Reading/Writing

2026 STAAR TEST 5th GRADE ASSESSMENT – RELEASED TEST

Use for a student benchmark assessment in late January/early February 2027 for assessment of student readiness.

(Recommendation Note: **Students must not write directly on the assessment. To emulate a digital testing environment, all work must be completed on scratch paper. Students will then transfer their final answers to the provided Answer Key.)**

Answer Document – Fifth Grade R/W Benchmark - NAME:_____

1.) _____

2.) _____

3.) _____

4.) _____

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7.) _____

8.) _____

9.) _____

10.) _____

11.) _____

12.) _____

13.) _____

14.) Write your response on scratch paper. Your final version – neatly rewritten on the lines below

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15.) _____

16.) _____

17.) _____

18.) _____

19.) _____ , _____

20.) _____

21.) _____

22.) _____

23.) _____

24.) _____

25.) Write your essay on scratch paper. Your final version of that essay – rewrite on the lines below.

26.) _____

27.) Combine your sentences on scratch paper and write your final version below.

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28.) _____

29.) _____

30.) _____

31.) _____

32.) _____

33.) _____

34.) _____

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36.) _____

37.) _____

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39.) _____

40.) _____

41.) _____

SOLUTION **Answer Document Fifth Grade R/W Benchmark** SOLUTION

1.) D

2.) C

3.) B

4.) A

5.) C

6.) D

7.) B

8.) D

9.) B

10.) A

11.) B

12.) A

13.) C

14.) **Write your response on scratch paper. Your final version – neatly rewritten on the lines below**

Focus on correct spelling. Complete Sentences. Sentences that begin with a capital letter and end with punctuation. Paragraphs should be indented. Any words from the passage MUST be spelled correctly.

Focus students on sequential sentences and logical structure to their writing. Their writing must address the prompt directly, and it should not wander off in a non-sequential weave. What is their point? Write to that point.

15.) C

16.) C

17.) D

18.) C

19.) C , D

20.) A

21.) D

22.) C

23.) D

24.) A

25.) **Write your essay on scratch paper. Your final version of that essay – rewrite on the lines below.**

Focus on correct spelling. Complete Sentences. Sentences that begin with a capital letter and end with punctuation. Paragraphs should be indented. Any words from the passage MUST be spelled correctly.

Focus students on sequential sentences and logical structure to their writing. Their writing must address the prompt directly, and it should not wander off in a non-sequential weave. What is their point? Write to that point.

The 800-Word Non-Negotiable Program is a free download, and it will take care of the spelling issues. It can be downloaded from the website: www.thenew3Rsconsulting.com.

26.) D

27.) Combine your sentences on scratch paper and write your final version below.

Same message as above on the essays. However, if the sentences are combined, students need to use a conjunction transition (and, or, so, but, etc.) and an appropriate comma. Complete sentences {S, V *(, conjunction)* S, V}

28.) A

29.) B

30.) A

31.) B

32.) D

33.) C

34.) as

35.) B

36.) B

37.) A

38.) B

39.) B

40.) A

41.) C

Recommendations and Guidelines for Use of Benchmark Assessment

Designed specifically for public school educators, this benchmark evaluates student reading comprehension alongside core writing mechanics, including extended writing samples and spelling/grammar editing, all rigorously aligned with the **Spring 2027 STAAR standards**. By simulating the digital testing environment, this tool provides critical data to gauge student readiness. The key attributes and instructional benefits of this benchmark are outlined below.

1.) Controlled Classroom Administration: Conducting the assessment in a proctored, live classroom setting allows educators to actively monitor student progress in real time. Because students cannot mark the test book, they are forced to write their responses on scratch paper. This perfectly replicates the administrative fidelity and tracking requirements of a digital, screen-based exam. It also provides exposure to the rigor of the STAAR assessment which is key!

2.) Targeted Pedagogical Intervention: By reviewing the collected student work, educators can pinpoint precise gaps in conceptual understanding versus computational execution. This actionable data allows teachers to dynamically adjust their daily classroom pedagogy and deploy targeted remediation to rectify specific learning gaps before high-stakes testing.

3.) Proactive Stamina and Behavioral Tracking: Because this benchmark mirrors the strict constraints of the actual exam, educators can evaluate student testing stamina and identify behavioral distractions early. This timeline provides ample opportunity to implement strategic adjustments and test accommodations well ahead of the official spring STAAR administration.

4.) Targeted Digital Literacy and Tech Competency: Transitioning to a paper-based simulation allows teachers to identify gaps in basic computer proficiency that are required for the digital exam such as mouse navigation and keyboard fluency. Uncovering these non-academic technical hurdles early ensures educators can systematically address and refine these student skill competency levels well ahead of the official spring STAAR administration. These essential tech readiness areas include:

- **a.)** Instead of using a typical multiple-choice format, students select their answer by using the mouse to click directly on sentences within the question.
- **b.)** To succeed on digital assessments, students must master touch-typing and maintain strict attention to mechanics. Because these writing sections are scored by automated AI systems rather than human evaluators, objective accuracy is critical; students must demonstrate high writing competence with flawless capitalization, punctuation, and proper noun usage. Additionally, all common English words—including specific terms pulled directly from the reading passages—must be spelled perfectly. To support this preparation, teachers can access two free downloadable resources via the website link in the answer key: an "*800-word Non-Negotiable Word Program*" and a comprehensive guide to touch-typing mastery, for all students. In the end analysis, frequent practice of these essays and targeted writing corrections is essential for student success.

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Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Twists and Turns

Characters

LEILA: *A ten-year-old girl*
DOMINIC: *A ten-year-old boy, Leila's friend*
ZOEY: *A five-year-old girl*

SCENE 1

1 [*The setting is a school carnival organized by parents. It is the early afternoon. Leila and Dominic are exiting a ride.*]

2 **LEILA:** Well that was . . . fun? [*She gestures back to the ride, which has just started up again.*] I know that song will be stuck in my head for the rest of the day.

3 **DOMINIC:** [*Stops walking and looks at Leila.*] Be serious. It felt like it was running in slow motion. My sister's pet turtle moves faster than that.

4 **LEILA:** [*Stops and lets out a heavy sigh.*] I thought it was just me. What happened? [*She points to the ride again.*] "The Spinning Squirrel" used to be our favorite ride here! It hurled us around at supersonic speeds! We would get in line again and again until it seemed like the whole world was spinning.

5 **DOMINIC:** [*Laughs.*] I remember. Then your mom always made us take a break. [*Pauses, then smiles.*] But that was always a good time to play Balloon Blast.

6 **LEILA:** [*Nods.*] Speaking of Balloon Blast, it's right over there.

7 **DOMINIC:** [*Squints as he looks over at the game.*] Those are some sad-looking balloons. It's like they've been sitting out for days. Plus, everyone in line is about five years old.

8 **LEILA:** You're right. [*She groans.*] Well, what *can* we do?

9 **DOMINIC:** [*Pats his pocket.*] We still have a bunch of tickets left. We can use them on anything.

10 **LEILA:** [*Thinks for a moment, then taps Dominic's arm excitedly.*] I know! The magic show. Fantastic Felix is always, well, fantastic.

11 **DOMINIC:** Are you sure? Even the sign makes it look like it's for little kids.

12 **LEILA:** I'm sure. Don't judge a book by its cover. [*She glances over her shoulder.*] My mom is right over there. Let's go ask her if we can head there now. I want to get good seats!

13 [*They exit.*]

SCENE 2

[*The setting is an hour later, near the exit of the magic show. Dominic and Leila are sitting on a bench. Dominic is slouched over and looking at the ground. Leila is fanning herself with a flyer.*]

LEILA: Well it would have been nice if Fantastic Felix could actually get through a trick without some little kid ruining it. [*Rolls her eyes.*] How hard is it to hold up a sheet at the correct time?

DOMINIC: [*Lifts his head.*] Agreed. [*Holds up his hand to block his eyes from the sun.*] Well, it's still only one o'clock. What's next?

LEILA: [*Reaches over to fan Dominic with the flyer.*] I don't know. Face painting? I used to love choosing my design based on what my favorite animal was that year.

DOMINIC: [*Looks at her, eyes wide.*] In this heat? I'll melt!

LEILA: [*Sighs.*] I know. Let's just tell my mom we're ready to leave.

[*As they stand up, Zoey enters and runs past Dominic, bumping into him.*]

DOMINIC: Hey! Be careful.

ZOEY: I'm sorry! The line for "The Spinning Squirrel" is the shortest it's been all day. [*Waves a strand of tickets.*] And I have just enough tickets! [*To someone offstage.*] Dad! Hurry up!

DOMINIC: First of all, don't get your hopes up. [*He looks at the tickets in Zoey's hand.*] Second of all, you're short a ticket.

ZOEY: Seriously? [*She counts the tickets aloud.*] Aw, man. I've been waiting for this all year!

DOMINIC: Believe me, you're not missing anything.

LEILA: [*Notices Zoey's disappointment and nudges Dominic.*] That's not true. "The Spinning Squirrel" is great. No, it's more than great. It's incredible!

[*Dominic looks at Leila, shocked.*]

LEILA: Right, Dominic? [*She looks at him with wide eyes, nodding toward Zoey.*]

DOMINIC: Oh . . . yeah! "The Spinning Squirrel" *is* incredible. Every twist and turn is a thrilling adventure. [*Pulls the tickets out of his pocket.*] And we happen to have an extra ticket. [*Hands a ticket to Zoey.*]

ZOEY: Sweet! Thank you! I can't wait. [*Shouts again.*] Dad! Let's go! [*Exits.*]

LEILA: [*Smiles.*] This place really is special.

DOMINIC: I know. [*Thinks for a moment.*] Don't they take student volunteers? I think we'll be old enough to do that next year. My sister helped run games when she was in sixth grade.

LEILA: You're right! We should ask before we leave. [*Looks toward "The Spinning Squirrel."*] We still have some tickets to use, right?

DOMINIC: [*Holds up the tickets and grins.*] Right.

[*They walk toward the ride. Curtain.*]

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1

In line 4, the prefix *super–* helps the reader understand that the word supersonic means —

Ⓐ rarely fast

Ⓑ almost fast

Ⓒ becoming fast

Ⓓ beyond fast

2

Based on lines 4 and 5, what can the reader infer about Leila and Dominic?

Ⓐ They have made a schedule for their day.

Ⓑ They have not spent time together in a while.

Ⓒ They have been friends for a long time.

Ⓓ They have no problems in their friendship.

3

Based on the events that take place at the end of the play, what will Leila and Dominic most likely do next?

Ⓐ They will buy more tickets for "The Spinning Squirrel."

Ⓑ They will ride "The Spinning Squirrel."

Ⓒ They will play games.

Ⓓ They will make more friends.

4 Which statement best describes Leila's relationship with Zoey?

Ⓐ Leila encourages Zoey to have fun.

Ⓑ Leila is like a sister to Zoey.

Ⓒ Zoey wants to ride rides with Leila.

Ⓓ Zoey hopes to be like Leila.

5 Read this dialogue from line 3 of the play.

> **DOMINIC:** My sister's pet turtle moves faster than that.

What is the most likely reason the playwright includes this hyperbole in line 3?

Ⓐ To describe an animal Dominic's family has

Ⓑ To highlight Dominic's appreciation of thrilling rides

Ⓒ To emphasize how unimpressed Dominic is

Ⓓ To point out how much Dominic dislikes waiting in line

6 Line 22 is important to the plot because it is when —

Ⓐ Zoey explains why she needs the help of someone older

Ⓑ Leila and Dominic meet someone they can ask about volunteering

Ⓒ Zoey reveals what her favorite carnival ride is

Ⓓ Leila and Dominic meet someone who is still excited about the carnival rides

7 How do the stage directions in line 28 add to the play?

Ⓐ They highlight how angry Leila is about how Dominic is acting.

Ⓑ They show that Leila wants Dominic to change what he is saying.

Ⓒ They show that Leila is confused by Dominic.

Ⓓ They highlight how well Leila and Dominic know each other.

Read the next two selections. Then choose the best answer to each question.

Passage 1:

Clarence Birdseye was an American inventor and businessman. In the early 1900s, he began experimenting with frozen food.

from Clarence Birdseye: Frozen Food Innovator

by Joanne Mattern

1 At the time, frozen food was not popular. It simply didn't taste good. Birdseye concluded this was because the food was frozen too slowly. He believed people would eat more frozen food if it tasted better. So, he kept experimenting.

2 Next, Birdseye tried freezing vegetables. He washed some cabbages in salt water and froze them in the cold air. Later, he thawed out some cabbage and ate it. The cabbage tasted great!

3 Now Birdseye was certain that food must be frozen quickly. Then, meats and vegetables would look and taste fresh when cooked.

4 Birdseye soon discovered a way to flash freeze foods. First, fresh food was packaged in small cardboard cartons. Then, they were frozen between two metal surfaces chilled to -40 degrees Fahrenheit (-40°C). Birdseye received a patent[1] for this method in 1924.

The Quick Freeze Machine

5 In 1924, Birdseye met several businessmen who believed in his freezing method. They agreed to work with him. Together, they formed the General Seafoods Company. It was located in Gloucester, Massachusetts. The company packaged and sold boxes of frozen fish.

6 At General Seafoods, Birdseye was able to improve his machinery. By 1926, he had invented the double belt freezer. Birdseye called it his Quick Freeze Machine. It could freeze large quantities of food. Fish was still packaged in cartons and pressed between metal plates. But, the new plates were hollow and chilled to -25 degrees Fahrenheit (-32°C).

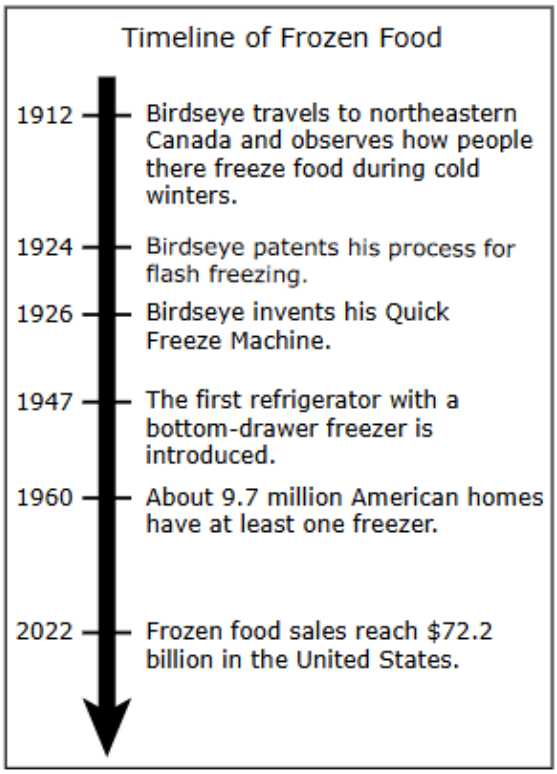
7 This method froze food very quickly! It could freeze meat in only 90 minutes. Fruits and vegetables took just 30 minutes. Soon, the new machine was freezing all kinds of different foods. Birdseye was granted a patent for his Quick Freeze Machine in 1930.

8 In 1929, Birdseye and his partners sold General Seafoods. A large food business called Postum bought it for $22 million. Postum changed the General Seafoods name to Birds Eye Frosted Food Company.

Convenient Food

9 Before World War II, canning had been one of the most common ways to preserve food. But during the war, tin for cans was hard to come by. Freezing became a better option than canning. People soon began buying more frozen food products.

10 By the late 1940s, home freezers were popular. Frozen foods became common in home kitchens. They made it more convenient for busy families to eat healthy food.



[1]A patent protects a person's rights to an invention, meaning that others cannot make or sell it without permission.

From CLARENCE BIRDSEYE: FROZEN FOOD INNOVATOR by Joanne Mattern, ABDO Publishing, 2015. Used by permission.

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Passage 2:
From Tin to Table

1 If you walk through a grocery store, you will likely find a canned food aisle. Stacked one on top of another, these colorfully labeled cans create a wall of possibilities. A staple in stores today, canned food has been around for many years. Canning is a popular way to preserve, or make food last a long time.

2 In 1795, the French government realized that it had a problem. France was at war with several different countries. It was difficult to find food for soldiers that could be easily transported and would not spoil. The government wanted someone to invent a solution. It even offered a cash prize.

3 Nicolas Appert, a chef, rose to the challenge. He experimented with storing food in tightly sealed jars. The jars were placed into boiling water for a certain amount of time. It worked! The food did not spoil. Appert did not fully understand it, but the combination of heating and sealing the jars eliminated bacteria and prevented new bacteria from entering. After working on this idea for years, Appert won the prize in 1809.

4 Others have further developed the canning process. A man named Peter Durand invented the tin can, which became widely used. Improved glass jars were also created, making it easier for people to do canning at home. As canning grew in popularity, scientists continued to do research and set guidelines to ensure that it was done safely.



Home Canning with Glass Jars

5 A variety of foods can be canned, including fruits, vegetables, and meat. Different steps must be taken depending on the type of food. Luckily, most nutrients remain even after the process is complete. Eating canned food can be another way to enjoy a healthy meal.

6 There are many companies that produce canned food to be sold in stores. Today's machines can seal more than 2,000 cans each minute. However, many people continue to can food at home after growing it or purchasing it fresh.

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Production of Food in Tin Cans

AP Photo/Seth Perlman

7 Canning food is like stopping time. Although fresh food is great, there will always be a need to preserve it. The process of canning is one way in which people have fulfilled that need.

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8 Which sentence from the selection from *Clarence Birdsye: Frozen Food Innovator* shows that frozen goods were a helpful invention?

Ⓐ *Birdseye was granted a patent for his Quick Freeze Machine in 1930.* (paragraph 7)

Ⓑ *In 1929, Birdseye and his partners sold General Seafoods.* (paragraph 8)

Ⓒ *People soon began buying more frozen food products.* (paragraph 9)

Ⓓ *They made it more convenient for busy families to eat healthy food.* (paragraph 10)

9 The author of the selection from *Clarence Birdsye: Frozen Food Innovator* uses description in paragraphs 6 and 7 most likely to –

Ⓐ tell why Birdseye eventually sold his company

Ⓑ explain how the Quick Freeze machine worked

Ⓒ show that Birdseye was a businessman

Ⓓ list the materials the Quick Freeze machine was made of

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10 Which sentence from paragraph 4 of the selection from *Clarence Birdsye: Frozen Food Innovator* best expresses the central idea?

(A) Birdseye soon discovered a way to flash freeze foods.

(B) First, fresh food was packaged in small carboard cartons.

(C) Then, they were frozen between two metal surfaces chilled to -40 degrees Fahrenheit (-40°C).

(D) Birdseye received a patent for this method in 1924.

11

What is the most likely reason the author wrote the article "From Tin to Table"?

Ⓐ To share interesting facts about food

Ⓑ To explain the history of a common product

Ⓒ To tell about new products in grocery stores

Ⓓ To describe how machines have changed

12 What is the most likely reason the author of the article "From Tin to Table" uses the simile "like stopping time" in paragraph 7?

Ⓐ To emphasize how canning food prevents it from spoiling

Ⓑ To describe how canning foods reminds people of the past

Ⓒ To show that fresh food tastes better after canning it

Ⓓ To highlight that fresh food must be prepared before canning

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13 What is the most likely reason the author of the article "From Tin to Table" includes the photograph after paragraph 6?

Ⓐ To show that glass jars are still used for canning foods

Ⓑ To show how canned foods have become cheaper for people to buy

Ⓒ To show how canning foods has become quicker with the use of technology

Ⓓ To show that stores keep a large supply of canned foods

14 Read the question carefully.

Based on the ideas presented throughout the article "From Tin to Table," what can the reader conclude about the usefulness of canning food in different situations? Support your answer with evidence from the article.

Write your response on your Answer Document.

15 Based on the information in **BOTH** the selection from *Clarence Birdseye: Frozen Food Innovator* and the article "From Tin to Table," what can the reader conclude about experimenting?

Ⓐ It can only be done by scientists.

Ⓑ It is an expensive process.

Ⓒ It can help with finding solutions.

Ⓓ It is important for big companies.

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16 How does the author of the selection from *Clarence Birdseye: Frozen Food Innovator* present the reasons people invent things **DIFFERENTLY** than the author of the article "From Tin to Table"?

Ⓐ By showing that Birdseye wanted to become famous for his invention

Ⓑ By showing that Birdseye worked hard to win a prize

Ⓒ By emphasizing that Birdseye worked on his invention out of curiosity

Ⓓ By emphasizing that Birdseye wanted to make food more available to soldiers

17 **BOTH** the selection from *Clarence Birdseye: Frozen Food Innovator* and the article "From Tin to Table" develop the idea that great inventions are often –

Ⓐ difficult to find money for

Ⓑ thought of by unexpected people

Ⓒ difficult to make popular

Ⓓ thought of in response to a need

18 One **DIFFERENCE** between Clarence Birdseye in the selection from *Clarence Birdseye: Frozen Food Innovator* and Nicolas Appert in the article "From Tin to Table" is that only Nicolas Appert —

Ⓐ made an important discovery by trying to improve something that already existed

Ⓑ shared the details of an important discovery with others

Ⓒ made an important discovery while being uncertain about how the process worked

Ⓓ engaged in continued research that led to making an important discovery

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Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Elephant and Hare

A story from India

by Jan Thornhill

1 Hare and her friends had always lived peacefully among the tall grasses that grew on the shore of a clear blue lake. No one ever bothered them.

2 One day Elephant came crashing out of the jungle, followed by his herd. The elephants were thirsty and had been looking for water for a long time. When they saw the shimmering blue lake, they were so excited, they stampeded through the grasses toward the water. They were in such a hurry, they didn't notice that they were trampling the burrows of Hare's friends beneath their huge feet.

3 After drinking and washing, Elephant led his herd back into the jungle to spend the night. On their way, the elephants' enormous feet crushed many of the tender grasses that Hare and her friends used for food.

4 Hare was frantic with worry. She knew the elephants would return to the lake the next day. She thought very hard and finally came up with an idea.

5 "Don't worry," she told the other hares. "I have a plan."

6 A full moon was just peeking above the trees as Hare hopped to the jungle to talk to Elephant. She hopped right into the middle of the herd and started shouting as loud as she could, but no one paid any attention to her because her voice was tiny and hard for elephants to hear. When Hare was almost hoarse with shouting, Elephant flapped his ears. He thought there was some kind of strange insect buzzing around his head. He flapped his ears again, but the noise wouldn't go away.

7 "What's that annoying sound?" he finally said.

8 "It's me!" shouted Hare.

9 Elephant looked down. He squinted at Hare and said, "Who are you?"

10 "I am a loyal subject of the all-powerful moon god," said Hare, bowing. "He has sent me to give you a message."

11 "Go on," said Elephant politely, although he didn't believe a word Hare was saying.

12 "When you and your herd went down to the lake today," said Hare, trying not to sound nervous, "you trampled the homes and food of the moon god's loyal subjects. This has made the moon god extremely angry. He is so angry that he commands you to leave and never return."

13 "I don't believe in any moon god," scoffed Elephant. "Give me proof."

14 "Follow me to the lake then, and you will see the moon god for yourself," said Hare. "But watch where you're walking this time," she added.

15 When Elephant and Hare got to the edge of the lake, Hare pointed at the reflection of the full moon in the still water.

16 "There is the mighty moon god," she said. "Pay your respects by dipping your trunk in the lake."

17 Elephant thought this was a silly thing to do, but he agreed. He stretched out his long trunk and touched the surface of the lake with it. Instantly, the water quivered and rippled, making the moon's reflection burst into hundreds of shimmering pieces. Elephant threw back his trunk in fright.

18 "See how angry the moon god is?" shouted Hare.

19 "You're right," said Elephant, shaking with fear. "I promise I'll never annoy the moon god again!"

20 And with that Elephant headed back to his herd in the jungle, being very careful indeed not to stomp on any grasses or burrows on his way.

19

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

Which key idea about the elephant herd is supported by the details in paragraphs 1 through 3?

Ⓐ The elephants need to drink a lot of water.

Ⓑ The elephants enjoy making new friends at the lake.

Ⓒ The elephants are often unaware of their surroundings.

Ⓓ The elephants live in the jungle because it is safe.

Part B

Which sentence from the story best supports the answer in Part A?

Ⓐ *One day Elephant came crashing out of the jungle, followed by his herd.* (paragraph 2)

Ⓑ *The elephants were thirsty and had been looking for water for a long time.* (paragraph 2)

Ⓒ *After drinking and washing, Elephant led his herd back into the jungle to to spend the night.* (paragraph 3)

Ⓓ *On their way, the elephants' enormous feet crushed many of the tender grasses that Hare and her friends used for food.* (paragraph 3)

20 Why is the nighttime setting important to the plot?

Ⓐ It helps Hare complete her plan to trick Elephant.

Ⓑ It causes Hare to struggle to get attention from Elephant.

Ⓒ It confuses Elephant because he has trouble seeing the burrows.

Ⓓ It makes Hare worried because it is dark out.

21 Which point of view does the author use in the story?

Ⓐ First person, as told by Elephant's herd

Ⓑ First person, as told by Hare

Ⓒ Third person, as told by Hare's friends

Ⓓ Third person, as told by an outside observer

22 Read this sentence from paragraph 17.

> *Instantly, the water quivered and rippled, making the moon's reflection burst into hundreds of shimmering pieces.*

What is the most likely reason the author includes imagery in this sentence?

Ⓐ To show how hard it is to see the moon

Ⓑ To show how old the story of the moon god is

Ⓒ To show why Elephant becomes so startled

Ⓓ To show why the lake is important to Hare

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23

Based on the events that take place at the end of the story, what will Elephant most likely do next?

Ⓐ Elephant will persuade his herd to become good friends with Hare and the moon god.

Ⓑ Elephant will ask his herd to scare the moon god when they visit the lake.

Ⓒ Elephant will lead his herd to Hare, and they will ask more questions about the moon god.

Ⓓ Elephant will tell his herd about the moon god, and they will leave the jungle.

24 Read the following paragraph.

> Hare finds her peaceful home disturbed when Elephant and his herd stampede through it to get to the lake. Elephant doubts the information Hare shares about the moon god until he sees the moon's reflection on the lake's surface. Elephant becomes afraid. He promises not to upset the moon god again.

Which of the following ideas should be included in this paragraph to create a complete summary of the story?

Ⓐ Hare develops a plan to trick Elephant with a story about a moon god.

Ⓑ Hare shouts loudly to get Elephant's attention.

Ⓒ Elephant mistakes Hare's voice for an insect.

Ⓓ Elephant responds politely when Hare says the moon god sent her.

25

GUEST, GUEST



ESSAY: Write your essay in the empty box below.

Read the story "Elephant and Hare." Based on the information in the story, write a response to the following:

> Argue whether Hare is right to solve her problem in the way that she does.

Write a well-organized argumentative essay that uses specific evidence from the story to support your answer.

Remember to —

- clearly state your claim
- organize your writing
- develop your ideas in detail
- use facts and evidence from the selection in your response
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar

Manage your time carefully so that you can —

- review the selection
- plan your response
- write your response
- revise and edit your response

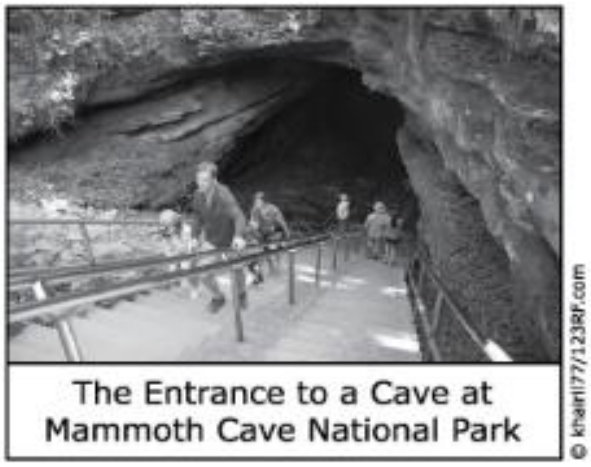
Write your final edited response on your Answer Document

Write your final edited response on your Answer Document

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Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Jessica wrote this paper to tell about how her family chose where to go during their summer break. Read Jessica's paper and look for revisions she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.



The Entrance to a Cave at Mammoth Cave National Park

© kharli77/123RF.com

Kentucky for All

(1) Dad smiled at my younger brother Carlos. (2) "Well, buddy, it's your turn to share a summer vacation idea. (3) Where do you think we should go?"

(4) Without hesitation, Carlos said that he wanted to go to Alaska to see grizzly bears. (5) He leaped from his chair and approached me, his hands stretched out like bear claws. (6) "ROAR!" he shouted in his most terrifying manner. (7) I rolled my eyes. (8) Nevertheless, my little brother wanted to go somewhere to see bears—he loves bears as much as I love caves.

(9) Mom and Dad had submitted their vacation ideas already. (10) The rule was that we all had to agree. (11) Then we could commit to going somewhere. (12) But so far, at least one family member had objected to each plan. (13) Arizona was too hot, Louisiana had too many mosquitoes, and now, according to Mom, Alaska would be too expensive.

(14) Dad then turned to me and said, "Jessica, it's your turn!"

(15) I hesitated, unsure as to whether I should offer my suggestion. (16) I was certain that someone in the family would say that my idea was too *something*. (17) But I had done my research and felt happy about the idea, so I spoke my mind. (18) "I think we should go to Kentucky."

(19) "Why Kentucky?" Dad asked curiously.

(20) I explained that Kentucky offered something for everyone. (21) For Mom, who loved horses, we could take a tour of a horse farm in Lexington. (22) For Dad, a huge fan of sports cars, we could visit a famous car museum in Bowling Green. (23) For Carlos, we could go to the Cumberland Mountains in Eastern Kentucky, where there are frequent bear sightings. (24) I paused to survey my family's reactions. (25) One by one, they expressed enthusiasm for my idea.

(26) "But what about you?" Carlos piped up. (27) "What's in Kentucky for you?"

(28) I smiled and told my family about Mammoth Cave National Park, with its many caves to explore.

(29) "That sounds great, honey!" Mom said.

(30) Dad nodded in agreement and suggested that we take an official vote. (31) He voted yes. (32) Mom also voted yes.

(33) "Carlos?" Dad inquired.

(34) "ROAR!" Carlos replied. (35) "I think I sound just like a bear today!"

26

Jessica has not used an appropriate transition at the beginning of sentence 8. Which word or phrase should replace ***Nevertheless*** in this sentence?

Ⓐ Besides,

Ⓑ By the way,

Ⓒ Lastly,

Ⓓ Of course,

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27

Jessica wants to combine the ideas in sentences 10 and 11. In the space provided, write a new sentence that combines these ideas in a clear and effective way.

Write your response on your Answer Document.

28 The word ***happy*** is not the most effective word to use in sentence 17. Which word should replace ***happy*** in this sentence?

Ⓐ confident

Ⓑ grateful

Ⓒ lively

Ⓓ thoughtful

29

Jessica wants a better closing sentence for her paper. Which sentence should replace sentence 35 to help Jessica accomplish this goal?

Ⓐ "We need to go into the kitchen for dessert now!"

Ⓑ "Let's go see some horses, cars, bears, and caves!"

Ⓒ "My favorite show is about to come on TV!"

Ⓓ "The animals in Alaska are big, but I'm not afraid!"

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Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Jackson wrote this paper to tell about a fun visitor he has at his house. Read Jackson's paper and look for revisions he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.



A Baby in the House

(1) Bottles and pacifiers are casually lying in our sink. (2) Adorable little blankets and socks are strewn throughout the house. (3) A baby stroller sits just inside the front door. (4) These items stand out in a home that is usually filled with pizza boxes, gaming equipment, and sports uniforms. (5) There hasn't been a baby in our house in years. (6) In fact, I was the last one—until Luca moved in.

(7) My mom has a younger cousin named Camille. (8) The two of them have been close for many years. (9) Our family attended her high school graduation and her college graduation and her baby shower. (10) Last week, Mom stood up from the dinner table to answer a call from Camille. (11) I could tell from Mom's tone that Camille was in need.

(12) As soon as Mom hung up the phone, she sent my sister and me to tidy up the guest room. (13) She informed us that Camille and her baby Luca would be at our house within the hour. (14) Their air conditioner had broken and no repair for two weeks! (15) That meant Camille and Luca would be staying with us.

(16) When Camille and Luca arrived at our door, Camille immediately expressed her gratitude. (17) Mom said, "Trust me, Camille, this is going to be a treat for our family!"

(18) And Mom was right. (19) Luca is such a fun baby, especially when he wakes up each morning. (20) Typically I join him on the carpet and play for a few minutes before my bus arrives. (21) It gives me such joy to start out my day this way. (22) Also, Luca is trying baby food for the first time. (23) I look forward to getting home each day so that I can watch his snack time. (24) Camille even lets me feed him on occasion. (25) I love to see his face as he tries all the new flavors.

(26) Overall, he makes the cutest faces each day. (27) Around 7:00 p.m. each evening, he begins to get fussy. (28) I have watched Camille carry him around, bouncing him on her hip to soothe him. (29) Sometimes she even takes him outside for a minute, which usually seems to calm him down. (30) We all try to help Camille as much as we can, but Luca seems to prefer his mom around bedtime.

(31) Regardless of Luca's mood, I love having him and his mom around. (32) I am learning so much about babies. (33) As much as I want Camille's air conditioning to be fixed, I would love for Camille and Luca to stay at our house forever.

30

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

Ⓐ Our family attended her high school graduation, college graduation, and baby shower.

Ⓑ Our family attended her graduation that was for high school and college and her baby shower.

Ⓒ Our family attended her high school graduation, graduating from college, and baby shower.

Ⓓ Our family attended what was her high school graduation, college graduation, and a baby shower.

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31

What is the **MOST** effective way to revise sentence 14?

Ⓐ Their air conditioner had broken of no repair and for two weeks!

Ⓑ Their air conditioner had broken and wouldn't be repaired for two weeks!

Ⓒ Their air conditioner had broken, and the air conditioner wouldn't be repaired for two weeks!

Ⓓ Their air conditioner had broken for two weeks and with no repair!

32

What revision, if any, should be made in sentence 20?

Ⓐ Typically I join him on the carpet and play before and until my bus arrives for a few minutes.

Ⓑ Typically I join him and play for a few minutes before my bus arrives on the carpet.

Ⓒ Typically I join and play on the carpet but for a few minutes before my bus arrives.

Ⓓ No change is needed.

33 Jackson needs a better transition into the ideas in the sixth paragraph (sentences 26–30) Which sentence should replace sentence 26 to help improve this transition?

Ⓐ For the time being, Luca is adjusting to living with us.

Ⓑ Before Luca arrived, we ate dinner around 6:00 p.m.

Ⓒ As precious as he is, Luca isn't always giggly and fun.

Ⓓ When Luca is in the house, everyone seems happier.

2026 READING STAAR Test – 5th Grade Assessment

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Colton wrote a paper to tell about what his family is learning as they spend more time sitting outside in the evenings. Read the last paragraph of Colton's paper and look for corrections he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

Facing West

(1) Today my family enjoys time together outside most evenings. (2) We sit in the breeze and watch the sky although it changes colors. (3) While the view is usually spectacular it is not the only benefit. (4) We now knew some of our neighbors. (5) Mr. Miles comes outside every night, so my brother and I have started to help him with his recycling. (6) Kyra rides by on her bike, most nights she stops to chat. (7) We love to see Ax, the puppy, who is growing bigger and bigger. (8) We also have fun with the kids who play basketball in the driveway across the street. (9) I am glad my house faces west and that we started sitting outside to enjoy it.

34

Select the correct subordinate conjunction for sentence 2.

We sit in the breeze and watch the sky [ ] it changes colors.

- although
- if
- as
- unless

Write the correct word on your Answer Document.

35

What change needs to be made in sentence 3?

Ⓐ Change ***While*** to **When**

Ⓑ Insert a comma after ***spectacular***

Ⓒ Change ***is not*** to **was not**

Ⓓ Change ***benefit*** to **benifit**

36

What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 4?

Ⓐ Change ***We*** to **And**

Ⓑ Change ***knew*** to **know**

Ⓒ Change ***neighbors*** to **neighbor's**

Ⓓ No change is needed.

37

What is the correct way to write sentence 6?

Ⓐ Kyra rides by on her bike, and most nights she stops to chat.

Ⓑ Kyra rides by on her bike, and most nights she stops. And to chat.

Ⓒ Kyra riding by on her bike and most nights stopping to chat.

Ⓓ Kyra rides by on her bike, and most nights. Stopping to chat.

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Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Nanami is writing a paper about some famous American heroes. These paragraphs from the body of Nanami's paper tell about one of those heroes. Read the paragraphs and look for the corrections that Nanami needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

American Heroes

(1) Neil Armstrong was an American astronaut. (2) His most important flight began on July 16, 1969, while he was launched into space with Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins. (3) The trio's journy would take them 240,000 miles from Earth. (4) Aldrin and Armstrong then planned to climb into a lunar module. (5) The module would take the astronauts to the moon.

(6) On July 20, the lunar module, the *Eagle*, was released from the spacecraft as planned. (7) It soon landed on the surface of the moon. (8) As Commander of the mission, Armstrong stepped out of the module first. (9) The words he said are quite famous today. (10) "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind, Armstrong commented.

38

What change needs to be made in sentence 2?

Ⓐ Change ***important*** to **importent**

Ⓑ Change ***while*** to **when**

Ⓒ Change ***was launched*** to **is launched**

Ⓓ Insert a comma after ***Buzz Aldrin***

39

What change needs to be made in sentence 3?

Ⓐ Change ***trio's*** to **trios**

Ⓑ Change ***journy*** to **journey**

Ⓒ Change ***them*** to **us**

Ⓓ Change ***miles*** to **mile**

40

What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 8?

Ⓐ Change ***Commander*** to **commander**

Ⓑ Change the comma after ***mission*** to a period

Ⓒ Change ***stepped*** to **steped**

Ⓓ No change is needed.

41

What change needs to be made in sentence 10?

Ⓐ Change ***That's*** to **Thats**

Ⓑ Change ***leap*** to **leep**

Ⓒ Insert quotation marks after ***mankind,***

Ⓓ Change ***commented*** to **commenting**