

STUDENT NAME _____



English II

STAAR Alternate 2

Administered April 2023

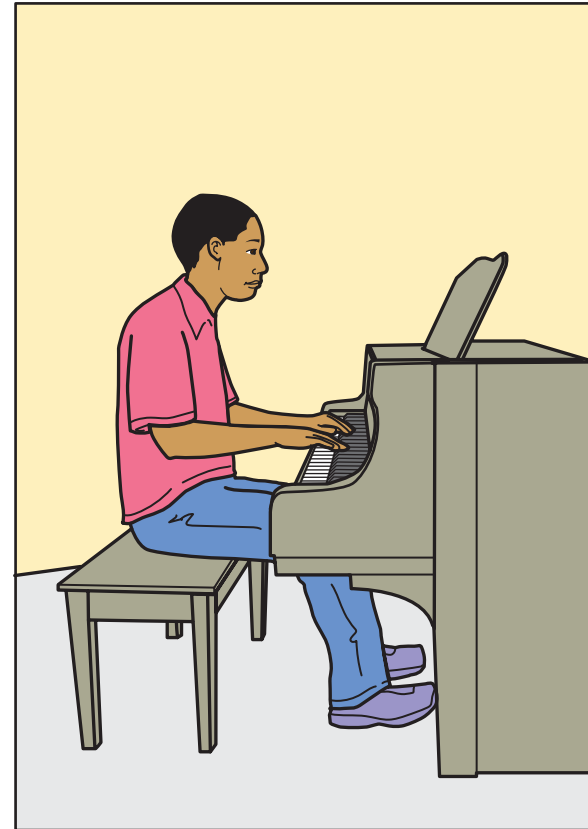
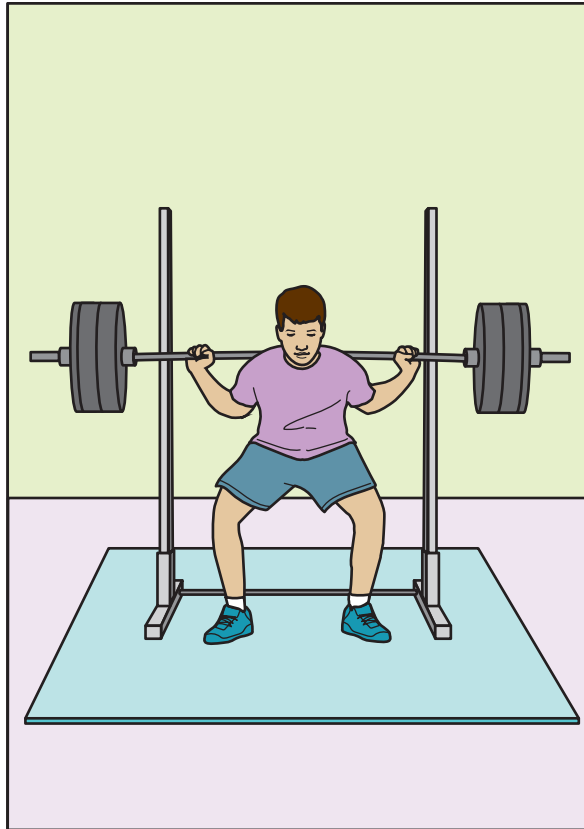
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ENGLISH II

Muscle and Music



All through elementary school, J. J. and William had been best friends. But when his family moved across town, William changed to a different school.



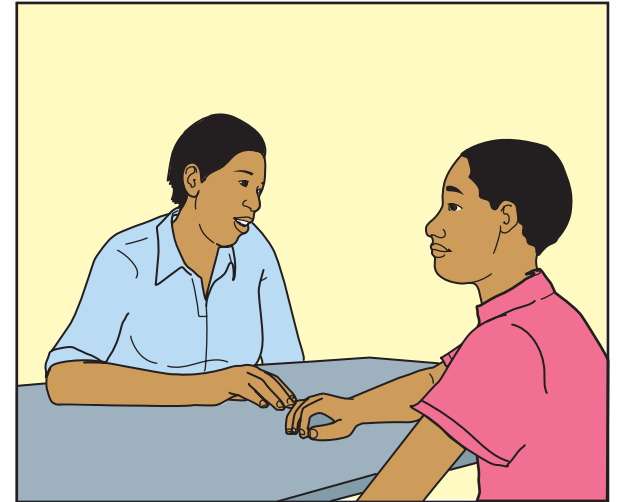
Now that school has started, there isn't enough time for the two boys to hang out like they always have. J. J. is devoted to football with early morning weight lifting in the gym and practice after school. William practices the piano every afternoon and has music lessons on Saturdays.

J. J.

William

One afternoon as William hangs up the phone, his mother asks, "Who was that?"

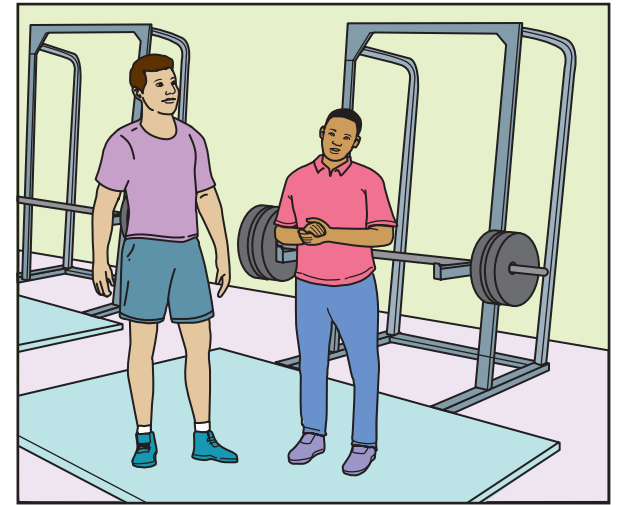
"It was J. J.," William answers. "We haven't talked since school started in the fall." William explains to his mother that J. J. wants him to come back to his old school next weekend to help with the carnival. William had looked forward to the carnival each year because it was a fundraiser for the children's hospital.



"Sounds like fun," his mother says, but William isn't sure. What would it be like to see J. J. and to be in his old school again? What would they even be able to talk about?

After thinking it over for a few days, William decides that the good he can do to help the carnival matters more than any awkwardness he might feel.

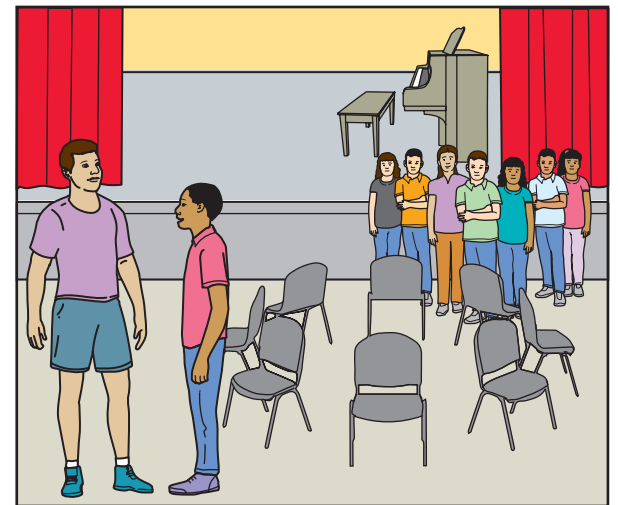
On the day of the carnival, William's parents drop him off at his old school. While the hallways seem smaller than he had remembered, the old friends he sees seem bigger. In the gym, William has no trouble finding J. J., the tallest and most muscular of all the other boys.



"Hey!" J. J. shouts out. "Glad you could make it!" He fist-bumps William, who immediately rubs the ache out of his knuckles with his other hand as he looks up at J. J.

J. J. asks William to help set up the carnival games along the walls of the gym. The boys lug in cement blocks and plywood to build tables. J. J. lifts the blocks as if they are made of foam rubber. But after half an hour, William's muscles are burning. He appreciates J. J.'s weight lifting and wonders whether it was a mistake to volunteer.

Families start coming into the gym to play the carnival games before the boys are finished. William hurries to set up a line of little chairs for kids to play musical chairs. The noise is so loud in the gym that William has to walk over to ask J. J. where the music is for the game.

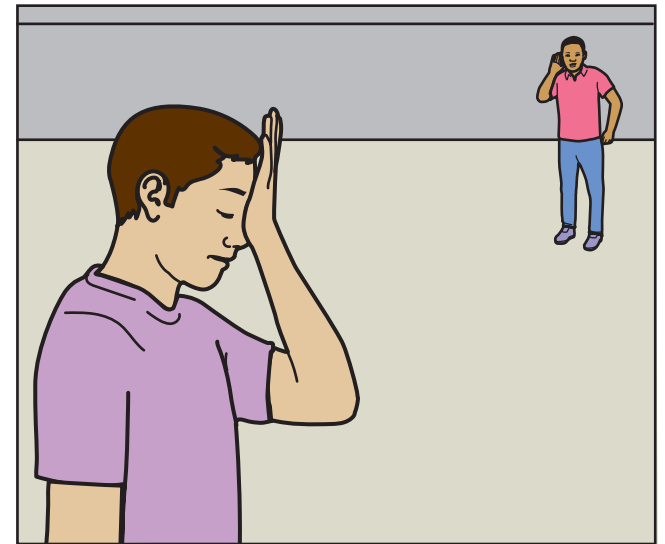


William is confident that he will remember how to find the gym in his old school.

William decides that helping with the carnival is more important than his insecure feelings.

William has been working out in the gym at his new school every morning, building up his muscles.

As soon as William asks about the music for musical chairs, J. J. hits his forehead, realizing that he forgot to provide music for the game. "Maybe we can use someone's phone to play music," he says.



"What?" William asks, his hand cupped around his ear. The noise in the gym is getting louder by the minute.

"We need music," J. J. yells, "but playing it on a phone won't be loud enough!"

William looks to the far end of the gym at the stage. The old piano he remembers is still there. He quickly climbs onto the stage, pulls a chair over to the piano, and begins to play a fast-paced tune.

"You've still got it!" J. J. shouts to William as he gives him a thumbs-up.



At the end of the day, William realizes that he has enjoyed working at the carnival and helping raise money for the children's hospital. But more than that, he has enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect with his old friend.

"I have a piano recital not far from here next Saturday morning," William tells J. J.

"Cool," his friend replies. "I'd like to go to that, and maybe you could come watch my game in the afternoon."

"You're playing football in the spring?" William asks.

"No," J. J. says, "this season, I'm on the baseball team, and if I remember right, you really like baseball."

4a

William nods. "I'll be there!" he says, because not only does he like baseball, but he also still really likes his old friend.

William plays the piano for musical chairs when J. J. realizes that he forgot to provide music for the game.

William realizes that he enjoyed working with J. J. to raise money for the children's hospital.

J. J. commits to coming to William's piano recital, and William plans to watch J. J. play baseball.

Future Food



Companies are making plant-based burgers that look like real meat.



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Plant-based burgers use ingredients that are grown, including grains, peas, and beans. Most people who eat plant-based meat are not vegetarians. They buy plant-based burgers because they like variety.

6b



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7a



A molecule called heme exists in both meat and plants. It has been discovered that heme gives meat its color, taste, and smell. Companies are using heme from the roots of soy plants to make plant-based burgers look and taste as much like real meat as possible.

7a

Many Americans like the idea of plant-based burgers. A survey from 2020 revealed that more than 40% of the people surveyed have eaten plant-based meats. About 60% would be "very likely" or "somewhat likely" to try them again. Plant-based meat is now available in many grocery stores, and plant-based burgers are even available at some fast-food restaurants. Based on the popularity of these products so far, experts predict that the demand will continue to grow. Plant-based burgers just might be the future of backyard barbecues.



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Plant-based burgers that look and taste like real meat are available to buy in grocery stores.

Companies are using a molecule called heme to make plant-based burgers look and taste like real meat.

People are serving plant-based burgers that look and taste like real meat at backyard barbecues.

Another way that scientists are developing food for the future is by exploring methods for making lab-grown meat. In this process, cells are grown in a lab to artificially create meat. Lab-grown meat requires much less land and produces far less greenhouse gas emissions than traditional meat production does. Additionally, it is more animal friendly. However, lab-grown meat is still very expensive to produce, and many consumers might not like the idea of eating a hamburger grown in a lab.



8a

NASA is very interested in finding new ways to feed astronauts on missions to outer space. Future space travels will take astronauts far away from farms and ranches on Earth.

NASA is trying to figure out how to have fresh, healthy, and appetizing food for years-long space journeys. The food would need to take up very little room and generate very little waste in preparation. This effort has led to experiments using 3-D printing.



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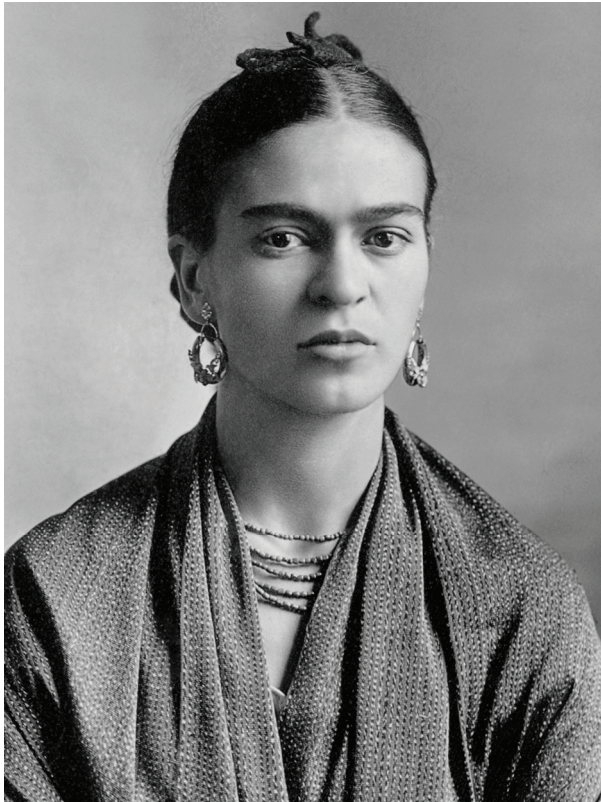
A 3-D printer is a machine that creates objects by adding layers and layers of a material, such as plastic, until it creates the finished product. To make 3-D printed food, a machine uses edible ingredients instead of plastic. Recently a company worked with astronauts to make 3-D printed meat at the International Space Station. While the experiment only produced a small amount of meat, it proved that the technique works in space. Perhaps, if we someday send explorers to Mars, they will be eating 3-D printed hamburgers on the way there.

In this process, cells are grown in a lab to artificially create meat.

NASA is very interested in finding new ways to feed astronauts on missions to outer space.

Perhaps, if we someday send explorers to Mars, they will be eating 3-D printed hamburgers on the way there.

Frida Kahlo was a Mexican artist.



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Frida Kahlo was a Mexican artist remembered for her many self-portraits.



Melvyn Longhurst/Alamy Stock Photo



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Frida Kahlo wears bright colors that celebrated her Mexican heritage. She loved animals and had many pets. Many of her pets can be seen in her self-portraits.

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In addition to over 55 self-portraits, Frida Kahlo often painted still-life scenes that art critics described as surreal—inspired by the unconscious mind. Kahlo did not consider herself to be a surrealist artist. She said, I never painted my dreams. I painted my own reality.



M. Sobreira/Alamy Stock Photo

She said, "I never painted my dreams. I painted my own reality."

"She said, I never painted my dreams. I painted my own reality."

She said, "I never painted my dreams." "I painted my own reality."

Frida Kahlo grew up with her mom, dad, and three sisters in a house named *La Casa Azul*. The house is the same color as the blue feathers on one of her parrots. "Frida" means "peace" in German. Kahlo's animals played in the courtyard of the house outside Mexico City. Today, people can visit *La Casa Azul* and see some of Kahlo's paintings.



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The house is the same color as the blue feathers on one of her parrots.

"Frida" means "peace" in German.

Kahlo's animals played in the courtyard of the house outside Mexico City.

People have been making cheese since before history was written down. Some people believe that cheese was accidental discovered by people carrying milk in the stomach lining of animals.



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People have been making cheese since before history was written down. Some people believe that cheese was accidentally discovered by people carrying milk in the stomach lining of animals.



Pizza Hut uses approximate 300 million pounds of cheese every year, mostly on pizza.

approximates

approximately



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There are more than 1,800 kinds of cheese made around the world. Each kind starts with the cheese maker cooking the milk in large pots. Salt and a substance from the stomach of young cows called rennet are added to the hot milk. This substance curdles the milk and make it solid. Other ingredients are added, and the cheese is then aged for some length of time.



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This substance curdles the milk and makes it solid.

This substance curdle the milks and make it solids.

This substance curdles the milks and makes it solids.

Most cheese is made from the milk of cows, goats, and sheep. Buffalo, yak, donkey, and even reindeer milk can also be used.

Pule cheese is one of the most expensive cheeses in the world. It costs about \$600 a pound. It costs so much because there are only about 100 female donkeys called jennies that are milked for making pule cheese.



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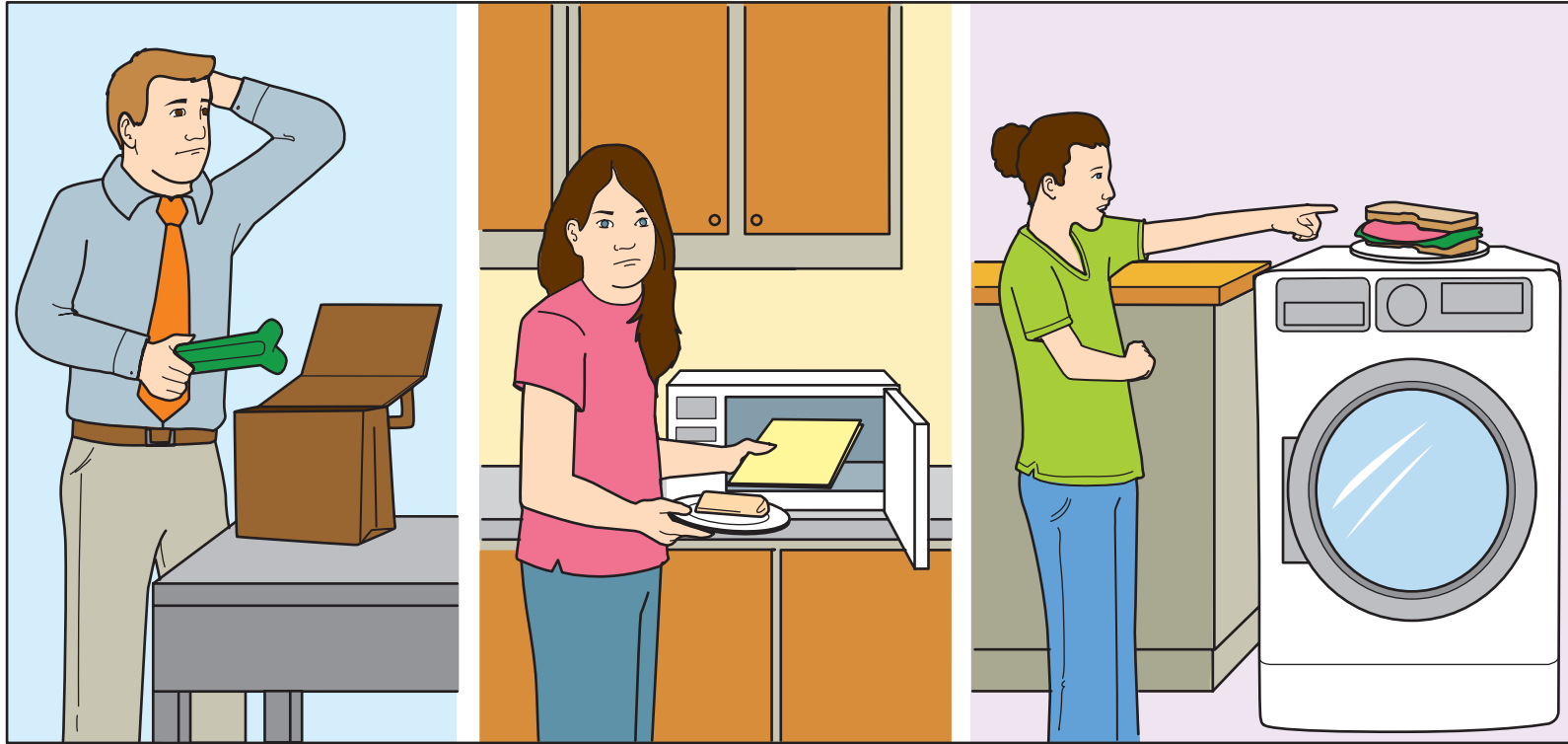
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It costs so much because, there are only about 100 female donkeys, called jennies that are milked for making pule cheese.

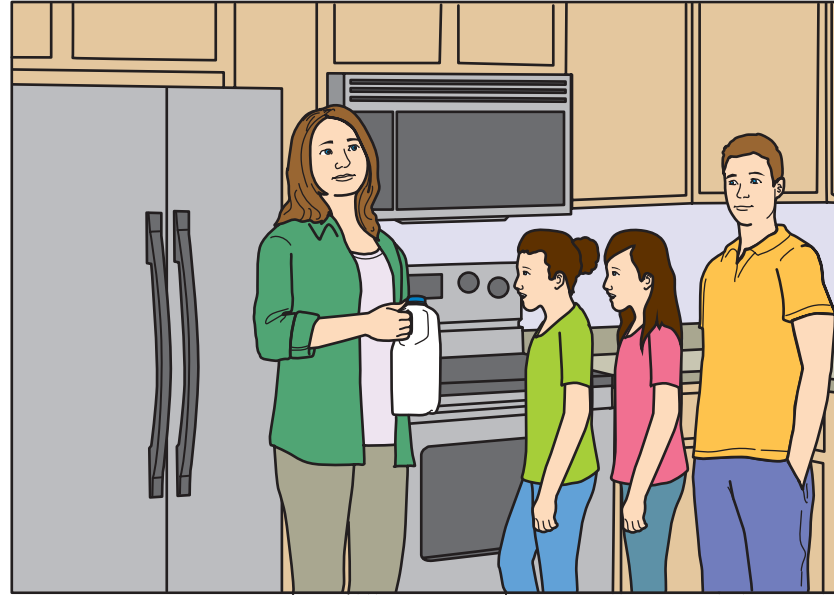
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It costs so much, because there are only, about 100 female donkeys called jennies that are milked for making pule cheese.

Mystery at Home



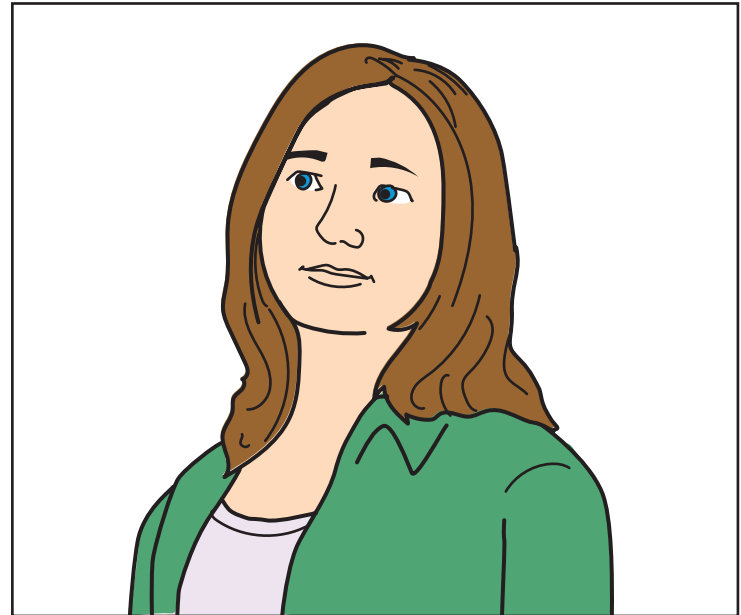
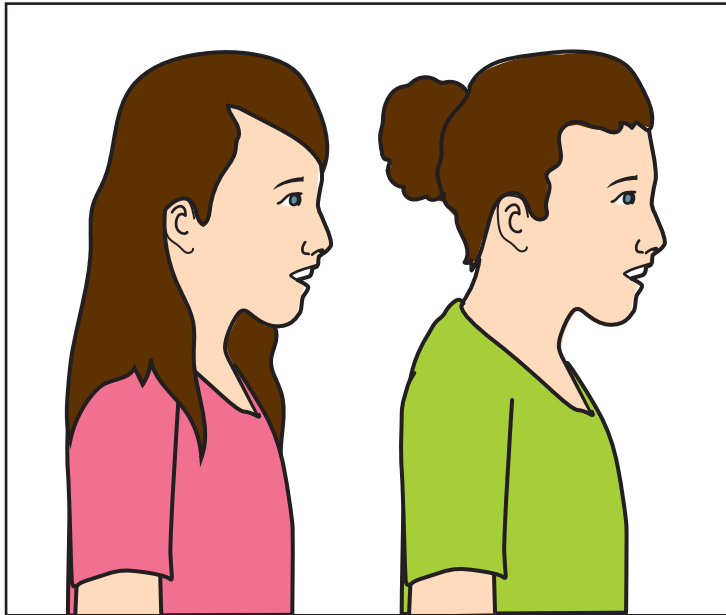
Funny things keep happening in the Smith house. Dad opens his briefcase when he gets to his office to find the dog's favorite chew toy. Amy starts to heat a breakfast burrito and finds her book report inside the microwave. Annie discovers a bologna sandwich on top of the washing machine.



Mom stands in the kitchen holding a half gallon of milk. "Who left this out overnight?" she asks, looking at her three children. No one says a word.

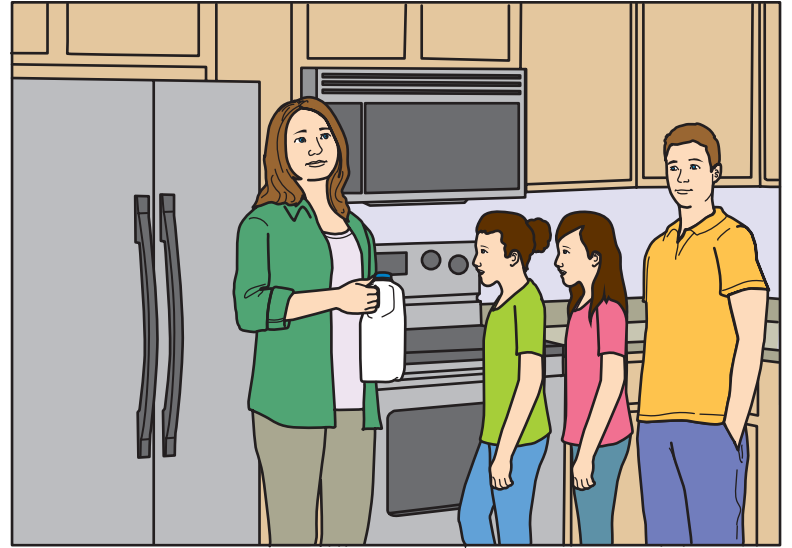
"Well, someone did," she says as she pours the milk down the sink, "and now it is spoiled."

It seems like someone in the Smith family is playing jokes, but no one will admit to being the jokester.



Jack can tell by the look on his mom's face that she does not find the spoiled milk funny.

"You know my new job is very demanding," she says, "and I schedule things so that I have more time to be at home with all of you. You all had sports practice yesterday, and since Dad picked you up, I had time to stop for groceries on the way home. But getting more milk means another trip to the store tonight if I'm going to make that cake for tomorrow's bake sale."



Dad offers to go back to the store to get more milk.

Mom warns, "If any more jokes are going to be pulled, I am not going to be happy."

Amy and Annie prepare dinner that evening. Jack helps his mother bake the cake for the school bake sale. "I'll frost it after dinner," Jack says.

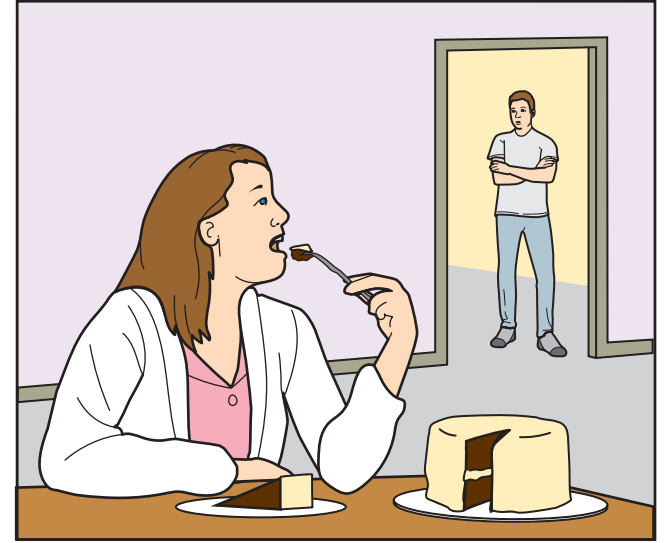
Mom looks at the cake before everyone goes to bed. She is impressed at the great job Jack has done icing it. "Thank you, Jack," she says, giving him a hug. "I'm so tired. I don't think I could have made it look that good!"



Later that night, Jack is suddenly awakened by the sound of movement downstairs. He slowly creeps down the steps and stops at the door to the kitchen. He cannot believe what he is seeing!

His mom is sitting at the counter, eating a big piece of the chocolate cake.

"Mom?" Jack says quietly, but his mother doesn't look up at him.



Jack is surprised that Mom is eating cake because —

it is the cake for the bake sale

Mom thinks Jack did a great job icing the cake

Mom has gone to bed very tired from her new job

"Mom?" Jack repeats, watching her cut another slice from the cake he was to take for the school bake sale.

She's sleepwalking, Jack thinks. He picks up his mom's phone and takes a picture of her, but she doesn't seem to hear or see what he is doing. In a few minutes, she leaves the kitchen and goes back to her room.



Jack sits down at the computer to do a search. Sleepwalking, he reads, can be brought on by stress. Isn't his mom experiencing stress at her new job? Sleepwalkers frequently do routine things, and that includes eating, he learns.

His mom's jaw drops the next morning when she walks into the kitchen and sees that the bake-sale cake on the counter is uncovered and a large chunk has been eaten.

"It was you, Mom," Jack says calmly as he shows his mother the picture he took of her on the phone.

"But, I don't remember that at all!" she says.

Jack explains that she must have been sleepwalking because of stress.

"But don't worry about it," he says. "We're going to see that we help as much as we can around the house. And if you give yourself some downtime before bed, that might reduce the stress you have been feeling."



Mom smiles but then gasps as she looks again at the half-eaten cake for the school bake sale.

"No worries, Mom," Annie tells her.

"Yeah," Amy adds. "Dad picked up a package of brownies yesterday afternoon when he bought the milk."

"In that case," their mom says as she pulls the cake toward her, "how about we finish this off for breakfast?"

Dad is going to stop at the grocery store on his way home from work.

Jack is going to help Mom with her new job.

Everyone is going to do more chores around the house.



STAAR ALTERNATE 2
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April 2023

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Printed in the USA

ISD37526