

2019 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
1	Option C is correct	A simile is a figure of speech in which two objects are compared using the word "like" or "as." In line 14, the author contrasts Zach's normal behavior—"as active as a fly in a doughnut shop"—with his current behavior—"on his stomach sleeping quietly." The simile is included to help the reader

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3	Option D correct	Definition: Best matches the way the word captures used in paragraph 2. Paragraph 2 the author describes how Michelle attempting to take pictures of sunset. Her goal is preserve or capture the scene in a photograph.
	Option A incorrect	The subject of Michelle's photograph is sunset which is a natural occurrence that cannot be controlled by force. The intent of the author is to show a sunset.



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7	Option A correct	Michelle's pictures were blurry and aimless, and her father taught her how to look through the lens when taking pictures and to think about what the resulting picture would be like. The idea that taking photographs requires some effort is supported by this evidence.
	Option B incorrect	The results of Michelle's efforts are described in this sentence, but the actual efforts are not depicted.
	Option C incorrect	Michelle is describing the required steps necessary for getting a photo ready for a contest, not the effort that goes into actually taking a photograph.
	Option D incorrect	Michelle is describing effort not directly related to photography.
8	Option G correct	In paragraph 2, the author explains that the black-backed woodpecker's dark colors make it hard for predators to detect among trees blackened by fire. Based on this information, the reader can conclude that the birds are better protected from danger when living in a burned forest than when living in an unburned forest.
	Option F incorrect	Although there is a reference to fruits and seeds for forest dwellers to eat in paragraph 7, readers can conclude that the animals rely on these food sources while the black-backed woodpecker eats beetles.
	Option H incorrect	Based on information in paragraphs 5 and 6, the reader can conclude only that black-backed woodpeckers move from forest to forest and not specifically that black-backed woodpeckers move from Canada to the United States.
	Option I incorrect	Black-backed woodpeckers leave burned forests after three or four years of search for more recently burned forests, because the birds invade the habitat.

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11	Option C Correct	In paragraph 4, the reader learns that the black-backed woodpecker builds its home by drilling into tree trunks of fallen logs. The bird is able to do this because it has a very thick skull and a strong neck.
	Option A Incorrect	From this sentence, the reader learns the type of environment in which black-backed woodpeckers live, not why they are able to build their unique type of home.
	Option B Incorrect	From this sentence, the reader learns where the black-backed woodpeckers build their homes, not why they are able to do so.
	Option D Incorrect	From this sentence, the reader learns that the black-backed woodpecker drills a nest cavity for its home, but not why the bird has the ability to do this.
12	Option F Correct	According to paragraph 5, black-backed woodpeckers create the conditions that are going to be improved for birds in five to six years after a fire. Further, the author notes in paragraph 8 that the hard work the black-backed woodpecker has done will benefit the animals for many years to come. This supports the idea that the black-backed woodpecker's work has a lasting impact.
	Option G Incorrect	The black-backed woodpecker moves from its home to a recently burned forest because that is where it can most easily find food and trees to live in, not because it has difficulty finding food.
	Option H Incorrect	The black-backed woodpeckers are attracted to burned forests because of the beetles the birds can find there, not because of fruits and seeds.
	Option I Incorrect	This issue is not addressed in paragraph 9.
13	Option D Correct	In the photograph, black-backed woodpeckers show peeking out of a nest cavity. The bird appears to be safe and comfortable in its nest.
	Option A Incorrect	In the photograph, the nest cavity shows a hole that extends into the green, not beyond the tree.
	Option B Incorrect	The nest cavity hole drilled by the woodpecker, but cannot be determined from the photograph, so it is not possible to say how quickly or easily the bird constructed the cavity.
	Option C Incorrect	It is not possible to determine which season it is based on the photograph or caption.

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14	Option F is correct	In paragraph 2, the author explains Brown's vision worsened since the state championships. As a result, Brown had to develop new methods that would allow her to continue competing.
	Option G is incorrect	Brown's vision worsened between her sophomore and junior years. This made it more challenging for her to vault, so her junior year was hard, not easy.
	Option H is incorrect	In paragraph 2, the author focuses on Brown's new methods of vaulting, not her success.
	Option J is incorrect	In paragraph 2, the author describes Brown competing in the Texas state championships a second time. However, the author focuses on how Brown adapted her vaulting techniques because of her worsening vision.
15	Option B is correct	The photograph and caption revealed that Brown needs to confirm her placement on the track.
	Option A is incorrect	The photograph shows Brown holding a pole used in pole vaulting, not a special technique to her condition. According to the caption, she is checking her position.
	Option C is incorrect	Based on the photograph and caption, Brown is shown getting ready to vault, but her success cannot be determined.
	Option D is incorrect	Although Brown's coach is depicted as a supportive parent in paragraph 2, this cannot be determined from the photograph and caption.

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16	Option is correct	The author states that Brown will surely continue to reach new heights. This emphasizes that Brown's high level of success is quite impressive and that he will continue to succeed in the future.
	Option is incorrect	The author is describing the system that Brown uses to compete pole vaulting. It does not reveal an 649.2 (does )649.9 reading goal. 649.2 99 3.e42nrect
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18	Option C Correct	The author organizes the information in paragraphs and mainly by explaining how Brown overcame the challenges over time. As a sophomore, Brown and the coach developed a system that allowed them to run a straight line. By the time Brown was a junior, he vision had worsened so Brown devised new methods that allowed them to compete.
	Option F Incorrect	In paragraphs and 2, the author does not make any comparisons between Brown and other athletes.
	Option H Incorrect	There are references to the Texas state championships in both paragraphs and 2, but the author organizes the paragraphs by explaining the methods Brown uses to pole vault competitively at these events, not the events themselves.
	Option J Incorrect	The author neither explains the cause of Brown's disability nor organizes paragraphs and 2 around a cause-and-effect relationship between Brown's disability and the impact it has on his activities.
19	Option C Correct	The author of "Set Through" conveys the message that people should take risks in order to be successful. The author explains that courage is something one can learn from their mother and this courage has helped them try even if the chances of failure are great.
	Option A Incorrect	Although the author's mother may face difficulties because she is in a wheelchair, the author focuses on courage and taking risks.
	Option B Incorrect	Based on the selection, the author clearly loves his mother, but the message the author conveys is more about courage and taking risks than about honesty.
	Option D Incorrect	The author and the mother care for each other and have always been there for each other, but the message the author conveys centers around the mother's courage and willingness to take risks.

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20	Option A correct	The author clearly expresses admiration for the mother's perseverance in paragraph 1; the author states that the mother reaches for seemingly impossible opportunities every day. Throughout the selection, the author emphasizes that no matter how good or bad the chances are, something is always working in the favor, and the mother always tries.
	Option B incorrect	Based on the selection, it seems that the author's mother teaches her daughter more through

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22	Option C Correct	In paragraph 3, the author compares her mother to her friends' mothers. Just like her mother, the author's mother does many positive things such as comforting her, cheering her up, and providing her with what she needs.
	Option F Incorrect	The author's mother is very supportive, but the author does not make a comparison between her mother and the mothers who are less supportive.
	Option H Incorrect	The author does not describe getting help from her mothers.
	Option J Incorrect	The author does not address whether the mothers understand the difficulties her mother experiences.
23	Option D Correct	The author includes information in the selection to support that the author's mother approaches every situation with determination and a positive attitude. Whether it's riding zip-line in Costa Rica, hiking a volcano in Hawaii, cliff-jumping in Mexico, the author's mother always tries, and always goes as far as she can.
	Option A Incorrect	This is a description of how the author's mother feels about the author, not how the author's mother approaches her situation.
	Option B Incorrect	This is a description of the author's mother's situation, not her approach to handling it.
	Option G Incorrect	The fact that the author's mother could not partake in these activities is not important. The author's mother at least attempted these difficult feats, which illustrates how she approaches her situation with perseverance.

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24	Option C is correct	In paragraph 4, the author describes how family vacations, the mother never sits out an activity. Whatever the family is doing, they are all right there, encouraging the author to be part of everything.
	Option F is incorrect	Rather than comfort the mother when she is unable to participate in family activities, the author and the rest of the family do whatever they can to help the author to participate.
	Option H is incorrect	In paragraph 4, the author explains how she and the family do whatever it takes to help the mother participate in family adventures even when they might seem risky.
	Option I is incorrect	Although the author does acknowledge in paragraph 4 that there are certain activities the mother cannot participate in, she does not mention any activities designed specifically for people in wheelchairs.
25	Option A is correct	In both selections, the author features people who exhibit bravery. In Soaring New Heights, the author describes Charlotte Brown who competes in the sport of pole vaulting despite being blind. In See Through, the author refers to the mother's courage and how the mother tries to do the seemingly impossible every day.
	Option B is incorrect	The author of the selections does not refer to humor or portray the subjects of the articles as humorous.
	Option C is incorrect	In See Through, the author focuses much more on the mother's courage than on her ability to be sympathetic. In Soaring New Heights, the only indications of sympathy is when Charlotte says, "I think everyone struggles with something in life."
	Option D is incorrect	The author of the articles does not refer to forgiveness in any way.

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26	Option is correct	<p>In Soaring New Heights, the author explains how Charlotte and the coach utilize certain methods to help Charlotte participate in pole vault events. In paragraph 4 of See It Through, the author explains how the mother participates in family adventures such as riding zip-line by relying on her family and inventive methods such as strapping herself to some stranger's lap.</p>
	Option is incorrect	

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28	Option D correct	In both selections, the authors write about people who face circumstances that could limit their goals. However, neither person lets these circumstances become limitations in any way. Charlotte Brown competes in pole vaulting despite being blind and in Seat Through, the author describes her mother as living outside of limits and teaching of seemingly impossible opportunities every day.
	Option F incorrect	Neither Charlotte Brown nor the author's notes indicate any preference of people ignoring their occasional need for assistance.
	Option G incorrect	Both Charlotte Brown and the author's notes seem to accept their circumstances and strive to make the most of their lives even though their situations will not improve.
	Option H incorrect	Charlotte Brown relies on special methods to continue pole vaulting and the author's notes is willing to use special accommodations such as being strapped to a stranger's lap in order to be able to participate in family adventures.
29	Option C correct	The conclusion of this description best helps the reader imagine the flowers and fruits of the air forest, since flowers have fragrance and fruits have taste.
	Option A incorrect	The speaker's description in 5 of the air forest as something more than can be described is not specific to flowers and fruits.
	Option B incorrect	The speaker's description in 6 of crowded ponds relates to butterflies rather than flowers and fruits.
	Option D incorrect	The speaker's reference in 25 to pure paradise is a reference to the air forest in general, not flowers and fruits specifically.

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30	Option C correct	In stanza 3, the speaker states, "Everywhere there is music. / The speaker goes on to describe the sounds of rivers, / A rustling of leaves, / A outpouring of mockingbirds, / And the forlorn cooing of turtledoves, / Indicating that the speaker finds the sounds of the air forest enchanting.
	Option B incorrect	In stanza 3, the speaker is captivated by the wonders of the air forest, so it is inaccurate to say he finds the sounds distracting.
	Option D incorrect	The speaker describes specific sounds of the air forest, but he does not indicate a desire to imitate these sounds.
	Option A incorrect	Although the speaker does refer specifically to the sounds of mockingbirds and turtledoves, this is only one part of the music that is "Everywhere."
31	Option B correct	The poet conveys that the air forest delights the senses by including references to specific sights such as a green paradise and a blizzard of butterflies. Based on this context, the reader can conclude that a vivid appearance best matches the way the word brilliant is used in line 4.
	Option A incorrect	In this phrase, the poet is describing the beauty of the air forest, so showing great intelligence is not the meaning of brilliant in this context.
	Option C incorrect	Although the poet does describe certain aspects of the air forest's appearance, there is no reference to a abundance of light.
	Option D incorrect	The word brilliant is used to describe the beauty of the air forest, not to suggest that the forest is performing in any way.



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34	Option A is correct	In the first stanza, the speaker's reference to the greatness of the rain forest suggests a deep appreciation and awe. The speaker feels his surroundings.
	Option B is incorrect	The speaker refers to feeling very small, but this conveys an appreciation for his surroundings, not a feeling of being unpleasantly overwhelmed.
	Option C is incorrect	The speaker is amazed by the greatness of the rain forest but does not indicate a preference for visiting with the people.

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36	Option C Correct	In paragraph 9, the author explains that Lindbergh flew over land and ocean and ice. The author supports this idea by including details about Lindbergh shouting out fishing boats for directions and elevating them.
	Option F Incorrect	In paragraph 9, the author explains that Lindbergh relied on the stars to guide him, but he would not have been able to see the stars.
	Option H Incorrect	The author mentions that Lindbergh experienced bad weather before and during his flight, but poor weather conditions can affect planes at any altitude.
	Option J Incorrect	In paragraph 8, the author explains that Lindbergh had extra gas tanks with 450 gallons of fuel, but does not connect this fact directly with the plane flying in the sky.
37	Option C Correct	By looking at the map of Lindbergh's flight plan, the reader can see that he flew over a large body of water, the Atlantic Ocean.
	Option A Incorrect	Hotel owner Raymond Orteig challenged pilots to fly from New York to Paris, but there is no connection between this fact and the map.
	Option B Incorrect	The map is included to help the reader understand that Lindbergh flew over the ocean, but cannot be determined from the map why people could see the plane.
	Option D Incorrect	The many factors that made a transatlantic flight difficult and required Lindbergh to make numerous test flights are not shown on the map.

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38	Option C correct	The author of the selection describes an important event in the history of air travel—the first nonstop flight across the Atlantic. The outcome of Lindbergh’s flight is introduced in paragraph 1 and in the remainder of the selection. The author explains Lindbergh’s strategy, the details of the flight, and the recognition he received.
	Option F incorrect	In the selection, the author provides a detailed account of only one specific pilot and his contributions to air travel.
	Option G incorrect	Although the author does include details about Lindbergh receiving \$15,000 from St. Louis businessmen and how a small company built the Spirit of St. Louis, the focus of the selection is on Lindbergh’s historic flight, not how businesses have impacted the production of airplanes.
	Option H incorrect	The author does include details related to Lindbergh’s planes such as how he had them placed in front of him, but the author does not describe how the design of planes has changed throughout history.
39	Option C correct	Key points from the section “The Flight” are included in this summary, such as the difficulty of the nonstop flight and the reaction to Lindbergh’s success.
	Option A incorrect	In paragraph 10, the author includes details about Lindbergh asking “Which way is Ireland?” as he flew over some fishing boats on his way to Paris, but this detail is not in the summary of the section.
	Option B incorrect	In paragraph 11, the author explains how royal leaders and the president of the United States presented Lindbergh with awards, but this detail is not in the summary.
	Option D incorrect	In paragraph 9, the author describes how Lindbergh flew across the Atlantic Ocean with only a compass and the stars to guide him, but this detail is not in the summary.

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40	Option A correct	<p>In paragraph 5, the author focuses on the construction of the Spirit of St. Louis and how the plane was made to satisfy Lindbergh's specific requirements. In paragraph 4, the author explains the challenge Lindbergh faced in finding a company that would make him the exact plane he wanted. In paragraph 5, the author describes the unique design of the plane.</p>
	Option B incorrect	<p>In paragraph 4, the author explains that Lindbergh's ideas were rejected by many aircraft manufacturers, but this supporting detail is not the main idea.</p>
	Option C incorrect	<p>The author mentions in paragraph 4 that some businessmen in St. Louis provided Lindbergh with \$15,000, but this supporting detail is not the main idea.</p>
	Option D incorrect	<p>In paragraph 4, the author mentions that the Spirit of St. Louis was built in only two months. However, this supporting detail is not the main idea.</p>