Constructed Response: Short Answer Item Stems (Claim 1) – Gr 3-5

Literary Texts:

Target 2 - Central Ideas

- Determine the [theme/main idea] of the passage. Explain the [theme/main idea] and support your answer using key details from the passage.
- What is the [theme/main idea] of the passage? Use key details from the passage to support and explain your answer.
- Read the [sentence(s)/line(s)/paragraph(s)].
  [excerpt from text]
  What is the [author's/narrator's] main idea in the [sentence(s)/line(s)/paragraph(s)]? Use key details from the passage to support and explain your answer.
- Summarize the first paragraph. Use key [details/events] from the passage in your summary.
- Read the [sentence(s)/line(s)/paragraph(s)].
  [ excerpt from text]
  Summarize the [sentence(s)/line(s)/paragraph(s)]. Use key [details/events] from the passage in your summary.
- Summarize what happens [after/during] [provide text event]. Use key [details/events] from the passage in your summary.

Appropriate Stems for Dual-Text Stimuli Only:

- What [theme/main idea] can be found in both [title text #1] and [title text #2]? Use key details from both passage to support and explain your answer.
- What [theme/main idea] from [title text #1] is made clear by the description of [provide an idea/event/character/etc.] in [title text #2]? Use key [details/events] from [title text #1] to support and explain your answer.
Target 4 - Reasoning and Evaluation

- What inference can be made about [provide character’s name/setting/plot/author’s point of view/theme/topic]? Use key details from the passage to support and explain your answer.
- What inference can be made about the narrator’s feelings toward [provide character’s name/setting/plot]? Use key details from the passage to support and explain your answer.
- What inference can be made about [character name]’s relationship with [character name]? Use key details from the passage to support and explain your answer.
- What conclusion can be drawn about [provide character’s name/setting/plot/author’s point of view/theme/topic]? Use key details from the passage to support and explain your answer.
- What conclusion can be drawn about the narrator’s feelings toward [provide character’s name/setting/plot]? Use key details from the passage to support and explain your answer.
- What conclusion can be drawn about [character name]’s relationship with [character name]? Use key details from the passage to support and explain your answer.

Appropriate Stems for Dual-Text Stimuli Only:
- Read the sentence(s)/line(s)set of lines/paragraph(s)] from [title text #2].
  [excerpt from text]
  Based on this information, [what inference can be made/what can a reader infer] about [provide character’s name/setting/plot/theme/topic/character-narrator point of view/etc.] in [title text #1]? Support and explain your answer with key details from [title text #1/both passages].
- Read the [sentence(s)/line(s)set of lines/paragraph(s)] from [title text #2].
  [excerpt from text]
  Based on this information, [what conclusion can be drawn/what can a reader conclude] about [provide character’s name/setting/plot/theme/topic/character-narrator point of view/etc.] in [title text #1]? Support and explain your answer with key details from [title text #1/both passages].

From Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Item Specifications documents http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/#item
Target 9 – Central Ideas

• What is the main idea of the passage? Explain the main idea and support your answer using key details from the passage.
• What is the main idea of the passage? Use key details from the passage to support and explain your answer.
• Read the paragraph from the passage.
  [excerpt from text]
  What is the main idea in this paragraph? Use key details from the passage to support and explain your answer.
• In the passage, the author writes [provide text excerpt]. Use key details from the passage to support and explain your answer.
• Summarize the [first paragraph/introduction]. Use key details from the passage to support and explain your answer.
• Summarize what happens [after/during] [provide text event]. Use key [details/events] from the passage in your summary.
• Summarize what happens in [provide section/heading]. Use key [details/events] from the passage in your summary.

Appropriate Stems for Dual-Text Stimuli Only:
• What main idea can be found in both [title text #1] and [title text#2]? Use key details from both passages to support and explain your answer.  
  NOTE: This stem can only be used with two informational passages.
• What main idea from [title text #1] is made clear by the description of [provide idea/event] in [title text #2]? Use key details from [title text #1] to support and explain your answer.
Target 11 – Reasoning and Evaluation

- What inference can be made about the [provide example of author’s use of information/point of view/purpose]? Use key details from the passage to support and explain your answer.
- What inference can be made about the author’s opinion about [provide idea/concept in the text]? Use key details from the passage to support and explain your answer.
- What conclusion can be drawn about the [author’s use of information/point of view/purpose]? Use key details from the passage to support and explain your answer.
- What conclusion can be drawn about the author’s opinion about [provide idea/concept in the text]? Use key details from the passage to support and explain your answer.
- What did the author most likely mean by using [provide target detail] in the text? Use key details from the passage to support and explain your answer.

Appropriate Stems for Dual-Text Stimuli Only:

- Read the [sentence(s)/section(s)/paragraph(s)] from [title text #2].

  [excerpt from text]

  Based on this information, [what inference can be made/what can a reader infer] about [provide example of the author’s use of information/point of view/purpose] in [title text #1]? Support and explain your answer with key details from [title text #1/both passages].

- Read the [sentence(s)/section(s)/paragraph(s)] from [title text #2].

  [excerpt from text]

  Based on this information, [what conclusion can be drawn/what can a reader conclude] about [provide example of the author’s use of information/point of view/purpose] in [text #1 name]? Support and explain your answer with key details from [title text #1/both passages].