



MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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# Writing Prompt

***Grade 3  
Sampler  
2015–16***



QA116029

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**DIRECTIONS: Read the following passage and write a response to the prompt that follows.**

## **Rescuing Miracle**

by Rhonda H. Rucker, M.D.

### **A sick and starving cub got better with the help of a teddy bear.**

- 1 On a June day in Arkansas, some fishermen saw a bear cub in a tree. Hours went by, and the cub's mother didn't return. So the fishermen called wildlife biologist Rick Eastridge.
- 2 The bear cub was sick and starving. He weighed only five pounds and his eyes were matted shut. Eastridge called Lisa Stewart, who works at Appalachian Bear Rescue in Tennessee. Appalachian Bear Rescue helps injured wild bears and cubs who have lost their mothers.
- 3 "I always make room for a new cub," says Stewart. She named the bear Miracle because she "thought it was a miracle he had survived!"

### **Ears and Applesauce**

- 4 When the bear cub arrived, Stewart cleaned his eyes and put him in a house by himself. If cubs are very young, they must be bottle fed. Since Miracle was already five months old, Stewart gave him bowls of food instead. In another bowl was a special formula, similar to a bear mother's milk.
- 5 Sometimes, Miracle would poke his head out of his house and take a lap of formula or a bite of food. But he wasn't eating very much.
- 6 Miracle was too weak to be with other bears. So Stewart gave him a teddy bear named Buddy. Miracle adopted Buddy right away. He took it into his house and covered it with straw. He fed Buddy, too. Stewart often found the teddy bear covered in formula and berries and its ears full of apple chunks. Now that Miracle had Buddy, he came out of his house more often and wanted to eat.

### **Into the Wild**

- 7 After two months, Stewart introduced Miracle to other bears so they could learn from one another. She avoided any direct contact with Miracle and the other bears. Stewart wanted to make sure they stayed afraid of humans so they could go back into the wild again. She hid behind a fence and threw food over the top. The bears hunted for this food as they would soon do in the wild.
- 8 Five months later, Rick Eastridge returned to pick up a healthy 90-pound Miracle and another bear from Arkansas named Rocky. Eastridge loaded the bears into bear boxes on his truck and transported them back to their wild habitat. As soon as the bear boxes were opened, the two cubs ran for the woods where they belonged.



Bibliography Information:

"Rescuing Miracle" by Rhonda H. Rucker, M.D., February 2013, *Highlights for Children*,  
www.highlightskids.com

**Read the prompt below and then write your response.**

**You have read an article about a bear who is cared for by a wildlife biologist. Write an informational piece describing how Lisa Stewart helps Miracle the bear cub return to the wild. Use examples from the passage in your explanation.**

**Your writing will be scored based on the development of ideas, organization of writing, and language conventions of grammar, usage, and mechanics.**

**Please write your response within the lined boxes on pages 4 through 8.**

# Writing

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# Writing

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