



Third Grade
MSTEP Homework Packet # 3

Sent home on _____

Return by _____

Student's Name

Name _____ Date _____

Revising and Editing

Read the introduction and the story “Birthday Chickens” before answering Numbers 1 through 5.

Elliot wrote this story about a special gift that he received. Read his story and think about the changes he should make.

Birthday Chickens

(1) Some people receive toys and games for their birthdays, while others receive decorated cards. (2) Last year, I got chickens for this special day. (3) That was the most thoughtful present ever, because I have wanted to raise chickens ever since my family and I moved to the country. (4) Our neighbor has plenty of livestock, including chickens, and our neighbor would let me help collect eggs. (5) I enjoyed watching the rooster and hens scratch around in her yard, pecking the ground for food. (6) I know it sounds silly, but I just loved those chickens and wanted some of my very own.

(7) First, I went to the library and checked out books about chickens. (8) Next, I asked Mom and Dad to let me raise chickens. (9) I told them that I had read everything I could find about raising and taking care of chickens. (10) “We just want to make sure you are really going to look after them” Mom said. (11) I promised that the chickens would become my responsibility and reminded them that we would also have free eggs! (12) Then Mom, Dad, and I built

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a coop next to our barn. (13) We also built a fence around the coop (14) This let the chickens have a place to roam and peck. (15) It would also keep them safe from other animals.

(16) On my birthday, I came home from school, not expecting anything special. (17) Guess what was in the coop? (18) There were four beautiful and fluffy little baby chicks! (19) That's much better than a toy or a game. (20) A toy or a game is not as good.

Now answer Numbers 1 through 5. Base your answers on the changes Elliot should make.

- 1 What is the BEST way to revise sentence 4?
- (A) Our neighbor has plenty of livestock, including chickens, and she would let me help collect eggs.
 - (B) Our neighbor has plenty of livestock, including chickens. Our neighbor would let me help collect eggs.
 - (C) Our neighbor have plenty of livestock, including chickens, and our neighbor would let me help collect eggs.
 - (D) Our neighbor she has livestock and chickens, and our neighbor would let me help collect eggs.
- 2 Which sentence could BEST be added before sentence 7?
- (F) I wanted my own chickens more than anything else.
 - (G) My neighbor has several chickens.
 - (H) I prepared a plan that was guaranteed to work.
 - (I) I asked Mom and Dad if I could have chickens.

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Revising and Editing

- 3 What revision should be made in sentence 10?
- Ⓐ “We just want to make sure you are really going to look after them said Mom.”
 - Ⓑ “We just want to make sure you are really going to look after them, said Mom.”
 - Ⓒ “We just want to make sure you are really going to look after them,” said Mom.
 - Ⓓ “We just want to make sure you are really going to look after them,” said Mom.”
- 4 Which word in sentence 11 is an abstract noun?
- Ⓕ chickens
 - Ⓖ responsibility
 - Ⓗ them
 - Ⓘ eggs
- 5 Which sentence does NOT belong in this story?
- Ⓐ sentence 3
 - Ⓑ sentence 5
 - Ⓒ sentence 11
 - Ⓓ sentence 20

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Writing Opinions

Read the story “A Visit with Aunt Liza” before responding to the prompt.

A Visit with Aunt Liza

As Andy sat on a rock near the park entrance, he stared at the group of people gathered around his Aunt Liza. It was the first time that Andy had seen his Aunt Liza at work as a park ranger.

“That’s the end of the tour,” Aunt Liza told the group of park visitors. “I hope you enjoyed learning about the park and its animals.”

The crowd clapped and thanked Aunt Liza for sharing so much information about the park and its history. Aunt Liza answered a few more questions and then walked over to Andy. “Are you ready for your personal tour of the park?” Aunt Liza asked him.

Andy slowly nodded his head and looked around him carefully. He had been excited about this visit with his aunt, but he was anxious about the possible dangers in the woods. Andy lived in the city where he was used to seeing animals like squirrels and raccoons, not snakes and bears.

“Stand up,” Aunt Liza encouraged, “and let’s get going.”

Andy got up and started walking next to Aunt Liza. Heading down the trail and glancing at his feet, Andy asked, “What about the snakes?”

“We won’t bother the snakes,” answered Aunt Liza, patting Andy on the back to try and comfort him.

“You can count on that,” Andy muttered. He felt like a fish out of water as he jumped at the sound of leaves crackling under his feet. Andy missed the city’s busy sidewalks and familiar smells, and he missed the clean, shiny floors in the apartment building where his family lived.

Aunt Liza pointed at something in a tree down the trail as a blue wing flashed and swooped away.

“Mountain bluebird . . .” Aunt Liza noted as her voice trailed off.

Andy looked at his aunt and noticed she stood speechless and frozen in place.

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Writing Opinions

“What’s wrong?” Andy asked as he followed the direction of Aunt Liza’s stare. Then he saw it—a bear, and it was looking at them.

Aunt Liza said softly, “It’s okay, Andy. This bear seems to sense that we aren’t a danger to her. Let’s slowly walk back the way we came.”

Andy was shaking like a leaf as he began walking backwards up the trail, but he was relieved to see that the bear did not follow them. Back at the park entrance, Andy asked Aunt Liza, “Were you scared?”

“Yes, I was,” answered Aunt Liza.

“Why do you like the mountains when there are bears, snakes, and other animals that can hurt you?” asked Andy.

Aunt Liza said, “The mountains are my home. I’m a part of this area, the same as the bears and snakes.”

“The same way that I’m a part of the city,” Andy said.

Aunt Liza nodded and smiled, “Just like that, Andy.”

“I think I’ll stay in the city,” Andy said with a nervous laugh.

Changing the subject, Aunt Liza smiled as she said, “I’m as hungry as a bear. Why don’t we go get something to eat?”

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Writing Opinions

Now respond to the prompt. Base your response on the story “A Visit with Aunt Liza.”

In “A Visit with Aunt Liza,” Andy says that he is “a part of the city.”

Think about whether or not he should change his mind about NOT liking mountain areas.

Write a response that tells why or why not.

Planning Page

**Use this space to make your notes before you begin writing.
The writing on this page will NOT be scored.**

Name _____ Date _____

Writing Opinions

Begin writing your response here. The writing on this page and the next page WILL be scored.

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Writing Opinions

