

2022 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

Item #	Rationale	
1	Option C is correct	Based on text from paragraph 2, which describes how Carter has planted rows of plants that provide food for monarchs, and from paragraph 16, which states that he has raised and tagged more than 700 monarch butterflies, the reader can infer that Carter’s efforts to help butterflies have been successful. He has provided for and raised many butterflies.
	Option A is incorrect	It may or may not be the case that Carter sees a variety of insects throughout the year; however, this cannot be inferred based on these sentences from paragraphs 2 and 16.
	Option B is incorrect	The author explains that Carter created an area in his backyard to host butterflies; however, nothing is included in these sentences from paragraphs 2 and 16 that would lead the reader to infer that Carter expanded this area.
	Option D is incorrect	Although it can be inferred from paragraph 12 that by raising and tagging butterflies, Carter is among the citizen scientists, the reader could not infer from these sentences in paragraphs 2 and 16 that citizen scientists meet in Carter’s backyard.

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2	Option J is correct	In this sentence from paragraph 15, the author supports the idea that monarchs depend on human help by explaining that the planted butterfly gardens restore habitat the monarchs need to survive.
	Option F is incorrect	The author explains Carter’s desire to create a way station in this sentence from paragraph 1, but does not explain whether monarchs used or benefited from this way station.
	Option G is incorrect	In this sentence from paragraph 3, the author explains migration routes that monarchs naturally follow; therefore, it does not support the idea that monarchs depend on human help.
	Option H is incorrect	The author explains a natural fact about butterflies and their offspring in this sentence from paragraph 6, so the sentence does not support the idea that monarchs depend on human help.

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3	Option C is correct	Based on paragraphs 2 and 8, the reader can conclude monarchs often can't find milkweed. In paragraph 2, milkweed is described as monarchs' "main source of food," and in paragraph 8, the author explains that "people are killing milkweed."
	Option A is incorrect	Although paragraph 8 includes details about people killing milkweed to make room for crops, milkweed is not described as a threat to crops in paragraphs 2 and 8.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the information in paragraphs 2 and 8 indicates a shortage of milkweed, which the monarchs depend on for food, paragraphs 2 and 8 provide no information about alternative food sources for the butterflies.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the passage and illustration indicate that monarchs live in the U.S. and Mexico at different times of the year, no information about the availability of milkweed in Mexico compared with the availability in the United States is found in paragraphs 2 and 8.

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4	Option F is correct	In paragraph 12, the author points out that people of all ages are following the migration and volunteering to assist organizations. Paragraph 13 includes a quotation that compares the effort with “a huge Easter egg hunt.” These details support the idea that people enjoy tracking monarchs.
	Option G is incorrect	Although paragraphs 12 and 13 include details about technology, such as online photo sharing, the author does not include these details to indicate a need for “advanced technology.” Also, in paragraph 13, the author explains kindergartners track migration, indicating advanced technology is not required.
	Option H is incorrect	Photography is one way of counting monarchs, but in paragraphs 12 and 13, the author does not suggest that it is the primary way.
	Option J is incorrect	In paragraph 13, the author points out that migration followers include people of all ages; however, paragraphs 12 and 13 include no evidence to suggest that older researchers provide training for young monarch watchers.

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5	Option C is correct	The author’s use of the word “Luckily” conveys that something positive, or hopeful, is about to be stated. In paragraph 9, the word is used to introduce the idea that “monarchs have some important allies.” “Important allies” contributes to the author’s voice of hope that, “luckily,” these allies will do what is needed to save monarchs.
	Option A is incorrect	The information the author provides in paragraph 9 and throughout the selection is not used to indicate doubt that monarchs are in danger of extinction, but instead to convey the idea that something positive is about to be stated.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author is frustrated and saddened by the possibility that without help, monarchs will become extinct, that is not the message the author creates by using language with positive connotations in paragraph 9.
	Option D is incorrect	By using “Luckily” and “important allies” in paragraph 9, the author is not conveying a sense of uncertainty. Rather, the author implies that with so many stepping up to help, the work will be successful.

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6	Option J is correct	The author uses information in paragraphs 1 through 4 to help the reader understand that the problem of monarch migration is beginning to receive public attention; Carter was a nine-year-old boy who learned about this problem which was already known to scientists. In paragraph 4, the author emphasizes this idea by writing that Carter is “joining scientists to help the butterflies.”
	Option F is incorrect	Clearing areas is one action that can be taken, but the overall focus of paragraphs 1 through 4 is getting public attention for the monarchs’ plight.
	Option G is incorrect	The cost involved in public efforts to help the monarchs is not the focus of paragraphs 1 through 4.
	Option H is incorrect	The information in paragraph 3 about where monarch butterflies are mainly found is a detail meant to help the reader understand monarchs’ migration patterns, but it’s not the primary focus of paragraphs 1 through 4.

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7	Option C is correct	The problem-solution structure most contributes to the author’s purpose by highlighting that monarchs’ habitats are being reduced or eliminated and then describing how people are helping restore the habitats so that the butterflies survive and flourish.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the author demonstrates how people are building butterfly gardens, she does not discuss concerns about raising money for butterfly gardens, so this does not contribute to the author’s purpose.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author discusses the work of citizen scientists, she does not focus on problems citizen scientists may encounter, so this does not contribute to the author’s purpose.
	Option D is incorrect	The author provides information on how researchers gather data, not about problems getting enough data, so this does not contribute to the author’s purpose.

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8	Option J is correct	The author most likely includes the map to demonstrate that the monarchs tend to use the same routes each year and to highlight how people such as Carter can help restore “the habitat monarchs need to survive” (paragraph 15).
	Option F is incorrect	The author does not use the map to show information about the specific monarch population that makes each trip. Instead, he included the map to indicate repeatedly used routes.
	Option G is incorrect	Areas where milkweed is found are not labeled on the map, so this is not the reason the author includes the map in the selection.
	Option H is incorrect	Numbers that would provide information about the decreasing monarch population are not included on the map, so this is not the reason the author includes the map in the selection.

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9	Option B is correct	The author uses information in this sentence from paragraph 9 to support the idea that helping monarchs requires a large amount of effort. In this sentence, the author specifies the large number of people, "thousands," and the lengthy time, "60 years," related to the public assisting scientists in their study of monarchs.
	Option A is incorrect	The phrase "most impressive" in paragraph 4 is a description of the yearly migration, not of the effort to help the monarchs, and so it does not support the idea that helping monarchs requires a great deal of effort.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence from paragraph 10, the author mentions that a scientist had a plan, but the sentence does not include details about what this plan is. Therefore, this sentence does not support the idea that helping monarchs takes a large amount of effort.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not use this sentence to support the idea that it takes a lot of effort to help monarchs; the author simply states that photos are shared without specifying the subject of the photos.

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10	Option J is correct	In lines 24 through 39, Hormiguita shows distress at being stuck under a snowflake by repeatedly asking for help so she can go home, such as in lines 24, 32, and 37.
	Option F is incorrect	Hormiguita is not being friendly when she asks for help in lines 24 through 39; she is worried and frightened that she will not escape the snowflake and get home.
	Option G is incorrect	Although Hormiguita does approach the sun, cloud, and wind with polite requests for help, the intent is not to create a respectful mood in lines 24 through 39; she is focused on escaping the snowflake and getting home.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no embarrassment indicated in Hormiguita's requests in lines 24 through 39, so she is not attempting to be humble; she is focused on escaping the snowflake and getting home.

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11	Option D is correct	From line 22, the reader can infer that Hormiguita is so focused on how much fun it is to chase leaves that she forgets her task and gets lost in the forest.
	Option A is incorrect	It can't be inferred that Hormiguita needs to find food in the forest, since she was sent just outside the anthill. This is implied when Mother Ant tells her to bring in food from outside (line 16) and when Father Ant warns her to not wander away from the anthill (in line 17).
	Option B is incorrect	Although Hormiguita thinks about food after chasing the leaf, she does not feel hungry; she thinks of food in relation to her responsibility to bring food back to the anthill.
	Option C is incorrect	Although Hormiguita is reluctant to work when she begins chasing leaves, it can't be inferred that she goes to the forest to avoid work. Instead, she gets so caught up with chasing leaves that she ends up there.

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12	Option F is correct	In scene 2, the sun, cloud, and wind's responses to ignore Hormiguita's pleas because they'd rather play helps develop the plot because it makes her realize how choosing to play instead of working is the reason she got stuck. This is what inspires her to become "one of the hardest workers" (line 54).
	Option G is incorrect	Although the sun, cloud, and wind contribute to the weather, their responses to Hormiguita do not cause her to become more aware of the weather; instead, she learns to focus more on working than on playing.
	Option H is incorrect	The responses of the sun, cloud, and wind do not cause Hormiguita to learn caution; rather, they help her learn that she must focus on her work instead of playing.
	Option J is incorrect	The responses of the sun, cloud, and wind do not cause Hormiguita to realize the value of trusting others; she learns that she must take care of her responsibilities.

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13	Option C is correct	The appearance of the water in line 40 contributes to the resolution of the story because, by melting the snowflake, the water helps Hormiguita get back home.
	Option A is incorrect	The appearance of the water does not provide an explanation for Hormiguita being away so long; rather, it frees her, allowing her to get home and tell her parents what happened.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Hormiguita’s parents explain an ant’s job, they do this in scene 1, before the appearance of the water. The water’s appearance in line 40 simply allows Hormiguita to get back home.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the water did help Hormiguita and the sun, cloud, and wind did not, the sun, cloud, and wind did not have any reaction to the water’s appearance in line 40.

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14	Option G is correct	Based on scene 3, the reader can predict that Hormiguita’s parents will be pleased to know that Hormiguita now understands how important it is to take care of her responsibilities. As the narrator states in line 54, “From that day on, Hormiguita was one of the hardest workers in the ant colony.”
	Option F is incorrect	Nothing in scene 3 indicates that Hormiguita’s parents will place such a restriction on her after she tells them about her adventures, especially since she became such a hard worker, as indicated in line 54.
	Option H is incorrect	Nothing in scene 3 indicates that her parents feel it’s necessary to teach her about being safer in the forest.
	Option J is incorrect	Hormiguita’s parents have stressed the importance of working instead of playing. Therefore, there is no reason to predict that they would grant Hormiguita more time to play.

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15	Option D is correct	In the quoted text from line 12, the author uses specific language from Mother Ant to support the theme that everyone’s efforts are needed to achieve a common goal. In this case, the common goal is taking care of the responsibilities of being an ant.
	Option A is incorrect	Taking care of the responsibilities of being an ant is the theme of the drama; the theme is not about parents and children doing things together.
	Option B is incorrect	The theme is taking care of the responsibilities of being an ant, not about having little time for rest.
	Option C is incorrect	Although Hormiguita’s parents try to teach her about the importance of work, Hormiguita mostly learns from her own experience. Therefore, learning from parents’ wisdom is not a major theme of the drama.

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16	Option H is correct	In the dialogue in scene 2, Sun, Cloud, and Wind are presented as selfish, caring little about the needs of others.
	Option F is incorrect	Although Sun, Cloud, and Wind don't help Hormiguita in scene 2, there is no evidence to suggest that they are annoyed by requests from animals.
	Option G is incorrect	Sun, Cloud, and Wind speak individually to Hormiguita, but they do not speak to one another. The dialogue in scene 2 does not suggest that they are trying to impress one another.
	Option J is incorrect	Although Sun, Cloud and Wind respond to and interact with Hormiguita in scene 2, they are focused on themselves and are not interested in spending time playing with animals.

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17	Option C is correct	The reader can conclude that Taylor wants his art to affect its environment. In paragraph 5, he says by attracting swimmers, his sculptures will “give the reefs a rest.” Taylor also wants his art to be affected by its environment, even referring to the marine life changing his sculptures as “the artist.”
	Option A is incorrect	Taylor creates unique designs and welcomes the marine life as an integral part of his art. He does not base his art on the nearby reefs.
	Option B is incorrect	Taylor is not concerned about his art lasting for a long time. More important to him is the protection of the natural reefs.
	Option D is incorrect	Although Taylor is delighted that marine life, such as sponges, has created fascinating changes to his sculptures, as described in paragraph 9, there is no evidence to suggest he thinks marine life creates better art than he can.

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18	Option H is correct	The word <u>fragile</u> in paragraph 5 is closest in meaning to delicate, or easily broken or damaged. The reefs are so <u>fragile</u> , or delicate, that divers “accidentally [harm] the reefs and the marine animals that live there.”
	Option F is incorrect	The word <u>fragile</u> in paragraph 5 does not refer to the size of the reef, though the article does refer to the size of the reef in other ways.
	Option G is incorrect	The reefs may be mysterious because they are not what people see every day, but the word <u>fragile</u> in paragraph 5 describes the reefs as delicate and easily damaged.
	Option J is incorrect	Although the reefs are popular, the word <u>fragile</u> describes their delicate structures, which are easily damaged.

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19	Option D is correct	The author most likely includes the photograph because it emphasizes the lifelike appearances of Taylor’s sculptures. In paragraph 1, she describes them as “life-sized sculptures of people,” and in paragraph 8, she explains how they’re made from molds of actual people.
	Option A is incorrect	The photograph shows just one of the sculptures in one of Taylor’s sculpture parks, and the size of the park is not indicated.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Taylor appears to be inspired by marine life in a way that makes him want to protect it, this photograph—of a realistic sculpture of children—does not display any inspiration from marine life.
	Option C is incorrect	Leading people away from reefs is Taylor’s intention, but the photograph does not include any nearby reefs.

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20	Option F is correct	The organizational pattern used in the selection is best categorized as descriptive because the author explains that Taylor’s art is created by using molds and human models (paragraph 8) and that it’s displayed a certain way to draw divers away from reefs (paragraph 5).
	Option G is incorrect	Although the author points out the size of Taylor’s 2 sculpture parks, 65 and 485 sculptures large, in paragraph 2, she does not compare his sculpture parks with other sculpture parks.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the author explains the sculptures were made using molds and human models (paragraph 8), she does not use a cause-and-effect pattern explaining why he used people for his sculpture park.
	Option J is incorrect	The advantages of Taylor’s sculptures are that they may protect the reefs by drawing divers away and that they may be changed by marine life; however, disadvantages are not discussed in the selection.

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21	Option C is correct	Fenn is a lover of the outdoors and nature and wants to share this love with others. This sentence from paragraph 2 supports the idea that he wants his treasure to inspire others to get outside and enjoy nature.
	Option A is incorrect	The fact that he accumulated the treasure over a lifetime is a detail of Fenn's life, but it is not the inspiration for his treasure hunt.
	Option B is incorrect	The description of the box and its general location in paragraph 2 does not hint at Fenn's reason for creating the treasure hunt.
	Option D is incorrect	The sentence from paragraph 3 verifies the lure Fenn's treasure has for some people, but it does not identify Fenn's reason for creating the treasure hunt.

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22	Option G is correct	The author’s most likely purpose for writing this selection is to tell about an unusual treasure hunt and how one man “decided to use his riches as a tool to inspire others” (paragraph 2). Throughout the selection, the author describes details about Fenn and the box he hid, how he spread the word about the treasure, and how thousands of people have searched for the treasure using elusive clues from his poem as their guide.
	Option F is incorrect	The author’s purpose for writing this selection is not to explain what people need in order to participate in the hunt, as that might give away the location of the treasure.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the author explains that Fenn’s inspiration for the treasure hunt was to get people outdoors to enjoy nature, the author’s purpose for writing this selection is simply to let people know about this treasure hunt opportunity.
	Option J is incorrect	Although the author points out that hundreds of thousands of people have visited the Rocky Mountains just to search for the treasure, the author’s purpose for writing this selection is not to explain why the Rocky Mountain region is often visited. The author never discusses this specifically.

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23	Option C is correct	Although Fenn has provided vague clues about where he left the treasure, in paragraph 4, the author shares that Fenn “has told nobody, not even his wife” of the treasure’s whereabouts. Keeping the location of the treasure a secret ensures that people will continue to get outdoors and hunt for the treasure, enjoying nature along the way.
	Option A is incorrect	Fenn is hopeful the treasure will be found eventually, but he also hopes that it will take a long time, so that more people will be encouraged to get outdoors to look for it.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Fenn receives a lot of correspondence from people regarding the treasure—100 emails a day, according to paragraph 4—he does not seem to be overwhelmed by it. Rather, he seems excited.
	Option D is incorrect	Fenn has “told nobody, not even his wife,” but there is no evidence in paragraphs 4 and 5 that suggests he has not told his wife because he doesn’t trust her.

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24	Option J is correct	In paragraph 5, the word <u>cryptic</u> is closest in meaning to unclear, or difficult to understand. The clues to the treasure's location are hard to figure out because they are <u>cryptic</u> ; they are unclear and are carefully disguised in the poem.
	Option F is incorrect	The word <u>cryptic</u> does not mean unusual; rather, it means unclear and not immediately recognizable.
	Option G is incorrect	If something is described as <u>cryptic</u> , that does not mean it is lengthy. The word <u>cryptic</u> means unclear.
	Option H is incorrect	The word <u>cryptic</u> does not mean artistic; it means unclear.

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25	Option B is correct	The idea that people can experience the beauty of nature is present in both selections. For example, in "Dive into a Sunken Museum," the author describes the underwater sculptures as "beautiful" (paragraph 4); in "A Modern-Day Treasure Hunt," the author refers to "the beauty of the great outdoors" (paragraph 6).
	Option A is incorrect	In "Dive into a Sunken Museum," the artist states that one reason for his underwater sculptures is to protect the reefs from being accidentally harmed by divers; in "A Modern-Day Treasure Hunt," the person who created the treasure hunt did so to encourage people to be outdoors enjoying nature. Neither selection supports the idea that it is people's responsibility to take care of the environment.
	Option C is incorrect	Although both selections refer to people trying activities, perhaps for the first time, neither "Dive into a Sunken Museum" nor "A Modern-Day Treasure Hunt" deals specifically with the importance of people teaching themselves new skills.
	Option D is incorrect	In "Dive into a Sunken Museum," monetary wealth is not discussed; in "A Modern-Day Treasure Hunt," Fenn accumulated wealth over the years and is sharing it through the treasure hunt, but the actual purpose of the treasure hunt is to encourage people to be outdoors enjoying nature.

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26	Option H is correct	A difference in the way the two authors create understanding involves the inclusion of other people’s thoughts about the subject’s works. In “Dive into a Sunken Museum,” the author quotes a child who visited the Grenada sculpture park as saying he loved the sculptures. In “A Modern-Day Treasure Hunt,” although the author states that many people have gone in search of the treasure, no specific reactions are included.
	Option F is incorrect	Although the author of “Dive into a Sunken Museum” portrays how the sculptures interact with marine life, she does not detail how the subject interacts with other people.
	Option G is incorrect	In both selections, the authors explain people’s actions in response to the subject’s works. For example, in “Dive into a Sunken Museum,” people swim around the sculptures instead of the reefs (paragraph 5); in “A Modern-Day Treasure Hunt,” people venture into the Rocky Mountains to search for the treasure (paragraph 1).
	Option J is incorrect	In both “Dive into a Sunken Museum” and “A Modern-Day Treasure Hunt,” the authors emphasize how the main subject feels about nature. For example, Taylor wants to protect the reefs (paragraph 5), and Fenn loves nature so much he wants to inspire others to get outdoors (paragraph 2).

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27	Option B is correct	In "Dive into a Sunken Museum," Taylor wants and needs people to know where to find his sculpture parks so that they can visit them; in "A Modern-Day Treasure Hunt," Fenn wants his treasure's location to remain hidden. This is a major way Taylor's sculptures differ from Fenn's treasure.
	Option A is incorrect	This is a way that Taylor's sculptures are similar to, not different from, Fenn's treasure. Both Taylor and Fenn intentionally chose natural environments as locations for their creations.
	Option C is incorrect	This is a way that Taylor's sculptures are similar to, not different from, Fenn's treasure. Both Taylor and Fenn want people to interact with their creations.
	Option D is incorrect	This is a way that Taylor's sculptures are similar to, not different from, Fenn's treasure. Nontraditional venues are selected for Taylor's sculpture park and for Fenn's treasure hunt.

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28	Option J is correct	The focus of both selections is similar in that they each feature a person trying to draw visitors to a location. "Dive into a Sunken Museum" portrays Taylor's underwater sculpture park, which attracts divers and people on glassbottom boats (paragraph 3). "A Modern-Day Treasure Hunt" portrays Fenn's treasure, which attracts "hundreds of thousands of people" to the Rocky Mountains (paragraph 1).
	Option F is incorrect	Although "Dive into a Sunken Museum" demonstrates how Taylor has used his artistic talent to help protect reefs by creating sculptures that keep people away from reefs (paragraph 5), in "A Modern-Day Treasure Hunt," Fenn is not trying to protect nature with his treasure; rather, he is encouraging people to get outdoors to enjoy nature (paragraph 2).
	Option G is incorrect	Only Fenn, in "A Modern-Day Treasure Hunt," intentionally creates a puzzle by hiding the treasure for people to find. Taylor, in "Dive into a Sunken Museum," intentionally attracts divers to the sculpture park.
	Option H is incorrect	In "Dive into a Sunken Museum," Taylor does not want his sculpture park to remain a secret, but Fenn in "A Modern-Day Treasure Hunt" will not tell anyone, even those people closest to him, where the treasure is. Instead, he puts written clues in a poem.

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29	Option A is correct	Lines 17 through 19 contribute to the falling action in the poem by indicating that March’s work is complete and that it’s time for March to “[welcome] April showers in” (line 17), gather “her dwindling winds” (line 18), and start her “long journey home” (line 19).
	Option B is incorrect	Although the winds are described as “dwindling” in strength, lines 17 through 19 provide no indication that the winds have no remaining strength.
	Option C is incorrect	Line 17 mentions the arrival of April, but no information is provided about the length of time April is around.
	Option D is incorrect	Although lines 17 through 19 indicate that April takes the place of March, there is no mention of March and April working together to end winter.

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30	Option J is correct	Lines 13 and 14 relate to the winds carrying away the clouds to allow for April's sun and showers to begin spring, suggesting that March creates opportunities for a new season.
	Option F is incorrect	Although line 14 refers to the rain crying, this is part of what March is doing to create opportunities for spring to begin.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the poem suggests the power of winter, there is no suggestion in lines 13 and 14 that March is jealous of this power.
	Option H is incorrect	In lines 13 and 14, there is a suggestion of strength, not clumsiness, in March's winds.

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31	Option A is correct	The word <u>dwindling</u> in line 18 implies that the winds are calming down, or “lessening,” as March prepares to end her work.
	Option B is incorrect	The word “soaking” is more appropriate for describing April showers than March winds.
	Option C is incorrect	The word “straying” suggests that the winds move with no sense of direction or destination; March has a definite purpose as she “awakens earth and flowering things” (line 12).
	Option D is incorrect	Although the March winds may not always be appreciated, the word <u>dwindling</u> does not mean the winds are “troubling.”

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32	Option J is correct	Personification is a type of figurative language where human characteristics are applied to something that is not alive. The poet most likely uses personification throughout the poem because attributing human actions to March makes March's effect on the weather clearer and more dramatic for the reader. For example, line 11 describes "that high pitch whistling song she sings."
	Option F is incorrect	Although the poem hints at March's excitement for the new season to begin, the personification of March is more welcoming than impatient. For example, "she welcomes April showers in" (line 17).
	Option G is incorrect	March's farewell is positive and purposeful, not sad, "knowing she'll be back this way" (line 20).
	Option H is incorrect	Although the poet personifies, or attributes, human traits to the weather, the personification does not show any effect on people.

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33	Option C is correct	Lines 11 and 12 detail March’s role in the preparation for spring, the time of renewal and growth, which is the theme of the poem.
	Option A is incorrect	Lines 11 and 12 do not suggest any costs of seasonal weather changes; rather, they celebrate the change, which is part of the poem’s theme.
	Option B is incorrect	Lines 11 and 12 do not discuss negative features of the seasons, and this is not a theme of the poem, which is celebratory of the seasons.
	Option D is incorrect	Although spring is the focus, there is no ranking of seasonal importance in the poem; rather, it is matter of fact about the importance of the changing seasons.

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Item #	Rationale	
34	Option H is correct	In paragraph 13, the word <u>drew</u> is used to mean "to pull from a holding place." The beetle has her wings tucked in, so when the rat questions how she got to the finish line so quickly, she pulls, or draws, her "tiny wings from her sides."
	Option F is incorrect	In paragraph 13, the word <u>drew</u> is not used to mean "went steadily or gradually;" this would imply that the beetle slowly removed her wings, which is incorrect.
	Option G is incorrect	In paragraph 13, the word <u>drew</u> is not used to mean "sketched with lines;" this would imply that the beetle sketched out her wings.
	Option J is incorrect	In paragraph 13, the word <u>drew</u> is not used to mean "chose by chance;" this would imply that the beetle chose her wings.

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35	Option C is correct	This line from paragraph 9 best shows that the rat overestimates his abilities. In this line, he speaks to the beetle as if the beetle has no chance to beat the rat.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence from paragraph 2, the rat scorns the beetle, but there is no reference to the rat's confidence.
	Option B is incorrect	This sentence from paragraph 3 describes the rat showing off for the beetle, but it does not specifically demonstrate the rat's overconfidence.
	Option D is incorrect	This sentence from paragraph 11 shows the rat's determination to win the race, but it does not demonstrate the rat's overconfidence.

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36	Option F is correct	This story can be identified as a myth because it uses impossible events—talking animals and a special race between animals to determine a winner—to explain something natural: how the beetle’s colorful coat came about.
	Option G is incorrect	Although a story setting with only animals might be one clue that a story is a myth, this characteristic by itself is not enough to identify the story as a myth.
	Option H is incorrect	Although a story setting that does not include humans could be a clue that a story is a myth, this characteristic alone does not identify this story as a myth.
	Option J is incorrect	The time period by itself does not identify this story as a myth; many kinds of stories can take place a very long time ago.

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Item #	Rationale	
37	Option C is correct	This summary includes the three key characters (the rat, beetle, and parrot) and all the key ideas in the story—the rat brags to the beetle, a parrot suggests they race and offers the award of a gorgeous coat, the rat and beetle race to the top of a cliff, and the beetle wins.
	Option A is incorrect	This summary includes the three key characters and the key idea that the parrot suggests the race. However, it includes unnecessary details, such as the rat running out of the hole, and omits necessary details, such as the race between the rat and the beetle.
	Option B is incorrect	Although this summary includes the three key characters and some key ideas, such as the beetle winning the race, it omits necessary details. For example, it does not include the bragging and overconfidence exhibited by the rat.
	Option D is incorrect	This summary includes the three key characters and some key ideas, such as the beetle winning the race; however, it includes unnecessary details, such as the palm tree, and omits significant details. For example, it does not include the initial interaction between the rat and the beetle.

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Item #	Rationale	
38	Option F is correct	The main message conveyed by the author in this story is that appearances can be deceiving. Since the rat bases all his assumptions about the beetle solely on the beetle's appearance when they first meet, he does not consider that the beetle could have wings.
	Option G is incorrect	Neither the rat nor the beetle is aware of any limitations throughout the story, so this is not the main message conveyed by the author.
	Option H is incorrect	The beetle is not inspired by a bright-colored coat to win the race. The beetle wins because she can fly, and the rat cannot. Therefore, this is not the main message conveyed by the author.
	Option J is incorrect	Although the beetle is polite to the rat, neither the beetle nor the rat is trying to please anyone. Therefore, this is not the main message conveyed by the author.

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Item #	Rationale	
39	Option B is correct	Since both the rat and the beetle want to win the new coat, the parrot's actions in paragraph 6, in which he proposes a race and offers a prize, affect the rising action of the story. It creates the reason for the race to occur.
	Option A is incorrect	No reason is given in paragraph 6 for the beetle's desire for a new coat, so this is not a way the parrot's actions affect the rising action of the story.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 6, both the rat and the beetle seem pleased with the offer from the parrot, but the idea of trust is not present. Therefore, this does not affect the rising action of the story.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no indication that the parrot's offer of a new coat will be a lesson for either the rat or the beetle, so this does not affect the rising action of the story.

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Item #	Rationale	
40	Option J is correct	Based on the end of the story, the reader can predict the rat will realize his foolishness for assuming he could beat the beetle. Learning that the beetle has wings and has won the race by flying proves to the rat that he should never assume that he is better than others.
	Option F is incorrect	Although the rat has realized his error in assuming he would win, there is no indication that he will try to become friends with the beetle and the parrot. It seems more likely that the rat is embarrassed and will simply go on with his life, having learned a valuable lesson.
	Option G is incorrect	As the story makes clear, there is nothing in the rules of the race to prevent the beetle from flying rather than crawling, so it's unlikely that the rat will ask to race again.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the rat at times slows down in the race—such as in paragraph 11 when he asks himself, “What’s the use of hurrying?”—the rat does not lose the race because he didn’t work hard. He loses because the beetle has wings and can fly.