

GRADE 4
Writing

Administered April 2013

RELEASED

WRITING (DAY 1)

WRITTEN COMPOSITION



WRITTEN COMPOSITION #1: Expository

READ the information in the box below.

Most people have a favorite season or time of year.

THINK about the time of year you like the most.

WRITE about your favorite time of year. Explain what makes it special to you.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your central idea
- organize your writing
- develop your writing 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 "COMPOSITION #1"
IN THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

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REVISING AND EDITING

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Tyler wrote the following story in response to a class assignment. Before he turns it in, he would like you to read it and look for ways he should revise it. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.

Subway Cat

(1) I noticed him one day last winter. (2) He was lying on a well-worn seat at the back of the subway car. (3) Curled into a ball of patchy fur, he appeared to be asleep. (4) However, when I saw him lick his paw, I knew he was awake. (5) When we finally got to the Eighth Street Station, the big, striped cat lifted his head. (6) His golden eyes darted back and forth, and then he leaped off the seat. (7) Staying low to the ground, he crept to the open door. (8) Before jumping onto the station platform, he turned around, flicked his tail, and stared straight at me!

(9) Every Wednesday, my mother and I rode that same subway train. (10) We always got off at Eighth Street and walked to my piano teacher's house. (11) On that winter's day and every Wednesday for several months, the cat rode the same train we did. (12) He seemed to be by himself, with no one looking after him.

(13) I don't know how that cat sneaked aboard the same train each Wednesday. (14) And I don't know why he was there or where he was going. (15) But looking at his plump body, I guessed that his travels had something to do with gathering food.

(16) At first I felt sorry for the subway cat. (17) I figured that he

must be lonely without an owner. (18) One day I reached over and tried to pet him. (19) My mother shrieked about approaching strange animals and warned me. (20) The cat's response wasn't much better. (21) He hissed and jerked away, acting as if I had offended him.

(22) Subway Cat and I never got very close to each other after that. (23) Over time we formed a sort of friendship. (24) I would stare at him. (25) He would stare at me. (26) Sometimes, as he was leaving the train, he would turn back, proudly flick his tail, and meow. (27) Our simple relationship continued until, one Wednesday, he just wasn't there.

(28) For several weeks Subway Cat was absent. (29) Then one day, near the subway station, I saw him. (30) I was sure it was Subway Cat, but he looked different. (31) His fur was groomed and fluffed, and he wore a glittering collar. (32) An equally flashy woman was leading him . . . on a LEASH! (33) Clearly, the cat now had a human master—and he didn't look happy about it. (34) He turned his golden eyes toward me. (35) He almost looked embarrassed.

(36) I hoped that Subway Cat would come to enjoy his new life, but I missed seeing him on the train. (37) Then, just when I had stopped looking for him, there he was! (38) Subway Cat was alone, lying on his usual seat and licking his paws. (39) At Eighth Street he got up and headed for the door. (40) Then he looked back, flicked his tail, and stared straight at me.

- 1 Tyler would like to add the following detail to the second paragraph (sentences 9–12).

It's cold outside, but the subway is warm.

Where should Tyler insert this sentence?

- A After sentence 10
- B After sentence 11
- C After sentence 12
- D This sentence should not be added to this paragraph.

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- 2 What is the **BEST** way to revise sentence 19?

- F My mother shrieked about approaching strange animals that warned me.
- G My mother shrieked. As she warned me about approaching strange animals.
- H My mother shrieked about approaching strange animals, she warned me.
- J My mother shrieked and warned me about approaching strange animals.

- 3 Which transition word or phrase could **BEST** be added to the beginning of sentence 23?
- A Yet
 - B In the same way
 - C For example
 - D Therefore
-

- 4 What is the **BEST** way to combine sentences 34 and 35?
- F He turned and his golden eyes toward me almost looked embarrassed.
 - G When he turned his golden eyes toward me, he almost looked embarrassed.
 - H Turning his golden eyes toward me, which almost looked embarrassed.
 - J He turned his golden eyes toward me, he almost looked embarrassed.
-

- 5 Tyler wants to add a closing sentence to his paper. Which sentence could **BEST** follow sentence 40 and help bring his paper to a close?
- A Subway Cat seemed happy to be on his own once again.
 - B He was the subway cat, and now he was worried about having to find his own food.
 - C He carted his silly little self straight to the door.
 - D And that is now the end of the story about the brave little subway cat I met one day.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Kelsey wrote the following story about a recent experience. Read Kelsey's story and look for any corrections she should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.



Kitchen Lessons

(1) It was Mom's birthday, and my sister Chloe and I wanted to do something special. (2) We decided to bake homemade cookies for her.

(3) First we took turns measuring and pouring the ingredients into a large mixing bowl. (4) When it was time to add the sugar, I grabbed a canister that was full of something white. (5) It wasn't labeled, but I was sure it was sugar.

(6) In just a few minutes, the bowl was full of what looked like mouthwatering cookie dough. (7) We didn't taste it because we wanted to have plenty of cookies for Mom. (8) It would have been better if we had taken just one little bite. (9) Instead, we shaped the dough into little balls, arranged them on a pan, and slid the pan into the oven. (10) As the cookies baked, a wonderful smell filled the air. (11) "Ding!" the kitchen timer chimed, and the cookies were done.

(12) We slid several piping-hot cookies onto a plate. (13) Grinning from ear to ear, we brought a gift to Mom. (14) Her face lit up when she saw the treats we had made. (15) But when she took the first bite, her face wrinkled in disgust. (16) I wondered what was wrong with our birthday surprise.

(17) I snatched a cookie off the plate and took a bite. (18) Yuck! (19) The cookie wasn't sweet! (20) It was awful. (21) Instantly I knew what had happened. (22) Instead of sugar, I had used salt! (23) Although the homemade cookies looked delicious, they tasted horrible! (24) Mom, Chloe, and me all looked at one another. (25) Then we started laughing uncontrollably. (26) Mom laughed so hard that tears rolled down her cheeks.

(27) I learned a couple of things that day. (28) First, if you're going to cook, you need to pay attention to the ingredients. (29) And to be on the safe side, it's a good idea to take a taste or two along the way. (30) This can save you a lot of embarrassment later. (31) But more important than what I learned about cooking was the lesson I learned about giving. (32) Sometimes it really is the thought that counts. (33) Mom's birthday present didn't turn out as we had planned but she knew that we loved her. (34) And that's what really matters. (35) Besides, I don't think we would have laughed nearly as hard. (36) If our cookies had been just perfect.

- 6 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 4?
- F Delete the comma
 - G Change ***grabbed*** to **grabbed**
 - H Change ***that*** to **it**
 - J No change should be made.
-

- 7 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 13?
- A Change ***Grinning*** to **Grining**
 - B Change ***brought*** to **brung**
 - C Change ***are*** to **our**
 - D No change should be made in sentence 13.
-

- 8 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 24?
- F Delete the comma after ***Mom***
 - G Change ***me*** to **I**
 - H Change ***looked*** to **looking**
 - J Sentence 24 should not be changed.

- 9 How should sentence 28 be changed?
- A Change ***your*** to ***you're***
 - B Change ***attention*** to ***atention***
 - C Change ***ingredients*** to ***ingredient's***
 - D Sentence 28 should not be changed.
-

- 10 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 30?
- F Change ***This*** to ***Which***
 - G Change ***save*** to ***safe***
 - H Change ***later*** to ***latter***
 - J No change needs to be made in sentence 30.
-

- 11 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 33?
- A Insert a comma after ***planned***
 - B Delete ***but***
 - C Change ***she knew*** to ***they knew***
 - D No change should be made in sentence 33.

12 What is the correct way to write sentences 35 and 36?

- F** Besides, I don't think we would have laughed nearly as hard if our cookies had been just perfect.
- G** Besides, I don't think. That we would have laughed nearly as hard if our cookies had been just perfect.
- H** Besides, I don't think that we would have. Laughed nearly as hard if our cookies had been just perfect.
- J** Sentences 35 and 36 are written correctly in the story.

BE SURE YOU HAVE RECORDED ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS
ON THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.



WRITING (DAY 2)

WRITTEN COMPOSITION

WRITTEN COMPOSITION #2: Personal Narrative

Look at the picture below.



“Great work!” It’s always nice when another person says good things about something you’ve done.

Write about a time when someone said you did a great job.

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

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REVISING AND EDITING

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Malcolm read about a different type of library. After doing some research, he wrote this paper. Read Malcolm's paper and look for ways he should revise it. Then answer the questions that follow.



© Scott Dalton/New York Times

The *Biblioburro*

(1) A bookmobile is a mobile library usually found in a vehicle such as a van or a truck. (2) Bookmobiles travel around, offering books to people who live far away from public libraries. (3) Bookmobiles have been living in the United States for more than 100 years.

(4) There's a bookmobile in Colombia, too, but it's a little different. (5) In this South American country, a van isn't used to bring books to people. (6) Two donkeys are used instead. (7) The *biblioburro* is what it is.

(8) Almost every weekend Luis Soriano takes his two donkeys into the countryside of northern Colombia. (9) The donkeys, Alfa and Beto, wear pouches that say "Biblioburro" on them. (10) The pouches are full

of books. (11) Soriano and his donkeys travel to small villages and rural areas where many children have no books. (12) The excited children wait excitedly for Soriano to come. (13) They know that he will read stories to them when he arrives. (14) After that, he will let each child borrow a book.



(15) Soriano is a schoolteacher, so he understands the importance of reading. (16) About 10 years ago he had an idea to improve the lives of Colombian people who live far away from cities. (17) With only 70 books, Soriano went into the countryside with Alfa and Beto.

(18) One day Soriano wrote to a Colombian author, asking for a copy of one of his books. (19) When the author found out about Soriano's work, he told others. (20) Soon many people began donating books for the *biblioburro*.

(21) Soriano himself has never traveled outside of Colombia. (22) However, he wants the people of his country to know about the rest of the world. (23) He believes that books can help them achieve that goal.

- 13** Malcolm wants to use a more accurate word than *living* in sentence 3. Which of the following could **BEST** replace this word?
- A** showing
 - B** coming
 - C** offering
 - D** operating

-
- 14** Malcolm wants to improve the topic sentence he has written at the end of the second paragraph (sentences 4–7). Which of the following could **BEST** replace sentence 7?
- F** The *biblioburro* is that.
 - G** This unique bookmobile is called the *biblioburro*.
 - H** The donkeys are in the *biblioburro*.
 - J** It is a *biblioburro* bookmobile with donkeys and books, too.

15 What is the **BEST** way to revise sentence 12?

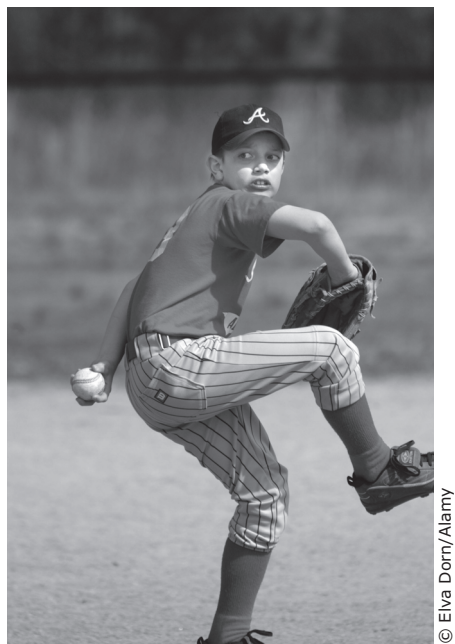
- A** The children wait excitedly for Soriano to come.
- B** The children wait excitedly. For Soriano to come.
- C** The children are excited, they wait excitedly for Soriano to come.
- D** The children who are excited wait excitedly for Soriano to come.

16 Malcolm wants to add another detail to the fifth paragraph (sentences 18–20). Which sentence belongs in this paragraph and could **BEST** follow sentence 20?

- F** There were so many people donating books in no time.
- G** Now Soriano’s mobile library includes more than 4,800 books.
- H** People can be so thoughtful and nice.
- J** Soriano loves his home country of Colombia.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Matt wrote the following paper about a personal discovery that changed his life. Read Matt's paper and think about the corrections he needs to make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.



On the Other Hand

(1) I haven't always been a great baseball player. (2) In fact, I used to be the worst player on my team. (3) I was so bad that I figured the Coach wouldn't care if I got bored at practice and lay down in the outfield. (4) He knew that I wasn't going to contribute to the team anyway. (5) I really stank.

(6) I started playing baseball when I was just five years old. (7) My older brother Stan had graduated from T-ball to baseball and had given me his old glove. (8) It was a soft Wilson glove, and I was very proud of it. (9) I was sure that with a little more practice, I would be catching and throwing just as good as Stan does.

(10) Unfortunately, the practice didn't help. (11) No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't throw or catch a ball. (12) The glove just didn't feel right. (13) I wanted to take it off, my dad kept telling me that I would get used to it. (14) This went on for months. (15) Although I wanted to quit, my dad wouldn't hear of it. (16) I didn't want to disappoint him, so I kept trying.

(17) Then one day everything changed. (18) It was time for me to move from T-ball to baseball, and my dad decided that I needed a new glove. (19) We went to the store, and I started trying on gloves. (20) One that I slipped on my right hand felt surprisingly good. (21) "Take that off," Dad said. (22) "That glove is for a left-handed player." (23) But I didn't want to take it off. (24) It felt more natural than any glove I had ever worn.

(25) I kept the glove on my right hand, and picked up a ball with my left. (26) Right there in the store, I tossed the ball to my dad. (27) It was amazing. (28) The ball went straight to him. (29) And when he tossed it back, I caught it. (30) After a few more tosses, I figured out what my problem had been all these years. (31) I'm a left-handed thrower! (32) My dad and I were both surprised because I eat and write with my right hand, but for some reason I can throw only with my left hand.

(33) That very day, I started throwing and batting left-handed. (34) Within a few weeks I had moved from the outfield to first base and finally to the pitchers mound. (35) In time I became one of the best players on my team.

(36) Today Stan's old Wilson glove sits on a shelf in my room. (37) It reminds me to never give up and to always trust my instincts. (38) Sometimes the answer to a problem is as simple as trying a new glove—on the other hand!

17 How should sentence 3 be changed?

- A** Change ***Coach*** to **coach**
- B** Change ***bored*** to **borred**
- C** Insert a comma after ***practice***
- D** Sentence 3 should not be changed.

18 What change needs to be made in sentence 9?

- F** Change ***little*** to **littel**
- G** Change the comma to a period
- H** Insert a comma after ***catching***
- J** Change ***good*** to **well**

19 What is the correct way to write sentence 13?

- A** I wanted to take it off my dad. Who kept telling me that I would get used to it.
- B** I wanted to take it off, and my dad kept telling me. That I would get used to it.
- C** I wanted to take it off, but my dad kept telling me that I would get used to it.
- D** The sentence is written correctly in the paper.

20 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 18?

- F** Change ***It was*** to ***It is***
- G** Delete ***and***
- H** Change ***desided*** to ***decided***
- J** Sentence 18 does not need to be changed.

21 How should sentence 25 be changed?

- A** Change *kept* to **kept**
- B** Delete the comma after *hand*
- C** Change *and* to **I**
- D** Change *picked* to **pick**

22 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 34?

- F** Change *I had moved* to **moving**
- G** Change *finally* to **finely**
- H** Change *pitchers* to **pitcher's**
- J** Sentence 34 does not need to be changed.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Sam saw a picture of a unique house in a magazine. After researching the house, he wrote this paper to share what he had learned. Read Sam's paper and look for any mistakes he has made. Then answer the questions that follow.



© AP Photo/Ben Margot

Shafer and His Tiny House

Tiny Houses

(1) Jay Shafer lives in a house that is smaller than some people's closets. (2) But Shafer says his little house is all he wants. (3) It has no wasted space and no room for items he doesn't need. (4) Shafer also points out that a tiny house has less impact on the environment.

(5) Shafer's house is only 89 square feet. (6) That's about 9 feet by 10 feet. (7) It don't seem like a house that small would have room for anything except a bed, but Shafer is very creative. (8) In his tiny house he has a desk, a very small fireplace, and a living room that comfortably seats four people. (9) In the kitchen there's a single sink, a small refrigerator, and a stovetop with two burners.



© AP Photo/Ben Margot

Shafer Inside His Tiny House

(10) Shafer's bedroom is in a loft above the kitchen. (11) The ceiling is angled, and a bed fills the room. (12) Shelves cover one triangular wall, and the other wall has a window. (13) It all looks very cozy.

(14) Jay Shafer isn't the only person who lives in a tiny house. (15) Some people even build little tree houses to live in. (16) One sphere-shaped house in Canada hang's in the trees, and the only way its owner can get to it is by climbing a long set of winding stairs.

(17) The world's narrowest house is in brazil. (18) Although this house is three stories tall, it measures only one meter across the front.

(19) The city of Amsterdam in the Netherlands is famous for some skinny houses, too. (20) At one time, taxes there were based on how wide the front of the house was. (21) As a result, some people builded houses that were only as wide as a typical front door!

(22) Many people say that a big house is better, but there are other people all over the world who disagree. (23) They believe that small houses make much more sense. (24) According to Shafer, who now runs a company that designs and builds small houses, "The simple, slower lifestyle my homes have afforded is a luxury for which I am continually grateful."

23 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 1?

- A** Change *lives* to **live**
 - B** Change *then* to **than**
 - C** Change *closets* to **closet's**
 - D** No change should be made in sentence 1.
-

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

- F** Change *don't* to **doesn't**
 - G** Change *anything* to **nothing**
 - H** Delete the comma
 - J** No change should be made.
-

25 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 16?

- A** Change *hang's* to **hangs**
- B** Delete the comma
- C** Change *its* to **it's**
- D** No change needs to be made.

26 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 17?

- F** Change *world's* to **worlds**
 - G** Insert **most** before *narrowest*
 - H** Change *brazil* to **Brazil**
 - J** Make no change
-

27 How should sentence 21 be changed?

- A** Change *builded* to **built**
 - B** Change *that* to **they**
 - C** Change *were* to **was**
 - D** Sentence 21 should not be changed.
-

28 What is the correct way to write sentence 22?

- F** Many people say that a big house is better, there are other people all over the world who disagree.
- G** While many people say that a big house is better. There are other people all over the world who disagree.
- H** Many people say that a big house is better, but there are other people all over the world. Who disagree.
- J** Sentence 22 is written correctly in the paper.

BE SURE YOU HAVE RECORDED ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS
ON THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.



**STAAR
GRADE 4
Writing
April 2013**