

2019 STAAR Grade 4 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
1	Option A is correct	Christopher’s mother said he could go to the picnic if “he didn’t get into any more trouble this week.” Christopher tries to be very careful not to get into trouble at school on Friday so he can go to the picnic.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Christopher’s friends do sit next to him on the bus, where his friends sit is not related to attending the picnic.
	Option C is incorrect	Although Christopher attempts to tell the principal about the incident with his rubber bands, another band snaps off his braces and lands on the principal’s desk, making the explanation unnecessary.
	Option D is incorrect	The story takes place on a Friday, and the principal tells Christopher, “I haven’t seen you since Wednesday,” so he has been to the principal’s office this week.
2	Option J is correct	Timothy tells Christopher he only has “to stay out of trouble one more day.” When Christopher tells his friends about his misfortunes, they “tried to make their friend feel more hopeful,” by offering advice such as, “take deep breaths.”
	Option F is incorrect	Christopher’s friends do not express any opinion about the bus driver being unfair. Friday, which means Christopher has seen the principal at least twice this week.
	Option A is incorrect	The author only includes dialogue from the principal in paragraph 22, so there is no way to know what Christopher is hoping.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no way to know what Christopher expects from the dialogue in paragraph 22.
	Option D is incorrect	The author only includes dialogue from the principal in paragraph 22, so there is no way to know what Christopher is willing to explain.

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4	Option J is correct	This is the most complete summary of paragraphs 7 through 10 of the story. In paragraph 7, Christopher imagines the bus's wheels to be saying, "'One more day!'" and in paragraph 8 he yells out, "'All right!'" in response. Then, in paragraph 9, the bus driver scolds him, and in paragraph 10 it is explained that he didn't mean to get into trouble.
	Option F is incorrect	Christopher does not talk to Timothy or Rashid in paragraphs 7 through 10.
	Option G is incorrect	This summary is incomplete. Important details from paragraphs 8 through 10 are not included in this summary.
	Option H is incorrect	Christopher does not talk to Timothy or Rashid in paragraphs 7 through 10.
5	Option B is correct	Christopher explains to his friends "that the week's misfortunes were not his fault." The author describes everything that went wrong during the week and includes all of Christopher's excuses,
		5 incorrect This summary i1649.2 (to)649.2 (hisAI9.2.418 -2.875 2 (all)649.649.2 (desc2 (t9.1 (Ti] Tj T* [(des8c /TD (5)Tj EMC /TH <</MCID 7is desc(week(5)Tj EMC /TH <</MCID 9is)649.2 (incorrect)] TJ EMC

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6	Option J is correct	In paragraph 11, the author describes all of Christopher’s <u>“misfortunes”</u> such as scribbling “a math problem on his desk” and dropping “grape jelly on his library book.” These are examples of “Unlucky events.”
	Option F is incorrect	Although Christopher is trying to catch up on a demanding reading assignment during lunch, this is only one of several events the author lists when describing what contributed to the week’s misfortunes.
	Option G is incorrect	The author does not describe Christopher making any difficult decisions that could be related to the word <u>misfortunes</u> .
	Option H is incorrect	The author does not describe any confusing messages Christopher shares about his <u>misfortunes</u> .
7	Option C is correct	This sentence is an opinion presented by the author because “beautiful” and “unique” describe what some people, but not all people, think about the appearance of marbles.
	Option A is incorrect	The idea that the types of marble games played by people have not changed much 0649.2 (not) (0649.2
	Option AB is incorrect	The idea that tarbles have nbee Afoud i Aiffiernt dresa of mhe weord bcl oe wrob49.2 (not) maring aot49.TJ



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13	Option C is correct	While Max is digging a hole for Grandpa's tree, he finds a coffee can, which leads him to talk with Dad

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21	Option A is correct	In "Max's Find," Max "felt a shiver of excitement" when he found the time capsule buried in his grandfather's yard. In "Messages in Bottles," the author describes finding a message as a "memorable event."
	Option B is incorrect	The author does not discuss the importance of following instructions that are included with messages in either the story or the selection.
	Option C is incorrect	In "Messages in Bottles," two people who have never met do become pen pals, but no new friendships are formed in "Max's Find."
	Option D is incorrect	In "Max's Find," Max finds a time capsule that was hidden for years, so it is not common to find one. In "Messages in Bottles," the bottles were not left in secret places, and there is no support for the idea that it is common to find bottles with messages inside.
22	Option G is correct	In "Max's Find," Max finds his father's time capsule buried in the same place his father left it many years ago. In "Messages in Bottles" the author describes the journeys that the bottles make to faraway places.
	Option F is incorrect	In "Max's Find," the time capsule is opened by Max, not his father who made it. Therefore, this option is not correct.
	Option H is incorrect	In "Messages in Bottles," the author describes bottles that have been found "More than 50 years later" and "Eighty-five years" later, so messages in bottles are not always found quickly. Therefore, this option is not correct.
	Option J is incorrect	In "Messages in Bottles," the author does describe one bottle that is intended for a soldier's wife, but the other bottles aren't meant for anyone specific. Therefore, this option is not correct.



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25	Option B is correct	Imagery is the use of vivid language to represent objects, actions, or ideas. The imagery in the third stanza most appeals to the reader’s sense of taste. The poet describes things you can taste, such as “batters rich and thick” and “spoons she lets you lick.”
	Option A is incorrect	There are no sounds described in the third stanza, so the imagery does not appeal to the reader’s sense of sound.
	Option C is incorrect	There are no smells described in the third stanza, so the imagery does not appeal to the reader’s sense of smell.
	Option D is incorrect	There are no descriptions of how things feel in the third stanza, so the imagery does not appeal to the reader’s sense of touch.
26	Option F is correct	Only the second and fourth lines rhyme in each stanza. For example, the poet rhymes “day” with “stay” (stanza 1), “aromatic” with “attic” (stanza 2), and “thick” with “lick” (stanza 3).
	Option G is incorrect	None of the first and third lines rhyme with each other.
	Option H is incorrect	The second and fourth lines of each stanza rhyme, but the first and third lines do not rhyme.
	Option J is incorrect	Neither the first and second lines nor the third and fourth lines rhyme.
27	Option D is correct	The line “And suddenly you realize—” is included to express the speaker’s surprise and suggest that Grandma’s visit was unexpected.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the exclamation point at the end of the stanza is included to express excitement about Grandma’s visit, there is no context to support the idea that every day is exciting.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Grandma’s visits are portrayed as special events, there is no context to support the idea that Grandma does not visit often.
	Option C is incorrect	None of the activities that take place during Grandma’s visit are described in stanza 1.

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31	Option A is correct	In paragraph 4, the author explains that “people <u>secured</u> acorns in baskets” and put them in rushing water that “washed away the tannins.” The acorns were <u>secured</u> in the baskets so they wouldn’t move when placed in rushing water.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 4, people <u>secured</u> acorns in baskets, so they already had everything they needed. They weren’t trying to get something.
	Option C is incorrect	Although people <u>secured</u> acorns in baskets “to make certain” they didn’t move, the closest definition to <u>secured</u> in paragraph 4 is focused on the actual act of placing the acorns in the basket where they wouldn’t move.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no reference to promising any type of payment for acorns in paragraph 4.
32	Option H is correct	In paragraph 7, the author includes the fact that an acorn weevil uses its “long snout to drill a hole” into acorns. In the photograph, an acorn weevil with a long snout is shown.
	Option F is incorrect	Although it is true that acorn weevils are usually the first insects to live in acorns, this is not a fact that is supported by the photograph.
	Option G is incorrect	Although it is true that acorn weevil larvae eat the inside of the acorn, only the outside of the acorn is shown in the photograph.
	Option J is incorrect	Only the outside of the acorn is shown in the photograph, so any facts concerning the inside of the acorn are not supported.

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33	Option B is correct	In paragraph 3, the author explains that ancient Romans ground the acorns before using them to make bread. In paragraph 4, the author explains that to prepare acorns, people would run them through water and bury them in mud to make them taste better.
	Option A is incorrect	There are no other types of nuts mentioned in the selection, so the reader cannot conclude that acorns are similar to many other types of nuts that people eat.
	Option C is incorrect	Although many animals do use acorns, the rarity of acorns is not discussed in the selection, so this cannot be concluded.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author does include descriptions of falling acorns, no damage is actually described, so this cannot be concluded.
34	Option F is correct	This is the most complete summary of the selection. The introduction is restated and key details are explained, such as how people, animals, and insects use acorns.
	Option G is incorrect	This summary is incomplete. There is no mention of how insects or animals use acorns in this option.
	Option H is incorrect	This summary is incomplete. There is no mention of the definition of acorns or that people have found ways to prepare acorns in this option.
	Option J is incorrect	This summary is incomplete. There is no mention that groups of people have found different uses for acorns in this option.
35	Option C is correct	The author explains in paragraph 7 that when the acorn falls to the ground, "this signals to the larvae that it's time to chew their way out."
	Option A is incorrect	Although baby acorn weevils do eat the nut meat inside their acorns, it is when the acorn falls to the ground that they know to leave, not when they're finished eating.
	Option B is incorrect	The adult acorn weevil only drills a hole to lay eggs, not to signal the baby acorn weevils to leave.
	Option D is incorrect	Baby acorn weevils leave the acorns when they fall to the ground during autumn. At this time, the weather is actually getting colder, not warmer.

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36	Option J is correct	A woodpecker with an acorn in its beak and a tree trunk with many holes are shown in the photograph. The author explains in paragraph 6 that "An acorn is carefully hammered into each hole" and that the finished "acorn storage tower" resembles a "skyscraper covered with little windows," thus the woodpecker is creating storage for many acorns.
	Option F is incorrect	It is not specified what the woodpecker uses the acorns for in either the photograph or paragraph 6.
	Option G is incorrect	It is not specified where the woodpecker will lay its eggs in either the photograph or paragraph 6.
	Option H is incorrect	It is not specified which type of acorns the woodpecker prefers in either the photograph or paragraph 6.