

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 4 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
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The author claims that money for parks should be spent on nature and supports this claim

Option D is correct

responsibility to help them grow and thrive

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	Option B is correct	This summary contains key ideas from the entire article. The author believes that overcrowding is harmful to parks and that more money should be spent on caring for nature in parks.

Although this summary contains the ideas that

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Option A is incorrect

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4	For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

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6	Option C is correct	In this sentence, the author provides specific details that show how beetles can be bad for parks. The effect of the beetles “cut[ting] off the water supply and food for trees” is that the trees will die.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, the author states that “trees need our help to stay healthy” but does not mention beetles.
	Option B is incorrect	The author’s statement that “unwanted beetles have spread around some parks” does not include information to show that beetles can be bad for parks. The author is stating that beetles are in the parks.
	Option D is incorrect	In this sentence, the author suggests a way for governments to encourage people to “take care of parks.” However, the author does not show in this sentence how beetles can be bad for parks.

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Option B is correct	The author states that “protecting the actual parks would be beneficial for both people and wildlife” (paragraph 3) and then discusses the importance

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8	Option D is correct	Imagery is the use of vivid language to represent objects, actions, or ideas. By using imagery in paragraph 6, the author creates a picture in the reader's mind of people enjoying parks. This supports the author's claim that "people do not need new construction in order to enjoy parks."
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 6, the author uses imagery to describe how people relax and have fun in parks, not to introduce how visitors can help with park tasks.
	Option B is incorrect	The author uses imagery in paragraph 6 to create a picture in the reader's mind of people enjoying parks, not to support the idea that playgrounds encourage healthy habits.
	Option C is incorrect	In these sentences from paragraph 6, the author uses imagery to create a picture in the reader's mind of people enjoying parks "on a nice day." However, the author does not use imagery to explain how parks are better suited for good weather.

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9	Option A is correct	The central idea of the selection is that trains allowed people to travel to new places. The author supports this idea by stating, "Trains gave people access to places that were often difficult to reach" (paragraph 1). The author goes on to discuss how trains made travel much easier. The author concludes by stating, "For most of a century, [trains] were the main way of traveling across vast areas of land. They helped bring goods, ideas, and people together" (paragraph 7).
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author mentions in paragraph 5 that "train travel was cheaper than other forms of transportation," the cost of train travel serves as a supporting detail, not the central idea of the selection.
	Option C is incorrect	The author's use of the city of El Paso to show how the construction of railroads "changed the experience of travel" (paragraph 5) by making it easier to travel to new places (paragraph 6) serves as a supporting detail, not the central idea of the selection.
	Option D is incorrect	El Paso was not the first city in Texas to have a railroad. According to the author, "the first 20 miles of track" in Texas was opened in 1853 (paragraph 1), but it was not until "1881 when railroad tracks arrived in El Paso" (paragraph 4). Therefore, this statement does not serve as the central idea of the selection.

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Option B is correct

By organizing the selection in chronological order, the author shows how railroads in West Texas developed over time. The author starts with Texas's "first 20 miles of track" being opened for business in 1853 (paragraph 1), adds

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11	Option A is correct	The most likely reason the author wrote the selection is to express how important railroads and trains were for growing travel in Texas. In paragraph 7, the author states that “railroads were incredibly important. For most of a century, they were the main way of traveling across vast areas of land.”
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author states, “Railroads extended into New Mexico and beyond” (paragraph 6), the focus of the selection is the expansion of railroads in Texas, not in other states.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 4, the author states that “once trains could roll into town, El Paso seemed to grow overnight.” However, to explain population growth is not the most likely reason the author wrote the selection. —

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Option B is correct	In lines 8 through 14, the poet uses the words <i>noise</i> and <i>wake</i> (lines 9 and 10) to help the reader determine that the meaning of the word <u>jolting</u> is "rough." This contrasting word helps emphasize the smooth and quiet movement of the train.eader

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Option D is correct	<p>Figurative language is language that uses words that mean something different from their literal interpretation. In lines 20 and 21, the poet uses personification to describe the wheels of the train as “spin[ning] bright along the bright rails” and “singing ff7 (i)1 (s)-2 (l)1 (a)-12 (ngua)-12 (ge)-7 (t)1 (ha)</p>

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15	Option A is correct	The author of the selection "Riding Out West" notes that "El Paso and other Texas cities grew because trains changed the experience of travel" (paragraph 5), which supports the idea that trains changed an entire area. In contrast, the speaker in the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)" describes the effects of train travel as a freeing personal experience or "Like Youth, running away" (line 19).
	Option B is incorrect	The author of the selection "Riding Out West" does state that "for most of a century, they were the main way of traveling across vast areas of land" (paragraph 7). However, the speaker in the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)" does not explicitly mention how trains work today.
	Option C is incorrect	The author of the selection "Riding Out West" gives examples of why trains "were incredibly important" (paragra3 (v)1 (e) nBT-(e)-5t2 (no)-6 (t)]T0 Tc 0

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Option A is correct

Both the author of the selection "Riding Out West" and the speaker in the poem "Going Home (*Burlington Route*)" communicate how they value the freedom to move easily by train. The author of the selection "Riding Out West" states that trains made it "easier for people to visit new places" (paragraph 6). The speaker in the poem remarks on "how smoothly the trains run" (line 1), that "there is not noise" (line 9) "nor jolting" (line 10), and that "the trains run smoothly" (line 10), and that "the trains run smoothly" (line 10).

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	Option A is correct	Cody does not know that Mud is good at soccer, and so, as opponents surround Mud on the field, Cody is afraid that he is about “to watch [a] train wreck” (paragraph 10). However, things do not go the way Cody expects, because Mud breaks “free of the pack” (paragraph 12) and shows that he is better at soccer than Cody realized.
20	Option B is incorrect	There is no mention of either Cody or Mud doubting his own soccer-playing ability. Therefore, this message is not expressed in paragraphs 10 th (a)-212 307.44 n2 307.44 58.32

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21	Option C is correct	The term “point of view” refers to the person telling or narrating a piece of writing. Since the story is told from a third-person point of view, the narrator provides insight into Cody’s thoughts, which allows the reader to know what Cody thinks will happen during the game.
	Option A is incorrect	The narrator does not provide insight into Mud’s thoughts in the story. Therefore, the reader does not learn what Mud thinks about Cody’s opinions.
	Option B is incorrect	The narrator does not provide information about Amanda’s feelings in the story. Therefore, the reader does not learn how Amanda feels about playing on the team.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 18, the narrator says that the Blue team was “hugging” and “high-fiving” Mud. However, it is the narrator's description of their actions, not the third-person point of view in the story, that shows the reader the feelings of the team members.

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	Option C is correct	<p>In paragraph 5, the preposition <u>underneath</u> describes the ball as being lower than Amanda is. The preposition <i>below</i> is used to describe something that is lower than something else. On that basis, the reader can determine that a synonym for <u>underneath</u> is <i>below</i>.</p>
	Option A is incorrect	<p>The preposition <i>across</i> describes something that is on the other side of something or moving from one side to another. The preposition <u>underneath</u> in paragraph 5 describes something that is lower</p>

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24	Option A is correct	From Cody's experiences playing the video game <i>Soccer Slam</i> with Mud, he believes that Mud is not "the greatest soccer mind" (paragraph 1), meaning Mud is not a good soccer player. Therefore, Cody decides to "go easy on him" (paragraph 1) most likely because Cody believes he is a better soccer player than Mud, the same as he is better than Mud at <i>Soccer Slam</i> .
	Option B is incorrect	There is no evidence in this sentence from paragraph 1 to support the idea that Cody thinks playing real soccer is different from playing soccer video games.

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27	Option A is correct	This sentence provides the best transition into the fourth paragraph because the word “Eventually” shows a progression of time, and the phrase “on our porch” provides the setting for the sentences that follow.
	Option B is incorrect	The writer provides information about another cat in the neighborhood, but this information is not related to either the third or fourth paragraph.
	Option C is incorrect	In

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	Option C is correct	This revision makes sentence 3 clear and effective by moving the phrase “than 2,000 people” to follow and give meaning to the word “Fewer.”
30	Option A is incorrect	Revising the sentence in this way continues to separate “Fewer” from “than 2,000 people.” This creates a confusing and awkward sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	This revision also separates “Fewer” from “than

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	Option B is correct	In this sentence, the writer combines the information in sentences 7 and 8 in a concise and effective manner.
31	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer uses the word "and" to join the two ideas. However, the conjunction is misplaced, resulting in a garbled and confusing subject for the new sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	This is not the best way to combine sentences 7 and 8 because the writer implies that the

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Item

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35	Option C is correct	Placing quotation marks after “dessert” is necessary to show that this is where the dialogue ends in the sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Using the preposition “on” would distort the meaning of this sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	The word “tomorrow’s” in this sentence is possessive, not plural, so it should keep the apostrophe.
	Option D is incorrect	Changing the word “said” to “saying” would not

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36	Option B is correct	In sentence 7, the objective pronoun “me” cannot be used as part of the sentence’s subject. Replacing it with the subjective pronoun “I” corrects this error.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing the comma after “work” to a period would turn the prepositional phrase into a sentence fragment.
	Option C is incorrect	The adverb “happily” modifies the verb “looked.” It would not be correct to use the comparative form of this adjective.
	Option D is incorrect	“Finished” is spelled correctly in sentence 7.

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37	Option B is correct	The writer is describing an event that happened in the past, so the past-tense form of the verb is needed here.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing "She" to "And" would create a sentence fragment.
	Option C is incorrect	The word "tricks" is plural in this sentence, not possessive, so it does not require an apostrophe.

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Option A is correct	As it stands, there are two independent clauses in sentence 9 without any punctuation between