

2019 STAAR Grade 5 Reading Rationales

1	Option B is correct	Mom tries to please both boys. She suggests that Kirk would be more comfortable alone in a room he is familiar with and that the narrator should be the one to move. Then, she considers the narrator’s idea that Kirk might be willing to move if the office were decorated with something he likes, such as trains.
	please o5Ag Tm#	
		_____
		_____
		_____
		_____

2019 STAAR Grade 5 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
3	Option D is correct	Key events from paragraphs through 19 are presented in this summary. The sentences include the narrator's notes, the main conflict of wanting his own room, the death the narrator discusses with his mother to resolve the conflict, and Kirk's reaction to the death of moving into the office.
	Option A is incorrect	Kirk's reaction to the death of moving into the office is not included in this summary, making it incomplete.
	Option B is incorrect	The main conflict of the narrator wanting his own room and Kirk's refusal to move are not included in this summary, making it incomplete.
	Option C is incorrect	The narrator's discussion with his mother about moving, Kirk's new room, and Kirk's reaction to that plan are not included in this summary.
4	Option C is correct	The narrator recognizes that offering explanations does not solve problems. He sees the utility in using reason and doubt that will lead to getting his brother to move to the office.
	Option F is incorrect	Mom and Dad's actions do not support the idea that they do not understand why the narrator wants his own room.
	Option H is incorrect	The narrator sees that his parents plan to reason with his brother because his brother is being stubborn, not because he is young and does not understand that he should move to a new room.
	Option J is incorrect	There is no mention of the narrator's friends or their problems in the story.

2019 STAAR Grade 5 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
5	Option D is correct	In paragraph 34, the narrator explains that he tried to convince Kirk there was buried treasure in the office and nonsters in the bedroom. The narrator says he gave the narrator a stern lecture about putting ideas in his brother's head, indicating that Dad was unhappy with the narrator for trying to scare Kirk.
	Option A is incorrect	Kirk decides he might enjoy having a room soon after his conversation with his mother, not the narrator.
	Option B is incorrect	The narrator continues to want his room throughout the story and never expresses the opinion that there are advantages to sharing a room with Kirk.
	Option C is incorrect	Kirk does not get excited about moving into the office. He becomes scared of the pretend monsters in the closed and unlit parents' room after his conversation with the narrator.
6	Option F is correct	Both the narrator and Kirk are determined to get what they want. The narrator is determined to get his room by having Kirk move out of their room and into the office. Kirk is determined to stay in their current room.
	Option G is incorrect	The narrator does not necessarily enjoy sharing stories about hidden treasures. He only tells Kirk the story because the narrator is determined to get Kirk to move into the office. Kirk listens to a story about hidden treasures but does not share one.
	Option H is incorrect	Mom and Dad listen to both boys and try to be fair. Neither the narrator nor Kirk thinks he is being misunderstood.
	Option I is incorrect	The narrator tries to trick Kirk into moving into the office but clearly not the best way to trick him because Kirk does not agree to move. Also, Kirk does not try to trick the narrator.

2019 STAAR Grade 5 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
7	Option A correct	With the <del>Latin</del> origin and context in paragraph 5, the reader can determine that <del>the</del> <del>meaning</del> <del>verified</del> . By studying images of koalas, the scientists were able to conclude <del>is</del> <del>that</del> <del>the</del> <del>tree</del> <del>help</del> <del>them</del> <del>keep</del> <del>cool</del> .
	Option B incorrect	Scientists compared different temperatures, but this context does not help the reader understand the <del>meaning</del> <del>verified</del> , or <del>this</del> <del>meaning</del> supported by the origin information.
	Option C incorrect	Scientists observed the koalas, but they used the images to confirm what they were witnessing. Also, this meaning is not supported by the origin information.
	Option D incorrect	Scientists might have suspected that koalas suggest keep cool, but they used the images as proof.
8	Option C correct	This is the most complete summary of the article. The main inquiry about koala tree-hugging behavior is stated, the method used to study the koalas is described, and the outcome and conclusion of the study are included.
	Option F incorrect	This summary is incomplete. Information about koalas is stated, but the main purpose of the article, to explain why koalas suggest, is not included.
	Option H incorrect	This summary is incomplete. The method used by scientists to study koalas is described, but the reason for studying them and the results of the study are not included.
	Option J incorrect	This summary is incomplete because the way in which koalas survive the heat, which is the main point of the article, is not included.

2019 STAAR Grade 5 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
9	Option D is correct	This idea is found throughout the article. In paragraph 1, the author states that koalas climbed down from the eucalyptus trees to escape the high temperatures. The author includes a statement in paragraph 2 that koalas stay cool by staying in the shade of eucalyptus trees.
	Option A is incorrect	The author does not mention that koalas climb down from the trees to escape the heat.
	Option B is incorrect	The author does not mention that koalas climb down from the trees to escape the heat.
	Option C is incorrect	The author does not mention that koalas climb down from the trees to escape the heat.
10	Option H is correct	The author explains in paragraph 1 that the temperature is cooler in the shade of eucalyptus trees.
	Option F is incorrect	The author does not mention that koalas climb down from the trees to escape the heat.
	Option G is incorrect	The author does not mention that koalas climb down from the trees to escape the heat.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the article mentions that koalas climb down from the trees to escape the heat, it does not mention that they climb down to escape the heat.

2019 STAAR Grade 5 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
11	Option D is correct	The author explains in paragraph 3 that dolphins eat fish that live under the sand and add that in Shar Bay, the bottom-dwelling fish do not have the body part that allows dolphins to catch them. This causes a problem for the dolphins when they are looking for food.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the author explains in paragraph 6 that once a fish is scared, it hides just below the open water, the dolphins are still able to catch the fish, so the fish's quickness does not cause a problem for the dolphin.
	Option B is incorrect	The author states in paragraph 3 that the most nutritious fish live under the sand on the ocean floor. These are the fish that dolphins eat, so the bottom-dwelling fish in Shar Bay provide enough nutrition for the dolphins.
	Option C is incorrect	The author does not suggest that the fish travel to the locations during certain times of the year.
12	Option G is correct	The author wrote this selection most likely to describe how dolphins use sponges as tools. This conclusion is supported by the title "Spongers of the Sea" and by the inclusion of details related to the dolphins using sponges to protect their rostrums when they search for food among the sharp coral and rocks on the sea floor.
	Option F is incorrect	Although the author is describing certain dolphins found around Shar Bay, Australia, the author's main purpose is to provide information about how those dolphins use sponges as tools, not to encourage the reader to visit Australia.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the author explains that dolphins find food by hiding under the sand on the ocean floor, the focus of the selection is how dolphins use sponges to protect themselves while searching for their food.
	Option I is incorrect	The author does not identify the animals that live in Shar Bay, so this is not the purpose of the selection.

2019 STAAR Grade 5 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
13	Option A correct	In paragraph 3, the author states that dolphins sometimes hide in the sand on the ocean floor, which is a way to protect themselves from predators.
	Option B incorrect	Although the author explains in paragraph 5 that dolphins use sponges to protect their rostrum from

2019 STAAR Grade 5 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	



2019 STAAR Grade 5 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
17	Option B incorrect	The author of the selection reports that dolphins in Shark Bay have been observed teaching their young to use sponges, but the author of the article does not mention koalas teaching their young anything.
	Option A incorrect	Both koalas and dolphins behave in ways that are out of the ordinary. Koalas suggest to stay cool and dolphins use sponges to protect their rostrum.
	Option C incorrect	The author of the article states that koalas might be a predator if they leave their trees to search for water. However, the author of the selection does not include details about how why dolphins avoid predators.
	Option D incorrect	No evidence is provided in either the article or the selection to support the idea that koalas and dolphins decrease activity in order to conserve energy.
18	Option B incorrect	In "Keeping Cool," the author includes the phrase "No wonder," and in "Spongers of the Sea," the author includes the phrase "quite clever" and the word "Amazingly." These word choices convey that the author is impressed by the animals as does the one of both selections.
	Option F incorrect	The author of "Keeping Cool" mentions that koalas might encounter predators when they leave trees, but there is no suggestion that the author is concerned about their safety, nor does the author of "Spongers of the Sea" express concern about the safety of certain animals.
	Option G incorrect	Although the use of a special infrared camera is described in "Keeping Cool," there is no evidence that dolphins show
	Option E incorrect	Evidence is provided in the article that koalas are concerned about their safety, but there is no evidence that koalas are concerned about their safety.

2019 STAAR Grade 5 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
19	Option C Correct	The description in lines 7 through 12 shows that the speaker is traveling out of the city. The speaker first sees stores and factories, but then the landscape changes to cows and cornflowers, and the speaker notices more trees than cars, suggesting a rural environment.
	Option A Incorrect	



2019 STAAR Grade 5 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
23	Option C Correct	In line 8, the word <u>dissolve</u> means to fade away. The speaker is describing the change in scenery, "stores and factories are fading away as corn and cornflowers come into view."
	Option A Incorrect	In line 8, the stores and factories are not melting into liquid; they are merely fading out of sight.
	Option B Incorrect	In line 8, the stores and factories are not coming undone or breaking apart; they are merely fading out of sight.
	Option D Incorrect	The speaker seems excited about the trip, but the word <u>dissolve</u> is used in line 8 to describe how the scenery is changing, not how the speaker overcomes with the emotion.
24	Option C Correct	In paragraph 5, the author states that the keeper was in charge of the wintecount. The keeper added pictures and created new wintecounts when old ones faded and his larger task was remembering the community's history. The need for the keeper to be dedicated to his task is evident based on these details.
	Option F Incorrect	The author explains in paragraph 5 that when the keeper got old, he gave the wintecounts to his son,

2019 STAAR Grade 5 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
25	Option A is correct	The author uses the context in paragraph 1 where the author explains that many shooting stars flashed across the night sky during the meteor shower. _____
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author describes the Lakotians watching many shooting stars, it is not specified how long they watched. This meaning is not supported by the origin information.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author describes the Lakotians watching the shooting stars, the date that the event can only be seen at night is not supported by the information about the origin of the spectacular. _____
	Option D is incorrect	The author explains that the meteor shower was seen and used by different keepers to mark the year of 833, so the event could not be described as rarely noticed, which is this meaning supported by the origin information.
26	Option A is correct	Paragraphs 1 and 2 include descriptions of the special way the Lakotians kept track of events. In these paragraphs, the author explains the concept of a winter count and how it was used by the Lakotians to document their history.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 1, the author does mention that the Lakotians soamed the grassy western plains of the United States, but this is an introductory detail and the paragraphs 1 and 2 are mostly about _____
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 1, the author does mention that the Lakotians did use writing, but this detail used to help explain the special way the Lakotians kept track of important events.
	Option D is incorrect	The author explains that the Lakotians measured years from snowfalls, but this is not what paragraphs 1 and 2 are mostly about.

2019 STAAR Grade 5 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
27	Option C Correct	The author uses comparison and contrast in paragraph 9 to explain that although winter counts had unique designs, each winter count served the same purpose. The author explains that some winter counts had rows of pictures, while others put the earliest pictures in the middle. But the placement of the pictures allowed people to use winter counts as a calendar to recall important events.
	Option A Incorrect	In paragraph 9, the author does not mention the keepers who cared for the winter counts, that many different keepers were needed.
	Option B Incorrect	



2019 STAAR Grade 5 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
31	Option A is correct	The reader can best understand how a winter count was designed by referring to the first photograph which shows a winter count with small simple drawings arranged in a circular pattern.
	Option B is incorrect	The author uses subheadings to organize the information in the selection, rather than to help the reader understand how a winter count was designed.
	Option C is incorrect	The caption for the last photograph included to inform the reader that the same event was included on four winter counts, but it does not contain information about the designs.
	Option D is incorrect	The title, WinteCounts, is used to introduce the reader to the topic of the selection rather than to help the reader understand the design of a winter count.
32	Option C is correct	The idea that people approach tasks in different ways is explored in the play Sunny's preparing to go a spelling bee by cheering the spellings of words which is the way most people would prepare for a spelling bee. Hebroth tells us that the way normal people do, but cheering is the method that works best for Sunny.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Sunny is trying to be the best at spelling, there is no indication that he is being inspired by anyone.
	Option D is incorrect	Sunny's method of avoiding mistakes is practicing the spelling words by cheering. The idea that patience leads to perfection is explored in the play.
	Option A is incorrect	Sunny's learning to spell words by cheering, but it would be an overstatement to say that wisdom is gained through experience. This idea is explored in the play.



2019 STAAR Grade 5 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
33	Option C Correct	The playwright's purpose for including the dialogue in lines 7 is to present the main conflict between Sunny and the brother Greg. Sunny is cheering, misspelling words, and Greg wants to stop the game because he is nervous. How is he supposed to spell cheer? Z
	Option A Incorrect	The main characters are introduced in the first character at the beginning of the play, not lines 7.
	Option B Incorrect	No background information about the main characters is provided by the dialogue in lines 7.
	Option D Incorrect	The playwright includes nothing in these lines to provide information about the resolution of the main conflict.
34	Option C Correct	There is only one scene in this play because the setting does not change. The conflict arises and is resolved in Sunny's room and all the action and dialogue take place there.
	Option F Incorrect	There is good amount of action with Sunny's cheering and Sunny and Greg's struggle over the pom-poms, having little action in the reason there is only one scene.
	Option G Incorrect	Although there are only three characters in the play, the number of characters does not determine the number of scenes.
	Option H Incorrect	Although the only props mentioned are Sunny's pom-poms and cheerleading trophies, the number of props in a play does not determine the number of scenes.

2019 STAAR Grade 5 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
35	Option C correct	These lines reveal that Sunny spells certain words so annoy her brother. In line 28, Greg says, "Just want to listen to my boom!" and Sunny spells out L-E-D and Z-E-P-P-E-L-I-N, which is the brother likely listens to in line 36. Dad tells Greg to Sunny continue spelling and that she'll thank him for it and she spells G-R-A-T-I-T-U-D-E, and Greg leaves with an "Arghhh," which shows his annoyance.
	Option A incorrect	Although Sunny is concerned about practicing spelling words, lines 29 and 37 do show that Sunny believes the words she spells are difficult.
	Option B incorrect	Sunny's family is helping her practice, so she does not depend on them to help her learn spelling words.
	Option D incorrect	There is no comparison made between the spelling abilities of Sunny and her brother.
36	Option F correct	The pom-poms are important in the play because Greg takes Sunny's pom-poms and in line 10 Sunny yells, "Give me back my pom-poms!" The struggle over the pom-poms builds the conflict and tension between the two characters.
	Option G incorrect	The trophies displayed in Sunny's room, rather than the pom-poms, are more likely used to show that she is proud of her accomplishments.
	Option H incorrect	Sunny is using the pom-poms to cheer her spelling words, so they are actually helping her rather than keeping her from staying on task.
	Option J incorrect	At no point in the play does Sunny's father take the pom-poms away from her. In line 9, her brother, Greg, takes away Sunny's pom-poms.

2019 STAAR Grade 5 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
37	Option B Correct	This is the most complete summary of the play. The competing actions of the characters are stated (Sunny's cheering new words and Greg listening to music), the conflicts described (Sunny's disturbing Greg and refusing to stop) and the resolutions mentioned (MSandstone suggests solutions to end the argument).
	Option A Incorrect	This summary is incomplete. Although Sunny's actions and the occurrence of the siblings argument are included, the cause of the conflict is not revealed and there is no mention of the resolution.
	Option C Incorrect	This summary is incomplete. No resolution to the conflict is mentioned.
	Option D Incorrect	This summary is incomplete. The cause of the conflict is unclear because the information about why Sunny and Greg are arguing is not included.
38	Option B Correct	MSandstone's main role in the play is to act as a peacemaker between Sunny and Greg. In lines 4 and 7, MSandstone encourages Sunny and Greg to end the struggle over the pom-poms. Then in lines 9 through 13, he proposes solutions to resolve the conflict between Sunny and Greg.
	Option C Incorrect	Based on the dialogue and actions, it is obvious that Sunny is determined to practice spelling her words by cheering and that Greg is annoyed by this. MSandstone already knows how they feel.
	Option A Incorrect	MSandstone never mentions Greg's schoolwork and he never tells Sunny to promise in schoolwork that he won't take this too seriously, so he is not encouraging either of them to focus on their schoolwork in the play.
	Option D Incorrect	MSandstone helps end Sunny and Greg's struggle over the pom-poms and he tries to find a way to resolve their conflicts, but he actually decreases the tension between them.