



# Student Performance Events

## *Stimulus Materials*

**Proficiency Assessments for Mississippi Students-Alternate**  
**MISSISSIPPI-ALT**

**Grade 6 Released**

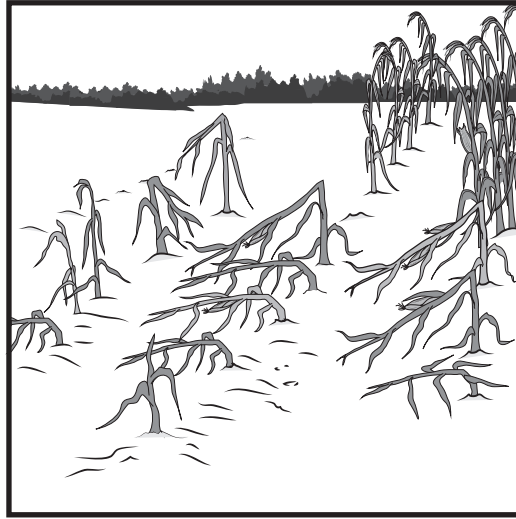
ELA and Mathematics

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**ELA**



## The Dust Bowl

During the 1930s, farmers in the American Plains had a hard time making a living. No rain fell for many years. Without rain, their crops were ruined. Without rain, farmers couldn't plant new crops. Without crops to sell, the farmers had little money. The farmers and their families suffered. The farmland slowly turned to dust.

When the winds blew, the dust was so thick that people couldn't see their hands in front of their faces. The American Plains became known as the Dust Bowl—a land of dust storms and of hard times.



Living in Kansas and Oklahoma during the Dust Bowl became almost impossible. Houses were buried in dust. It was impossible to keep anything clean. Avis D. Carlson wrote an article in the *New Republic*, "We live with the dust, eat it, sleep with it, watch it strip us of possessions and the hope of possessions."

Many families moved to California to find jobs, but work was hard to find. For many families, the promise of a better life in California brought new challenges and hardships. The hard times and worries brought on by the Dust Bowl were not left behind.

**During the Dust Bowl, farmers planted many new crops.**

**During the Dust Bowl, farmers had a hard time making a living.**

**During the Dust Bowl, only a few families moved to find jobs.**

**It was impossible to  
keep anything clean.**

**Without crops to sell, the  
farmers had little money.**

**Many people living in Kansas  
and Oklahoma were farmers.**



**Farmers planted a lot of crops.**

**Farmers had dust in their houses.**

**Farmers could not make money.**

## Living in the Dust Bowl

This report is about what life was like for many Americans who lived through a time known as the Dust Bowl. Life became difficult, and families faced new problems. Many people

In the 1930s, no rain fell for many years on the American Plains. Because there was no rain,

the farmers

The farmland slowly turned to dust. When the

winds blew, the dust

To find work, the farmers and their families



The Dust Bowl meant hard times for many Americans. However, Woody Guthrie wrote songs that gave people hope for a new future in America.

**Astronomers are \_\_\_\_\_ who research space. They study planets, stars, and other objects in space. They want to understand more about the universe.**

**artists**

**dentists**

**scientists**

**Objects in space are very far away. An astronomer uses a \_\_\_\_\_ to observe them.**





## Grandmother's Eyes

Bella knew that opening grandmother's book of pictures was not allowed. But she liked the pictures with old cars and funny clothes. She always looked at the pictures of grandmother as a little girl. Back then, little girls wore long dresses and hats and heavy shoes. She also liked the pictures of grandmother's house. It was a farmhouse that had a big fence and chickens in the yard. She wondered what it was like to live back then, before things like television and computers.



Then, Bella's day became an accident. The book of pictures fell off her lap and scattered all over the floor. She felt terrible. All the pictures were out of order. Now, the book's pages were empty and the story of her grandmother's life was lost. She began to cry.



Her mother came into the room when she heard her little girl's sobs. When she saw the pictures scattered on the floor, she knew what had happened. She placed her hand softly on her daughter's shoulder. Her mother's touch was light as a feather that floats in the air, and Bella leaned into it and cried.

“Oh Mom,” she cried, “look what I have done!”

Mother whispered, “You will have to put them all back in order.”

Bella began gathering all the photographs. She made piles of the ones with the cars, the pictures of the seashore, and the pictures of people she did not know. Bella began trying to put them back into grandmother’s book.

Her mother picked up a picture from under a chair and turned it over in her hand. “No,” she said softly. “We’ll ask your grandmother if she remembers how the pictures were arranged in the book.”

Bella and her mother gathered the photographs into a basket and walked to grandmother’s room. When Bella showed grandmother the basket, she stared at the pictures for many long minutes. Finally, grandmother sighed.



“I have not thought about these pictures in many years,” she said. “I should have looked at them more often.”

Grandmother took Bella’s hand and pointed at the oldest looking picture. Grandmother said, “This is a picture of my parents. This was the day they came to America.”



Bella, her mother, and her grandmother slowly placed the pictures back into the book.

Grandmother’s eyes sparkled and she said, “There is no hurry. It is time for you to learn the story of our family.”

**Jenny is very busy. She goes to a lot of meetings. She volunteers her time at many places. She works hard. Jenny is as busy as a bee.**

**calm**

**active**

**lazy**

**Bella's day became an accident.**

**Bella, her mother, and her grandmother slowly placed the pictures back into the book.**

**Bella showed her grandmother the basket.**





**She always looked at the pictures  
of grandmother as a little girl.**

**Back then, little girls wore long  
dresses and hats and heavy shoes.**

**Grandmother had a lot of photographs.**

**Bella felt badly about dropping  
her grandmother's pictures.**

**Bella felt happy about dropping  
her grandmother's pictures.**

# Mathematics

**Sarah bought 3 shirts. Each shirt cost the same amount. She paid a total of \$21 for the shirts. What is the cost of one shirt?**

$$3 + x = 21$$

$$3x = 21$$

$$3 - x = 21$$

$$2(10 + 4)$$

$$2(10) + 4$$

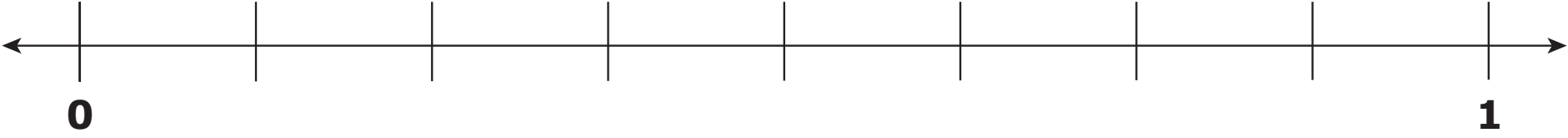
$$210 + 4$$

$$2(10) + 2(4)$$

$$2(10 + 4)$$



**Grade 6 Mathematics**



$$\frac{1}{8}$$

$$\frac{1}{3}$$

$$\frac{1}{4}$$