

GRADE 7
Reading
STAAR Alternate 2

Administered April 2019
RELEASED

READING

top



Eric is wearing a baseball cap on the top of his head.

top



Eric is wearing a baseball cap on the top of his head.

2b



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3a



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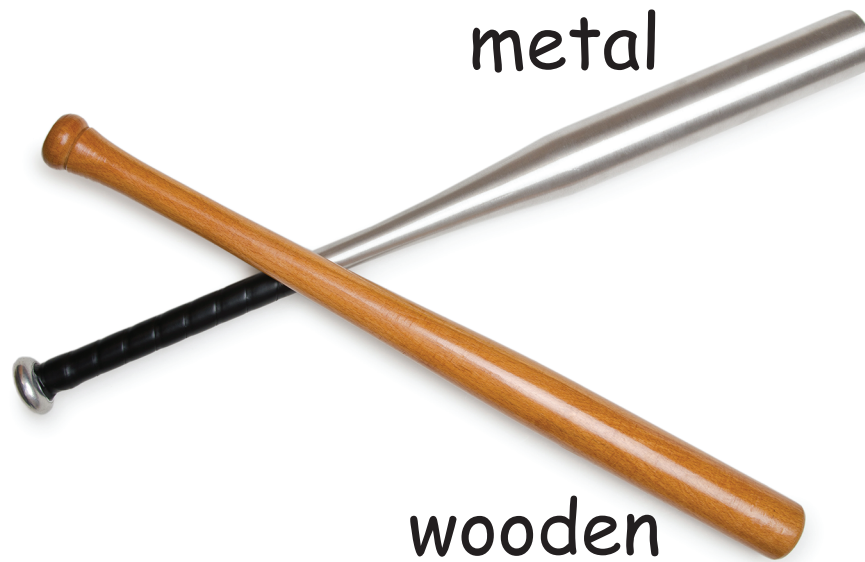
Weston slid into third base and tore a hole in his baseball pants. After the baseball game his mother sewed a patch over the hole.

to settle or smooth over an argument

material used to fix a hole in clothing

a small area of land

4a



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A wooden bat is heavy, but a metal bat is light.

4b

The light at the baseball field was bright.

Mark could not find the baseball because it was a light color.

Mark could easily swing his bat because it was light.

A Self-Portrait Collage



Liza was frustrated as she looked at the words on the paper with her art homework assignment: *Create your own self-portrait. Make it original. Make it show the real you.*

6a

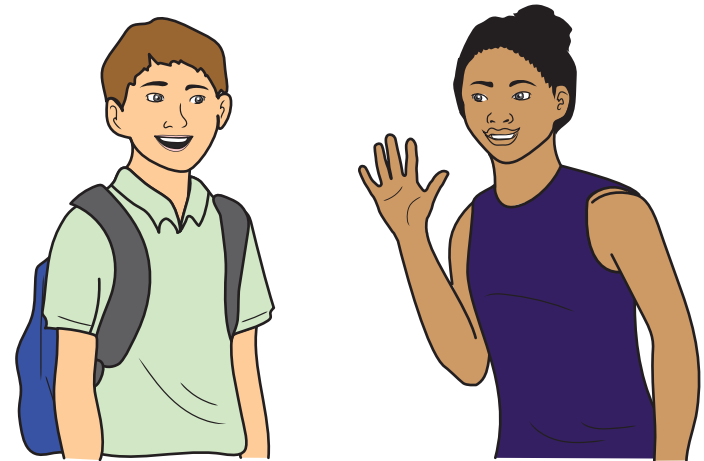


Liza had no idea how to draw a self-portrait. She decided to do something that calmed her down. Liza would go for a run. She was definitely a runner, not an artist.

6b



Just as Liza stepped outside, she saw her neighbor coming home from school. His name was Daniel, and she recognized him from the track team tryouts. She waved at him.



Daniel saw Liza and came over to talk to her. "Did you make the team?" he asked.

"Yes. I'll be at practice tomorrow," she said, "if I can finish my homework."

7a

“What’s up with your homework?” Daniel asked. Liza told him about her impossible art assignment.

“Well, what would you like to share about yourself in your project?” Daniel asked.

Liza thought for a minute. “I like to run,” she said. “I don’t like to draw. I’m not a good artist, and I’ve never had to take an art class before.”

7a

"I've taken a lot of art classes," Daniel said. "I think of an art project like a race. Every race is different, just like every art project is different," he said.

Liza wasn't really sure what Daniel meant. But she thanked him for his help, and the new friends made plans to go for a weekend run.

Liza likes art, but Daniel does not.

Liza and Daniel both like to run.

Liza and Daniel both like art.

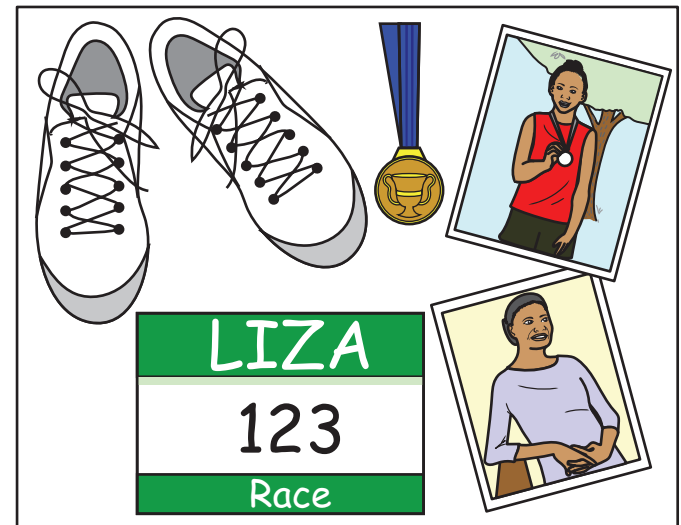
That night Liza was back in her room, trying to figure out what to do for her assignment. She kept thinking about Daniel's words. *"I think of an art project like a race. Every race is different, just like every art project is different."*

Liza tried to draw her face. She scrunched up the paper and threw it at a box in the corner of her room. The paper missed the box, so Liza went over to pick it up off the floor. As Liza leaned over, she saw a pair of her old running shoes in the box. "Too bad I can't turn a pair of running shoes into a self-portrait. Those shoes tell more about who I am than my silly drawings," she thought.



Suddenly Liza understood what Daniel meant. Her project did not have to be like anyone else's in the class.

Liza pulled her old running shoes out of the box and glued them to a piece of cardboard. Then Liza found some photographs from past races. She also found photographs of her family. She glued the photographs around the shoes to finish her collage.



The next morning when Liza saw Daniel, she thanked him for his good advice. She showed him the cardboard self-portrait and told him how she put it together.

"Your idea is awesome!" Daniel said. They high-fived each other and walked to school.

Liza sees a pair of her old running shoes when she goes to pick up her drawing off the floor.

Liza finds a box of photographs from old races and of her family.

Liza realizes that Daniel thinks she should draw a race instead of her face.

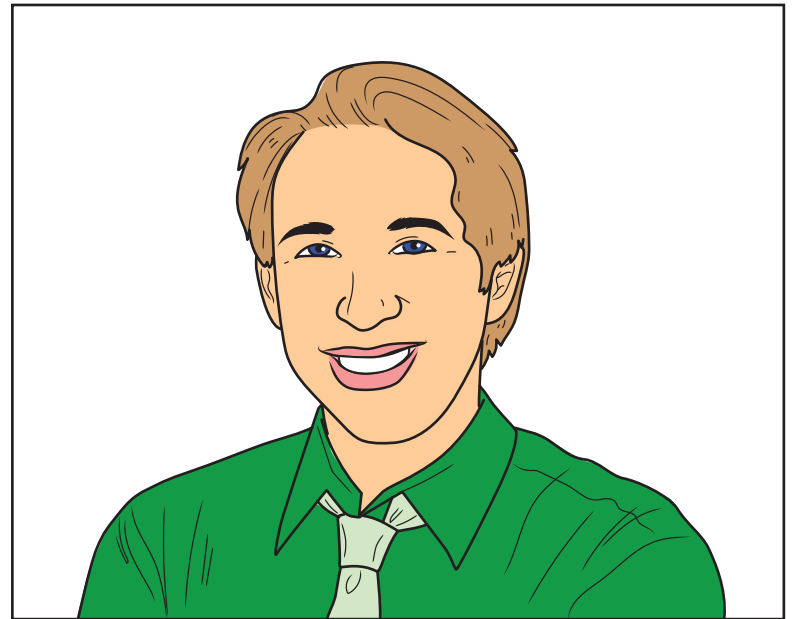


Dear Principal Anderson,

I would like to start an after-school video-gaming club at Highpoint Middle School. I hope I can convince you that this is a good idea for the coming school year.



I have asked Ms. Rodriguez, the school counselor, to help us with our after-school gaming club. She will be responsible for approving the games we play in the club. I am willing to be the president of the club for the first year. I am ready to work very hard to make this idea a success.



One concern people have is that kids who play video games lose interest in everything else. I agree that when people like to do something, they do a lot of it. This is true for students who play baseball or who play in a band as much as it is true for students who play video games. We are asking to meet once a week for an hour. Baseball and basketball players practice longer than that almost every day.



A second concern people have is that the school has no money in the budget for video games and equipment. The woman who runs the thrift store downtown offered to give us a few old computers and game consoles to get our club started. She told me about another store that donates video games and electronics to schools in need. Also, several



students who are interested in the after-school club have consoles and games they are willing to share to get us started.

Stores will donate old computers and used equipment to the school.

The baseball team and the band will give money to the club's budget.

Students will sell their old games and used equipment to make money for the club.

Many people believe that video games are a waste of time; however, some scientists actually think video games help the brain. People who play action video games must learn to make quick decisions or they lose.

Scientists have shown that people learn best when they are active. Video-gamers are much more active than people who just watch



television. When people only watch television, all they have to do is sit and watch. People who play video games are actively involved. If they lose their concentration, they make mistakes and lose.

An after-school video-gaming club could also help with grades. To become and remain a member of the club, students must have passing grades in all their classes.

There are students in this school who would like to join an after-school video-gaming club. This club would be for students who want to get together and share something they enjoy doing, just like the chess players and soccer players.

I look forward to meeting with you to discuss this.

Sincerely,

Alex Ayers

by providing the number of students who want to join the after-school video-gaming club

by explaining how playing video games helps improve the brain

by giving examples of how video games are a waste of time

Malayan Tapirs: The Disappearing Species



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Malayan tapirs are shy mammals that live in the rain forests of Southeast Asia.

14a



© CHEN WEI SENG/Bigstock.com

Malayan tapirs stay close to home. They are always busy looking for food and eating. They never eat other animals. They eat the leaves and twigs from plants or pieces of fruit that have fallen on the ground.

14b



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© CHEN WEI SENG/Bigstock.com

Everything about how a tapir looks and acts makes it seem to disappear and helps protect it from its enemies—especially tigers.



© Noppharat/Bigstock.com

Tapirs are rarely seen in the daytime. And the way the tapir's body looks—black in front and on both sets of legs, with a white "saddle" on its back—helps the tapir hide from its

enemies. The black fur makes the tapir difficult for other animals to see in the dark. The white fur on its back looks like moonlight. In the daytime, while a tapir is resting, it looks like a large stone. At night, even while moving around looking for food, it seems shapeless. Its white-against-black coloring confuses animals that might be hunting for tapirs in the forest at night.

15a

Tapirs are hunted by tigers. But the tapir can run through the jungle faster than a tiger.

Malayan tapirs are also good swimmers. When necessary, a tapir can

dive into a pool of water and hold its breath underwater until the tiger leaves to look somewhere else for food.



© CHEN WEI SENG/Bigstock.com

The best time to see a Malayan tapir is during the daytime.

The color of the Malayan tapir's body helps protect it from animal enemies.

The Malayan tapir spends most of its time in water.

There are only about 2,000 Malayan tapirs left in the world. They are now an endangered species. Unfortunately, Malayan tapirs are not able to protect themselves from human hunters as easily as they can from other animals. People in Southeast Asia do not like the taste of the tapir's meat, and they think eating tapir meat brings bad luck. But because it can be difficult to find other meat, people are now eating Malayan tapirs. Other people use the Malayan tapir's tough skin to make equipment for horses.



The main reason Malayan tapirs are disappearing is that people want their land. People can live almost anywhere, but Malayan tapirs can live only in rain forests. The rain forests where tapirs live are being cut down so that the land can be used for growing crops.

People are now working to find ways to save and rebuild the rain forests in Southeast Asia. Saving the rain forests will slow down the extinction of the Malayan tapir and hopefully save other species from extinction as well.

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Going for Selfie Gold



In 2016, Brent Folan of Fort Worth, Texas, went to the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Folan had signed up to be a volunteer at the games. But his real goal was to take selfies with as many athletes and celebrities as he could.



Courtesy of Brent Folan

"I love America and I love sports and I figured what better place to share this love than at the Olympics," Folan said. Folan wore a red, white, and blue flag suit. He took photos of himself with athletes and with Olympic events in the background.



Courtesy of Brent Folan



Courtesy of Brent Folan

For three years Folan had saved money and planned for his trip to the 2016 Olympics. Before he even got on the plane, Folan met U.S. sprinter Allyson Felix, and she became the first of the many people he photographed. He took photos with several athletes and celebrities at the opening ceremonies. Then he posted the photos on social media for people everywhere to enjoy.





Courtesy of Brent Folan

Before long Folan had taken selfies with runners, swimmers, and actors. He took a photo with athlete Virginia Thrasher and got to hold the first 2016 U.S. gold medal in his hands. Later he visited the Olympic village, where the athletes stay. In the village, he ran into the Final Five.

19a

The Final Five was the nickname of the U.S. gymnastics team. Folan included the caption "I did a backflip after this photo was taken. Team USA Gymnastics!!! Bring home the gold!!!" when he posted the picture on a social media site.



Courtesy of Brent Folan

to show what Olympic athletes were wearing in Brazil at the 2016 Olympics

to show examples of the selfies Brent took with the 2016 Olympic athletes

to show how to take a selfie with an athlete when at the Olympics

After three weeks at the Olympics, Folan had taken selfies with just about every U.S. athlete. But he was missing a very famous one: Michael Phelps, the Olympic athlete with the most medals in history. Throughout his time at the Olympics, Folan had been trying to find Phelps. Folan was even able to take a selfie with Phelps's mother! But he never was able to take a photo with Phelps himself.



Folan decided that he could not be a champion selfie-taker if he did not get the photo with Phelps. Then *ABC's Good Morning America* heard about his collection of selfies and asked him for an interview.

During the interview, the reporter asked Folan to teach him how to take a great selfie. Without Folan realizing it, the reporter placed Folan so that his back was to the stage entrance. Just as Folan held up the camera, Michael Phelps snuck up behind them and got into the photo!

20a

"I just photobombed you," Phelps said. He added that he had noticed Folan wearing his flag suit at a swimming event. "You can't forget the suit," Phelps said. "It's

awesome getting support, and there's no better way to get a lot of attention than just going all out, and it's great to see, and we love it."



Courtesy of Brent Folan

Folan wanted a selfie with Michael Phelps to go with the selfie he had already taken with Phelps's mother.

Folan wanted a selfie with Michael Phelps to buy a new camera.

Folan wanted a selfie with Michael Phelps because he knew Phelps was a famous Olympic athlete.

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ISD21060

Printed in the USA

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