



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness

**GRADE 5**  
**Reading Language Arts**  
**Practice Assessment**



# READING LANGUAGE ARTS

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

## A Texas Artist



Texas Artist Files, Witte Museum, San Antonio, Texas

- 1 Texans have always had a special appreciation of art. They especially like art about Texas by Texans. One very special Texas artist was Porfirio Salinas. Salinas was a Mexican American painter who was born in Bastrop, Texas, in 1910. He grew up in San Antonio. Most of his paintings were landscapes of the state. Today, many of Salinas's paintings are treasured, collected, and displayed in museums.

### Early Life

- 2 Growing up, Salinas enjoyed drawing. His teachers described him as a student whose books were rarely opened. His sketchbook, however, was never closed. Salinas was lucky because there were many artists in San Antonio. As a boy, he was able to watch these artists work around the city. This made Salinas want to pursue art as a career when he got older. One artist who greatly influenced Salinas was José Arpa. Arpa was the director of the San Antonio Art School. He would sketch around San Antonio, and Salinas often watched him.

- 3 When Salinas was a teenager, he worked in an art supply store. There he met the artist Robert W. Wood. Wood painted landscapes of Texas. However, he did not enjoy painting bluebonnets, the state flower. He hired Salinas to help paint these. Wood paid Salinas five dollars for each picture painted. Many of Salinas’s paintings are known for their bluebonnets.

### **An Emerging Artist**

- 4 Besides watching artists and working for Robert Wood, Salinas had very little formal training as an artist. But his talent was recognized wherever he went. During World War II, Salinas was drafted into the military. Salinas was stationed in Fort Sam Houston in his hometown of San Antonio. During this time, Salinas painted murals on the walls of the officers’ lounge of the base. He also received other similar assignments that were given to him by the reception center commander. Salinas was stationed close to home so he did not have to live at the base. This meant that he could continue his canvas painting.

### **The Support from a President**

- 5 Salinas had a steady career as an artist. In the 1940s his work started getting more notice. Texas Representative Lyndon B. Johnson loved Salinas’s work. The artist’s paintings of the Texas landscapes reminded Johnson of home. In 1961 Johnson became vice president of the United States under President John F. Kennedy. Johnson commissioned a painting from Salinas as a gift for President Kennedy. When Johnson later became president, there was no question that Salinas’s paintings would be hung in the White House.
- 6 President Johnson collected Salinas’s paintings. He also spoke about them publicly. Johnson mentioned the artist to the *New York Times* newspaper in 1964. Soon after, Salinas became a well-known name. The artist also became friends with the president. He often spent time at the Johnson Ranch in Texas. One of the reasons President Johnson enjoyed the paintings so much was because they reminded him of the country around his ranch. Because of President Johnson’s enthusiastic support, Salinas’s work was in high demand.

## **A Texas Star**

- 7 Porfirio Salinas painted beautiful pictures of Texas landscapes, including paintings of bluebonnets in spring and of the Texas Hill Country. He also celebrated his heritage in scenes of rural Mexican villages and volcanoes. He was a representative of the land and spirit of Texas who also tied his Mexican American background into his work. In 1973 the city of Austin celebrated the artist because he was able to bring “the culture[s] of Mexico and Texas closer together with his paintings.”
- 8 Today, Salinas’s paintings can be found for sale in galleries around the country. His work is also hung in the governor’s mansion in Austin.

**1** What is the most likely reason that the author wrote this article?

- Ⓐ To explain how Porfirio Salinas became friends with President Johnson
- Ⓑ To compare Porfirio Salinas to other Texas artists who painted landscapes
- Ⓒ To identify several Texas artists including Porfirio Salinas
- Ⓓ To describe the life and art of Texas artist Porfirio Salinas





3 Read the dictionary entry for the word pursue.

**pursue** \pər- 'sü\ *verb*

1. to chase in order to catch
2. to try to do or accomplish
3. to continue to discuss a topic
4. to continue to annoy or haunt

Which definition most closely fits the way the word pursue is used in paragraph 2?

- (A) Definition 1
  - (B) Definition 2
  - (C) Definition 3
  - (D) Definition 4
- 

4 What is a key idea of the section "A Texas Star"?

- (A) Johnson had a ranch in Texas where he welcomed visitors.
- (B) Cultural influences in Texas affected Salinas's career.
- (C) Texas has a variety of landscapes that inspire artists.
- (D) José Arpa was one of the most popular artists in Texas.

- 5** Based on information in paragraph 1 and paragraph 7 the reader can conclude that —
- Ⓐ Salinas was proud of his history as a Texan and a Mexican American because Texas and Mexico were the focus of his artwork
  - Ⓑ Salinas wanted to use his artwork to show viewers the many similarities between the cultures of Texas and Mexico
  - Ⓒ Salinas was known more for his paintings of Texas landscapes filled with bluebonnets than his art showing scenes from Mexico
  - Ⓓ Salinas was very grateful to have the support of so many of his fellow Texans and Mexican Americans for his work as an artist
- 

- 6** Which sentence from paragraph 2 is used to support the idea that Salinas enjoyed creating art at a young age?
- Ⓐ *His teachers described him as a student whose books were rarely opened.*
  - Ⓑ *His sketchbook, however, was never closed.*
  - Ⓒ *Salinas was lucky because there were many artists in San Antonio.*
  - Ⓓ *As a boy, he was able to watch these artists work around the city.*

- 7** How is information organized in the section "An Emerging Artist"?
- Ⓐ Paintings that Salinas created before and during the war are compared and contrasted.
  - Ⓑ Problems Salinas faced as an artist in the military and his solutions to those problems are identified.
  - Ⓒ Description is used to show how Salinas was able to keep painting despite being drafted into the military.
  - Ⓓ Causes of the war are listed followed by the effects of the war on Salinas's career.

**Read the next two selections. Then choose the best answer to each question.**

## **Wonders at the Winter Camp**

- 1        "Good morning, Winnie," said Mom, beaming. "Do you see what I see?"
- 2        At the kitchen window, a clear December morning greeted me with a bright sky. Mom and I did a little happy dance together.
- 3        For months our family had been planning a winter camping trip. We had timed the trip to coincide with the Geminids meteor shower peak, and today was finally the day!
- 4        By noon, we were setting up our campsite. We spent a perfect afternoon hiking and exploring until hunger drew us back to camp. Dad warmed a kettle of beef stew over the fire grate.
- 5        At bedtime we dressed in thick layers and crawled into our sleeping bags. It was cozy. "I don't want to miss the meteors, Mom," I said. "Are you sure you can wake up in time?"
- 6        "Don't worry, I've set my watch alarm," she replied. "Two o'clock A.M." Tired from the fresh cold air, a hike, and the hearty stew, we all fell off to sleep quickly.
- 7        *Beep, beep! Beep, beep!*
- 8        Groggily I heard the sound, at first as if from a long way off, then insistently, right in my ear. Mom's alarm.
- 9        "Two o'clock, everyone," Mom said, softly. "Time to bundle up and head outside for the show!"
- 10       I heard Dad groan, but he made no move to get up.
- 11       I was so warm, and it was so dark and cold outside. I was just about to join Dad back in dreamland, when I saw Mom's face in the beam of her flashlight. She looked disappointed.
- 12       "Coming, Mom," I said as cheerfully as I could. Mom smiled. Quickly, I dressed myself in my coat, snow pants, boots, hat, and gloves.

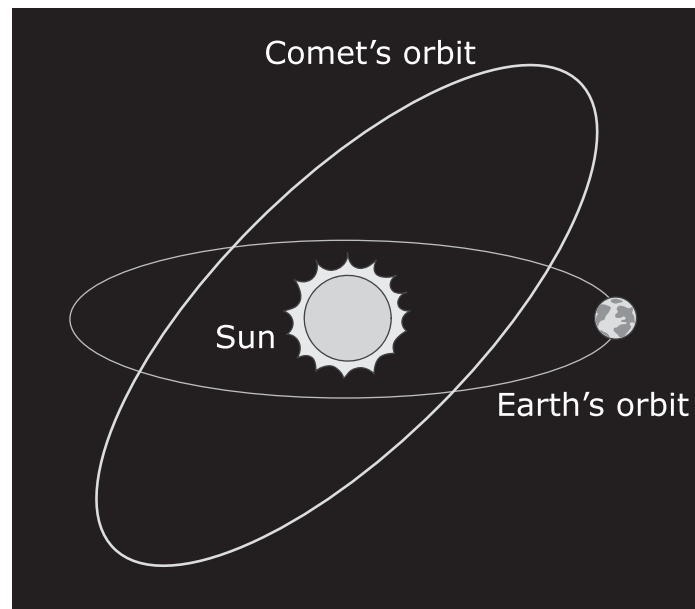
- 13 We unzipped the tent and crawled out. When we stood up and looked around, the night world was dark as ink. Above, the sky was sprinkled with twinkling stars.
- 14 We sat on a log in our clearing, and Mom turned off the flashlight. Soon, it was as if another layer of stars filled in the spaces our light had just occupied.
- 15 And then, *ZIP*, a streak flashed across the sky, and another, and another.
- 16 “WOW!” we said in unison. Streak after streak bombarded the sky. It was nature’s fireworks display, better than anything we could see on the Fourth of July.
- 17 “Oh my gosh, Mom!” I exclaimed. “I am so glad I did not miss this. I’ll never forget this night as long as I live!”
- 18 Mom put her arm around me and hugged me close. I hugged her back as we continued to gaze upward at the light show.

## ***from Stardust***

*by Shirley Anne Ramaley*

- 1 Have you ever seen a shooting star? They aren’t really stars at all. Shooting stars are meteors. They occur when a small chunk of debris burns up as it passes through the Earth’s atmosphere.
- 2 The debris is called a meteoroid. It’s a very small piece of material. In fact, most are the size of dust particles. Others might be as big as baseballs. When a meteoroid burns up in the atmosphere, it is called a meteor or shooting star. It is the flash of light we see in the night sky.
- 3 If you lie on a blanket on a dark, moonless night and look up into the sky, you might spot brief streaks of light, shooting stars. They can be seen on any night that is clear and dark. Shooting stars are easier to see away from the city’s bright lights, but you can often see them if you’re in the city too.

- 4 Most shooting stars are left over material from a comet. As comets orbit the sun, they leave a stream of debris or material behind them. Because scientists can predict when Earth will pass through the orbit of a comet, we know ahead of time when we can see meteor showers.
- 5 At certain times of the year, meteor showers occur when the Earth passes through the trail of debris left by a comet. At those times, the streaks of light are often seen every few minutes. It's quite a display in the night sky!
- 6 While most of us will see shooting stars, comets are harder to see and not as common. But there are comets you can see with the "naked eye," without binoculars or a telescope. Once a comet is visible, it will look like a bright spot in the clear sky at night. It can be seen for days and maybe weeks. Then it will fade away and might not return for thousands of years.



Not drawn to scale

From "Stardust" by Shirley Anne Ramaley, Hopscotch Magazine. Used by permission of Fun for Kidz Magazines.

- 8 The first-person point of view in the story “Wonders at the Winter Camp” helps the reader understand —
- (A) Winnie’s father’s thoughts and feelings
  - (B) the author’s thoughts and feelings
  - (C) Winnie’s thoughts and feelings
  - (D) all the characters’ thoughts and feelings
- 

- 9 Read the following paragraph.

Winnie and her family decide to camp outdoors in order to see a meteor shower at night. They set up their campsite, enjoy the outdoors, and then sleep for a few hours until it is almost time for the meteor shower to begin.

Which idea should be added to this paragraph to create a complete summary of the story “Wonders at the Winter Camp”?

- (A) The family enjoys a pot of beef stew that is warmed over an open fire.
- (B) Winnie and Mom are amazed by the bright streaks of light they see in the night sky.
- (C) Dad is unable to wake up in the middle of the night, so he misses the meteor shower completely.
- (D) Even though it is winter, the sleeping bags keep the family warm and cozy.

**10** The author of the story “Wonders at the Winter Camp” uses the language in paragraph 2 to create a —

- (A) cheerful voice
  - (B) satisfied voice
  - (C) confident voice
  - (D) peaceful voice
- 

**11** How is paragraph 17 important to the plot of the story “Wonders at the Winter Camp”?

- (A) It is when Winnie realizes that her father was wise to stay asleep.
  - (B) It is when Winnie apologizes to her mother for her earlier behavior.
  - (C) It is when Winnie forgives her father for not waking up.
  - (D) It is when Winnie realizes that seeing the meteor shower is worth losing sleep for.
- 

**12** Winnie’s behavior in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the story “Wonders at the Winter Camp” suggests that she —

- (A) shares her mother’s feelings about the joys of camping during winter
- (B) is willing to put her mother’s happiness ahead of her own personal comfort
- (C) wants to show her mother how to be less serious and have more fun
- (D) wants to help her mother communicate better with those around her



**13** What does the diagram in the article from “Stardust” help the reader understand?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

- When meteor showers occur
  - How big the sun is compared to Earth
  - Why meteor showers are beautiful to see
  - Why a comet’s orbit is bigger than Earth’s
  - How Earth can cross a comet’s orbit
- 

**14** What is the central idea of the article from “Stardust”?

- (A) Meteoroids are extremely small pieces of material about the size of dust.
- (B) A comet can be seen even without a telescope for days or weeks at a time.
- (C) Shooting stars are meteors that burn up when they pass through Earth’s atmosphere, making bright streaks of light.
- (D) Lying on a blanket on a dark, clear night is the best way to see activity in the sky such as shooting stars and comets.

**15** Read these sentences from paragraph 1 of the article from "Stardust."

*Have you ever seen a shooting star?  
They aren't really stars at all. Shooting  
stars are meteors.*

Which conclusion about shooting stars is supported by these sentences?

- (A) People might not understand exactly what a shooting star is because of its name.
  - (B) People are always amazed at the beauty and excitement of seeing a shooting star.
  - (C) People often see a shooting star but do not think enough about where it comes from.
  - (D) People are unlikely to see a shooting star unless they know what to look for.
- 

**16** Which sentence from the article from "Stardust" shows that a comet is a rare sight?

- (A) *It is the flash of light we see in the night sky.* (paragraph 2)
- (B) *At those times, the streaks of light are often seen every few minutes.* (paragraph 5)
- (C) *It can be seen for days and maybe weeks.* (paragraph 6)
- (D) *Then it will fade away and might not return for thousands of years.* (paragraph 6)

**17** How is the story “Wonders at the Winter Camp” **DIFFERENT** from the article from “Stardust”?

- (A) The story describes the experience one family has with a meteor shower, but the article explains scientific information about meteor showers.
  - (B) The story shows that meteor showers are unexpected, but the article explains that people can plan to see meteor showers before they happen.
  - (C) The story explains the difference between a comet and a meteor shower, but the article describes meteor showers as simple streaks of light.
  - (D) The story describes characters who are bored with the meteor shower, but the article explains how exciting meteor showers are.
- 

**18** How is the author’s purpose for writing the story “Wonders at the Winter Camp” **DIFFERENT** from the author’s purpose for writing the article from “Stardust”?

- (A) The purpose of the story is to entertain the reader with the author’s memory of a time with family, but the purpose of the article is to share facts about meteors.
- (B) The purpose of the story is to explain ways a family can experience nature, but the purpose of the article is to provide additional information about what that family might see.
- (C) The purpose of the story is to persuade the reader to camp outside with family, but the purpose of the article is to explain how the solar system works.
- (D) The purpose of the story is to describe a family’s favorite hobby, but the purpose of the article is to persuade the reader to spend time studying natural events.

- 19** Which sentence expresses a **DIFFERENCE** in viewpoint between the story “Wonders at the Winter Camp” and the article from “Stardust”?
- Ⓐ The story is told from the viewpoint of a scientist studying meteor showers, but the article is told from the viewpoint of an adult who knows a lot about meteor showers.
  - Ⓑ The story is told from the viewpoint of a mother interested in meteor showers, but the article is told from the viewpoint of a father who has no interest in meteor showers.
  - Ⓒ The story is told from the viewpoint of a child who sees her first meteor shower, but the article is told from the viewpoint of a person sharing information about meteor showers.
  - Ⓓ The story is told from the viewpoint of a person who is an expert on meteor showers, but the article is told from the viewpoint of a person who wants to learn about meteor showers.

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.**

## **One Saturday**

My grandparents are both really great,  
But I've never stayed with them alone.  
And so I'm nervous as I leave the car,  
Keeping my voice a steady, even tone.

- 5 My parents told me to be good,  
And I vowed to do my best:  
Be good, help out, obey the rules,  
And try not to get stressed.

- 10 Grandma's kiss brushed my cheek  
Like the wings of a butterfly  
As Mom and Dad drove away,  
Waving their goodbye.

- 15 "We're going to have some fun, you know,"  
My winking Grandpa said  
As his giant bear-paw hand  
Ruffled the hair upon my head.

- 20 A woodland hike exposed a lake  
Ringed with massive trees;  
The deep blue water shimmered with  
The whisper of a breeze.

- 25 Back at home, Gram drafted me  
To help her make our dinner,  
Which, compared to mac and cheese,  
Would be the proven winner.
- 25 When dark of night draped the sky,  
The three of us lay down  
Outside on blankets spread upon  
The green grass-cushioned ground.

“Black velvet studded with bright jewels,”  
30 Grandma uttered with a sigh.  
“That’s the picture that I see  
When gazing at night’s sky.”

The gems that sparkle in MY life,  
I can touch as well as see;  
35 They’re lying on their backs right now  
On either side of me.

**20** The most likely reason the poet includes lines 1 through 8 at the beginning of the poem is to —

- Ⓐ show the order in which events are taking place
  - Ⓑ identify a problem that will be solved later
  - Ⓒ discuss the topic of difficult family relationships
  - Ⓓ compare this visit to other times the speaker has visited
- 

**21** The poet describes Gram’s kiss “Like the wings of a butterfly” in line 10 to show that Gram —

- Ⓐ is gentle
  - Ⓑ is happy
  - Ⓒ loves insects
  - Ⓓ loves nature
- 

**22** What does the word vowed mean in line 6?

- Ⓐ Explained
- Ⓑ Argued
- Ⓒ Allowed
- Ⓓ Promised

**23** Based on events in the poem, what is the speaker most likely to do next?

- (A) Cook macaroni and cheese for Mom and Dad
  - (B) Take another trip away from home to a farm or a zoo
  - (C) Return home and describe the experience to Mom and Dad
  - (D) Write a report for school about summer vacation
- 

**24** What is the most likely reason for the grandparents to take the speaker outside at night?

- (A) They want to teach the speaker facts about the solar system.
  - (B) They want to teach the speaker to feel safe in the dark.
  - (C) They want the speaker to appreciate how hard adults must work.
  - (D) They want the speaker to appreciate the beauty of nature.
- 

**25** Read line 13 from the poem.

“We’re going to have some fun,  
you know,”

This line shows that Grandpa wants the speaker to be more —

- (A) comfortable
- (B) helpful
- (C) thoughtful
- (D) responsible



**26** The poet uses figurative language in lines 15 and 16 of the poem to show that —

- Ⓐ the speaker feels annoyed
- Ⓑ the speaker feels homesick
- Ⓒ Grandpa is in a hurry
- Ⓓ Grandpa is being playful

**27** Read the poem “One Saturday.” Based on the details in the poem, write a response to the following:

Explain how the speaker’s feelings about the grandparents change as they spend time together.

Write a well-organized essay that uses specific evidence from the poem to support your response.

Remember to —

- clearly state your central idea
- organize your writing
- develop your ideas in detail
- use evidence from the selection in your response
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar

Manage your time carefully so that you can —

- review the selection
- plan your response
- write your response
- revise and edit your response

Record your response in the box provided.

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**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.**

*Alisha wrote this story about a special memory. Read Alisha's story and look for revisions she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.*

## **Blue-Ribbon Baking**

(1) My grandma bakes an apple pie for the county fair every year. (2) A team of judges tastes all the pies that are baked. (3) Then they select the winning entries. (4) Grandma Addie has won second place three years in a row! (5) I was thrilled for this year. (6) I was excited to learn some of my grandmother's baking secrets.

(7) Grandma Addie is very particular about her recipe. (8) She wanted to show me every detail involved in making her pie. (9) Each Sunday in September, she had me ride my bike to her house, and we would practice making the pie together. (10) Our final product had to be perfect.

(11) Grandma Addie shared her original recipe with me. (12) It also uses two different types of apples, McIntosh and Honeycrisp.

(13) As she worked with me each Sunday, Grandma Addie taught me how to cut the apple slices in just the right sizes. (14) She showed me how to create dough from scratch and how to mix the filling so that the apple flavor would stand out. (15) She taught me how to cover the crust with foil to keep it from burning. (16) She showed me exactly where to place the pie in the oven. (17) She explained that this was important because it would ensure the most even baking. (18) Grandma Addie wanted to make sure I knew all the secrets to her famous pie.

(19) While each pie baked, my grandma and I drank tea or worked on a crossword puzzle together at the kitchen table. (20) Sometimes we turned on Grandma's favorite radio station, closed our eyes, and we were listening to the music. (21) As the delicious smell of the pie filled the air, we talked about other family recipes. (22) Each Sunday, I grew to admire Grandma Addie more and more. (23) Our weekend baking classes would be coming to an end soon, and the thought made me sad.

(24) On that last Sunday afternoon, Grandma Addie and I worked slowly and carefully. (25) This wasn't the day for mistakes. (26) We wanted to be sure we had followed every part of the recipe correctly. (27) In the end, our pie looked absolutely wonderful. (28) But how would it taste? (29) What would the judges think?

(30) Later that afternoon Grandma Addie and I walked nervously to the judges' table. (31) We were both thrilled to see right next to our apple pie on the table a first-place ribbon! (32) To this day, Grandma Addie insists that I was the secret ingredient she had needed all along.

- 28** Which sentence should replace sentence 5 to help create a more effective introduction for this story?
- (A) She is such a great cook and makes delicious fried pickles too.
  - (B) This fall she had agreed to let me help her make her award-winning dessert.
  - (C) The ribbons are hanging in the kitchen, next to her refrigerator.
  - (D) I'm lucky that she lives close to me because I am able to see her often.
- 

- 29** Which sentence could **BEST** follow and support sentence 11?
- (A) She keeps her favorite recipes in a little blue box.
  - (B) I wanted to copy the recipe, but she said there was no time.
  - (C) She usually prefers to bake in her own kitchen.
  - (D) It includes brown sugar, nutmeg, butter, eggs, and flour.
- 

- 30** What is the **BEST** way to revise sentence 20?
- (A) Sometimes we turned on Grandma's favorite radio station, closed our eyes, and listened to the music.
  - (B) Sometimes we turned on Grandma's favorite radio station, closed our eyes and to listen to the music.
  - (C) Sometimes we turned on Grandma's favorite radio station we closed our eyes and were listening to the music.
  - (D) Sometimes we turned on Grandma's favorite radio station, and then we closed our eyes, and then we listened to the music.



**31** Sentence 31 needs to be revised. In the box provided, rewrite sentence 31 in a clear and effective way.


**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.**

*Brice wrote this paper to argue for the value of recess. Read Brice's paper and look for revisions he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.*

## **The Value of Recess**

(1) Many elementary students say that recess is their favorite part of the school day. (2) That's because recess gives children a break from the structured learning environment. (3) They are allowed to relax, run, play, and talk to friends. (4) But some children in the United States are missing out on this break in the day. (5) Schools have been putting more focus on learning in core subjects. (6) As a result, recess time has decreased or even disappeared in some schools. (7) Recent research shows that this is not a good idea. (8) Elementary students need the break that recess provides.

(9) First of all, physical activity improves the functioning of the brain. (10) There are chemicals in the brain called growth factors. (11) These chemicals are released when children exercise. (12) They impact the health of existing brain cells and the growth of new ones.

(13) Doctors say that children need at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day. (14) Recess guarantees that kids are getting some of that activity. (15) Recess also gives kids a chance to improve their social skills. (16) On the playground they learn to share and communicate with other children. (17) They also learn to play with other children.

(18) Some people are opposed to more recess time for kids. (19) They have thoughts about student safety during recess breaks. (20) They worry that children might not be well supervised. (21) They say that some playground equipment is dangerous. (22) Others say there is not enough time for recess in the school day. (23) The time spent lining up, walking outside, and taking water breaks means less instructional time. (24) They think that students should spend school time on reading, writing, and math. (25) But research shows that kids who get to play some during the day do better in their core subjects than kids who don't.

(26) People in some states are now pushing for increased recess time for students. (27) A politician in Connecticut wants schools in her state to provide at least 50 minutes of recess each day. (28) Lawmakers in Arkansas recently passed a new law. (29) It requires a 40-minute recess break for every elementary school student. (30) A principal in Arizona has started providing two recess times for children in his school. (31) He has been very pleased with the results. (32) His teachers have observed greater focus in their students.

(33) As people learn about the value of recess breaks, more and more schools are beginning to retain or increase recess time.

(34) Experts believe that this is a good thing for kids.

**32** Brice needs a better transition between the second paragraph (sentences 9–12) and the third paragraph (sentences 13–17). Which transition could **BEST** be added to the beginning of sentence 13?

- (A) For example
  - (B) Afterward
  - (C) In comparison
  - (D) Furthermore
- 

**33** What is the **MOST** effective way to combine sentences 16 and 17?

- (A) On the playground they learn to share and communicate they learn to play with other children.
  - (B) On the playground they learn to share, communicate, and play with other children.
  - (C) On the playground with other children, they learn to communicate and play and share too.
  - (D) On the playground they learn with other children and share and communicate but play.
- 

**34** Brice wants to use a more descriptive word than *thoughts* in sentence 19. Which word can **BEST** replace *thoughts* in this sentence?

- (A) feelings
- (B) words
- (C) concerns
- (D) talks

**35** Which sentence can **BEST** be added after sentence 34 to bring this paper to a more effective conclusion?

- (A) Schools will probably build more playgrounds in the future.
- (B) Young children are sure to benefit from a little more time at recess.
- (C) Teachers will enjoy the break they get while students are at recess.
- (D) Recess time can be held indoors when the weather is not as nice.

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.**

*Brittney is writing a paper about the special airplane that carries the president. Read these paragraphs from Brittney's paper and look for corrections she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.*

## Air Force One



(1) "Air Force One" is a special term. (2) It refers to any plane that transports the president of the United States. (3) But when the term is used people usually think of a certain plane. (4) It is an enormous blue and white jet that is kept at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. (5) A colorful American flag is on the tail of this plane. (6) The words "United States of America" are written on its side.

(7) Some people call this special plane the "Flying Oval Office."  
(8) It is equipped to help the president do his job while he is in the sky. (9) It includes about 4,000 square feet of space on three levels it has a private bedroom, bathroom, and office.

**36** What change should be made in sentence 3?

- (A) Change **when** to **because**
  - (B) Insert a comma after **used**
  - (C) Change **think** to **thought**
  - (D) Change **certain** to **certin**
- 

**37** What change, if any, should be made in sentence 7?

- (A) Change **call** to **called**
  - (B) Change **special** to **Special**
  - (C) Change **Oval** to **Ovel**
  - (D) No change is needed.
- 

**38** What is the correct way to write sentence 9?

- (A) It includes about 4,000 square feet of space on three levels, and it has a private bedroom, bathroom, and office.
- (B) Including about 4,000 square feet of space on three levels and a private bedroom, bathroom, and office.
- (C) It includes about 4,000 square feet of space on three levels. And has a private bedroom, bathroom, and office.
- (D) Including about 4,000 square feet of space on three levels, it has a private bedroom. Plus a bathroom and office.

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.**

*Carlos is writing a story about a boy whose dog gets sprayed by a skunk. Read the introductory paragraph of Carlos's story and look for corrections he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.*

## **Skunked!**

(1) "Skunk!" Jahil screamed as his dog raced across the yard. (2) Banjo had spied a furry, black-and-white creature seconds before. (3) Jahil ran over to chase the intruder out of the yard, but it was too late. (4) The skunk blasted Banjo in the face on a spray that can only be described as toxic. (5) The awful smell filled the air, and Jahil's nostrils flared. (6) Jahil's neighbor came running out the door and cringed when he caught a whiff of the odor. (7) Mr. Barton had lived on a ranch in Arizona and knew a little about skunks. (8) Minutes later, he reappeared with a stack of old towels and a jar labeled "Skunk Shampoo." (9) He said, "I'll help you give Banjo a good scrubbing."



**39** What change should be made in sentence 2?

- (A) Change ***spyed*** to ***spied***
  - (B) Change ***creature*** to ***Creature***
  - (C) Change ***seconds*** to ***second's***
  - (D) Change the period to a comma
- 

**40** Carlos has made an error in sentence 4. Select the **ONE** response that corrects this error.

The skunk blasted Banjo in the face

- |           |
|-----------|
| (A) of    |
| (B) with  |
| (C) for   |
| (D) about |

a spray that can

only be described as toxic.

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**41** What change should be made in sentence 6?

- (A) Change ***Jahil's*** to ***Jahils***
- (B) Change ***neighbor*** to ***neighber***
- (C) Change ***and*** to ***he***
- (D) Change ***catched*** to ***caught***



**STAAR  
GRADE 5  
Reading Language Arts  
PRACTICE**

