

## 2017 STAAR Grade 7 Reading Rationales

| Item # | Response A/F   | Response B/G   | Response C/H   | Response D/J  |
|--------|--|--|--|---|
| 1      | A is incorrect because no information suggests the narrator wanted to help Jim with experiments.                   | B is incorrect because no evidence indicates Jim works on more than one task at a time.  | C is incorrect because no evidence suggests the narrator wanted to learn by watching Jim.                                      | D is correct because the narrator would just watch Jim and wait for him to say "Woah!"  |
| 2      | F is incorrect because the only scientific concept identified in the story is protons.                             | G is correct because the jawbreaker demonstration helps the narrator understand protons.   | H is incorrect because the narrator does not develop a theory about protons.   | J is incorrect because the narrator does not help Jim with any projects.  |
| 3      | A is incorrect because paragraph 28 is focused on information instead of food.                                     | B is correct because paragraph 28 refers to the information the narrator was considering.  | C is incorrect because paragraph 28 does not indicate the narrator or Jim organized information.                               | D is incorrect because no information was summarized in the story.  |
| 4      | F is incorrect because paragraph 4 does not indicate the narrator feels optimistic.                                | G is incorrect because paragraph 4 does not indicate the narrator feels confused.  | H is correct because the narrator says he was "feeding off [Jim's] astonishment."  | J is incorrect because paragraph 4 does not indicate the narrator's discomfort.   |
| 5      | A is incorrect because the simile does not suggest Jim wanted to know someone who shared his passion.              | B is correct because the simile compares Jim to a play-by-play announcer describing a game.  | C is incorrect because there is no evidence Jim was interested in sports.  | D is incorrect because there is no indication in the story that Jim makes up experiments.   |
| 6      | F is incorrect because the narrator does not undertake any scientific investigations.                              | G is incorrect because the narrator does not go to Jim's house to study.   | H is correct because the narrator and Jim have an interesting conversation about protons.                                      | J is incorrect because the narrator does not help Jim solve problems in the story.  |
| 7      | A is incorrect because neither character is working toward goals to achieve a dream.                               | B is incorrect because the characters do not develop a deep friendship.  | C is incorrect because the narrator's only understanding comes from a conversation with Jim.                                   | D is correct because Jim introduces the narrator to the concept of protons being a part of everything.  |
| 8      | F is correct because "full" refers to collecting and storing seeds in the vault to prevent them from disappearing. | G is incorrect because the paragraph is about the quantity of available seeds.   | H is incorrect because the paragraph does not mention the process for managing seeds.  | J is incorrect because the paragraph does not mention the correct use of the seeds.   |
| 9      | A is incorrect because people cannot retrieve seeds from the vault.  | B is incorrect because the climate keeps the chamber at a constant temperature.  | C is incorrect because no one monitors the automated facility.   | D is correct because the purpose of the chamber is "keeping a treasure safe" and "untouched."   |
| 10     | F is incorrect because Fowler's statement doesn't address the consequences of losing seed varieties.               | G is correct because Fowler's statement refers to the "drip, drip, drip" of biodiversity, and the idea that this loss is inevitable.         | H is incorrect because Fowler's statement indicates a steady loss of biodiversity, not loss due to natural disasters.          | J is incorrect because no evidence indicates improved practices would save seed varieties.  |
| 11     | A is incorrect because rare seeds and common seeds are stored in the same vault.                                   | B is incorrect because the entry to the vault is a guarded tunnel with no full-time staff, and no single person has the codes to gain entry. | C is incorrect because the seeds come from around the world, but no evidence indicates different countries maintain the vault. | D is correct because the vault contains "the greatest collection of biodiversity in the world," and it is important to the preservation of the world. |
| 12     | F is incorrect because paragraph 1 does not address the concept of illness.  | G is incorrect because paragraph 1 describes the vault but does not include the evaluation of it.  | H is correct because paragraph 1 identifies the storage of seeds within the vault as crucial to the survival of mankind.       | J is incorrect because paragraph 1 does not indicate judgment in relation to the vault.   |

## 2017 STAAR Grade 7 Reading Rationales

| Item # | Response A/F   | Response B/G  | Response C/H   | Response D/J  |
|--------|--|---|--|---|
| 13     | A is incorrect because paragraph 4 indicates no decision process for depositing seeds in the vault.                            | B is incorrect because paragraph 4 indicates no reason for Norway deciding to sponsor the construction of the vault.  | C is incorrect because the process for shipping seeds to the vault is not addressed in paragraph 4.  | D is correct because paragraph 4 refers to seeds from Mexico, Nigeria, North America, and from the Aztecs and Incas.  |
| 14     | F is incorrect because there are no other seed vaults to compare the Svalbard Seed Vault to.                                   | G is correct because paragraph 2 indicates scientists are concerned that certain types of food could disappear from stores and kitchens.                                  | H is incorrect because paragraph 2 does not indicate the rate that seeds disappear.  | J is incorrect because paragraph 2 does not address ways to prepare for a natural disaster.   |
| 15     | A is incorrect because this summary is incomplete. It does not include information about the purpose or location of the vault. | B is incorrect because the information in this summary is too general. In addition, the summary does not include the location of the vault or the reason for building it. | C is correct because this summary includes the most important ideas from the selection.  | D is incorrect because this summary is general and incomplete. It does not address the importance of maintaining biodiversity.  |
| 16     | F is correct because the illustration shows the secure tunnel behind the steel door.   | G is incorrect because the illustration does not indicate how the vault will be maintained.   | H is incorrect because the illustration does not indicate an understanding of the importance of the vault.                                 | J is incorrect because the illustration does not show that separate vault chambers would impact the safety of seeds.  |
| 17     | A is correct because the author describes several methods used to keep the tower from leaning.                                 | B is incorrect because the author does not include persuasive language to indicate that he wanted to convince people of the value of the tower.                           | C is incorrect because the selection does not include reasons why early attempts to maintain the tower were not successful.                | D is incorrect because experts now agree that the tower should be stable for another 300 years.   |
| 18     | F is incorrect because cables and weights did not cause the tower to lean more.  | G is incorrect because the placement of the bell tower was not an effort to fix the lean, but to keep it from progressing.  | H is correct because the injection of concrete into the foundation resulted in concrete seeping under it, making the tower lean even more. | J is incorrect because the removal of soil did not level the ground or resolve the problem completely.  |
| 19     | A is incorrect because this event from 1900 is a fact, not an assertion.   | B is incorrect because this suggestion about using helium balloons is a fact, not an assertion.   | C is incorrect because the information about a commission of experts and historians trying to save the tower is a fact, not an assertion.  | D is correct because the assertion about historians and experts trying to save the tower at a future date is an assumption based upon past events.                    |
| 20     | F is incorrect because paragraph 2 does not address whether the tower was difficult to build without modern technology.        | G is correct because the tower had started to tilt by the time construction of the third and fourth floors of the tower had begun.  | H is incorrect because the tower continued to lean but not more than it did before placement of the bell tower.                            | J is incorrect because paragraph 2 does not address a timeline for construction of the tower.   |
| 21     | A is correct because if the tower leans significantly more, experts and historians will probably try again to stop the lean.   | B is incorrect because the selection does not address how technology might influence efforts to straighten the tower in the future.                                       | C is incorrect because the design of the tower has not changed as a result of the efforts to straighten it.                                | D is incorrect because the selection does not address any connection of the efforts to stop the leaning of the tower to any structural problems with other buildings. |
| 22     | F is correct because the Cutty Sark was one of the most advanced clippers of its time, setting new speed records in the 1880s. | G is incorrect because the selection does not address the dimensions of the ship.   | H is incorrect because the hull made the Cutty Sark ideal for use with tea trade, but the ship's role in tea trade is not addressed.       | J is incorrect because the selection details the restoration and display of the Cutty Sark, but not the later uses of the ship.                                       |

## 2017 STAAR Grade 7 Reading Rationales

| Item # | Response A/F   | Response B/G  | Response C/H  | Response D/J  |
|--------|--|---|---|---|
| 23     | A is incorrect because the selection does not contain information about other ships.   | B is correct because the <i>Cutty Sark</i> was used for training WWII naval officers, and a trust was created to restore the ship as a museum in London.  | C is incorrect because no changes of opinion about the ship are addressed in the selection.   | D is incorrect because the selection provides a historical record of the <i>Cutty Sark</i> as a valuable ship for the tea industry in London and of its restoration and display for public viewing.   |
| 24     | F is incorrect because the author does not describe the <i>Cutty Sark</i> as being important to the economy of a country.  | G is incorrect because the selection includes information about faster steam vessels rising in popularity, which rendered the <i>Cutty Sark</i> obsolete.   | H is correct because the <i>Cutty Sark</i> remained important throughout London's history.  | J is incorrect because the manner of display is a detail linked to the ship being raised to allow a view of the hull shape.   |
| 25     | A is incorrect because the photograph does not show the interior or exterior condition of the ship.  | B is incorrect because the photograph does not show anything related to the <i>Cutty Sark</i> 's historical significance.   | C is incorrect because the photograph does not show how many people can view the <i>Cutty Sark</i> each day.  | D is correct because the photograph shows the raised hull of the <i>Cutty Sark</i> , which made the ship special.   |
| 26     | F is correct because the lean of the tower was detected during early construction, but the <i>Cutty Sark</i> was refurbished after the ship had served the Royal Navy and had set new speed records. | G is incorrect because the Leaning Tower of Pisa was famous from the time construction began.   | H is incorrect because more work may be necessary in the future, but the renovation of the <i>Cutty Sark</i> was completed before the display was opened to the public in 2012.                         | J is incorrect because the tower was reopened to the public after the 1990 effort to level the ground underneath the structure. The <i>Cutty Sark</i> is no longer in use; it is displayed in London. |
| 27     | A is incorrect because this description of the <i>Cutty Sark</i> does not relate to the attempt to stabilize the tower.  | B is incorrect because the conservation project involving the <i>Cutty Sark</i> was undertaken to prevent deterioration, and the attempt to stabilize the tower resulted in the structure leaning more. | C is correct because both the tower and the <i>Cutty Sark</i> were damaged, resulting in repairs to the structures.   | D is incorrect because the use of the <i>Cutty Sark</i> for training officers during World War II does not result in an effort to refurbish the ship.   |
| 28     | F is incorrect because the purpose of refurbishing the hull of the <i>Cutty Sark</i> was to prepare it for display. The ship is no longer in use.  | G is incorrect because the exhibit of the <i>Cutty Sark</i> attracts visitors from around the world.  | H is correct because the hull of the <i>Cutty Sark</i> was renovated so visitors could view the shape of the hull. The purpose of efforts to stabilize the tower was to keep the tower from collapsing. | J is incorrect because the conservation efforts for the ship prevented deterioration, but the purpose of the renovation was not to repair specific parts of the structure.                            |
| 29     | A is incorrect because the repair of the tower involved the ground underneath and not the structure itself, and the ship never fell into a state of disrepair.                                       | B is incorrect because there is no ongoing debate about the best way to restore historical structures.  | C is incorrect because the selections do not address the issue of funding for the restoration of structures.  | D is correct because both the tower and ship contributed to the history of the countries where they originated.   |
| 30     | F is incorrect because the poem does not indicate that the trees lose their leaves in the fall.  | G is correct because the tree does not have wide branches that would provide protection for birds and squirrels or shade for people who pass.   | H is incorrect because the poem does not indicate the height of the tree.   | J is incorrect because the poem does not indicate where the tree grows.   |
| 31     | A is correct because the poem personifies the branches trying to attract visitors.   | B is incorrect because personification in the fourth stanza does not indicate the poplar's attempts to stay active.   | C is incorrect because the poplar in the poem does not provide directions to others.  | D is incorrect because in the fourth stanza the poplar moves effortlessly and purposefully to welcome children and birds.   |

## 2017 STAAR Grade 7 Reading Rationales

| Item # | Response A/F   | Response B/G   | Response C/H  | Response D/J   |
|--------|--|--|---|--|
| 32     | F is incorrect because line 1 does not indicate the setting of the poem.   | G is incorrect because line 1 does not address the speaker of the poem.  | H is incorrect because line 1 does not include sensory language.  | J is correct because line 1 establishes the mood of the poem with the statement that <u>the poplar tree is lonely</u> .  |
| 33     | A is incorrect because stanza 2 does not describe the poplar tree as cautious.   | B is correct because stanza 2 describes a neighboring tree that has the benefits longed for by the poplar in stanza 1.     | C is incorrect because there is no evidence in stanza 2 that the poplar was curious.  | D is incorrect because there is no evidence in stanza 2 that the poplar is arrogant.   |
| 34     | F is incorrect because the last stanza does not suggest the poplar tree will change in any way.  | G is correct because the poplar tree copes with loneliness by growing close together with other poplar trees.              | H is incorrect because there is no evidence the poplar tree expresses a desire to be a unique tree.                           | J is incorrect because the last stanza does not include an explanation for the size of a poplar tree.  |
| 35     | A is correct because the poplar's narrow branches and lack of shade indicate why the birds, squirrels, and visitors are not drawn to the tree. | B is incorrect because the poet does not include information about the ways the poplar's environment affects the tree.     | C is incorrect because the poet does not explain the reason why the poplar tree grows near different types of trees.          | D is incorrect because the poplar does not find relief from its problem in the poem; the tree copes with its problem.  |
| 36     | F is incorrect because the stage directions in paragraph 22 do not indicate Asia is taking the task of cutting Lonnie's hair seriously.        | G is correct because Lonnie and Asia both close their eyes tightly during the process to indicate their nervousness.       | H is incorrect because the stage directions in paragraph 22 do not address Asia's experience with cutting hair.               | J is incorrect because Asia closes her eyes and cuts, and then she lets out a deep breath after she finishes. This does not indicate Asia is pleased to have the chance to cut someone's hair. |
| 37     | A is correct because in paragraph 17 Asia convinces Lonnie that Lonnie should not pay for a salon haircut.                                     | B is incorrect because in paragraph 16 Lonnie realizes Asia has never really cut anyone's hair.                            | C is incorrect because the only tool Asia uses is a pair of scissors. This is not why Lonnie agrees to let Asia cut her hair. | D is incorrect because Lonnie asks Asia to start by just trimming Lonnie's hair so Lonnie can then decide if she wants <u>Asia to continue</u> .   |
| 38     | F is incorrect because Asia smiles and sings as she cuts Lonnie's hair.  | G is incorrect because Asia stops singing and snipping and stares at Lonnie's hair.  | H is incorrect because there is no evidence in paragraph 25 that Asia or Lonnie were curious.                                 | J is correct because Asia's smiling, singing, and snipping while she cuts Lonnie's hair reflect her enthusiasm for the task.   |
| 39     | A is incorrect because this summary does not include the resolution of the story.  | B is correct because this summary contains all of the important events from the story.                                     | C is incorrect because this summary does not include the result of Asia's haircutting task.                                   | D is incorrect because it contains information not in the play.  |
| 40     | F is incorrect because paragraph 43 does not indicate Lonnie's response to the haircut was overreacting.                                       | G is incorrect because paragraph 43 does not address the style of the haircut.   | H is correct because Lonnie's response and watering eyes indicate how distraught she feels.                                   | J is incorrect because paragraph 43 does not indicate that Lonnie puts a lot of thought into her hairstyle.  |
| 41     | A is incorrect because paragraph 51 does not address Asia's feelings about cutting hair.   | B is incorrect because paragraph 51 does not indicate Asia is jealous of Lonnie's hairstyle.                               | C is incorrect because in paragraph 51 Asia's decision to go to the salon is a part of her apology to Lonnie.                 | D is correct because Asia decides to get her hair cut into the same style as Lonnie's to show that Asia is supportive of her friend.   |
| 42     | F is incorrect because there is no textual evidence that Asia and Lonnie will be in trouble for making a mess.                                 | G is incorrect because the author does not address a plan for Asia and Lonnie to get all their future haircuts at a salon. | H is correct because Asia smiles as she and Lonnie discuss how they will respond to similar problems in the future.           | J is incorrect because the author does not provide information about the hairstyles Asia and Lonnie choose.  |