

2023 STAAR Grade 3 Reading Rationales

Item #	Rationale	
1	Option B is correct	A paraphrase is a restatement of ideas of the original text in more simplified, concise language. The mention of Kevin’s friends packing their instruments and Kevin tripping and accidentally denting his trumpet in this paraphrase restates the ideas of the original text in a way that maintains the intended meaning of the original while using different words than the author.
	Option A is incorrect	Although Kevin’s friends are putting their instruments away, Kevin does not fall. The author states in paragraph 1 that Kevin “tripped over a music stand,” so not all the information presented in the paraphrase is correct.
	Option C is incorrect	Jimmy notices that Kevin’s trumpet has many dents in paragraph 4, not paragraph 1. In addition, the author states in paragraph 1 “before Kevin could put his trumpet into the case,” which suggests Kevin did not put away his instrument.
	Option D is incorrect	Kevin’s tripping while his friends are packing up their instruments after band practice is described in paragraph 1. The music stand falls, but there is no mention of the sound it made until paragraph 2, so the paraphrase includes information from outside of the paragraph.

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2	Option A is correct	In paragraphs 26 through 28, the author provides evidence for the key idea that Grandpa is an understanding person. The author states in paragraph 26 that Grandpa “smiled” after he hears about the new dent in the trumpet. In paragraph 28, Grandpa points to a dent and some scratches on the instrument and proceeds to tell Kevin how they happened.
	Option B is incorrect	The author does not provide any evidence in paragraphs 26 through 28 to support the idea that Grandpa knows how it feels to be embarrassed.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 26, Grandpa tells Kevin, “You can’t always protect them,” in reference to the ownership of instruments, which suggests that he is not implying that Kevin should be more careful.
	Option D is incorrect	Although in paragraph 28 Grandpa explains to Kevin how the trumpet became dented and scratched, the phrases “this is from an accidental bump by a trombone” and “got these when I tripped over it onstage one night” are not considered storytelling, because they lack depth. This key idea would best be supported by paragraphs 30 and 32.

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3	Option D is correct	A theme is a universal idea about life that is implied in a story. The author expresses the theme that people should be truthful about their mistakes; when Grandpa tells Kevin that “the important thing is that you told me,” it implies that Grandpa values Kevin’s honesty more than he values the trumpet.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraphs 9 and 10, Jimmy and Ben suggest that “maybe [Grandpa] won’t notice the dent” and “maybe he won’t care,” which the reader could interpret as sharing ideas with others, but this theme is not supported by the sentence from paragraph 26.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 26, Grandpa assures Kevin that it’s impossible to always protect an instrument, but it’s important for Kevin to be honest. His perspective indicates Grandpa is not worried about Kevin being careful with the borrowed trumpet, and so this idea does not support the theme of the story.
	Option C is incorrect	Kevin has high regard for Grandpa and the trumpet, so the reader may view the events of this story as Kevin spending valuable time with his family members, but there is no direct evidence to support this theme.

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4	Option C is correct	Because Kevin’s friends question his worry over the denting of the trumpet in paragraphs 4 through 10, the reader can infer that Kevin’s friends do not understand why he feels upset.
	Option A is incorrect	The reader may assume that Kevin’s friends do not know each other very well, since they do not understand why Kevin is so worried about the dent in the trumpet, but there is not sufficient evidence in the story to support this inference.
	Option B is incorrect	Kevin’s friends do try to make him feel better. In paragraph 4, Jimmy says, “Well, it already has a lot of dents. One more won’t matter,” and in paragraph 5, Ben states, “Yeah, don’t worry about it. It’s not like it’s a new trumpet.”
	Option D is incorrect	Even though in paragraph 5 Jimmy and Ben make light of Kevin’s concerns about the new dent in the trumpet—pointing out that it already has dents and that it’s not a new trumpet—there is no text support for how Jimmy and Ben take care of their instruments. Therefore, this inference about Kevin’s friends cannot be made.

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5	Option B is correct	In this sentence in paragraph 15, the author indicates how Kevin feels about lying. Kevin stating that he “didn’t like lying” shows that he thinks being honest is important.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence in paragraph 14, the author mentions an idea Kevin has about how to avoid telling Grandpa about the dent he caused in the trumpet, but this does not support the idea that Kevin thinks being honest is important.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence in paragraph 16, the reader can see another thought of Kevin’s about distracting Grandpa so he can avoid telling him the truth; this does not show that Kevin thinks being honest is important.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the reader may infer that Kevin’s doubt in paragraph 18 hints at the fact that he thinks being honest is important, it is not stated clearly in this sentence.

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6	Option C is correct	Imagery is the use of vivid language to represent objects, actions, or ideas. The author includes this imagery in paragraph 30 most likely to emphasize Grandpa’s belief that behind each ding, dent, and scratch is a story related to playing and enjoying the trumpet, and these experiences are more important than how the instrument looks.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, Grandpa is using the imagery of “every ding, dent, and scratch” telling “a tale” to represent the stories and memories of time spent with the trumpet. Therefore, these tales are not those he can read.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the imagery in paragraph 30 describes what the trumpet looks like, the author does not include any evidence that suggests Grandpa thinks Kevin needs a new trumpet. In fact, a new trumpet would not tell any tales, because it would not contain the dings, dents, and scratches from being played in the past.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 30, Grandpa points out to Kevin, “If you stick with it, someday you’ll have a trumpet etched with your own stories.” This implies that Kevin needs to have more experience with the trumpet before he’ll have such stories to share.

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7	Option D is correct	Based on Grandpa’s actions—such as smiling after Kevin tells him about the dent in paragraph 26 and explaining the dents he made on the trumpet himself in paragraph 28—the reader can conclude that Kevin will most likely feel calm the next time his trumpet is dented.
	Option A is incorrect	Although in paragraph 24 Kevin says, “I’m sorry about the dent,” Grandpa explains that “every ding, dent, and scratch can tell a tale” and convinces him that dents are nothing to be sorry about.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 3, the reader can understand that Kevin is upset, based on his yelling “Oh no!” when the music stand falls and hits his trumpet. Then, in paragraph 27, Kevin asks Grandpa, “You’re not mad?” Grandpa explains that instead of being upset, Kevin should see each dent as a memory to cherish.
	Option C is incorrect	Grandpa saying to Kevin in paragraph 30 that “someday you’ll have a trumpet etched with your own stories” implies that he is telling Kevin that all the imperfections on his trumpet are inevitable and are not a negative thing. Therefore, Kevin will most likely not feel surprised the next time his trumpet is dented.

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8	Option A is correct	Grandpa’s words and actions in paragraphs 26 through 31 show that his relationship with Kevin is one in which he is proud of Kevin’s honesty. For example, in paragraph 26, Grandpa smiles after Kevin tells him about the dent and reassures him by saying, “The important thing is that you told me.” This shows that he is proud of Kevin for telling the truth about the new dent on the trumpet.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the reader may interpret Grandpa’s actions and words in paragraphs 26 through 31 as encouraging, Grandpa is not showing Kevin how to play the trumpet. He is encouraging Kevin to continue to play the trumpet by saying “if you stick with it, someday you’ll have a trumpet etched with your own stories” and “now tell me a story with music.”
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraphs 26 through 31, Grandpa and Kevin discuss trying to protect an instrument from accidental bumps and scratches, such as in paragraph 28, when Grandpa explains, “Instruments become part of you when you play them a lot. You can’t always protect them.” However, there is no mention of Kevin’s safety.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no indication in paragraphs 26 through 31 that Grandpa doubts that Kevin will be a great trumpet player. The only reference Grandpa makes to Kevin as a future trumpet player is in paragraph 30, when he states, “If you stick with it, someday you’ll have a trumpet etched with your own stories.”

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9	Option A is correct	Kevin demonstrates his fears that Grandpa will think Kevin is careless up until Grandpa assures him it's okay in paragraph 26. For example, Kevin worries to his friends in paragraphs 4 through 10; thinks, "But what if Grandpa <i>did</i> see the dent?" in paragraph 11; and considers all the ways he can prevent Grandpa seeing the dent in paragraphs 13 through 17.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Kevin is hesitant to play music for Grandpa and replies with "Um . . ." in paragraph 22 after Grandpa asks him to play some music, his worry about what Grandpa will think when he tells him about the dent on the trumpet is Kevin's main problem.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 3, Kevin yells, "Oh no!" after he dents his trumpet. However, he is not angry because it looks old and worn. Instead, he is upset about the trumpet because it is his grandfather's, and he worries what his grandfather will think.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no evidence in the story to support the idea that Kevin's main problem is discovering that his trumpet is making a terrible sound. The author makes only one reference to sound, in paragraph 2, to describe the sound the music stand makes when it falls on the trumpet: <i>Clang</i> .

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10	Option B is correct	In line 54, <u>takes shape</u> is used to demonstrate how the speaker’s idea for the drawing develops, or “forms,” in the speaker’s mind.
	Option A is incorrect	The phrase <u>takes shape</u> does not mean “joins” in line 54. The speaker is not joining anything together for the fridge art.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the speaker is drawing and the reader may associate that with movement, the phrase <u>takes shape</u> does not mean “moves” in line 54.
	Option D is incorrect	The phrase <u>takes shape</u> does not mean “turns” in line 54. The speaker is drawing but does not refer to physical movement.

Item #	Rationale	
11	Part A	
	Option B is correct	Mom and Dad’s relationship with their children is best described by the sentence “Mom and Dad are happy with what their children do” because, by hanging the children’s accomplishments on the fridge as stated by the speaker in lines 9 and 19, they show they are proud of their children.
	Option A is incorrect	Although in line 19 the speaker describes “sister’s blue tennis ribbon” on the fridge, this does not suggest that Mom and Dad’s relationship with their children is focused on teaching them to play tennis. There is no mention of tennis anywhere else in the poem.
	Option C is incorrect	The speaker states in line 9 that “brother’s art poster” is on display, but this does not describe the idea that Mom and Dad’s relationship with their children is focused on their desire for the children to be artists. The other objects hanging on the refrigerator—such the sister’s tennis ribbon—indicate they are happy with whatever their children’s hobbies are.
	Option D is incorrect	Even though the speaker identifies “Dad’s tomato-red stained/pasta sauce recipe” in lines 23 and 24, this is not sufficient evidence to describe Mom and Dad’s relationship as one in which they like to cook with their children. There is no other reference to cooking in the poem.
	Part B	
	Option A is correct	In line 4, the speaker supports the idea that Mom and Dad are happy with what their children do, because they have covered the fridge with “a collection of pride,” which includes their children’s accomplishments, as stated by the speaker in lines 9 and 19.
	Option B is incorrect	In line 12, the speaker refers to the smiley face on the brother’s art poster that won first place, which is part of what the speaker identifies as the “collection of pride.” However, this line has no connection to Mom and Dad being happy with what their children do.
	Option C is incorrect	The speaker uses the phrase “his cute wide smile” in line 16 to describe the photo of an aunt’s baby on the fridge; this line has no relation to the relationship between Mom and Dad and their children.
	Option D is incorrect	The speaker uses this line to give the reader a sense of location for the pasta sauce recipe identified in lines 23 and 24, but the line does not support the relationship that Mom and Dad have with their children.

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12	Option C is correct	The stanzas in lines 9 through 28 are alike because, in all of them, the speaker describes family members' items. For example, the speaker describes the brother's art poster in stanza 3, the baby photo in stanza 4, and the sister's tennis ribbon in stanza 5.
	Option A is incorrect	The speaker wants to create a piece of fridge art to be a part of the collection. This motivation is not discussed in the stanzas in lines 9 through 28; rather, this is revealed in lines 49 through 56.
	Option B is incorrect	The speaker references a feeling in stanza 8, line 30, which states, "then catch sight with a thrill." This evidence is not found in the stanzas in lines 9 through 28.
	Option D is incorrect	In the stanzas in lines 9 through 28, the speaker refers to different family members' items found on the fridge, not to rooms in the family's house.

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13	Option B is correct	A theme is a universal idea about life that is implied in a poem. In line 40, the poet makes a reference to speed by using the word “time” to describe how Mom and Dad grow the rosebush. Therefore, in addition to giving the rosebush comfort, they also allow it to grow at its own speed.
	Option A is incorrect	Although feeding the rosebush “water and love” helps it grow, the poet does not express a theme about going at your own speed in line 39.
	Option C is incorrect	The poet uses line 41 to describe the initial growing stages of the rosebush but does not allude to going at your own speed.
	Option D is incorrect	In line 42, the poet references the initial growing stages of the rosebush and uses this line to describe that the seeds were underground before sprouting; the line does not express a theme of going at your own speed.

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14	Option A is correct	The speaker’s question in line 5 about where to find the speaker’s name shows that the speaker is upset about not having something hanging on the fridge.
	Option B is incorrect	Although in line 7 the speaker asks whether the speaker is hiding “behind milk,” the poet uses this line to show the speaker wondering rather than being upset about not having something hanging on the fridge.
	Option C is incorrect	The poet uses line 9 to identify that the speaker sees the brother’s art poster on the fridge, not to show that the speaker is upset about not having art hanging there.
	Option D is incorrect	Line 11 is used by the poet to describe what the speaker sees on the brother’s art poster, but the line does not show that the speaker is upset.

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15	Option C is correct	The term “point of view” refers to the person telling or narrating a piece of writing. The narrator of this poem is the speaker. In first-person point of view, the narrator tells the story from the narrator’s own perspective and uses the words “I,” “me,” “my,” and “us.” The poet’s use of “I” throughout the poem indicates a first-person point of view.
	Option A is incorrect	In third-person point of view, the narrator uses words such as “he,” “she,” and “they,” which the poet does not use in the poem. In addition, Mom is not the one narrating; rather, the speaker is.
	Option B is incorrect	Although first-person point of view is correct, since the poet uses the words “I,” “me,” and “my” throughout, the poem is not being narrated by the sister. It is the speaker who narrates.
	Option D is incorrect	The poet does not use words consistent with a third-person point of view, and the narrator of this poem is not an outside observer; the narrator is the speaker.

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16	Option A is correct	Since the speaker sees all the items on the fridge that belong to the family, the speaker starts to draw a picture in lines 53 through 56 most likely from a desire to also share something with them.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the poet includes lines 23 and 24 to describe Dad’s pasta sauce recipe that the speaker is seeing, there is no evidence to suggest that the speaker wishes to create new family recipes.
	Option C is incorrect	The reader might interpret line 19, in which the speaker sees “sister’s blue tennis ribbon,” as a reference to sports. However, the speaker does not express the thought that drawing is more fun than sports.
	Option D is incorrect	In line 56, the speaker references the new drawing and says that it is “for my family to find,” meaning that the speaker is most likely drawing this picture to share on the fridge with the family, not to win first place in an art contest.

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17	Option C is correct	In paragraph 3, the word <u>effort</u> helps convey that people should give recycling a serious try. In the paragraph, the author mentions that rewards would give people a “reason” to recycle, thereby motivating them to attempt, or try, it.
	Option A is incorrect	Rewarding people does not give them a reason to make a written promise to recycle; it gives them a reason to make an <u>effort</u> in trying to recycle.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the reader might assume that recycling is important and that this selection provides an important message, the word <u>effort</u> does not share this meaning.
	Option D is incorrect	The word <u>effort</u> in paragraph 3 does not mean an interesting idea; the use of “interesting idea” in the sentence in which <u>effort</u> is found does not make sense.

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18	Option A is correct	The author begins paragraph 2 by stating that “recycling can be confusing,” and then provides reasons for this, such as different rules between different places. In this paragraph, the author is implying that this confusion can lead people to not recycle.
	Option B is incorrect	The reader might interpret this sentence as an opinion because of the author’s use of the word “can,” but it is a fact that the author uses to support the idea that recycling is quite easy for people in some places.
	Option C is incorrect	Some people might not recycle because of the sorting efforts that go into recycling; however, this sentence from paragraph 2 is a fact, not an opinion from the author.
	Option D is incorrect	Although this sentence could be considered an opinion of the author’s, the author uses it to explain to the reader how recycling collection varies from place to place, not to explain why some people do not recycle.

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19	Option A is correct	The author most likely includes the illustration to show one way that people get money for recycling, by returning “empty containers in exchange for money” (paragraph 4).
	Option B is incorrect	Although the illustration includes images of money being exchanged for recyclables, this is most likely not the reason the author includes the illustration. As the author points out in paragraph 4, “Some U.S. states let people return empty containers in exchange for money.”
	Option C is incorrect	In the article, the author states that there are different kinds of objects people can recycle, but the illustration shows only water bottles visible in the bag that the girl is exchanging for money.
	Option D is incorrect	Although in paragraph 2 the author states that “most people who do not recycle said it is too difficult where they live,” the woman doing the recycling in the illustration is smiling and does not appear to be having a difficult time completing the task.

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20	Option B is correct	The author claims that laws and reminders are the best way to make recycling in the city better. For example, in paragraph 5 the author states that “we just need laws and reminders about recycling correctly” to support the idea from paragraph 1 about the city needing to recycle more.
	Option A is incorrect	Although there are multiple occasions in the selection in which the author discusses recycling laws and reminders, there is no mention of neighbors. Therefore, the author is not claiming that people should make sure their neighbors know about recycling laws and reminders.
	Option C is incorrect	Even though the author states “We know our city needs to recycle more” (paragraph 1) and explains how “San Francisco sends a lot less of its waste to landfills than most other places in the United States” (paragraph 2), the author does not make the claim that people will move to cities for their recycling policies.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author explains in paragraph 2 how San Francisco, California, “has been successful at getting people to recycle,” the author does not claim that laws and reminders about recycling work better in some places than in others but rather claims that laws and reminders are the best way to make recycling in the city better.

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21	Option A is correct	In paragraph 4, the author provides details for the key idea that reminders can help people learn what to do with their recyclables. The author points out that reminders help people recycle more and that reminders can also help “share other ways to make less trash.”
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author states that “people need clear messages about how to recycle,” none of the details in paragraph 4 about reminders support the idea that people also have trouble understanding reminders.
	Option C is incorrect	The author does mention information about research regarding rewards and reminders in paragraph 4, but the author does not include evidence to support the idea that many cities use both strategies.
	Option D is incorrect	The reader might assume that reminders about recycling should be fun and interesting because in the previous selection, “Rewards for Recycling,” the author states that “lawmakers should make recycling more fun,” but the author of this selection emphasizes only the importance of reminders and does not provide evidence to support the idea that recycling should be fun.

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22	Option D is correct	One way the authors of both selections support their claims is by showing how some places have gotten people to recycle more. In paragraph 4 of “Rewards for Recycling,” the author states that “some U.S. states let people return empty containers in exchange for money.” In paragraph 2 of “Laws for Less Trash,” the author explains how a law in San Francisco, California, “has been successful at getting people to recycle.”
	Option A is incorrect	Although in the second selection, “Laws for Less Trash,” the author explains in paragraph 3 how recycling could get worse through rewards, the author of the first selection does not provide any evidence to support this idea.
	Option B is incorrect	In “Rewards for Recycling,” the author states in paragraph 6 that “lawmakers should make recycling more fun,” but the author of “Laws for Less Trash” does not state or support this idea.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author of “Rewards for Recycling” briefly mentions in paragraph 2 the different ways to sort recycling, this author does not reference the recycling companies. In “Laws for Less Trash,” the author explains in paragraph 3 the difficulties that rewards could create for recycling companies. However, neither author explains how recycling companies sort trash.

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Item #	Rationale	
23	Option C is correct	The ideas about recycling in the selection “Rewards for Recycling” are different from the ideas in “Laws for Less Trash” because they focus on how recycling should help people as well as the planet. In paragraph 6 of “Rewards for Recycling,” the author states that local lawmakers “can help their people and the planet at the same time,” which supports this idea.
	Option A is incorrect	Although in paragraph 5 of “Rewards for Recycling” the author refers to the idea of weighing “each family’s recycling,” the selection does not show families working together to recycle.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author of “Laws for Less Trash,” in paragraph 3, portrays the idea of offering rewards for recycling as potentially harmful, the author of “Rewards for Recycling” only alludes to harms associated with <i>not</i> recycling, such as how “recyclable materials end up in the trash” (paragraph 1).
	Option D is incorrect	The idea that everyone needs to recycle can be assumed from both selections, not just from “Rewards for Recycling.” For example, in “Laws for Less Trash,” the author uses the word “people” when referring to the need to recycle, such as “People need clear messages about how to recycle” in paragraph 4.

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24	Option A is correct	Both selections share the message that keeping recyclables out of landfills is important. In paragraph 1 of “Rewards for Recycling,” the author mentions that recyclable materials “go to a landfill instead of being used again” and goes on to provide solutions for this problem. Similarly, in “Laws for Less Trash,” the author explains in paragraph 3 how rewards could cause difficulty with sorting for recycling companies and that “all the items would have to go into a landfill.”
	Option D is correct	Both selections share the message that lawmakers need to do more to help their cities recycle. The reader can identify the details that support this message in paragraph 1 of “Rewards for Recycling,” when the author says that “city lawmakers need to do more to make sure people recycle,” and in paragraph 1 of “Laws for Less Trash,” when the author suggests that a law could help the city recycle more.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author of “Laws for Less Trash” includes details in paragraph 4 about buying objects that are sturdier, the author of “Rewards for Recycling” does not. Therefore, both selections do not share the idea that stores should sell more objects that last a long time.
	Option C is incorrect	In “Rewards for Recycling,” the author states in paragraph 3 that it can be hard for people “to understand how recycling is helpful” for the planet but does not imply that people do not care about helping the planet. Similarly, in “Laws for Less Trash,” the author does not convey the message that people do not care about helping the planet.
	Option E is incorrect	The message that turning in recyclables should let people get free food is only supported by the details in paragraph 5 of “Rewards for Recycling,” while in “Laws for Less Trash,” the author does not mention this idea.

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Item #	Rationale
25	For ECR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

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Item #	Rationale
26	For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

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Item #	Rationale	
27	Option D is correct	A closing sentence of a paragraph captures the overall meaning. This sentence is the best closing sentence to add to paragraph 3 because Daisy is explaining how a dog may not want to be around strangers and might react by growling (sentence 16). In this sentence, the writer emphasizes how the dog’s reaction would make the dog and others feel.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the reader might find a relationship between the ideas of the tables being too close together for the dog and the dog feeling nervous (sentence 14), this idea introduces an entirely new topic in this paragraph, and a closing sentence of a paragraph should capture the paragraph’s overall meaning.
	Option B is incorrect	The reference to a dog being out at night is not relevant to Daisy’s point in the third paragraph about how a dog might behave if it’s having a bad day, nor is it relevant to the question about the dog growling in sentence 16.
	Option C is incorrect	Although Daisy references “your dog” in the third paragraph, whether a dog knows how to do tricks does not relate to Daisy’s overall argument in the paragraph about dogs having bad days. Nor does it relate to the question about “your dog” growling in sentence 16. Therefore, adding this sentence would create confusion.

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28	Option A is correct	The error in sentence 18 is the unnecessary repetition of “people should be able to.” Revising to eliminate the second occurrence of these words creates a sentence that does not repeat information.
	Option B is incorrect	Adding “but” and moving “and people” to the end do not eliminate the repetition of “people,” and it changes the meaning of the sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the revisions eliminate the repeated information, these changes create a sentence that is incoherent.
	Option D is incorrect	Replacing the word “and” with “so” does not remove the repeated information in the sentence. Instead, it changes the meaning of the sentence.

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29	Option A is correct	Replacing “them” in sentence 28 with the phrase “your furry friends” clarifies the sentence because this is a way to describe dogs and Daisy’s argument is about why people should not bring their dogs into restaurants.
	Option B is incorrect	Adding “those extra items” would not make the meaning of the sentence clear since Daisy mentions dogs throughout the entirety of her argument. Dogs are not items; they are pets.
	Option C is incorrect	Even though the use of “the dogs and cats” clarifies the sentence, Daisy’s argument does not mention cats, only dogs.
	Option D is incorrect	Using the phrase “a lot of things” to replace “them” does not clarify the sentence. The word “things” is vague and does not identify a specific object, item, person, or animal.

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30	Option D is correct	In sentence 12, Chan states that the students were complaining about the change Mr. Walker had started implementing in the daily schedule. Therefore, adding this sentence would support that idea by emphasizing that the students' reaction was caused by being unfamiliar with the new schedule.
	Option A is incorrect	Although this paper is about recess, in sentence 12, Chan does not mention or provide evidence as to what season it is or whether the students had recess outside or inside.
	Option B is incorrect	Although in sentence 12 Chan mentions how it was the "third day of school," which is considered "still really early in the school year," this fact does not relate to the reason that Mr. Walker's students were complaining.
	Option C is incorrect	The reader may assume that "learning has always been important to Mr. Walker"; however, Chan does not provide evidence for this idea in the sentence.

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Item #	Rationale	
31	Option B is correct	In sentence 21, Chan places the ideas out of order, making it unclear how the students were having trouble. This revision makes the content clear by starting with “In the past” and connecting the subject “some of the kids” with the action “had been having trouble.”
	Option A is incorrect	In this revision, the writer creates confusion with word order and sentence meaning, such as by separating the subject “some of the kids” from the action “had been having trouble.”
	Option C is incorrect	In this revision, adding “They” is redundant and creates confusion between the subject and the predicate.
	Option D is incorrect	This option incorrectly makes “paying attention” the subject of the sentence instead of “some of the kids.”

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Item #	Rationale	
32	Option C is correct	Removing “for” and changing “learning” to “learn” corrects the sentence structure error, making the sentence clear and easy to read.
	Option A is incorrect	The placement of “Then to teach and learn” at the beginning of the sentence interferes with sentence structure and clarity.
	Option B is incorrect	In this revision, adding “it was” is confusing because there is no clear understanding for the pronoun “it.”
	Option D is incorrect	This revision fails to correct the sentence structure error and reverses the subject and predicate, creating an awkward and confusing sentence.

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Item #	Rationale	
33	Option A is correct	Using “classwork” as a replacement gives the sentence clarity because it specifies what it is exactly that the students needed to get away from.
	Option B is incorrect	Replacing the word with “something” does not improve clarity because it is equally unclear; it does not identify what it is the students needed a break from.
	Option C is incorrect	The reader might assume that using “inside” as a replacement is correct, since that is where the students are learning and need to get away from. However, this word creates confusion and does not specify what the students need to get away from.
	Option D is incorrect	Replacing the word with “friendships” makes the sentence irrelevant to Chan’s argument, and there is no evidence to support this idea.

2023 STAAR Grade 3 Reading Rationales

Item #	Rationale	
34	Option D is correct	Since this paragraph is written in present tense, changing “saved” to “saves” corrects when the action took place.
	Option A is incorrect	“Doing chores” functions as a noun and the subject of the sentence. Changing it to the verb “do” would leave this sentence without a subject.
	Option B is incorrect	The word “chores” is not a proper noun, so it does not need to be capitalized.
	Option C is incorrect	These words are homophones, which means they sound the same but have different meanings. Changing “board” to “bored” would alter the sentence meaning and make it incoherent.

2023 STAAR Grade 3 Reading Rationales

Item #	Rationale	
35	Option D is correct	Changing “for” to “of” in sentence 3 adds clarity by correcting the word that shows the relationship between “part” and “a team.”
	Option A is incorrect	Changing the word to “made” would change the action from present to past, creating inconsistency in the paragraph.
	Option B is incorrect	The change creates an error by changing the verb “felt” to past tense when the rest of the sentence and paragraph is written in present tense.
	Option C is incorrect	“They” is the subject of the sentence. Changing it to the object pronoun “them” would be incorrect. It does not show action.

2023 STAAR Grade 3 Reading Rationales

Item #	Rationale	
36	Option A is correct	The word “teachers” is not a proper noun; therefore, it should not need be capitalized.
	Option B is incorrect	This change would create an error, since the rest of the sentence and paragraph is in present tense, and “thought” is in past tense.
	Option C is incorrect	The adjective “easier” would imply a comparison, but the teachers are not comparing jobs; they are observing.
	Option D is incorrect	Changing the end punctuation to a question mark would make the sentence a question, but there is no context for this to be a question.

2023 STAAR Grade 3 Reading Rationales

Item #	Rationale	
37	Option B is correct	Ann used the adverb “neatly” with the adjective “organized” to describe the physical state of the classroom. Because these words describe the noun “classroom,” they should both be adjectives. This change corrects the use of the word and makes it an adjective instead of an adverb.
	Option A is incorrect	This would change the tense of the verb from present to past, creating inconsistency in the paragraph. It would also remove the verb “can,” which would change the meaning.
	Option C is incorrect	Although “buzy” has the same s sound as “busy,” it is not the correct spelling of the word.
	Option D is incorrect	The reader might recognize the same c sound in “skool,” but it is not the correct way to spell “school.”

2023 STAAR Grade 3 Reading Rationales

Item #	Rationale	
38	Option C is correct	In sentence 3, there is reference to only one friend, Emily. Therefore, changing “friends” to “friend” corrects the incorrect use of a plural noun.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing the punctuation to a period would create a statement instead of asking a question.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing the pronoun “her” to “our” would not align with the point of view Fallyn used to write this story.
	Option D is incorrect	Changing “with” to “in” would create confusion within the sentence because people do not do things “in” a smile; they do them “with” a smile.

2023 STAAR Grade 3 Reading Rationales

Item #	Rationale	
39	Option A is correct	Although they sound the same, changing “wobled” to “wobbled” is needed in order to correct the spelling error in the word.
	Option B is incorrect	Adding a comma would create a comma error between the two actions in the sentence. Because there is only one subject, this cannot be a compound sentence and, therefore, would not take a comma.
	Option C is incorrect	Deleting the word “and” would erase the necessary connection between the two actions, creating a run-on sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	The story is written in past tense. Changing “began” to “begins” would change the verb from past tense to present tense.

2023 STAAR Grade 3 Reading Rationales

Item #	Rationale	
40	Option D is correct	Although Fallyn uses “in” to identify the location of Callie’s grin on her face, a grin cannot stretch “in” someone’s face; changing it to “across” clarifies the meaning.
	Option A is incorrect	Fallyn wrote the story using verbs in past tense. This change would create inconsistency in the story.
	Option B is incorrect	Adding the suffix “-er” to the word would imply that there is a comparison, or that Callie had grinned prior to sentence 8, which did not happen.
	Option C is incorrect	Even though the word “stretching” has a silent <i>t</i> in the middle, changing it to “streching” would create a spelling error in the sentence.

2023 STAAR Grade 3 Reading Rationales

Item #	Rationale	
41	Option D is correct	In sentence 9, Fallyn expresses a sudden and strong emotion, not a question; therefore, it should have an exclamation point.
	Option A is incorrect	This creates an error showing when the action took place because “is” would imply the action is occurring in the present time, but Fallyn has written the paragraphs in past tense.
	Option B is incorrect	Changing “finally” to “finly” would create a spelling error in sentence 9.
	Option C is incorrect	This creates an error when the pronoun does not match the noun it was meant to replace. “Herself” refers to Callie, whereas “yourself” would refer to the intended audience.