

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

### Performance Standard 3B.G

Using the writing process, each student will write a multi-paragraph narrative on the prompt: Best Christmas Holiday accordingly:

- *Focusing the paper*: set purpose of paper through thematic introduction, specific preview, or inductively; maintain position/logic throughout; use a closing.
- *Supporting main points*: support points with details; develop depth; enhance specificity through word choice.
- *Organizing the paper*: use structure; paragraph points appropriately; use devices to attain coherence and cohesion (e.g., transitions, pronouns, parallel structure); produce cohesion through varied sentence structure.
- *Using conventions*: demonstrate mastery of sentence construction, subject/verb agreement, punctuation and capitalization, use few invented spellings of uncommon words; evidence few major error in proportion to amount written.
- *Integrating text*: develop text for grade level; integrate ideas with in-depth, balanced support; identify and develop lines of reasoning throughout the paper.

### Procedures

1. ***In order to compose well-organized and coherent writing for specific purposes and audiences (3B)***, provide students with sufficient learning opportunities to develop the following:
  - Use pre-writing strategies.
  - Analyze audience and purpose for writing, and choose the appropriate form (e.g., letters, editorials, reviews, poems, reports, narratives).
  - Begin to establish a personal voice and style.
  - Use an effective and coherent organizational pattern (e.g., sequence, cause/effect, comparison).
  - Write using organization (i.e., introduction, body, conclusion) and elaboration (first and second level support) that demonstrate coherence.
  - Edit and revise to maintain a consistent tone and focus throughout a piece of writing.
  - Use figurative language.
  - Use appropriate internal (within paragraphs) and external (between/among paragraphs) transitional words, phrases, and devices.
  - Select effective formats for publication of final product.
  - Use available technology (e.g., word processing, desktop publishing, electronic dictionary/glossary, printing).
2. Have students review and discuss the assessment task and how the rubric will be used to evaluate their work.
3. Each student will brainstorm and record ideas relating to his/her best Christmas.
4. Each student will be familiar with pre-writing strategies, elements of the eighth grade ISAT Writing rubric, external and internal transitions, proofreading, revisions, and editing.
5. Prior to assessment, each student will have written several practice themes.
6. Each student will be assigned the following prompt: Think about your best Christmas holiday. Write an essay for the local newspaper in which you tell about your best Christmas holiday.
7. Each student will write a multi-paragraphed narrative.
8. Each student will proofread, revise, and edit his/her writing and submit a final copy.
9. Evaluate each student's performance using the ISAT Writing rubric. Add each student's scores to determine the performance level.

NOTE: Integration score will be doubled.

**Examples of Student Work follow****Time Requirements**

- One class period for writing the draft
- One class period to edit and format the pages

**Resources**

- Writing materials, including available technology
- Copies of the writing prompt
- Student notes from prewriting activities
- ISAT Writing Rubric for Grade 8

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds      28 - 32 total points<br><input type="checkbox"/> Meets          21 - 27 total points | <input type="checkbox"/> Approaches    15 - 20 total points<br><input type="checkbox"/> Begins          6 - 14 total points |
|--|---|

**NOTE: Use the state’s writing rubric in appendix A for this assessment.**

	Focus	Support	Organization	Conventions	Integration
<b>6</b>					
<b>5</b>					
<b>4</b>					
<b>3</b>					
<b>2</b>					
<b>1</b>					

### MAJOR AND MINOR ERRORS

#### SENTENCE CONSTRUCTION

##### Major Errors

- Incorrect subject/verb agreement
- Run-on
- Fragment
- Omitted words that interfere
- Incorrect usage
- Incorrect use of common words
- Incorrect pronoun reference
- Confusing tense shifts

##### Minor Errors

- Incorrect use of connectors between clauses
- Omitted words that do not interfere

#### USAGE

##### Minor Errors

- Commas in a series, for opening or clauses
- Awkward or odd use of words/phrases, but meaning still clear
- Homonyms (its/it’s, there/their/they’re, to/two/too)

#### SPELLING

##### Major Errors

- Misspelled common words (same misspelled word considered once)

##### Minor Errors

- Inventive spellings for unusual or less frequently used words

#### PARAGRAPH FORMAT

##### Major Errors

- Using titles to delineate paragraphs
- Numbering paragraphs

##### Minor Errors

- Inconsistent separation of paragraphs

#### PUNCTUATION/ CAPITALIZATION

##### Major Errors

- Omission of initial caps
- Common proper nouns
- Missing/incorrect end punctuation
- Missing or misplaced apostrophes

##### Minor Errors

- Periods for abbreviations

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Whoever invented Christmas vacation was brilliant! This Christmas vacation was going to be wonderful because my sister was coming home from college. I had missed my sister deeply. She left for college just at the beginning of the school year. I had not seen her at all. My mom only let me talk to her once a month and finally she was coming home. The only problem was that there was an ice storm and her plane was delayed. I could tell my mother was worried Lindsay would not make it home. My mother could tell that I was just as worried.

My mom was making a humongous Christmas feast. She was putting stuffing in the turkey. I think people a mile away could smell the sweet apple cinnamon pie baking in our oven. Mom looked at me, smiled, and asked, "Are you excited to see your sister today?"

"Oh, yes, mother, I am. I have missed her more than anything in the whole universe. Mom, what if Linz doesn't make it?"

My mom looked at me as if trying to hide something and said, "Honey, if your sister doesn't make it tonight, she will be here tomorrow. Even though she may not make our Christmas Eve dinner, she will be here on Christmas." I smiled and left the room.

I went into the living room and turned on the news. A man's deep voice came on, "The snow and ice seem to be clearing. Looks like the young lady will be home for Christmas?" I looked up and saw my sister on TV.

She said in a happy voice, "Hi Brookie! I hope you are watching the news." Then she said, "Hurry up guys, it is cold down here."

I yelled at mom and told her that Linz was at the airport. She jumped in the care and we were on our way. When we got to the airport, we saw my sister and ran to her. We all cried because we were so happy. We were going to be together as a family once again.

When we got home, we ate our feast. There was Christmas pudding, apple pie, turkey, potatoes, stuffing, and rolls to eat and hot cocoa or eggnog to drink. I sat by my sister and savored every last drop of that night in my mind. I was probably the happiest kid in the world that night. There is no other way of putting it. That was truly the best Christmas I ever had!

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Very late one night I lay awake on my bed when I heard my sister yell through the whole house. She could have awakened everybody within a mile. I jumped out of bed and ran to find her just where I thought she was, right in front of the Christmas tree. I had forgotten about Christmas. She was already ripping through presents. She had already opened at least two presents before my mom could stop her. Once my mom had gotten her away from the presents and settled down, we started opening presents in an orderly fashion. My sister demanded she open her presents first, so mom let her. After she got down and the rest of the presents were placed in front of her, there was no stopping her until finally she was finished. It was my turn. I could not believe all the presents I had received. I got everything I wanted for Christmas and more. I had so much fun playing with my new toys and putting on my new clothes. I was so busy with all of my new gifts, the next thing I knew it was noon and then it was time to go to our grandpa's house.

Once we got to our grandpa's house, my sister ran to the presents and in a demanding voice said, "Let's open presents now!" So we opened presents. When we finished opening presents, we all sat down and ate a big Christmas supper. It was delicious. After everyone finished eating, we went into the living room and the kids played with their new toys and clothes. Today was so incredible that I thought I was dreaming, so I pinched myself. It was just about

time to go home, but I did not want to end this perfect day. It was too much fun to end now, but we had to go home and go right to bed. It seemed like ages before I could go to sleep. Once I finally went to sleep, it seemed like no time and I was waking up. I ran to see what time was on the clock in the kitchen. It was seven-thirty in the morning, so I walked back to my bed, crawled back into bed, and went back to sleep. After what seemed like forever, my mom came and woke me up. We ate breakfast and then I started playing with my new toys again. The next day went by very fast also, then the next thing I knew it was time to go to bed.

It took me a long time to go to sleep again because I had so much fun I did not want it to quit. Then finally I fell asleep and the next morning I arose to a very cold snowy day. I jumped out of bed and ran to the window. We must have had a foot of snow. I could not wait to go out and play in the snow. I went to the kitchen and asked my mom if we could go outside to play. She said, "Yes, but you have to eat your breakfast first."

I quickly ate my breakfast, got my snowsuit on, and went sledding right away. After I had played outside, which had seemed like no time at all. I heard my Mom holler for me to come in. When I got in, I asked her if I could stay out longer. She said, "Maybe after you eat your lunch." So I ate my lunch, but I did not go back to outside. Instead I stayed in and played with all my new toys for the rest of the day. When I went to bed that night I thought to myself, "These two days have been the best two days of my life."