

GRADE 3
Reading

Administered May 2018

RELEASED

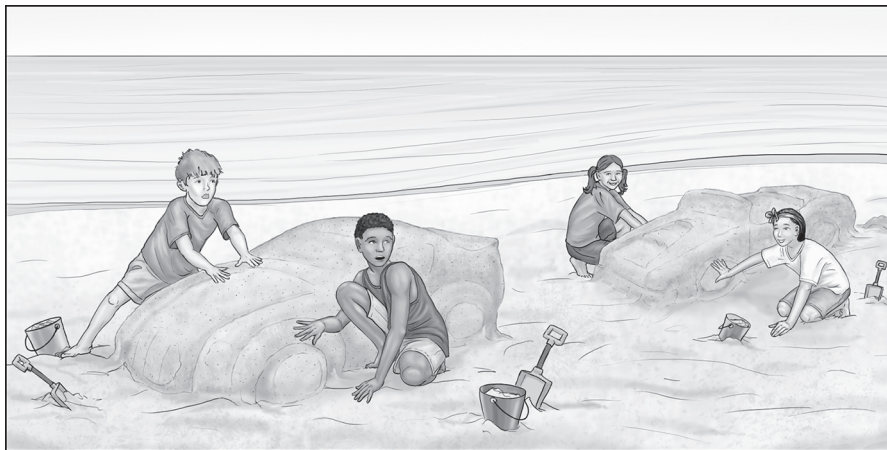
**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.
Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

Racing Team

by Arlene Mark

- 1 Carter woke up early. This was the day he had waited for all year—the New Year’s Eve sand-sculpture contest at the beach.
- 2 He pulled on his shorts and raced down to the kitchen, grabbed a granola bar and a banana, and headed toward the beach with a shovel, pail, and spray bottle clutched to his chest.
- 3 He and Max believed that they would win this year. They had built castles and forts before, but they had a great idea for this year—a sports car!
- 4 Max was already at the beach, sitting in a shallow pool of water.
- 5 “This is a good spot,” Max said. “There’s lots of squishy, wet sand to build with.” He picked up a handful and dribbled it over his legs.
- 6 “Let’s start,” said Carter. He began scooping up wet sand with his shovel and dumping it near the pool of water. Then he packed the sand with both hands while Max dumped on more sand and slapped it into a mound.
- 7 Other builders slowed down as they passed Max and Carter, looking at the growing mound of sand.
- 8 “Nice wall,” said a man carrying a shovel.
- 9 “Sports car,” said Carter. “We just started.”
- 10 Rising out of the sand nearby were castles, dragons, whales, and mermaids. And right next to the boys, another mound was growing.
- 11 Carter peeked around it. “Hey,” he said. “What’s this?”
- 12 Two girls were kneeling and packing. “It’s a sports car,” one of them said. Both girls giggled and kept working.
- 13 “You can’t build a sports car!” Carter said. “We’re building one.”
- 14 “Ours is a convertible,” said the girl with black hair, rounding off a fender.
- 15 “But we got here first,” Max said. “You’re copying!”

- 16 "No, we're not," said the red-haired girl. "We've been planning this all year."
- 17 Carter whispered to Max, "Just keep working. Ours will be better."
- 18 "Keep packing, Kate," said the red-haired girl. "I'll get more sand for the seats."
- 19 "Good idea, Sophie."
- 20 The hot sun was drying out the sand. Carter grabbed his spray bottle and moistened the car while Max shaped the headlights and the grill with his fingers.
- 21 "Look," Max whispered. "It's starting to look like a real car."
- 22 Carter smoothed the tires. "Yeah, it's really cool, but let's hurry. The judging is at two o'clock."
- 23 Max peeked over at the competition. He was startled to see Kate and Sophie peering back at the boys' car.



- 24 Before long, the judges began examining the sand sculptures and scribbling in little notebooks.
- 25 "Good idea," said a voice.
- 26 Carter, Max, Sophie, and Kate were all on their knees, hurrying to add the finishing touches to the cars. They shaded their eyes with their hands and looked up.
- 27 "A race," said the judge. "This is the first time I've ever seen a sand sculpture of a race."
- 28 The judge walked away, weaving past other sculptures.

- 29 Carter, Max, Sophie, and Kate stared at one another, mouths open in surprise.
- 30 "Want to?"
- 31 "Yeah!"
- 32 "Let's do it!"
- 33 "Cool."
- 34 Their hands flew as they quickly formed a racetrack around the cars.
- 35 "Your bumpers are really cool," said Carter. "Can we copy them?"
- 36 "Sure," said Kate. "Can you show us how you made your tires so round?"
- 37 "Yeah." Carter stepped over to the convertible. "You just need to shape them, like this."
- 38 "I'll smooth out the track," said Sophie.
- 39 "And I'll put up a finish line," said Max. He found two sticks and poked them into the sand in front of the cars. Kate strung a ribbon of seaweed between them.
- 40 "These are two cool cars," Carter said.
- 41 Before they could say another word, a voice called out, "We have the winner here." The judge who had admired their work earlier stood beside the cars. "First prize goes to . . . um, I didn't get the name of your entry."
- 42 Carter spoke. "It's called . . . uhh . . ."
- 43 "Racing Team!" Kate shouted.
- 44 "Racing Team it is," said the judge.
- 45 A photographer hurried over to take a picture for the newspaper—two beautiful racing cars and four smiling sculptors.

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- 1 Read the dictionary entry for the word pass.

pass \ˈpas\ *verb*
1. to ignore
2. to move by
3. to throw or hit a ball to a teammate
4. to complete a class successfully

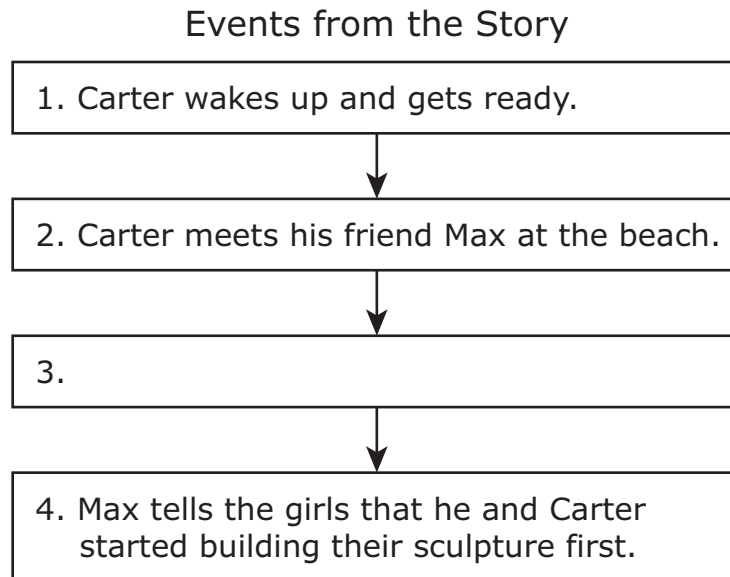
Which meaning best matches the way the word passed is used in paragraph 7?

- A Meaning 1
 - B Meaning 2
 - C Meaning 3
 - D Meaning 4
-

- 2 Which sentence best describes Carter and Max when they first notice the girls?

- F They are worried that the girls are building a better car than they are.
- G They want to change their plan and build a different sand sculpture.
- H They are not pleased that the girls are also building a sports car.
- J They decide to help the girls make their car look even better.

3 Read the story chart below.



Which of the following events completes the chart?

- A** Carter tells Kate how to make the tires look round.
- B** Carter reminds Max that the judging begins at two o'clock.
- C** Carter, Max, Sophie, and Kate hurry to build a racetrack around their cars.
- D** Carter and Max begin making their sand sculpture by digging up sand and putting it in a pile.

4 Why are paragraphs 13 through 22 important to the plot of the story?

- F** They show that both groups are determined to win the sand-sculpture competition.
- G** They suggest that the girls may cause trouble when the judging begins.
- H** They show why the boys should not talk with other people in the contest.
- J** They suggest that the boys are concerned that the judges are interested in the car the girls are making.

5 In paragraph 20, the word moistened means that the sand was made —

- A** wet
 - B** firm
 - C** shiny
 - D** bright
-

6 In the story, how are the boys and the girls alike?

- F** They planned their idea before the contest began.
 - G** They have built sand castles in other competitions.
 - H** They have won this contest before.
 - J** They know what they should call their sculpture.
-

7 Which sentence states the main theme of the story?

- A** It is important to be on time when others are depending on you.
- B** Winning does not matter as long as you try hard.
- C** Working with others can be better than working on your own.
- D** The best ideas come to those who are patient.

8 Which sentence from the story contains descriptions that appeal most to the reader's sense of touch?

- F** *This was the day he had waited for all year—the New Year's Eve sand-sculpture contest at the beach.*
 - G** *Then he packed the sand with both hands while Max dumped on more sand and slapped it into a mound.*
 - H** *Rising out of the sand nearby were castles, dragons, whales, and mermaids.*
 - J** *A photographer hurried over to take a picture for the newspaper—two beautiful racing cars and four smiling sculptors.*
-

9 What is the best summary of the story?

- A** While two boys build a sand sculpture at a contest on the beach, people walk around to look at their work. When the judge sees what the boys are building, the boys realize that the judge has the wrong idea about their sculpture.
- B** Two boys are excited about entering a sand-sculpture contest. They find a good place on the beach to build their sculpture. Many people stop to watch them work. Two girls next to them are building a similar sand sculpture.
- C** Two boys build a sand sculpture for a contest at the beach. They are surprised when two girls next to them are building the same thing. When the contest judge thinks the four kids are working together, the kids go along with the idea and win the contest.
- D** When two boys work next to two girls at a sand-sculpture contest on the beach, they learn that they had the same idea for the contest. No one wants to start over to make something else. The boys try to make their sculpture better than the girls' sculpture, but the girls do the same.

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

Star Parties

- 1 As cars travel on the long road up the hill, their drivers shut off the headlights. Passengers jump out, chattering excitedly. They walk slowly to join the crowd on the hill. All around, the land is quiet and dark. No streetlights or house lights glow. Everyone gazes up at the night sky. This is a star party.



Visitors enjoy a star party at McDonald Observatory in West Texas.

Frank Cianciolo/McDonald Observatory

- 2 A star party is a gathering where people study the stars and other objects in the sky. Because city skies are usually bright with lights at night, many star parties take place in the country. In a dark sky, stars can be easily seen. From beginners to experts, everyone is welcome at a star party. When people gaze at the sky, there is always something new to discover.

What Are You Staring At?

- 3 At most star parties, telescopes are set up so that people can study different areas of the sky. Telescopes help make faraway objects appear closer. Some telescopes may be aimed at constellations, or star groupings. Others may be pointed at the moon. At certain times of the year, partygoers may even get to see the light of a meteor shower streaking across the sky.

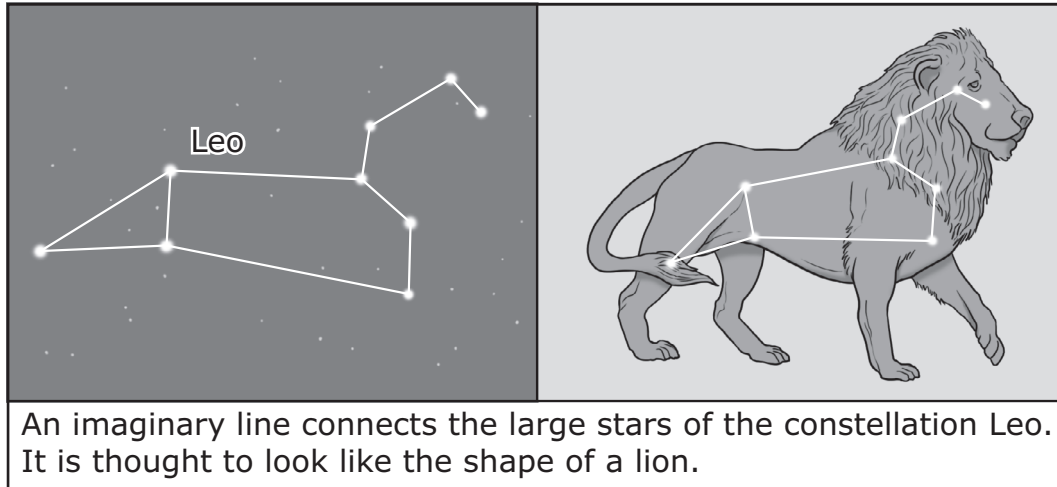


A telescope makes it easier to see objects in the night sky.

© iStockphoto.com/Bee-Creative

- 4 Star charts and guidebooks are great resources. You can use these tools to find information about where to look in the night sky to see special stars and planets. Star charts and guidebooks can be found on the Internet or in a library. You can download or copy a star chart and study it before going to a star party. It will help you understand what you are seeing.

- 5 At star parties, experts may describe what people are seeing. They may identify special stars, planets, or star clusters. Some may share stories, or myths, about the constellations. Because these stars appear to be grouped into the shapes of animals or people, different cultures have made up stories about them. A Greek myth, for example, tells a story about a lion named Leo. Use your imagination to find an animal in the night sky. Then you can share your own story at the star party!



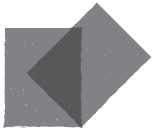



An imaginary line connects the large stars of the constellation Leo. It is thought to look like the shape of a lion.

How Do You Get Ready for a Star Party?

- 6 All you really need for a star party is a clear night sky. However, there are some things you can do before you go to a star party to help you have a great experience.
- 7 Just as the view of the sky changes, so does the weather. Be sure to bring along a jacket or sweater. Since you view stars in the evening, the night air may be colder than you expect.
- 8 You may also be surprised by the darkness of the night sky. If you need some light during the star party, do not use a regular flashlight. The bright white light from common flashlights makes it difficult for your eyes to focus on the night sky. Red light, on the other hand, does not ruin your night vision. You can purchase a red flashlight or make your own.
- 9 Every evening the sky presents a new opportunity to study and learn about the stars and other objects. With a little preparation, your adventure under the night sky is sure to be a success!

Make Your Own Stargazing Flashlight

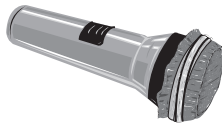
Gather these materials:

Red plastic wrap or red cloth 	Scissors 	Flashlight 	Rubber band 
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Follow these directions:

1. Cut the red plastic or cloth into a square. The square should be slightly larger than the lighted end of the flashlight.
2. Cover the lighted end of the flashlight with the red plastic or cloth. Wrap the edges of the plastic or cloth around the sides of the flashlight.
3. Secure the plastic or cloth to the flashlight with the rubber band.

Your stargazing flashlight will look like this.



Now you are ready to head outside for your own nighttime star party!

10 Which words in paragraph 4 best help the reader understand the meaning of resources?

- F** *where to look*
 - G** *stars and planets*
 - H** *what you are seeing*
 - J** *tools to find information*
-

11 What is the most likely reason the author begins the selection with the ideas in paragraph 1?

- A** To describe an activity that the reader may not have experienced
 - B** To suggest that a star party is similar to a party the reader may have attended
 - C** To identify the types of objects the reader would see in the night sky
 - D** To inform the reader of the items needed for a successful experience
-

12 In the boxed information titled “Make Your Own Stargazing Flashlight,” the word secure means to —

- F** cut out neatly
- G** glue together
- H** fasten tightly
- J** fold in half

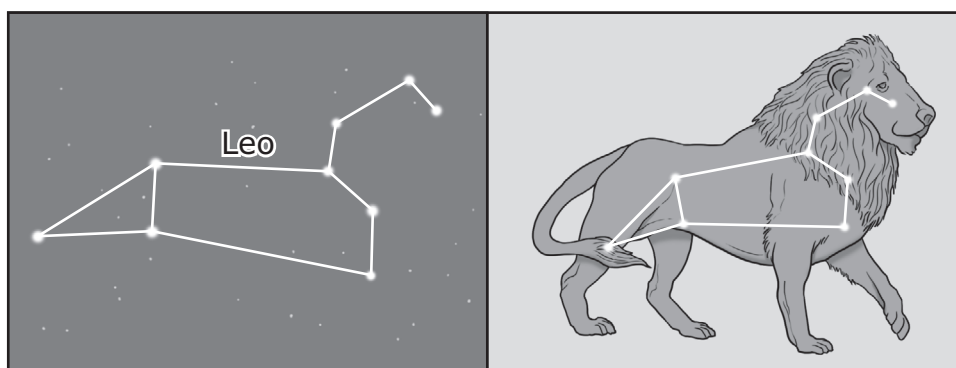
13 What information can be found in the section titled “What Are You Staring At?”

- A** Why star parties take place in the country
 - B** The purpose of a star chart
 - C** What type of weather to expect during a star party
 - D** The purpose of a red flashlight
-

14 Star parties do not usually take place in cities because —

- F** cities do not have enough hills
 - G** there are too many people around
 - H** cities do not have quiet places for viewing
 - J** there is too much light to see the stars clearly
-

15 Look at the diagram from the selection.



This diagram helps the reader understand —

- A** how the constellation Leo is formed
- B** the myth about the constellation Leo
- C** where to find the constellation Leo in the sky
- D** the names of all the stars in the constellation Leo

16 The row of pictures at the top of the boxed information titled “Make Your Own Stargazing Flashlight” helps the reader understand —

- F** where to buy the supplies
 - G** what supplies are needed
 - H** how to use the scissors correctly
 - J** how long the project will take to finish
-

17 According to the boxed information titled “Make Your Own Stargazing Flashlight,” what should the reader do right after cutting the red plastic or cloth?

- A** Place it next to the flashlight
 - B** Place it over the lighted end of the flashlight
 - C** Wrap the rubber band around the flashlight
 - D** Wrap the edges around the sides of the flashlight
-

18 The author wrote this selection most likely to —

- F** provide information about what happens at star parties
- G** explain how people can find star parties in their area
- H** describe what the reader needs at a star party
- J** persuade the reader to attend a star party

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

Kittens

by Myra Cohn Livingston

Our cat had kittens
weeks ago
when everything outside was snow.

So she stayed in
5 and kept them warm
and safe from all the clouds and storm.

But yesterday
when there was sun
she snuzzled on the smallest one

10 and turned it over
from beneath
and took its fur between her teeth

and carried it
outside to see
15 how nice a winter day can be

and then our dog
decided he
would help her take the other three

and one by one
20 they took them out
to see what sun is all about

so when they're grown
they'll always know
to never be afraid of snow.

From *Worlds I Know and Other Poems* by Myra Cohn Livingston. Copyright © 1985 Myra Cohn Livingston. Used by permission of Marian Reiner.

19 The description in lines 9 through 12 helps the reader picture —

- A** what a kitten's fur looks like
 - B** which kitten the mother cat is worried about
 - C** where the mother cat keeps her kittens
 - D** how the mother cat moves a kitten
-

20 In the poem, the mother cat wants her kittens to learn to feel comfortable —

- F** in the snow
 - G** around other animals
 - H** when she picks them up
 - J** when the speaker is near them
-

21 Which lines from the poem rhyme?

- A** weeks ago
when everything outside was snow.
- B** and carried it
outside to see
- C** and then our dog
decided he
- D** and one by one
they took them out

22 Read line 21 from the poem.

to see what sun is all about

The poet includes this line to emphasize that the mother cat —

- F** knows it will snow again soon
 - G** has had a bad experience in the winter
 - H** wants her kittens to explore new things
 - J** thinks her kittens will like the snow
-

23 How are the stanzas in the poem alike?

- A** They tell the speaker's feelings about the mother cat.
 - B** They have the same number of lines.
 - C** They focus on a problem the mother cat tries to solve.
 - D** They repeat important words.
-

24 The speaker most likely thinks the mother cat's actions are —

- F** brave
- G** confusing
- H** annoying
- J** wise

- 25** How can the reader tell that this is a narrative poem?
- A** The poem contains words that appeal to the senses.
 - B** The speaker of the poem shares his or her feelings.
 - C** The poem has lines that make the reader laugh.
 - D** The events described in the poem tell a story.
-

- 26** The mother cat takes her kittens outside because —
- F** the dog arrives
 - G** the kittens grow up
 - H** the sun comes out
 - J** winter is over

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



Kids in Business

June 2014

In this issue:
Read all about young chefs and how
they have achieved “sweet” success

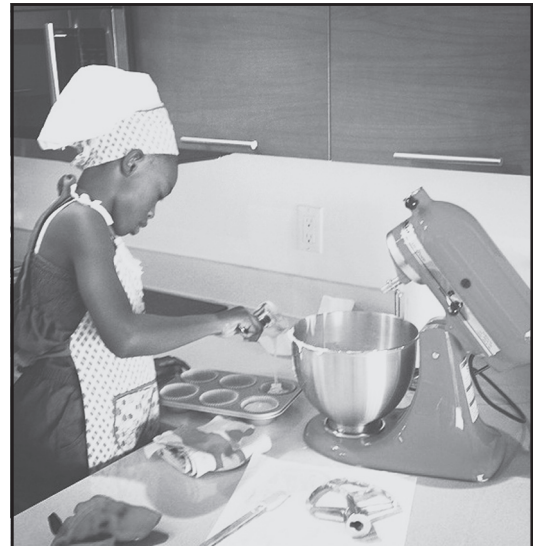


The Cupcake Queen

- 1 Running a baking business can be a lot of fun. Just ask Taylor Moxey. She’s a successful pastry chef from Miami, Florida—and she’s only eight years old.

Rising to the Challenge

- 2 Taylor’s pastry business didn’t start with flour and frosting. It started with a doll. While shopping one weekend, Taylor asked her parents to buy her a doll. Rather than giving Taylor money to purchase the doll, Taylor’s father encouraged her to earn the money herself. Taylor had no problem with the challenge. In fact, she had an idea: what if she baked cupcakes and sold them at church to raise money to buy her doll?
- 3 In order to make the cupcakes, Taylor knew she first needed some money for tools and supplies. “Her mom and I gave her a loan of \$40 and said she can pay it back,” explained Taylor’s father. “We were confident she’d make \$40, but we thought that’d be the extent of it. But that Sunday at church she made \$175 selling the cupcakes. We were blown away.”



Taylor Making Cupcakes

Courtesy of the Moxey Family

Warming Up

- 4 After the bake sale everyone expected Taylor to buy the doll she wanted. She certainly had made enough money for it. Imagine everyone's surprise when Taylor decided to purchase business cards instead. The business cards said "Taylor the Chef" and had her father's phone number on them. She began passing them out. This way, future customers could contact her. To her father's amazement, people started phoning him to order Taylor's cupcakes.
- 5 But baking yummy cupcakes wasn't enough for Taylor. She entered a local cornbread-baking contest and won first prize. Not only that, she defeated experienced adult chefs. One of them, a well-known chef in Miami, didn't know the contest winner was a child until Taylor showed up at his restaurant a couple of days later.
- 6 Soon after the contest Taylor became a local star. Suddenly everyone wanted to know about—and try—Taylor's scrumptious treats. Even large companies began buying her delicious baked goods. Taylor's pastry business had begun.

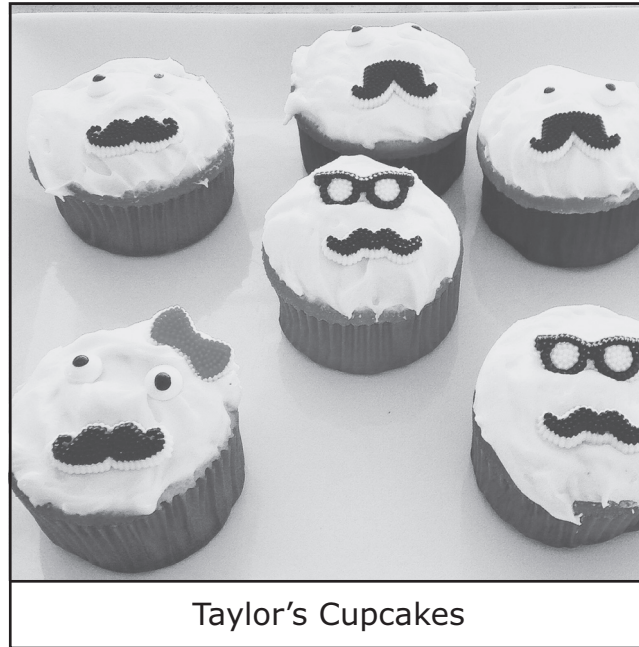


Taylor Moxey,
Cornbread-Contest Winner

Courtesy of the Moxey Family

Sweet Rewards

- 7 Of course, being eight years old has its own demands. Having a successful, thriving business doesn't get Taylor out of going to school or doing homework. She also likes to participate in other activities. As a result, Taylor must carefully manage her time. For example, instead of going to play at a friend's house or watching TV after school, Taylor might have to bake a batch of cupcakes for a customer. Because she has dance lessons on some days, she needs to get her baking done on time so she isn't late for class.



- 8 Taylor doesn't mind these sacrifices, though. Baking may take time and be hard work, but Taylor sees the fun in it. "I think baking is mostly my passion," she says. "You get to take your recipe and different people's recipes and add different things to them." Taylor's father says that no matter how busy she is, Taylor always remembers to include a special ingredient in her cupcakes: "The cupcakes are made with love."
- 9 Taylor isn't creative just in the kitchen, though. She also decorates the boxes her baked goods are packaged in. Taylor uses markers, stickers, and other kinds of decorations to make sure each box looks special for her customers. People love the extra touch Taylor gives to her products.
- 10 So far Taylor has earned thousands of dollars selling her cupcakes. But she doesn't keep all her profits. Part of her money is donated to help people with dyslexia, a learning disorder that her father has. Dyslexia makes it difficult for people to read, write, and spell. Taylor wants others to learn about the condition.

A Recipe for the Future

- 11 Taylor wants to devote her life to baking. She may be working out of her parents' kitchen right now, but she has bigger dreams. Someday she hopes to open her own bakery.
- 12 If anyone can achieve sweet success, it's Taylor Moxey.

27 The photograph next to paragraph 1 helps the reader understand —

- A** why Taylor works many hours
 - B** how Taylor changes her recipes
 - C** where Taylor stores her cupcakes
 - D** what tools Taylor uses in the kitchen
-

28 The word thriving in paragraph 7 tells the reader that Taylor’s business is —

- F** doing well
 - G** raising prices
 - H** losing customers
 - J** moving to a new city
-

29 The section titled “Rising to the Challenge” is mainly about how Taylor —

- A** first got started with her business
- B** made a lot of money at her church
- C** asked her parents to buy her a doll
- D** was able to pay her parents back

- 30** The reader can conclude from paragraph 4 that Taylor —
- F** realized the doll she wanted would cost too much money
 - G** discovered she needed to find another location for a bake sale
 - H** became more interested in baking than in having a doll
 - J** wanted her family to bake the cupcakes for her business
-

- 31** Taylor informed people of her cupcake business mainly by —
- A** handing out business cards
 - B** advertising at her dance class
 - C** calling her father's friends
 - D** talking to other chefs
-

- 32** What can the reader tell about Taylor from the way she prepares her cupcakes for customers?
- F** She likes to sell her baked goods to her friends.
 - G** She has more fun decorating the boxes than baking.
 - H** She needs to improve the way she organizes her supplies.
 - J** She wants to please the people who buy her baked goods.

33 One result of Taylor’s success with her business is that she is able to —

- A** get her homework done in time for school
 - B** donate money to help other people
 - C** eat at the restaurant of a famous chef
 - D** help others decide what they want to do as an adult
-

34 The author wrote the article mainly to —

- F** teach the reader how to make good cupcakes
- G** explain to the reader how to start a new business
- H** show the reader that it is fun to win cooking contests
- J** tell the reader about the work of a young chef



Item Number	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting	Content Student Expectation	Correct Answer
1	1	Readiness	3.4(B)	B
2	2	Readiness	3.8(B)	H
3	2	Readiness	3.8(A)	D
4	2	Readiness	3.8(A)	F
5	1	Readiness	3.4(B)	A
6	2	Readiness	3.8 Fig. 19(D)	F
7	2	Supporting	3.5(A)	C
8	2	Supporting	3.10(A)	G
9	2	Readiness	3.8 Fig. 19(E)	C
10	1	Readiness	3.4(B)	J
11	3	Readiness	3.12 Fig. 19(D)	A
12	1	Readiness	3.4(B)	H
13	3	Readiness	3.13(D)	B
14	3	Readiness	3.13(B)	J
15	3	Supporting	3.15 Fig. 19(D)	A
16	3	Supporting	3.15 Fig. 19(D)	G
17	3	Supporting	3.15(B)	B
18	3	Readiness	3.12 Fig. 19(D)	F
19	2	Supporting	3.10(A)	D
20	2	Supporting	3.6 Fig. 19(D)	F
21	2	Supporting	3.6(A)	A
22	2	Supporting	3.6 Fig. 19(D)	H
23	2	Supporting	3.6(A)	B
24	2	Supporting	3.6 Fig. 19(D)	J
25	2	Supporting	3.6(A)	D
26	2	Supporting	3.2(B)	H
27	3	Supporting	3.16 Fig. 19(D)	D
28	1	Readiness	3.4(B)	F
29	3	Readiness	3.13(A)	A
30	3	Readiness	3.13(B)	H
31	3	Readiness	3.13(A)	A
32	3	Readiness	3.13(B)	J
33	3	Readiness	3.13(C)	B
34	3	Readiness	3.12 Fig. 19(D)	J

2018 STAAR Grade 3 Reading Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
1	Option B is correct	Meaning 2 best matches the way the word <u>passed</u> is used in paragraph 7. The other builders “slowed down” to look “at the growing mound of sand,” which shows that they were moving by Max and Carter.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 7, other builders slowed down to look at the mound of sand, which shows that they were paying attention to what Max and Carter were doing, not ignoring them.
	Option C is incorrect	There are no balls hit or thrown in paragraph 7, so this is not the correct meaning of <u>passed</u> .
	Option D is incorrect	The characters in the story are not in a class; they are enjoying free time at the beach, so this is not the correct meaning of <u>passed</u> .
2	Option H is correct	Carter and Max are not pleased that the girls are building a sports car since Carter and Max are building one as well. They tell the girls that they “can’t build a sports car” and that the girls are copying them.
	Option F is incorrect	When Carter and Max first meet the girls, the boys are upset because the girls are also making a sports car, but they are not worried that the girls’ car will be better. In paragraph 17, Carter says that their own sports car will be better.
	Option G is incorrect	In paragraph 17, Carter tells Max to keep working, showing that the boys do not intend to change their plan.
	Option J is incorrect	Carter and Max do not decide to help the girls when they first meet them. It is later in the story when the boys begin to share tips and work together with the girls.
3	Option D is correct	In paragraph 6, Carter and Max are digging up sand and making a pile. This happens after Carter meets Max at the beach (paragraph 4) and before they first meet the girls (paragraph 12).
	Option A is incorrect	Carter tells Kate how to make the tires look round in paragraph 37, but this comes after Max tells the girls that he and Carter began building their sculpture first.
	Option B is incorrect	Carter reminds Max that the judging is at two o’clock in paragraph 22, which is after Max tells the girls that he and Carter began building their sculpture first.
	Option C is incorrect	Carter, Max, Sophie, and Kate hurry to form the racetrack in paragraph 34, which is after Max tells the girls that he and Carter began building their sculpture first.
4	Option F is correct	In paragraphs 13 through 22, both teams keep working hard on their sculptures, showing that they are all determined to win the sand-sculpture competition.
	Option G is incorrect	There is no evidence in paragraphs 13 through 22 that the girls may cause trouble when the judging begins.
	Option H is incorrect	The boys are upset with the girls in these paragraphs, but Carter and Max end up enjoying the girls’ company, so there is nothing to suggest that the boys should not talk to anyone.
	Option J is incorrect	Although the boys are annoyed that the girls are also building a car (paragraphs 13–17), Carter and Max are not concerned that the judges are interested in the girls’ car. In paragraphs 20 through 22, Carter and Max are focused on building their own car.
5	Option A is correct	Carter uses a spray bottle to moisten the car after the sun “was drying out the sand.” This context is included to help the student know that the word <u>moistened</u> means that Carter made the sand “wet.”
	Option B is incorrect	Although moistening the sand helped make it firmer, this is not the meaning of the word <u>moistened</u> .
	Option C is incorrect	Although something wet may be “shiny,” this is not the meaning of the word <u>moistened</u> .
	Option D is incorrect	There is no context to support that moistening the sand would make it “bright.”

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Item #	Rationales	
6	Option F is correct	The boys and girls had both planned their ideas before the contest began. In paragraph 3, Max and Carter had the idea for the car prior to the contest, and in paragraph 16, Sophie mentions that she and Kate have “been planning this all year.”
	Option G is incorrect	Max and Carter may have participated in the New Year’s Eve sand-sculpture contest before, but there is no evidence in the story that Sophie and Kate have built sand castles in other competitions.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no evidence included in the story that suggests the boys or girls have won this contest before.
	Option J is incorrect	In paragraph 42, Carter is not sure what to call the sand sculpture, but Kate comes to the rescue with a name in paragraph 43. This is not a way in which the boys and girls are alike.
7	Option C is correct	At the end of the story, the two teams come together as one and win the competition, supporting the main theme, or central message, that working with others can be better than working on your own.
	Option A is incorrect	Carter mentions hurrying to be on time for judging (paragraph 22), but being on time is not an overall theme of the story.
	Option B is incorrect	Both teams end up winning because they work together, so winning is actually an important part of the theme, making this option incorrect.
	Option D is incorrect	Although Sophie and Kate have shown a good amount of patience by planning their sculpture all year, this is not a theme of the story.
8	Option G is correct	The sentence from paragraph 6 is included to describe how Carter “packed the sand with both hands” and Max “slapped it into a mound.” The author uses these descriptions to appeal to the sense of touch.
	Option F is incorrect	This sentence does not contain any details that appeal to the reader’s sense of touch.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the shapes of different sculptures are described in this sentence, which may appeal to the reader’s sense of sight, the author does not include descriptions that appeal to the sense of touch.
	Option J is incorrect	This sentence does not include details that appeal to the reader’s sense of touch.
9	Option C is correct	This summary successfully includes the major events and key details from the entire story. The first sentence includes events from paragraphs 1 through 10: Carter and Max enter a contest at the beach and are building a sand sculpture. The conflict is described in the second sentence, and the last sentence includes a description of the resolution when the two teams join together to win the competition.
	Option A is incorrect	Important information about the conflict of the story is left out of this option—there is no mention of the girls. The resolution is also omitted, making this summary incomplete.
	Option B is incorrect	The boys’ reaction to the girls’ similar structure, which is the main conflict of the story, is left out of this option. The resolution is also omitted, making this summary incomplete.
	Option D is incorrect	Important details such as the boys’ feelings about the girls’ sculpture are left out of this summary. The resolution is also omitted, making this summary incomplete.
10	Option J is correct	The words “tools to find information” are included to help the reader determine the meaning of <u>resources</u> . In paragraph 4, the author mentions that the star charts and guidebooks are examples of these tools, providing further context for the correct meaning.
	Option F is incorrect	The words “where to look” are related to finding the stars in the sky. These words are not included to provide information about what the word <u>resources</u> means.
	Option G is incorrect	Although there are resources that have information about stars and planets, the words “stars and planets” on their own are not included to help the reader understand the meaning of <u>resources</u> .
	Option H is incorrect	The phrase “what you are seeing” refers to the night sky and is not included to provide context for what <u>resources</u> means.

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Item #	Rationales	
11	Option A is correct	Details in paragraph 1, such as “the land is quiet and dark” and “Everyone gazes up at the night sky,” are included to describe an activity most readers may not have experienced. Star parties are likely not a familiar occurrence in most places, so starting the selection with these ideas helps the reader understand what the activity entails.
	Option B is incorrect	The details are included in paragraph 1 to describe what makes a star party unique; some of the events are not similar to those that take place at another type of party that the reader may have attended.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 1, the author describes the partygoers and the events that take place prior to seeing the stars, not the objects that would be seen in the sky.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 1, the author does not list any items needed for a successful experience at a star party—these items are not mentioned until paragraphs 3 and 4.
12	Option H is correct	The details “to the flashlight” and “with the rubber band” in Step 3 are meant to suggest that the word <u>secure</u> means to “fasten tightly.” The rubber band would hold the plastic or cloth in place on the flashlight.
	Option F is incorrect	Although it says in Step 1 to cut the plastic or cloth, Step 3 does not include directions to cut anything out.
	Option G is incorrect	Although an object could be secured with glue, Step 3 includes directions to secure with a rubber band, which suggests just fastening tightly.
	Option J is incorrect	Step 3 includes directions to “ <u>Secure</u> . . . to the flashlight,” which would indicate fastening something onto the flashlight, not folding something in half on the flashlight.
13	Option B is correct	Paragraph 4 is located in the section “What Are You Staring At?” The paragraph contains information about what star charts are and describes their purpose.
	Option A is incorrect	The reason why star parties take place in the country can be found in paragraph 2, not in the section “What Are You Staring At?”
	Option C is incorrect	The type of weather to expect during a star party is mentioned in paragraph 7, not in the section “What Are You Staring At?”
	Option D is incorrect	The purpose of a red flashlight is explained in paragraph 8, not in the section “What Are You Staring At?”
14	Option J is correct	In paragraph 2, the author explains that star parties do not take place in the cities “Because city skies are usually bright with lights at night.” In the country, there is less light and “stars can be easily seen.”
	Option F is incorrect	In paragraph 1, the author mentions that cars travel up a hill to get to the area where a star party is taking place, but a lack of hills is not the reason why the parties do not usually take place in cities.
	Option G is incorrect	The presence of too many people is not a reason that star parties do not usually take place in cities. The author mentions that “everyone is welcome at a star party” (paragraph 2), which indicates that there could be a large number of people in attendance.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the author mentions that “the land is quiet,” this is not the reason why the star parties take place in the country; it is more about the lack of light than lack of noise.
15	Option A is correct	In paragraph 5, the author explains that stars in a constellation may be grouped into the shape of an animal. Placing the constellation and its outline on top of a picture of a lion helps readers understand how this grouping of stars forms the shape of a lion.
	Option B is incorrect	The diagram is not included to provide any information related to the myth about the constellation Leo.
	Option C is incorrect	The diagram is not included to provide any information about where in the sky the constellation can be found.
	Option D is incorrect	The only name that appears on the diagram is “Leo,” which is the name of the constellation. The stars that make up the constellation are not named in the diagram.

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Item #	Rationales	
16	Option G is correct	The row of pictures is included to show exactly what supplies are needed to make a stargazing flashlight.
	Option F is incorrect	The row of pictures is included to show which supplies are needed, not where to buy the supplies.
	Option H is incorrect	Although a picture of scissors is included in the row of pictures, there is no instruction on how to properly use the scissors.
	Option J is incorrect	The row of pictures is included to help the student understand what supplies are needed, not how long it will take to complete the project.
17	Option B is correct	Cutting the red plastic or cloth is Step 1. The step that immediately follows—Step 2—is placing the material over the lighted end of the flashlight: “Cover the lighted end of the flashlight with the red plastic or cloth.”
	Option A is incorrect	In Step 2, covering the lighted end of the flashlight with the cloth, not placing the cloth next to the flashlight, is mentioned.
	Option C is incorrect	Wrapping the rubber band around the plastic or cloth is Step 3, which comes after covering the lighted end of the flashlight with the plastic or cloth.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the edges do need to be wrapped around the sides of the flashlight, the lighted end of the flashlight must first be covered by the plastic or cloth.
18	Option F is correct	The author wrote this selection most likely to provide information about what happens at star parties. The author begins with a description of what people do during a star party. The author then explains what equipment is used and lists helpful resources to explore, and concludes with tips on how to get ready for a star party.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the author does mention that star parties usually take place in “the country,” there is no specific explanation of how people can find such parties in their area.
	Option H is incorrect	The author does describe what is needed at a star party, but this is a detail included to support the author’s larger purpose of providing information about what happens at star parties.
	Option J is incorrect	Although the author seems enthusiastic about star parties, there is no evidence included to suggest the purpose of the selection is to persuade the reader to attend such a party.
19	Option D is correct	The poet includes the description in lines 9 through 12 to help the reader picture how the mother cat moves a kitten by explaining how the mother cat “turned it [the kitten] over from beneath and took its fur between her teeth.” This sensory language provides a visual image of how she takes the kitten outside.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the kitten’s fur is mentioned in these lines, the description does not include details that help the reader picture what the fur looks like.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no evidence to suggest that the mother is worried about any of her kittens.
	Option C is incorrect	The description included in lines 9 through 12 does not provide any details about where the kittens are kept.
20	Option F is correct	Details included throughout the poem show that the mother cat wants her kittens to be comfortable in the snow. This is summarized in the last lines of the poem: “so when they’re grown they’ll always know to never be afraid of snow.”
	Option G is incorrect	The pet dog is mentioned in line 16, but he helps the mother cat make her kittens comfortable in the snow, not around him.
	Option H is incorrect	The mother cat does pick her kittens up, but she does this in order to bring them outside to become comfortable in the snow.
	Option J is incorrect	In this poem, the speaker seems to be observing the mother cat and her kittens, not interacting with them. The poet does not suggest that the kittens need to become comfortable when near the speaker.
21	Option A is correct	The two words “ago” and “snow” at the ends of these lines rhyme; the words both end with a long /o/ sound.
	Option B is incorrect	The words “it” and “see” do not rhyme.
	Option C is incorrect	The words “dog” and “he” do not rhyme.
	Option D is incorrect	The words “one” and “out” both begin with the letter o, but they do not rhyme.

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Item #	Rationales	
22	Option H is correct	Because the mother cat had kittens “when everything outside was snow,” the kittens have not had a chance to experience the sun. In line 21 (“to see what the sun is all about”), the poet emphasizes that the mother cat wants her kittens to explore new things.
	Option F is incorrect	Although there have been “clouds and storm,” there is no indication that the poet includes line 21 to emphasize that the mother cat knows it will snow again soon.
	Option G is incorrect	The inference that the mother cat has had a bad experience in the winter is not supported by line 21.
	Option J is incorrect	The mother cat does not know whether her kittens will like the snow; she wants them to go out to experience snow without being afraid.
23	Option B is correct	All of the stanzas, or verses, in the poem contain different ideas and images, but the stanzas are similar in that they are all three lines long.
	Option A is incorrect	The speaker’s feelings are not conveyed in the stanzas; the speaker is simply observing.
	Option C is incorrect	The mother cat works to take her kittens outside in the sun and snow in the stanzas, but this is not presented as a problem that she tries to solve.
	Option D is incorrect	Some words such as “and” and “she” are repeated in certain stanzas, but not because the words are important. This is not a way in which all the stanzas are alike.
24	Option J is correct	The speaker realizes that the kittens are going to grow into cats that need to be comfortable in the snow and, therefore, likely believes it wise of the mother cat to give her kittens this experience. This is supported by the last lines of the poem: “so when they’re grown they’ll always know to never be afraid of snow.”
	Option F is incorrect	Although the mother cat is doing something her kittens may not initially enjoy, the speaker most likely does not think she is being brave.
	Option G is incorrect	The speaker seems to understand the reasoning behind the mother cat wanting to take her kittens outside, so there is no confusion.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no evidence in the poem that the speaker thinks the mother cat’s actions are annoying.
25	Option D is correct	The poet tells a complete story from beginning to end, which makes this an example of a narrative poem. A mother cat has kittens and keeps them safe inside until a sunny day allows her, with the help of the pet dog, to take the kittens outside to experience the snow.
	Option A is incorrect	Although there are some words that appeal to the senses, such as “warm” and “snuzzled,” the inclusion of sensory details does not make this a narrative poem.
	Option B is incorrect	In this poem, the speaker does not share his or her feelings.
	Option C is incorrect	There are no lines in the poem that are clearly humorous or meant to make the reader laugh.
26	Option H is correct	Lines 19 through 21 are included to show that the mother cat takes her kittens outside because the sun comes out and she wants to show them what it is like: “and one by one they took them out to see what sun is all about.”
	Option F is incorrect	The dog helps the mother take her kittens outside, but his arrival is not the reason she takes them outside.
	Option G is incorrect	The poet includes the lines at the beginning of the poem (“Our cats had kittens weeks ago”) and line 22 (“so when they’re grown”) to indicate that the kittens are not grown yet.
	Option J is incorrect	Line 15 provides evidence that it is still winter, and that this day just happens to be a winter day when the sun is out.

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Item #	Rationales	
27	Option D is correct	The photograph next to paragraph 1 is included to help the reader understand what tools Taylor uses in the kitchen by featuring various tools, such as a mixer and a cupcake tin.
	Option A is incorrect	No details shown in this photograph help the reader understand why Taylor works many hours.
	Option B is incorrect	No details shown in this photograph help the reader understand how Taylor changes her recipes.
	Option C is incorrect	No details shown in this photograph help the reader understand where Taylor stores her cupcakes.
28	Option F is correct	The context provided in paragraphs 6 and 7 helps readers understand that <u>thriving</u> means Taylor's business is doing well. The author emphasizes the popularity of Taylor's delicious treats, and the use of word "successful" in paragraph 7 provides additional support that <u>thriving</u> means "doing well."
	Option G is incorrect	There is no context to support that <u>thriving</u> means "raising prices."
	Option H is incorrect	The author's use of the word "successful" right before <u>thriving</u> shows that Taylor is not "losing customers" but is instead doing very well.
	Option J is incorrect	There is no indication in paragraph 7 that Taylor intends on moving her business to another place; this is not the meaning of the word <u>thriving</u> .
29	Option A is correct	In the section "Rising to the Challenge," the author explains how Taylor first started her business: "It started with a doll" that Taylor wanted, but she was told she had to earn her own money first. She went on to bake cupcakes in order to raise money to buy the doll.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author mentions that Taylor made a lot of money at her church, this section is mainly about how she made this money to buy her doll, which helped her business get started.
	Option C is incorrect	Although Taylor did ask her parents to buy the doll, this is a detail which supports the main topic of the section: how Taylor started her business.
	Option D is incorrect	In this section, the author does mention that Taylor's parents gave Taylor a loan that she would have to pay back, but the point of this detail is that the loan helped Taylor start her business. Her ability to repay the loan is not the main idea of this section.
30	Option H is correct	In paragraph 4, the author explains that Taylor used her money from the bake sale to buy business cards instead of buying the doll, which supports the conclusion that Taylor became more interested in baking than in the doll she wanted originally.
	Option F is incorrect	In paragraph 4, the author states that Taylor "certainly had made enough money for" the doll, so this conclusion is not supported.
	Option G is incorrect	In paragraph 4, the author explains what Taylor did with the proceeds from her bake sale. There are no details to support the conclusion that she had to find a new location.
	Option J is incorrect	Although Taylor used her father's phone number on the business cards and her father received calls for cupcake orders, there is no evidence in paragraph 4 that Taylor wanted her family to bake the cupcakes.
31	Option A is correct	The author explains that Taylor distributed business cards to attract future customers and that "people started phoning" Taylor's father "to order Taylor's cupcakes."
	Option B is incorrect	The author mentions that Taylor goes to dance class but does not indicate that this was a place where she advertised.
	Option C is incorrect	The author explains that Taylor's father received calls in response to Taylor's business cards; Taylor did not call her father's friends or anyone else.
	Option D is incorrect	The author mentions Taylor's interactions with other chefs but does not state that this was how Taylor informed people of her business.

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Item #	Rationales	
32	Option J is correct	In paragraph 9, the author states that “Taylor uses markers, stickers, and other kinds of decorations to make sure each box looks special for her customers.” This shows that she cares about her customers and wants them to be pleased with their purchase.
	Option F is incorrect	Based on the article, it is clear that Taylor enjoys selling her cupcakes to many people, not just her friends.
	Option G is incorrect	Although Taylor does decorate the boxes, it is implied that she does this more for the customers than for her own enjoyment.
	Option H is incorrect	Although Taylor uses many types of supplies in her business, there is no indication that she needs to improve the way she organizes them.
33	Option B is correct	In paragraph 10, the author states that part of Taylor’s profits go “to help people with dyslexia, a learning disorder that her father has.”
	Option A is incorrect	Taylor still has to do homework despite her business, but getting it done on time is not a result of her success.
	Option C is incorrect	Taylor did eat at a famous chef’s restaurant, but that happened before she became a local star. There are no details to support that she was able to eat at the restaurant due to her success.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the success of Taylor’s business may help Taylor decide what she wants to do when she is older, it does not help others learn what they want to do as adults.
34	Option J is correct	The author wrote this article mainly to tell the reader about the work of Taylor, a young chef—from how she started the business to how she turned the business into a success.
	Option F is incorrect	Although Taylor makes good cupcakes, the article is not meant to tell readers how to do so.
	Option G is incorrect	The author wrote the article to tell about how Taylor started a new business and the success it brought her, not to explain to the reader how to start a business.
	Option H is incorrect	Although Taylor won cooking contests, the purpose of the article is not to show the reader it is fun to win such contests.