



ISASP IOWA STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT of STUDENT PROGRESS

Reading – Released Operational Items

Prepared by Iowa Testing Programs

Released Operational ISASP Reading Items—Item Level Data

Grade 5 Review Items						
Item ID	Percent Correct	Domain	DOK	Standard	Key	Primary Distractor(s)
RE32475931	47	KID	2	RL.3.1	B	A, C
RE400143292	46	CS	2	RL.3.4	A	C
RE795033862	45	KID	3	RL.3.2	D	

The percent of Iowa students that answered the item correctly

The non-keyed responses that attracted Iowa students.
If none listed, all distractors were evenly chosen.

Depth of Knowledge Level

Reading Grade 3 Review Items						
Item ID	Percent Correct	Domain	DOK	Standard	Key	Primary Distractor(s)
RE926351387_1	65	KID	2	RL.3.2	A	C
RE926352962_1	83	KID	1	RL.3.1	A	
RE926353246_3	90	CS	2	RL.3.4	C	
RE926354849_2	53	CS	2	RL.3.5	B	D
RE926355554_1	74	KID	1	RL.3.3	A	B
RE926355670_3	83	KID	3	RL.3.3	C	A
RE925534579_3	52	KID	2	RI.3.2	C	B
RE925537359_4	66	KID	3	RI.3.2	D	A,B
RE925535255_2	58	KID	1	RI.3.3	B	D
RE925537038_2	44	IKI	3	RI.3.8	B	A

Kite

- 1 Micah had saved up all winter to buy the kite that teased him for months from the window of Terry's Toy Town. He loved how the silver kite shimmered like the fin of a mermaid and how its tail was braided with the colors of a rainbow. One March day, he finally brought it home and showed it off to Tara, his older sister.
- 2 "It's beautiful. Today is too windy, though," Tara warned, but Micah took his new kite out anyway.
- 3 He tied two hundred yards of twine to the kite, hoping to hold it while a breeze would lift his new treasure above the clouds. Instead of soaring, the kite ended up crashing helplessly into the top of a gigantic tree. Micah looked up and wondered how he might rescue it.
- 4 "That's too bad," said a passing mail carrier.
- 5 "Would you give me a boost up the tree?" Micah asked.
- 6 "Sorry. It's too dangerous. You could fall and hurt yourself."
- 7 I wish I was a giraffe, Micah thought. Then I could reach up and pluck my kite free. That reminded him of the big machine that lifted workers up into the sky to trim branches. He'd seen one earlier. Micah walked down the street to find the crew and ask for help.
- 8 "I know that tree. It's too tall, even for my machine," said the bucket truck operator. "Sorry, buddy."
- 9 The wind swirled as Micah trudged back toward the tree. It would soon be time to head home, but then Micah had another thought. Instead of pushing the kite deeper into the tree, the wind was now blowing the opposite way.
- 10 Micah grabbed the twine and gave it a little tug, like a fishing line getting a bite. Nothing happened. He gave it another jerk. Finally, the wind cooperated, and his precious kite was free.

What were Micah's thoughts on the kite in paragraph 1?

- A.** He felt it was worth the wait.
- B.** He worried it was too expensive.
- C.** He couldn't decide whether to buy it.
- D.** He wished it came in different colors.

What did Micah discover when he took the kite outside to fly it?

- A.** The wind was too strong.
- B.** Neighbors came to watch.
- C.** The twine came untied.
- D.** The tail was too heavy.

What does “boost” mean in this sentence from paragraph 5?

“Would you give me a boost up the tree?” Micah asked.

- A. Drag
- B. Spin
- C. Lift
- D. Tip

What is the purpose of paragraph 9?

- A.** To bring attention to the tallness of the tree
- B.** To explain how a rescue became possible
- C.** To describe the damage to the kite
- D.** To show how the kite became stuck

Which action saves the kite?

- A.** Pulling the twine
- B.** Climbing the tree
- C.** Getting a fishing pole
- D.** Riding in the machine

Which word most likely describes Micah at the end of the story?

- A.** Nervous
- B.** Quiet
- C.** Glad
- D.** Bored

MountRushmore

- 1 Millions of people visit Mount Rushmore each year. This famous site is in the state of South Dakota. Sculpted into the side of the mountain are the faces of four United States presidents: Theodore Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, and George Washington.
- 2 Mount Rushmore is one of the biggest works of art in the world. George Washington's face is sixty feet long. That's the height of a six-story building. The mouths are each eighteen feet wide. Each eye is eleven feet wide. Every nose is twenty feet long. It's truly larger than life!
- 3 Work on Mount Rushmore began in 1927. It took fourteen years from start to finish. Gutzon Borglum led the project with his son, Lincoln. Gutzon started the job. Lincoln later assumed the duties when his father died.
- 4 It was a tough job. The 400 workers had to climb 506 steps to reach the top of the mountain. Most of the stone was blasted away with dynamite. Air hammers and hand drills were also used.
- 5 The price to build the monument was large. It cost nearly one million dollars. That's equal to about fifteen million dollars in today's money. At that time, workers earned only forty to eighty cents an hour for payment, which would equal about seven to ten dollars in today's money. To compare, construction workers now earn about twice as much per hour. The people who built Mount Rushmore made a small amount of money even though they risked a lot while working.
- 6 Mount Rushmore honors four U.S. presidents. These leaders helped shape America, so four hundred Americans worked bravely to carve the shapes of their faces into history.

What is the main idea of paragraph 2?

- A.** Mount Rushmore was expensive to build.
- B.** Mount Rushmore is a beautiful work of art.
- C.** Mount Rushmore is big.
- D.** Mount Rushmore is famous.

Which detail best supports the idea that Mount Rushmore is a symbol of American pride?

- A. "This famous site is in the state of South Dakota." (paragraph 1)
- B. "It's truly larger than life!" (paragraph 2)
- C. "Air hammers and hand drills were also used." (paragraph 4)
- D. "Mount Rushmore honors four U.S. presidents." (paragraph 6)

When did Lincoln Borglum start to lead the construction on Mount Rushmore?

- A.** When workers began quitting to find better pay
- B.** Following the death of his father, Gutzon Borglum
- C.** When given the job by President Theodore Roosevelt
- D.** Fourteen years after work on the project first began

How does the last paragraph connect to the first paragraph?

- A.** Both paragraphs compare the people who visited Mount Rushmore in the past and the people who visit today.
- B.** Both paragraphs mention the people whose lives and actions led to the creation of Mount Rushmore.
- C.** The first paragraph reveals the problems of the project, and the last paragraph tells the solutions.
- D.** The first paragraph explains the first step in the project, and the last paragraph explains the final step.

Reading Grade 4 Review Items						
Item ID	Percent Correct	Domain	DOK	Standard	Key	Primary Distractor(s)
RE028854476_3	75	KID	2	RL.4.1	C	A
RE028855155_3	77	CS	2	RL.4.4	C	D
RE028855347_2	89	KID	1	RL.4.1	B	
RE028857423_3	77	KID	3	RL.4.1	C	A
RE028858152_3	73	CS	3	RL.4.6	C	A
RE028858603_4	59	CS	3	RL.4.6	D	A
RE028855591_4	68	KID	2	RL.4.2	D	C
RE011982763_1	56	CS	2	RI.4.4	A	
RE011985461_2	71	KID	2	RI.4.3	B	C
RE011983054_2	49	CS	2	RI.4.5	B	

FunSpot

- 1 Last Thanksgiving, I took my nieces and nephews to a place called Scottie's Fun Spot. Because of the holiday, there were hardly any other people playing the games, skating around, or racing go-carts. We enjoyed the minimal lines during this trip. We also discovered that when you're the only people playing the games, your chances of winning increase.
- 2 Since there was no one at the lucky wheel near the video games, we all got one grand prize spin. Grand prize spins award tickets that can be traded for prizes, like books, toys, and instruments. After our spins, we had to decide what to get with our tickets.
- 3 Collin, the older of my two nephews, was the only one of us who had been to Scottie's Fun Spot before. Since he was familiar with the prizes, he was the first to announce his choice.
- 4 "I want a basketball—the custom one with blue writing."
- 5 Collin smiled as he admired his new ball. The attendant suggested that Collin could use his leftover tickets for some stickers. Collin loved the idea, but he gave his extra tickets to his little brother, Augustus, instead.
- 6 Raylena, the older of my two nieces, was next to decide. She chose a night-light that looked like a seahorse. Then she gave her remaining tickets to Caroline, her little sister.
- 7 With the extra tickets from their siblings, Augustus and Caroline had enough for a small guitar.
- 8 "Are you sure a joint prize is a good idea? What if you both want to play at the same time?" the attendant asked.
- 9 "Easy," said Augustus, "we'll make a schedule for taking turns."
- 10 "I could take mornings and Augustus could take nights," added Caroline.
- 11 "And I'll take mornings and nights, once you both lose interest," said Raylena with a chuckle.
- 12 "Yeah, right!" Augustus and Caroline insisted.
- 13 "We'll take it," Augustus beamed.
- 14 The attendant handed the guitar to Caroline, and we headed toward the door. All five of us wore grins on our faces, happy with the day's decisions.

How was Scottie's Fun Spot different from usual on the day of the story?

- A.** It was closed for a holiday.
- B.** It was louder than normal.
- C.** There were smaller crowds.
- D.** There were more go-carts.

What does “minimal” mean in this sentence from paragraph 1?

We enjoyed the minimal lines during this trip.

- A.** Slow
- B.** Busy
- C.** Small
- D.** Best

Why did the children spin the giant wheel?

- A.** To pass the extra time
- B.** To earn tickets for prizes
- C.** To win new video games
- D.** To compete with each other

Read paragraphs 9–10.

“Easy,” said Augustus, “we’ll make a schedule for taking turns.”
“I could take mornings and Augustus could take nights,” added Caroline.

What do these paragraphs suggest about Augustus and Caroline?

- A. They often argue with each other.
- B. They need help choosing a prize.
- C. They can solve problems together.
- D. They expect to get another guitar.

Read paragraph 11.

“And I’ll take mornings and nights, once you both lose interest,” said Raylena with a chuckle.

This paragraph shows that Raylena

- A.** hopes Caroline and Augustus will choose a different prize.
- B.** wants to teach Caroline and Augustus how to play the guitar.
- C.** thinks Caroline and Augustus might stop caring about their prize.
- D.** believes Caroline and Augustus are too young to play an instrument.

Which detail from the passage best reveals the narrator's attitude about the outcome of the trip?

- A. "We also discovered that when you're the only people playing the games, your chances of winning increase." (paragraph 1)
- B. "The attendant suggested that Collin could use his leftover tickets for some stickers." (paragraph 5)
- C. "'Are you sure a joint prize is a good idea?'" (paragraph 8)
- D. "All five of us wore grins on our faces, happy with the day's decisions." (paragraph 14)

What theme is supported by the details of the passage?

- A.** Believing in yourself
- B.** Sticking to old traditions
- C.** Discovering new places
- D.** Sharing with loved ones

An oak tree slumps in a forest. Its roots have rotted. For years it has leaned to one side. One day, a strong windstorm comes. The giant oak falls to the ground with a crash.

- 1 In the Italian city of Pisa, a beautiful white marble and limestone tower leans nearly two hundred feet into the air. It has been leaning for years. But it is not rotten, and it will not fall, at least not today.
- 2 When the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa began as a bell tower over eight hundred years ago, the engineers never dreamed its fame would come from its flaws. The tower was the last building to be created in the *Piazza dei Miracoli*, which translates to “square of miracles.” It was one of four monuments that held importance to the people of Pisa.
- 3 The builders and engineers of *Piazza dei Miracoli* were masters of their trade. Their ideas were grand. The marble building stones were perfect. But the ground, unfortunately, was not. Beneath the surface was a soft mix of clay, sand, and shells. The foundation of the tower started to sink five years after construction started. And it did not sink evenly. It started leaning to the south before the building was even done!
- 4 Times of war kept builders from working on the tower for one hundred years. By then it leaned even more. An expert tried adding more stones to the short side, but the weight made the problem worse. By 1375, the tipping tower was completed.
- 5 For over six hundred years, the tower leaned another 0.05 inches every year. In 1990, engineers said the tower was no longer safe. Thousands of tourists across the globe—from France to Japan, America to India—were disappointed. They wanted their turn to see its beauty, climb its 251 steps, and listen to its bells.
- 6 The tower had brought many tourists to Pisa. Something had to be done. Engineers removed earth under one side of the tower. They added counterweights to the short side. Slowly, the tower began to straighten!
- 7 The Leaning Tower of Pisa opened again to visitors in 2001. By 2008, it had corrected by nineteen inches. Experts now believe the tower will be strong and safe for a long time to come.

Read this sentence from paragraph 3.

The builders and engineers of *Piazza dei Miracoli* were masters of their trade.

The author uses the phrase “masters of their trade” in order to

- A.** highlight the skill of the builders and engineers.
- B.** show why the builders and engineers made mistakes.
- C.** describe the builders’ and engineers’ personalities.
- D.** explain why the builders and engineers needed so much time.

Why did engineers remove earth under the tower?

- A.** To take out the shells
- B.** To try to make the tower straighter
- C.** To replace sand with firm earth
- D.** To make a basement for the building

What is the overall structure of paragraphs 2–7?

- A.** Pros and cons
- B.** Events in order
- C.** Order of importance
- D.** Compare and contrast

Reading Grade 5 Review Items						
Item ID	Difficulty	Domain	DOK	Standard	Key	Primary Distractor(s)
RE926832412_4	80	KID	2	RL.5.2	D	A
RE926836393_1	89	KID	1	RL.5.1	A	
RE926835589_1	90	KID	1	RL.5.3	A	
RE926838406_4	81	CS	2	RL.5.6	D	
RE926835782_2	77	KID	1	RL.5.1	B	C
RE926842908_2	84	KID	2	RL.5.2	B	
RE021338557_3	67	CS	2	RI.5.4	C	A
RE021337949_2	48	CS	3	RI.5.5	B	A,C
RE021339282_4	73	CS	3	RI.5.5	D	
RE021338706_4	59	IKI	2	RI.5.9	D	
RE021339422_2	59	IKI	2	RI.5.8	B	C

Zamboni

- 1 "We're never going to make it, Mom." Seda Jefferson imagined herself opening the vehicle door and running the rest of the way to the ice arena. "Can't you go around? Look," she pointed. "That lane is moving."
- 2 "This is the lane we need, honey. Don't worry. We'll arrive in time."
- 3 Seda stared dejectedly out of the front passenger window. She wore a faded, red hockey jersey, a pair of white jeans with a hole in the knee, and the hockey gloves she received from her grandpa on her eleventh birthday.
- 4 She removed a padded glove and quickly tapped a text message to her grandpa: *Are you there? Don't start the ice resurfacer without me.*
- 5 Her grandpa worked at the ice arena in a neighboring city. He had arranged for Seda to sit in the passenger's seat atop the machine he operated as it recoated the ice before each period. Despite his efforts, however, Seda's mother hadn't been able to miss a Saturday night shift at her waitressing job for seven months. Without transportation, Seda had been forced to postpone her golden opportunity. Now, adding to Seda's agony, they were trapped in traffic.
- 6 Seda heard a vibration, and her cell phone illuminated. *Yes, I'm here. Saved you a seat.*
- 7 Seda sighed. *A bicyclist just passed us,* she responded.
- 8 "I rode the machine, once," her overly calm mother unexpectedly disclosed.
- 9 "You did?"
- 10 She nodded as they finally exited the jammed interstate highway. "I never got to attend the games while your grandpa was working. I always wanted to ride the machine, though. Finally, late one evening, he took me down to the empty arena. It was completely dark inside except for a few lights above the rink. He drove me around for what seemed like an eternity, though it was probably only seven or eight minutes."
- 11 "Really?"
- 12 "Really." She placed one hand on Seda's knee, covering the ragged hole. "He even let me drive."
- 13 Seda's phone buzzed with another message from her grandpa. *Next time, I'll drive the ice resurfacer to pick you up. Might be faster.*
- 14 Seda chuckled, suddenly unconcerned with the snail-like pace. She replied: *You never told me Mom got to drive it!!!!*

Which word best describes Seda at the start of the story?

- A.** Angry
- B.** Brave
- C.** Secure
- D.** Worried

How is Seda's grandpa able to offer her a ride on the ice machine?

- A.** He works at the arena.
- B.** He is on the hockey team.
- C.** He is friends with the owner.
- D.** He invented the ice resurfacer.

How is Seda communicating with her grandpa?

- A.** Texting
- B.** Writing
- C.** Calling
- D.** Video chatting

Read paragraph 7.

Seda sighed. *A bicyclist just passed us, she responded.*

What does Seda mean?

- A.** Mom had pulled over.
- B.** She was riding her bike.
- C.** The bike path was crowded.
- D.** They were not moving quickly.

What does Seda ask her grandpa to do?

- A.** Start up the machine
- B.** Wait for her to arrive
- C.** Come pick her up
- D.** Cancel the ride

At the end of the story, why did Seda react with laughter?

- A.** She remembered a picture of the machine.
- B.** She read a text from her grandpa.
- C.** Traffic was finally moving.
- D.** Mom made a silly face.

Leap Years

- 1 February 29 is known around the world as leap day. The date doesn't come around every year. When it does, an extra day is added to the calendar, making 366 days instead of 365. This is known as a "leap year." But where did leap years come from?
- 2 This custom dates back thousands of years to ancient Rome. Julius Caesar was in charge of the calendar. At that time, people thought it took the earth 365 days and 6 hours to go around the sun. They decided that adding a day to the calendar every four years would make up for the extra six hours in a solar year. Thus, leap day was born. Though we still generally follow this rule, a true solar year is actually 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds. An added eleven minutes and fourteen seconds a year may not seem like a big deal. But after hundreds of years, this additional time could significantly throw off the calendar. In 1582, the Gregorian calendar was made to fix the issue.
- 3 The Gregorian calendar is the current calendar used by most of the world. Pope Gregory XIII realized that the extra eleven minutes and fourteen seconds each year would eventually add up to an entire day. This meant that every once in a great while leap day needs to be skipped so that the extra day is evened out.
- 4 For the most part, Pope Gregory's calendar includes a leap day every four years. But if the year can be evenly divided by the number one hundred but cannot be evenly divided by the number four hundred, the leap year is skipped. For example, the year 2100 will be skipped as a leap year, but the year 2000 was not skipped. Without Pope Gregory's problem-solving skills, who knows just how thrown off the world would be.

"Leaplings"

What about people who are born on February 29? These people are called "leaplings" or "leapers." Most choose to celebrate their birthday on February 28 or March 1. If they didn't, they would have to wait at least four years to have a birthday. As of 2016, there were only around 200,000 "leaplings" in the United States and around 5 million all over the world. Do you know any "leapers"?

What does “generally” mean in this sentence from paragraph 2 of “Leap Years”?

Though we still generally follow this rule, a true solar year is actually 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds.

- A. Occasionally
- B. Seasonally
- C. Usually
- D. Justly

How are paragraphs 3–4 of “Leap Years” structured?

- A.** Order of importance
- B.** Problem and solution
- C.** Compare and contrast
- D.** Description of setting

What is the author's purpose for writing "Leap Years"?

- A.** To describe the experiences of "leapers"
- B.** To give the definition of a true solar year
- C.** To compare leap years with other kinds of years
- D.** To explain the history and purpose of leap years

Which piece of information is shared in both “Leap Years” and “Leaplings”?

- A.** The custom of leap years dates back thousands of years.
- B.** Millions of people have been born on leap day.
- C.** The year 2100 will be skipped as a leap year.
- D.** A leap year typically occurs once every four years.

Which detail from the passages supports the point that some leap years need to be skipped?

- A. "February 29 is known around the world as leap day." (paragraph 1)
- B. "But after hundreds of years, this additional time could significantly throw off the calendar." (paragraph 2)
- C. "If they didn't, they would have to wait at least four years to have a birthday." ("Leaplings")
- D. "As of 2016, there were only around 200,000 'leaplings' in the United States and around 5 million all over the world." ("Leaplings")

Reading Grade 6 Review Items						
Item ID	Percent Correct	Domain	DOK	Standard	Key	Primary Distractor(s)
RE021340006_3	61	IKI	3	RI.6.9	C	B
RE021340928_3	52	KID	1	RI.6.1	C	B,D
RE021340617_2	43	KID	3	RI.6.3	B	A
RE021341533_2	49	CS	2	RI.6.4	B	A
RE021341082_3	74	CS	3	RI.6.5	C	

Imagine walking outside to enjoy a beautiful summer day. The sun is bright, the skies are blue, but suddenly you are overwhelmed by pervasive buzzing. The sound builds to such a crescendo that you must run back inside. What could create such a powerful noise? In one word: cicadas.

- 1 A cicada's life is spent mostly underground. In fact, many cicadas live underground for thirteen to seventeen years or more before rising from their earthly abodes. When they do emerge, they do so in extraordinary numbers.
- 2 Finding a mate is a cicada's main purpose. The mind-numbing noise associated with cicadas is created by an all-male chorus. Their songs are varied and attention-grabbing—not only for humans but also for female cicadas. This unique droning is a trademark of these infamous bugs. After mating, female cicadas lay several hundred eggs in twigs and shrubs. Upon hatching, young cicadas, or nymphs, immediately burrow underground. Then, things remain quiet until the next period of emerging.
- 3 In 2013, the skies were especially lively and crowded. Three different cicada species came up from the ground during the same year. These broods and the years in which they cycle can be identified by the specific appearance of the cicadas' underbellies. Figuring out when cicadas will emerge is often puzzling for scientists. Some researchers believe it is due to a temperature change in the soil. While the soil's impact on cicadas may still be under investigation, scientists already know that cicadas have an impact on plant life. After they die, cicadas' bodies produce nitrogen, which is a natural fertilizer.
- 4 Many people mistake cicadas for another kind of bug: locusts. However, locusts are actually grasshoppers. Cicadas are more closely related to tiny aphids, a small sap-sucking insect. Grasshoppers are usually solitary insects, but they have been known to migrate in large numbers and cause extensive damage to crops. When they swarm, they are called locusts. A locust can eat its weight in plants each day. Locusts also have incredible flight abilities and can travel great distances in a single day. Believe it or not, a swarm of locusts flew from northwest Africa to Great Britain in 1954.
- 5 Locusts and cicadas are certainly different insects. Locusts eat plants and can damage precious crops. Cicadas occasionally do damage to shrubs and trees, but they live most of their life underground. Cicadas' notability comes from their songs and population cycles. On the other hand, locusts are famed for their appetites and endurance. Although it might be difficult for the average individual to separate the two, an entomologist, or insect expert, will surely know the difference.

Read this excerpt from the text box.

The sound builds to such a crescendo that you must run back inside. What could create such a powerful noise?

According to the passage, what is the “powerful noise” described in the text box?

- A. Cicadas communicating with locusts
- B. The cicadas’ wings as they form a flying swarm
- C. The cicadas’ mating call to each other
- D. Cicadas warning one another about locusts

According to the passage, how do cicadas affect life on Earth?

- A.** Their singing overpowers noise pollution, which positively impacts the environment.
- B.** They do damage to trees and shrubs, threatening the health and safety of other insects.
- C.** Their bodies provide nutrients to the soil, which has a positive impact on the environment.
- D.** They spend most of their lives underground, so they have little to no impact on other organisms.

The author mentions three different types of cicadas emerging in 2013 to

- A.** show scientists were able to determine why different species emerge.
- B.** illustrate the rarity for multiple kinds to come out at the same time.
- C.** support the idea that cicadas are more common than locusts.
- D.** introduce the idea that cicadas are becoming overpopulated.

What does “notability” mean in this sentence from paragraph 5?

Cicadas’ notability comes from their songs and population cycles.

- A. Advantage
- B. Impressiveness
- C. Mysteriousness
- D. Protection

What is the overall structure of paragraph 5?

- A.** Steps of a process
- B.** Problem and solution
- C.** Compare and contrast
- D.** Description of an experience

Reading Grade 7 Review Items						
Item ID	Percent Correct	Domain	DOK	Standard	Key	Primary Distractor(s)
RE028785939_3	93	KID	1	RL.7.3	C	
RE028785408_2	75	CS	2	RL.7.4	B	D
RE028700873_1	91	KID	2	RL.7.1	A	
RE028785673_4	67	CS	2	RL.7.6	D	C
RE028785190_4	66	KID	3	RL.7.3	D	A,C
RE028784888_2	75	KID	2	RL.7.2	B	A
RE012182413_1	82	CS	2	RI.7.4	A	B
RE012183087_3	76	CS	3	RI.7.5	C	
RE012182733_1	56	CS	2	RI.7.6	A	B
RE012182925_2	73	IKI	3	RI.7.8	B	C
RE012183486_1	63	KID	2	RI.7.2	A	B

WorldCupWatch

- 1 Harrison wasn't exactly thrilled about spending the next two hours at The Crawl Space. It was a shadowy, dingy restaurant in the basement of an old warehouse downtown. The booths were dilapidated. The food wasn't that great either, but Avery had invited him, and Harrison didn't want to hurt his feelings. Harrison and Avery hadn't hung out in a while, and both former teammates really wanted to watch the final match of the World Cup together. The Women's United States Soccer team had just lost to Japan, and now Germany and Brazil were competing for the title. The match was destined to be a close one, and Harrison was looking forward to the throwdown.
- 2 Avery and Harrison had been on the same soccer team for five years, but when they started junior high school, Avery decided he no longer wanted to play. The situation was complicated, but Harrison understood and respected Avery's decision. Avery's interests had changed, and he started dedicating his time to performing in theatrical productions rather than playing sports.
- 3 Harrison heard the car honk outside and waved goodbye to his mom. "Be back in a couple hours!" he yelled, the screen door slamming behind him like an exclamation point. He greeted Avery's parents and hopped into the back seat on the driver's side.
- 4 "Hey, Avery, thanks for picking me up."
- 5 "No problem; thanks for coming. Can you believe it's the finals already? It was *devastating* when the U.S. lost that last game."
- 6 The friends continued to talk soccer statistics as Avery's parents parked the car, and the bunch made their way down the street to the restaurant. Once inside, Harrison was immediately reminded of why he didn't like The Crawl Space. It smelled like wet basement and stale French fries. He let out an audible sigh.
- 7 "I know," Avery whispered. "I've never understood why my parents like this place. People toss their peanut shells and popcorn kernels on the floor like it's a barn. But at least the pizza is decent, and the TVs are big."
- 8 Hearing Avery, Harrison felt relieved that he wasn't alone in his dislike for the restaurant. "Well, at least we get to suffer together," Harrison whispered back before following the host to their table, which offered a perfect view of the big screen.

Which option best matches the description of The Crawl Space?

- A.** A rooftop restaurant with tables, chairs, and hanging lights
- B.** An outdoor eating space with picnic tables and umbrellas for shade
- C.** A shadowy basement restaurant with old booths and big screen TVs
- D.** A fast-food restaurant with a play area behind plastic booths

What does “dilapidated” mean in this sentence from paragraph 1?

The booths were dilapidated.

- A. Well-known
- B. Broken-down
- C. Colorful
- D. Uncomfortable

Readers can infer that Avery and Harrison will most likely order

- A.** pizza.
- B.** peanuts.
- C.** popcorn.
- D.** French fries.

Which option best describes Harrison's point of view on Avery?

- A.** Angry
- B.** Jealous
- C.** Relieved
- D.** Accepting

How is the main character mostly developed in this story?

- A.** By providing details of a soccer game
- B.** By contrasting him with his parents
- C.** By describing his physical actions
- D.** By reporting his inner thoughts

What is a central idea of this story?

- A.** Discovering new activities can help people form new friendships.
- B.** Bonds of friendship can endure even when people's interests change.
- C.** Beauty can be best appreciated when feelings of fear have been set aside.
- D.** A true friend will speak up when someone they care about makes a bad decision.

Tulip Farming

- 1 Fields of brilliantly colored tulips seem to stretch endlessly each spring in parts of the Netherlands, providing breathtaking scenery for tourists as well as the Dutch people who live there. While the tulip plants produce beautiful, cup-shaped flowers, that is only a side benefit of the plants' main job—producing tulip bulbs that will produce more flowers around the Netherlands and around the world. Tulip bulbs are big business in the Netherlands. Each year, four hundred growers produce more than four billion bulbs, about sixty percent of the world's crop.
- 2 Modern tulip farming is highly automated. Farmers at large operations use big tractors to pull equipment to plow the soil, plant the bulbs, and harvest them when they are ready. Planting begins in October. Plows loosen and turn over wide swaths of soil, creating beds for the bulbs. Tulip planting machinery often includes a conveyor belt system mounted over a tractor. The conveyor feeds bulbs into machinery attached to the rear of the tractor, and the bulbs are buried in long, straight rows. Tulips are grown from bulbs about the size of a ping pong ball or a golf ball and shaped like a pear. The tulips bloom in March and April, and the fields are transformed into dazzling rows of tulips in a multitude of colors. Several rows of tulips planted in one color create a long, wide stripe stretching across the field. Other rows in other colors create more stripes. From above, the fields look like giant flags with bright stripes of many colors such as red, orange, purple, and white.
- 3 In late April it's time for a part of the growing process that comes as a surprise to people who aren't familiar with the way tulips are grown. Farmers drive machines that look something like greatly oversized versions of old-fashioned, push-style rotary lawn mowers. The machines cut off the flower from the stem, an operation called "topping." The colorful flowers are suddenly gone, but fortunately thousands of people have enjoyed seeing the beautiful blooms first. The topping process is used so all the plant's growth energy is focused on the bulb in the ground, resulting in stronger bulbs headed for the marketplace to produce bigger, hardier tulips.
- 4 The bulbs are harvested in July. Large machines dig the bulbs out of the ground and dump them onto a conveyor belt system that takes them to a water tank and spray apparatus that washes away the dirt. The bulbs are loaded into wagons and taken to a warehouse where they are dried for two days. Then it's time for the bulbs to be checked over by workers as the bulbs move along yet another conveyor belt. Bulbs that pass the test are packaged and shipped to growers around the world ready to produce beautiful flowers everywhere.

What does “swaths” mean in this sentence from paragraph 2?

Plows loosen and turn over wide swaths of soil, creating beds for the bulbs.

- A.** Strips
- B.** Types
- C.** Examples
- D.** Discoveries

Taken together, the structure of paragraphs 2, 3, and 4

- A.** defines a concept.
- B.** lists examples of an idea.
- C.** explains a sequential process.
- D.** describes a problem and a solution.

In paragraph 3 the author provides readers with the sense that “topping” is

- A.** effective but abrupt.
- B.** expected and entertaining.
- C.** experimental but encouraging.
- D.** outdated and time-consuming.

Which claim is best supported by evidence provided in paragraph 4?

- A.** Finding tulip bulbs from the Netherlands is difficult.
- B.** Tulip bulb producers in the Netherlands care about quality.
- C.** Tulip bulbs in the Netherlands are manually dug up by workers.
- D.** Recipients of tulip bulbs from the Netherlands plant them immediately.

This passage is mostly about

- A.** an important industry.
- B.** an unusual career.
- C.** a special destination.
- D.** an interesting invention.

Reading Grade 8 Review Items						
Item ID	Percent Correct	Domain	DOK	Standard	Key	Primary Distractor(s)
RE029512403_1	68	KID	1	RL.8.3	A	C
RE029512801_1	81	CS	2	RL.8.4	A	D
RE029512914_4	52	KID	2	RL.8.3	D	B,C
RE029513132_2	88	KID	1	RL.8.3	B	
RE029513207_3	66	CS	2	RL.8.6	C	A
RE029513618_4	73	KID	2	RL.8.2	D	

Obligations

- 1 Rachel sat carefully on the rickety stool, making sure not to lean too far back. The sun was high, there was no breeze, and sweat trickled slowly down her back. For the fourth time that Saturday morning, Rachel looked at her watch, and she absentmindedly scratched at a mosquito bite on her leg. Only seven and a half more hours to go.
- 2 Meadowbrook Farm had been in Rachel's family for three generations. It took all of them, her mother often reminded her, to make it run properly. "All of them" included Rachel's parents, her older brother and sister, and—unfortunately at times like these—Rachel herself.
- 3 Malik and Sasha, Rachel's two best friends, had invited her to go to the beach with them that morning. Rachel closed her eyes, picturing herself slathered with suntan lotion, sand squishing between her toes. If she concentrated hard enough, she could almost hear the waves crashing on the shore. Maybe she could sneak out early and still make it to the beach by afternoon?
- 4 "Excuse me, I'd like to buy this lettuce."
- 5 The quiet voice broke Rachel out of her reverie. A bespectacled man stood in front of her, a five-dollar bill in his hand.
- 6 "Oh, I'm sorry," Rachel said with a hint of embarrassment. "It's been a terribly slow morning." She flashed a smile as she handed the man his change. "Thanks for stopping by."
- 7 As the man walked back to his car, Rachel was reminded that customers always made the time pass by more quickly. Waiting for her next customer, Rachel flexed her tan forearms, frowning at her mud encrusted jeans and the dirt under her nails. Even her ponytail was wet with sweat. She would definitely need a shower before she left, further impeding her arrival at the beach.
- 8 In the distance, a slight figure appeared that seemed to be running straight for the stand. Rachel was confused until she realized the figure was her mother, always a spinning top of energy.
- 9 "Hey," her mom called breathlessly. "I wanted to make sure you had this." She clutched a wrinkled brown paper bag.
- 10 Rachel took the bag and opened it; inside, she found a stack of peanut butter cookies, still warm from the oven.
- 11 Her mother said, "I wanted to thank you for staying and helping us out today. I know I don't always say it, but I appreciate your help."

12 Rachel thought about her plan to sneak out and awkwardly nibbled on one of the cookies. She swallowed and smiled at her mother as thoughts of a day at the beach slipped from her mind.

What is the most likely reason Rachel keeps looking at her watch in paragraph 1?

- A.** She thinks time is going by slowly.
- B.** Her friends are picking her up soon.
- C.** Her day at work is almost complete.
- D.** She is waiting for her mother to arrive.

What does “reverie” mean in this sentence from paragraph 5?

The quiet voice broke Rachel out of her reverie.

- A. Daydream
- B. Endeavor
- C. Monologue
- D. Concentration

Which word best describes Rachel in paragraphs 1–7?

- A.** Jealous
- B.** Dedicated
- C.** Remorseful
- D.** Preoccupied

Rachel's mother comes to the stand because she is

- A.** critical of Rachel's performance.
- B.** grateful for Rachel's assistance.
- C.** suspicious that Rachel will leave early.
- D.** apologetic for forgetting about Rachel.

What event causes Rachel to change her perspective about working at the stand?

- A.** Her interaction with customers
- B.** Her promise to her family members
- C.** Her mother's gift of warm cookies
- D.** Her thoughts about her family's history

Which detail would be least important to include in a summary of this passage?

- A.** Rachel's mother brings her cookies.
- B.** Rachel's friends invite her to the beach.
- C.** Rachel considers leaving the stand early.
- D.** Rachel sells a head of lettuce at the stand.

Reading Grade 9 Review Items						
Item ID	Percent Correct	Domain	DOK	Standard	Key	Primary Distractor(s)
RE929062330_3	88	KID	1	RL.9-10.3	C	
RE929051205_3	79	KID	2	RL.9-10.1	C	A
RE929036581_4	82	CS	3	RL.9-10.5	D	
RE929434334_4	54	CS	3	RL.9-10.5	D	A
RE929051288_2	85	KID	3	RL.9-10.2	B	
RE929051375_1	66	KID	3	RL.9-10.3	A	B
RE012231911_3	61	KID	1	RI.9-10.1	C	B
RE012232086_2	80	KID	2	RI.9-10.3	B	D
RE012232366_1	54	KID	1	RI.9-10.1	A	B
RE012233579_3	66	CS	2	RI.9-10.4	C	B
RE012233026_3	78	CS	2	RI.9-10.6	C	

NatureSelfie

- 1 Outside my window, the landscape trips by. Pops of color in the form of billboards break up the stream of blue sky and yellow crops. The view hasn't changed for hours. The cloying heat hasn't changed for hours. The drone of AM radio from the front of the car hasn't changed for hours.
- 2 I click open the music streaming app on my phone and see I still don't have service. Nothing in my downloads interests me and I drop my phone on the middle seat in frustration. I look over at my sister, her head bent over a novel. She mouths the words as she reads, a habit I find deeply irritating.
- 3 "Hey, Camille, let me borrow your phone for a bit," I say.
- 4 "Um, no."
- 5 "C'mon Camille, you're not even using it. I want to listen to something."
- 6 "Well, I might need it. No."
- 7 I roll my eyes and sigh loudly, but she ignores me. Up front, my parents are engrossed in the too-loud talk show they've had on for the last hour. I desperately want to get out of this car, but I know we're several hours from the entrance to the national park.
- 8 After much too long driving through the endless, flat expanse of South Dakota, we finally roll into the Badlands. The sun is just beginning to set behind the tall spires, casting a pink glow on the striated rock. I grudgingly admit, though not out loud, that it's quite beautiful.
- 9 While my parents set up the tent, I sit at a nearby picnic table, scrolling through social media. Camille is ingratiating herself with my parents, mapping out trails nearby.
- 10 "Let's go for a walk!" my mom suggests cheerily. She looks over at me and frowns.
- 11 "Honey, you can look at your phone anytime. We don't get sights like this every day!"
- 12 "Fine," I say, faking a smile. Though the park is better than expected, I'd rather be alone.
- 13 We hike down a half-mile trail, ending at a scenic lookout. The clouds are darkening like a bruise in the sky. Triangular spires rise up as if to pierce them. I take a selfie in front of the canyon. Next to me, Camille is consulting the map. I lean on the railing and begin writing a caption for the photo to post, trying to strike a balance of appreciation for the landscape without sounding too enthusiastic.

- 14 "Hey, what do you think about doing this hike tomorrow?" Camille whirls around and shoves the map under my nose, knocking my wrist as she does. My phone pops out of my hand and goes flying.
- 15 We both watch, open-mouthed, as my phone sails over the railing and down the canyon, smacking the rocks loudly all the way down. My first thought, oddly, is concern that my photo won't post before the phone is obliterated.
- 16 When the phone disappears from view, my face flushes with anger, and I turn toward Camille. She's still looking over the edge, her mouth slack. As she slowly turns to look at me, I'm pretty sure I see a flash of terror in her eyes. Terror. Over a phone.
- 17 I take a deep breath, allowing myself to be at least a little affected by my vast, beautiful surroundings. I soften.
- 18 Looking back down into the canyon, I sigh and mutter "That's one way to get me to unplug." Then, surprising both my sister and myself, I announce, "Camille, let's have a look at that map."

Why does the narrator's mom frown after suggesting that they go for a walk?

- A.** Because the narrator refuses to come along
- B.** Because she's concerned about the gathering clouds
- C.** Because she notices the narrator is looking at her phone
- D.** Because Camille is not familiar enough with the map yet

What does the narrator consider to be unusual about her first thought when she sees her phone falling?

- A.** She is more angry than she thinks she should be over a lost phone.
- B.** She is marveling at how beautiful the canyon is even as she's losing her phone.
- C.** She is more concerned that the selfie she took posted than she is with the fate of her phone.
- D.** Because she is certain that the phone would still be working even after such a bad fall.

In paragraphs 1–13, details about which of the following are most critical to understanding the events described in paragraphs 14–18?

- A.** The narrator’s ability to follow maps
- B.** Mom’s opinion of hiking and nature
- C.** Camille’s relationship with her parents
- D.** The narrator’s relationship with her phone

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the narrative?

- A.** An examination of the internal thoughts of the narrator and her family members.
- B.** A relating of present-day events in which the narrator is not directly involved
- C.** A reflection on events in the narrator's life that occurred in the past
- D.** A description of events in the narrator's life as they occur

Which choice is a possible main theme of the passage?

- A.** Laughter and humor can bring people together
- B.** Unexpected events can reveal what's important
- C.** Nature is a force to be respected
- D.** Some things are worth the wait

Which of the following provides the most accurate summary of the story?

- A.** A teenager goes camping with her family in the Badlands of South Dakota, though she resents being forced to go on the trip. Determined not to enjoy herself, she stays plugged into her phone until an accident makes her realize how her behavior is affecting others.
- B.** During a camping trip with her family, a teenager is frustrated by the long, boring drive. She tries to ignore her surroundings by focusing on her phone, but the beauty of South Dakota's Badlands forces her to enjoy the experience.
- C.** When a teenager is dragged along on a family vacation, she is annoyed by her sister during the drive. When they arrive at the campground, the teenager is comforted by her sister after she loses something important to her.
- D.** During a drive through South Dakota on a family vacation, a teenager is stuck in the backseat with her sister. The two argue along the way, but when they finally reach the Badlands, the teenager's sister does something on purpose for which the teenager struggles to forgive her.

Airplants

Pineapples are tropical plants that are native to South America, but what about using the pineapple as a houseplant instead of food? Seems a little strange but not implausible. The pineapple is a type of bromeliad plant. It grows in the ground like many other plants, using soil and water for nutrients. In addition to being edible, it is also interesting to look at, its top often compared to a crown.

- 1 Another type of bromeliad, called an epiphytic bromeliad or “air plant,” has evolved to survive on sun and water alone, often attaching itself to other trees or rocks to get closer to the light, essentially getting its nutrients from “the air” rather than soil. The word *epiphyte* translates to “upon plants,” getting its name from the way it uses other plants to hold itself up. Air plants are native to tropical and subtropical areas and use a special process of photosynthesis that is more efficient, which is good when there is little water available; the tropics can often experience periods of drought.
- 2 As a result of their environment, air plants process water through their leaves rather than their roots. The roots are mainly used to anchor themselves to tree branches or rocks. In addition, without the nutrient-dense soil, air plants have found ways to use the dust accumulating on their hosts’ trunks or branches or trap fallen leaves for food.
- 3 The leaves of bromeliads not only play an important role in nourishment but are also responsible for its rich beauty. Typical bromeliads only flower once in the early stages of development. Among the nearly 550 species of the epiphytic family, *Tillandsia* is the largest group, and it has some of the most interesting leaf structures. The *Tillandsia* group’s plants are sometimes said to look like jellyfish. They can be spikey or even curled up and twisted!
- 4 These easy-to-care-for plants are starting to become more popular in households. While you might not be interested in spending time cultivating a pineapple, the epiphytic bromeliads plant family are pretty low maintenance and may be a good option for a beginner gardener.

The roots of air plants

- A.** poke up from the ground and into the air.
- B.** help them access and process water.
- C.** allow them to attach to a host.
- D.** are a big part of their beauty.

Why are epiphytic bromeliads called “air plants”?

- A.** Their leaves look like animals that can fly.
- B.** Their lives are supported by the sun and air.
- C.** They provide shade in places without air conditioners.
- D.** They produce more oxygen than other kinds of plants.

How often do epiphytic bromeliads bloom?

- A.** Once
- B.** Once per year
- C.** Once every few years
- D.** Once per year for only the first few years

What does “cultivating” mean in this sentence from paragraph 4?

While you might not be interested in spending time cultivating a pineapple, the epiphytic bromeliads plant family are pretty low maintenance and may be a good option for a beginner gardener.

- A.** Preparing to eat
- B.** Learning about
- C.** Looking after
- D.** Decorating

What is the author's main purpose in paragraph 4?

- A.** To describe the beauty of the air plants
- B.** To explain the benefits of growing food at home
- C.** To persuade the reader to consider air plants for houseplants
- D.** To inform the reader about ways to help rare plant species survive

Reading Grade 10 Review Items						
Item ID	Percent Correct	Domain	DOK	Standard	Key	Primary Distractor(s)
RE022720173_2	80	KID	2	RL.9-10.3	B	
RE022720768_2	68	KID	1	RL.9-10.1	B	
RE022721011_4	72	CS	2	RL.9-10.5	D	
RE022723057_2	64	KID	2	RL.9-10.2	B	
RE022721115_4	72	KID	2	RL.9-10.3	D	C
RE022721690_3	60	CS	3	RL.9-10.5	C	A
RE926951609_2	73	KID	1	RI.9-10.1	B	A,C
RE926855644_1	69	CS	3	RI.9-10.6	A	B
RE926950265_4	74	KID	1	RI.9-10.1	D	
RE823656455_2	66	IKI	3	RI.9-10.8	B	D
RE926953486_4	56	IKI	3	RI.9-10.9	D	B
RE926955569_1	53	IKI	3	RI.9-10.9	A	B

RunnersJourney

- 1 Camila watched Matias as he scuffed his feet on the concrete as if trying to gouge furrows in the pavement as he left the track meet. Matias's body was stiff, and he shrugged off their mother's comforting arm with a quick jerk of his shoulder. "Matias!" her mother scolded.
- 2 It had been a disappointing day for her little brother as he'd finished no better than fourth place in his events and his school had lost the meet. Their mother continued to offer assurances that he would excel at the next meet, but her well-meant words fell on obstinate ears as Matias stared out the window on the ride home, refusing to acknowledge any words of support from his family.
- 3 The next morning, Camila found Matias outside stretching for a run. His movements were still jerky, and the set to his jaw indicated he hadn't released his feelings about his performance at the meet.
- 4 "I'll walk with you for a while," she said, falling in beside him as he headed toward the sidewalk.
- 5 "I'm running, not walking," he said curtly.
- 6 "You can walk to warm up, then when you are ready to run you can leave me."
- 7 His lips twisted in annoyance, but he shrugged and set out at a pace that was quicker than comfortable for conversation. She saw that he was hoping she would surrender and leave him to sulk alone, but they shared the same stubbornness. She kept up with his elongated strides.
- 8 "Running seems easy for you, but I've seen how hard you work at it, and I've always wondered, why do you run when the reward for all that effort is so minimal?" Camila asked. Her question clearly caught him off-guard as a startled expression crossed his face. His punishing pace decreased to something his sister could more easily manage.
- 9 "The reward isn't minimal—it's huge! When I've settled into my stride, I can feel the muscles in my arms and legs moving in harmony with my breathing. As the miles pass, I experience peace and joy as the problems of each day become distant. My chest feels wide open to the world and I exist in that moment alone. My runs always end with a sense of renewal and purpose."
- 10 Her brother had a sensitive soul that he rarely shared with others. His openness with her provoked an upswell of affection, but she kept her expression composed so she didn't embarrass him.
- 11 "So, the act of running itself and how it makes you feel is what you value most, but the goal of competing in a track meet is to run faster than your opponents to win the race," Camila offered. "This places value on the outcome of the run,

not on the inherent joy that you feel when running. Perhaps if you change your focus to how running makes you feel in the moment, the outcome may improve all by itself.”

- 12 He appeared to ponder her words, and she took the opportunity to squeeze his shoulder as she turned back toward home.

In paragraph 1, the author develops Matias's character mainly through describing his

- A.** heated arguments with family members.
- B.** dejected movement and body language.
- C.** poor attitude toward his fellow competitors.
- D.** uncertain thoughts during a track meet.

What is the main way Matias's mother tries to help him?

- A.** By asking him how he feels about his upcoming meet
- B.** By sharing her optimistic thoughts about the future
- C.** By giving him time alone to reflect on his feelings
- D.** By talking to him about her own athletic experiences

What is the author's purpose for showing Matias's pace slowing in paragraph 8?

- A.** To stress he is frustrated with his performance
- B.** To suggest he is exhausted from his earlier race
- C.** To reveal that he lost his competitive spirit
- D.** To illustrate he started to listen to his sister

Which detail would be least important to include in a summary of the passage?

- A.** Matias had failed to finish in the top three in any event at his track meet.
- B.** Camila observes Matias stretching as he prepares to go on a run.
- C.** Matias explains the act of running is relaxing and rejuvenating.
- D.** Camila understands that Matias has a sensitive disposition.

Which word best describes how Camila acts toward Matias?

- A.** Forgiving
- B.** Judgmental
- C.** Remorseful
- D.** Compassionate

Which statement best describes how the story's main conflict is resolved?

- A.** A compromise is made between two characters.
- B.** Two characters form a new and lasting friendship.
- C.** A character is left alone to consider some advice.
- D.** The main character makes a life-changing decision.

Coralbots

- 1 Coral reefs support nearly a quarter of all marine life on Earth. They are incredible structures with complex ecosystems, providing homes for many thousands of species of plants and animals, including four thousand species of fish. Coral reefs are found in an amazing variety of colors and shapes and are one of the world's greatest natural wonders.
- 2 The beauty of these natural phenomena, however, does not make up for their fragility. Today, the very existence of coral reefs is seriously threatened. They are easily damaged by a number of threats. Overfishing can negatively affect the food chain within the reefs. Ocean pollution can poison the reefs. Even tourists can destroy the reefs through carelessness, breaking off pieces or accidentally dropping anchors on the fragile coral.
- 3 Coral reefs are formed by tiny animals called coral polyps, also referred to simply as coral. When these animals die, they leave behind their cup-shaped, limestone skeletons, which become foundations for new polyps. Established coral reefs, composed of layer upon layer of these skeletons, are about five thousand to ten thousand years old. However, many of them are in serious danger of disappearing. Some estimates suggest that as much as 80 percent of the ocean's coral reefs have already been lost.
- 4 Despite their fragility, the reefs have the ability to repair themselves. New generations of coral polyps gradually rebuild the delicate reefs. However, this natural healing process often takes decades. To accelerate the restoration, groups of scuba divers have been using a special putty to reattach broken coral fragments to the reefs in areas with the greatest damage. This work takes time. The divers are restricted by how long they can stay underwater and how deep they can dive (not more than two hundred meters).
- 5 Researchers in Scotland, fearing they will lose the battle to save the reefs, have built underwater mini-robots to aid in restoring the damaged coral. Operated by a computer, these coralbots have the "vision" to distinguish among pieces of healthy coral, other sea animals, sea plants, and ocean debris. They use their manipulator "hands" to collect the broken coral fragments from the sea floor. Then they reattach them to the reef's foundation.
- 6 The researchers are programming the robots to have "swarm intelligence." They would work together, like bees or ants, toward a common goal, but each coralbot would perform a specific task. Because they can stay underwater for indefinite periods of time, the coral-planting robots may be able to repair a damaged reef in weeks rather than in years.

The Benefits of Coral Reefs

Coral reefs are often described as the ocean's rainforests. They are not only one of the most diverse ecosystems on the planet, they are among the most economically valuable. Healthy coral reefs benefit the world by providing:

- **Habitat** – support for more than a million marine species
- **Coastal protection** – a natural barrier that helps prevent property damage and beach erosion
- **Fishing** – income for millions and a food source for billions of people
- **Tourism** – almost \$10 billion to local economies from tourists who visit areas near reefs
- **Medicine** – important sources for new drugs and nutritional supplements to treat chronic diseases

The passage indicates that the greatest risk coral reefs face from tourists is

- A.** reduced diversity caused by overfishing.
- B.** physical damage caused by carelessness.
- C.** ecosystem deterioration due to littering.
- D.** poisoning due to oil from boats.

Which paragraph best conveys the author's overall attitude toward coral reefs?

- A. Paragraph 1
- B. Paragraph 3
- C. Paragraph 5
- D. Paragraph 6

According to the passage, what approach do humans use to repair coral reefs?

- A.** They collect and remove unhealthy coral and debris from the reef.
- B.** They introduce plant and fish species that are beneficial to the reef.
- C.** They raise live coral polyps to rebuild the reef's foundation over time.
- D.** They reattach coral fragments that have broken off from the reef's foundation.

Use both the passage and the text box “The Benefits of Coral Reefs” to answer this question.

Which of these claims in the passage is supported by information in the text box?

- A.** Coral reefs have the ability to repair themselves over time.
- B.** Coral reefs provide homes for many types of marine creatures.
- C.** Established coral reefs are approximately five thousand to ten thousand years old.
- D.** The very existence of coral reefs has become seriously threatened.

Use both the passage and the text box “The Benefits of Coral Reefs” to answer this question.

Which of the following questions about the coralbot project does information in the text box help answer?

- A.** How long will the project take?
- B.** How does marine life surrounding the reef respond to coralbots?
- C.** Where did the researchers obtain the funding for their project?
- D.** Why do the researchers consider it critical to save the reefs?

Use both the passage and the text box “The Benefits of Coral Reefs” to answer this question.

Which statement best captures a difference in the focus of the passage and the focus of the text box?

- A.** The passage focuses more on the structure of coral reefs, whereas the text box focuses more on how the reefs benefit humans.
- B.** The passage focuses more on repairing coral reefs, whereas the text box focuses more on the overall health of the reefs.
- C.** The text box focuses more on the role coral reefs play in coastal protection, whereas the passage focuses more on the role reefs play in discovering medicines.
- D.** The text box focuses more on the impact of tourism on coral reefs, whereas the passage focuses more on the impact of fishing.

Reading Grade 11 Review Items						
Item ID	Percent Correct	Domain	DOK	Standard	Key	Primary Distractor(s)
RE028863667_1	56	KID	1	RL.11-12.1	A	B
RE028863906_4	74	CS	2	RL.11-12.4	D	
RE028864003_2	69	KID	2	RL.11-12.3	B	
RE028864128_1	71	CS	3	RL.11-12.6	A	C
RE028864663_1	63	KID	3	RL.11-12.2	A	
RE028864458_4	78	KID	2	RL.11-12.2	D	
RE925632353_2	67	CS	2	RI.11-12.6	B	A
RE925934364_2	77	KID	2	RI.11-12.3	B	
RE925944479_2	65	KID	2	RI.11-12.1	B	
RE925935483_4	58	KID	2	RI.11-12.2	D	C
RE925943414_2	73	CS	3	RI.11-12.6	B	

- 1 Neeva lounged atop the picnic table in the growing darkness, feeling a light chill on her skin as the temperature dropped and the air's moisture condensed into dew. Next to her, Anton sat bent over, his elbows on his knees as he stared at the shadowed ground. They'd been best friends since his family had moved into their small rural town when they were both four years old. More than thirteen years later, they were still the closest of friends.
- 2 Given to thoughtful silences and deep contemplation, it was not unusual for Anton to sit quietly as he did now, but Neeva observed minute muscle movements in his clasped hands that belied a restless tension rarely present in her friend. His contentment at spending time with Neeva on a serene evening was apparent, but Anton had seemed distant ever since Neeva announced her family was moving in a month. His reticence concerned her.
- 3 "I read something interesting the other day," she said, peering up at the stars just beginning to appear. "They've discovered a planet in a solar system forty light years away. It may be composed of diamonds because the system's star has a higher carbon-to-oxygen concentration. It races around its sun in such close proximity that its year lasts only eighteen hours and the surface temperature is more than three thousand degrees."
- 4 Anton lifted his head, gazing across the field of tall grasses, and his shoulders lowered slightly from their scrunched position near his ears.
- 5 "Another team found a gas giant, similar to our Jupiter, that also orbits extremely close to its sun, but it's inflated like a balloon, which scientists think may be due to heat from its star. This 'puffy' planet has such low density that it would actually float in water." Neeva said.
- 6 He slanted a look at her in the near darkness. "Are you writing a book about astronomy that I don't know about?"
- 7 "Just reflecting on the complexity of space beyond Earth. There are solar systems made of planets that are so black on the surface that they don't reflect sunlight, or where it might rain rubies or glass because of the mineral concentrations in the atmosphere. The magnitude of what exists out there makes my life here on this patch of grass on this tiny planet in our nondescript corner of the universe seem insignificant."
- 8 "Your pep talks need some work," he said, though the corners of his mouth curled into a hint of a smile, softening the mild criticism into a moment of levity.
- 9 "Perhaps, but consider that within this unfathomable universe, I am the only me; I am a singular entity in a universe filled with improbable wonders, and I

am exceptional because I am the only Neeva within 92 billion light-years. A couple hundred miles away from here doesn't seem all that far."

10 He tilted his head toward the obsidian sky where thousands of scintillating stars dotted the blackness and said, "I retract my statement."

Why does Neeva suspect Anton is uncertain about her family's upcoming move?

- A.** She noticed small movements in his hands.
- B.** He was mostly silent as the two sat together.
- C.** He was uninterested in discussing astronomy.
- D.** She thought he wanted to be somewhere else.

What does “levity” mean in this sentence from paragraph 8?

“Your pep talks need some work,” he said, though the corners of his mouth curled into a hint of a smile, softening the mild criticism into a moment of levity.

- A. Ambivalence
- B. Celebration
- C. Determination
- D. Lightheartedness

Why does Neeva mention “92 billion light-years” in paragraph 9?

- A.** She is apprehensive about moving away to a different place.
- B.** She is minimizing the distance that will separate the two friends.
- C.** She is trying to impress Anton with her knowledge of astronomy.
- D.** She is concerned Anton does not grasp the size of the universe.

By having Anton state “I retract my statement” in paragraph 10, the author is using

- A.** understatement to show that Anton finally understands Neeva’s point.
- B.** sarcasm to suggest Anton has become bored with Neeva’s stories.
- C.** irony to emphasize Anton deeply regrets having made the statement.
- D.** juxtaposition to contrast Anton’s indifference with Neeva’s earnestness.

What is a theme that is developed over the course of the passage?

- A.** Reassurance can be conveyed in unexpected ways.
- B.** Misunderstandings in friendships can lead to tension.
- C.** Facts can be used to obscure one's true feelings.
- D.** Courage can be discovered in challenging situations.

Which option best summarizes the events in the passage?

- A.** An awareness of astronomy and exoplanets has led Neeva to understand that her close friend Anton is unsure of himself.
- B.** Anton and Neeva have long been close friends but their different views about their futures are driving them apart.
- C.** In reading about discoveries by astronomers, Neeva develops a new understanding about the importance of friendship.
- D.** Neeva attempts to comfort her friend Anton as they deal with the fact that they will soon be apart from one another.

Calligraphy

- 1 The word “calligraphy” can evoke images of both ancient Chinese texts and the type of ornate, intricate lettering that announces the opening of the United States Constitution. Today, the art of calligraphy may not enjoy the same stature in the Americas as it enjoys in Asia, but it is still appreciated as an exceptional form of artistry throughout the world.
- 2 Calligraphy is the art of using ink to carefully craft symbols and letters by hand. The decorative, skillfully positioned lettering enhances the experience and impact of a text. In the Western world, some writers define calligraphy as having three dimensions: fine art, craft, and literary art.
- 3 The word “calligraphy” comes from the Greek “kallos” (beauty) and “graphein” (to write). The beauty of well-executed calligraphy, characterized by decorative flourishes and graceful curves, certainly qualifies this approach to writing as a form of fine art.
- 4 Calligraphers elevate the ordinary experience of reading written text through the techniques and tools of the craft. High-quality materials such as heavy-bond paper, vellum parchment, and special inks are commonly used in calligraphy, though many artists use inexpensive paper and inks for practice. A calligrapher can make a traditional pen from a sharpened bamboo stick or feather, though brushes, dip pens, fountain pens, and markers are some of the more modern choices.
- 5 The third dimension of calligraphy is the literary quality. The calligrapher’s goal is often to convey an aspect of a text’s meaning. In designing a work of calligraphic literature, for example, the calligrapher considers several factors, such as how the lettering is positioned on the page (space, form, and proportion) and various letter styles (e.g., Roman, Gothic, book hand, or italic). For some calligraphers, the presentation of the writing is just as essential to meaning as the words themselves.
- 6 Today in the U.S., calligraphy adds weight to a variety of documents and texts: ceremonial manuscripts (diplomas, birth and death certificates); legal deeds and titles; religious scripture and art; and book covers and title pages. Calligraphy also adorns greeting cards, decorates invitations to weddings and other formal events, and frames meaningful inscriptions on slate, glass, pottery, and stone. With the digital typeface revolution, many calligraphers now use computers to make thick and thin pen strokes, create alphabet fonts, and design layouts. However, there are many calligraphers who carry on the tradition of creating calligraphy by hand, honoring the element of human expression that has defined this art form.

Sidebar: Calligraphy in China

1 The Chinese language is particularly well suited to expression through calligraphy. Each written Chinese word is represented by its own unique symbol, which thus necessitates an enormous number of characters—around 50,000 (also called ideographs or pictures). In Chinese calligraphy, each character is distinctly communicated by the artist through the interplay between brush or pen and the medium.

2 Calligraphy is a popular art practiced by amateurs all over China. Calligraphy is displayed on signs, dishes in restaurants, doorways of homes, and plaques on temples. In addition, famous sites feature stones inscribed with the calligraphy of admired artists.

3 Chinese calligraphy, which is at least four thousand years old, is a unique and persisting art form. It continues to be shown in museums alongside paintings and other artistic creations to this day.

What is the main purpose of paragraph 1?

- A.** To inform readers about the places calligraphy is taught and practiced
- B.** To make the point that calligraphy is widely used and respected
- C.** To inform readers about the process of creating calligraphy
- D.** To make the point that calligraphy is easy to learn

Which statement best describes a difference between paragraph 2 and paragraph 6?

- A.** Paragraph 2 explains the history of calligraphy, whereas paragraph 6 predicts the future of it.
- B.** Paragraph 2 defines calligraphy, whereas paragraph 6 defines instances where it is commonly used.
- C.** Paragraph 2 describes the people who create calligraphy, whereas paragraph 6 describes the people who often buy it.
- D.** Paragraph 2 identifies a cause behind calligraphy's decreased popularity, whereas paragraph 6 identifies the effects of the decrease.

For which dimension of calligraphy is beauty the focal element?

- A.** The craft
- B.** The fine art
- C.** The tradition
- D.** The literary art

Which sentence most strongly supports the idea that there are a variety of approaches to creating calligraphy?

- A.** “Today, the art of calligraphy may not enjoy the same stature in the Americas as it enjoys in Asia, but it is still appreciated as an exceptional form of artistry throughout the world.” (paragraph 1)
- B.** “Calligraphy is the art of using ink to carefully craft symbols and letters by hand.” (paragraph 2)
- C.** “The beauty of well-executed calligraphy, characterized by decorative flourishes and graceful curves, certainly qualifies this approach to writing as a form of fine art.” (paragraph 3)
- D.** “A calligrapher can make a traditional pen from a sharpened bamboo stick or feather, though brushes, dip pens, fountain pens, and markers are some of the more modern choices.” (paragraph 4)

What is the effect of the author's repeated use of lists in the passage and the sidebar?

- A.** It persuades readers to collect calligraphic artwork.
- B.** It emphasizes the widespread use of calligraphy.
- C.** It emphasizes the overwhelming number of amateur calligraphy artists.
- D.** It persuades readers to find a more unique alternative to calligraphy.