

2019 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
1	Option A correct	Imagery is the use of vivid language to represent objects, actions, or ideas. The author uses this type of figurative language to contrast the flower's bloodred color against the wan sunlight to emphasize that the blossom is bright and stands out in its surroundings.
	Option B incorrect	The author describes the flower being in a shaft of warm afternoon sunlight, but is in the shade and there is no context to support the idea that the flower prefers to grow in the shade.
	Option C incorrect	The author clearly describes the flower's color as bloodred, but is difficult to describe.
	Option D incorrect	The plant is healthy enough to produce a bloodred flower, so there is no context to support the idea that it is growing poorly in the greenhouse.
2	Option G correct	Point of view is used to refer to the person telling or narrating a piece of writing. The excerpt is in third person (by narrator) and is limited to Saeng's character. This helps the reader understand Saeng's feelings during the experience. For example, paragraph 7, the narrator describes that Saeng is discouraged and feeling more than a little foolish.
	Option F incorrect	The author uses a limited point of view in the excerpt to help the reader understand Saeng's personal feelings about the relationship between Saeng and the florist.
	Option H incorrect	The point of view of the excerpt is limited to Saeng's, so the author does not use it to help the reader understand the plot.

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7	Option C is correct	The best summary of the excerpt is presented in these sentences. Saeng's conflict and the steps taken to resolve that conflict are described. The resolution of Saeng finding the plant she was looking for and the memories that the flower evokes are included.
	Option A is incorrect	The resolution of Saeng seeing the plant she was looking for and the memories stirred by it are not conveyed in this summary.
	Option B is incorrect	Saeng's discovery of and reaction to the hibiscus plant and the other plants in the greenhouse are not included in this summary.
	Option D is incorrect	The florist's first attempt to identify the plant and Saeng's reaction to finding the hibiscus are not included in this summary.
8	Option G is correct	The photograph and its caption are used to help the reader understand that methane is held in the containers so it won't escape. In the photograph, there are two tall containers, and the caption is used to explain that anaerobic digester silos trap methane gas.
	Option F is incorrect	Microbes are not shown in the photograph or mentioned in the caption.
	Option H is incorrect	No food is shown in the photograph or mentioned in the caption.
	Option J is incorrect	It is explained in the caption that silos trap methane gas, but it is not explained in the caption nor shown in the photograph what is done with the methane gas.

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9	Option C is correct	The author uses this sentence to show that the Sainsbury s company tries to make use of a by-product. Methane is a by-product of organic waste produced when it decomposes in landfills. It can be used to fuel trucks instead of being released into the atmosphere (paragraph 2).
	Option A is incorrect	The tactic used by Sainsbury s to ensure most of its produce is sold is described in this sentence, but there is no mention of a by-product or its uses.
	Option B is incorrect	Sainsbury s method of converting food waste into fuel is described in this sentence, but there is no mention of a by-product of this food waste or its uses.
	Option D is incorrect	This is a statement about Europe s status in biofuel development, but there is no mention of a by-product being used to create biofuel.
10	Option F is correct	The photograph and caption can be used to support the idea that an initial step in Sainsbury s plan is to sell appealing food to its customers. In the photograph, there is a woman holding up an apple and smiling. The caption, Woman Admiring Apple, is used to show the reader that Sainsbury s is giving its customers attractive food options.
	Option G is incorrect	There is produce in the picture, but there is nothing in the picture or in the caption that can be used to suggest that the produce is being sold at a reduced price.
	Option H is incorrect	The photograph shows a grocery store and a woman who is probably going to purchase the apple she is holding, so the photograph and caption are not being used to show any donations to local organizations.
	Option J is incorrect	The woman in the photograph is smiling, and the caption explains that she is admiring the apple; so the apple is not unwanted and will probably be used to feed a person, not farm animals.

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11	Option D is correct	In paragraph 1, the author explains that Sainsbury's is one of England's oldest grocery <u>chains</u> , which could be understood as a group of businesses owned by one parent company because there are many grocery stores named Sainsbury's.
	Option A is incorrect	Physical <u>chains</u> that are joined by links are not being described in paragraph 1.
	Option B is incorrect	No bond is described in paragraph 1, so this is not the meaning of the word <u>chains</u> .
	Option C is incorrect	Although Crewe's promise influenced Sainsbury's food-waste practices, the word <u>chains</u> is not used in reference to this cause and effect relationship.
12	Option H is correct	In paragraph 2, the author describes the problem: dumping organic waste into landfills creates harmful amounts of methane gas. In the rest of the selection, the author describes creative ways to limit organic waste: giving customers attractive or reduced-price food, donating food to be eaten, and using methane gas as fuel.
	Option F is incorrect	The author is not encouraging the reader to do anything. Instead, the author is showing the reader what problems can be solved with creativity.
	Option G is incorrect	The author only describes one type of biofuel (methane gas from decomposed organic materials), so this is not why the selection was written.
	Option J is incorrect	The author focuses more on describing the creative methods used by Sainsbury's to reduce food waste and use methane gas rather than arguing that it is important to prevent methane from escaping into the atmosphere.

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13	Option A is correct	In paragraph 4, the author explains that these giant silos act like artificial stomachs because they contain microbes that digest organic waste and produce methane bubbles.
	Option B is incorrect	The author is comparing the anaerobic digesters to stomachs, not vehicles, so the comparison is not used to describe vehicles using biofuel.
	Option C is incorrect	Although in paragraph 4 the author explains that the same thing happens to organic waste in landfills, the actual comparison of anaerobic digesters to stomachs is not used to emphasize the amount of methane, just the method of producing methane.
	Option D is incorrect	The comparison of anaerobic digesters to stomachs is used to describe the method of producing methane, not the source of food waste.
14	Option H is correct	The author included the information most likely to highlight that food waste is a renewable and useful resource. The author explains that the source for anaerobic digesters is < < > > (is)649.2 (used)649.2

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17	Option C is correct	This sentence is used to support the idea that chickadees take action to keep their bodies warm at night. They do this by eating enough each day to survive the long, 18-hour night.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, the author explains the difference between the outside temperature and internal temperature of a chickadee, but there is no mention of what a chickadee does to maintain this high internal temperature.
	Option B is incorrect	In this sentence, the author is explaining why chickadees do not keep their toes warm, which is the opposite of taking action to stay warm.
	Option D is incorrect	Roosting together in flocks is a method that some birds use to stay warm, so spending the night alone would be the opposite of taking action to stay warm.
18	Option G is correct	The best summary of the selection is presented in these sentences. The circumstances in which chickadees live are described and the methods they use to stay warm are detailed.
	Option F is incorrect	There is no mention of the methods chickadees use to stay warm in cold temperatures, which is the focus of the selection, so this is not the best summary.
	Option H is incorrect	Only one of the methods chickadees use to keep warm is described in these sentences, so this is really just a detail from the selection rather than an overall summary.
	Option J is incorrect	This summary does not include information about chickadees using certain methods to stay warm in freezing cold temperatures, so it is not the best summary.

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19	Option D is correct	Imagery is the use of vivid language to represent objects, actions, or ideas. The imagery in lines 9 and 10 of the poem is used to suggest the speaker feels encouraged because the weather is getting warmer the sun is high in the sky, the cardinal is singing, and the icicles are melting.
	Option A is incorrect	The description of the sun being high in the sky and the icicles dripping is used to show the improvement in weather rather than how quickly the day passes.
	Option B is incorrect	The speaker is not bothered by the dripping water. Instead, the speaker is encouraged by the dripping water because it means the weather is becoming warmer and the icicles are melting.
	Option C is incorrect	The trilling of the cardinal is described to show the speaker's relief that better weather is coming, not that company has arrived.
20	Option G is correct	The actions described in the first stanza are used to suggest that the speaker is hardworking. The speaker and other chickadees work hard to glean and gulp and pluck and snare all day long from dawn to dusk in order to survive the long, cold night.
	Option F is incorrect	The actions described in the first stanza are used to show how hard the speaker and other chickadees work during the day, not that they are surprised.
	Option H is incorrect	The actions described in the first stanza are used to show how hard the speaker and other chickadees work to prepare for the coming night, so they are not carefree.
	Option J is incorrect	The speaker and other chickadees work hard to gather food and items for their nest in order to survive the long, cold night, so they are more hardworking than greedy.



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25	Option A is correct	Methods that chickadee649.2 (tha/ BBox [204.80c 0 571.09b)18.9 (atsta)649.1yc 0 5717.0wardhat at

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33	Option A is correct	The reader

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37	Option B is correct	It is customary for audience members to applaud after the national anthem, but in this case they do so only halfheartedly, which helps the reader understand that Pete s performance did not go well.
	Option A is incorrect	Only the audience s reaction is described in the stage directions, not Pete s reaction, so the reader cannot tell how Pete is feeling.
	Option C is incorrect	Only the audience s reaction is described, not the actual performance, so the reader cannot tell exactly what went wrong during the performance.
	Option D is incorrect	Pete s friends are not necessarily in the audience, so there is no context to support the idea that they are not supportive of his decision to sing.
38	Option F is correct	It is explained in the stage directions in line 29 that Angie has a sly grin and sarcastic tone when she tells Pete his performance won t make it into the media club s montage called A Star-Spangled Catastrophe, making it evident that she thinks he is overreacting and is teasing him.
	Option G is incorrect	Although Angie tells Pete, I don t think you ll make the final cut, it is because she thinks he didn t actually mess up too badly, so she is not disappointed in him.
	Option H is incorrect	Angie is not trying to embarrass Pete. She lets him know that his mistake was boring and won t even be a part of the media club s video of national anthem bloopers.
	Option J is incorrect	Angie does not really understand Pete s distress because she knows that many people have had problems singing the national anthem and that his mistake was not the worst.

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39	Option B is correct	Pete forgot some of the words to the national anthem, and the commentator was caught off guard, which is evident because of the commentator's pauses and difficulty finding the words to describe the performance.
	Option A is incorrect	The commentator does not laugh or say anything comical, so the reader cannot conclude that the commentator thinks Pete's mistakes were funny.
	Option C is incorrect	The commentator does not mention Angie, so there is no context to support the idea that the commentator is concerned about this.
	Option D is incorrect	The commentator noticed Pete's mistakes, so the reader cannot conclude that the commentator noticed that Pete forgot some of the words to the national anthem.

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41	Option D is correct	One