**4.2 Poppy**

**MISD M-STEP Practice Assessment Very Short Teachers Edition**

These MISD M-STEP Practice Assessments have been created to serve **two purposes**:

1. to acquaint students with the kind of thinking that will be required of them on the M-STEP Assessment.
2. but more important, to serve as a model for teachers of the kind of thinking students should be doing daily in order to meet the Common Core State Standards.

The **readability** of the assessment passages may seem high, but the passages in these assessments have been in the MISD Literature Units for a number of years. For instruction teachers might wish to create Guided Highlighted Reading prompts to help students zero in on the information called for by the questions in the assessment. Also the Lexile values of the MDE M-STEP model assessments were randomly checked, and it was found that the Lexile values of the MDE assessments were higher than the text from the MISD Literature Units and the MISD M-STEP Practice Assessments.

The words **“short constructed response”** in Part 1 of the assessments require that students write two to five sentences depending on the number of examples or pieces of evidence required by each question. Teachers should inform students of this and let them know where to write the answers to these questions.

The MDE M-STEP Practice Assessments include only three **short constructed responses**, but there are 4 included in grade 3-5 assessments so students will be aware of more assessment possibilities. Answers to the short constructed response questions in **this** (fourth) grade level assessment follow:

1. Source #1
2. Sources #2 and #3
3. Sources #1, #2, and #3

Although having possible answers for all sections of Parts 1 and 2, would be more helpful in instruction, getting these assessments to teachers for students is most important.

The MDE M-STEP Practice Assessments ask for **three forms of writing in Part 2**:

1. **Informational (3-5), Explanatory (6-8)**
2. **Opinion (3-5), Argumentative (6-8)**
3. **Narrative (3-8)** (MDE assessments only include one example of Narrative (6th grade)

The goal of these MISD assessments was to include passages students have read or would be reading from MISD Literature units at each grade level so that these assessments would not be an add-on but be an integral part of regular instruction. All of these MISD M-STEP Practice Assessments are Informational at grades 3-5 and Explanatory writing at grades 6-8 as that is the form of text included in the 2011 CCSS revision of the MISD Literature Units. Practice in other forms of writing in Part 2 are also available to teachers from MISD.

Please be sure that students have access to the attached rubrics and have had instruction in the expectations of these rubrics in advance of administration of these practice assessments.