

*A Standard Start*  
**Sample Pack**  
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**Introduction**

**Purpose**

This purpose of *A Standard Start* is to provide three questions a day that are based on the South Carolina seventh grade language arts standards. These comprehensive questions spiral the standards and will increase your students' reading and writing skills and help prepare students for the PACT. In this sample pack, you will find five standards pages from our sixth grade, seventh grade, and eighth grade books.

**Format**

*A Standard Start* can be used as a warm-up activity, a homework assignment, or as a closure for your class. There are 180 days of standards-based questions, one for every day of the school year. Each day, students will answer three questions. Standards will be spiraled, meaning on Mondays, they will have questions based on certain standards; every Tuesday, they will cover another set of standards, and so on. This is the standards schedule that the book follows:

- **Monday – Figurative language, point of view, context clues**
- **Tuesday – Elements of fiction, reference skills, writing skills**
- **Wednesday – Elements of poetry, author's purpose/craft, making inferences/drawing conclusions or summarize/paraphrase**
- **Thursday – Main idea, text elements or graphic features, building vocabulary (connotation, denotation, euphemisms, idioms)**
- **Friday – Bias/propaganda, tone/mood, word analysis (Greek and Latin roots and affixes)**

## Standards 21 (6<sup>th</sup> grade)

**1. Write a simile comparing the moon to a flashlight.**

**Write a metaphor comparing the moon to a flashlight.**

**Personify the moon.**

**2. If a dynamic, round character is telling a story, what point of view is being used?**

**3. Use context clues to figure out the meaning of the underlined word.**

*Susie is a finicky eater. She will only eat fruit and peanut butter sandwiches.*

- a. fast
- b. vegetarian
- c. picky
- d. slow

## Standards 72 (6<sup>th</sup> grade)

*There once was an ugly prince who lived in an ugly castle and was known for his ugly beard. One warm, spring morning, the prince awoke around six o'clock in the morning to prepare for the pie eating contest sponsored by the king. The prince was to be a contestant at the courtyard contest. To his surprise, during the contest, his ugly beard concealed much of the pie, allowing him to gain the lead. When it was all over and he had the first place gold metal hanging around his neck, he was proud of the hair on his chin.*

**1. Which of the following does not contribute to the setting of the story?**

- a. There once was an ugly prince who lived in an ugly castle.
- b. The prince awoke around six o'clock.
- c. The prince was to be a contestant at the courtyard contest.
- d. To his surprise, during the contest, his ugly beard concealed much of the pie.

**2. If you wanted to find out if any fairy tales were in your literature book, where would you look?**

- a. Table of contents
- b. Glossary
- c. Bibliography
- d. Title page

**3. The word *ugly* is used in the above passage three times. List two other adjectives that could be used instead of the word *ugly*.**

# Standards 28 (6<sup>th</sup> grade)

## My Shadow

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,  
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.  
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;  
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.

The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow-  
Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;  
For he sometimes shoots up taller like an India-rubber ball,  
And he sometimes gets so little that there's none of him at all.

He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play,  
And can only make a fool of me in every sort of way.  
He stays so close beside me, he's a coward you can see;  
I'd think shame to stick to nursie as that shadow sticks to me!

One morning, very early, before the sun was up,  
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;  
But my lazy little shadow, like an arrant sleepy-head,  
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed.

- Robert Louis Stevenson

1. **How many stanzas are in this poem?**

**What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?**

2. **What is the author's purpose of the last stanza in this poem?**

- To explain when shadows do not appear
- To persuade young people to get out of bed early
- To describe early morning dew on flowers
- To explain what the word *arrant* means

3. **What is the best way to summarize the third stanza?**

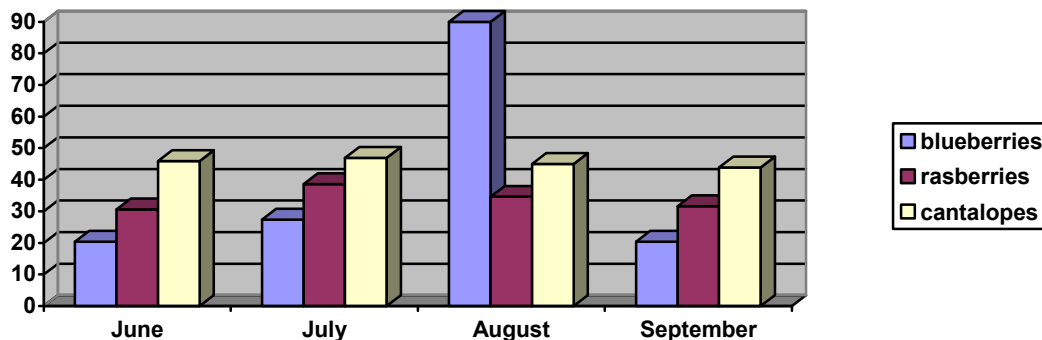
- Others can make fools out of us.
- Children should play nice at all times.
- Shadows stick close by at all times.
- Cowards stick close by the sides of their friends.

## Standards 49 (6<sup>th</sup> grade)

*The Island of Puerto Rico, located in the Caribbean, has been a part of the United States for many years. The residents of Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens. However, they do not pay federal income taxes and are unable to vote for President or for Congress. Puerto Rico has a governor and one delegate to the U.S. Congress. This delegate is unable to vote on legislation as other members do. The island is a commonwealth. This means that Puerto Rico is a self-governing part of America, but not a state.*

### 1. What is the main idea of this passage?

- Puerto Rico has a governor.
- Puerto is a self-governing part of the United States, but not a state.
- Puerto Rico is located in the Caribbean.
- The residents of Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens.



### 2. According to the bar graph, which fruit was most popular in the month of September?

**In what two months were blueberries the least popular?**

### 3. Which of the following sentences is written correctly?

- I had too many items to be in the line over they're.
- I had too many items to be in the line over their.
- I had to many items to be in the line over there.
- I had too many items to be in the line over there.

## Standards 25 (6<sup>th</sup> grade)

1. The hidden messages propaganda technique uses pictures or words to convey an idea without stating it directly.

If an advertisement shows a picture of a major league baseball homerun-hitting champion beside an *Aerobat* brand bat, what is the hidden message?

2. What is the tone of the following passage?

*Our community looks beautiful! The newly planted trees and shrubs add texture and beauty to the sidewalks and store fronts. The black iron lampposts are also an asset because they cast luminous streaks all along the spacious walkways.*

- a. gentle      b. flowery      c. anxious      d. angry

3. Look at the following groups of words. Only one out of three prefixes next to a root word is correct for that word. Circle the correct prefix.

un/dis/sub	do
mis/trans/un	even
anti/re/in	play
re/um/im	possible

## Standards 40 (6<sup>th</sup> grade)

*Schools that care about student success require uniforms. With **uniforms**, students do not have to feel jealous over someone else's clothes and can concentrate on schoolwork. Uniforms do not allow kids to wear colors that connect them to street gangs. This all adds up to safer schools, lower crime rates, less fights, and fewer suspensions from school.*

- 1. A principal gave this speech at a community meeting. Why is his speech biased?**
- 2. What is the tone of his speech?**
  - humorous and lighthearted
  - serious and matter of fact
  - gentle and encouraging
  - courageous and uplifting
- 3. What is the prefix in the bolded word *uniforms* in the passage? What does this prefix mean? What is the root word?**

## **Standards 16 (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

*I crawled in between my warm, flannel sheets and pulled the covers up to my neck. “Help me go to sleep,” I whispered to my teddy bear. Christmas Eve had to be the number one worst night of the year to get any sleep because the thoughts of my wish list relentlessly danced in my head and refused to stop. Somehow, however, I drifted off to sleep. Around two o’clock in the morning, my eyes sprung open to the sound of jingle bells. I sat straight up and peered into the darkness. Holding my breath, I almost fainted when I heard a quiet, “Ho, Ho, Ho” coming from my living room.*

**1. Find an example of personification from the passage. Explain the meaning of it.**

**2. From what point of view is the passage told?**

- a. first person
- b. third person limited
- c. third person omniscient

**Why does the author most likely choose to tell this passage from a first-person point of view?**

- a. to help the reader better understand the feelings and anticipations of the narrator
- b. To show how children react to excitement
- c. To allow the reader to know the thoughts and feelings of multiple characters
- d. To help the reader know what it is like to have a sleepless night

**3. Use context clues to figure out the meaning of the word relentlessly.**

## Standards 22 (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

*When I went to summer camp last year, I had no idea that my life would be forever changed. I was assigned to cabin four, and as I trudged up the hill dragging my suitcase behind me, I said a silent prayer that my roommates would all be able to get along with each other.*

*When I reached the cabin, the door flung open, and I was greeted by the biggest surprise of my life! Standing in the room was my reflection, a girl who looked identical to me. We stood stunned without uttering a word for at least two full minutes. That camp retreat brought me face to face with my twin sister that I never thought I would meet.*

**1. What is the theme of this passage?**

- a. Beauty is only skin deep.
- b. Sometimes there is a plan in this large, chaotic world.
- c. Twin sisters are inseparable.
- d. You do not know what you have until it is gone.

**2. If you wanted to find out how many sets of twins were born in 2006, where would you look?**

- a. encyclopedia
- b. atlas
- c. almanac
- d. thesaurus

*When he was a third grader, Tripp Clark's dad encouraged him to become a boy scout.*

**3. Which is the best revision of this sentence?**

- a. Tripp Clark's dad encouraged him to become a boy scout when he was a third grader.
- b. When Tripp Clark was a third grader, his dad encouraged him to become a boy scout.
- c. Tripp Clark's dad encouraged third grader Tripp Clark to become a boy scout.
- d. Encouraging Tripp Clark to become a boy scout when he was a third grader was his dad.

# Standards 28(7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

## The Road Not Taken

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;*

*Then took the other, as just as fair  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that, the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,*

*And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.*

*I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
two roads diverged in a wood, and I --  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.*

- Robert Frost

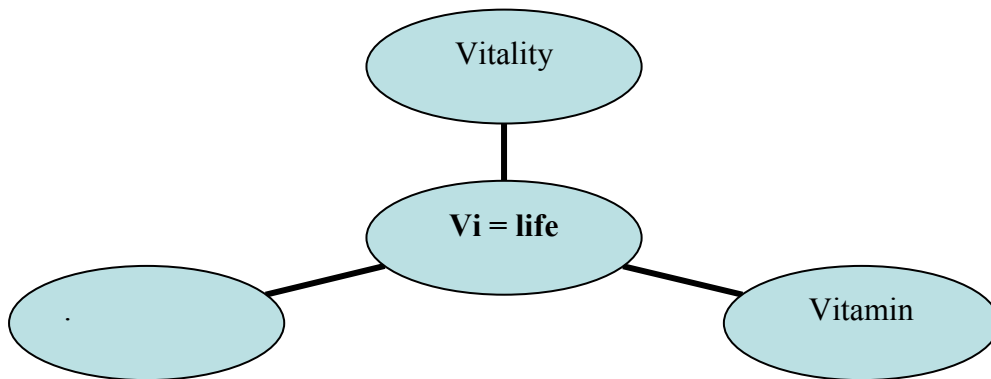
1. **Who is the speaker in this poem? What do the roads symbolize?**
2. **What is the author's purpose of the last stanza in this poem?**
  - a. It summarizes the main idea.
  - b. It changes the message.
  - c. It adds a sarcastic tone.
  - d. It reflects upon the speaker's choices in life.
3. **What is the best way to summarize the first stanza?**
  - a. I stood and studied both paths in the woods to decide which one I should take.
  - b. I looked at two paths in the woods and dreamed about taking the first one.
  - c. I argued with myself over which path I should take in the woods.
  - d. I found myself lost in the woods, and I did not know which way to go.

## Standards 49 (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

*Anyone who plans to take care of children should take a class on basic rescue training. Many hospitals offer CPR classes to the public free of charge. Knowing what to do in an emergency is vital when it comes to keeping children, because anything can happen at any given time.*

### 1. What is the main idea of this passage?

- CPR can save lives.
- Hospitals offer CPR free of charge.
- Anything can happen at any given time.
- Those who plan to take care of children should be trained for emergencies.



2.

Which of the following would best complete the graphic organizer?

- violin
- vivacious
- victory
- vegetable

He *walked* in the room.

3. The verb *walked* does not really paint a picture in the mind of the reader. However, if you change the verb to *strutted*, the reader now has a visual image. How does the connotation of the verb *strutted* not only help you see what he looks like walking, but also know what type of person he is?

## Standards 45 (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

*As you know, I have been the one who has been responsible for lowering our taxes in this state. Not one of the promises my opponent has made will be fulfilled. He talks a big game, but when the time comes for him to act, he simply doesn't. I am the one to do the job. In fact, he shouldn't even be running for this office!*

### 1. What is one way the author uses bias to support his claim about his opponent?

- a. The author uses negative, opinionated language to describe his opponent.
- b. The author uses other people's opinions about his opponent.
- c. The author uses the opponent's name and bashes his credentials.
- d. The author has portrayed his opponent as being "compassionate".

### 2. What is the tone of this passage?

- a. positive
- b. negative
- c. neutral
- d. pleasant

### 3. Complete the following chart.

Prefix	Definition	Example
Mis	Wrong or badly	
Sub		Subway
	Before	Prepare
Un		Unhurt

# Standards 105 (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

1. Which of the following sentences uses the bandwagon approach to persuade?

- a. The new album colors are glorious and refreshing.
- b. Everyone who buys an album today gets a free set of pens.
- c. The new album is completely acid free and buffered.
- d. Nurses, teachers, dental assistants, lawyers, daycare owners... and everyone else use our albums.

*I have a sister  
She has a dog  
It is a mister  
He ate a frog*

2. What is the tone of the above poem?

- a. melancholy
- b. humorous
- c. candid
- d. critical

3. Write the root words for the following words.

**Misunderstand**

**Unaware**

**Biweekly**

**What do the prefixes in each of these words mean?**

## Standards 56 (8<sup>th</sup> grade)

*My music enlightens and changes my moods.*

*I think it is even better than food.*

*It is medicine to me when I'm sick.*

*It is like a lollipop on a big bright stick*

*Without it, life would be so still,*

*A quiet dream without any thrill.*

### 1. Which line from the poem contains a metaphor?

- a. Music enlightens and changes moods.
- b. It is medicine to those who are sick.
- c. It's like a lollipop on a big, bright stick.
- d. Without it, life would be so still.

### Which of the following is not an oxymoron?

- a. alone together
- b. tight slacks
- c. invisible ghost
- d. big sip

### 2. Which words from the poem show that it is written in the first person point of view?

- a. it, is, so
- b. and, is, are
- c. my, I, me
- d. medicine, life, still

*Please do not squander all of your time listening to music. You have homework to do!*

### 3. What is the best meaning for the word squander?

- a. to dissolve
- b. to reduce
- c. to waste
- d. to weaken

## Standards 77 (8<sup>th</sup> grade)

1. Which of the following would be considered situational irony?

- a. A tall man walks in a room, and someone calls him “shorty”.
- b. A dentist’s son has gum disease from not brushing his teeth.
- c. When reading a mystery, the reader knows who committed a crime, but the characters do not know.
- d. A dog barks so loudly it wakes up the neighbors.

2.

Emphasize- vb. Syns. Accent, accentuate, feature, highlight, underscore
---

*She made sure she listened carefully to what her science teacher emphasized so that she would know what to study for tomorrow’s exam.*

What word from the thesaurus entry would best replace the underlined word?

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| a. featured    | c. accentuated |
| b. highlighted | d. accented    |

3. Read each activity and decide if it involves editing or revising.

- *Correcting the spelling of “orchid” in an essay on flowers*
- *Choosing a better, stronger verb than walk in a sentence*
- *Capitalizing the name of the main character’s cousin*

# Standards 13 (8<sup>th</sup> grade)

## *Fall*

*Leaves turning orange and brown  
Pumpkins growing plump and round  
It's football games and back to school  
It's say goodbye to the swimming pool.*

*It's scarecrows, squash, and sweet potato pie  
It's bails of hay piled to the sky  
It's Grandma's house and a cool, crisp breeze  
It's chilly mornings and an occasional freeze*

*It's Halloween's here and Thanksgiving too  
It's the season of fall. Yippee! Yoo-hoo!*

### **1. What is the rhyme scheme of this poem?**

**Write one stanza of a poem describing another season. Use the same rhyme scheme as the one used in this poem.**

### **2. What is the author's purpose for writing this poem?**

- to inform the reader about the cycle of leaves
- to persuade the reader to like the season of fall
- to entertain the reader with an upbeat rhyme about fall
- to evaluate the season of fall

### **Which literary device contributes most to the tone of this poem?**

- The use of figurative language
- The use of rhythm and rhyme
- The repetition of the word "It's"
- The title

### **3. Compare the stanza that you wrote to the first stanza of the poem "Fall". Which one seems more positive? How is your stanza different from the first stanza in the above poem?**

# Standards 54 (8<sup>th</sup> grade)

*Hunter and Alicia are both twelve years old. They have been best friends for two years. Alicia is blind, but that has never stood in the way of the two girls' friendship. In fact, Alicia has taught Hunter how to read brail.*

*Every afternoon they pop popcorn, their favorite snack, and paint together. Hunter loves to paint, and she has shared her passion with Alicia. Even though Alicia cannot see what she has created, she enjoys the tranquility and joy that painting provides.*

## 1. What would be the best title for this selection?

- Alicia Teaches Hunter to Read Brail
- Popcorn, a Popular Snack
- Friends Against All Odds
- The Tranquility of Painting

## Mimi's Kitchen Work Schedule

Name	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Travis	9 A.M. – 5 P.M. Station 1	9 A.M. – 5P.M. Station 1	9 A.M. – P.M. Station 1	9 A.M. – 5P.M. Station 2
Kim	9 A.M. – 5 P.M. Station 2	9 A.M. – 5P.M. Station 2	9 A.M. – P.M. Station 2	9 A.M. – 5P.M. Station 1
Keisha	5 P.M. –10P.M. Station 1	5 P.M. -10P.M. Station 2	5 P.M. -10P.M. Station 1	5 P.M. -10P.M. Station 2
Jimmy	5 P.M. – 10P.M. Station 2	9 A.M.-5 P.M. Station 3	5 P.M. -10P.M. Station 2	9 A.M.-5 P.M. Station 3
Tony	9 A.M.-5 P.M. Station 3	5 P.M. -10 PM Station 3	9 A.M.-5 P.M. Station 3	5 P.M. -10 PM Station 3
Michelle	5 P.M. -10 PM Station 3	5 P.M. -10P.M. Station 1	5 P.M. -10 PM Station 3	5 P.M. -10P.M. Station 1

## 2. Use the chart above to answer the following questions.

- Which serving station does Jimmy not work?
- On what days is this restaurant open?
- What server works station two three days a week?
- Who only works station three?

## 3. Saying “old people” seems a little rude. Write a euphemism for “old people”.

## Standards 55 (8<sup>th</sup> grade)

**1. Many commercials use humor. Which propaganda technique attempts to convince you to buy something while making you laugh?**

- a. testimonial
- b. glad names
- c. emotional appeal
- d. bandwagon

If you have a fish, you should change its tank once a week. Some people allow the water in fish tanks to become cloudy and full of harmful bacteria. If you want to get fish, that is fine, but be responsible enough to take care of them! Otherwise, just admire them in the store and leave them alone.

**2. What is the tone of this passage?**

- a. criticizing
- b. flowery
- c. harsh
- d. informative

**3. Complete the following chart.**

<b>Root</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Another Example</b>
<i>corp</i>	body	corporation	
<i>gram</i>	letter	grammar	
<i>lum</i>	light	illumine	
<i>port</i>	carry	import	
<i>scend</i>	climb	ascend	

## Standards 80 (8<sup>th</sup> grade)

*At Welch Middle School, students are required to wear uniforms. The school district made uniforms mandatory just last year. At the first school board meeting of the present year, MaryAnn Nickles, an eighth grader at WMS, addressed the board about ending the uniform ruling. Dressed in a nice pair of pants and a t-shirt, she stood and said that the uniforms represented an unjust restriction on her student body. "We should not be forced to wear these monotonous outfits to school each day, and I have proof that it should end." She then handed each board member the results of a survey that she had given to the students asking if they had ever witnessed any student dressed inappropriately at school before the uniforms were put into place.*

### **1. Why is MaryAnn's presentation to the school board biased?**

- a. Her survey comes at the end and not at the beginning of her presentation.
- b. The board members know automatically that she has no reason to argue the uniform policy.
- c. MaryAnn's survey is based only on students' opinions and not on those of teachers or administrators.
- d. MaryAnn's t-shirt shows that she has no reason to argue about uniforms.

*There was a young girl named Tasha  
Who liked to live in a washer.  
She had a dream  
That she was mean  
And now her name is Sasha.*

### **2. What is the tone of the poem?**

- a. reflective
- b. somber
- c. silly
- d. frantic

### **3. What is the prefix of the word uniforms? What does it mean?**

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