

2019 STAAR Grade 4 Reading Rationales

| Item# | Rationale             |  |
|-------|-----------------------|--|
| 1     | Option A is correct   | Christopher’s mother said he could go to the picnic if “he didn’t get into any more trouble this week.” Christopher tries to be very careful not to get into trouble at school on Friday so he can go to the picnic.                         |
|       | Option B is incorrect | Although Christopher’s friends do sit next to him on the bus, where his friends sit is not related to attending the picnic.  |
|       | Option C is incorrect | Although Christopher attempts to tell the principal about the incident with his rubber bands, another band snaps off his braces and lands on the principal’s desk, making the explanation unnecessary.                                       |
|       | Option D is incorrect | The story takes place on a Friday, and the principal tells Christopher, “I haven’t seen you since Wednesday,” so he has been to the principal’s office this week.  |
| 2     | Option J is correct   | Timothy tells Christopher he only has “to stay out of trouble one more day.” When Christopher tells his friends about his misfortunes, they “tried to make their friend feel more hopeful,” by offering advice such as, “take deep breaths.” |
|       | Option F is incorrect | Christopher’s friends do not express any opinion about the bus driver being unfair.  |
|       | Option G is incorrect | It is Christopher’s mother, not the principal, who made the conditions that determine if he will be allowed to go to the picnic, and Christopher’s friends do not express any thoughts on what the principal might do.                       |
|       | Option H is incorrect | Christopher’s friends do not express any amusement with his actions.   |
| 3     | Option B is correct   | In paragraph 22, the principal says, “I haven’t seen you since Wednesday.” The story takes place on Friday, which means Christopher has seen the principal at least twice this week.   |
|       | Option A is incorrect | The author only includes dialogue from the principal in paragraph 22, so there is no way to know what Christopher is hoping.   |
|       | Option C is incorrect | There is no way to know what Christopher expects from the dialogue in paragraph 22.  |
|       | Option D is incorrect | The author only includes dialogue from the principal in paragraph 22, so there is no way to know what Christopher is willing to explain.   |

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| 4     | Option J is correct   | This is the most complete summary of paragraphs 7 through 10 of the story. In paragraph 7, Christopher imagines the bus’s wheels to be saying, “One more day!” and in paragraph 8 he yells out, “All right!” in response. Then, in paragraph 9, the bus driver scolds him, and in paragraph 10 it is explained that he didn’t mean to get into trouble. |
|       | Option F is incorrect | Christopher does not talk to Timothy or Rashid in paragraphs 7 through 10.  |
|       | Option G is incorrect | This summary is incomplete. Important details from paragraphs 8 through 10 are not included in this summary.  |
|       | Option H is incorrect | Christopher does not talk to Timothy or Rashid in paragraphs 7 through 10.  |
| 5     | Option B is correct   | Christopher explains to his friends “that the week’s misfortunes were not his fault.” The author describes everything that went wrong during the week and includes all of Christopher’s excuses, which support the idea that Christopher does not take responsibility for his actions.  |
|       | Option A is incorrect | Although the author does describe Christopher’s experience with his borrowed library book, this is only an example the author includes to show that when an incident happens Christopher makes an excuse for his action.  |
|       | Option C is incorrect | There is no evidence in paragraph 11 to support the idea that Christopher likes to joke around with his friends.  |
|       | Option D is incorrect | There is no evidence in paragraph 11 to support the idea that Christopher depends on his friends to get him out of difficult situations.  |

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| 6     | Option J is correct   | In paragraph 11, the author describes all of Christopher’s “ <u>misfortunes</u> ” such as scribbling “a math problem on his desk” and dropping “grape jelly on his library book.” These are examples of “Unlucky events.” |
|       | Option F is incorrect | Although Christopher is trying to catch up on a demanding reading assignment during lunch, this is only one of several events the author lists when describing what contributed to the week’s misfortunes.                |
|       | Option G is incorrect | The author does not describe Christopher making any difficult decisions that could be related to the word <u>misfortunes</u> .  |
|       | Option H is incorrect | The author does not describe any confusing messages Christopher shares about his <u>misfortunes</u> .   |
| 7     | Option C is correct   | This sentence is an opinion presented by the author because “beautiful” and “unique” describe what some people, but not all people, think about the appearance of marbles.  |
|       | Option A is incorrect | The idea that the types of marble games played by people have not changed much over the years can be proven, making the sentence a fact, not an opinion.  |
|       | Option B is incorrect | The idea that marbles have been found in different areas of the world can be proven, making the sentence a fact, not an opinion.  |
|       | Option D is incorrect | The idea that some marbles contained swirls of one color, while others contained swirls of many colors can be proven, making it a fact, not an opinion.   |

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| 8     | Option J is correct   | The author explains that the “ <u>annual</u> National Marbles Tournament” has “thousands of competitors” come to it “Each year,” meaning that it has been happening year after year since it “was first held in 1922.”                   |
|       | Option F is incorrect | The phrase “fun of it” is used by the author to describe why “Most people enjoy playing marbles.”  |
|       | Option G is incorrect | The author uses the phrase “very seriously” to describe how some players approach the competition, not to describe how often the competition takes place.  |
|       | Option H is incorrect | The author uses “This competition” to describe what the National Marbles Tournament is, while “ <u>annual</u> ” is used to describe how often it happens.  |
| 9     | Option D is correct   | The conclusion that people used a variety of available materials to create marbles is supported by the author’s description of the different types of materials that were used as marbles, such as “nuts, fruit pits, or round pebbles.” |
|       | Option A is incorrect | Early marbles were made of common items that would not be difficult to find, so this is not the correct conclusion.  |
|       | Option B is incorrect | Although children play with marbles, there is no context in this sentence to support the conclusion that the marbles were made by children.  |
|       | Option C is incorrect | The author does not mention the size of the marbles in this sentence, so this is not the correct conclusion.   |

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| 10    | Option F is correct   | In paragraphs 5 and 6, the author describes “special scissors that could cut melted glass” into marbles and “a marble-making machine.” These inventions made it possible to make more marbles in less time and at a lower cost. |
|       | Option G is incorrect | Although the author describes “special scissors that could cut melted glass,” this is only a supporting detail from paragraph 5. The author describes “rollers” in paragraph 6, not “special scissors.”                         |
|       | Option H is incorrect | The inventions described in paragraphs 5 and 6 do involve melting glass to make marbles. However, the author does not describe how the glass was melted.  |
|       | Option J is incorrect | The “marble-making machine” has the ability to roll glass “into a perfect sphere.” However, the author does not discuss in paragraphs 5 and 6 how the shape of marbles “improved over time.”                                    |
| 11    | Option C is correct   | Boys shooting marbles into a circle drawn in the dirt are shown in the photograph on the left. A close up of marbles within a circle on the ground is shown in the photograph on the right.                                     |
|       | Option A is incorrect | Where and when marbles were invented is not supported by the photographs.   |
|       | Option B is incorrect | People are shown playing marbles, not buying them, in the photographs.  |
|       | Option D is incorrect | The idea that some players may lose some of their favorite marbles is not conveyed in the photographs.  |
| 12    | Option G is correct   | The reader can infer from the words “through Time” in the subheading that the author will provide information about the “history” of marbles in this section.   |
|       | Option F is incorrect | In the introductory section, the author describes a scene at the beach to introduce the topic of marbles, so this is not where the reader would find information about the history of marbles.                                  |
|       | Option H is incorrect | The caption under the first photograph, “Kids Playing Marbles in the Sand,” is used to describe what the reader sees in the photograph. It does not include information about the history of marbles.                           |
|       | Option J is incorrect | The reader can infer from the word “Games” in the subheading that the author will describe different methods of playing with marbles in this section, not provide information about the history of marbles.                     |

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| 13    | Option C is correct   | While Max is digging a hole for Grandpa’s tree, he finds a coffee can, which leads him to talk with Dad and Grandpa about what life was like when Dad was young.  |
|       | Option A is incorrect | Dad shows surprise at Max finding the time capsule rather than pride in him for working in Grandpa’s yard.  |
|       | Option B is incorrect | Although Max is unhappy about digging in the yard, the plot focuses on Max’s surprise discovery of the time capsule and the events that unfold because of this discovery, not Max being tired and grumpy.       |
|       | Option D is incorrect | Although Max could be seen as a good helper for digging the hole, the plot focuses on the surprise discovery that Max made because of his digging, not Max being helpful.                                       |
| 14    | Option G is correct   | After seeing that Max found his time capsule, Max’s father explains that he “wanted someone in the future to find the things” he buried. With each item pulled out of the coffee can, he recalls a fond memory. |
|       | Option F is incorrect | Max’s father says, “I had forgotten all about it,” when Max presents the time capsule, so Max’s father was not looking for it.  |
|       | Option H is incorrect | It is Max’s father who suggests that they “see how everything looks now,” so he is not upset that Max is no longer helping Grandpa by digging the hole for the tree.  |
|       | Option J is incorrect | The quote “Let’s see how everything looks now” is included to let the reader know that Max’s father wants Max to see what is in the can, not that he is concerned about what Max will think.                    |

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| 15    | Option D is correct   | The term point of view refers to the person telling or narrating a piece of writing. In the story the author uses the third-person point of view from the perspective of an unknown observer. The narrator of this story refers to all the characters by their names and uses pronouns such as "he" and "his." The narrator does not participate in the action. |
|       | Option A is incorrect | The story is not written in the first person from Max's perspective because Max is not narrating the story. The narrator does not use the pronouns "I" or "my" to tell the story.   |
|       | Option B is incorrect | The story is not written in the first person from Dad's perspective because Dad is not narrating the story. The narrator does not use the pronouns "I" or "my" to tell the story.   |
|       | Option C is incorrect | The story is not written in the third person from the perspective of Max's grandfather because Max's grandfather's feelings toward the events happening are not revealed through the narration.   |
| 16    | Option G is correct   | Max's physical exertion and his feeling that the job is taking a long time to complete are used to show that he is struggling with a difficult job.   |
|       | Option F is incorrect | Max has no idea that there is anything buried in his grandfather's yard, so he does not expect to discover a special surprise.  |
|       | Option H is incorrect | Max's sweat and his feeling that the job is taking a long time to complete are used to show that digging is a struggle for him, but this does not mean he dislikes spending time outdoors.  |
|       | Option J is incorrect | Max is digging a hole for his grandfather's tree because his father volunteered him, not because he is determined to help plant trees.  |

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| 17    | Option A is correct   | In paragraph 3, the author describes a girl from Papua New Guinea who found a message in a bottle and became pen pals with the student who sent the message (the <u>sender</u> ).  |
|       | Option B is incorrect | Adding the suffix <i>-er</i> to the word "send" does not create a new word that refers to an object that is sent.  |
|       | Option C is incorrect | There is no evidence in the selection to support the idea that the person who sent the bottle sent it more than once.  |
|       | Option D is incorrect | Adding the suffix <i>-er</i> to the word "send" does not create a new word that refers to a method used to send things.  |
| 18    | Option J is correct   | In 2007, students in Hawaii released a bottle into the ocean. A girl in Papua New Guinea found a bottle and became pen pals with the student who released it.  |
|       | Option F is incorrect | There is no context to support the idea that other schools participated in the bottle experiment as a result of someone finding a bottle released by students in Hawaii in 2007.   |
|       | Option G is incorrect | The author only mentions a girl in Papua New Guinea who became pen pals with the student who participated in the 2007 bottle experiment in Hawaii. The author does not mention other people being encouraged to find pen pals. |
|       | Option H is incorrect | There is no context to support the idea that students tried to send messages in bottles to their classmates as a result of the 2007 bottle experiment in Hawaii.   |

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| 19    | Option C is correct   | The author provides information on a few messages sent in bottles, including bottles that went from Seattle to Alaska, New Hampshire to the Caribbean, Hawaii to Papua New Guinea, and from a soldier to his daughter.   |
|       | Option A is incorrect | In paragraph 5, the author notes that "Tossing a bottle in the ocean is not a very reliable way to deliver a message," so the author is not trying to persuade the reader to send a message in a bottle.   |
|       | Option B is incorrect | The author does not provide any instructions on how to start a floating bottle experiment at school, so this is not the author's purpose for the selection.  |
|       | Option D is incorrect | In paragraph 4, the author briefly mentions that a soldier hoped a message in a bottle would reach his wife; however, the challenge of communicating with people who live across the ocean is not the author's purpose for the selection.  |
| 20    | Option H is correct   | In paragraphs 2 and 3, the author explains that people write messages, put them in bottles, and toss them into the ocean to be found by people living far away. Some bottles have traveled from Seattle to Alaska, New Hampshire to the Caribbean, and Hawaii to Papua New Guinea. |
|       | Option F is incorrect | There is a reward mentioned in paragraph 2, but it is only a minor detail and it is not mentioned again in paragraph 3.  |
|       | Option G is incorrect | There is no explanation of why the bottles do not sink in these paragraphs.  |
|       | Option J is incorrect | Although the author shares a detail about a message placed in one bottle, the paragraphs are mainly about different bottles that have drifted in the sea and then been found, not the messages inside the bottles.   |

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| 21    | Option A is correct   | In "Max's Find," Max "felt a shiver of excitement" when he found the time capsule buried in his grandfather's yard. In "Messages in Bottles," the author describes finding a message as a "memorable event."   |
|       | Option B is incorrect | The author does not discuss the importance of following instructions that are included with messages in either the story or the selection.   |
|       | Option C is incorrect | In "Messages in Bottles," two people who have never met do become pen pals, but no new friendships are formed in "Max's Find."   |
|       | Option D is incorrect | In "Max's Find," Max finds a time capsule that was hidden for years, so it is not common to find one. In "Messages in Bottles," the bottles were not left in secret places, and there is no support for the idea that it is common to find bottles with messages inside. |
| 22    | Option G is correct   | In "Max's Find," Max finds his father's time capsule buried in the same place his father left it many years ago. In "Messages in Bottles" the author describes the journeys that the bottles make to faraway places.   |
|       | Option F is incorrect | In "Max's Find," the time capsule is opened by Max, not his father who made it. Therefore, this option is not correct.   |
|       | Option H is incorrect | In "Messages in Bottles," the author describes bottles that have been found "More than 50 years later" and "Eighty-five years" later, so messages in bottles are not always found quickly. Therefore, this option is not correct.  |
|       | Option J is incorrect | In "Messages in Bottles," the author does describe one bottle that is intended for a soldier's wife, but the other bottles aren't meant for anyone specific. Therefore, this option is not correct.  |

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| 23    | Option D is correct   | Max expresses appreciation and interest in learning about his father through pictures and items from the past. The author of "Messages in Bottles" describes a similar appreciation because the soldier's daughter was "thrilled" to "learn more about her father." |
|       | Option A is incorrect | In these sentences, the idea of a message traveling far is presented, which is not similar to the appreciation and interest in learning about a family member that is conveyed in the sentences from "Max's Find."  |
|       | Option B is incorrect | In these sentences, the author explains why people send messages in bottles, which is not similar to the appreciation and interest in learning about a family member that is conveyed in the sentences from "Max's Find."   |
|       | Option C is incorrect | In these sentences, the author explains why someone might send a message in a bottle, which is not similar to the appreciation and interest in learning about a family member that is conveyed in the sentences from "Max's Find."                                  |
| 24    | Option H is correct   | Max finds the time capsule when he is digging a hole to plant a tree. In "Messages in Bottles," the author explains, "There is no telling where a bottle may end up." The people find the bottles by chance.  |
|       | Option F is incorrect | Although Max's father made the time capsule in the 1980s, the people sending messages in bottles create their messages during many different years.   |
|       | Option G is incorrect | Max finds the time capsule buried in the dirt, not covered by water.  |
|       | Option J is incorrect | The time capsule that Max finds does hold many items, but the bottles only carry a message, no items.   |

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| 25    | Option B is correct   | Imagery is the use of vivid language to represent objects, actions, or ideas. The imagery in the third stanza most appeals to the reader’s sense of taste. The poet describes things you can taste, such as “batters rich and thick” and “spoons she lets you lick.” |
|       | Option A is incorrect | There are no sounds described in the third stanza, so the imagery does not appeal to the reader’s sense of sound.  |
|       | Option C is incorrect | There are no smells described in the third stanza, so the imagery does not appeal to the reader’s sense of smell.  |
|       | Option D is incorrect | There are no descriptions of how things feel in the third stanza, so the imagery does not appeal to the reader’s sense of touch.   |
| 26    | Option F is correct   | Only the second and fourth lines rhyme in each stanza. For example, the poet rhymes “day” with “stay” (stanza 1), “aromatic” with “attic” (stanza 2), and “thick” with “lick” (stanza 3).  |
|       | Option G is incorrect | None of the first and third lines rhyme with each other.   |
|       | Option H is incorrect | The second and fourth lines of each stanza rhyme, but the first and third lines do not rhyme.  |
|       | Option J is incorrect | Neither the first and second lines nor the third and fourth lines rhyme.   |
| 27    | Option D is correct   | The line “And suddenly you realize—” is included to express the speaker’s surprise and suggest that Grandma’s visit was unexpected.  |
|       | Option A is incorrect | Although the exclamation point at the end of the stanza is included to express excitement about Grandma’s visit, there is no context to support the idea that every day is exciting.   |
|       | Option B is incorrect | Although Grandma’s visits are portrayed as special events, there is no context to support the idea that Grandma does not visit often.  |
|       | Option C is incorrect | None of the activities that take place during Grandma’s visit are described in stanza 1.   |

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| 28    | Option H is correct   | The speaker enjoys Grandma’s visits because “The house is full of oven smells” (stanza 2), “And you begin to think of things” to eat (stanza 3), “And then there are stories” (stanzas 4 and 5), “And always there is music” (stanza 6), and Grandma listens and makes you laugh (stanza 7). |
|       | Option F is incorrect | The reason Grandma comes to visit is not revealed in any stanza.   |
|       | Option G is incorrect | Although the events of each stanza may have happened in the past, the poet mentions the speaker’s relatives only in stanza 5.  |
|       | Option J is incorrect | In stanzas 2 and 3, the poet does describe details related to food, but the rest of the stanzas do not mention food.   |
| 29    | Option B is correct   | Most of the lines in the poem are written with the same meter. Most first and third lines have about seven syllables, while most second and fourth lines are shorter and have about five syllables, which are used to create an identifiable rhythm in the poem.                             |
|       | Option A is incorrect | Some lines, such as “The house is full of oven smells” (line 5), are written with seven words, while other lines, such as “Floating, aromatic—” (line 6) are written with only two words, so this is not an element of the poem.   |
|       | Option C is incorrect | Characters are introduced in a few, but not all, of the stanzas, such as Grandma (stanza 1) and Mommy (stanza 4), so this is not an element of the poem.   |
|       | Option D is incorrect | Most of the stanzas include different reasons to enjoy Grandma’s visits, not different problems, so this is not an element of the poem.  |
| 30    | Option F is correct   | At the end of the poem, the poet includes the lines “You wish that she could stay with you / And never never go,” which express the idea that the speaker wants Grandma to stay longer.  |
|       | Option G is incorrect | There are no secrets being shared at the end of the poem.  |
|       | Option H is incorrect | The speaker shows no curiosity about why Grandma leaves.   |
|       | Option J is incorrect | The poet includes the lines “You’re sure she will come back again” in the last stanza, but it is not specified when Grandma will come back.  |

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| 31    | Option A is correct   | In paragraph 4, the author explains that “people <u>secured</u> acorns in baskets” and put them in rushing water that “washed away the tannins.” The acorns were <u>secured</u> in the baskets so they wouldn’t move when placed in rushing water. |
|       | Option B is incorrect | In paragraph 4, people <u>secured</u> acorns in baskets, so they already had everything they needed. They weren’t trying to get something.   |
|       | Option C is incorrect | Although people <u>secured</u> acorns in baskets “to make certain” they didn’t move, the closest definition to <u>secured</u> in paragraph 4 is focused on the actual act of placing the acorns in the basket where they wouldn’t move.            |
|       | Option D is incorrect | There is no reference to promising any type of payment for acorns in paragraph 4.  |
| 32    | Option H is correct   | In paragraph 7, the author includes the fact that an acorn weevil uses its “long snout to drill a hole” into acorns. In the photograph, an acorn weevil with a long snout is shown.  |
|       | Option F is incorrect | Although it is true that acorn weevils are usually the first insects to live in acorns, this is not a fact that is supported by the photograph.  |
|       | Option G is incorrect | Although it is true that acorn weevil larvae eat the inside of the acorn, only the outside of the acorn is shown in the photograph.  |
|       | Option J is incorrect | Only the outside of the acorn is shown in the photograph, so any facts concerning the inside of the acorn are not supported.   |

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| 33    | Option B is correct   | In paragraph 3, the author explains that ancient Romans ground the acorns before using them to make bread. In paragraph 4, the author explains that to prepare acorns, people would run them through water and bury them in mud to make them taste better. |
|       | Option A is incorrect | There are no other types of nuts mentioned in the selection, so the reader cannot conclude that acorns are similar to many other types of nuts that people eat.  |
|       | Option C is incorrect | Although many animals do use acorns, the rarity of acorns is not discussed in the selection, so this cannot be concluded.  |
|       | Option D is incorrect | Although the author does include descriptions of falling acorns, no damage is actually described, so this cannot be concluded.   |
| 34    | Option F is correct   | This is the most complete summary of the selection. The introduction is restated and key details are explained, such as how people, animals, and insects use acorns.   |
|       | Option G is incorrect | This summary is incomplete. There is no mention of how insects or animals use acorns in this option.   |
|       | Option H is incorrect | This summary is incomplete. There is no mention of the definition of acorns or that people have found ways to prepare acorns in this option.   |
|       | Option J is incorrect | This summary is incomplete. There is no mention that groups of people have found different uses for acorns in this option.   |
| 35    | Option C is correct   | The author explains in paragraph 7 that when the acorn falls to the ground, "this signals to the larvae that it's time to chew their way out."   |
|       | Option A is incorrect | Although baby acorn weevils do eat the nut meat inside their acorns, it is when the acorn falls to the ground that they know to leave, not when they're finished eating.   |
|       | Option B is incorrect | The adult acorn weevil only drills a hole to lay eggs, not to signal the baby acorn weevils to leave.  |
|       | Option D is incorrect | Baby acorn weevils leave the acorns when they fall to the ground during autumn. At this time, the weather is actually getting colder, not warmer.  |

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| 36    | Option J is correct   | A woodpecker with an acorn in its beak and a tree trunk with many holes are shown in the photograph. The author explains in paragraph 6 that "An acorn is carefully hammered into each hole" and that the finished "acorn storage tower" resembles a "skyscraper covered with little windows," thus the woodpecker is creating storage for many acorns. |
|       | Option F is incorrect | It is not specified what the woodpecker uses the acorns for in either the photograph or paragraph 6.  |
|       | Option G is incorrect | It is not specified where the woodpecker will lay its eggs in either the photograph or paragraph 6.   |
|       | Option H is incorrect | It is not specified which type of acorns the woodpecker prefers in either the photograph or paragraph 6.  |