

STUDENT NAME _____



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness

GRADE 8
Reading Language Arts
STAAR Alternate 2

Administered April 2023

RELEASED

READING LANGUAGE ARTS

Electric Bicycles



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People who want to ride a bicycle but do not have the muscle strength or the physical conditioning can now ride an electric bicycle, also known as an e-bike.



E-bikes can reach the same speed as a traditional bike. The difference is that e-bikes have a rechargeable electric motor that provides help for riders with the push of a button.

2b



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3a



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3a

People are buying e-bikes for commuting to and from work and for other short trips. One type of e-bike has a small electric motor that can be turned on only when the rider is pedaling. The other type has a motor that will power the bicycle when the rider is not pedaling.

Although an e-bike is less expensive than a car, it still costs more than a traditional bicycle. However, there is no cost of gasoline, and parking is usually free for bicycles. E-bikes also provide people who are not able to ride a traditional bicycle for long distances the opportunity to exercise and be outdoors.

There are two different types of e-bikes with small electric motors.

E-bikes do not need gasoline, and parking is usually free.

E-bikes cost more than a traditional bicycle.

4a



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4a

Electric bicycles, or e-bikes, are more affordable than a car, are easier to learn to ride than a traditional bicycle, and are an option for people with physical restrictions.

Large cities, small towns, communities, and bicycle shops will often organize bicycle rides with stops along the way. E-bikes make it possible for people to participate in group bicycle rides regardless of their athletic abilities. Cyclists on traditional bicycles and e-bikes are encouraged to join the group rides to see new sites, make new friends, and enjoy recreation time outdoors.

People with physical restrictions can ride e-bikes on organized group rides.

People on organized group rides can see new sites and make new friends.

People on e-bikes can now afford to join the organized group rides.

When Old is Solid Gold



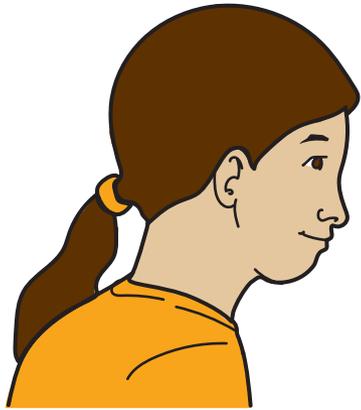
Jared and Gabby are watching as the neighbors from their apartment complex set up for a yard sale.



Mr. Allred is about the age of Jared and Gabby's grandparents. He has lived in the apartment complex as long as they have, but other than saying hello when they pass, the twins have never spoken to him.

Watching from the window, Jared and Gabby see Mr. Allred struggling to carry a large cardboard box.

"He needs help," Jared says, "and we've got nothing better to do."



Gabby



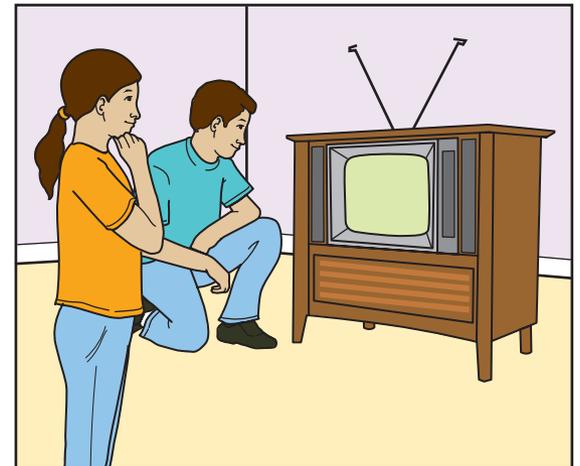
Mr. Allred

Soon, the twins are standing at Mr. Allred's door, introducing themselves. "How can we help you get ready for the yard sale?" Gabby asks.

"I could use help moving a TV out of my apartment," Mr. Allred says with a smile.

"That's a television?" Jared asks, pointing to a wooden piece of furniture that looks more like a rectangular coffee table, only taller.

"Not just a television, but a stereo too," Mr. Allred answers. He shows them how a panel slides open on the top to reveal a turntable for playing vinyl records. "A little different than a flat screen, isn't it?"



7a

“Yes, but it’s cool!” Jared exclaims.

Then Mr. Allred tells Gabby and Jared about being in high school and watching the moon landing on this old black-and-white television that his parents had bought new in the 1960s.

Jared pulls an old rotary telephone out of a cardboard box.

"I've heard about these, but I've never seen one," Jared tells Mr. Allred as he lifts the receiver to his ear.

Mr. Allred shows them how to work the phone by putting his index finger in the opening of the dial and turning the wheel clockwise until his finger reaches the stop and then pulling his finger from the hole. "It may be an old way of communicating, but we still say we 'dial' a telephone."

"It made great phone calls, but it would have been a little bit hard to text with it," Mr. Allred adds.



"I could use help moving a TV out of my apartment," Mr. Allred says with a smile.

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"It made great phone calls, but it would have been a little bit hard to text with it," Mr. Allred adds.

Gabby continues to look through the cardboard box and pulls out a red rectangular plastic item. She has no idea what it is.

Mr. Allred takes it from Gabby, and his eyes seem to get a faraway look in them.



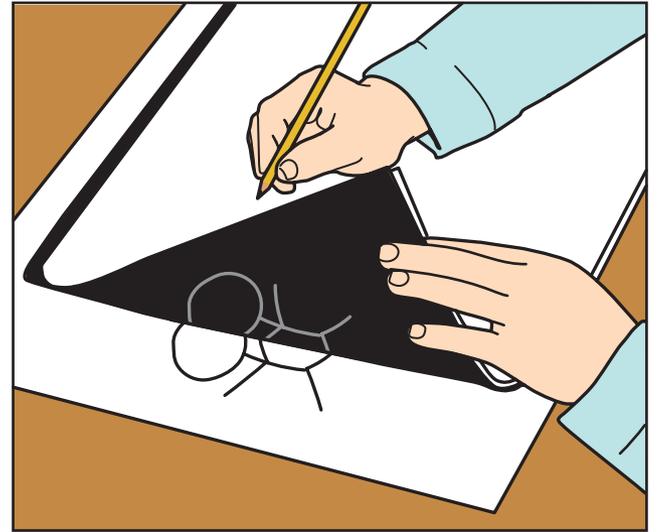
"I got this for my 13th birthday," he says.

"So, what is that thing?" Gabby asks.

"This is a transistor radio," Mr. Allred explains. "These came out in the 1950s for adults, but teenagers quickly made them very popular because they liked them for listening to music. This little radio caused rock and roll to take off!"

Next, Jared picks up a box filled with what looks like black pages of paper. He takes out the top sheet and notices that it feels waxy on the side that is darker than the other.

"You guys send emails, don't you?" Mr. Allred asks. Jared and Gabby wonder if Mr. Allred ever emails anyone . . . or knows how to do so.

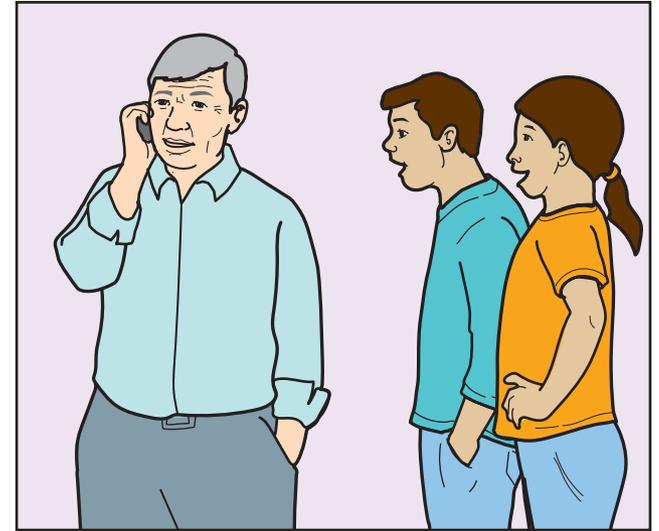


"Do you ever 'cc' anyone or 'bcc' them?" he asks. "Did you know that stands for 'carbon copy' or 'blind carbon copy'? Ever wonder what that means, exactly?"

He holds up a sheet of the paper and explains, "You put this between two sheets of typing paper. When a typewriter strikes the top sheet of paper, the carbon paper makes an impression on the second sheet of paper. Before computers, printers, and copy machines, this is how we made copies," he tells them.

"Why are you selling all of these treasures?" Gabby asks.

"I need the room," he tells them as something in his pocket makes a chirping sound, "because I'm getting married, and that's her now!" He pulls out his cell phone and answers it.



Gabby and Jared listen to Mr. Allred talk to his bride-to-be about their honeymoon. When he finishes the call, Gabby picks up the transistor radio, and Jared picks up the telephone to buy from their neighbor.

Mr. Allred thanks them for their business. Gabby and Jared congratulate Mr. Allred on his upcoming wedding and leave, amazed how something that is old could be considered solid gold.

Mr. Allred listened to rock and roll music on his transistor radio when he was 13.

Mr. Allred knows what "cc" and "bcc" stand for in an email.

Mr. Allred is selling old treasures that the twins did not know about.

Hedgehogs hibernate.



© Coatesy/Shutterstock.com

Hedgehogs hibernate during the winter.

10a



© Geza Farkas/Shutterstock.com

This dormouse eats as much as it can to
before hibernating.

up

fatter

fatten



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Instead of hibernating during the cold winter months, some animals survive the hot, dry weather by sleeping through the summer. This is called estivation.



Some Nile crocodiles dig holes to retreat from the hot sun and estivate for several weeks until the rains return.

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Hibernation may be the way for astronauts to land on Mars by 2035. Long-distance space flights become more possible if an astronaut's metabolic rate can be lowered, which would then lower the heart rate. This is like what happens in nature when large hibernating animals such as bears hibernate. The astronauts would still need food and supplies. If all the astronauts were awake for the seven months scientists estimate it will take to travel to Mars, even more food and supplies would be needed. Until recently, this concept was only seen in movies and on television shows.

12a



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Some historians believe that the first pizza was bread.



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Some historians believe that the first pizza was flatbread topped with olive oil and herbs.



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Margherita pizza got its name in 1889 when Queen Margherita visited naples, italy. She was served pizza with tomatoes, mozzarella, and basil—toppings that matched the red, white, and green of the Italian flag.

Naples, Italy

naples, Italy



Lombardi's opened in New York City in 1905. The pizza was wrapped. Lombardi's has been recognized by the Pizza Hall of Fame as the first pizzeria in the United States.

The pizza was wrapped and wrapped with a string.

The pizza was wrapped and the pizza was wrapped.

The pizza was wrapped in paper and tied with a string.

Today you can find people eating pizza all over the world. Some people like pizza topped with bananas. Pizza was served at the World's Fair in New York City. Some people like sardines on their pizza. And, in some countries, you can find people eating pizza topped with crocodile meat.



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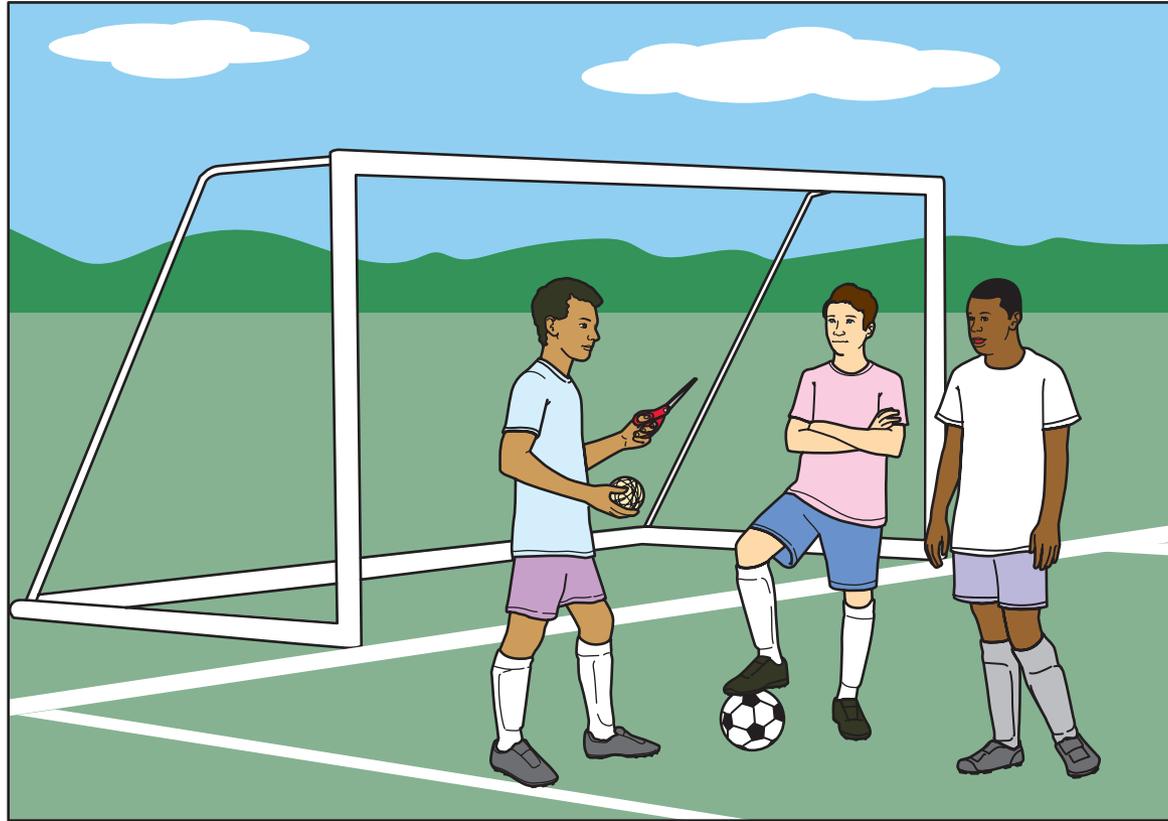
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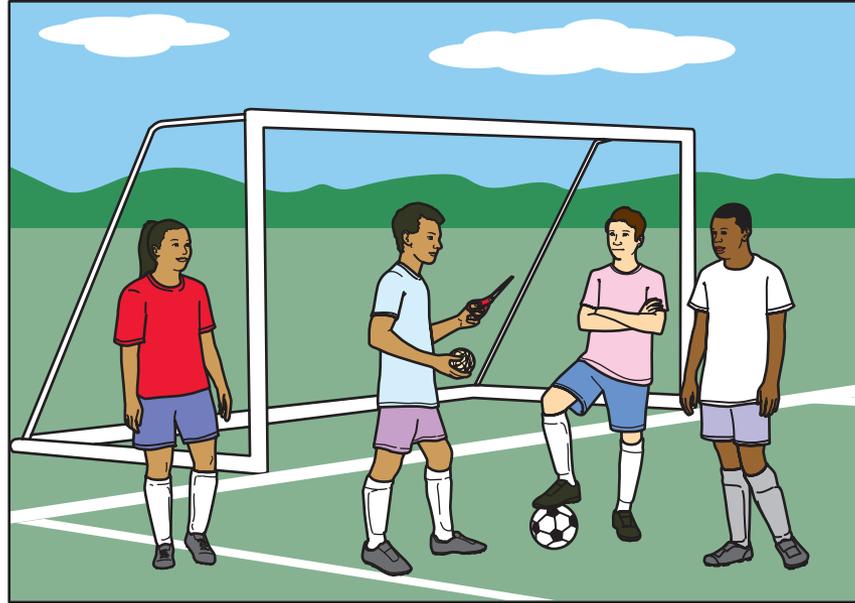
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All Tied Up



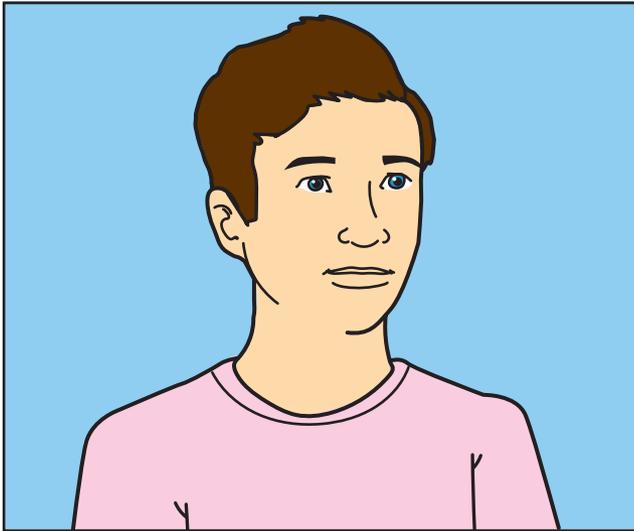
As Michael walks up to meet his friends at the soccer field, one of the boys points to the soccer goal and says, "Somebody must have cut the net off. I brought scissors and twine to try and replace it."



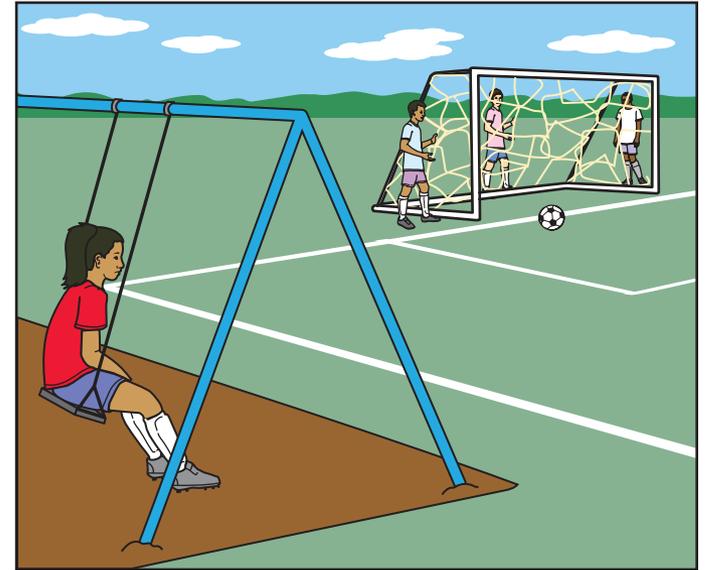
"I can help make a new net," a girl says as she walks up to the group of boys, "because I'm really good at tying knots."

Michael looks up and sees his next-door neighbor Angela standing there in her soccer cleats, as if she expects to play. "We can tie knots," he tells her. "Most of us are Boy Scouts, you know, and we're three years older than you are."

18b



Angela shrugs her shoulders and goes over to a swing on the playground, where she watches the boys struggle to create a net with the twine and scissors. When the boys finally step back to inspect their handiwork, the openings in the "net" look more like trapezoids and triangles than squares. Angela can't help but laugh to herself.

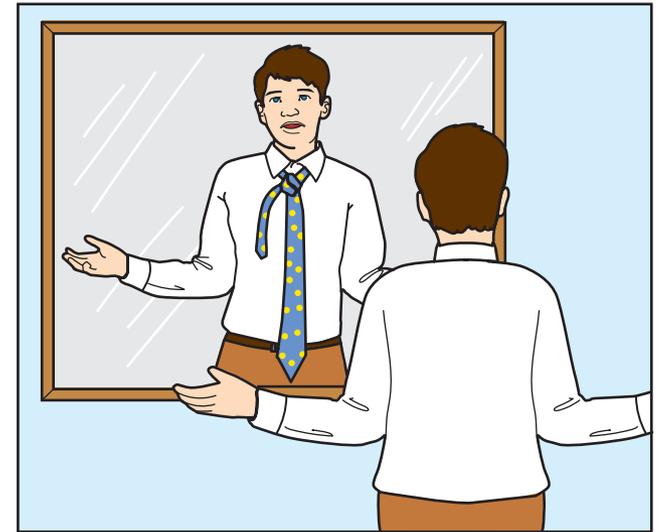


After the soccer game, Michael hurries home to get ready for the orchestra concert he is attending downtown. His mother had to leave early because she plays in the orchestra. But Michael knows how to take the bus. His mother left strict instructions about what he should wear to the concert: dress slacks, a long-sleeved, button-down shirt, his dress shoes with socks, and a necktie.



Michael showers and puts on his shirt, slacks, and socks. He picks up his necktie and panics. He has no idea how to tie it. The few times he had needed to wear a tie in the past, his mother had been there to tie it for him.

He looks at the clock and realizes that his mother won't be able to help by the time he gets to the concert. Every time he tries, the necktie ends up with the skinny end longer than the fatter end, or the knot around his neck looks like a lopsided rock.



As he puts on his dress shoes, Michael has an idea. Mr. Garcia, who lives next door, wears a necktie to work every day. Surely he will help.

Michael is not sure how to get downtown on the bus.

Michael does not know how to tie the necktie.

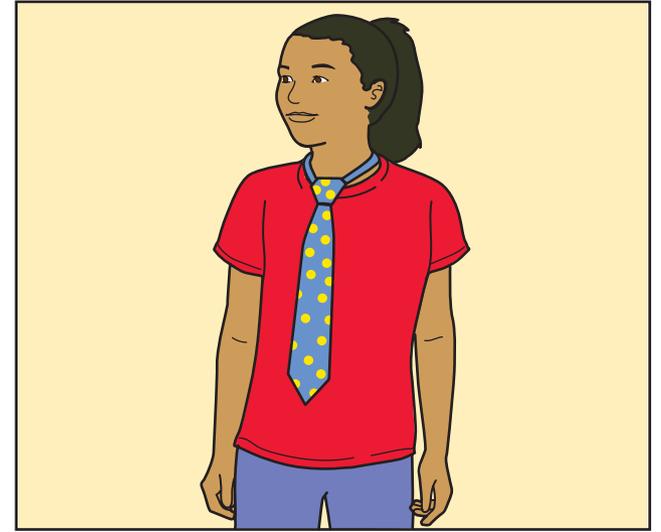
Michael realizes he is going to be late for the concert.

Michael knocks on the Garcias' door, and when Angela opens it, his eyes look past her, looking for her father. "Is your dad here? I need help tying my tie," he says as he holds out his tie that is now all twisted and wrinkled.

"He went to the store," Angela says. "I can do it," she adds.



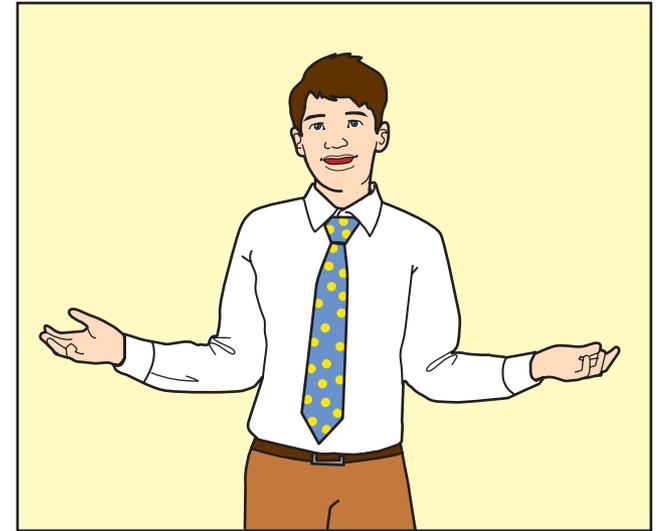
Michael stares at her. "I told you, I'm good with knots," Angela says as she takes the tie from Michael and loops it over her neck. She quickly ties a perfect knot. Then she loosens the tie, slips the tie over her head, and hands it to Michael.



He puts the tie over his head, tucks it under his collar, and buttons the top button of his shirt. The tie is the perfect length.

"Thanks a lot," he says to Angela. "We're playing soccer again tomorrow at noon. Would you like to join us?"

"Sure," she says with a grin, "but only if you let me fix the net first!"



Michael realizes that Angela is a good soccer player and can score goals for the team.

Michael realizes that Angela knows how to tie a necktie as well as her father can.

Michael realizes that Angela can do things he thought only boys are able to do.



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