

STUDENT NAME _____



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness

GRADE 7
Reading Language Arts
STAAR Alternate 2

Administered Spring 2025
RELEASED

READING LANGUAGE ARTS

Jim Abbott Pitches for the Win



Although Jim Abbott was born without a right hand, he became a great professional baseball player.



REUTERS/Alamy Stock Photo

When Jim was a boy, his parents wanted him to be able to participate in sports. They bought him a soccer ball because they thought he would enjoy soccer. But Jim did not want to play soccer. He wanted to play baseball with his friends.

2b



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3a



John Iacono/Sports Illustrated via Getty Images

With his dad's help, Jim found a way to play baseball with one hand. He put his baseball glove on his right arm and threw a rubber ball against a brick wall with his left hand. Then he would quickly move the glove to his left hand to catch the ball as it bounced back. Jim practiced this technique for many hours a day. As Jim improved at throwing the ball and switching the glove, he moved closer to the wall. The closer he got to the wall, the faster he had to move the glove.

a reason to ask for help

moving close to something

a method for doing something



REUTERS/Alamy Stock Photo

As a baseball player, Abbott received many honors and awards. In college he was named the Most Courageous Athlete. He was also named the best amateur athlete, and he played for the 1988 United States Olympic team.

After college, Abbott played professional baseball for 10 seasons on 4 different teams. One of the greatest moments in his career was when he pitched a no-hitter for the New York Yankees. Abbott pitched so well that no one on the other team was able to hit the ball and get on base. It was the first time in 10 years that a Yankees pitcher had pitched a no-hitter.

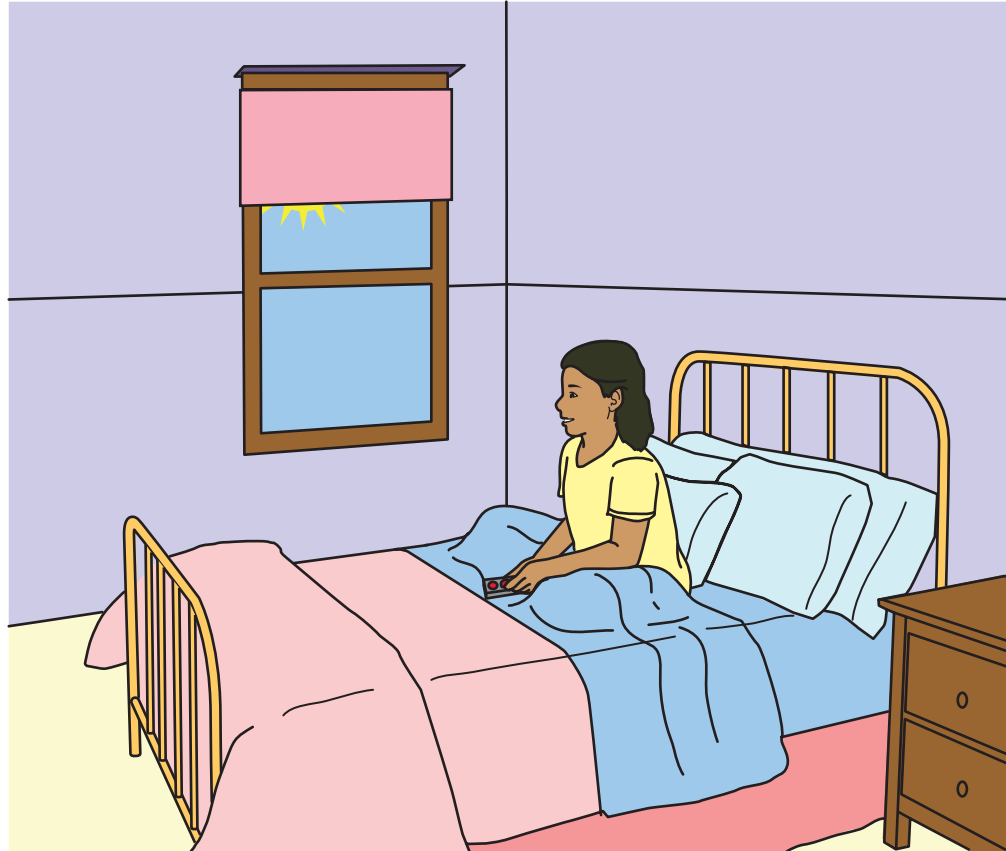
After Jim Abbott retired from baseball, he went on to become a motivational speaker. Today, he travels around, telling young athletes that it is possible to overcome great challenges.

to explain how to become a pitcher in baseball

to describe what a no-hitter is in baseball

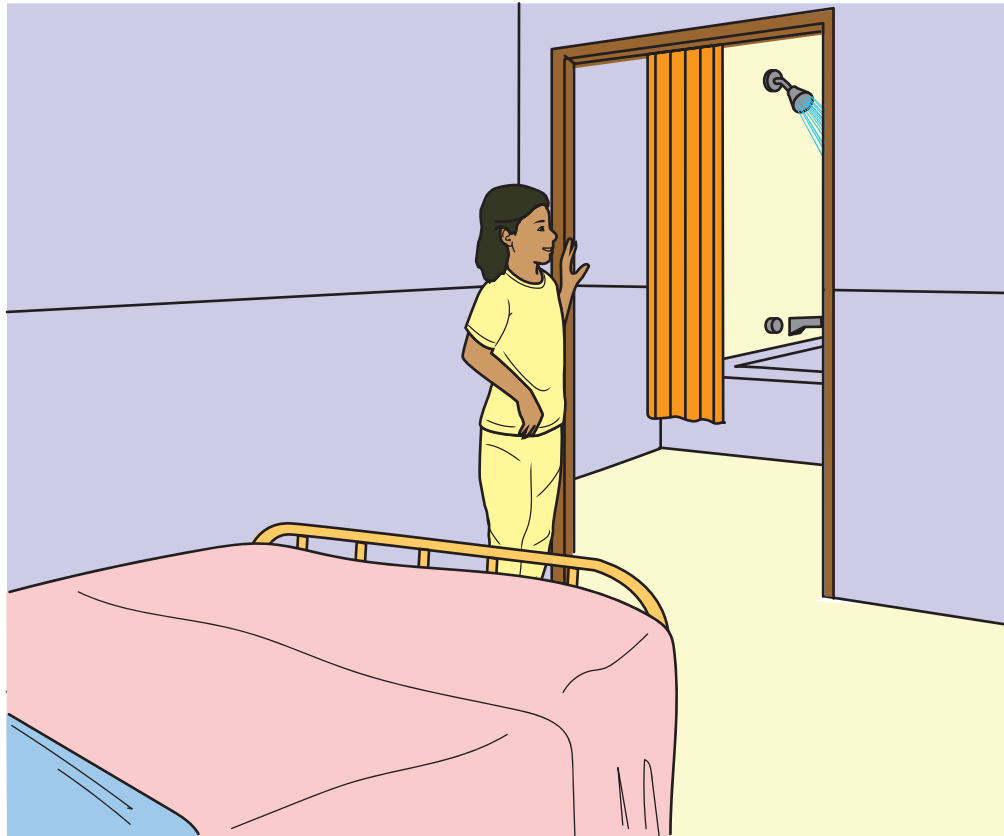
to describe events in the life of an
outstanding athlete

Gadget Girl



Every morning when the sun comes up, Gina pushes a button on a remote to open her window shade.

6a

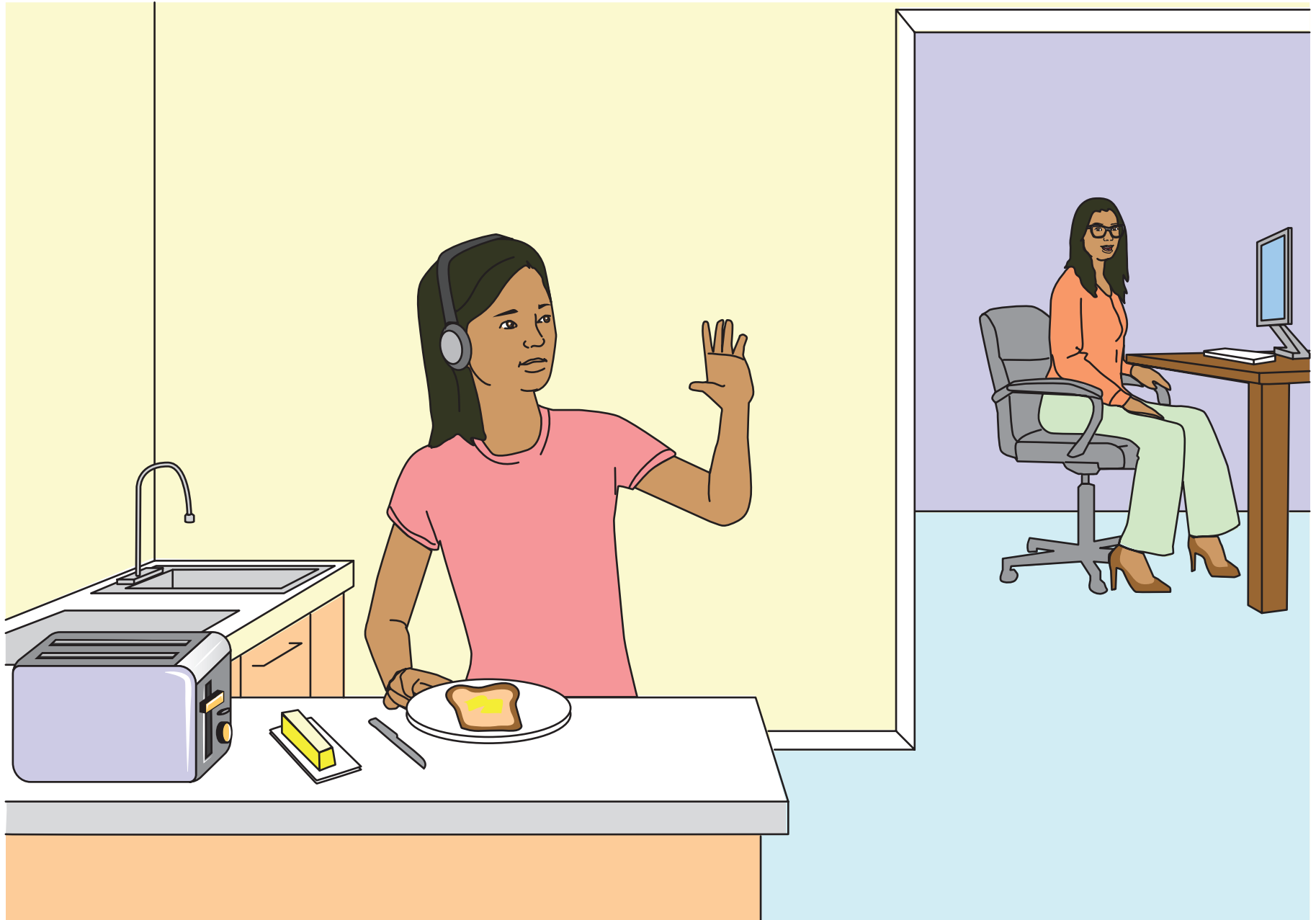


Gina gets out of bed, and a gadget turns the shower water on as she walks into the bathroom. Then Gina compresses the button on another gadget, and shampoo squirts onto her hair as she steps under the showerhead. Gina LOVES gadgets!

pushes

runs

7a



Gina puts on her headphones as she goes into the kitchen for breakfast. She waves at her mother, who is working at her desk. Gina sees her mother start talking, so she pulls her headphones off in time to hear her mother say, "after dinner." Gina waves and smiles, but she didn't hear everything her mother said. She pushes a piece of bread down in the toaster and starts thinking of a gadget she could invent to butter her toast. She flips a switch that turns on the vacuum to sweep the crumbs she has dropped on the kitchen floor. Gina LOVES gadgets!



The lights in Gina's room come on as she walks back in. She sits down in front of her computer. Her picture pops up in the last blank square on the screen that already shows the rest of her classmates.

"Good morning, Gina," her teacher says to her from the computer. "Glad you could join us. Now, everyone, click the screen to begin your spelling test."

As Gina types in the spelling words, she is thinking ahead to her science class and the video presentation she will be giving. She has worked for weeks on a gadget that would fill her dog's bowl with food at the same time each day.

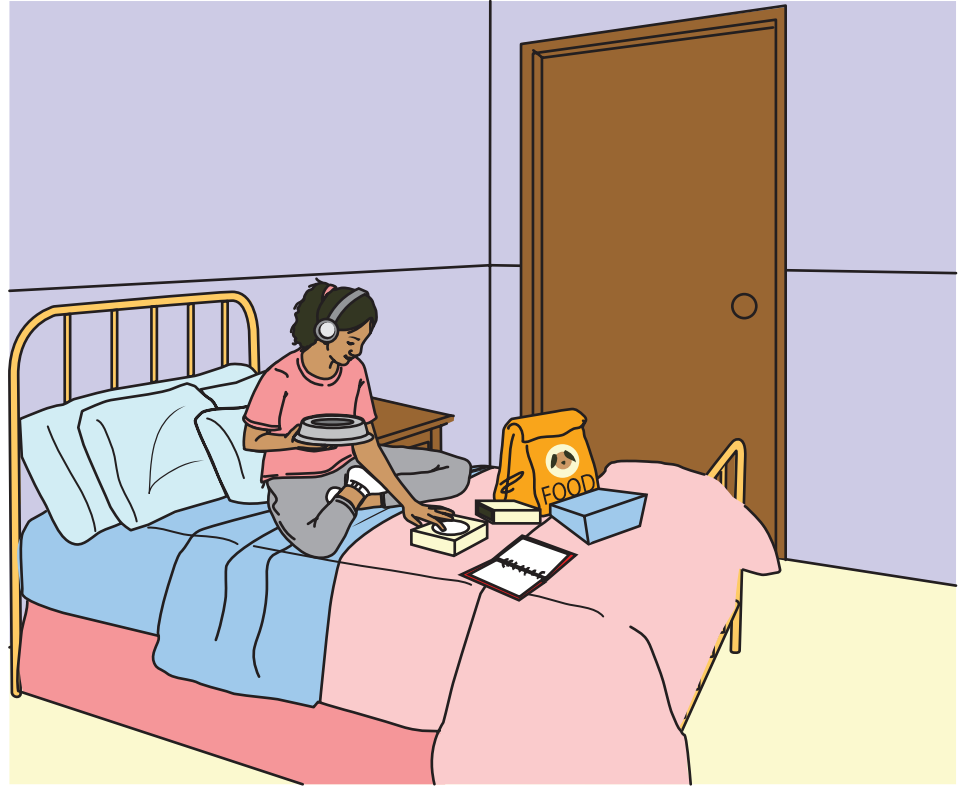


Gina sees her mother but does not hear everything her mother says.

Gina asks her mother if she wants a piece of buttered toast.

Gina stops to tell her mother about her idea for a new gadget.

That night after dinner, Gina puts on old clothes and pulls her hair into a messy ponytail. She sits on her bed and begins working on the dog-food gadget she will be presenting in her science class the next day. Even with her headphones on, she hears a loud knock on her door.



Before Gina can say, "Just a minute," the door opens. Her parents and her three best friends are standing in the doorway, all dressed up.



"Gina?" her mother asks with a confused look on her face. "Why aren't you ready to go?"

"Go where?" Gina asks.

"It's what I told you about this morning," her mother says. "Dad and I are taking the four of you to the play *Thomas Edison: Fire of Genius*."

"Gina," her father says as he sits down on her bed, "you are great at making gadgets, but there's more to life than gadgets." He points at the people in the room. "How about making some connections with people too?"



"That's right," her mother adds. "Even Thomas Edison had a best friend. It was another inventor that you may have heard of: Henry Ford."

Gina smiles as she jumps up and digs in her closet for her best outfit. "I never thought about it before, but one of you . . ." she points to each friend, "could be my Henry Ford, and I should spend more time with you!"

Then Gina says, "You might say that a lightbulb just went off in my head."

The dog-food gadget needs more work before the presentation.

Connections with people are more important than gadgets.

Henry Ford was an inventor and a friend of Thomas Edison.

Blowing glass begin with a mixture of sand and other powders heated in a furnace.



Blowing glass begins with a mixture of sand and other powders heated in a furnace.



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After the mixture is heated, it glows a bright orange color. The hot glass is thick and sticky, like honey. It is ready to be worked into the shape.

a

an



Glassblowers begin by blowing into a blowpipe, forming a bubble in the liquid glass. With careful spinning and shaping, this bubble will become the inside of a glass object. Glassblowers can make cups and vases. Glassblowers can also make figurines and jewelry and other glass objects.

11a



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Glassblowers can make cups, vases, figurines and jewelry, and other glass objects.

Glassblowers can make cups and vases, and figurines and jewelry, and other glass objects.

Glassblowers can make cups, vases, figurines, jewelry, and other glass objects.



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A glassblower wears thick gloves and safety glasses to protect herself. She uses a long metal tube called a blowpipe to gather a "gob" of the hot liquid glass on the end. She has been blowing glass for five years. She pulls the glass out of the furnace. She then spins and shapes the glass with a special tool. It takes many days for the glass to cool.

She uses a long metal tube called a blowpipe to gather a "gob" of the hot liquid glass on the end.

She has been blowing glass for five years.

She then spins and shapes the glass with a special tool.

Elephants have large trunks.



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Elephants have large trunks with five times more smell receptors than a human nose.



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The elephants trunk is so powerful that it allows the elephant to smell water, food, or an enemy from many miles away.

elephant's

elephants'



The African elephant's trunk can grasp and uproot trees from the ground. Additionally, the tip of the trunk has two "fingers" that allow it to grab smaller items. These "fingers" are so delicate that they can pluck a flower its stem!

on

for

from



An elephant's trunk can sip water. An elephant's trunk can store water. An elephant's trunk can spray water. An elephant can use its trunk like a snorkel to breathe air when it's underwater. In a lot of ways, elephant trunks are a true triumph of nature's engineering!

An elephant's trunk can sip water, and an elephant's trunk can store water, and an elephant's trunk can spray water.

An elephant's trunk can sip, store, and spray water.

An elephant's trunk can sip water and can store water and can spray water.

Colorado Cliff Dwellings



Ancestral Pueblo people in what is now Colorado carved their homes, called dwellings, into the sides of cliffs high above a valley more than 800 years ago.



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The Ancestral Pueblo people used ladders to climb into their homes. If an enemy came along, the Ancestral Pueblo people would remove the ladders to keep unwanted people from entering their homes.



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To build the cliff dwellings, the Ancestral Pueblo people found caves and carved them out to make them larger. They used bricks, wooden beams, and stone masonry to build rooms.





Many of the rooms were connected to make a large village of homes for hundreds of people. Some of the buildings were several stories high.

Ladders or stairs were used to gain access from one floor to the next. Some rooms were very large and had ceilings, fireplaces, and windows. Other rooms were used for storage. Many dwellings had a kiva, which was a large round room for ceremonies and celebrations.

an area to store things

a way into a place

a home made of bricks

Scientists have studied the cliff dwellings in Colorado for many years. They still do not know why the Ancestral Pueblo people left the dwellings they worked so hard to build and moved to what is now New Mexico and Arizona.





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Maybe the Ancestral Pueblo people could not grow enough food for the hundreds of people who lived in the cliff dwellings. Maybe the population grew too large for the dwellings. Maybe enemies were a threat to the Ancestral Pueblo people and their crops. No one will ever know for sure, but many scientists believe the cause includes all these reasons.

20a

Today, people visit Mesa Verde National Park to see the cliff dwellings, climb the ladders, walk through the rooms, and look out the windows. They can imagine what it must have been like to live in these cliffs hundreds of years ago.



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to describe a unique place where Pueblo people once lived

to share stories and traditions of Pueblo people

to explain how Pueblo people made tools



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