

2017 STAAR Grade 4 Reading Rationales

Item #	Response A/F	Response B/G	Response C/H	Response D/J
1	A is incorrect because the caterpillar's humble responses do not support the idea that it is too impatient to argue with the ant and the bee.	B is incorrect because the caterpillar's actions while building its cocoon do not support the idea that it is confused by the questions the ant and the bee are asking.	C is correct because the caterpillar's actions while building its cocoon support the idea that it is unconcerned about what the ant and the bee think about its house.	D is incorrect because the caterpillar's actions while building its cocoon do not support the idea that it is afraid to show the ant and the bee the best way to make a house.
2	F is incorrect because this sentence does not suggest that the caterpillar has experienced an important change.	G is incorrect because this sentence does not suggest that the caterpillar has experienced an important change.	H is incorrect because this sentence does not suggest that the caterpillar has experienced an important change.	J is correct because the text indicates time has passed and "what had once been the caterpillar" has now experienced an important change.
3	A is incorrect because it is not a brief statement of the main details of paragraphs 1 through 9.	B is incorrect because this brief statement lists details that are not included in paragraphs 1 through 9.	C is correct because it is a brief statement of the main details of paragraphs 1 through 9.	D is incorrect because it is not a brief statement of the main details of paragraphs 1 through 9.
4	F is correct because "silly" is a synonym for the word "absurd."	G is incorrect because "absurd" does not mean "messy."	H is incorrect because "absurd" does not mean "difficult."	J is incorrect because "absurd" does not mean "gloomy."
5	A is incorrect because this sentence does not show that the caterpillar is successful at building a good house for itself.	B is incorrect because this sentence does not show that the caterpillar is successful at building a good house for itself.	C is incorrect because this sentence does not show that the caterpillar is successful at building a good house for itself.	D is correct because this sentence shows that the caterpillar is successful at building a good house for itself.
6	F is incorrect because paragraph 15 does not illustrate how quickly moths can move.	G is correct because the sensory language and vivid details in paragraph 15 illustrate how beautiful the caterpillar has become.	H is incorrect because paragraph 15 does not illustrate how strong a cocoon can be.	J is incorrect because paragraph 15 does not illustrate how perfectly the caterpillar has built the cocoon.
7	A is incorrect because both careers did not give Dahl experience as a spy.	B is incorrect because both careers did not put Dahl in dangerous situations.	C is incorrect because there is no mention that both careers required excellent writing skills.	D is correct because both careers presented Dahl with opportunities to learn new skills.
8	F is incorrect because the word "endless" does not mean "hearing the end."	G is incorrect because the word "endless" does not mean "able to end."	H is correct because the suffix -less means "without."	J is incorrect because the word "endless" does not mean "after the end."
9	A is incorrect because Dahl becoming a father does not explain what types of stories Dahl enjoyed writing.	B is incorrect because Dahl becoming a father does not explain how Dahl's children helped him improve his stories.	C is incorrect because Dahl becoming a father does not explain when Dahl decided to become a writer.	D is correct because what began as bedtime stories for his daughters quickly became famous children's books.
10	F is incorrect because the photographs do not suggest that the books were the first stories written by Dahl.	G is incorrect because the photographs do not encourage the reader to buy the books that Dahl wrote.	H is incorrect because the photographs do not show which books Dahl wrote while he was a spy.	J is correct because the photographs show examples of Dahl's books that the reader may recognize.
11	A is incorrect because the author does not organize the selection by listing Dahl's accomplishments as a writer.	B is incorrect because the author does not organize the selection by comparing Dahl's life as a pilot to his life as a writer.	C is correct because the author organizes the selection by describing Dahl's life from childhood through adulthood.	D is incorrect because the author does not organize the selection by explaining how Dahl's job at the Shell Oil Company led to new discoveries.
12	F is incorrect because this sentence does not show that Dahl was a daring person.	G is correct because this sentence gives examples that Dahl was a daring person.	H is incorrect because this sentence does not show that Dahl was a daring person.	J is incorrect because this sentence does not show that Dahl was a daring person.

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13	A is correct because paragraph 2 states that Ricochet liked to chase birds, which caused her to fail service dog training.	B is incorrect because getting on a surfboard was not a skill Ricochet needed to learn in order to become a service animal.	C is incorrect because learning how to open doors was not what prevented Ricochet from becoming a service animal.	D is incorrect because receiving attention from people did not prevent Ricochet from becoming a service animal.
14	F is incorrect because the author did not write this article to convince the reader to support the work that dogs do for others.	G is correct because the author informs the reader about how one dog is using her special talents to raise funds that help both people and animals.	H is incorrect because the author does not explain the process of how a dog becomes a service animal.	J is incorrect because the author does not teach the reader how to train dogs to surf.
15	A is correct because paragraph 6 lists some of the causes Ricochet has helped.	B is incorrect because paragraphs 6 and 7 do not describe how Ricochet learned to surf.	C is incorrect because paragraphs 6 and 7 do not explain why Ricochet could not be a service dog.	D is incorrect because paragraphs 6 and 7 do not tell a story about the first time Ricochet surfed to raise money.
16	F is incorrect because this summary only lists a few details of some of the causes that Ricochet has helped.	G is incorrect because this summary addresses only one section of the article.	H is incorrect because this summary addresses only the first time Ricochet surfed to raise money.	J is correct because this summary is a brief statement of the main details of the article from beginning to end.
17	A is incorrect because definition 1 does not match the way "common" is used in paragraph 1.	B is correct because definition 2 best matches the way "common" is used in paragraph 1.	C is incorrect because definition 3 does not match the way "common" is used in paragraph 1.	D is incorrect because definition 4 does not match the way "common" is used in paragraph 1.
18	F is incorrect because there is no evidence to support the conclusion that McDermott thinks horses are better guide animals than dogs.	G is incorrect because there is no evidence to support the conclusion that McDermott helps others find guide animals.	H is incorrect because there is no evidence to support the conclusion that McDermott believed Confetti needed more training.	J is correct because the reader can conclude that McDermott misses Confetti but is happy that the horse can help Spencer.
19	A is incorrect because paragraph 4 does not explain what Confetti does when she is not working.	B is incorrect because paragraph 4 does not demonstrate that Confetti is a friendly guide horse.	C is correct because paragraph 4 describes what Confetti's life is like living with Spencer.	D is incorrect because paragraph 4 does not show that Confetti is able to take care of herself.
20	F is incorrect because there are not enough details to support this as the main idea.	G is correct because the title and the details in the selection support that Confetti has become a wonderful guide animal.	H is incorrect because there are not enough details to support this as the main idea.	J is incorrect because there are not enough details to support this as the main idea.
21	A is incorrect because both Ricochet and Confetti help a person with special needs.	B is incorrect because both Ricochet and Confetti have owners that care about them.	C is correct because Ricochet's "energetic activity" made her unfit at becoming a guide animal.	D is incorrect because both Ricochet and Confetti obtained their special skill by learning it first before helping others.
22	F is incorrect because neither selection expresses the importance of making animals famous.	G is incorrect because although both animals made a new friend in the people they helped, it is not expressed as important in both selections.	H is incorrect because neither selection expresses the importance of teaching about animals.	J is correct because the overall importance of both selections is caring for those with special needs.
23	A is incorrect because both Ricochet and Confetti did require special training in order to help others with special needs.	B is correct because Ricochet raises money for many causes that help both people and animals, while Confetti is a full-time guide for one person.	C is incorrect because both Ricochet and Confetti spend time outdoors helping people with special needs.	D is incorrect because Ricochet notices birds, which is why she could not be a service animal.

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24	F is correct because Ricochet was able to stay with her original owner, but Confetti had to leave her original owner in order to become a guide animal.	G is incorrect because Ricochet's talents are unusual, but Confetti performs the same tasks as a guide dog.	H is incorrect because there is no evidence to support that Confetti's owner worried that she would not make a good guide animal.	J is incorrect because both Ricochet and Confetti travel with their owners in order to help people with special needs.
25	A is incorrect because the lack of spaces between the words does not create a sense of mystery.	B is correct because the lack of spaces between the words creates a sense of feeling rushed.	C is incorrect because the lack of spaces between the words does not create a sense of happiness.	D is incorrect because the lack of spaces between the words does not create a sense of feeling surprised.
26	F is incorrect because the message of the poem is not about time moving at the same pace no matter what is happening.	G is incorrect because the message of the poem is not about time passing more quickly in the morning than in the evening.	H is incorrect because the message of the poem is not about the passage of time being noticed more by older people than younger people.	J is correct because the message of the poem is time seems to pass at different speeds depending on what we are doing.
27	A is incorrect because line 21 does not show that the speaker is confused.	B is incorrect because line 21 does not show that the speaker has to leave.	C is incorrect because line 21 does not suggest that the speaker is having fun.	D is correct because line 21 uses a sound to describe the speaker's sense of time passing quickly.
28	F is correct because the word "peculiar" introduces the strangeness of time.	G is incorrect because the word "peculiar" does not show how time is "certain."	H is incorrect because the word "peculiar" does not show how time is "sensible."	J is incorrect because the word "peculiar" does not show how time is "cautious."
29	A is correct because the repetition of "crawls along" helps the reader understand that time seems to pass slowly.	B is incorrect because line 12 is not an example of meter.	C is incorrect because line 12 is not an example of a line break.	D is incorrect because line 12 is not an example of rhyme.
30	F is incorrect because the first stanza does not describe an experience the speaker enjoys.	G is correct because the first stanza introduces time as the subject of the poem.	H is incorrect because the first stanza does not identify the setting of the poem.	J is incorrect because the first stanza does not reveal the speaker's feelings.
31	A is incorrect because the picture does not show the number of years artists train.	B is incorrect because the picture does not show a person working alone.	C is correct because the picture shows the designs for <i>papel picado</i> .	D is incorrect because the picture does not show the amount of time needed to make <i>papel picado</i> .
32	F is correct because the word <i>beautiful</i> is an opinion, which can not be proven.	G is incorrect because this is a fact that can be proven to be true.	H is incorrect because this is a fact that can be proven to be true.	J is incorrect because this is a fact that can be proven to be true.
33	A is incorrect because paragraph 6 does provide information where <i>papel picado</i> can be displayed.	B is incorrect because paragraph 6 does not provide reasons why people like <i>papel picado</i> .	C is incorrect because paragraph 6 does not tell where materials can be found for <i>papel picado</i> .	D is correct because paragraph 6 begins with the problem of preserving the art, and then explains how artists solved the problem.
34	F is incorrect because unfolding the paper is in step 4 and putting glue on the paper is after step 4.	G is incorrect because unfolding the paper is in step 4 and using string is after step 4.	H is correct because unfolding the paper is in step 4 and cutting the paper is just before in step 3.	J is incorrect because this section does not include drawing the design.
35	A is correct because paragraph 1 explains that people had a lot of the paper that made <i>papel picado</i> and that's why they began to create it.	B is incorrect because it explains how the design looked and not why the artists created <i>papel picado</i> .	C is incorrect because it explains the same patterns used in <i>papel picado</i> but not why it was created.	D is incorrect because it gives an example of how a wedding banner is designed and not why artists created <i>papel picado</i> .

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36	F is incorrect because this section tells the meaning of <i>papel picado</i> and not about when it is displayed.	G is incorrect because this section tells how <i>papel picado</i> is made and not when it is displayed.	H is correct because paragraph 5 provides examples of when <i>papel picado</i> is used such as holidays, birthdays, and other events.	J is incorrect because this section gives directions on making <i>papel picado</i> and not when it is displayed.