When designing this algorithm that takes a set of strings, and for every three consecutive strings, leaves only the shortest of the three, I created a method findSmallest that finds the smallest of 3 strings. I passed the entire string into a method, shortestOfThree and from there, I iterated over the entire string incrementing by 3 each time. Since there are just 2 for loops that are not nested, the run time is O(n).