

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 4 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
1	Option D is correct	The author claims that money for parks should be spent on nature and supports this claim by pointing out problems associated with overcrowding in parks and by explaining that money spent on building things for people to use in parks is wasted. The author believes that nature is beneficial and should be protected. In paragraph 7, the author states that “the governments that care for the parks have a responsibility to help them grow and thrive.”
	Option A is incorrect	Although the author mentions in paragraph 6 that playgrounds “help the community,” the claim that spending time in parks helps people learn about their neighborhoods is not supported in the article.
	Option B is incorrect	The author claims that existing parks should be protected, not that more parks should be built.
	Option C is incorrect	The author does not claim that parks have changed. Instead, the author claims that parks are overcrowded and that nature should be protected.

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2	Option B is correct	This summary contains key ideas from the entire article. The author believes that overcrowding is harmful to parks and that more money should be spent on caring for nature in parks.
	Option A is incorrect	Although this summary contains the ideas that people enjoy spending time outside and that many visitors fail to see the nature around them when they are in a park, it does not contain ideas from the entire article. The author’s key ideas that overcrowding is harmful to parks and that more money should be spent on caring for nature in parks are missing from this summary.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the idea that people do not need playgrounds to benefit from parks is mentioned in paragraph 6, this summary does not contain ideas from the rest of the article. It is missing the author’s key idea that more money should be spent on caring for nature in parks.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraphs 3 and 4, the author provides details about trees and squirrels. These things are part of nature, which the author believes more money should be spent on. However, this summary is missing the author’s key ideas that overcrowding is harmful to parks.

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3	Option C is correct	In the context of paragraph 6, the word <u>construction</u> means “the act of making something.” The phrase “building more things” in paragraph 6 helps the reader infer the meaning.
	Option A is incorrect	Although paragraph 6 is about people thinking that playgrounds should be built in parks, the author provides no context to support the idea that the word <u>construction</u> means “a thoughtful explanation.”
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 6, the author discusses the idea that playgrounds allow children to “make up fun games to play.” However, the author does not connect the creativity of children’s play to the creation of “a piece of fine art.”
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 6 the author mentions that people argue for more playgrounds to be built, but the author provides no context for the idea that the word <u>construction</u> means to argue or “the arrangement of words in a phrase.”

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Item Position	Rationale
4	For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

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5	Option C is correct	The author explains that “parks are suffering from overcrowding” (paragraph 1) and argues that “governments should spend more money to protect the nature in parks” (paragraph 2). People who like being outdoors care about nature and most likely visit parks. They are also able to advocate for more government spending to protect parks. Therefore, the author most likely intended the article to be read by people who like being outdoors.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the author states that “kids can play together and get exercise outdoors” (paragraph 6), the author’s overall purpose is to help the reader understand that governments should use money to care for nature in parks. Therefore, the intended audience most likely does not include kids.
	Option B is incorrect	Although park rangers are mentioned in paragraph 5, the author does not discuss how to become a park ranger. Therefore, the intended audience most likely does not include adults interested in becoming park rangers.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author mentions in paragraph 2 that “more and more people are visiting parks,” this article is about caring for nature in parks, not vacationing in parks. Therefore, the intended audience most likely does not include families interested in finding a vacation spot.

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6	Option C is correct	In this sentence, the author provides specific details that show how beetles can be bad for parks. The effect of the beetles “cut[ting] off the water supply and food for trees” is that the trees will die.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, the author states that “trees need our help to stay healthy” but does not mention beetles.
	Option B is incorrect	The author’s statement that “unwanted beetles have spread around some parks” does not include information to show that beetles can be bad for parks. The author is stating that beetles are in the parks.
	Option D is incorrect	In this sentence, the author suggests a way for governments to encourage people to “take care of parks.” However, the author does not show in this sentence how beetles can be bad for parks.

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7	Option B is correct	The author states that “protecting the actual parks would be beneficial for both people and wildlife” (paragraph 3) and then discusses the importance of trees for clean air and the importance of natural parks for people to enjoy and to help people get exercise outdoors (paragraphs 3–6). These details help the reader conclude that preserving nature is an important part of a strong community.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraphs 3 through 6, the author discusses how parks are “beneficial” to “both people and wildlife.” However, the author does not assert that parks are more important than other natural areas.
	Option C is incorrect	The author mentions that parks are great places for kids to “play together and get exercise outdoors” and are places where “others can relax under trees.” Although these ideas describe some ways in which families use parks, they are mentioned only in paragraph 6. This option, therefore, does not refer to ideas in paragraphs 3 through 6.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author notes, in paragraph 6, that “children can make up games to play” in parks, the author does not suggest that people can use their imagination while in nature in paragraphs 3 through 5.

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8	Option D is correct	Imagery is the use of vivid language to represent objects, actions, or ideas. By using imagery in paragraph 6, the author creates a picture in the reader’s mind of people enjoying parks. This supports the author’s claim that “people do not need new construction in order to enjoy parks.”
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 6, the author uses imagery to describe how people relax and have fun in parks, not to introduce how visitors can help with park tasks.
	Option B is incorrect	The author uses imagery in paragraph 6 to create a picture in the reader’s mind of people enjoying parks, not to support the idea that playgrounds encourage healthy habits.
	Option C is incorrect	In these sentences from paragraph 6, the author uses imagery to create a picture in the reader’s mind of people enjoying parks “on a nice day.” However, the author does not use imagery to explain how parks are better suited for good weather.

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9	Option A is correct	The central idea of the selection is that trains allowed people to travel to new places. The author supports this idea by stating, "Trains gave people access to places that were often difficult to reach" (paragraph 1). The author goes on to discuss how trains made travel much easier. The author concludes by stating, "For most of a century, [trains] were the main way of traveling across vast areas of land. They helped bring goods, ideas, and people together" (paragraph 7).
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author mentions in paragraph 5 that "train travel was cheaper than other forms of transportation," the cost of train travel serves as a supporting detail, not the central idea of the selection.
	Option C is incorrect	The author's use of the city of El Paso to show how the construction of railroads "changed the experience of travel" (paragraph 5) by making it easier to travel to new places (paragraph 6) serves as a supporting detail, not the central idea of the selection.
	Option D is incorrect	El Paso was not the first city in Texas to have a railroad. According to the author, "the first 20 miles of track" in Texas was opened in 1853 (paragraph 1), but it was not until "1881 when railroad tracks arrived in El Paso" (paragraph 4). Therefore, this statement does not serve as the central idea of the selection.

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10	Option B is correct	By organizing the selection in chronological order, the author shows how railroads in West Texas developed over time. The author starts with Texas’s “first 20 miles of track” being opened for business in 1853 (paragraph 1), adds additional dates important to the development of railroads in Texas, and concludes with the year 1890, when the population of El Paso reached 10,000 (paragraph 4).
	Option A is incorrect	Although the author states, “Leaders in Texas realized that railroads were the new and improved way to travel,” which led to the construction of railroads, the author does not use cause and effect to show why people wanted to travel in West Texas.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author discusses the problems people faced while traveling by wagon, the author does not highlight the problems they faced while traveling by train. Instead, the author presents the benefits of traveling by train.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not compare railroads in West Texas to railroads in other places. Instead, the author presents the benefits of traveling by train in a particular part of Texas.

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Item Position	Rationale	
11	Option A is correct	The most likely reason the author wrote the selection is to express how important railroads and trains were for growing travel in Texas. In paragraph 7, the author states that “railroads were incredibly important. For most of a century, they were the main way of traveling across vast areas of land.”
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author states, “Railroads extended into New Mexico and beyond” (paragraph 6), the focus of the selection is the expansion of railroads in Texas, not in other states.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 4, the author states that “once trains could roll into town, El Paso seemed to grow overnight.” However, to explain population growth is not the most likely reason the author wrote the selection.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author provides details in paragraph 5 about how “bumpy wagon roads were replaced with reliable railroad tracks and train cars,” the author’s most likely reason for writing the selection was to show the overall importance of train travel in Texas.

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12	Option B is correct	In lines 8 through 14, the poet uses the words <i>noise</i> and <i>wake</i> (lines 9 and 10) to help the reader determine that the meaning of the word <u>jolting</u> is "rough." This contrasting word helps emphasize the smooth and quiet movement of the train.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the poet describes a smooth and quiet movement in lines 8 through 14, the words <i>noise</i> and <i>wake</i> in lines 9 and 10 are used to provide a contrast. In line 10, the word <u>jolting</u> refers to movement that is rough, not comforting.
	Option C is incorrect	In lines 8 through 14, the poet uses the words <i>noise</i> and <i>wake</i> (lines 9 and 10) to help the reader determine that the meaning of the word <u>jolting</u> is "rough," not "exciting." This contrasting word helps emphasize the smooth and quiet movement of the train.
	Option D is incorrect	In lines 8 through 14, the poet uses the words <i>noise</i> and <i>wake</i> (lines 9 and 10) to help the reader determine that the meaning of the word <u>jolting</u> is "rough," not "dangerous." This contrasting word helps emphasize the smooth and quiet movement of the train.

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Item Position	Rationale	
13	Option A is correct	The train travel makes the speaker want to “open my window and let the air blow in” and take in the “smells of grass and earth.” This action causes the speaker to feel an appreciation for the land.
	Option B is incorrect	Although train travel makes the speaker want to “open my window and let the air blow in” and take in the “smells of grass and earth,” the poet does not indicate in lines 11 through 14 what other passengers did on trains.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the speaker refers to “The air of morning” (line 12), there is no mention in these lines of how the weather changes during train travel.
	Option D is incorrect	Lines 11 through 14 are not organized in a cause-and-effect structure to show the reader what the speaker is looking at. Instead, the structure works to inform the reader that the gentle train ride moves the speaker to open the window and feel an appreciation for the land.

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14	Option D is correct	Figurative language is language that uses words that mean something different from their literal interpretation. In lines 20 and 21, the poet uses personification to describe the wheels of the train as “spin[ning] bright along the bright rails” and “singing and humming.” The word <i>bright</i> has a connotation of liveliness, and the words <i>singing</i> and <i>humming</i> make the wheels seem alive and joyful.
	Option A is incorrect	In lines 4 and 5, the poet uses descriptive wording to describe the curves as “sharp” and the roadway as “wide open,” but there is no figurative language in these lines.
	Option B is incorrect	In lines 6 and 7, the poet describes how the tracks run “straight” over what was once a “crooked” and “rough” place. However, lines 6 and 7 do not contain figurative language.
	Option C is incorrect	The poet describes the speaker opening the window in lines 11 and 12 “to let the morning air blow in,” but these lines do not contain figurative language.

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15	Option A is correct	The author of the selection "Riding Out West" notes that "El Paso and other Texas cities grew because trains changed the experience of travel" (paragraph 5), which supports the idea that trains changed an entire area. In contrast, the speaker in the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)" describes the effects of train travel as a freeing personal experience or "Like Youth, running away" (line 19).
	Option B is incorrect	The author of the selection "Riding Out West" does state that "for most of a century, they were the main way of traveling across vast areas of land" (paragraph 7). However, the speaker in the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)" does not explicitly mention how trains work today.
	Option C is incorrect	The author of the selection "Riding Out West" gives examples of why trains "were incredibly important" (paragraph 7) for travel. However, the author does not say that trains were respected by many people. In addition, in the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)," there is no mention of people's doubts about the usefulness of trains.
	Option D is incorrect	The author of the selection "Riding Out West" includes information about how trains helped people "move more easily between cities across Texas" (paragraph 6) but does not provide information about how trains changed over time. In addition, in the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)" the speaker is focused on the smoothness and peacefulness of train travel, not the design of trains.

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16	Option A is correct	Both the author of the selection "Riding Out West" and the speaker in the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)" communicate how they value the freedom to move easily by train. The author of the selection "Riding Out West" states that trains made it "easier for people to visit new places" (paragraph 6). The speaker in the poem remarks on "how smoothly the trains run" (line 1), that "there is not noise" (line 9) "nor jolting" (line 10), and that the "wheels turn as if they were glad to go" (line 17).
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author of the selection "Riding Out West" states that railroads made it possible for people to "travel to other states and territories" (paragraph 6), and the speaker in the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)" says that "trains run beyond the Missouri" (lines 1 and 15), neither the author of the selection "Riding Out West" nor the speaker in the poem asserts that people prefer to travel to faraway places.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the author of the selection "Riding Out West" states that "railroads gave people the opportunity to build new lives" (paragraph 6), the speaker in the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)" states only that trains "run beyond the Missouri" (lines 1 and 15), not that traveling to new places will help people find better opportunities.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author of the selection "Riding Out West" states that railroads "gave people the opportunity to . . . connect with people all around the country" (paragraph 6) and the speaker in the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)" expresses how traveling by train feels like "going home" (line 25), it is not implied in either selection that people should work together to find new ways to appreciate the world around them.

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17	Option B is correct	In the selection "Riding Out West," the author covers many reasons to travel, such as delivering goods, connecting with people, and traveling to new and faraway places. By contrast, in the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)," the poet describes only one reason for traveling: going home. For example, in line 25 the speaker describes the train wheels moving "as if they, too, were going home."
	Option D is correct	The author of the selection "Riding Out West" provides a broad picture of train travel by explaining how traveling by train was "cheaper" (paragraph 5) and "easier" (paragraph 6) than other ways of traveling. In the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)," the speaker provides a narrower view of traveling by recounting a personal experience of returning home.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the author of the selection "Riding Out West" does explain that trains allowed people to travel longer distances than before, the speaker in the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)" does not indicate whether the distance being traveled is short or long.
	Option C is incorrect	In the selection "Riding Out West," the author mentions old ways of traveling, such as by wagon, which was "tough" and "expensive" (paragraph 3). However, in the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)," the speaker does not mention finding new ways of traveling. Instead, the speaker's general statements about "the trains" in line 1 and line 15 indicate that the speaker has traveled by train before and thus imply that train travel is not "new" to the speaker.
	Option E is incorrect	The speaker in the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)" does use the phrase "the roadway wide open" (line 5), but this likely refers to a lack of traffic, rather than to open land. Similarly, the author of the selection "Riding Out West" mentions that El Paso, Texas, "is next to

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		the Rio Grande River" (paragraph 2) but does not discuss trains traveling over rivers.
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18	Option A is correct	Only the author of the selection "Riding Out West" provides information about the practical benefits of train travel. In paragraph 5, the author describes train travel as "reliable" and "cheaper" than earlier forms of travel. The speaker in the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)" does not provide information about the practical benefits of train travel.
	Option B is incorrect	Only the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)" contains details about the speaker's personal experience of traveling home by train. The author of the selection "Riding Out West" does not describe personal experiences.
	Option C is incorrect	Only the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)" contains imagery to describe the experience of traveling by train. The selection "Riding Out West" contains descriptive words—such as "harsh" and "bumpy" (paragraph 5)—but these describe traveling by wagon, not by train.
	Option D is incorrect	Both the author of the selection "Riding Out West" and the speaker in the poem "Going Home (<i>Burlington Route</i>)" describe where trains travel. The author of "Riding Out West" describes railroad lines as connecting cities across Texas and extending even farther, "to other states and territories" (paragraph 6). The speaker in the poem says that "trains run beyond the Missouri" (lines 1 and 15).

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19	Option B is correct	Initially Cody thinks Mud isn't good at soccer and decides "to go easy on" his friend (paragraph 1). However, Cody realizes that he judged Mud unfairly when Mud outplays his opponents and scores "the first goal of the game" (paragraph 16).
	Option A is incorrect	Although Cody does want to "[stick] close to his friend" (paragraph 3) to protect him from the other members of Cody's own team, there is no indication that Cody tries to protect Mud all the time (outside of the soccer game).
	Option C is incorrect	Although Cody wonders "when Mud had gotten so fast" (paragraph 13) and has trouble getting possession of the ball during the game, there is no indication that Cody wants to try new tricks with Mud.
	Option D is incorrect	Although both Cody and Mud are playing soccer together in a real game for the first time, there is no indication in the story that this is the first time they have ever played soccer. Both characters have played a soccer video game and know the rules for soccer.

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20	Option A is correct	Cody does not know that Mud is good at soccer, and so, as opponents surround Mud on the field, Cody is afraid that he is about “to watch [a] train wreck” (paragraph 10). However, things do not go the way Cody expects, because Mud breaks “free of the pack” (paragraph 12) and shows that he is better at soccer than Cody realized.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no mention of either Cody or Mud doubting his own soccer-playing ability. Therefore, this message is not expressed in paragraphs 10 through 13.
	Option C is incorrect	Although both teams are trying to win the soccer game, the story is not about a team helping when it is needed most. Therefore, this message is not expressed in paragraphs 10 through 13.
	Option D is incorrect	Neither Cody nor Mud asks for help in paragraphs 10 through 13. Therefore, this message is not expressed in these paragraphs.

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21	Option C is correct	The term “point of view” refers to the person telling or narrating a piece of writing. Since the story is told from a third-person point of view, the narrator provides insight into Cody’s thoughts, which allows the reader to know what Cody thinks will happen during the game.
	Option A is incorrect	The narrator does not provide insight into Mud’s thoughts in the story. Therefore, the reader does not learn what Mud thinks about Cody’s opinions.
	Option B is incorrect	The narrator does not provide information about Amanda’s feelings in the story. Therefore, the reader does not learn how Amanda feels about playing on the team.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 18, the narrator says that the Blue team was “hugging” and “high-fiving” Mud. However, it is the narrator's description of their actions, not the third-person point of view in the story, that shows the reader the feelings of the team members.

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22	Option B is correct	The reader can infer from the sentence in paragraph 9 that Cody thinks the Red team players are better than Mud because Cody is concerned about his friend. The statement "If Mud was lucky, he might avoid being knocked to the ground" implies that Cody does not believe Mud can defend himself from the Red team's players.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence from paragraph 8, the author shows that the opposing Red team is running toward Mud to take the ball. However, there is no evidence in the sentence to show that Cody thinks the Red team players are better than Mud.
	Option C is incorrect	Although in this sentence from paragraph 13 the author does express Cody's surprise at Mud's soccer ability, the author does not show that Cody thinks the Red team players are better than Mud.
	Option D is incorrect	In this sentence from paragraph 14, the author includes details that help the reader infer that Mud is a good soccer player and is faster than Mahender, one of the members of the Red team. By this point, Cody is already realizing that Mud is more than a match for the Red team players.

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23	Option C is correct	In paragraph 5, the preposition <u>underneath</u> describes the ball as being lower than Amanda is. The preposition <i>below</i> is used to describe something that is lower than something else. On that basis, the reader can determine that a synonym for <u>underneath</u> is <i>below</i> .
	Option A is incorrect	The preposition <i>across</i> describes something that is on the other side of something or moving from one side to another. The preposition <u>underneath</u> in paragraph 5 describes something that is lower than something else, so the reader can determine that <i>across</i> is not a synonym of <u>underneath</u> .
	Option B is incorrect	The preposition <i>around</i> describes something that is surrounding or turning. The preposition <u>underneath</u> in paragraph 5 describes something that is lower than something else, so the reader can determine that <i>around</i> is not a synonym of <u>underneath</u> .
	Option D is incorrect	The preposition <i>down</i> indicates a direction toward the ground or the bottom. The preposition <u>underneath</u> in paragraph 5 describes something that is specifically beneath something else, so the reader can determine that <i>down</i> is not a synonym of <u>underneath</u> .

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24	Option A is correct	From Cody’s experiences playing the video game <i>Soccer Slam</i> with Mud, he believes that Mud is not “the greatest soccer mind” (paragraph 1), meaning Mud is not a good soccer player. Therefore, Cody decides to “go easy on him” (paragraph 1) most likely because Cody believes he is a better soccer player than Mud, the same as he is better than Mud at <i>Soccer Slam</i> .
	Option B is incorrect	There is no evidence in this sentence from paragraph 1 to support the idea that Cody thinks playing real soccer is different from playing soccer video games.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no evidence in this sentence from paragraph 1 to support the idea that Cody believes the rest of the team has had more practice at soccer video games than Mud has.
	Option D is incorrect	Although Cody decides to “go easy on” Mud (paragraph 1), it is not most likely because Cody wants Mud to be the best soccer player on the team. It is most likely because Cody thinks he is a better player than Mud.

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25	For ECR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

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26	Option D is correct	The sentence is effectively written and does not need to be revised.
	Option A is incorrect	In this revision, the writer adds the words "It was" and "again." These additions are unnecessary and create awkwardness.
	Option B is incorrect	Revising the sentence in this way results in an awkward sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	By using the phrases "coming back" and "just kept coming," the writer repeats information, which creates an ineffective sentence.

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27	Option A is correct	This sentence provides the best transition into the fourth paragraph because the word “Eventually” shows a progression of time, and the phrase “on our porch” provides the setting for the sentences that follow.
	Option B is incorrect	The writer provides information about another cat in the neighborhood, but this information is not related to either the third or fourth paragraph.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer offers information about getting food for the cat, but this information does not have anything to do with developments in the cat’s nighttime behavior.
	Option D is incorrect	The writer does not provide a better transition with this sentence because she introduces irrelevant information about when it gets dark.

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28	Option D is correct	Placing the new sentence after sentence 26 provides a logical progression of ideas since by that point the reader knows that Mom had let Leroy come into the house.
	Option A is incorrect	Adding the new sentence after sentence 23 would not make sense because Leroy had not yet been allowed to stay in the house.
	Option B is incorrect	In sentence 24, the writer is merely describing Leroy's fur, so it is not yet reasonable to describe him as claiming a room in the house.
	Option C is incorrect	Here again, the writer is describing Leroy's fur, so it would not make sense to add this new idea immediately after sentence 25.

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29	Option A is correct	This revision of sentence 36 is correct because it avoids the repetition of ideas in "studies and looks at."
	Option B is incorrect	This revision retains the repetition of "studies" and "look at." It merely relocates the unnecessary verb phrase.
	Option C is incorrect	In this revision, the writer creates a new repetition by introducing the pronoun "it" to refer to the website. The resulting sentence is awkward and confusing.
	Option D is incorrect	In this revision, the writer again repeats an idea by using both "studies" and "looks at." This repetition is unnecessary and creates an ineffective revision.

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30	Option C is correct	This revision makes sentence 3 clear and effective by moving the phrase “than 2,000 people” to follow and give meaning to the word “Fewer.”
	Option A is incorrect	Revising the sentence in this way continues to separate “Fewer” from “than 2,000 people.” This creates a confusing and awkward sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	This revision also separates “Fewer” from “than 2,000 people” by misplacing the verb “live.” The result is awkward and misleading.
	Option D is incorrect	This revision results in an awkward sentence that is difficult to understand.

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31	Option B is correct	In this sentence, the writer combines the information in sentences 7 and 8 in a concise and effective manner.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer uses the word “and” to join the two ideas. However, the conjunction is misplaced, resulting in a garbled and confusing subject for the new sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	This is not the best way to combine sentences 7 and 8 because the writer implies that the cowboy saw both the Marfa Lights and Robert Ellison.
	Option D is incorrect	By combining the sentences in this way, the writer suggests that the Marfa Lights were given the name “Robert Ellison,” which is not accurate.

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32	Option A is correct	In the third paragraph, the writer compares the Northern Lights to the Marfa Lights. The information about the weather being colder in Alaska and Canada is not relevant, so sentence 13 should be removed.
	Option B is incorrect	In sentence 14, the writer provides specific differences in support of her claim in sentence 12. This sentence should not be removed.
	Option C is incorrect	The writer continues in sentence 15 to compare the Northern Lights with the Marfa Lights by noting that there are also similarities between the two. This sentence should not be removed since it leads the reader to the similar features listed in sentence 16.
	Option D is incorrect	Sentence 16 should not be removed because in it, the writer explains how the Marfa Lights and the Northern Lights are similar, which gives support for sentence 15.

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34	Option D is correct	Capitalizing "Tuesday" corrects the error in sentence 2 since this word is a proper noun.
	Option A is incorrect	The adverb "quickly" is modifying the verb "flipped," so using the adjective "quick" would create an error in this sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	A comma after "recipe" is not appropriate since sentence 2 is not a compound sentence. The conjunction "and" joins two verbs in this sentence. It does not join two independent clauses, or complete statements.
	Option C is incorrect	This paragraph is written consistently in the past tense, so changing "asked" to the present tense verb "ask" would be incorrect.

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Item Position	Rationale	
35	Option C is correct	Placing quotation marks after “dessert” is necessary to show that this is where the dialogue ends in the sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Using the preposition “on” would distort the meaning of this sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	The word “tomorrow’s” in this sentence is possessive, not plural, so it should keep the apostrophe.
	Option D is incorrect	Changing the word “said” to “saying” would not be correct because it would result in a sentence fragment.

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Item Position	Rationale	
36	Option B is correct	In sentence 7, the objective pronoun “me” cannot be used as part of the sentence’s subject. Replacing it with the subjective pronoun “I” corrects this error.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing the comma after “work” to a period would turn the prepositional phrase into a sentence fragment.
	Option C is incorrect	The adverb “happily” modifies the verb “looked.” It would not be correct to use the comparative form of this adjective.
	Option D is incorrect	“Finished” is spelled correctly in sentence 7.

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Item Position	Rationale	
37	Option B is correct	The writer is describing an event that happened in the past, so the past-tense form of the verb is needed here.
	Option A is incorrect	Changing "She" to "And" would create a sentence fragment.
	Option C is incorrect	The word "tricks" is plural in this sentence, not possessive, so it does not require an apostrophe.
	Option D is incorrect	It would be illogical to say that Coleman performed tricks "on" the air, so this change should not be made.

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Item Position	Rationale	
38	Option C is correct	Because "Loop the loops and figure eights" is a plural subject, it requires the plural verb "were."
	Option A is incorrect	The verb "was" is incorrect because it is a singular verb, and this subject requires a plural verb.
	Option B is incorrect	The verb "being" is incorrect because using it creates a fragment.
	Option D is incorrect	The verb "is" is incorrect because it does not agree with the plural subject and is not the past-tense form of the verb, which is required by the context.

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Item Position	Rationale	
39	Option B is correct	Sentence 5 is a compound sentence, so along with the conjunction "and," a comma is necessary after "determined" to separate the two independent clauses.
	Option A is incorrect	This paper is written in past tense, so changing "was" to the present tense "is" would be incorrect.
	Option C is incorrect	By changing "and she impressed" to "she impressed," the writer would create a run-on sentence.
	Option D is incorrect	The singular pronoun "her" is necessary in this sentence to agree with the pronoun "she." The plural pronoun "their" is incorrect.

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Item Position	Rationale	
40	Option D is correct	The word "world" should not be capitalized because it is not a proper noun in this sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	The verb should not be changed to "fought" because "fought" is the correct past-tense form of the irregular verb "fight."
	Option B is incorrect	"Unfare" is not the correct spelling of "unfair."
	Option C is incorrect	The plural noun "systems" is correct in this sentence.

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Item Position	Rationale	
41	Option A is correct	As it stands, there are two independent clauses in sentence 9 without any punctuation between them, which constitutes a run-on sentence. This option corrects that error by replacing "she inspired" with "and inspired."
	Option B is incorrect	This option is not correct because the second phrase that has been punctuated with a period is a fragment.
	Option C is incorrect	The phrase "To reach for her dreams" is a fragment, so it is not correct to punctuate it in this way.
	Option D is incorrect	This option is incorrect because "For their dreams" is also a fragment.