



GRADE 4
Writing

Administered April 2021

RELEASED

WRITING

WRITTEN COMPOSITION

WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Informational/Expository

READ the following quotation.

Good teachers know how to bring out the best in students.

—*Charles Kuralt*

THINK carefully about the best teacher you know.

WRITE about the best teacher you know. Tell who it is and explain the characteristics that make this person a good teacher.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your central idea
- organize your writing
- develop your writing in detail
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

USE THIS PREWRITING PAGE TO
PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU WRITE YOUR COMPOSITION ON
THE LINED PAGE IN THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

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REVISING

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Sadah wrote a story about a boy who had a bad experience with some fire ants. Read Sadah's story and look for the revisions she should make. Then answer the questions that follow.



Fire Ant Attack

(1) It was a beautiful sunny day, and the park was filled with families enjoying a lazy Sunday afternoon together. (2) Daniel had noticed some ants nearby, but he wasn't concerned. (3) He had seen a lot of ants at picnics before. (4) These were fire ants.

(5) Daniel's family had just moved to town, and the ants in his former city had not been fire ants. (6) Therefore, no one in his family thought much about the mounds of dirt scattered around in the grass. (7) Poor Daniel didn't know he should NOT take his shoes and socks off around fire ants.

(8) Soon the picnic turned into a game of catch, and barefoot Daniel rushed across the field to catch a ball. (9) He stretched his leg just a bit too far and tripped right over one of the brown hills! (10) Daniel shrieked as a swarm of ants burst out from the top of the hill. (11) In

seconds the ants had covered Daniel's feet and were crawling up his legs. (12) The biting, stinging attack was instant. (13) Daniel hopped up and down, screaming at the top of his lungs.

(14) The biting lasted only a minute. (15) With the help of his brothers, Daniel was able to brush away or smash all the insects. (16) When the ants were gone, Daniel was astonished at what he saw. (17) Red bumps covered his toes and bare feet. (18) His ankles began to swell. (19) One of Daniel's new friends, Jason, came over to see what was going on. (20) He told Daniel and his parents all about fire ants. (21) Daniel finally understood. (22) He had experienced a fire ant attack.

(23) Sadly, it was over. (24) They had to head straight home to treat Daniel's itchy bites. (25) Daniel's mom consulted the Internet, and the bites would not need to be treated by a doctor is what she decided. (26) However, the next few days were filled with home remedies. (27) Soap and water, medicated creams, and allergy medicines all became part of Daniel's daily routine. (28) Before long, his feet and legs healed. (29) Never again would Daniel ignore the tiny little bugs known as fire ants.

1 Sadah would like to replace sentence 4 with a sentence that helps create a more effective opening for her story. Which of the following can replace sentence 4 and improve this paper’s opening?

- A** But Daniel didn’t know that the ants in this park were fire ants.
 - B** But his family had had picnics at many different parks in their old city.
 - C** But Daniel and his parents had seen a lot of ants at other picnics too.
 - D** But when ants came around, Daniel’s mom knew just what to do.
-

2 Which sentence could best follow and support sentence 10?

- F** He knew just what he needed to do, fast!
- G** It looked like a volcano of tiny, angry insects!
- H** He shrieked sometimes when he was surprised.
- J** They burst right out of the top of a little hill.

3 Sadah wants to begin her last paragraph (sentences 23–29) in a more effective way. Which sentence below can replace sentence 23 and improve the focus of this part of the story?

- A** Sadly, the other boys and girls in the park might get stung, too.
 - B** Sadly, Daniel’s fire ant attack was finally over for good.
 - C** Sadly, the party was going to be over soon for everyone there.
 - D** Sadly, that was the end of the fun for Daniel and his family.
-

4 What is the most effective revision to make in sentence 25?

- F** Daniel’s mom consulted the Internet she decided that the bites would not need to be treated by a doctor.
- G** Daniel’s mom consulted the Internet, where the bites she decided would not need to be treated by a doctor.
- H** Daniel’s mom consulted the Internet and decided that the bites would not need to be treated by a doctor.
- J** No revision should be made in this sentence.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Jake read an article about a little girl who sells her art and jewelry to raise money for children with special needs. Read Jake's paper and look for any revisions he should make. Then answer the questions that follow.

Twin Heroes

(1) Hailey Scheinman is known as a leader because she helps others. (2) In fact, when she was only seven years old, her school gave her a "Young Hero" award. (3) A year later, Hailey won the "Rising Star" award from her city. (4) Hailey receives these types of honors because she helps her sister Livy in special ways.

(5) Livy and Hailey are twins, but Livy was born with many health problems. (6) Livy is unable to speak or walk, and sometimes she has to spend time in the hospital. (7) She also has epilepsy, which is a brain condition that causes a person to have seizures. (8) There are different types of seizures, and many cause muscles to shake or jerk. (9) There are other kinds of brain conditions that people can be born with, too.

(10) Even though they are so different, the girls love to spend time together. (11) Hailey reads books to Livy and brushes her hair. (12) Hailey and Livy are more than sisters. (13) They are also close friends.

(14) When Hailey was only six years old, she wanted to find a way to help her parents pay for some of Livy's medical care. (15) First, she drew a bright painting, where she drew pink flowers, ladybugs, and a butterfly. (16) Then she asked her father to help her sell it online. (17) Surprisingly, the painting sold for \$66.00. (18) Hailey gave the money to her parents to help pay for Livy's health care.



"Spring is Coming" by Hailey Scheinman. Copyright © 2011.

(19) Hailey made more paintings. (20) She also started selling bracelets that she made. (21) One day, Livy joined Hailey and her friend when they set up a lemonade stand. (22) At the end of the day, the girls had earned another \$142.65 for Livy's care.

(23) Hailey's actions even inspired her parents. (24) They decided it was time to help other families with children who have special needs. (25) Hailey's parents wanted to raise money for research to help doctors find a cure for epilepsy. (26) The family decided to start a charity called "Livy's Hope."

(27) Today, Hailey sells her art and bracelets through Livy's Hope. (28) The money she raises now helps many families. (29) Each year, Livy's Hope also runs a "Lemonade for Livy" event. (30) People set up lemonade stands during the last weekend in July. (31) They give the money they raise to the Epilepsy Foundation. (32) In 2014, people in 47 states set up lemonade stands!

(33) Hailey has become a speaker for "Lemonade for Livy." (34) She tells large groups about the charity and about her sister. (35) To Hailey, Livy is the true hero. (36) "Her smile is so pure, and she's always happy," Hailey says. (37) "Livy is my best friend in the whole world.

(38) Whenever I'm sad about something, I just go find Livy and give her a hug, and she makes me feel better. (39) More than anything, Livy gives people hope."

- 5** Jake has included an unnecessary sentence in the second paragraph (sentences 5–9). Which sentence should be deleted from this paragraph?
- A** Sentence 5
 - B** Sentence 7
 - C** Sentence 8
 - D** Sentence 9
-

- 6** What is the best way to revise sentence 15?
- F** First, she drew a bright painting, drawing bright pink flowers, ladybugs, and a butterfly.
 - G** First, she drew a bright painting with pink flowers, ladybugs, and a butterfly.
 - H** First, she drew a bright painting, the painting had bright pink flowers, ladybugs, and also a butterfly.
 - J** Sentence 15 does not need to be revised.

7 Jake needs a better transition between the fourth paragraph (sentences 14–18) and the fifth paragraph (sentences 19–22). Which sentence should replace sentence 19 to help with this transition?

- A** Hailey continued to paint and find other ways to raise money for her sister.
 - B** Hailey didn't want help selling her paintings.
 - C** Hailey knew her friends would want to help raise money for Livy, too.
 - D** Later on, Hailey wanted to try selling lemonade instead.
-

8 Jake's seventh paragraph (sentences 27–32) needs a closing sentence. Which of the following should be added after sentence 32 to help close this paragraph?

- F** This event is held only one month each year.
- G** They could earn even more money by also selling iced tea and food.
- H** Everyone who helps run the charity hopes people will continue to support this wonderful event.
- J** Other groups that help people should set up lemonade stands because these stands are a huge success.

EDITING

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Justin's teacher asked students to research and write about an interesting place. Read Justin's rough draft and look for corrections he needs to make. When you are finished reading, answer the questions that follow.



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Festival of the Land

(1) Every year, thousands of people travel to a small village in the countryside of Russia. (2) In this village they can explore huge, strange pieces of art. (3) Some people search inside a twisting model of the human brain, others walk past rows of wooden towers that stand like soldiers in a field. (4) One sculpture looks like a pirate ship, and another looks like a volcano that actually glows and shoots smoke. (5) All of them are made out of natural materials, such as branches, twigs, soil, or even snow. (6) The sculptures are found at one of Russia's most famous art festivals called Archstoyanie.

(7) Artist Nikolay Polissky created the festival in 2006. (8) However, the idea had begun years earlier. (9) In 1989, he had moved away from Moscow. (10) Polissky wanted to enjoy the beauty of

the countryside. (11) He came upon a small town and knew it was where he was going to live. (12) He was not disappointed. (13) I was looking for a beautiful place," Polissky said. (14) "It simply astounded me."

(15) Polissky noticed that many of the villagers needed jobs. (16) He decided to hire them to help make his first art piece from the land. (17) Since nature is what inspired him, he used it to create his art. (18) Over the years, he continued to make many more sculptures. (19) Word began to spread about his giant creations, and people were soon traveling to the village to see them.

(20) In 2006, Polissky started the Archstoyanie Festival. (21) Wanting to bring other Russian artists to the area to create works of art. (22) Today, people come from all around the world to see the art. (23) The festival includes many new art pieces, along with some pieces that remain each year. (24) Some of the art is even made so that it will be useful to the village. (25) For example, one piece of art became a bus station and another is now used as a store.

(26) The art in this town catches the imagination of everyone who sees it. (27) Polissky is pleased with the popularity of the festival. (28) He hopes that it will encourage even more people to become artists. (29) He says, "we are fashioning this life from scratch. (30) Go, find a stick, and make something!"

9 What is the correct way to write sentence 3?

- A Some people search inside a twisting model of the human brain. Because others walk past rows of wooden towers that stand like soldiers in a field.
 - B Some people searching inside a twisting model of the human brain. Others walk past rows of wooden towers that stand like soldiers in a field.
 - C Some people search inside a twisting model of the human brain, and others walk past. Rows of wooden towers that stand like soldiers in a field.
 - D Some people search inside a twisting model of the human brain. Others walk past rows of wooden towers that stand like soldiers in a field.
-

10 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 6?

- F Change ***are found*** to **is found**
 - G Change ***Russias*** to **Russia's**
 - H Change ***famous*** to **famus**
 - J No change should be made in sentence 6.
-

11 What change is needed in sentence 8?

- A Change ***idea*** to **ideas**
- B Change ***had begun*** to **had began**
- C Change ***earlyer*** to **earlier**
- D No change is needed in sentence 8.

12 How does sentence 13 need to be changed?

- F** Insert quotation marks at the beginning of the sentence
 - G** Change *beautiful* to **beautifull**
 - H** Delete the comma after *place*
 - J** Sentence 13 does not need to be changed.
-

13 What is the correct way to write sentence 21?

- A** He wanted to bring other Russian artists to the area to create works of art.
- B** He wanted to bring other Russian artists to the area. To create works of art.
- C** He wanted to bring other Russian artists to the area they could create works of art.
- D** No change needs to be made in sentence 21.

14 What change needs to be made in sentence 25?

- F Change ***example*** to **exampel**
 - G Change ***became*** to **becoming**
 - H Insert a comma after ***station***
 - J Change ***is now used*** to **was now used**
-

15 What change should be made in sentence 29?

- A Change ***says*** to **say's**
- B Change ***we*** to **We**
- C Insert a comma after ***life***
- D Change ***scratch*** to **scrach**

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

James decided to write a story about an interesting field trip. Read the story James wrote and think about the corrections he should make. Then answer the questions that follow.



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Junior Park Ranger

(1) "Stay on the trail," Mrs. Miller called as the guide led her and her fourth-grade class down into the canyon. (2) Marcos adjusted the straps to his backpack and balanced his feet.

(3) With big eyes and a wide mouth, Marcos looked below at the Colorado River. (4) The river looked like a tiny snake slithering through the rock.

(5) "Attention," Mrs. Miller announced.

(6) "Remember, your assignment is to look for the plants and animals on your list as we walk on the trail. (7) Our guide will hand out a Junior Park Ranger badge to the first student who completes the Grand Canyon checklist in your booklet," Mrs. Miller explained. (8) "And don't get in front of the guide. (9) You must stay behind him on the trail."

(10) As the class began its hike, Marcos leans against a cottonwood tree and pulled his booklet out of his backpack. (11) He quickly checked off the tree, the river, and a brittlebush. (12) Then he smiled at his progress.

(13) Marcos's friend Robert asked, "How many have you found. (14) I'm looking high and low for everything on the list. (15) I really want that badge," Robert added, rushing ahead of Marcos.

(16) Since Marcos wanted the badge as much as his friend, he also rushed down the trail to compete with Robert.

(17) "I found an elderberry bush," Robert announced. (18) "And I think that's a hawk in that tree," he bragged.

(19) Marcos took a deep breath and didn't let Robert's success bother him. (20) As Marcos walked down the trail along the walls of the canyon, the beauty of the scenery stopped him. (21) He liked the walls of orange and brown. (22) He studied the plants and trees. (23) The dry trees along the trail looked very differently from the tall spruce trees by the visitor's center. (24) The long hike seemed to pass quickly. (25) Suddenly Marcos spotted a mule deer hiding in some brush.

(26) Marcos forgot about the competition and stopped to sketch the deer. (27) As nature came to life in his drawing, Marcos heard Robert telling everyone that he had completed his booklet.

(28) At first, Marcos felt a pain in his stomach. (29) Robert proudly showed Mrs. Miller his booklet and Marcos watched as Robert was given the first Junior Park Ranger badge.

(30) When Mrs. Miller asked Robert why he thought the Grand Canyon was so grand, Robert rocked back and forth nervously and could not think of an appropriate response.

(31) Marcos spoke up to help. (32) "It's because of the towering cliffs and the colorful rock layers. (33) It's because there are so many different plants and animals living here. (34) And it's because of the Colorado River and the caves down below, Marcos explained.

(35) Amazed, both the guide and Mrs. Miller walked over to Marcos. (36) The guide handed him the second badge, and Mrs. Miller nodded in agreement. (37) "It seems that Marcos really understands the beauty of the canyon," she told the class.

(38) Marcos grinned shyly, happy to have earned the title Junior Park Ranger.

16 What change should be made in sentence 4?

- F** Change *looked* to **look**
 - G** Change *tiny* to **tiney**
 - H** Change *threw* to **through**
 - J** Change the period to a question mark
-

17 How should sentence 6 be changed?

- A** Change *Remember* to **Rember**
 - B** Change *is* to **was**
 - C** Change *walk* to **walking**
 - D** Sentence 6 should not be changed.
-

18 How should sentence 10 be changed?

- F** Change *its* to **it's**
- G** Change *leans* to **leaned**
- H** Change *a* to **an**
- J** Insert a comma after **tree**

19 What change should be made in sentence 13?

- A Change **friend** to **freind**
 - B Delete the comma after **asked**
 - C Change the period after **found** to a question mark
 - D Make no change
-

20 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 23?

- F Change **differently** to **different**
 - G Change **by** to **bye**
 - H Change **visitor's** to **visitors**
 - J No change should be made.
-

21 What change should be made in sentence 29?

- A Change **showed** to **was showing**
- B Change **his** to **this**
- C Insert a comma after **booklet**
- D Insert a period after **watched**

22 How should sentence 32 be changed?

- F Change ***It's*** to ***Its***
 - G Insert a comma after ***cliffs***
 - H Change ***colorfull*** to ***colorful***
 - J Change the period to a question mark
-

23 What change should be made in sentence 34?

- A Change ***And*** to ***and***
 - B Change ***of*** to ***off***
 - C Insert a comma after ***Colorado River***
 - D Insert quotation marks after the comma
-

24 What change should be made in sentence 38?

- F Change ***grined*** to ***grinned***
- G Change ***shyly*** to ***shy***
- H Change ***earned*** to ***earn***
- J No change needs to be made in this sentence.



**STAAR
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