

2018 STAAR Grade 4 Reading Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
1	Option D is correct	The author includes the sentence in paragraph 6, “If this idea had not worked, he would have lost everything,” and the reference to the “large personal loan” Wrigley took out to pay for advertising to support the definition of <u>risks</u> as “actions that could lead to failure.”
	Option A is incorrect	There is no context in paragraph 6 to support that the word <u>risks</u> means “breaks in a routine.”
	Option B is incorrect	There is no evidence in paragraph 6 to suggest that Wrigley took “suggestions from others”; this definition of <u>risks</u> is not supported by context.
	Option C is incorrect	Although Wrigley did have to “work extra hard” and “think creatively” to sell his gum, the word <u>risks</u> does not mean “skills that are difficult to learn.”
2	Option G is correct	The suggestion that it is hard to imagine the world without these counters “lined” with gum is included to help the reader understand that gum is a common product. The mention of different flavors and colors of gum suggests that it is popular.
	Option F is incorrect	There is no reference to the price of gum in the sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	The idea that shoppers often forget to buy gum until they are purchasing their groceries at the counter is not supported by the sentence.
	Option J is incorrect	Although this sentence does refer to “minty” and “fruit-flavored gum,” the author does not provide a comparison to the variety of flavors available now as compared with the past.
3	Option D is correct	The author describes a variety of new approaches that Wrigley tried in order to promote his product, such as giving away free gum to anyone who purchased his baking powder. He advertised in newspapers and gave gifts to store owners who sold his gum. He also asked store owners to “display boxes of his gum next to their cash registers” and mailed gum “to every listed address in the country.”
	Option A is incorrect	Although Wrigley gave away free gum both with the purchase of his baking powder and in the mail, there is no evidence to suggest that he gave away more gum than he sold.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Wrigley did eventually move to Chicago to start his own business, he worked as a teenager for his family’s soap business, so this option is incorrect.
	Option C is incorrect	Wrigley switched from selling soap to selling baking powder when the free powder he gave away proved to be more popular than the soap. He then switched from selling baking powder to selling gum when the gum proved to be popular with his customers, helping the reader to understand that Wrigley did learn from his experiences.
4	Option G is correct	The reader knows this selection is a biography because events in a person’s life are described. In paragraph 2, the author introduces William Wrigley, Jr. and his achievement of making gum “the popular treat it is today.” In the remaining paragraphs, the author describes events in Wrigley’s life that led to his success.
	Option F is incorrect	Although the reader can understand from the selection that many people enjoy chewing Wrigley’s gum, the reader cannot tell that the selection is a biography based on this information.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the author does explain why Wrigley decided to start selling chewing gum, this explanation does not on its own inform readers that the selection is a biography.
	Option J is incorrect	It is the description of the events in Wrigley’s life and what led to his success that helps the reader determine that the selection is a biography.

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5	Option A is correct	The author refers to Wrigley as “clever” and “determined,” credits him with popularizing chewing gum, and describes his methods of promoting his product in great detail, suggesting that the author admires Wrigley for his interesting ideas and hard work.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author does describe Wrigley’s methods throughout the selection, the methods are not necessarily portrayed as simple, nor does the author express amazement at Wrigley’s success.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no evidence to suggest that the author is bothered by the fact that Wrigley made so few gum flavors.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no evidence to suggest that the author wishes Wrigley had used his talents on something other than gum.
6	Option H is correct	William Wrigley, Jr., dreamed of operating a successful business. He employed creative marketing techniques, such as having store owners stock his product next to the check-out counters and using newspapers to advertise his gum. The author includes these details to support the theme, or central message, that thinking creatively helps people achieve their goals.
	Option F is incorrect	The author does not emphasize the joy Wrigley found through his work, so this theme is not supported.
	Option G is incorrect	Wrigley promoted his product to store owners and marketed his gum directly to customers, but the theme that he worked with others to solve problems is not developed.
	Option J is incorrect	The author does not develop a theme of showing respect to the boss as an important part of any job.
7	Option D is correct	Opal is distracted by the parrot’s loud scream and then has to ignore the parrot, which supports “annoying” as the meaning of <u>irritating</u> .
	Option A is incorrect	The parrot screams loud enough to distract Opal, helping the reader to understand that <u>irritating</u> does not mean “low.”
	Option B is incorrect	Although Opal looks around to see where the <u>irritating</u> scream comes from, there is no evidence to suggest that the parrot’s voice expresses curiosity.
	Option C is incorrect	Gertrude the parrot does not like dogs. However, the reader does not learn this fact until paragraph 13, and there is no evidence earlier in the story to suggest that Gertrude is “nervous” when she screams in an “ <u>irritating</u> voice.”
8	Option G is correct	In paragraphs 10 through 18, Otis looks down at the counter rather than at Opal, mumbles, and expresses uncertainty, suggesting that he is not sure if he should hire Opal.
	Option F is incorrect	The conversation between the two characters in paragraphs 10 through 18 is included to suggest that Otis is uncertain about hiring Opal rather than disappointed over the lack of a sale.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no evidence in paragraphs 10 through 18 to suggest that Otis is ashamed of the mess.
	Option J is incorrect	The reader can infer from the conversation between Otis and Opal in paragraphs 10 through 18 that Otis feels uncertain. However, his uncertainty is about whether he should hire Opal, not about what Opal may do next.
9	Option A is correct	One reason Otis is reluctant to hire Opal is that she would need to bring her dog Winn-Dixie to work, and Gertrude, the parrot who lives in the pet store, does not like dogs. However, paragraphs 22 through 24 suggest that the dog and the parrot can become friends, prompting Otis to put aside his doubt and tell Opal she can “start on Monday” in paragraph 25.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no evidence to suggest that Otis hires Opal because he wants to spend more time around Opal’s dog.
	Option C is incorrect	The reader can infer from the description in paragraph 9 of the dusty floor that the pet store is messy, but there is no evidence to suggest Otis realizes he needs help keeping the store clean.
	Option D is incorrect	The author suggests Otis hires Opal because Gertrude seems to like Winn-Dixie, not because Otis wants Opal to stop sharing her ideas.

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10	Option H is correct	Opal really wants a new leash and collar for Winn-Dixie and does not give up in her efforts to get the items. She initially tries to buy the leash and collar on an “installment plan,” and when that doesn’t work, she offers to work at the pet store. Ultimately, Opal’s persistence results in her getting her wish. These details are included to support the main message that people who do not give up are more likely to get what they want.
	Option F is incorrect	There is no evidence that anyone in the story feels fearful. The main message relates to people getting what they want through persistence, not overcoming fear through courage.
	Option G is incorrect	Although Opal wants to work at the pet store and refers to herself as “trustworthy” in paragraph 12, this is not the main message of the story.
	Option J is incorrect	Opal is willing to work hard, but the reader can infer that the message of the story is focused on achieving goals through persistence rather than on achieving success through hard work.
11	Option D is correct	When Otis refuses to sell Opal a leash and collar on an installment plan, Opal suggests in paragraph 8 that she work at the pet store, where she could “sweep the floors and dust the shelves and take out the trash,” prompting Otis to consider hiring Opal.
	Option A is incorrect	Getting a new leash and collar for Winn-Dixie is Opal’s motivation for seeking employment at the pet store, not Otis’s motivation for hiring Opal.
	Option B is incorrect	The fact that Gertrude the parrot does not like being around dogs causes Otis to feel reluctant about hiring Opal; Gertrude’s dislike of dogs does not cause him to consider giving Opal a job.
	Option C is incorrect	The fact that Winn-Dixie howls when he is away from Opal means that Winn-Dixie would be spending a lot of time at the pet store if Opal is hired. This initially causes Otis to feel reluctant about hiring Opal.
12	Option G is correct	This summary successfully includes the major events and key details from the entire story. Opal’s reason for being at the pet store and her conflict of not having enough money for the leash are explained in the first sentence. The second and third sentences include a description of how Opal plans to solve her problem, and the resolution of the story is described in the last sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	Key events from the story are left out of this summary, including Opal’s plan to work at the pet store and Otis’s decision to hire Opal.
	Option H is incorrect	Opal’s efforts to resolve the conflict and the final resolution are left out of this summary, making it incomplete.
	Option J is incorrect	Opal’s efforts to solve the conflict are only partially described in this summary, and the resolution is omitted.
13	Option A is correct	The author includes paragraph 2 to focus on the positive contributions of bats: they eat harmful insects, spread pollen among flowering plants, and fertilize soil with their droppings.
	Option B is incorrect	The author’s purpose in paragraph 2 is to describe good things bats do, not to share ideas people have about bats.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no information included in paragraph 2 that explains why bats eat so many insects. The author only offers that “A solitary bat can eat 1,000 mosquito-sized insects in just one hour.”
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not try to persuade people to visit bat caves in paragraph 2.
14	Option H is correct	The author explains in paragraph 3 that bats are having difficulty finding homes because “bat habitats, like trees and caves, often are destroyed” when people “develop land and build new houses and businesses.”
	Option F is incorrect	Bats need places to hang from while they sleep, but the main reason they are having difficulty finding homes is because bat habitats are often destroyed when people “develop land and build new houses and businesses.”
	Option G is incorrect	There is no evidence in the selection to suggest that bats are bothered by people who explore caves.
	Option J is incorrect	The author explains important characteristics of bat houses but does not suggest that the improper construction of bat houses is contributing to bats having difficulty finding homes.

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15	Option D is correct	In this sentence, the author expresses the opinion that building bat houses is a “great” thing for people to do to help “these useful creatures.”
	Option A is incorrect	This sentence is a fact that can be verified. Scientists can study how well plants grow in soil mixed with fertilizer compared with soil without the fertilizer.
	Option B is incorrect	This sentence is a fact. People and animals eat plants, so if there are more plants, there will be more food for people and animals.
	Option C is incorrect	This sentence is a fact that can be verified; the number of people who build homes for bats can be counted.
16	Option G is correct	The title of the section “Bat Benefits” is used to indicate that the section will describe ways that bats can help people. The author explains that bats eat harmful insects, spread pollen among flowering plants, and produce droppings that make excellent fertilizer for plants.
	Option F is incorrect	The author provides information about bats in the introductory paragraph but does not describe the ways bats can help people.
	Option H is incorrect	The title of the section “Giving Back to Bats” is used to indicate that the author will discuss the ways people can help bats, not the ways bats can help people.
	Option J is incorrect	The section “Bat Houses” does not include information about the ways bats can help people.
17	Option C is correct	The author’s purpose for including paragraph 5 is to describe “some things humans can do to help honeybees,” such as growing flowers and plants that honeybees like and building beehives to provide homes for bees.
	Option A is incorrect	The author’s purpose in paragraph 5 is to share ways to care for the honeybee population. Problems that honeybees are facing are included in paragraph 2.
	Option B is incorrect	The author provides information about the benefits of caring for bees in paragraphs 3 and 4, not paragraph 5.
	Option D is incorrect	The benefits of having honeybees around are described in paragraphs 3 and 4.
18	Option F is correct	The author explains in paragraph 2 that when areas where bees live are turned into farms, crops replace wildflowers and other plants, which “limits honeybees’ access to nectar and pollen.”
	Option G is incorrect	In paragraph 2, the author does not indicate a connection between the loss of farmland and the diseases affecting bees.
	Option H is incorrect	The author refers to bees catching diseases but does not state that bees pass on these diseases to plants.
	Option J is incorrect	Although the author mentions that crops replace the plants and wildflowers bees depend on for food, paragraph 2 does not include information to suggest that bees eat the crops.
19	Option A is correct	In paragraph 3, the author states that “Many of the fruits and vegetables that humans and other animals eat cannot grow without the help of honeybees” and goes on to explain that “Without the help of honeybees, we would not have as many of the plants we depend on for food.”
	Option B is incorrect	There is no evidence in the article to suggest that diseases would spread more quickly if there were too few honeybees.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no evidence in the article to suggest that there would be more farms if there were too few honeybees.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no evidence to support the conclusion that there would be more harmful insects if there were too few honeybees.

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20	Option J is correct	Key points of the section “How Humans Can Help” are successfully included in this summary. The main idea that anyone can help honeybees is stated in the first sentence. Specific details about how people can help bees are included in the rest of the summary.
	Option F is incorrect	This option does not include the main idea of the section and mainly focuses on beekeepers, rather than all the ways people can help bees.
	Option G is incorrect	The focus of this option is on what children can learn about bees, not what children can do to help bees, so it does not accurately summarize the section.
	Option H is incorrect	The details in this summary are not needed and the author’s main idea that anyone can help honeybees is not fully developed, making this summary incomplete.
21	Option D is correct	Both authors provide details related to how bats and honeybees are responsible for more food being produced because of pollination. In paragraph 2 of the selection, the author explains that bats “spread pollen among flowering plants,” and the author of the article explains that “Bees pollinate a wide variety of plants in the United States.”
	Option A is incorrect	Although bats eat insects that are harmful to crops, there is no evidence in the article that bees do the same.
	Option B is incorrect	Neither the selection nor the article includes evidence that bats and bees are responsible for more people starting new farms.
	Option C is incorrect	Neither the selection nor the article includes evidence to support the conclusion that bats and bees are responsible for fewer animals getting sick from diseases and viruses.
22	Option H is correct	In the first photograph of the selection, people are watching bats fly out of Bracken Cave, and in the last photograph of the article, a student is shown working with bees at her school. Based on these images, the reader can conclude that people are interested in both bats and bees.
	Option F is incorrect	It is not possible to tell from the photographs that these animals enjoy being around people.
	Option G is incorrect	It is not possible to tell from the photographs that there are more of the animals than people may think.
	Option J is incorrect	The reader cannot determine from the photographs how easy or difficult it is for people to help these animals.
23	Option A is correct	The author of the selection states that bats eat insects, while the author of the article explains that bees feed on wildflowers and plants. This is a difference between the bats and the honeybees.
	Option B is incorrect	The authors provide information that both bats and bees spread pollen. This is a way in which they are the same, not different.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 2 of the article, the author refers to honeybees “suffering from diseases and catching viruses.” There are no references to bats catching diseases in the selection. Both parts of this option are untrue.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author of the selection does describe the need for bat houses, the author of the article notes that bees live in beehives, not houses.
24	Option H is correct	The author of the selection explains in this sentence that bats spread pollen. In this sentence from the article, the author shows that bees do as well. This is a key similarity between bees and bats.
	Option F is incorrect	Bees make honey, but bats do not. This is not a similarity between bees and bats.
	Option G is incorrect	Although bees and bats both spread pollen, the author of the selection focuses on bats’ loss of habitat rather than loss of access to pollen due to wildflowers and plants being replaced by crops.
	Option J is incorrect	The author of the selection does not refer to specific plants that bats prefer.
25	Option D is correct	The poet indicates that the wind “tears leaves off trees and blows them away,” (lines 21–22) and “whips the seas into foamy mountains” (lines 26–27). These descriptions of the wind support “rearranges in an untidy way” as the definition of <u>musses</u> .
	Option A is incorrect	The poet does not refer to the wind itself making anything wet.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no context to support “makes clean” as the meaning of <u>musses</u> .
	Option C is incorrect	Mussed hair being removed from a location is not supported by context in the poem.

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26	Option J is correct	In lines 5 through 9 of the poem, the poet contrasts pleasant scents associated with air (“roses,” “fresh-cut grass,” “rain”) with unpleasant scents (“skunk,” “gasoline”) to emphasize that air can be both pleasant and unpleasant.
	Option F is incorrect	There is no evidence to support that the poet is using descriptive language in order to persuade the reader to spend more time outdoors.
	Option G is incorrect	The poet does not include the descriptive language in lines 5 through 9 to focus on what air smells like after rain.
	Option H is incorrect	The poet refers to the smell of roses and skunks, but these lines are not included to explain how the scents are different.
27	Option C is correct	By drawing out the word “deeeeeeeep,” the poet most likely wants to emphasize the idea of taking a deep breath of air.
	Option A is incorrect	Although line 38 is one of the shorter lines in the poem, there is no reason to think that the poet wants the line to be read more quickly than other lines.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the word in line 38 is spelled differently than normal, the extra letters are most likely intended to emphasize the action of taking a deep breath, not to add humor.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no evidence that suggests the poet thinks this word is more important than other words in the poem.
28	Option G is correct	The description that the wind “tears leaves off trees” helps the reader understand the power of the wind.
	Option F is incorrect	The poet does not include this line to demonstrate that air can be powerful.
	Option H is incorrect	The statement that air “has no color or shape” does not help the reader infer that air can be powerful.
	Option J is incorrect	Blowing “a soap bubble” describes something a person can do using air but does not not emphasize that air can be powerful.
29	Option D is correct	The poet’s description of wind as “air that’s going somewhere” from lines 17 and 18 shows that the speaker believes that the difference between wind and air is that wind moves.
	Option A is incorrect	The poet does not provide evidence that wind is different from air because it is colder.
	Option B is incorrect	The poet does not describe wind as thinner than air.
	Option C is incorrect	The poet associates particular scents with air, but there is no evidence that the speaker believes wind is smellier than air.
30	Option H is correct	The speaker describes numerous characteristics of air—including its scents, actions, and locations—and concludes by stating, “I’m so glad it’s everywhere.” This suggests that the speaker feels that air has special qualities.
	Option F is incorrect	The speaker presents a positive view of air throughout the poem; there is no indication that he has changed his mind.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the poet mentions not being able to see air in lines 2 and 30, there is no indication that the speaker wishes that air could be seen.
	Option J is incorrect	The speaker offers numerous thoughts about air, but there is no evidence of confusion.
31	Option C is correct	In paragraph 1, the author describes a hammer pounding a nail “into the wood.” A hammer exerts force to push a nail through wood, so “to force to go through” as the meaning of <u>drives</u> is supported by this paragraph.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no mention in paragraph 1 of cars taking things from one place to another, so this definition of <u>drives</u> is incorrect.
	Option B is incorrect	The reader can infer that although a hammer moves a nail, the action is more forceful than simply guiding its movement.
	Option D is incorrect	A hammer is not used to throw nails. It forces them into wood.

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32	Option H is correct	Brooks and Bol set out to build more than 2,500 free libraries. In paragraph 8, the author states there are now “more than 25,000 Little Free Libraries around the world, and they can be found on almost every continent.” This supports the conclusion that Brooks and Bol are most likely delighted with the results of their plan.
	Option F is incorrect	It is unlikely that Brooks and Bol are disappointed with the results of their plan since there are now more than 25,000 Little Free Libraries around the world.
	Option G is incorrect	Although Brooks and Bol could not have known at the outset what the results of their plan would be, the author does not suggest that they feel curious about the results of their plan.
	Option J is incorrect	There is no evidence in the selection to suggest that Brooks and Bol feel confused about the results of their plan.
33	Option D is correct	The photograph is of a mother and her daughters taking books out of a Little Free Library, and the idea that libraries are places where people can share and enjoy books is emphasized by the caption.
	Option A is incorrect	The popularity rates of different libraries are not being compared.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no information in the photograph or its caption about how frequently library owners must refill their libraries.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the people in the photograph appear to be choosing books out of a Little Free Library, the steps people use to check out books from the libraries cannot be determined from this photograph or its caption.
34	Option F is correct	The author describes in paragraph 2 how in 2009 Todd Bol decided to build a wood box and fill it with books people could borrow. Bol did this to honor his mother, who “had been a teacher who had loved reading.”
	Option G is incorrect	Although Bol did create a new way for people to borrow books, he did this to honor his mother, not because his friends lacked books.
	Option H is incorrect	Although some people use Little Free Libraries to share books with one another, Bol’s reason for creating the first Little Free Library was to honor his mother.
	Option J is incorrect	Bol created the first Little Free Library to honor his mother’s memory, not because he noticed that libraries make people want to read.
35	Option D is correct	The Little Free Libraries are an innovative and interesting way to share books, and the author wrote this selection mainly to provide information about these libraries, including why Bol and Brooks created them, how they work, and how popular they are.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the author does refer to the number of Little Free Libraries and how they are located within cities such as El Paso, the author does not provide specific information about where to find a Little Free Library.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the Little Free Libraries are located outdoors, the author did not write the selection to explain why people enjoy reading books outdoors.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the information provided in the selection may encourage the reader to visit a Little Free Library, persuading the reader to do so is not the author’s primary purpose for writing the selection.

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36	Option G is correct	Important ideas and key details are included in this summary. The first sentence includes information about what a Little Free Library is and how the first one was made. The second sentence includes details about how the idea spread, and the popularity of tiny libraries today is highlighted in the last sentence.
	Option F is incorrect	Information about how the libraries multiplied or what their role is today is not included, making this summary incomplete. The summary also includes a nonessential detail: "The box was shaped like a red schoolhouse."
	Option H is incorrect	Information about how the Little Free Libraries came to be, how they multiplied, and how they have become popular is not included in this summary, making it incomplete.
	Option J is incorrect	Information about what a Little Free Library is or how these tiny libraries came into being is not included in this summary, making it incomplete.