



GRADE 4

Writing

Modified

Administered April 2014

RELEASED*

*This is a partial release of the STAAR Modified assessment administered in spring 2014. Selected passages and test items have been removed in order to support future test administrations within the STAAR program.

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DAY 1



The Raptor

Ben visited an amusement park that was famous for a roller coaster called the Raptor. He wanted to ride the Raptor but was afraid of all the upside-down loops and steep drops. Ben wrote this paper to tell about his experience.

Read Ben's paper and think about how he should revise it. Then answer the questions that follow.



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The Raptor

(1) The Raptor was taller than every other ride in the park.
(2) No matter where I went, I could see it. (3) The roller coaster
seemed to be staring at me. (4) It was daring me to ride it.

(5) My heart beat faster every time I looked at the enormous
roller coaster. (6) The Raptor had many upside-down loops and
steep drops. (7) Everyone who was riding it was screaming.
(8) How could something so scary be fun?

(9) All afternoon I thought about the roller coaster. (10) Finally I
grabbed his hand and said, "Come on. (11) I'm ready."

(12) As we stood in line, I thought about running away. (13) I thought about saying I was hungry and needed to get a snack.

(14) But I wasn't going to let my fear control me. (15) I was going to ride that roller coaster!

(16) Before long Dad and I were strapped in our seats. (17) I looked at Dad, and he grinned at me. (18) I tried to smile back. (19) The day was quite warm. (20) Then with a jolt the roller coaster began to move.

(21) The roller coaster slowly climbed to the top of the first hill. (22) Then I heard a click, and we were off. (23) As we zoomed downhill, it felt like my insides were trying to jump out of me. (24) My mouth was open, but I couldn't hear myself scream. (25) We looped and turned and dropped again. (26) And then all of a sudden, the ride was over. (27) My heart was pounding, but we were safe and sound.

(28) I had done it! (29) I had ridden the Raptor! (30) Even better, I had discovered and learned something new. (31) Riding a scary roller coaster is a lot of fun!

1 The meaning of sentence 10 can be improved by changing **his** to —

- A my dad's
- B the roller coaster's
- C the man's

2 Read the paragraph that contains sentences 12–15 again. Ben would like to add another sentence to help develop this paragraph.

Which of these sentences could **BEST** follow sentence 13?

- F I even thought about pretending to be sick.
- G I thought about my mom watching TV at home.
- H The park would be closing soon.

- 3** Read sentences 16–20 again. One sentence in this paragraph does not belong.

Which sentence should be deleted?

- A** Sentence 16
- B** Sentence 19
- C** Sentence 20

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- 4** What is the **BEST** way to revise sentence 30?

- F** Even better, I had discovered something new that had learned something new.
- G** Even better, I had learned something new.
- H** Even better, I had discovered something new, I had learned it.





Grandma's Room

Brett's grandma came to live with his family. Brett had to move into a room with his brother so that Grandma could have Brett's old room. At first Brett wasn't very excited about the change. Then he started getting to know his grandma a little better. Together they watched funny videos, played chess, and talked about sports. Over time Brett realized how much he enjoyed having Grandma in the house. Brett wrote this paper to tell about the experience.

Brett would like you to proofread his paper and look for any mistakes he has made. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.



Grandma's Room

(1) I wasn't happy about having to share a room with my brother. (2) I would have to sleep on the bottom bunk, and all my clothes would have to fit into one drawer. (3) But I wasn't really given a choice. (4) Grandma was moving in with us, and she needed my room.

(5) Before long my stuff was out, and Grandma's stuff was in. (6) The room looked so different. (7) There were no more baseball posters on the walls. (8) Instead, Grandma had decorated the room with paintings of flowers. (9) The shelf that used to hold my trophies were now filled with old photos. (10) And instead of pop music coming from the room, I now heard jazz.

5 What change should be made in sentence 8?

A Change *decoratted* to **decorated**

B Change *paintings* to **painting's**

C Change *of flowers* to **off flowers**

6 What change should be made in sentence 9?

F Change *trophies* to **trophys**

G Change *were now filled* to **was now filled**

H Change *with* to **it had**

(11) At first I was angry and stayed away from my old room. (12) But one day I heard Grandma laughing loudly. (13) I just had to see what she was doing. (14) Grandma was watching a show with funny videos that families had made. (15) I joined her, and soon I was laughing, too. (16) A mother had filmed one of her twin babies hiccupping while the other twin laughed. (17) Some kids had put a fake bug in a kitchen cabinet and filmed their friend finding it. (18) When the boy screamed and jumped across the room, Grandma and I could not stop laughing. (19) Before long I was visiting her room every night to watch those funny videos.

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

A Change *laughing* to **she was laughing**

B Change *loudley* to **loudly**

C Make no change

(20) Now I can't picture life without Grandma in our house.

(21) We don't just watch funny TV shows together. (22) We make brownies, play chess, and talk about sports. (23) Grandma is also really good at math. (24) She helps me with my homework.

(25) I'm finally making good grades in Ms. Hooper's class!

(26) It didn't take as long as I think it would to get used to sharing a room with my brother. (27) Most of the time he's okay. (28) Besides, if I ever need to get away from him, Grandma's door is always open!

8 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 26?

F Change *think* to **thought**

G Change *sharing* to **sharring**

H No change should be made.





Dolphins at Play

Brenna saw a news story about some playful dolphins in Hawaii. The dolphins were blowing air rings that rise to the surface of the water. Brenna learned that researchers have been studying how and why the dolphins blow the air rings. Brenna wrote this paper to tell about what she learned.

Read her paper and look for ways to revise it. Then answer the questions that follow.



Dolphins at Play

(1) Dolphins are smart and playful animals. (2) Many play with man-made toys, including balls and hoops. (3) But what do dolphins do when there are no toys around? (4) Some of them blow underwater air rings!

(5) Researchers have filmed two dolphins in Hawaii blowing air rings. (6) Hawaii is a state made up of eight major islands.

(7) People say the sight is amazing. (8) A dolphin will move its head

a little, and a ring of air will come out of its blowhole. (9) The air ring doesn't immediately rise to the surface. (10) Some rings through the water begin to glide slowly. (11) Sometimes a dolphin will push one of its rings a little bit. (12) This causes a smaller ring to break off from the larger one. (13) Other times a dolphin will swim through its own ring.

(14) They have been carefully studying the dolphins that blow air rings. (15) These experts think they know *how* the animals are blowing the rings. (16) However, they are still trying to figure out *why* the dolphins are doing it. (17) So far there is only one answer that seems to make sense. (18) The dolphins are blowing air rings to amuse themselves. (19) Isn't that amazing? (20) Just like humans, these bright and beautiful animals want to have a little fun.

9 What is the **BEST** way to revise sentence 10?

- A** Some rings begin through the water to glide slowly.
- B** Some rings begin to glide. Slowly through the water.
- C** Some rings begin to glide slowly through the water.

10 Brenna wants to delete a sentence from the second paragraph (sentences 5–13). Which of these sentences should she delete?

- F** Sentence 5
- G** Sentence 6
- H** Sentence 8

11 The meaning of sentence 14 is not clear. This sentence can be improved by changing **They** to —

- A** Dolphins
- B** We
- C** Scientists



DAY 2



WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Personal Narrative



LOOK at the picture below.



THINK about the following statement.

Swimming can be a fun activity.



WRITE about a time when you took part in an activity you really enjoyed.

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

USE THIS PREWRITING PAGE TO
PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU WRITE YOUR COMPOSITION
ON THE LINED PAGE LABELED "WRITTEN
COMPOSITION" IN THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

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