

March 2017 STAAR Grade 8 Reading Rationales

Item #	Response A/F	Response B/G	Response C/H	Response D/J
1	A is incorrect because these words do not help the reader understand the "flow" the narrator and Josiah have.	B is incorrect because these words describe the feeling of relief the narrator is feeling.	C is incorrect because these words do not help the reader understand the "flow" the narrator and Josiah have.	D is correct because these words compare the "flow" the narrator and Josiah have to something automatic and unconscious.
2	F is incorrect because in paragraphs 1-4 the family members don't participate in any specific household roles.	G is incorrect because there is no indication in these paragraphs of how the family has been managing without the father.	H is correct because the descriptions of the family members gathering around the father indicate they missed the father's presence.	J is incorrect because there is no indication in these paragraphs that the family is upset.
3	A is incorrect because the text is only a description of an action in the story that does not illustrate a conflict.	B is incorrect because the text is only a description of a moment in the story.	C is incorrect because the text describes the father watching the narrator but does not indicate the narrator's feelings about this.	D is correct because the text states that knowing his father is watching him makes the narrator feel anxious.
4	F is correct because the narrator states in paragraph 14 that he had looked for signs of tenderness in his father. In paragraph 16, the narrator describes his father's new attentiveness as a "welcome relief."	G is incorrect because the story never focuses on how the narrator and his siblings interact.	H is incorrect because there is no description in the story to indicate that the narrator felt overwhelmed or that he worked hard to complete his project.	J is incorrect because the story never presents a problem that requires considering different approaches to solve it.
5	A is incorrect because there is no indication in the selection that the father already knows about the narrator's thoughts of college.	B is correct because in paragraph 14 the narrator sees the shift in his father's behavior.	C is incorrect because the father's behavior in paragraph 11 makes him feel less concerned.	D is incorrect because the narrator does not express concerns about how effective his father will be at his work.
6	F is incorrect because these paragraphs do not include information regarding the father's expectations of the narrator.	G is incorrect because these paragraphs do not include evidence of the narrator's specific plans.	H is correct because in these paragraphs the narrator refers to having to reveal to his father his decision about college as a "darkness."	J is incorrect because these paragraphs do not focus on the narrator's efforts to make sure his family is comfortable.
7	A is correct because the summary touches on all the important parts of paragraphs 5 through 9.	B is incorrect because it does not address the details provided by paragraphs 8 and 9.	C is incorrect because the father is not sleeping while the narrator and Josiah are working on the neighbor's house.	D is incorrect because there is no evidence in the paragraphs that Josiah was "not pleased" by the narrator's actions. This option also does not address details presented in paragraph 9.
8	F is incorrect because there is no indication in the text that the narrator is certain how his father will react to his decision.	G is incorrect because the text does not refer to the father's judgment of the narrator.	H is incorrect because there is no indication in this text that the narrator preferred his father's behavior before leaving to the behavior his father demonstrates after returning.	J is correct because the text suggests that even though the narrator is relieved that one tension has slid away, a new "darkness," or tension, has taken its place.
9	A is incorrect because the selection does not mention donations from volunteers.	B is correct because the selection includes multiple examples of people helping other community members.	C is incorrect because there is no information in the selection about the income earned from the characters' jobs.	D is incorrect because the selection provides no information about resources received from the government.

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10	F is incorrect because these words are a description of the setting and do not reveal anything about the speaker.	G is incorrect because these words are a description of the setting and do not reveal anything about the speaker.	H is incorrect because these words refer to the dog's wish, not how the speaker feels about the dog's wish.	J is correct because the word "denied" reveals the speaker's refusal to allow the dog to have what she wants.
11	A is incorrect because these words do not reveal the dog's feelings about the walks.	B is correct because these words suggest that over an extended period of time the dog's walk became routine.	C is incorrect because these words do not indicate what the dog enjoys about the walks.	D is incorrect because these words do not indicate to the reader why the pasture is off-limits to the dog.
12	F is correct because the description helps the reader visualize the dog's excitement.	G is incorrect because these words do not reveal the speaker's reasons for keeping the dog out of the pasture.	H is incorrect because these words do not reveal which parts of the walk the dog finds most appealing.	J is incorrect because these words describe the dog's behavior, not the relationship between the dog and speaker.
13	A is incorrect because the contrast between the dog pulling hard on the leash and the leash being slack does not indicate the dog's level of confidence.	B is correct because the change from pulling hard on the leash to the leash being slack indicates the dog's defeated feelings.	C is incorrect because the contrast between the dog pulling hard on the leash and the leash being slack does not indicate that the dog has become relaxed.	D is incorrect because the contrast between the dog pulling hard on the leash and the leash being slack does not indicate if the dog feels lonely.
14	F is incorrect because the dog is not attempting to return home in these lines.	G is correct because the words "yearns" and "desire" indicate the dog wants to explore beyond the fence.	H is incorrect because the dog stops to try to leave the path, not continue following it.	J is incorrect because there is no evidence that the dog is attempting to take a break from her walk.
15	A is incorrect because the author does not focus on a need for more heroes.	B is incorrect because the author only briefly mentions that celebrity has become confused with heroism, but this distinction is not the focus of the selection.	C is correct because the author states this in the beginning and supports the idea with specific examples.	D is incorrect because the author does not focus on how adults specifically need to be better role models for young people.
16	F is incorrect because the origin "on top of" implies that the word "superficial" describes something as being on the surface and, therefore, cannot mean "not known."	G is incorrect because the origin "on top of" implies that the word "superficial" describes something as being on the surface and, therefore, cannot mean "unexpected."	H is incorrect because the origin "on top of" implies that the word "superficial" describes something as being on the surface, which would not indicate if it was "undervalued."	J is correct because the origin "on top of" implies that the word "superficial" describes something as being on the surface and, therefore, would be "without depth."
17	A is incorrect because the paragraph does not attempt to define the words celebrity or hero.	B is incorrect because the paragraph does not include specific examples.	C is correct because the author contrasts the qualities of a celebrity and the qualities of a hero while highlighting the differences between the two types of people.	D is incorrect because the paragraph does not include references to the origins of the words celebrity or hero.
18	F is incorrect because the author does not define the qualities of a young hero.	G is incorrect because the author makes the distinction that being famous does not mean being heroic.	H is correct because the author's examples of young heroes support the claim that young people have the potential to be heroes.	J is incorrect because contrasting the qualities of a hero and a celebrity does not demonstrate how young people can potentially become heroes.
19	A is correct because the sentence focuses on the connections heroes create with "others," "families," and "children" in order to "hold our world together."	B is incorrect because the sentence does not address the ways in which everyone demonstrates some type of heroism.	C is incorrect because the sentence does not address why heroes must believe in themselves.	D is incorrect because the sentence refers to various groups heroes work with, not specifically children.

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20	F is incorrect because these paragraphs do not explain why becoming a hero is important.	G is incorrect because these paragraphs do not show how heroes and celebrities are equally valued.	H is correct because these paragraphs demonstrate how society values celebrities more than heroes.	J is incorrect because these paragraphs describe how society confuses celebrities with heroes, not how celebrities become real heroes.
21	A is incorrect because the containers' sturdiness is not an idea discussed in the selection.	B is correct because the selection discusses how shipping containers function in ways not commonly considered.	C is incorrect because this idea is only one idea presented in the selection; it is not reasonable to believe the title of the entire selection would focus on this one idea.	D is incorrect because the selection does not address deconstructing the containers before using them.
22	F is incorrect because this is only one example mentioned in the paragraph.	G is incorrect because the paragraph does not explain the process for storing and moving art pieces in shipping containers.	H is correct because all the examples in the paragraph provide explanation for this idea.	J is incorrect because this is only one example mentioned in the paragraph.
23	A is incorrect because this fact does not address cost efficiency.	B is incorrect because this fact focuses on popularity, not cost.	C is incorrect because this fact does not focus on the cost efficiency of the containers.	D is correct because using shipping containers to create affordable housing supports the idea that the containers are cost-efficient.
24	F is incorrect because these words do not help the reader understand the amount of rainfall Lima experiences.	G is correct because these words help the reader understand the amount of rainfall Lima experiences.	H is incorrect because these words do not help the reader understand the amount of rainfall Lima experiences.	J is incorrect because these words do not help the reader understand the amount of rainfall Lima experiences.
25	A is incorrect because this sentence does not refer to the lack of water in Lima.	B is incorrect because this sentence addresses how the water moves, not why it is significant.	C is correct because the scarcity of water is why the water produced by the billboard is significant.	D is incorrect because this sentence explains only how the billboard captures water.
26	F is incorrect because the author does not explain how the problem became worse over time.	G is correct because the author highlights all the steps taken to use billboards to help with the water shortage.	H is incorrect because the author does not compare different companies' approaches to solving a problem.	J is incorrect because the author describes only how the lack of a necessary resource affects the local people in paragraph 1.
27	A is incorrect because the author discusses only the water scarcity in the city of Lima, not the whole country of Peru.	B is incorrect because the selection does not include information about the effectiveness of billboards in advertising products.	C is incorrect because this process is not the focus of the selection.	D is correct because the selection focuses on how a partnership between UTEC and the Mayo DraftFCB created a unique solution to water scarcity.
28	F is correct because the shipping container projects are occurring in a variety of places, but the water project only occurs in Lima.	G is incorrect because both selections discuss the future potential of an idea.	H is incorrect because "A Bountiful Billboard" does not compare various uses for the same idea.	J is incorrect because neither selection expresses concerns about a new idea.
29	A is incorrect because neither inform people about an opportunity.	B is incorrect because preventing landfills from overflowing is only a benefit of shipping container apartment buildings.	C is correct because one provides affordable housing to a community and the other provides water to a community.	D is incorrect because both urban and rural areas have shipping container apartment buildings, but the billboard in Lima is located only in that one place.

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30	F is incorrect because the sentence from "Breaking Out of the Box" describes the unexpected use of an object while this sentence describes the number of people affected.	G is correct because both sentences are describing the unexpected use of an object.	H is incorrect because the sentence from "Breaking Out of the Box" describes the unexpected use of an object while this sentence describes the people's reaction.	J is incorrect because the sentence from "Breaking Out of the Box" describes the unexpected use of an object while this sentence describes the interest generated in the project.
31	A is incorrect because technology is not the focus of "Breaking Out of the Box," and keeping the environment clean is not the focus of "A Bountiful Billboard."	B is incorrect because only "A Bountiful Billboard" addresses collaboration to solve a problem.	C is correct because both selections explore ideas that involve redesigning an object to serve a new purpose.	D is incorrect because only "Breaking Out of the Box" addresses recycling materials typically considered trash.
32	F is incorrect because there is no evidence in the selection that the author gained respect from the elders.	G is incorrect because there is no evidence in the selection that the author gained acceptance in a small community.	H is correct because the author demonstrates appreciation of the Navajo culture throughout the selection.	J is incorrect because there is no evidence in the selection that the author ever had to rely on nature for survival.
33	A is incorrect because the text does not include information about how the location of the reservation affected the residents.	B is correct because the text does include information about how the reservation's isolated or remote location gave it a mystical, or legendary, quality.	C is incorrect because the text does not indicate that the location is more vividly remembered than others.	D is incorrect because the text does not include information about the location's beauty being able to only exist in the mind.
34	F is correct because the reader can infer from the phrase "failed to see into her real being" that the woman did not think the photograph accurately captured herself.	G is incorrect because this sentence provides no evidence that something had gone wrong when the author's father took the picture.	H is incorrect because this sentence does not provide evidence that anyone other than the woman was dissatisfied by their appearance in photographs.	J is incorrect because there is no evidence in this sentence that the woman will eventually decide she likes the photograph.
35	A is incorrect because this sentence does not demonstrate a reason why the author and his father depended on the people of the reservation.	B is incorrect because this sentence does not demonstrate a reason why the author and his father depended on the people of the reservation.	C is incorrect because this sentence does not demonstrate a reason why the author and his father depended on the people of the reservation.	D is correct because the sentence states that the author and his father were "at the mercy" of the old Navajo man.
36	F is correct because the selection includes several anecdotes of some of the author's meaningful experiences with the Navajo reservation.	G is incorrect because the author never mentions other places he has lived.	H is incorrect because the author does not explain how the experiences of his childhood affected his way of life as an adult.	J is incorrect because the author does not discuss personal problems he had in the past.
37	A is correct because the author uses the comparison to describe how he "saw the land" while flying.	B is incorrect because the author does not discuss confidence in his abilities as a pilot.	C is incorrect because the author does not reveal a desire to spend more time in nature.	D is incorrect because the author does not indicate his level of comfort in the air.
38	F is incorrect because there is no evidence in the selection to support this idea.	G is correct because Cook didn't know sign language and his team felt he was frustrated because they weren't "on the same page."	H is incorrect because there is no evidence in the selection to support this idea.	J is incorrect because there is no evidence in the selection to support this idea.

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39	A is correct because the phrase "privy to" refers to the fact that the opposing coaches could not interpret the Bison playbook because they did not know sign language.	B is incorrect because the phrase "privy to" refers to the fact that the opposing coaches could not interpret the Bison playbook because they did not know sign language.	C is incorrect because the phrase "privy to" refers to the fact that the opposing coaches could not interpret the Bison playbook because they did not know sign language.	D is incorrect because the phrase "privy to" refers to the fact that the opposing coaches could not interpret the Bison playbook because they did not know sign language.
40	F is incorrect because there is no evidence in the selection that the players thought Cook's standards were too high.	G is incorrect because there is no evidence in the selection that supports this idea.	H is correct because since he did not know sign language, players thought he was unable to "connect with Deaf culture."	J is incorrect because there is no evidence in the selection that Cook thought winning games was more important than the players did.
41	A is incorrect because the order of events does not emphasize the university's support of the women's basketball team.	B is incorrect because the order of events does not emphasize any advantage the deaf basketball teams had.	C is incorrect because the order of events does not emphasize any recognition the university gained.	D is correct because by presenting events in the order they occurred, the author shows the team's progression over a length of time.
42	F is correct because the selection does present the idea that Cook expected his players to play to their greatest potential and build "a winning culture."	G is incorrect because this is not an idea presented in the selection.	H is incorrect because this is not an idea presented in the selection.	J is incorrect because this is not an idea presented in the selection.
43	A is incorrect because this summary addresses only information presented in the first five paragraphs of the selection.	B is incorrect because not all of the details included are relevant to the focus of the selection.	C is correct because these details represent the major parts of the selection that a reader would need to know to best understand the purpose of the selection.	D is incorrect because it includes only specific details from one section of the selection.
44	F is correct because this text refers to a "lesson he had learned" while coaching the Gallaudet team.	G is incorrect because this text refers to a strategy Cook used during games, not to a benefit he gained.	H is incorrect because this text refers to Cook's mission to improve the team's record, not to a benefit he gained.	J is incorrect because this text refers to Cook's desire to improve the team, not to a benefit he gained.