didn’t get it. The boys wanted to teach it tricks. Last but not least, when the boys tried again to attack it, pascal told the balloon to fly away and he would deal with the boys. Pascal also took the balloon and ran and ran from the boys to try to protect it.

Overall, I think Pascal’s balloon is more cared for than himself. This is important because you learn more about friendship.

Introduces the topic clearly by providing some context and stating the focus: the focus/point is clearly communicated and strongly maintained throughout the piece.

The writer **provides reasons that support the opinion**, developing the topic in depth with appropriate, relevant facts and concrete details from the two texts using precise language and domain-specific vocabulary.

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.

The writer **develops the topic** in depth with appropriate, relevant **facts** and concrete **details** from the two texts using precise language and domain-specific vocabulary.

Provides a concluding section that reflects on the significance of the opinion presented

Final Thoughts
(Gr 3 Opinion: Exceeds)

Overall, this third grade essay shows an understanding of the text, *The Red Balloon*, by Albert Lamorisse. The writer uses paragraphing to help create an organizational structure, as well as transitional phrases to link reasons to each other and to the claim. The introductory paragraph effectively establishes context and makes a claim. The body paragraph includes reasons to support the claim and transitional phrases that link the reasons within the paragraph. The concluding paragraph ties the conclusion back to the opinion and reflects on the significance of the opinion presented. The writer supports their reasons with additional evidence and elaboration that helps deepen the reader's understanding of this writer's claim.

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

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