2022 STAAR Grade 5 Reading Rationales

Item #	Rationale	
1	Option B is correct	In line 3, when Bryson asks Dwayne if he would mind, he is asking if Dwayne would be bothered or have an issue with sharing his room. Based on this context, the best definition of mind is "to be bothered by."
	Option A is incorrect	Although Bryson has been told by Dwayne's mom that they will be sharing a room, the word mind in line 3 does not mean "to obey," because Bryson is not asking if Dwayne will obey, but if he will object to sharing his room.
	Option C is incorrect	Although in line 4 Dwayne uses the word "Look" to tell Bryson to notice the space in Dwayne's closet, in line 3, Bryson is not asking Dwayne to notice anything.
	Option D is incorrect	In line 3, Bryson is asking if Dwayne has any concerns about sharing his room. This question does not suggest that Bryson will "take charge" so mind in this context does not mean "to take charge of."

Item #	Rationale	
2	Option H is correct	A simile is a figure of speech in which two objects are compared using the word "like" or "as. " In line 17, the simile is used to show that Bryson's belongings are littering Dwayne's bedroom in the same way that popcorn falls to the floor in movie theaters.
	Option F is incorrect	Although later in the play, Dwayne mentions that he likes hanging out with Bryson "at the pool and the park" (line 34), this is not the meaning of the simile in line 17. In line 17, the simile compares Bryson's belongings to popcorn on the floor.
	Option G is incorrect	The author uses the simile to describe the mess Bryson has made in Dwayne's room, not to suggest that there is literally food in the room.
	Option J is incorrect	Although Dwayne may be upset about the mess in his room, the simile is not used to suggest that Dwayne plans to discard Bryson's belongings as one would throw away uneaten popcorn in a theater. The comparison is used to describe how Bryson's belongings are littering the room.

Item #	Rationale	
3	Option A is correct	In lines 22 through 27, the conflict is caused by different opinions about Bryson's belongings. In line 25, Bryson tells Dwayne that he put his shoes, socks, and crumpled paper on the floor for a reason. In line 26 Dwayne says, "You just didn't feel like putting them away!" This shows that Dwayne thinks Bryson is lazy and leads to their "raised voices" in line 28.
	Option B is incorrect	In line 22, when Dwayne enters the room, he "glares at Bryson" and Bryson responds, "Need something?" which could suggest he is teasing. However, this is not the cause of the conflict because Dwayne is already upset with Bryson about the mess in the room which he "begins tidying up" in line 24.
	Option C is incorrect	In lines 22 through 27 there is no indication that Dwayne thinks Bryson is jealous. In Scene 1, line 16, the stage direction notes that Bryson is "slightly embarrassed" when Dwayne tells him where to put his dirty socks, but this is not the same as feeling jealous.
	Option D is incorrect	It is possible that Dwayne thinks Bryson is forgetful when he says, "Your shoes. And socks. And crumpled trash" in line 24, and "begins tidying up" again. But this is not the cause of the conflict because it becomes clear that Dwayne thinks Bryson is lazy when he says, "You just didn't feel like putting them away!" in line 26, and it is this remark that prompts the boys to raise their voices in line 28.

Item #	Rationale	
4	Option F is correct	Line 37 is important to the plot because it provides the resolution to the boys' conflict. In line 37, Dwayne creates a room divider using tape and says, "That's your side, Bryson, and this is my side." This resolves the issue because Dwayne can keep his area tidy while Bryson can keep his area "creatively cluttered."
	Option G is incorrect	The climax of a play occurs when tensions are highest, such as in lines 26 through 28 when Dwayne and Bryson argue with "raised voices." In line 37, Dwayne says, "Hey Bryson! I have an idea that allows both of us to get what we want!" This shows the problem is being resolved, not the peak of the conflict.
	Option H is incorrect	The setting of a play is the time and place in which the action occurs. In line 37, the stage direction explains that Dwayne tapes a line down the middle of the room, showing how the boys can resolve their disagreement, but the setting itself does not change because it is still the same bedroom.
	Option J is incorrect	In line 37, Dwayne says "That's your side, Bryson, and this is my side." This sentence could be misunderstood to show a new conflict since they are dividing the room. However, the sentence before it clearly indicates that this is a positive resolution when Dwayne says, "I have an idea that allows both of us to get what we want!"

Item #	Rationale	
5	Option D is correct	The theme of the play is trying to understand the viewpoints of others. In the play, Dwayne says "I can't concentrate like this" (line 18) when he sees the mess in his room. However, when Bryson sees the clean room, he says to himself "It isn't mess . . . it is creative clutter" in line 20. The boys are frustrated with each other until they can reach a compromise that allows each boy to feel comfortable.
	Option A is incorrect	This is not the theme because the boys are not attempting to earn each other's friendship. In line 34 Dwayne says, "I really like hanging out with you," suggesting that the 11-year-old cousins have been friends for some time and are usually kind to each other.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Dwayne practices the good habit of keeping his room tidy, this is not the theme of the play. Dwayne's tidiness is part of the problem since Bryson does not share Dwayne's viewpoint. Thus, the theme focuses on how the boys solve the problem by understanding their differences, not learning a good habit.
	Option C is incorrect	In line 33, the mother says, "Dwayne, for the summer, your room is Bryson's room too. You two need to find a way to compromise." Although Dwayne pauses to consider the situation, this detail is too minor to reflect the theme. And the mother's suggestion of compromise shows the importance of understanding each other.

Item #	Rationale	
6	Option G is correct	From the stage direction for Scene 2, the reader learns that Bryson is not as neat as Dwayne. Line 17 describes that "his shoes have been kicked off in the middle of the room and his suitcase is open and piled high with rumpled clothes." This shows that Bryson does not worry about keeping things tidy like Dwayne does.
	Option F is incorrect	In line 18 of the stage direction, the playwright explains that Dwayne "climbs up and straightens Bryson's bed" but there is nothing to suggest that Bryson is uncomfortable sleeping on the top bunk. In fact, in line 10 Bryson says, "This is great! I've never slept in a bunk bed before." after climbing up to his bed.
	Option H is incorrect	The stage directions for Scene 2 provide details about the mess Bryson has made in the bedroom, but there is no mention of Bryson searching for something in Dwayne's room. The mess includes Bryson's shoes and his suitcase "piled high with rumpled clothes" but none of these items belong to Dwayne.
	Option J is incorrect	The stage directions for Scene 2 explain that Dwayne "can't concentrate like this" suggesting that he is a bit frustrated with Bryson. However, there is no indication in lines 17 or 18 that Bryson dislikes sharing Dwayne's room. In Scene 1, Bryson is excited to be sleeping in a bunk bed and enthusiastic about spending the summer with Dwayne.

Item #	Rationale	
7	Option D is correct	In line 18, Dwayne says to himself "I can't concentrate like this" which shows that Dwayne is uncomfortable because of Bryson's mess. Dwayne's actions show that it is Bryson's mess making him uncomfortable, because he "places Bryson's shoes in the closet and his socks in the hamper," cleaning up the mess Bryson has created.
	Option A is incorrect	Based on his comment "I can't concentrate like this" in line 18, Dwayne picks up Bryson's things because messiness bothers him, not because he wants to surprise Bryson.
	Option B is incorrect	In line 17 Bryson's "suitcase is open and piled high with rumpled clothes," but this description is provided to emphasize Bryson's mess, not the amount of clothing he brought. In line 18 there is no suggestion that Dwayne thinks Bryson has brought too many clothes.
	Option C is incorrect	Although Dwayne is bothered by Bryson's mess, when he puts away Bryson's belongings in line 18, he "hums while he works," showing that he is feeling better. However, the idea that he is happiest when he is organizing clothes overstates Dwayne's feelings. He feels happier because the room is cleaner, not because he is cleaning.

Item #	Rationale	
8	Option F is correct	The author claims that pets are good for their owners because pets keep people healthy. The author provides several examples, including help encouraging exercise in paragraphs 3 and 4, reducing stress in paragraph 5, and increasing emotional well-being in paragraph 11.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the author does discuss the importance of exercise for pets and pet owners in paragraphs 2 through 4, there is no comparison of which types of dogs need more exercise than others in this selection.
	Option H is incorrect	By discussing children and allergic reactions in paragraphs 9 and 10, the author supports the claim that pets keep people healthy, but the author does not make a claim about children being responsible pet owners.
	Option J is incorrect	In paragraph 3, the author explains, "Dogs depend on their owners to take them on a stroll around the neighborhood," but the author does not claim that walking is the best way to provide exercise for a dog.

Item #	Rationale	
9	Option B is correct	The audience is most likely someone considering whether to have a pet, because the author provides valuable information for people thinking about getting a pet. In the first paragraph, the author states, "Many families struggle with the decision of adopting a pet," emphasizing the importance of "taking the time to pick the right pet."
	Option A is incorrect	The author mentions pet allergies in paragraphs 9 and 10 but does not give information on the ways that someone can treat those allergies.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 12, the author says, "Stop by an animal shelter, and see which pet might be right for you," to suggest where people might find a new pet. However, there is no advice in the selection for someone trying to find a home for a pet.
	Option D is incorrect	The author says, "Families have to consider the type of pet to adopt," in paragraph 1 and describes how dogs can make people more active in paragraphs 2 and 3. However, the author does not provide enough information about types of pets for someone who wants to learn about different types of pets.

Item #	Rationale	
10	Option H is correct	In paragraph 7, the author explains, that "[r]esearchers monitored patients at a hospital" and found that people with pet companionship "had a faster recovery." Based on this context, the best definition of condition is the "quality of whether someone is healthy or fit."
	Option F is incorrect	In paragraph 7, the author describes a study conducted on patients in a hospital. This definition of the word condition refers to the state of an object in relation to its readiness for use, not the state of a person's health or fitness.
	Option G is incorrect	This definition does not fit the use of condition in paragraph 7, as it refers to requirements that must be met for someone or something to progress. The author uses the word condition to describe each patient's health.
	Option J is incorrect	The author is referring to the quality of patients' health in a hospital in paragraph 7. This definition of condition as it relates to the state of matter at a given time does not apply to people, and therefore does not match the context.

Item #	Rationale	
11	Option D is correct	In the section "Calming Benefits," the details support the key idea that a trained pet can reduce stress in people. In paragraph 5, the author states, "Having a pet in the home means less anxiety for the people living there," and in paragraph 6, the author explains how well-behaved pets can reduce people's stress.
	Option A is incorrect	In this section, the author states that "there are many resources out there to help people train their pet," but this is a minor detail. Furthermore, the author does not provide information on how to train pets.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 6, the author mentions trained pets but does not provide any information on how people can train them.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author might agree that many people have trouble dealing with stress, the details in the section "Calming Benefits" are about how a pet can reduce stress, not about people's difficulties handling stress.

Item #	Rationale	
12	Option G is correct	The author shows that the argument in paragraph 9 is untrue by describing a research study. In paragraph 10, the author describes a 2011 study on babies and pet allergies that showed that children who had been around pets had a lower chance of developing allergies.
	Option F is incorrect	The author describes a research study in paragraph 10 but does not provide a direct statement from an expert involved in that study.
	Option H is incorrect	In paragraph 10, the author describes details of a research study conducted in Detroit; however, the information provided does not include an interview with a pet owner.
	Option J is incorrect	The author describes a study conducted in 2011 by researchers but was not involved in the study itself, and the author does not mention observing a pet owner.

Item #	Rationale	
13	Option A is correct	In paragraph 4, the author says, "Many people enjoy walking or running with their pet rather than by themselves or with others." This idea directly supports the claim that pets make people more active, because people are more likely to exercise when they are enjoying the company of their pets.
	Option B is incorrect	The author says, "Dogs depend on their owners to take them on a stroll around the neighborhood," in paragraph 3, but this does not mean that pet owners need to maintain good health; it means that owning a pet allows people to exercise in enjoyable ways.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 6, the author acknowledges, "Some people say pets can cause stress," and then explains that trained pets can have a calming effect on people. However, the discussion of whether pets cause stress is not related to the author's claim that pets make people more active; it is related to the calming benefits of pets.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraphs 9 and 10, the author includes information about pets and allergies, explaining that "pets can help prevent allergies in children." However, this idea does not support the author's claim that pets make people more active.

Item #	Rationale	
14	Option G is correct	Stanzas 4 and 5 are important to the resolution of the poem because they show how the speaker's attitude changes from being terrified to becoming increasingly more confident. In lines 18 and 19, the speaker describes her "[l]egs like spaghetti" and worries "that I might faint." However, the speaker finds her courage in lines 22 and 23, when "the music in me rises" and she lives "inside the song."
	Option F is incorrect	In line 21 the song is "[a] whisper at first," but this indicates that she is fearful, not that she has forgotten the song.
	Option H is incorrect	The speaker reminds herself of her talent when she says, "Live inside the song,/I tell myself." in lines 23 and 24. However, there is no indication in the poem that it is a new talent.
	Option J is incorrect	Although "Manny nudges" the speaker in line 16, which shows that her classmates are also onstage in line 17, the speaker says "it's time for my solo," so it is clear that no one else is singing in lines 16 through 25.

Item #	Rationale	
15	Option C is correct	Lines 20 through 22 support the theme of the poem by showing how confidence comes from within. Before line 20, the speaker describes her fears as she and her classmates march onto the stage for their recital. In line 19, the speaker worries about fainting, but in lines 20 through 22 she is able to take control of her fears and begins to sing, quietly at first then louder as her confidence grows.
	Option A is incorrect	The speaker uses descriptive language, such as "hyenas in human skin" in line 5 and "[l]egs like spaghetti" in line 18, but in lines 20 through 22, the speaker shows how confidence grows inside of her when she begins to sing, not that she uses her imagination.
	Option B is incorrect	In lines 9 and 10, the speaker describes the "audience of students/squirming in their seats" and might be older than the children in the audience; however, there is no indication in the poem that the speaker has learned to be responsible.
	Option D is incorrect	In stanzas 1 through 3, the speaker describes the assembly as "[l]ouder than a zoo" in line 3 and "quieting the animals/until they become/an audience of students" in lines 7 through 9. Although this description shows people coming together, lines 20 through 22 are used to highlight the speaker's fears, not the unity of the assembly.

Item #	Rationale	
16	Option J is correct	The sound that hyenas make is like loud laughter, so the poet most likely refers to the children as "hyenas in human skin" to describe their noisy, disruptive behavior. In addition, the poet describes the assembly as "[l]ouder than a zoo" in line 3, and "Teachers hiss and shush" in line 6 to emphasize the noise of the children.
	Option F Is incorrect	The title of the poem is "Assembly," and so it is likely that the kids are part of a large group. However, the description of "hyenas in human skin" is focused not on the number of children but on their loud and disruptive sounds.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the speaker is concerned about performing the solo in lines 17 through 20, the children in the audience are described in line 10 as "squirming in their seats and bored" rather than worried in any way. In addition, in line 4, "the kids watching point and laugh," so it is not concern being expressed by line 5 but rather the loud laughter coming from them.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no mention of lunchtime in the poem, so the poet does not describe the children as "hyenas in human skin" to reveal their hunger.

Item #	Rationale	
17	Option A is correct	Figurative language uses imagery, metaphors, and other literary devices to create mental images with words. In lines 23 and 24, "Live inside the song/I tell myself. And I do," is used figuratively to describe how the speaker finds comfort in the music to overcome her fears.
	Option B is incorrect	In lines 23 and 24, the figurative language is used to create a mental image of connecting with one song. There is no mention of how many songs the speaker knows.
	Option C is incorrect	Lines 23 and 24 are not referencing the song itself but the speaker's delivery of the song.
	Option D is incorrect	Lines 23 and 24 are referencing the speaker's use of the song to control his or her emotions, not the speaker's enjoyment of music.

Item #	Rationale	
18	Option J is correct	Suffixes are the word elements added to the end of a base word or root that forms a new word with changed meaning or grammatical function. The suffixes "ment" and "al" help the reader understand that judgmental involves the ability to act as a judge. In paragraph 8, the author explains that humans tend to act as judges "if students mess up" but dogs "won't know." Through this context, the meaning of judgmental is "looking for mistakes."
	Option F is incorrect	The suffixes "ment" and "al" help the reader understand that judgmental refers to the ability to act as a judge, not the inability to listen. Therefore, the meaning of judgmental is not "too busy to listen."
	Option G is incorrect	In paragraph 8, the word judgmental describes the ability of humans to act as a judge of other people's work. There is nothing in the paragraph related to moving around, so this is not the meaning of judgmental.
	Option H is incorrect	The author explains that "dogs aren't judgmental" because they "won't know" if someone makes a mistake. Although this shows that dogs cannot recognize when a mistake is made, it does not mean dogs are easy to confuse, so this is not the meaning of judgmental.

Item #	Rationale	
19	Option A is correct	In paragraph 10, the author uses a cause-and-effect structure to show the results of the program. "After doing a session with the audience dogs, students reported feeling less nervous, she said." Through the cause-and-effect structure, the author shows that dog audiences can have a positive effect on students' speech performances.
	Option B is incorrect	The author explains in paragraph 9 that the program was started by Caron Martinez, who is the director of a business communications center and owns one of the dogs in the program. Although the details describing how the program began are interesting, the organizational structure used is descriptive, not cause-and-effect.
	Option C is incorrect	The author begins and ends the selection with descriptions of two students' experiences working with audience dogs. However, neither example uses the organizational structure of cause-and-effect, nor do they describe the challenges of working with the dogs.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 5, the author explains that Dexter and his owner were "recruited after they were spotted walking on the school grounds." Although this detail adds additional information to the topic, the author's intention is to demonstrate how the program benefits participants, not to explain how dogs were chosen to participate in the program.

Item #	Rationale	
20	Option G is correct	This sentence from paragraph 10 best explains why audience dogs are successful at their jobs. As the author explains in paragraph 8, dogs "are there to support the students and help them feel less nervous." This shows that audience dogs are successful at calming students and allowing them to practice without feeling judged.
	Option F is incorrect	The sentence from paragraph 9 explains who started the program but does not provide any explanation about how audience dogs are successful at their job.
	Option H is incorrect	In paragraph 10, the sentence stresses the importance of students practicing their speeches. However, it does not explain how audience dogs can help students feel calmer or increase students' motivation to practice.
	Option J is incorrect	This sentence from paragraph 12 explains how visits with audience dogs are scheduled, but it does not indicate what makes the dogs successful.

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Item #	Rationale	
21	Option D is correct	The reader can conclude that students who participate in the program will feel more prepared when they deliver their speech to a human audience. This conclusion is shown throughout the selection. In paragraph 3, the author explains that "pooches volunteer to help students practice speaking in public." And in paragraph 10, the author states, "After doing a session with the audience dogs, students reported feeling less nervous."
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 13, the author explains how one student "weighed the pros and cons of signing up to work with Dexter." Although a con of the program might be that students are fearful of practicing with an audience dog, this is not a conclusion developed within the selection.
	Option B is incorrect	In the selection, the author describes different issues that occur when students deliver speeches. In paragraph 2, the author explains that one student "was nervous to speak in front of a large group." In paragraph 8, the author mentions the concern of being judged by others. However, the author provides no information regarding the common occurrence of students delivering their speeches in less time.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 12, the author explains, "Any student at the school that has a presentation to deliver can book 30 minutes with one of the audience dogs." Although students may have conflicts in their schedule, there is no indication in the selection that it is difficult for students to find time to practice with audience dogs.

Item #	Rationale	
22	Option F is correct	In the selection "Public Speaking Is Easier When a Cute Dog Is Listening," the author expresses a similar feeling of nervousness as the speaker in the poem "Assembly" does. Like the speaker in the poem who worries "that I might faint," Devon Wallick "was nervous to speak in front of a large group."
	Option G is incorrect	Dexter is one of the audience dogs in "Public Speaking Is Easier When a Cute Dog Is Listening," but there is no suggestion that he feels nervous like the speaker in the poem "Assembly."
	Option H is incorrect	This sentence from paragraph 8 of "Public Speaking Is Easier When a Cute Dog Is Listening" is not focused on the feelings of nervousness that are present in the lines from the poem "Assembly."
	Option J is incorrect	Sasha, in "Public Speaking Is Easier When a Cute Dog Is Listening," practices her speech in front of an audience dog, but there is no suggestion that she feels nervous like the speaker in the poem "Assembly."

Item #	Rationale	
23	Option D is correct	In "Public Speaking Is Easier When a Cute Dog Is Listening," a single well-behaved dog is the audience, but in the poem "Assembly," the children in the audience are noisy and disruptive, described as "hyenas in human skin."
	Option A is incorrect	Since the audience dogs in "Public Speaking Is Easier When a Cute Dog Is Listening" do not judge the speaker's performance, the speaker is more encouraged to practice and prepare for the best possible performance; the audience in "Assembly" is not described as giving encouragement to the performers.
	Option B is incorrect	The audience dogs in "Public Speaking Is Easier When a Cute Dog Is Listening" are trained to sit and listen; the audience in the poem "Assembly" is not trained to behave.
	Option C is incorrect	In "Public Speaking Is Easier When a Cute Dog Is Listening," the dogs are trained using positive reinforcement treats; the audience members in the poem "Assembly" are not given rewards.

Item #	Rationale	
24	Option F is correct	In "Public Speaking Is Easier When a Cute Dog Is Listening," the author focuses on the students' preparation for giving speeches, explaining that students with presentations to deliver "can book 30 minutes with one of the audience dogs" in paragraph 12. However, in the poem "Assembly," the poet describes how the performer feels during the performance.
	Option G is incorrect	Both the selection "Public Speaking Is Easier When a Cute Dog Is Listening" and the poem "Assembly" focus on the performers and the audiences. In the selection, the author provides information about Devon Wallick, a student who must present a speech, and the audience dog, Dexter. In the poem, the poet describes the unruly audience of children as well as the speaker who will be performing a solo.
	Option H is incorrect	In "Public Speaking Is Easier When a Cute Dog Is Listening," the author explains in paragraph 10 that practice is the key to a strong presentation, and there is no suggestion that people need a special talent in order to perform. In the poem "Assembly," the poet describes the speaker's nervousness about performing until she takes control of her fears, but there is no suggestion that anyone can do it.
	Option J is incorrect	Both the author of "Public Speaking Is Easier When a Cute Dog Is Listening" and the poet of "Assembly" describe performers who are less experienced and who still feel nervous about performing.

Item #	Rationale	
25	Option C is correct	The message that both practice and effort are necessary for anyone who wants to perform in front of an audience is given in both the selection "Public Speaking Is Easier When a Cute Dog Is Listening" and the poem "Assembly." In the selection, the author explains that students like Sasha and Devon use audience dogs to help them practice their presentations, and the poet shows how the speaker overcomes her fears to perform the solo.
	Option A is incorrect	Although in "Public Speaking Is Easier When a Cute Dog Is Listening," the author describes the students preparing for their presentations, the speaker's preparation for performing the solo is questionable as she is very nervous when she gets on stage in the poem "Assembly."
	Option B is incorrect	This message about picturing animals during a performance is described in paragraph 15 of the selection "Public Speaking Is Easier When a Cute Dog Is Listening," but no such message is present in the poem "Assembly."
	Option D is incorrect	The author of "Public Speaking Is Easier When a Cute Dog Is Listening" presents the importance of practice, but there is no information shared about the students' levels of experience with giving speeches before practicing with audience dogs; the poet of "Assembly" does not present the experience level of the speaker or the practice involved in preparing for the recital.

Item #	Rationale	
26	Option H is correct	The author organizes paragraphs 2 through 5 in chronological order to explain where the idea for the business came from and how the business developed. In paragraphs 2 and 3, the author explains that the girls painted the rocks to surprise their mother on Mother's Day. In paragraphs 4 and 5, the author explains that the girls' father was impressed and posted "pictures of the rocks on his social media page," which led to the business.
	Option F is incorrect	In paragraph 6, Isabella says "I have all these ideas in my mind that are too big for me, but I am always thinking about how I can help people." This shows that Isabella has ideas, but it happens outside of paragraphs 2 through 5, and these ideas are never described in detail to compare with the business of rock painting.
	Option G is incorrect	In paragraph 7, the author explains how the girls decided to use their rock-painting business to support a non-profit breast cancer awareness organization; however, this happens outside of paragraphs 2 through 5. Moreover, their business was not created to solve a problem, but as a gift for their mom.
	Option J is incorrect	In paragraphs 6 and 7, the girls use the money from their rock-painting business to help others. Although this is an effect of their business, the donations are discussed after paragraphs 2 through 5.

Item #	Rationale	
27	Option B is correct	Based on information in the selection, the reader can conclude that the girls are hardworking. This is shown in paragraph 1, when the author explains that "they do it every day after they finish their homework!" It is developed further in paragraph 9 when the author explains that "[l]ately they've been thinking about painting other things, too."
	Option A is incorrect	The girls are talented, but it was their dad who showed quick thinking when he suggested that they start a business.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the girls express concern for their community in paragraphs 6 and 7, worrying is not shown to be a characteristic of the girls.
	Option D is incorrect	The girls showed their creativity when they painted the rocks and organized the fundraiser, but there is nothing to suggest that the girls showed bravery.

Item #	Rationale	
28	Option H is correct	The central idea is the main focus or message of a text that is supported by the author's purpose and ties together all the other elements. In the selection, the author describes the craft two sisters made as a gift which led to a successful business. In paragraph 1, the author explains that the "painted rock business that they accidentally started" began as a gift for their mother.
	Option F is incorrect	Although the rocks the girls found are what started the idea for the girls' business venture, the idea stated here fails to include how much of a role other people's positive reactions to their crafts played in their idea to begin a business.
	Option G is incorrect	In paragraphs 6 and 7, the author describes how the girls donated some of their profits to a good cause, but the central idea is not just about the sisters' interest in helping others, but about how they created a successful business.
	Option J is incorrect	In paragraph 8, the author describes how the girls divided the work between painting backgrounds and creating designs; however, this is a minor detail, not a central idea.

Item #	Rationale	
29	Option A is correct	The author chose to include this photograph most likely because it shows the girls together and enjoying the work they do. For example, in paragraph 2, the author states that Soledad "noticed that her sister could use some creative help." In the selection, the author shows that the girls enjoy working together, and the photograph supports this idea.
	Option B is incorrect	The photograph shows the two sisters working on their rock painting and does not show their mother being surprised by the girls' gift.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the girls did donate a part of their first business profits to the organization Get In Touch, the photograph does not show this.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 6, the author explains that Isabella has had other business ideas, but the photograph does not provide evidence to support this idea.

Item #	Rationale	
30	Option H is correct	The author wrote this most likely to show how a simple act can lead to great accomplishments. In paragraphs 1 and 2, the author shows that the girls began with a simple gift idea for their mother, and it developed into a business that allows the girls to earn money and donate to good causes.
	Option F is incorrect	In paragraph 1, the author mentions that Isabella and Soledad work on rocks every day after they finish their homework. However, the author's intention is to show the young girls' accomplishments, not how people spend their time.
	Option G is incorrect	The author explains in paragraphs 4 and 5 how the sisters and their father decided to post pictures of the painted rocks online, but this is a minor detail that shows how the business began, not why the family shared the same goal.
	Option J is incorrect	The selection does show the accomplishments of two young sisters, but the author does not provide encouragement to adults to make positive changes.

Item #	Rationale	
31	Option A is correct	In paragraph 6, the author uses a quote from Isabella to show how the girls want to share their profits with people in need, and in paragraph 7, the author explains how the girls "hold a rock-painting contest as a fundraiser." The details from both paragraphs support this key idea.
	Option B is incorrect	The girls' focus is on developing their own business, not on how to help others in the community start businesses.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 5, the author explains that "Mr. Meade put the pictures of the rocks on his social media page," but the details in paragraphs 6 and 7 do not support the idea that the girls rely on others.
	Option D is incorrect	The author mentions that the girls have "been thinking about painting other things" in paragraph 9, not in paragraphs 6 and 7.

Item #	Rationale	
32	Option G is correct	In paragraph 3, the girls' mother is surprised and keeps hugging the girls and thanking them. The mother's reaction to the gift shows that the word overwhelmed means "reacted with strong emotion."
	Option F is incorrect	The girls' mother reacts immediately, with no need to think about anything carefully, so "thought about carefully" is not the meaning of overwhelmed.
	Option H is incorrect	Since the girls' gift to their mother is not in the past at this point in the story, the meaning of overwhelmed is not "remembered with fondness."
	Option J is incorrect	In paragraph 3, there is nothing to indicate that a purpose has yet been realized, so this is not the meaning of the word overwhelmed.

Item #	Rationale	
33	Option D is correct	The sentence from paragraph 26 supports the idea that there was value in Baatar's search. In paragraph 26 he explains to his father that "through living as a servant" he learned how to lead with compassion and justice.
	Option A is incorrect	This sentence from paragraph 6 supports the idea that Baatar must travel far to find the item, but it does not support the idea that there is value in the search.
	Option B is incorrect	In this sentence from paragraph 12, the author describes how the search has impacted Baatar's comfortable life, but it does not support the idea that there is value in the search.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 14, the author describes why Baatar is willing to go with a stranger, which is a necessary step in Baatar's lesson, but it does not address the value of the search.

Item #	Rationale	
34	Option F is correct	Baatar knows that his father is a tremendous leader and admires him for this. In paragraph 1 the author explains, "Baatar knew that he would one day grow up to be a leader. His father, Saihan, was one of the bravest warriors and wisest leaders in the Mongolian empire."
	Option G is incorrect	Although Baatar does not know the reason for the trip, he does not do or say anything to suggest that he is annoyed by his father's ideas.
	Option H is incorrect	Baatar does not understand why his father sends him on this search, but he respects his father's decision and travels far to find the sponge, indicating that he feels the request must be a reasonable one even though he does not know why. In fact, in paragraph 11, he thinks "it must be something of immense value for his father to have sent his own son to look for it."
	Option J is incorrect	Based on paragraphs 1 and 11, Baatar agrees to go on the search out of respect and admiration for his father, but there is nothing in the story that suggests he is looking for ways to impress his father.

Item #	Rationale	
35	Option D is correct	This sentence from paragraph 16 provides the best explanation for Baatar's surprise. It shows that Baatar did not expect to discover that the item of value he was searching for was something he used every day as a servant.
	Option A is incorrect	This sentence from paragraph 4 explains that Baatar will need to travel far away to find the item of value, but it does not explain why Bataar is surprised by his discovery.
	Option B is incorrect	This sentence from paragraph 5 expresses curiosity about his task of finding the sponge but does not provide an explanation for Baatar's surprise when he discovers the sponge.
	Option C is incorrect	This sentence from paragraph 12 shows the difficulty Baatar faced to find the sponge, because the people he asked did not know what the item was. However, this sentence does not explain why Baatar is surprised when he discovers the sponge.

Item #	Rationale	
36	Option F is correct	In paragraphs 2 through 6, the reader can infer that Baatar needs to learn how to earn respect. In paragraph 2, the author describes how he treated his friends "like they were his servants," and in paragraph 3, Baatar's father "was concerned about his son's behavior."
	Option G is incorrect	In paragraphs 2 through 6, the author describes Baatar's disrespect toward his friends and his father's concern. But it isn't clear in paragraphs 2 through 6 that Baatar is aware of his father's concerns.
	Option H is incorrect	In paragraph 5, Baatar asks, "Is it not something I can get here in Mongolia?" This may show that Baatar would prefer to stay in Mongolia, but it does not suggest he needs to be more comfortable with new experiences.
	Option J is incorrect	In paragraph 2 the author explains that "knowledge of his father's power, however, proved to be dangerous." However, the author does not discuss Baatar's feelings about material possessions. There is no indication that he is motivated by greed when he hears of the treasure.

Item #	Rationale	
37	Option B is correct	These sentences include all the key ideas necessary for a summary of the story. The main conflict of the story—how Baatar treats others—is identified and his father's idea for a solution leads to the action in the story as Baatar travels the land seeking the treasure his father has sent him to find. All of this leads to the resolution when he returns home and shares the lesson he has learned with his delighted father.
	Option A is incorrect	This option includes information about how Baatar treats others and is sent on a journey by his father who does not approve of his behavior. However, details are included that are not necessary for a summary (his friends play with him because of his father's status) and key ideas critical to a summary is not included. The work Baatar must do on his journey, which allows him to discover the treasure he's searching for, is necessary to create a complete summary. In addition, the option does not capture the key idea that Baatar's father is actively attempting to teach Baatar a lesson to improve his behavior, not simply sending him on a journey and hoping he learns a lesson.
	Option C is incorrect	These sentences include the idea that Baatar goes on a journey searching for something at the behest of his father, but includes details that are not important for a summary (the lack of clues and the belief that someone else should have been sent instead). In addition, the sentences do not include the reason Baatar is sent on the journey (his treatment of others) or the fact that his father intends to teach him a lesson with the task.
	Option D is incorrect	These sentences include the idea that Baatar wants to be a leader and that his father sends him on a journey but includes unnecessary details about how few people help him and that he needs to find a home and become a king's servant. Key ideas that should be included in a summary are not included in these sentences, including the fact that Baatar treats people badly and that his father intends to teach him a lesson by sending him on a journey to find a treasure.

Item #	Rationale	
38	Option F is correct	Paragraph 27 is important to the plot because it shows Saihan's happiness due to his son's development as a leader. In paragraph 25, the father asks the son why he sent Baatar so far for a sponge, and Baatar explains the lesson he has learned. In paragraph 27, "the father embraced his son and cried," showing that Baatar has learned the lesson the father had hoped he would learn.
	Option G is incorrect	In paragraph 27, Saihan is not curious about Baatar's journey; rather, he wants to know that Baatar has learned how to become a good leader.
	Option H is incorrect	In the story, Saihan knew what Baatar would experience on his journey, so he was likely not concerned about Baatar's safety.
	Option J is incorrect	In the story, Saihan sends Baatar on the journey to find the sponge, so he is not excited to see what Baatar found but to discover what Baatar learned through the experience.