



Writing **Grade 4**

2011 Released Selections and Test Questions

These released questions represent selected TEKS student expectations for each reporting category. These questions are samples only and do not represent all the student expectations eligible for assessment.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Samantha wrote about her favorite time of the year. Read Samantha's paper and think about how it should be revised. Then answer the questions that follow.



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Cookie Season

(1) Some kids look forward to summer vacation. (2) Others can't wait for spring and the start of baseball season. (3) My favorite time of year comes shortly after the winter holidays. (4) One day I'll notice a girl sitting at a table in front of the grocery store. (5) As I walk by, she will politely ask, "Would you like to buy some cookies?" (6) At that point I jump for joy.

(7) Girl Scouts have been selling cookies for almost 100 years. (8) In the early days Girl Scouts sold only original sandwich, chocolate mint, and shortbread cookies. (9) There are many interesting flavors available, including lemon, peanut butter, and caramel. (10) Everyone

seems to have a favorite, but the cookies that remain the most popular are the original chocolate mint.

(11) The tasty cookies sell for about \$3.50 a box. (12) More than 200 million boxes are sold each year, which adds up to more than \$700 million a year for the Girl Scouts! (13) But leaders say that raising money isn't the only reason Girl Scouts sell cookies. (14) Ordering and selling cookies helps girls get better in important ways. (15) Each girl learns how to operate a small business, manage customers, and set financial goals. (16) These skills can help them become self-assured and resourceful businesswomen in the future.

(17) Jennifer Sharpe, a Girl Scout from Dearborn, Michigan, is one of this generation's success stories. (18) In 2008, after years of selling cookies door to door, she decided to set up a cookie table on a street corner in her hometown. (19) Her mother helped her. (20) Jennifer sold cookies every day, rain or shine, throughout the cookie season. (21) Her hard work paid off. (22) In the end the teenager sold more than 17,000 boxes of cookies! (23) When asked about the effect the cookie program had on her daughter, Jennifer's mother said, "It's made her really confident. (24) I remember when she first started selling, she was very shy and quiet, and you had to push her out to talk to customers, but now she's right out there, first to the door." (25) Jennifer Sharpe's story shows that the Girl Scout cookie program is accomplishing its goals.

(26) That's why I love Girl Scout cookies.

- 1 Samantha wants to add a sentence to the end of her first paragraph (sentences 1–6). Which sentence could she add to clearly state the central idea of her paper?
- A I jump higher than you can imagine.
 - B She is talking to me, and I know it’s here!
 - C Girl Scout cookie season has finally arrived!
 - D Spring break and winter holidays are nothing compared with this.

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- 2 Samantha needs to add a transition word or phrase to help her readers move from sentence 8 to sentence 9. Which transition could **BEST** be added to the beginning of sentence 9?
- A After all
 - B Today
 - C At first
 - D Then

- 3 Look at sentence 14. The phrase **get better** does not express what Samantha was trying to say. Which word could **BEST** replace **get better** and help Samantha improve the meaning of this sentence?
- A mature
 - B improve
 - C prepare
 - D think

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- 4 Samantha would like to add the following sentence to the third paragraph (sentences 11–16).

In fact, some of today's most successful businesswomen say they got their start by selling Girl Scout cookies.

Where is the **BEST** place to insert this sentence?

- A At the beginning of the paragraph
- B After sentence 13
- C At the end of the paragraph
- D This sentence should not be added to the paragraph.

- 5 What is the **BEST** way to combine sentences 19 and 20?
- A Her mother helped her sell cookies every day, rain or shine, throughout the cookie season for Jennifer.
 - B Before her mother helped her, Jennifer sold cookies every day, rain or shine, throughout the cookie season.
 - C Her mother helped her, Jennifer sold cookies every day, rain or shine, throughout the cookie season.
 - D With her mother's help, Jennifer sold cookies every day, rain or shine, throughout the cookie season.
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- 6 Samantha wants to add a conclusion to her paper. Which of the following could **BEST** follow sentence 26 and close this paper?
- A They don't just taste good. They also do good things for girls.
 - B They're so tasty.
 - C And I'm so proud of Jennifer Sharpe. She's amazing!
 - D Let's go buy them!

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Robert wrote this paper about overcoming a fear. He would like you to read his paper and look for any edits he needs to make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.



Caving

(1) My dad likes to explore caves. (2) He's been caving for as long as I can remember. (3) When I was young, he told me he would introduce me to his hobby when I got a little older. (4) But as I grew older, I became less and less eager to venture into a cave. (5) I was uncomfortable in small spaces, and afraid that we might get lost. (6) I made every excuse I could think of to avoid going caving with my dad.

(7) Dad knew exactly what I was doing and insisted that I conquer my fear. (8) Because I trusted him, I decided that I would have to give caving a try. (9) One Saturday morning I helped pack all the necessary gear, and together we headed to a nearby cave. (10) After securing my headlamp, I hesitantly followed Dad into the cave. (11) My heart raced,

but I kept putting one foot in front of the other. (12) As we walked, the ceiling dropped lower and lower until we had to crawl on our hands and knees. (13) The smaller the opening got, the more anxious I felt. (14) Just when I thought the passageway was getting too small for us to go any farther, it opened up again. (15) The light from my headlamp shown that we were in an enormous room.

(16) As we paused to look around, my heart slowed back down. (17) The air was cool, and the shiny, smooth wall in front of us sparkled from the glow of our headlamps. (18) I was surprised at how peaceful it felt. (19) Dad suggested that we sit on a rock. (20) And turn off our headlamps. (21) Up to that moment I had never experienced total darkness. (22) It was amazing. (23) I couldn't see Dad even though he was right next to me. (24) I couldn't even see my hand in front of my face. (25) I could only hear water dripping somewhere off in the distance.

(26) After a while we turned our lamps back on and did a little exploring. (27) I learned about stalactites and stalagmites and saw some amazing rock formations. (28) Soon Dad said it was time to head back. (29) Slowly we began to crawl. (30) We traveled the same path, but this time I felt different. (31) I wasn't nearly as nervous as I had been on the way into the cave. (32) I took the time to look around and appreciate the beauty of the rock wall's.

(33) When we finally made our way out of the cave, I was able to stand up straight again. (34) But now I stood with a confidence that I had never felt before. (35) Not only had I explored my first cave, but I had also conquered my fear of small spaces. (36) Dad was as pleased as I was. (37) He now had a new caving partner.

1 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 5?

- A Delete the comma
- B Change ***and*** to ***I was***
- C Change ***we*** to ***you***
- D No change is needed in sentence 5.

2 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 12?

- A Change ***dropped*** to ***droped***
- B Change ***untill*** to ***until***
- C Change ***hands and knees*** to ***hand's and knee's***
- D Make no change

- 3 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 15?
- A Change ***shown*** to **showed**
 - B Change ***that*** to **something**
 - C Change ***were*** to **was**
 - D Make no change
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- 4 What is the correct way to write sentences 19 and 20?
- A Dad suggested that we sit on a rock, we turned off our headlamps.
 - B Dad suggested that we sit on a rock and turn off our headlamps.
 - C Dad suggesting that we sit on a rock and turn off our headlamps.
 - D Sentences 19 and 20 are correct in the paper.

- 5 What is the correct way to write sentences 29 and 30?
- A Slowly we began to crawl, we traveled the same path, but this time I felt different.
 - B Slowly we began to crawl. Traveling the same path, but feeling different this time.
 - C Slowly we began to crawl, and travel the same path. But feeling different this time.
 - D Sentences 29 and 30 are correct in the paper.

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- 6 What change should be made in sentence 32?
- A Change **took** to **token**
 - B Insert a comma after **around**
 - C Change **beauty** to **beautiful**
 - D Change **wall's** to **walls**

Look at the picture below.



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It takes talent to balance a basketball on your finger.

Write about a time when you discovered that you were good at something.

Be sure to —

- write about a personal experience
- organize your writing
- develop your ideas in detail
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

READ the information in the box below.

There are people in our lives who are special to us. Sometimes this person is a teacher or coach, a parent, a brother or sister, or even a friend.

THINK about the people you care about.

WRITE about one person who has been important to you. Explain what makes that person special.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your central idea
- organize your writing
- develop your writing in detail
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

Item Number	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting	Content Student Expectation	Correct Answer
Writing Selection 1				
1	2	Supporting	4.18(A)	C
2	2	Readiness	4.15(C)	B
3	2	Readiness	4.15(C)	A
4	2	Readiness	4.15(C)	C
5	2	Readiness	4.15(C)	D
6	2	Supporting	4.18(A)	A
Writing Selection 2				
1	3	Readiness	4.15(D)	A
2	3	Readiness	4.15(D)	B
3	3	Supporting	4.20(A)	A
4	3	Readiness	4.20(B)	B
5	3	Readiness	4.20(B)	D
6	3	Readiness	4.15(D)	D
Sample Prompt for Personal Narrative				
	1	Readiness	4.17(A)	Prompt
Sample Prompt for Expository Writing				
	1	Readiness	4.18(A)	Prompt

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