



**GRADE 8**  
**Reading**  
**STAAR Alternate 2**

**Administered April 2016**

**RELEASED**



READING



## A First-Place Surprise

Gilberto played the last chords of the song on his guitar at his grandmother

“I’m so lucky that he would play at my party!” said Grandma. “He won the middle school talent show when he was just

0

a t

t

2b

Gilberto had won the middle school talent show when he was a sixth grader. He had missed the talent show as a seventh grader because he had the flu. Now he was in eighth grade and hoped to win again this year.

Marisol, his younger sister, also planned to enter the talent show. She was in sixth grade, so this would be her first talent show. Gilberto didn't think she really had a chance of winning—especially not over him.

A couple of days later, Gilberto was in his room listening to music when Marisol walked in. He was irritated that she had bothered him. He took off his headphones and asked, "What do you want?"









The day of the talent show, Gilberto and the other kids waited backstage for their turn to perform. Gilberto saw Marisol. Her knuckles were white, and she was holding on to her violin as if it might float away. Touching her arm, he smiled and said, "Hey, don't worry. You'll do fine." He felt a little guilty that he had not listened to Marisol practice her new song. She wasn't as used to performing as he was. He hoped she wouldn't embarrass herself. But if she did, Gilberto thought it would be a learning experience for her.

Gilberto had chosen to sing while he played a slow, sad song on his guitar. He sat down and sang his song. When it was over, the audience clapped politely.

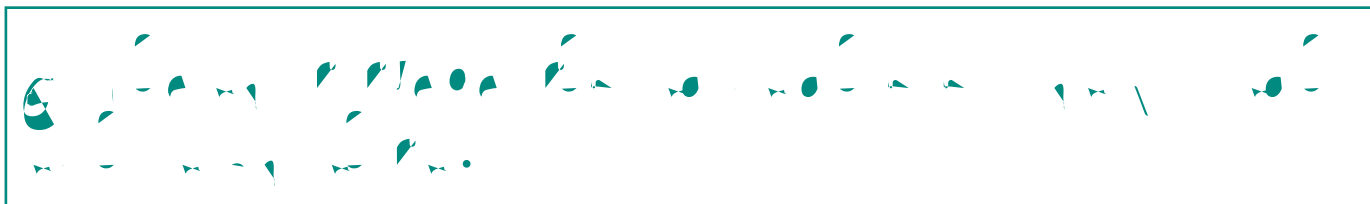
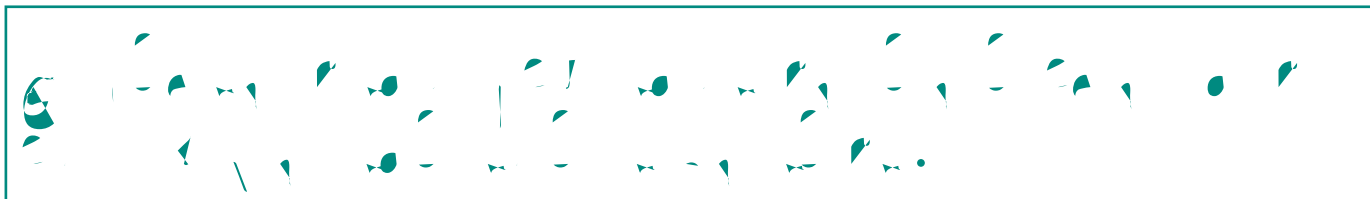


4a

Handwritten musical score for a string quartet, labeled "4a". The score is written on ten staves, with the first five staves in red ink and the last five in black ink. The notation includes treble clefs, a common time signature, and various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The piece is divided into sections labeled "T.", "A.", "B.", and "C."



4b







## Tom and the Whitewashed Fence

Tom had a very bad day. He had to whitewash the fence. He was bored and didn't want to do it. He thought of a way to get his friends to do it for him. He told them that the fence was really important and that they should help him. They all agreed to do it. Tom was very happy and proud of his friends.

















7b

Two  $\frac{1}{2}$  are  $\frac{1}{2}$  plus  $\frac{1}{2}$  is  $\frac{2}{2}$  which is 1.  $\frac{1}{2}$  plus  $\frac{1}{4}$  is  $\frac{2}{4}$  plus  $\frac{1}{4}$  is  $\frac{3}{4}$ .  $\frac{1}{2}$  plus  $\frac{1}{8}$  is  $\frac{4}{8}$  plus  $\frac{1}{8}$  is  $\frac{5}{8}$ .  $\frac{1}{2}$  plus  $\frac{1}{16}$  is  $\frac{8}{16}$  plus  $\frac{1}{16}$  is  $\frac{9}{16}$ .

Two  $\frac{1}{4}$  are  $\frac{1}{2}$  plus  $\frac{1}{4}$  is  $\frac{3}{4}$ .  $\frac{1}{4}$  plus  $\frac{1}{8}$  is  $\frac{2}{8}$  plus  $\frac{1}{8}$  is  $\frac{3}{8}$ .  $\frac{1}{4}$  plus  $\frac{1}{16}$  is  $\frac{4}{16}$  plus  $\frac{1}{16}$  is  $\frac{5}{16}$ .

Two  $\frac{1}{8}$  are  $\frac{1}{4}$  plus  $\frac{1}{8}$  is  $\frac{3}{8}$ .  $\frac{1}{8}$  plus  $\frac{1}{16}$  is  $\frac{2}{16}$  plus  $\frac{1}{16}$  is  $\frac{3}{16}$ .  $\frac{1}{8}$  plus  $\frac{1}{32}$  is  $\frac{4}{32}$  plus  $\frac{1}{32}$  is  $\frac{5}{32}$ .

*[ Ben is whitewashing the fence. Tom is sitting on the ground playing with the toy soldier. Billy enters. Billy is carrying a kite.]*

**BILLY:** Hey, guys! What's happening?

**BEN:** *[Proudly]* Look at me! I'm whitewashing! Everyone in

**BILLY:** Wow! I want a turn! Let me whitewash, too!

**BEN:** [

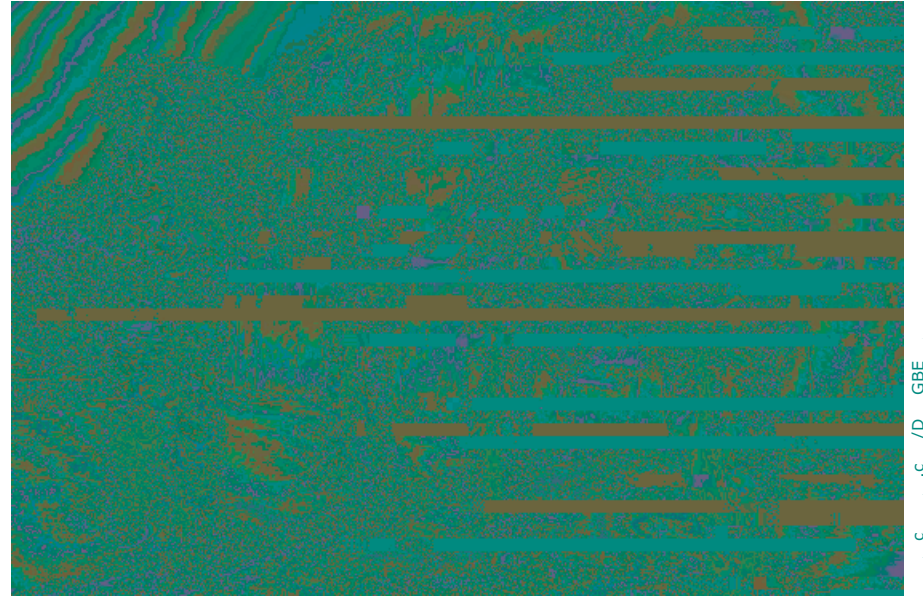
8a

TOM:  $\int_0^1 \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \frac{1}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} dx dy dz$ .  
[B]  $\int_0^1 \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \frac{1}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} dx dy dz$





## Challenging Tradition and Winning

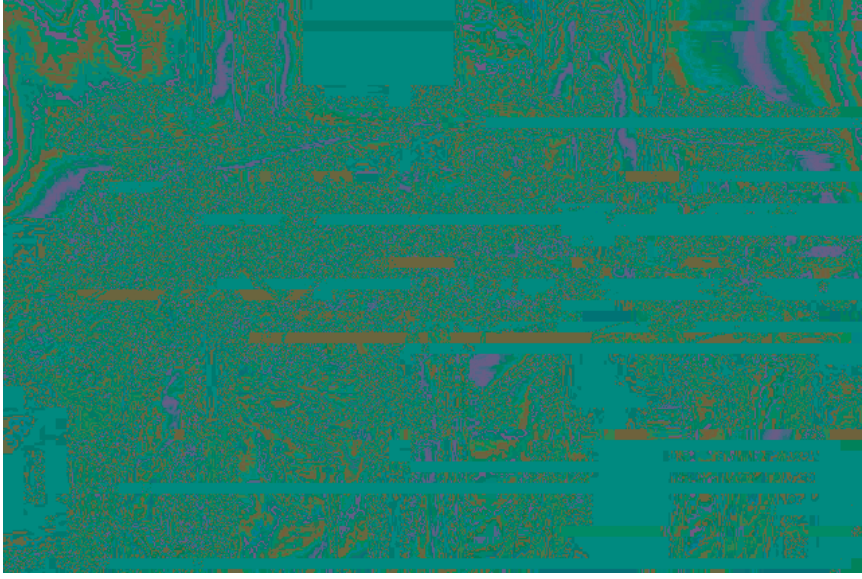


Mariachi bands are part of Mexico's cul





10b

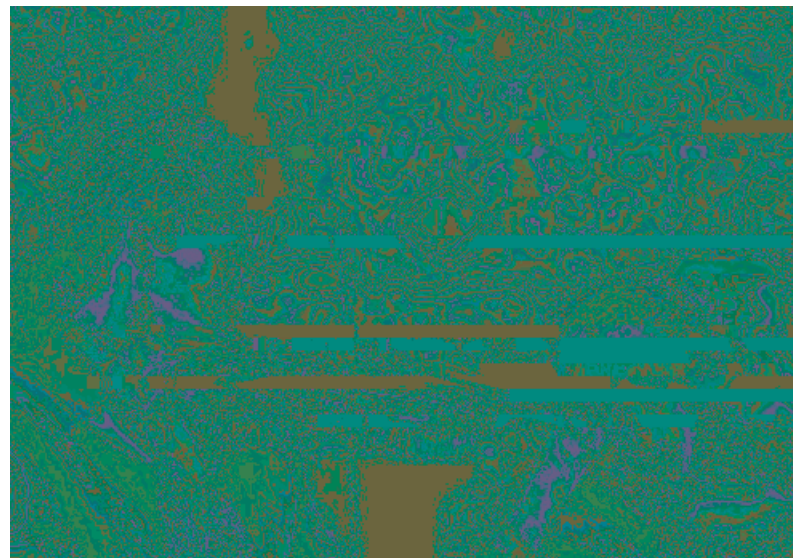
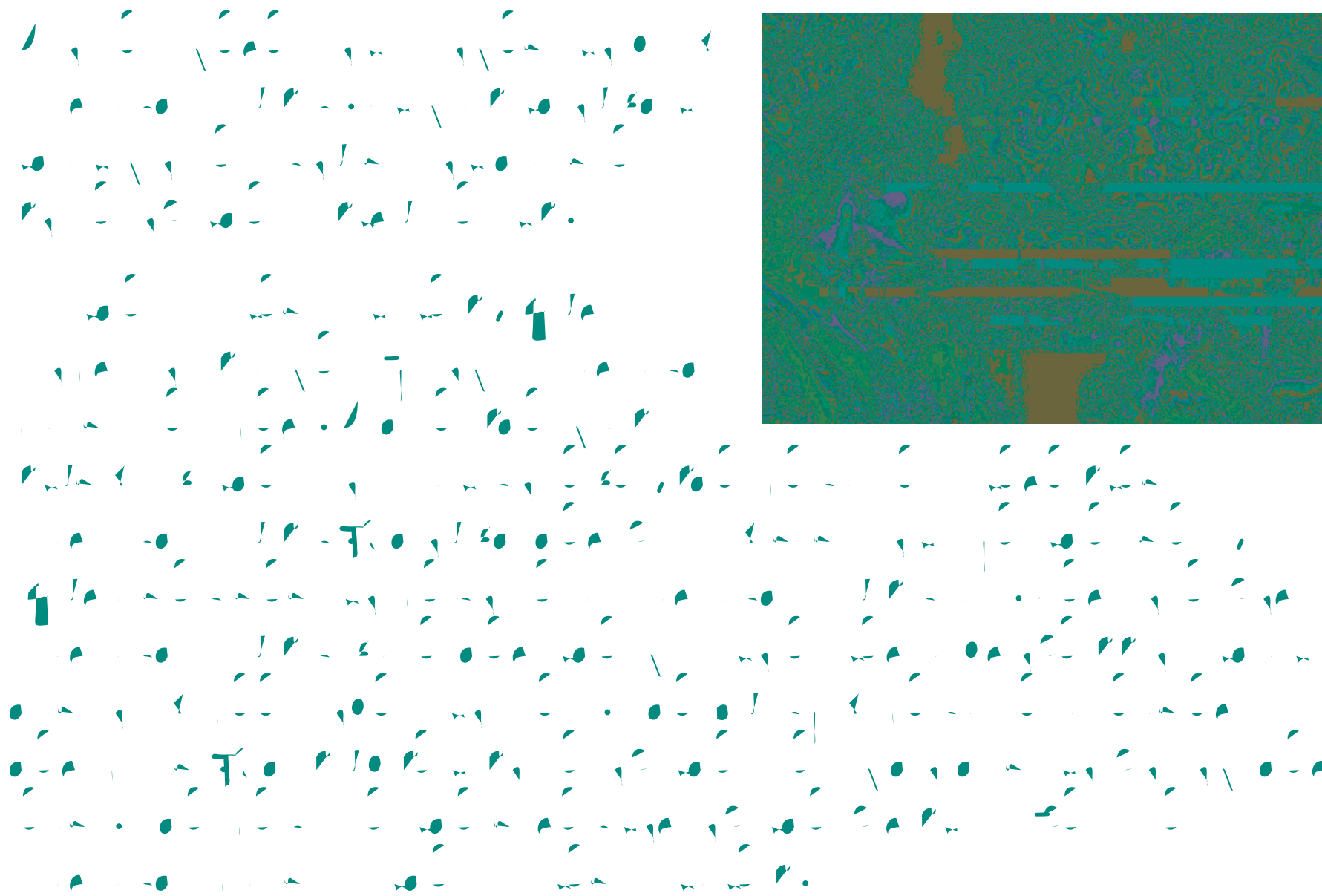


Cellular, Mitotic, Anaplastic



Well-differentiated, Tubular, Glandular

11a



A MAND A I /E A/N

11a

2008  
C



Laura's family encouraged her to play mariachi music.

Laura wanted to play mariachi music at the Olympics.

Laura loved playing mariachi music.



12b

1.  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{3}{6} + \frac{2}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$

2.  $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} = \frac{5}{20} + \frac{4}{20} = \frac{9}{20}$

3.  $\frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{4}{24} + \frac{3}{24} = \frac{7}{24}$





מְדַבְּרִים אִתָּךְ



מְדַבְּרִים אִתָּךְ

מְדַבְּרִים אִתָּךְ conversing מְדַבְּרִים אִתָּךְ  
מְדַבְּרִים אִתָּךְ מְדַבְּרִים אִתָּךְ מְדַבְּרִים אִתָּךְ

Two people are conversing in a room.



14b



15a

1.  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{Br}$  +  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{MgBr}$



▼  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{Br}$  /  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{MgBr}$  /  $\text{D}$  /  $\text{H}$  /  $\text{Br}$







1.  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(x) dx = 1$ , mementos  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(x) dx = 1$

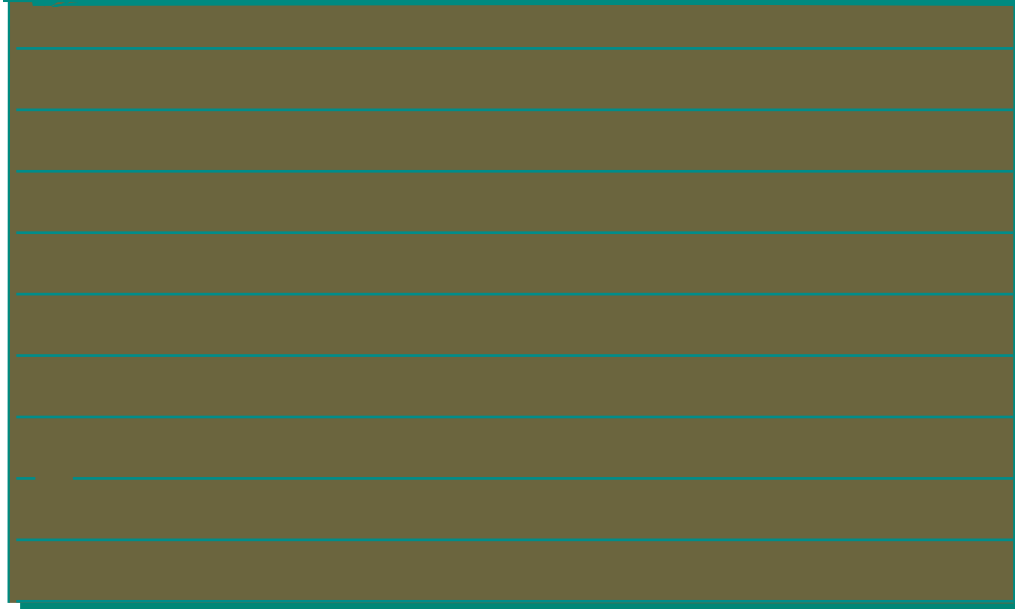
$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(x) f(x) dx = f(0)$

$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(x) f(x) dx = f(0)$

$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(x) f(x) dx = f(0)$



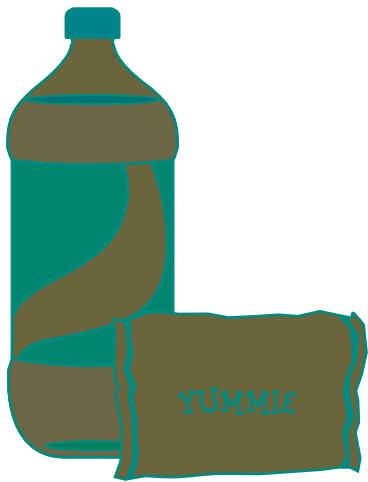




18a



18b



19a



19a





Olivia states that sugary sodas are good for you.

Olivia writes that healthy foods make students sleepy.

Olivia lists healthy foods that other schools serve.

20a





to persuade the principal to change the menu in the cafeteria

to explain the difference between junk food and healthy food

to invite the principal to eat in the school cafeteria

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