

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
1	Option A is correct	The word “carefully” is the best choice to complete the sentence. The word “checks” and the phrase “to make sure” support the idea that Vicky must look closely at each egg to be certain that none of the eggs are broken.
	Option B is incorrect	The word “suddenly” in this sentence would mean that Vicky looks at the eggs quickly or without warning. If Vicky checks the eggs suddenly, she might not notice a cracked or broken egg.
	Option C is incorrect	The word “badly” would not be the correct word to use in this sentence because if Vicky checks the eggs badly, she will not make sure the eggs are unbroken.
	Option D is incorrect	Using the word “softly” to complete this sentence would suggest Vicky checked the eggs with a quiet voice. There is no text that suggests Vicky is talking to anyone while she is looking at the eggs.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

Item Position	Rationale	
2	Option B is correct	In this text, the word “exactly” is the most appropriate choice because it supports the fact that school begins at a precise time. Sara uses this exact time to determine when she needs to leave for school in order to arrive on time.
	Option A is incorrect	The phrase “some 8:20 in the morning” does not appropriately tell the time that Sara’s school starts. The word “some” is used to communicate an approximate amount of something and is not used with telling time.
	Option C is incorrect	The word “forward” is generally used to indicate direction. The word does not support the idea that Sara is calculating the time she needs to arrive at school.
	Option D is incorrect	The word “which” before the phrase “8:20 in the morning” would suggest that there is more than one option of 8:20 to choose from. The word “which” cannot be used here to indicate when Sara’s school starts.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
3	Option B is correct	The reader learns that “Margot cannot reach” a particular book on the shelf. This context supports the use of “able” to highlight the difference between Margot and Lucy. Lucy is able to reach the book because she is taller than Margot.
	Option A is incorrect	The word “holding” means that a person has something in hand. The language in this text does not support that one of the girls already has a book in her possession.
	Option C is incorrect	To be “reading” the book, Margot and Lucy would have to have gotten the book down from the shelf already. There is no support in the text for that being completed.
	Option D is incorrect	The word “tries” does not appropriately complete the sentence. The text describes what Lucy and Margot are doing. The word “tries” implies that Lucy wants to get the book but is not successful. However, Lucy is able to reach and get the book because “she is taller than Margot.”

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
4	Option D is correct	The word "speeches" is supported by the phrase "talked to groups of people." The language of the text explains that Sojourner Truth spoke to people about important issues, which best fits the definition for "speeches."
	Option A is incorrect	The word "votes" is not supported by the context of this text. Although Sojourner Truth may have spoken about voting when talking to people, she could not give votes to other people in this manner.
	Option B is incorrect	Libraries are buildings or spaces that hold collections of books and can be a place where people get together to talk. However, there is no support in the text that Sojourner Truth gave libraries to anyone.
	Option C is incorrect	The word "crowds" means a large group of people. Although the text indicates that Sojourner Truth talked to crowds, the expression "she gave crowds" does not fit the context of the sentence.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
5	Option B is correct	The word "choices" best completes the sentence. It supports that Jorge wants to know what options there are in the refrigerator for him to drink.
	Option A is incorrect	The word "new" suggests that Jorge is looking for something recently purchased, but there is no support in the text for the idea that there are new drinks in the refrigerator.
	Option C is incorrect	The word "buy" does not match the context. To buy something means to use money to purchase it. The language of the text makes it clear that Jorge is looking in the refrigerator in his house for a drink that has already been bought. He is not at a store to buy anything.
	Option D is incorrect	Using the word "tries" does not appropriately complete the sentence. There is no context to support the idea that Jorge wants to try a new or different thing that he has not had before.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
6	Option D is correct	The phrase “to the bottom” clearly supports using the word “sinks” to complete the sentence. When something sinks in water, it goes downward through the water toward the bottom. The text explains that this is what the fish food is doing.
	Option A is incorrect	The word “lights” means to give light to something. The fish food is moving to the bottom of the tank, not giving light to the fish.
	Option B is incorrect	The word “cover” means to put a top on something. The fish tank is covered to keep the fish safe, but that does not fit in the context of fish finding food.
	Option C is incorrect	A table is a piece of furniture where people eat or where something is put. The fish tank is on a table, but the language of the text does not support that the food or fish interact with the table.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
7	Option A is correct	The words “contribute” and “donate” have similar meanings, and the context indicates that Javier’s classmates are collecting spare change so that they can “donate money to a good cause.” This strongly supports using the word “contribute” to complete the sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	To misuse something is to not use it well, but the students are described as collecting money for a “good cause.” This option does not match the context in the story, in which the coins collected will be put to good use.
	Option C is incorrect	The word “encourage” means to inspire or cheer for. However, the text is about gathering change. People can be encouraged to do something, but using “encourage” to talk about spare change is not an appropriate way to complete the sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	The word “repeat” means to do something again. The word does not match the context of this text. There is no support in the text for repeating the collection of spare change at Javier’s school.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
8	Option B is correct	To realize something means to know or figure something out. In this context, the verb “realizes” can be used to appropriately describe what happened to Sara after she wakes up and feels cold.
	Option A is incorrect	The word “washes” means to make something clean and does not fit the context of this text. The blankets in Sara’s room are on the floor; they are not getting clean.
	Option C is incorrect	Using the word “piles” does not fit the context of this item. “Piles” means a stack or a heap of things. The text is about Sara figuring out why she feels cold.
	Option D is incorrect	Completing the sentence with “means” suggests that Sara wants or intends her blankets to be on the floor. But in this text, the blankets fell to the floor without Sara knowing about it. She did not mean for this to happen.



**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
9	Option C is correct	The language of the paragraph strongly supports “Animals return” as the text to appropriately complete the empty box in the chart. The text states that in a temperate forest, “some animals migrate to the south for winter and return in the spring.”
	Option A is incorrect	The text informs the reader that leaves drop from the trees “in late fall or early winter.” The leaves do not fall in the spring, according to the text, so this event does not belong in the empty box in the chart.
	Option B is incorrect	The last sentences of the text describe how bears survive cold winters thanks to their heavy fur coats. They do not grow these coats for the warmer spring temperatures, so this event does not fit in the empty box under “Spring.”
	Option D is incorrect	The forests in winter are described in the text as being “cold” and “snowy,” while the spring is described as “mild.” The reader can tell from this that snow does not usually fall during the spring, when the forests become warmer. There is no text to support that snow falls in the spring.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
10	Option C is correct	The text compares how the boy's old and new shoes feel. The word "better" is the correct comparative form of the adjective "good" when comparing two different things. Since the new shoes are not as tight as the old ones, they feel better.
	Option A is incorrect	The word "good" is an adjective, but it is not a comparative adjective. It could be used to describe a single thing, but it cannot be used in this context to compare how the new shoes feel versus the old ones.
	Option B is incorrect	The word "best" is the form of the adjective "good" that can be used when comparing more than two things. However, in this context, only two things are being compared, so this is not the appropriate choice.
	Option D is incorrect	The term "gooder" is an incorrect version of the comparative form of "good" and not a word found in a dictionary. The correct comparative form is the word "better."

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
11	Option D is correct	This sentence is about what a baby snake must do after it hatches from an egg. Only the baby snake and its egg are mentioned here, which supports the idea that the pronoun "itself" is the best way to complete the sentence. The phrase "has to take care of itself" indicates that the baby snake does not get help from any other creature. It helps itself.
	Option A is incorrect	The word "our" is the possessive form of the plural pronoun "we." This does not fit the context of the sentence, which is only about the baby snake and what it must do to survive. There are no other creatures mentioned in the sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	Using the pronoun "it" to complete the sentence would produce a sentence that is not clear. The word "it" could refer to either the snake or the egg, so this would not help the reader understand what the baby snake "has to take care of."
	Option C is incorrect	The word "ourselves" is a form of the first-person plural pronoun "we." It does not match the context of this sentence. A plural pronoun is not appropriate in this sentence because there is only one creature mentioned in the sentence.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
12	In this text about the new addition to Kate’s family, the plural noun “cats” does not match the word “a” or the singular pronoun “Her” in the next sentence. Replacing “cats” with the singular noun “cat” corrects the error in the original sentence.

# TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
13	<b>Part A</b>	
	"where" is an error	This question asks for information about the time at which the students go to art class. The word "Where" is used to ask for a location, not a time. Replacing the word "Where" with the word "What" corrects the error in the original sentence.
	"do" is not an error	The verb "do" is used correctly here to ask when the students perform a certain action: going to class. The word "do" should not be changed.
	"students" is not an error	The noun "students" is used properly in this sentence to indicate who goes to art class. The word "students" should not be changed.
	<b>Part B</b>	
	In this sentence, the speaker asks a question whose answer is a time of day. The appropriate construction for a question asking for a time begins with "What," as in "What time," followed by a verb and then the event being asked about. Replacing the word "Where" in the original sentence with "What" will appropriately ask for the time students go to art class.	

# TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
14	<b>Part A</b>	
	"see" is the error	The present-tense verb "see" is not the right verb form to fit the context of this sentence about what happened this morning.
	"walking" is not an error	The progressive verb "walking" is used correctly in the sentence to indicate what the speaker was doing when the speaker saw the rainbow. The word "walking" should not be changed.
	"this" is not an error	The adjective "this" is used effectively in the phrase "this morning" to state when the speaker saw the rainbow. The word "this" should not be changed.
	<b>Part B</b>	
	The first part of the sentence provides context for the fact that the speaker's viewing of the rainbow happened at an earlier time of the day and that the action is complete. Replacing "see" with the past-tense verb form "saw" corrects the error in the original sentence.	

### TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
15	For information about scoring sentence rewrite items, refer to the grade 3 writing scoring guide available on the <a href="#">TELPAS Released Test Questions</a> webpage.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
16	Option B is correct	The word <u>slick</u> means slippery or easy to slip on. In paragraph 3, the phrases “looked difficult,” “sliding across the ice,” and “couldn’t stop” establish a context that supports the idea that Jaya is worried that she will slip on the ice and either slide into the street or fall down.
	Option A is incorrect	The phrase “hard to see” suggests that Jaya is worried about seeing the ice. Jaya clearly sees the ice that skaters slide across, and she sees that it is easy to slip on that ice. There is no support in the story for the idea that the word <u>slick</u> means hard to see.
	Option C is incorrect	“Shiny and bright” is a phrase that might describe an icy surface on a sunny day, but there is no support for Jaya being concerned about the ice being shiny or bright.
	Option D is incorrect	The language used in the story does not support the idea that the ice is rough or full of holes. Since Jaya is worried about slipping on the slick ice, this answer choice clearly does not give the meaning of the word <u>slick</u> .



**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
17	Option D is correct	Paragraph 1 states clearly that Jaya “heard kids at school talking about winter games and sports. It made Jaya nervous.” Since she does not like to “try new things,” Jaya is afraid at first to try these winter activities.
	Option A is incorrect	The reader learns from paragraph 1 that Jaya has recently moved from far away, where the weather was warmer. But there is no indication that the move is why she is nervous.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no support for the idea that Jaya is nervous because she does not have many friends. The language in paragraph 2 makes it clear that Jaya has at least one new friend, Lizzy. And paragraph 5 refers to Jaya’s “friends” who like winter sports. Instead, she is afraid to try the winter games and sports that her new friends like.
	Option C is incorrect	Paragraph 1 indicates that she is nervous at the beginning of the story because she is scared to try winter games and sports. The story provides no support for the idea that Jaya does not like her new school.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
18	Option D is correct	Paragraphs 4 and 5 indicate that to ice-skate, people must use their feet to push their skates across the ice. Paragraph 4 describes how, at the beginning, Jaya tries to walk across the ice while wearing her skates. This is presented as the reason she falls in paragraph 4.
	Option A is incorrect	Jaya is clearly in the rink when she falls. The third sentence of paragraph 4 states that before Jaya falls, her friend helps Jaya step “into the skating rink.”
	Option B is incorrect	In the second sentence of paragraph 4, Jaya and Lizzy are described as putting on their skates. This happens before they get into the skating rink and Jaya falls.
	Option C is incorrect	Paragraph 4 indicates that Lizzy is near Jaya, not far away, when Jaya falls. The text says that Lizzy “took Jaya’s hand” as they stepped into the skating rink. Lizzy must have been nearby to reach Jaya’s hand.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
19	Option A is correct	The context strongly supports the idea that the word <u>gliding</u> means moving smoothly. The reader discovers in paragraph 5 that Jaya learns to push with her feet so she can move on the ice without falling. As she gets better, she is described as "smiling and gliding across the ice."
	Option B is incorrect	The phrase "falling down" is a better explanation of what happened to Jaya in paragraph 4, when she fell trying to move on the ice. In paragraph 5, she is "smiling and gliding across the ice," which supports that she was happy and not falling.
	Option C is incorrect	The context makes it clear that Jaya is smiling because of how she is now moving smoothly "across the ice," not because of how carefully she is looking at her surroundings.
	Option D is incorrect	A person who is worrying does not usually smile at the same time. Since Jaya is now smiling while she glides, the reader can tell that the word <u>gliding</u> does not mean worrying a lot.

### TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
20	<p>The student response below has been identified by Texas educators as an 8-point (maximum score) response. For additional information, refer to the grade 3 writing scoring guide available on the <a href="#">TELPAS Released Test Questions</a> webpage.</p> <p>One day ,I and my most trusted friend Alan went on a spaceship for that was for free. We hopped on the ship and started the engine. Just when we started the engine, it went blasting out of the earth. Then a small robot asked us that where would you like to go on earth and why. Alan said he had no idea of where to go so he asked me. So I said "I would like to go to Canada to see the gigantic mountains and the crystal and beautiful waters and even swimming in there. We instantly teleported there on a mountain peak and saw the beautiful lakes and mountains under our feet. Alan was so shocked that he just ran off the mountain and aimed at the lake. "Splash!"I saw Alan in the water smiling and having fun so I also jumped in the water and had fun all day.</p>

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
21	Option C is correct	Paragraph 2 explains that astronauts in space begin to miss things they enjoyed on Earth. In particular, “they often dream about eating fresh food from a garden.” This context clearly supports the idea that growing food in space is important because it provides astronauts with something they miss from home.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no evidence in the selection to support the claim that growing food in space enables astronauts to return to Earth sooner.
	Option B is incorrect	Paragraphs 3 through 5 describe how the astronauts use tools included in the Veggie container. However, learning to use these tools is not the main purpose of the project. The goal is for the astronauts to enjoy fresh foods they cannot take with them into space.
	Option D is incorrect	This selection does not support the idea that astronauts grow food in space so that they can stay busy. Paragraph 2 makes it clear that the importance of space gardens is to provide the astronauts with some of the fresh vegetables they can’t get “out of tubes and cans.”

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
22	Option C is correct	Paragraphs 3 through 5 describe how the pillows in Veggie containers enabled the astronauts to grow lettuce in space. The pillows were “stuffed with soil, plant food, and seeds” for the new space gardens.
	Option A is incorrect	The selection does not indicate that these pillows enabled the astronauts to sleep better. This is a different use of the word “pillows” and does not refer to the things that people lay their head on when they sleep. Paragraph 3 says that the pillows held “soil, plant food, and seeds.”
	Option B is incorrect	Paragraph 3 states that the lights, like the little pillows, were in the Veggie container. There is no support for the idea that the pillows were included to protect the lights. Instead, the text says that they held the “soil, plant food, and seeds.”
	Option D is incorrect	The language in paragraph 6 makes it clear that the astronauts had to send the first lettuce they grew back to Earth so it could be tested for safety. The pillows with seeds inside them were not provided to check the safety of the lettuce.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
23	Option B is correct	The quotations from the astronauts in paragraph 7 give support for the reader to conclude that the astronauts very much enjoy eating the lettuce. Their comments include “awesome” and “tastes so good.”
	Option A is incorrect	The idea that the astronauts do not like to conduct experiments on the space station is not supported by the language from this selection. Paragraph 5 suggests that the astronauts were excited and worked carefully to conduct the Veggie experiment. Paragraph 8 indicates that they now “want to grow other types of plants on the ISS.”
	Option C is incorrect	The selection does not support the claim that the astronauts prefer to live in space. Paragraph 2 states that living in space is “exciting” at first, but the astronauts eventually start to miss their life back on Earth.
	Option D is incorrect	Although paragraph 8 informs the reader that astronauts “want to grow other types of plants” in the future, the selection does not support the idea that they would prefer to grow broccoli rather than lettuce.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
24	Option C is correct	Paragraph 6 supports the idea that the astronauts had to send the first lettuce they grew back to Earth so scientists could “make sure this space lettuce was safe to eat.” Once the scientists back home had tested the lettuce for safety, the astronauts were allowed to grow and eat “another batch.”
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 4, the reader learns that vegetables grown in space sometimes have unusual colors. This is the reason green lights were included in the Veggie container. There is no text to support that the color of the lettuce was the reason it had to be sent back to Earth. The reason for sending it to “scientists on the ground” is made clear in paragraph 6.
	Option B is incorrect	Paragraphs 3 and 4 indicate that the lettuce was grown under “red, blue, and green lights.” However, this is not given as the reason the first lettuce had to be sent to Earth.
	Option D is incorrect	Paragraph 6 makes it clear that the first lettuce could not be made into a salad until it had been checked for safety back on the ground. It was not sent back so it could be made into a salad.



**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

Item Position	Rationale	
25	Option D is correct	The language in paragraph 6 supports the conclusion that any new type of vegetable grown in space will also have to be tested to make sure that it can be safely eaten. It is clear from this portion of the text that the scientists and astronauts are very careful to check the results of their experiments when growing food on the ISS.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no reason presented in the selection to support the idea that the red and blue lights will not work when other vegetables are grown in space.
	Option B is incorrect	Broccoli is mentioned in paragraph 2 as one of the foods that astronauts miss while they are in space. However, no evidence is given there or in paragraph 8 to support the idea that broccoli is the vegetable that will probably be grown next.
	Option C is incorrect	Nothing in the language of the selection suggests that there will not be enough water for growing other types of vegetables on the ISS. There is no support to be found for this answer choice.

### TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
26	<p>The student response below has been identified by Texas educators as an 8-point (maximum score) response. For additional information, refer to the grade 3 writing scoring guide available on the <a href="#">TELPAS Released Test Questions</a> webpage.</p> <p>There was this boy and his dad walking around a store with toys, the boy saw a toy that he really wanted and he asked his dad. His dad said "im very sorry but i dont have money." The boy got sad and he said "oh its okay dad." One week passed and it was the boys birthday. His dad and his mom had a gift for the boy. The boy opened it and saw the toy that he really wanted at the toy store. The boy said "Thank you so much mom and dad!" And the parents said "your welcome!" The boy loved the toy so much.</p>

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
27	Option D is correct	In the last sentence of the story, Gary says to his sister, "It looks like you need a bath too, Casey!" The phrase "looks like" supports the idea that the word <u>inspected</u> means to have looked at something or someone. When Gary inspects his sister's hair and clothes, he sees that they are wet and messy.
	Option A is incorrect	The word "washed" means to have made something clean. This word does not match the actions described in paragraph 8. Gary does not wash Casey's hair in the story.
	Option B is incorrect	The phrase "carried away" describes the action of picking something up and bringing it to a new place. There is no support in the text for the reader to conclude that Gary brought Casey's hair and clothes to a different place.
	Option C is incorrect	The word "wore" is the past tense of wear, such as to wear clothes. The text of the story does not support the idea that Gary "wore" Casey's wet hair and clothes.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
28	Option C is correct	The language of paragraph 2 supports the idea that Pepper thought he and Casey were playing. Paragraph 2 describes what happens when Casey turns on the hose. Her dog Pepper “thought she wanted to play a game” and “chased the water.”
	Option A is incorrect	According to paragraph 4, Pepper sits down and won’t move when Casey tries to get him to walk to the storage closet. This event does not happen when Casey turns on the hose.
	Option B is incorrect	Pepper runs to the garden and rolls in the dirt after Casey bathes him. This event is described in paragraph 7. It occurs long after Casey turns on the hose.
	Option D is incorrect	Casey is soaked with water when the bath is over and Pepper shakes himself. This action is described in paragraph 6 of the story, not when Casey first turns on the water.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
29	Option C is correct	This sentence from paragraph 6 shows that Casey should have brought out some towels, since both she and Pepper got very wet. She then thinks that next time, she will "have some towels ready."
	Option A is incorrect	When Pepper chases the water from the hose, he has not yet been bathed, and Casey does not need to dry him. The sentence from paragraph 2 does not indicate that Casey should have brought towels.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 3, Casey is described as spraying Pepper with one hand while holding him with her other hand. She does not yet realize that she should have had towels ready for drying her dog.
	Option D is incorrect	This sentence from paragraph 8 shows how Gary reacts when he sees the wet, dirty dog lying in the garden. The sentence does not support the idea that Casey should have brought towels outside.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
30	Option A is correct	The language and structure of the story strongly support the conclusion that Casey learns from trying new things. Paragraph 2 supports the idea that Casey has “never given Pepper a bath before.” At the end of paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7, she thinks about how she will do better the next time she bathes Pepper. She is learning from her mistakes as she does something new.
	Option B is incorrect	The idea that Casey loves working with all animals is not supported by the text. The story informs the reader only about Casey’s attempt to bathe Pepper.
	Option C is incorrect	The story describes Casey as she attempts a new and challenging task. Paragraph 2 states that Casey has never bathed Pepper before, providing support for the idea that she is not afraid to try new things on her own.
	Option D is incorrect	It is not clear from the language of the story whether Casey really enjoys being outside. There is no text in the story that supports this idea or provides the reader with information about other things Casey enjoys doing outside.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

Item Position	Rationale	
31	Option A is correct	The language in paragraph 4 gives evidence that the word <u>budge</u> has the same meaning as “move.” Casey wanted Pepper to walk with her to get the shampoo she needed, “but Pepper sat down and refused.” This context indicates that in refusing to budge, the dog was refusing to move.
	Option B is incorrect	The word “stay” in this story means to remain in a place and not move. It is clear in this context that Pepper is refusing to go with Casey. The word <u>budge</u> cannot have the same meaning as the word “stay.”
	Option C is incorrect	When Casey is trying to walk to the storage closet, she does not want Pepper to play. She wants him to move toward the closet with her. When Pepper “refused to budge,” he was not refusing to play.
	Option D is incorrect	The word “bark” is the word used to describe the sound a dog makes. There is no support for the idea that the word <u>budge</u> has anything to do with barking. In paragraph 4, Pepper is refusing to move from where he is sitting. Casey is not trying to get him to bark.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
32	Option D is correct	Casey’s thoughts in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 all make it clear that she will plan ahead the next time she bathes Pepper. Her thoughts at the end of each of those paragraphs are about how she can be better prepared for his next bath.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 7, Casey realizes that it will be better if she bathes Pepper “in the bathtub inside.” The text does not support the idea that she will bathe him in the backyard next time.
	Option B is incorrect	In this story, there is no support for the idea that Casey will teach Pepper to sit and stay. Teaching Pepper to sit and stay might be helpful when Casey bathes him again, but this is not one of the ways Casey decides to be better prepared for the next bath.
	Option C is incorrect	The most important lessons Casey learns in the story are about how she should plan and prepare for the next bath by having everything she needs. While Casey sees Gary give Pepper a treat to get the dog to come to him in paragraph 8, treats are not described as being one of the things she will need.



**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

Item Position	Rationale
33	<p>The student response below has been identified by Texas educators as an 8-point (maximum score) response. For additional information, refer to the grade 3 writing scoring guide available on the <a href="#">TELPAS Released Test Questions</a> webpage.</p> <p>I see that grass gets eaten by a grasshopper and jumps around agillily before getting eaten by a frog that streches out its tounge and laches on, getting eaten by a snake that radicates the frog by suprise and swallows the frog whole.</p> <p>If there were no grasshoppers, grass would nourish and live for a very long time and adapt to the similarities and no longer produce for the grasshopper. The frog would go extinct and some frogs would eat other animals and adapt to the other animals being eaten, then the snake would die because many frogs are dying on this time, so they could die out for a long time.</p> <p>You can put rats and some others insects to eat the grass and put ants as a diet for the grasshoppper aswell, include the snake being eaten by cow and cow being eaten by human.</p> <p>Most animals survive off of grass in this food cycle and depend on grasshopper to eat thes grass so the frog can eat the grasshopper and so on with the snake eating the frog and the snake fertilising the grass to live and so on.</p>

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

Item Position	Rationale	
34	Option "Oak is knocked over." is correct	In paragraph 14, the reader learns that after the storm comes through, Oak "lay broken on the ground where the wind had left it." The effect of the storm is that mighty Oak is knocked over.
	Option "Oak brags to Reed." is incorrect	Oak brags to Reed in paragraphs 6 and 8. This takes place before the storm comes through the forest, so it is not the effect of the big storm coming through the forest.
	Option "Oak grows strong roots." is incorrect	Oak brags about its strong roots in paragraph 6, so it already has roots with that characteristic before the storm occurs. The storm and its winds do not cause Oak to grow strong roots.
	Option "Oak protects many birds." is incorrect	In paragraph 8, Oak calls to Reed's attention the many birds who are safe on Oak's branches. However, this is true before the storm comes through and knocks Oak down, so it is not an effect of the storm.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
35	Option C is correct	The fictional nonhuman characters in this story and the way Reed disagrees with Oak's opinions about Reed's actions help the reader conclude that the author wrote the story to teach a lesson about life: sometimes being flexible and bending under pressure is better than being rigid and breaking instead.
	Option A is incorrect	Nothing in the story indicates that it describes something funny that really happened. Oak and Reed see and talk to each other in the story, which the reader knows is not possible, and there is nothing in the text to support the conclusion that the story is funny.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no support for the idea that the author wrote the story to tell about the plants living in a particular forest. If these characters were truly plants in a forest, they would not be able to communicate as they do in the story.
	Option D is incorrect	The tone and content of the story give no support to the idea that the author is explaining the history of any real forest. The story is clearly a work of fiction that the author wrote to convey a lesson about being flexible and humble versus being strong and proud.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
36	Option D is correct	In paragraph 14, Reed is described as seeing that Oak “lay broken on the ground” next to the hole where its roots had been. This is the last major event that happens in the story.
	Option A is incorrect	Although Oak brags about its roots in paragraph 6, Reed is never described as thinking that it too should grow big, strong roots. Instead, Reed replies in paragraph 7 by saying, “I am happy the way I am.”
	Option B is incorrect	Paragraphs 4 through 10 describe how Reed listens as Oak gives the smaller plant advice. But this occurs before the storm moves through the forest and knocks Oak over, so it is not the last event in the story.
	Option C is incorrect	Reed hears many loud noises during the night while the storm blows through the forest, as described in paragraph 13. At this point in the story, Reed is not yet able to see what happened to Oak. Reed eventually does discover Oak’s fate, so this answer choice does not indicate the story’s last event.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
37	Option A is correct	The language in paragraphs 1 and 2 is mostly aimed at telling the reader how big, strong, and mighty Oak appears to be. These paragraphs provide descriptions of Oak's "thick branches," its "cool green leaves," and its "thick, round trunk."
	Option B is incorrect	The story provides no information about how Oak treats its neighbor Reed until paragraph 3. There is no support for this idea in paragraphs 1 and 2.
	Option C is incorrect	Paragraph 1 makes it clear that Oak is located in a "great forest," but there is no description in either paragraph 1 or 2 of where the forest itself is found.
	Option D is incorrect	Only in paragraph 7 does the reader begin to learn how Reed feels about itself. There is no text to support this idea in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the story.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
38	Option C is correct	The reader can conclude from Reed’s responses that Reed is polite in its interactions with Oak. In paragraph 7, Reed thanks Oak for its advice. Reed also respectfully acknowledges Oak’s strength.
	Option A is incorrect	Reed is described in paragraph 7 as replying “thoughtfully” to Oak. It also says, “I am happy the way I am.” This context does not support the idea that Reed is excited by what has been said. Reed seems to be calm and satisfied with its situation.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 7, Reed tells Oak, “I believe I am safer than you are.” There is no support in paragraph 7 that Reed is fearful or afraid.
	Option D is incorrect	Throughout the story, Reed does not seem to be surprised or bothered by what happens. There is nothing in the text that supports the idea that Reed is surprised in paragraph 7.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
39	Option B is correct	The selection introduces the reader to Zaila, who has done many difficult things. They include winning the national spelling bee, setting world records with basketballs, and learning to divide large numbers in her head. These details from the text make it clear that Zaila enjoys trying to do hard things.
	Option A is incorrect	The first two paragraphs focus on spelling bees and how Zaila won a spelling bee in 2014. In this story, the word “bee” is used to describe a contest, not the insect. There is no support in the selection for the idea that Zaila knows a lot about bees.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no information in the selection to help the reader conclude how Zaila feels when she meets new people. The reader cannot conclude from the text that she is shy.
	Option D is incorrect	Since Zaila is described as having tried and accomplished so many things in her life, the reader can tell that she enjoys new challenges. Paragraph 4 states that Zaila wants to set “even more world records than she already has.”

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
40	Option A is correct	Paragraph 3 says that Zaila “loves to play basketball” and that she has broken “several world records for dribbling basketballs.” Paragraph 4 adds that she wants to become “a professional basketball player.” Clearly, playing basketball is something that she likes to do.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no evidence in the selection that Zaila likes to watch contests on TV. Paragraph 2 informs the reader that people watched Zaila on TV when she won the spelling bee but does not support the idea that Zaila watches contests.
	Option C is incorrect	Climbing trees is not mentioned in the selection, so there is no support for the idea that Zaila likes to climb trees.
	Option D is incorrect	The reader learns in paragraph 4 that Zaila enjoys reading. However, there is no evidence in this paragraph that suggests she likes to read about world records. The selection provides no text to support a conclusion about what Zaila likes to read.



**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
41	Option C is correct	Paragraph 4 includes the sentence "Zaila believes that she can achieve her goals with hard work." Then the author adds this encouragement: "Zaila, you can do it!" These words provide a clear indication that the author believes that Zaila will set and achieve new goals.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 3, the author states that "Zaila is a super speller." Since the author also expresses confidence in paragraph 4 about Zaila's talent and hard work, the selection does not show any doubt about Zaila being able to win another spelling bee if she chooses to compete.
	Option B is incorrect	In the selection, the author gives attention to several of Zaila's accomplishments and does not suggest that some are more important than others. There is no support in the text for this answer choice.
	Option D is incorrect	The author describes Zaila as a "star athlete" in paragraph 3 who practices her skills for hours each day, as indicated in paragraph 4. The description of Zaila's practice schedule does not support the conclusion that the author thinks setting a world record is so easy that anyone can do it.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
42	Option D is correct	Details about Zaila’s preparation for the spelling bee are given in paragraph 4. The text says that “she practiced spelling about 13,000 words each day,” sometimes working for seven hours a day. Zaila’s practice must have included spelling unusual and difficult words, because the text in paragraph 2 supports the conclusion that Zaila was familiar with the word “murraya,” which is both an unusual and difficult word to spell, when she won the spelling bee.
	Option A is incorrect	Zaila did spell words on TV, according to information included in paragraph 2. However, this occurred while she was competing in the national spelling bee. It does not describe the way she got ready for the bee.
	Option B is incorrect	Paragraph 4 provides support for the fact that Zaila has learned this difficult mathematical skill but does not support the idea that she worked on her math and spelling skills simultaneously or that one skill affected the other.
	Option C is incorrect	Paragraph 3 presents information about Zaila’s world records dribbling multiple basketballs but does not support the idea that this activity had anything to do with preparing her for the spelling bee.

**TELPAS Spring 2025 Grade 3 Reading and Writing Rationales**

<b>Item Position</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	
43	Option A is correct	The selection is focused on Zaila’s hard work, her many achievements, and her goals. It is the author’s aim to share these facts about Zaila with the reader.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the selection does present some facts about how Zaila prepared for the spelling bee, the author did not write the text to explain how to prepare. The author also includes a great deal of information about the spelling bee itself and about Zaila’s other activities and accomplishments.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no context to support the idea that the author wrote the selection to make others want to set world records. Instead, the author shares information about one special young woman and her many different achievements.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no language in the selection that instructs anyone on how to dribble a basketball, so this answer choice does not give a likely reason that the author wrote this selection.