

**Buffalo Public Schools**  
**Grade 2**  
**Use of *HOT!* Oral and Constructed Response Questions**

**Purpose:**

Higher order thinking (*HOT!*) questions aligned to grade 2 *Journeys* lessons 16-30 have been created to provide second graders an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the texts and to practice writing short and extended constructed responses.

**Teaching Suggestions for Constructed Responses:**

Teachers should use their discretion as to if/when to use the items and as to the most appropriate way to use the items during classroom instruction.

Teachers may choose to conduct think-alouds to model writing strategies for students. Teachers may also choose to scaffold the questions for students. They may elect to use them whole group or to use the items with certain students in teacher-led small group. Students will benefit from learning how to restate the question, go back into the text to locate the answer, and explain why the evidence they have selected supports their response. In addition, teachers may choose to deconstruct the exemplar responses as a model for students. It is also a good opportunity to introduce students to transition words such as “for instance,” “for example,” “in addition,” and “likewise” that they will be expected to use in later grades.

Step Up to Writing resources (e.g., informal outline, Section 4 tools) and the New York State two-and four-point rubrics can be used to organize written responses. Teachers may ask student(s) to respond to the constructed responses independently if the student(s) demonstrate readiness. Please note, however, that students in second grade are not expected to write constructed responses with third grade proficiency.