

# STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Rationales

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<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Option D is correct	The author organizes the article using classification of the features of modern sports to emphasize the influence society has had on sports (rules, recor/TT2 c307.o-4 33n (e)-d9 (e)- :

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<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Option C is correct	In paragraph 3, the author states that a league “is a group of sports teams organized to compete against one another.” The author also writes that “rules and leagues are generally controlled by an organization that directs

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<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Option B is correct	In the "Records" section of the article, the author includes details about the role of tracking athletes' achievements across the years in modern sports. Recordkeeping allows people to compare an athlete's performance with those of others in the same sport. This activity confirms

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<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
6	Spect , meaning "to watch," is the Latin root of the word "spectators" in the sentences from paragraph 8.

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<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Option C is correct	Paragraph 1 includes details about different foreign languages encountered in a restaurant: a menu with Chinese characters, a family speaking Spanish, and a French song playing. The author

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Item Position	Rationale	
11	Option D is correct	In paragraph 9, the word <i>acquire</i> means to attain over time, through practice. What is being acquired is a level of knowledge about language.
	Option A is incorrect	This option is incorrect because the acquisition of language cannot be purchased.
	Option B is incorrect	This option is incorrect because the gain in the context of the selection relates to language learning and not one's reputation.
	Option C is incorrect	



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<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
14	For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

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Item Position	Rationale	
15	Option C is correct	In paragraph 2, the author claims that young children learn language easily and suggests that children should learn a new language while young. This claim is reinforced in the following sections through analysis of studies and the proposal of various methods of learning languages.
	Option A is incorrect	The author identifies various methods of learning language but does not claim that children should learn language in any particular way.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 5, the author states that some experts believe that older children's maturity is important to their language learning; however, there is no support for the claim that such learning is more exciting to older children.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not discuss how long it takes to learn a language.

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Option D is



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Item Position	Rationale	
17	Option B is correct	A simile is a figure of speech in which two things are compared using the word like or as. The author uses a simile to describe the setting for the reader in a unique way.
	Option A is incorrect	The simile is not used to give the boys' surroundings a sense of mystery; it is simply a comparison of a region to flat land.
	Option C is incorrect	The author uses the simile to make a general comparison, not a comparison to something popular.
	Option D is incorrect	The wording of the simile does not imply that the setting presents challenges.

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Item Position	Rationale	
18	Option D is correct	The author shows that the boys thought ahead and brought food “for just this purpose,” and the phrase “if they waited long enough” demonstrates that they are committed to the task. The author’s language contributes to the optimistic mood in the story.
	Option A is incorrect	The author includes a description of the rabbits eating, but this description does not contribute to the mood of the story.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Luther comments that there are “Not as many as usual,” this is a statement of fact and does not create a feeling of surprise.
	Option C is incorrect	Earlier in the selection, the author discusses the pasture and ten acres of woods behind it. However, in paragraphs 7 through 9 the boys are inside the barn, and its size is not important to the events taking place.

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Item Position	Rationale	
19	Option D is correct	The portrayal of realistic events is characteristic of realistic fiction.
	Option A is incorrect	A difficult problem is not part of the plot of the excerpt. Furthermore, conflicts can be present in multiple genres and are not unique to realistic fiction.
	Option B is incorrect	The inclusion of a beautiful setting does not distinguish a selection as realistic fiction.
	Option C is incorrect	The author does not include characters who talk to animals, and such characters are not a distinguishing feature of realistic fiction.

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Item Position	Rationale	
20	Option C is correct	The poet shows that Abby admires Xavier’s impressive talents by describing his skills as “mesmerizing” in line 4. Abby’s feelings about her brother’s skills develop the plot and reveal the incident that kick-starts the events of the poem.
	Option A is incorrect	The reader may infer that Abby and Xavier enjoy the beach, but lines 1 through 4 are about Abby’s admiration for her brother’s skills. For Abby, spending time at the beach is not as significant as watching Xavier demonstrate his “surfing skills.”
	Option B is incorrect	The poet does not reveal in lines 1 through 4 that Xavier does not live at home with Abby. That fact is not revealed until line 6. Also, this is a fact that is explicitly stated, rather than revealed through a character’s internal or external responses, and it does not develop the plot.
	Option D is incorrect	The reader can infer that Xavier spends a lot of time practicing water sports, but neither character expresses this internally or externally in lines 1 through 4.

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Item Position	Rationale	
21	Option B is correct	The poet uses the context of the poem to show that propelled means “moved along easily.” Xavier demonstrates how Abby should move her arms in a “quick forward motion./’Then you pull the water back with your hands’ ” in lines 17 through 19. The information that Xavier shares with Abby leads the reader to see that Abby will be moving through the water easily.
	Option A is incorrect	The reader may infer that Abby will be kept on course by following Xavier’s directions in lines 17 through 19, but the use of the phrases “move your arms” and “quick forward motion” are explicitly about moving rather than simply staying on course.
	Option C is incorrect	The poet uses the phrases “quick forward motion,” “pull the water back with your hands,” and “propelled through the ocean” to signify forward momentum. Xavier is teaching Abby how to surf, so it is not logical that he would teach her strategies that would cause her to spin out of control in the ocean.
	Option D is incorrect	The reader can infer from the phrases in lines 18 through 20 (“quick forward motion,” “you pull the water back with your hands,” and “through the ocean”) that Abby is moving forward, not being dragged back slowly. The poet does not provide context to imply that Abby is being dragged backward.

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<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Option B is correct	The poet uses the break between lines 24 and 25 to show the shift between Abby learning to surf and Abby going into the ocean to surf.

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Item Position	Rationale	
24	Option C is correct	In "A Wave of a Day," Xavier is Abby's older brother, whom she admires. In The Last Wild Place, Chip and Luther do not have a family relationship; they are best friends.
	Option A is incorrect	Xavier and Abby in "A Wave of a Day" are interested in experiencing the outdoors at the beach, just as Chip and Luther in The Last Wild Place are interested in playing outdoors in the woods.
	Option B is incorrect	Chip in The Last Wild PI



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In the introduction to the excerpt from *The Last King of the South*, the author uses the text to show that the author's purpose is to inform the reader about the history of the South.

Option C is correct

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<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
27	For ECR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

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Item Position	Rationale	
28	Option A is correct	The writer effectively answers the question asked in sentence 7, and in doing so, he captures the controlling idea of this paper about the nest of the yellow-spotted goanna.
	Option B is incorrect	This paper does not focus on a variety of nests around the world. It is specifically about the yellow-spotted goanna and its nest, so this sentence does not express the controlling idea.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer notes a new discovery, but the sentence is vague and does not mention the yellow-spotted goanna. It does not present the controlling idea of the paper.
	Option D is incorrect	The focus of this sentence is the scientists' curiosity, which is not the controlling idea of this paper.

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<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Option A is correct	"Intense" can mean "existing in or to an extreme degree," and the writer is describing a

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Item Position	Rationale	
30	Option B is correct	This revision corrects the awkward and misleading wording of the original sentence by properly placing the phrases "that the goannas dig" and "to safe nests."
	Option A is incorrect	With this wording, the writer implies that the "eggs" are what the goannas dig, which is confusing and unintended.
	Option C is incorrect	This revision results in an awkward sentence that needlessly repeats the word "more."
	Option D is incorrect	This option is incorrect because the wording of sentence 18 is awkward and misleading.



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Item Position	Rationale	
32	Option D is correct	This revision effectively eliminates the repetitive use of the word "and" in the original sentence, making it the most concise and effective option.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer unnecessarily repeats the location where the animals were found. This is not an effective and concise revision.
	Option B is incorrect	In this revision, the writer implies that insects, snakes, and scorpions are "other lizards," which is incorrect and unintended.



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33	Option A is correct	In the first paragraph, Judson is describing the reasons that the contents of his treasure chest are special to him but might not seem so to other people. The statement that the box is “brown and made of sturdy wood” describes the appearance of the box, not its contents. It is an irrelevant detail.
	Option B is incorrect	In sentence 3, Judson explains what the contents of his box might look like to other people, which helps explain why the box might not seem special to others.
	Option C is incorrect	Judson uses sentence 4 to acknowledge that the rocks themselves don’t appear special. This sentence helps to develop the paragraph.
	Option D is incorrect	In sentence 6, Judson states an important point he is making in his paper, which is that the rocks in his box are special because each one tells a story. This sentence is essential to the paragraph and the paper.

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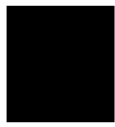
<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
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A transition is a word, phrase, or sentence that

Option D is  
correct

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	Option B is correct	Judson effectively captures the overall meaning of his paper in this sentence by restating the idea that the rocks are priceless to him because they tell his story.
	Option A is incorrect	This sentence is not an effective way to close t2 (i)3 (m)-82 ref137.8.8p wa41ntence is -5 BT-0.003 Tc 0.0

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38	<p>Option B is correct</p> <p>241.56 662.6</p> <p>241.56 662.6</p>	<p>In sentence 2, the pronoun “some” refers back to the plural noun “kids” in sentence 1. Because this is a plural noun, the plural verb phrase “are actually focusing” is correct.</p>

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	Option B is correct	"Account" corrects the misspelling, "acount," in this sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing "doesn't" to "don't" would create a subject-verb agreement error in sentence 5.



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<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Option A is correct	"When" is the correct subordinating conjunction to use in this sentence because the writer is indicating a certain point in time rather than a

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45	Option D is correct	No change is needed in this sentence because the sentence is complete and contains no grammatical or spelling errors.
	Option A is incorrect	"Instead" is the correct conjunctive adverb to use in this sentence because it appropriately describes the contrast between Nana's counter on a typical day and her counter on this particular day.
	Option B is incorrect	The word "boxes" is plural, but it is not possessive in this sentence. Therefore, it should not have an apostrophe added to it.
	Option C is incorrect	The word "several" is spelled correctly in this sentence and should not be changed.