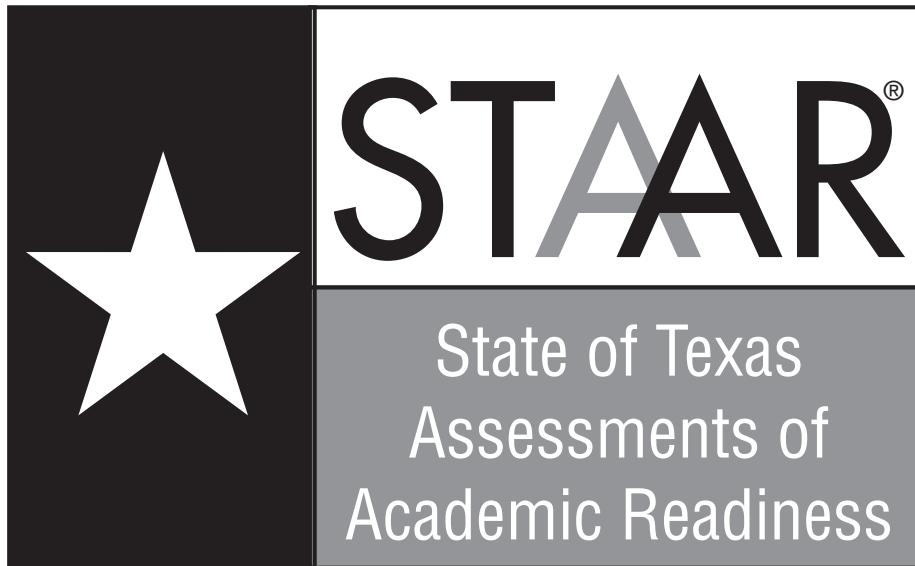


# Texas STAAR 2017 Grade 4 Reading

Exam Materials  
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# **GRADE 4**

## **Reading**

**Administered May 2017**

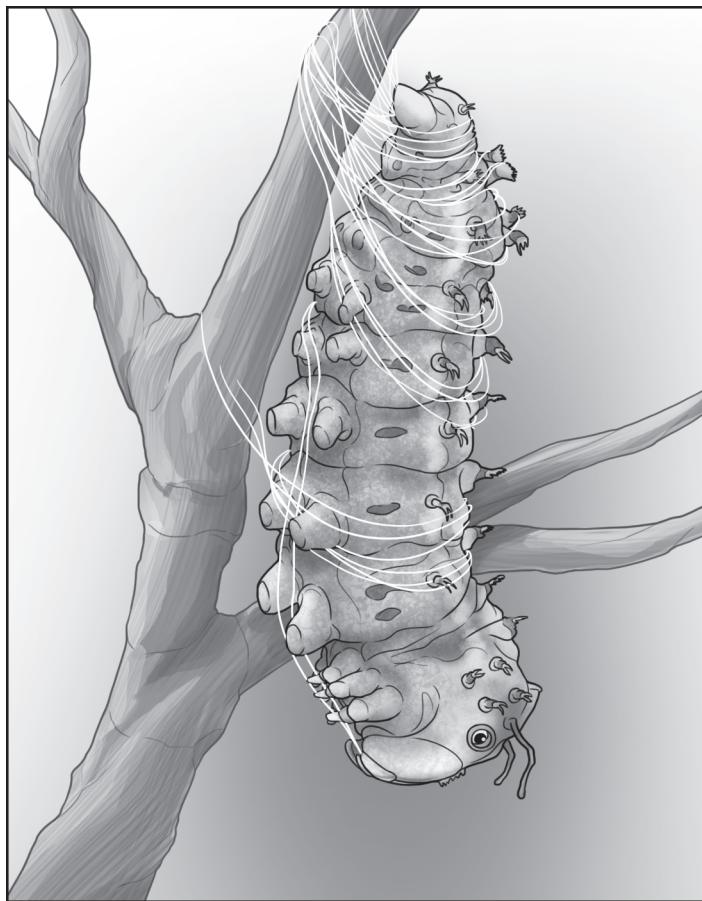
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**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.  
Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

# A Caterpillar's Tale

*by Christine Allison*

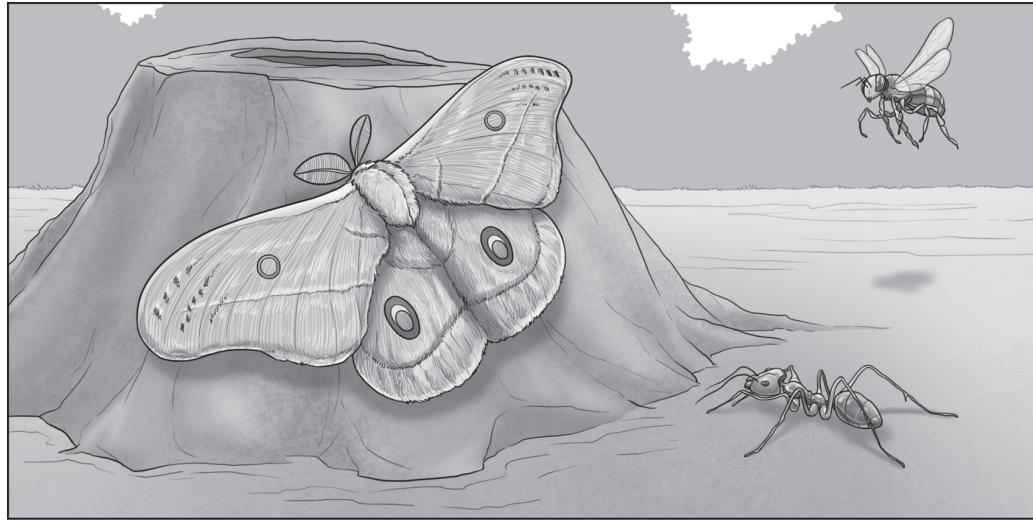
- 1 A caterpillar had crawled up on a twig. It looked the twig over, then fastened itself tightly to it by its hind legs and began twisting itself and moving its head up and down. Every time the caterpillar's head moved, it left behind something that looked like a glistening thread of silk.



- 2 An ant crawling nearby stopped and looked in wonder. "What in the world are you doing?"
- 3 "I'm making a house," the caterpillar said, as it paused to rest for a moment.
- 4 A bee that had lighted close by began to buzz with laughter. "Will you tell me, if you please, what sort of house that is?" he cried.

- 5     "The only sort of house I know how to make," the caterpillar answered humbly.
- 6     "I never heard of anything so absurd. Why don't you hunt about and find a hollow tree or a good hive and live in that? Then you would be safe."
- 7     "Or you might find a hole under a stone," said the ant. "That's a very good place."
- 8     The caterpillar shook its head, then it set to work again.
- 9     The bee and ant went on their way. "A poor sort of house indeed," each one thought.
- 10    Up and down the caterpillar's head moved, weaving and weaving. Now the silk was like a thin, silvery veil. Through the veil you could still faintly see the caterpillar moving.
- 11    At last the veil grew so thick that you could only guess that the caterpillar might still be at work inside. The bee came by that way again and stopped to look at the little house. Then it flew down to the anthill. "Miss Ant, come out here," it buzzed. "I've such a joke to tell you! That caterpillar we were watching has finished its house and has forgotten to leave any door."
- 12    "That's too bad," said the ant. "I'm afraid it will starve."
- 13    But the caterpillar did not die. It was not even hungry. It was fast asleep in its little cocoon house, knowing not whether the sun shone or the rain beat down. It was snug and dark inside.
- 14    Many days and nights passed, and at last what had once been the caterpillar began to stir and wake. "How strange I feel!" said the thing to itself. "I must have light and air!"
- 15    One end of the cocoon was very soft and loose, and through this end what was once the caterpillar pushed its way out. How weak it felt! Fastened to it on each side were two crumpled wet things, which it began to move feebly up and down. As it moved them it felt its strength returning and the crumpled things began to spread and dry. Broader and broader they spread until they were strong, velvety wings, two on each side. They were a lovely soft brown color, with a pinkish border along the edges. In the middle of each of the lower wings was a glistening spot, like the "eye" on a peacock's feather.

- 16 This thing was no caterpillar. It was a beautiful winged moth. Presently it spread its wings and floated softly down to earth. It did not fly far, for it had not its full strength yet. As it happened, it alighted on the anthill, where the ant was busy hunting for food. It stopped its work to stare with awe at the wonderful stranger. "You beautiful thing," said the ant, "where did you come from?"
- 17 "Don't you remember the caterpillar that made its house on the twig above?"
- 18 "Oh, yes, poor thing, it must have died long ago."
- 19 "I am that caterpillar," said the moth gently, as the ant looked at it in wonder.
- 20 Just then the bee who had laughed at the caterpillar's house buzzed by and heard the news. "Well, well!" it said. "So that was what you were about—growing wings in your strange house!"



- 21 The moth stirred itself and said, "Now I must go and find a shelter under a rock or in some hollow tree until the sun goes down. But tonight—ah, tonight! I shall come out to fly wherever I like!" And it waved its great wings and flew softly out of sight.
- 22 The ant and bee sat looking after it. "And to think," cried the bee, "that I didn't understand what the caterpillar was doing! I suppose everyone knows his own business best."

From 365 BEDTIME STORIES: FAIRY TALES, MYTHS, FOLKTALES, FUNNY STORIES, COMFORTING STORIES, HEROIC STORIES, AND MORE by Christine Allison, drawings by Victoria Roberts, copyright © 1998 by Christine Allison and John Boswell Management, Inc. Used by permission of Broadway Books, a division of Random House, Inc.

- 1** The caterpillar’s actions while building its cocoon support the idea that it is —
- A** too impatient to argue with the ant and the bee
  - B** confused by the questions the ant and the bee are asking
  - C** unconcerned about what the ant and the bee think about its house
  - D** afraid to show the ant and the bee the best way to make a house
- 

- 2** Which sentence does the author use to suggest that the caterpillar has experienced an important change?
- F** *Up and down the caterpillar’s head moved, weaving and weaving.*
  - G** *At last the veil grew so thick that you could only guess that the caterpillar might still be at work inside.*
  - H** *But the caterpillar did not die.*
  - J** *Many days and nights passed, and at last what had once been the caterpillar began to stir and wake.*

- 
- 3** Which of the following is the best summary of paragraphs 1 through 9?
- A** An ant and a bee see a caterpillar making a house. Both of them talk to the caterpillar while it works to finish its task the only way it knows how.
  - B** A caterpillar is making a house out of something like silk on a twig. The house is called a cocoon, and it takes a long time to make.
  - C** A caterpillar is making a house for itself. An ant and a bee suggest better places for the caterpillar to live, but the caterpillar continues with its task.
  - D** An ant and a bee watch a caterpillar making a house. They think the caterpillar is having trouble, so they suggest different places for it to live.

**4** In paragraph 6, the word absurd means —

- F** silly
  - G** messy
  - H** difficult
  - J** gloomy
- 

**5** Which sentence from the story shows that the caterpillar is successful at building a good house for itself?

- A** *Every time the caterpillar's head moved, it left behind something that looked like a glistening thread of silk.*
  - B** *Through the veil you could still faintly see the caterpillar moving.*
  - C** *The bee came by that way again and stopped to look at the little house.*
  - D** *It was fast asleep in its little cocoon house, knowing not whether the sun shone or the rain beat down.*
- 

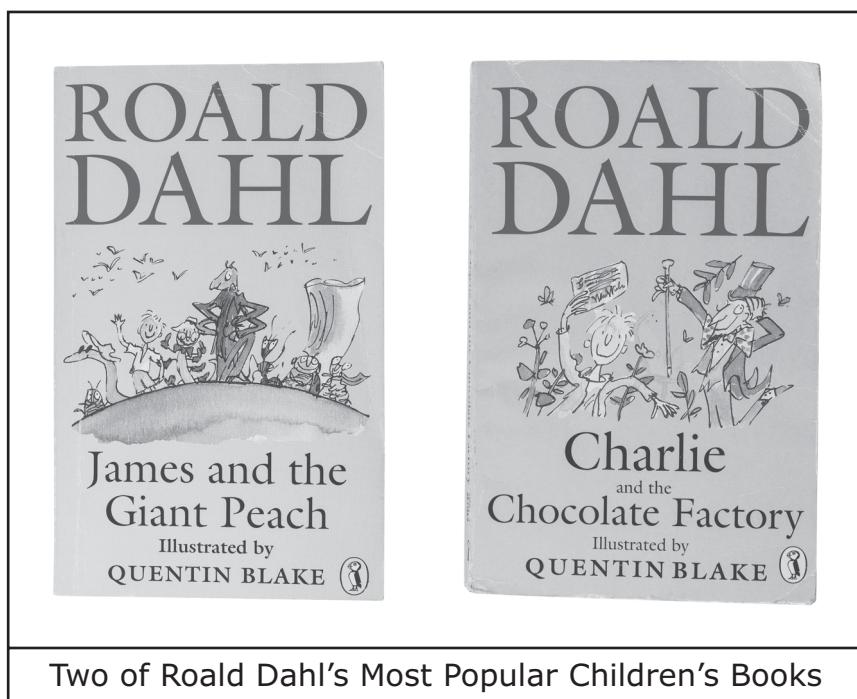
**6** The author includes sensory language and vivid details in paragraph 15 to illustrate how —

- F** quickly moths can move
- G** beautiful the caterpillar has become
- H** strong a cocoon can be
- J** perfectly the caterpillar has built the cocoon

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

## Roald Dahl

- 1 British author Roald Dahl wrote many books. Several have become classics. Kids still read *James and the Giant Peach*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The BFG*, and *Matilda*. While Dahl may be best known as an author of famous children's books, he also had an interesting life unrelated to his writing.
- 2 Adventure wasn't something Dahl just wrote about in his books. He loved adventure and looked for it in his own life. Before he started writing, he traveled to other countries, flew fighter planes, and worked as a spy.
- 3 Dahl was born in 1916 in Wales, a country that is part of the United Kingdom. Dahl's parents named him after one of their heroes, Roald Amundsen. Amundsen enjoyed adventure, too. He led a trip to the South Pole a few years before Roald Dahl was born.



© razorpix/Alamy

- 4 When Dahl was four years old, his father died. His mother thought of moving but decided to stay in Wales. She valued education and wanted Dahl to be a good student. She thought it would be best for him to attend a boarding school<sup>1</sup> in England.

<sup>1</sup>A boarding school is a school where students live during the school year while taking classes.

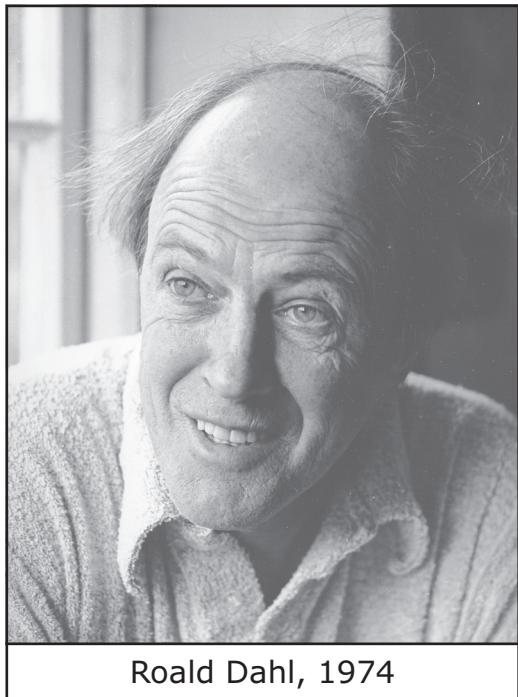
- 5 While attending boarding school, Dahl missed his mother and hated the endless rules. Although he did not like his new school, he did find a few things to enjoy. He realized he was great at sports, and he also developed a love of photography. After graduation Dahl decided to get a job instead of going to college. He worked at the Shell Oil Company and learned new skills. Then the company sent him to East Africa. Dahl soon learned that Africa had many new things to see. Finally, at the age of 18, he was having an adventure!
- 6 After World War II began, Dahl joined the Royal Air Force. He wanted to be a fighter pilot for Great Britain. There was a problem, though: Dahl was very tall—six-and-a-half feet tall. The windscreen on the fighter plane was lower than Dahl's head. It was difficult for Dahl to breathe with the wind blowing in his face. He wore goggles to protect his eyes, but he still had to bend down to take deep breaths every few seconds. This did not stop him from doing what he wanted, though. Dahl tied a thin cotton scarf around his nose and mouth so that he could breathe. Flying came naturally to Dahl, so after several months of training with the Royal Air Force, he was ready to go to battle.
- 7 In 1940, Dahl received instructions to fly to a spot in the North African desert. He looked and looked for the landing strip but could not find it. With the plane running out of fuel, Dahl made a risky decision to land the plane in the desert sand. Although he was terribly hurt, he managed to crawl away. Dahl's recovery took months. Among other things, the crash left him temporarily blind. However, his sight did return, and his body healed. After Dahl was once again fit for duty, he flew in many air battles.
- 8 Later the British government found a new way for Dahl to help his country. Dahl was asked to work as a spy. In his new role Dahl would gather information to help the British war effort.
- 9 While working as a spy, Dahl began to write. Most of his writings were short stories for adults. He wrote spooky stories that often startled readers. The mystery stories were quite popular. He began to write children's stories when he became a father. The first two novels, *James and the Giant Peach* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, began as bedtime stories he shared with his daughters. The books quickly became best sellers. Dahl was able to combine childhood



Roald Dahl  
in Uniform,  
1941

© Bettmann/CORBIS

mischief, suspense, and humor in a way that appealed to children. Although Dahl died in 1990, his books live on and are enjoyed by many children and adults today.



Roald Dahl, 1974

Roald Dahl, 1974 (photo) / Private Collection / Photo © Mark Gerson /  
The Bridgeman Art Library

**7** How was Dahl’s career at the oil company similar to his military career?

- A** Both careers gave Dahl experience as a spy.
  - B** Both careers put Dahl in dangerous situations.
  - C** Both careers required Dahl to have excellent writing skills.
  - D** Both careers presented Dahl with opportunities to learn new skills.
- 

**8** In paragraph 5, the word endless means —

- F** nearing the end
  - G** able to end
  - H** without end
  - J** after the end
- 

**9** The author included the information about Dahl becoming a father to explain —

- A** what types of stories Dahl most enjoyed writing
- B** how Dahl’s children helped him improve his stories
- C** when Dahl decided to become a writer
- D** why Dahl was inspired to write children’s literature

**10** The photographs of two of Dahl’s books after paragraph 3 are included most likely to —

- F** suggest that they were the first stories written by Dahl
  - G** encourage the reader to buy the books that Dahl wrote for his daughters
  - H** show which books Dahl wrote while he was a spy
  - J** show examples of Dahl’s books that the reader may recognize
- 

**11** The author organizes the selection by —

- A** listing Dahl’s accomplishments as a writer
  - B** comparing Dahl’s life as a fighter pilot to his life as a writer
  - C** describing Dahl’s life from his childhood through his adulthood
  - D** explaining how Dahl’s job at the Shell Oil Company led to new discoveries
- 

**12** Which sentence from the selection best shows that Dahl was a daring person?

- F** *While Dahl may be best known as an author of famous children’s books, he also had an interesting life unrelated to his writing.*
- G** *Before he started writing, he traveled to other countries, flew fighter planes, and worked as a spy.*
- H** *Dahl soon learned that Africa had many new things to see.*
- J** *The mystery stories were quite popular.*

**Read the next two selections. Then choose the best answer to each question.**



**PAWPRINTS**  
A great source for animal news

**Vol. 2, Issue 6**      **Read about animal helpers in this issue!**

## Ricochet: The Dog Who Surfs to Raise Funds

- 1 A dog on a surfboard is something you might enjoy seeing in a funny video. But would you believe that a real surfing dog could help raise money for those in need? A golden retriever named Ricochet is using her special talents to do just that.
- 2 Ricochet's trainer started coaching her to become a service dog when she was a puppy. Ricochet did well at many tasks during training. She learned how to turn on lights, tug open doors, and do other jobs. These skills would help her to assist a person with special needs. However, Ricochet had a bad habit that caused her to fail service dog training. She liked to chase birds. While this energetic activity might seem cute, it made Ricochet unfit to assist a person with special needs.

### **Surfing for a Cause**

- 3 Judy Fridono, the dog's trainer, concentrated on Ricochet's positive qualities. Like most retrievers, Ricochet loved water, so Fridono took her to the beach. Ricochet quickly became good at surfing. Her talent got people's attention. Fridono decided that instead of being a service dog, Ricochet would become a "SURFice" dog. The idea was that Ricochet could use her surfing talent to raise money to help people.
- 4 Ricochet's first fund-raiser was in 2009. She starred at a benefit to help a teenager named Patrick. Patrick was unable to walk, but he had always dreamed of surfing. At the benefit, Patrick and Ricochet were supposed to use their own surfboards. Ricochet decided to hop on Patrick's board, however. They surfed together, and thrilled spectators donated more than \$10,000. The money helped pay for Patrick's physical therapy and his own service dog.

- 5 Encouraged by this event, Fridono started the organization Surfin' for Paws-abilities. Ricochet now travels to different locations and surfs at events to raise money for the organization that helps people in need.



© AP Images/Lenny Ignelzi

Ricochet surfs with Patrick at a fund-raising event in 2009.

### A Talented Fund-Raiser

- 6 Ricochet also raises funds and awareness for many causes that help both people and animals. She's surfed to earn money to buy pet oxygen masks for fire departments. She's surfed at fund-raisers to help fight human and animal cancer. She's even shown off her surfing skills to raise money to buy teddy bears for children in hospitals and people in nursing homes. It should not be surprising that she has also surfed to raise money to supply food for animal shelters.
- 7 As of 2012, this amazing dog has raised \$250,000 to help those in need.

# Confetti, the Helpful Horse

- 1 Dogs have been used as guides for a long time. They are the most common type of guide animal. Many people who are blind rely on a dog to help with daily activities. Cheryl Spencer used to depend on a guide dog named Delta to help her. When Delta became unable to work, Spencer learned that some people use miniature horses as guides. At first, Spencer thought this idea was silly. But after learning more, she started looking for a guide horse.
- 2 First Spencer found someone who could train a guide horse. Then she set about finding just the right horse. In 2002 she e-mailed all the nearby miniature-horse farms looking for a horse, 26 inches tall at most, to be trained as her guide. She received an e-mail from a horse breeder named Barbara McDermott saying that the only horse McDermott had that might work was her favorite, Confetti, who was 27 inches tall. McDermott wasn't willing to give Confetti away at first, but Spencer was persistent. After Spencer explained her situation to McDermott, she asked to meet Confetti. A few days later Spencer, her husband, and her horse trainer visited McDermott's ranch.
- 3 When Spencer first met Confetti, she immediately knew the horse would be perfect for her. The trainer also thought Confetti would be a good guide. Even McDermott could see that Spencer was already quite fond of the horse. She agreed to allow Confetti to become Spencer's full-time guide.



© Courtesy of Cookie Serletic

- 4 Weighing 150 pounds, Confetti is the size of an extremely large dog. She goes everywhere a guide dog would. She even has a "horsey door" so she can go in and out of the house when she wants. Confetti

sleeps in Spencer's closet and eats in the laundry room. When Spencer and her husband eat at a restaurant, Confetti goes with them. Confetti has flown to Boston and has even been to Walt Disney World®!

- 5 Confetti is only the third horse to be used as a guide animal in the United States. As guides, miniature horses have some advantages over dogs. Most guide dogs can work for only 8 to 10 years, but a horse can work for up to 30 years. These horses have excellent vision, are quick learners, and are gentle and smart. These qualities make them good guide animals and great helpers for people like Spencer.

*Third party trademark Walt Disney World® was used in these testing materials.*

**Use “Ricochet: The Dog Who Surfs to Raise Funds” (pp. 12–13) to answer questions 13–16. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.**

**13** What prevented Ricochet from becoming a service animal?

- A** She was distracted by birds.
  - B** She had to get on a surfboard.
  - C** She had to learn how to open doors.
  - D** She received too much attention from people.
- 

**14** The author wrote this article most likely to —

- F** convince the reader to support the work that dogs do for others
- G** inform the reader about the special work of an unusual dog
- H** explain to the reader how a dog becomes a service animal
- J** teach the reader how to train dogs to surf

**15** What information is included in the section titled “A Talented Fund-Raiser”?

- A** Some of the causes that Ricochet has helped
  - B** A description of how Ricochet learned to surf
  - C** An explanation of why Ricochet could not be a service dog
  - D** A story about the first time Ricochet surfed to raise money
- 

**16** What is the best summary of the article?

- F** Ricochet can surf very well. She helps many people and animals who are in need. She has helped buy pet oxygen masks for fire departments. She has also helped raise money for teddy bears for children in hospitals and people in nursing homes.
- G** Many people have watched Ricochet surf. The first time the dog surfed for a cause, she hopped on the back of a boy’s surfboard. People were amazed. Because of this, they gave money for the boy to get his own service dog.
- H** Ricochet helps people and animals by participating in fund-raising events. She helps out by surfing, even though she is a dog. The first person she helped was a boy named Patrick who had always dreamed of surfing even though he could not walk.
- J** Ricochet was training to be a service dog but did not qualify. Instead, she learned to surf, and her trainer realized that she could help others with this unusual skill. Today, Ricochet surfs for an organization that raises money for different causes.

**Use “Confetti, the Helpful Horse” (pp. 14–15) to answer questions 17–20.  
Then fill in the answers on your answer document.**

- 17** Read the dictionary entry for the word common.

**common** \'kä-mən\ *adjective*  
**1.** shared by people or groups  
**2.** regularly seen or used  
**3.** expected actions or behavior  
**4.** not having wealth or privilege

Which definition best matches the way common is used in paragraph 1?

- A** Definition 1
  - B** Definition 2
  - C** Definition 3
  - D** Definition 4
- 

- 18** The reader can conclude that McDermott most likely —

- F** thinks horses are better guide animals than dogs
- G** enjoys helping others find guide animals to help them
- H** believed Confetti needed more training to help Spencer
- J** misses Confetti but is happy that the horse can help Spencer

**19** The author included paragraph 4 of the selection to —

- A** explain what Confetti does when she is not working
  - B** demonstrate that Confetti is a friendly guide horse
  - C** describe what Confetti’s life is like with Spencer
  - D** show that Confetti is able to take care of herself
- 

**20** What is the main idea of the selection?

- F** Spencer spent a long time trying to find a guide horse to help her.
- G** Confetti is a miniature horse that has become a wonderful guide animal.
- H** Guide horses must be trained before they can help people with special needs.
- J** Confetti is a lot like a dog and can go anywhere a guide dog can go.

**Use “Ricochet: The Dog Who Surfs to Raise Funds” and “Confetti, the Helpful Horse” to answer questions 21–24. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.**

**21** One **difference** between Ricochet and Confetti is that Ricochet —

- A** helps a person with special needs
  - B** has an owner who cares about her
  - C** was unsuccessful at becoming a guide animal
  - D** had to learn to do something before helping others
- 

**22** Both selections express the importance of —

- F** making animals famous
- G** making new friends
- H** teaching about animals
- J** caring for those in need

**23** Which sentence best describes a **difference** between Ricochet and Confetti?

- A** Ricochet required training, but Confetti did not.
  - B** Ricochet helps many people, but Confetti helps one person.
  - C** Ricochet spends time outdoors, but Confetti works indoors.
  - D** Ricochet does not notice other animals, but Confetti does.
- 

**24** What is one **difference** between the animals featured in the two selections?

- F** Ricochet was able to stay with her owner, but Confetti had to leave her owner in order to do her job.
- G** Ricochet's duties are typical for a service animal, but Confetti performs tasks that are not usually done by an animal.
- H** Ricochet's owner believed she would make a good guide animal, but Confetti's owner worried that she would not make a good guide animal.
- J** Ricochet must stay at home with her trainer, but Confetti travels as part of her job.

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

## **Lengths of Time**

*by Phyllis McGinley*

Time is peculiar  
And hardly exact.  
Though minutes are minutes,  
You'll find for a fact

- 5 (As the older you get  
And the bigger you grow)  
That time can  
Hurrylikethis  
Or plod, plod, slow.

- 10 Waiting for your dinner when you're hungry?  
Down with the sniffles in your bed?  
Notice how an hour crawls along and crawls along  
Like a snail with his house upon his head.

- But when you are starting  
15 A game in the park,  
It's morning,  
It's noon,  
And suddenly it's dark.  
And hours like seconds  
20 Rush blurringly by,  
Whoosh!  
Like a plane in the sky.

Copyright © 1965, 1966 by Phyllis McGinley. Copyright renewed © 1993, 1994 by Patricia Blake. First appeared in *Wonderful Time*, published by J. B. Lippincott. Reprinted by permission of Curtis Brown, Ltd.

**25** Read line 8 from the poem.

Hurrylikethis

The lack of spaces between the words creates a sense of —

- A** mystery
  - B** feeling rushed
  - C** happiness
  - D** feeling surprised
- 

**26** What is the message of this poem?

- F** Time moves at the same pace no matter what is happening.
  - G** Time seems to pass more quickly in the morning than in the evening.
  - H** The passage of time is usually noticed more by older people than by younger people.
  - J** Time seems to pass at different speeds depending on what we are doing.
- 

**27** How is line 21 important to the poem?

- A** It shows that the speaker is confused.
- B** It shows that the speaker has to leave.
- C** It suggests that the speaker is having fun.
- D** It uses a sound to describe the speaker's experience.

**28** In line 1 of the poem, what does the word peculiar mean?

- F** Strange
  - G** Certain
  - H** Sensible
  - J** Cautious
- 

**29** Read line 12 from the poem.

Notice how an hour crawls along and crawls along

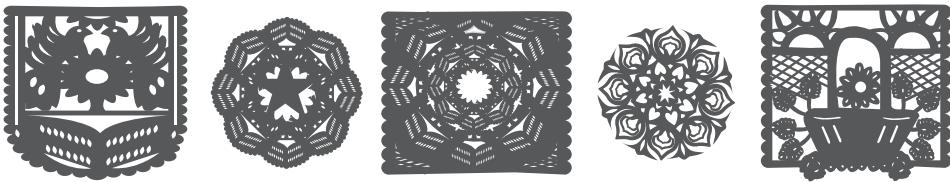
Which of these does the poet use in line 12 to help the reader understand that time seems to pass slowly?

- A** Repetition
  - B** Meter
  - C** A line break
  - D** Rhyme
- 

**30** The first stanza is important to the poem because it —

- F** describes an experience the speaker enjoys
- G** introduces the subject of the poem
- H** identifies the setting of the poem
- J** reveals the speaker's feelings

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



## **Papel Picado**

- 1 *Papel picado* is a beautiful and delicate form of paper art. This art form began in Mexico, possibly as early as the sixteenth century. However, the thin tissue paper used to make the designs did not come from Mexico but from China. This paper was first introduced to Mexico when items shipped from China were wrapped in it to protect them from breaking. People living in Mexico soon had a lot of this tissue paper, and they began using it to make decorations. The paper art continues to be popular to this day.



*Papel Picado Banners*

© iStockphoto.com/Graffizone

### **What Does *Papel Picado* Mean?**

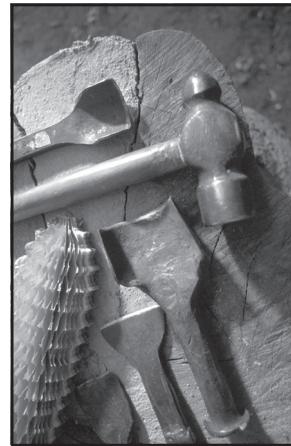
- 2 In Spanish, *papel* means “paper,” and *picado* means “punched.” It is clear that *papel picado* is a fitting name for this art form. After all, it is created by cutting, pressing, or punching designs into layers of tissue paper. The designs reflect the values and traditions of the Mexican people. They include images of people, animals, flowers, lettering, and any design that has special meaning to the artist.

## **How Is *Papel Picado* Made?**

- 3 To make *papel picado*, artists first draw the pattern for the art. Next they stack thin sheets of colorful tissue paper in a pile and lay them on a hard surface. Depending on the project, as few as five sheets or as many as 50 or more sheets may be used. Stacking many sheets of paper allows the artists to create the same pattern on all the sheets at the same time. Once the paper is stacked, the pattern is placed on top of the stack of tissue paper to help the artists make the design.
- 4 The artists then use sharp chisels to cut through the layers of tissue paper. After they cut the desired shapes in the paper, the artists carefully remove the cutout pieces. The punched-out spaces that remain in the tissue paper create the beautiful designs.

## **How Is *Papel Picado* Used Today?**

- 5 People today often string separate sheets of tissue paper together into long, colorful banners. Then the art is hung in windows and across doorways or narrow streets. *Papel picado* banners are used as decorations at celebrations and during special holidays. The banners may be displayed at weddings, birthday parties, and other festive events. The colors and designs are chosen especially for the occasion. On a *papel picado* wedding banner, for example, hearts and the names of the bride and groom may be part of the design.
- 6 As with other forms of art, people would like to preserve the delicate tissue cuttings and enjoy them for years. However, because the tissue paper is very delicate, it tears easily. If *papel picado* is displayed outside, the tissue will fade, crumble, and fall apart. In order to create art that will last longer, some *papel picado* artists have started using thicker paper, coated paper, sheets of metal, or sheets of plastic. No matter what material is used, people will continue to appreciate displays of *papel picado*.

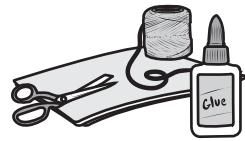


Special tools are used to cut designs into the paper.

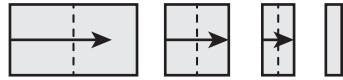
© Danita Delimont/Alamy

## An Easy Way to Make Your Own *Papel Picado*

1. Gather the materials you will need.
  - Several sheets of tissue paper
  - Scissors
  - String
  - White glue



2. Stack a few sheets of paper and fold them in half vertically. Then fold the stack vertically two more times.



3. To make the design, cut shapes into three sides of the folded tissue paper (two long sides and one short side). Leave some space between each cutout shape.



4. Open the tissue paper carefully and flatten.



5. Place the flattened sheets of tissue paper on a flat surface. The straight edge of each panel should be at the top.



6. Make a thin line of glue  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from the top. Lay a piece of string on the glue. Leave some extra string at each end so you can hang the banner when it is finished. Fold the top  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of tissue paper over the string. Press firmly and allow the glue to dry.



7. Now your very own *papel picado* banner is ready to be displayed!

**31** The photograph under paragraph 1 suggests that —

- A** artists who make *papel picado* need many years of training
  - B** making *papel picado* is something that a person must do alone
  - C** artists use detailed designs for *papel picado*
  - D** making *papel picado* requires only a short amount of time to complete
- 

**32** Which sentence from the selection expresses an opinion?

- F** Papel picado is a beautiful and delicate form of paper art.
  - G** In Spanish, papel means “paper,” and picado means “punched.”
  - H** To make papel picado, artists first draw the pattern for the art.
  - J** The artists then use sharp chisels to cut through the layers of tissue paper.
- 

**33** The author includes paragraph 6 most likely to —

- A** inform the reader of places where *papel picado* should not be displayed
- B** describe different reasons that people like *papel picado*
- C** tell the reader where to find the materials needed to create *papel picado*
- D** explain how a problem with *papel picado* has been solved

**34** According to the section titled “An Easy Way to Make Your Own *Papel Picado*,” what should a person do just before unfolding the paper?

- F** Glue the paper
  - G** Hang the string
  - H** Cut the paper
  - J** Draw the design
- 

**35** Which sentence from the selection explains why artists first created *papel picado*?

- A** *People living in Mexico soon had a lot of this tissue paper, and they began using it to make decorations.*
  - B** *They include images of people, animals, flowers, lettering, and any design that has special meaning to the artist.*
  - C** *Stacking many sheets of paper allows the artists to create the same pattern on all the sheets at the same time.*
  - D** *On a papel picado wedding banner, for example, hearts and the names of the bride and groom may be part of the design.*
- 

**36** In which section would the reader find information about occasions where *papel picado* is often displayed?

- F** What Does *Papel Picado* Mean?
- G** How Is *Papel Picado* Made?
- H** How Is *Papel Picado* Used Today?
- J** An Easy Way to Make Your Own *Papel Picado*



Item Number	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting	Content Student Expectation	Correct Answer
1	2	Readiness	4.6(B)	C
2	2	Readiness	4.6 Fig. 19(D)	J
3	2	Readiness	4.6(A)	C
4	1	Readiness	4.2(B)	F
5	2	Readiness	4.6 Fig. 19(D)	D
6	2	Readiness	4.8 Fig. 19(D)	G
7	2	Supporting	4.7 Fig. 19(D)	D
8	1	Readiness	4.2(A)	H
9	2	Supporting	4.7 Fig. 19(D)	D
10	2	Supporting	4.14 Fig. 19(D)	J
11	2	Supporting	4.7 Fig. 19(D)	C
12	2	Supporting	4.7 Fig. 19(D)	G
13	3	Readiness	4.11(A)	A
14	3	Readiness	4.10 Fig. 19(D)	G
15	3	Readiness	4.11(D)	A
16	3	Readiness	4.11 Fig. 19(E)	J
17	1	Readiness	4.2(E)	B
18	3	Readiness	4.11 Fig. 19(D)	J
19	3	Readiness	4.10 Fig. 19(D)	C
20	3	Readiness	4.11(A)	G
21	1	Readiness	4.19(F)	C
22	1	Readiness	4.19(F)	J
23	1	Readiness	4.19(F)	B
24	1	Readiness	4.19(F)	F
25	2	Supporting	4.4(A)	B
26	2	Supporting	4.3 Fig. 19(D)	J
27	2	Supporting	4.8 Fig. 19(D)	D
28	1	Readiness	4.2(B)	F
29	2	Supporting	4.4(A)	A
30	2	Supporting	4.4 Fig. 19(D)	G
31	3	Supporting	4.14 Fig. 19(D)	C
32	3	Supporting	4.11(B)	F
33	3	Readiness	4.10 Fig. 19(D)	D
34	3	Supporting	4.13(A)	H
35	3	Readiness	4.11(C)	A
36	3	Readiness	4.11(D)	H

## 2017 STAAR Grade 4 Reading Rationales

Item #	Response A/F	Response B/G	Response C/H	Response D/J
1	A is incorrect because the caterpillar's humble responses do not support the idea that it is too impatient to argue with the ant and the bee.	B is incorrect because the caterpillar's actions while building its cocoon do not support the idea that it is confused by the questions the ant and the bee are asking.	C is correct because the caterpillar's actions while building its cocoon support the idea that it is unconcerned about what the ant and the bee think about its house.	D is incorrect because the caterpillar's actions while building its cocoon do not support the idea that it is afraid to show the ant and the bee the best way to make a house.
2	F is incorrect because this sentence does not suggest that the caterpillar has experienced an important change.	G is incorrect because this sentence does not suggest that the caterpillar has experienced an important change.	H is incorrect because this sentence does not suggest that the caterpillar has experienced an important change.	J is correct because the text indicates time has passed and "what had once been the caterpillar" has now experienced an important change.
3	A is incorrect because it is not a brief statement of the main details of paragraphs 1 through 9.	B is incorrect because this brief statement lists details that are not included in paragraphs 1 through 9.	C is correct because it is a brief statement of the main details of paragraphs 1 through 9.	D is incorrect because it is not a brief statement of the main details of paragraphs 1 through 9.
4	F is correct because "silly" is a synonym for the word "absurd."	G is incorrect because "absurd" does not mean "messy."	H is incorrect because "absurd" does not mean "difficult."	J is incorrect because "absurd" does not mean "gloomy."
5	A is incorrect because this sentence does not show that the caterpillar is successful at building a good house for itself.	B is incorrect because this sentence does not show that the caterpillar is successful at building a good house for itself.	C is incorrect because this sentence does not show that the caterpillar is successful at building a good house for itself.	D is correct because this sentence shows that the caterpillar is successful at building a good house for itself.
6	F is incorrect because paragraph 15 does not illustrate how quickly moths can move.	G is correct because the sensory language and vivid details in paragraph 15 illustrate how beautiful the caterpillar has become.	H is incorrect because paragraph 15 does not illustrate how strong a cocoon can be.	J is incorrect because paragraph 15 does not illustrate how perfectly the caterpillar has built the cocoon.
7	A is incorrect because both careers did not give Dahl experience as a spy.	B is incorrect because both careers did not put Dahl in dangerous situations.	C is incorrect because there is no mention that both careers required excellent writing skills.	D is correct because both careers presented Dahl with opportunities to learn new skills.
8	F is incorrect because the word "endless" does not mean "nearing the end."	G is incorrect because the word "endless" does not mean "able to end."	H is correct because the suffix -less means "without."	J is incorrect because the word "endless" does not mean "after the end."
9	A is incorrect because Dahl becoming a father does not explain what types of stories Dahl enjoyed writing.	B is incorrect because Dahl becoming a father does not explain how Dahl's children helped him improve his stories.	C is incorrect because Dahl becoming a father does not explain when Dahl decided to become a writer.	D is correct because what began as bedtime stories for his daughters quickly became famous children's books.
10	F is incorrect because the photographs do not suggest that the books were the first stories written by Dahl.	G is incorrect because the photographs do not encourage the reader to buy the books that Dahl wrote.	H is incorrect because the photographs do not show which books Dahl wrote while he was a spy.	J is correct because the photographs show examples of Dahl's books that the reader may recognize.
11	A is incorrect because the author does not organize the selection by listing Dahl's accomplishments as a writer.	B is incorrect because the author does not organize the selection by comparing Dahl's life as a pilot to his life as a writer.	C is correct because the author organizes the selection by describing Dahl's life from childhood through adulthood.	D is incorrect because the author does not organize the selection by explaining how Dahl's job at the Shell Oil Company led to new discoveries.
12	F is incorrect because this sentence does not show that Dahl was a daring person.	G is correct because this sentence gives examples that Dahl was a daring person.	H is incorrect because this sentence does not show that Dahl was a daring person.	J is incorrect because this sentence does not show that Dahl was a daring person.

## 2017 STAAR Grade 4 Reading Rationales

Item #	Response A/F	Response B/G	Response C/H	Response D/J
13	A is correct because paragraph 2 states that Ricochet liked to chase birds, which caused her to fail service dog training.	B is incorrect because getting on a surfboard was not a skill Ricochet needed to learn in order to become a service animal.	C is incorrect because learning how to open doors was not what prevented Ricochet from becoming a service animal.	D is incorrect because receiving attention from people did not prevent Ricochet from becoming a service animal.
14	F is incorrect because the author did not write this article to convince the reader to support the work that dogs do for others.	G is correct because the author informs the reader about how one dog is using her special talents to raise funds that help both people and animals.	H is incorrect because the author does not explain the process of how a dog becomes a service animal.	J is incorrect because the author does not teach the reader how to train dogs to surf.
15	A is correct because paragraph 6 lists some of the causes Ricochet has helped.	B is incorrect because paragraphs 6 and 7 do not describe how Ricochet learned to surf.	C is incorrect because paragraphs 6 and 7 do not explain why Ricochet could not be a service dog.	D is incorrect because paragraphs 6 and 7 do not tell a story about the first time Ricochet surfed to raise money.
16	F is incorrect because this summary only lists a few details of some of the causes that Ricochet has helped.	G is incorrect because this summary addresses only one section of the article.	H is incorrect because this summary addresses only the first time Ricochet surfed to raise money.	J is correct because this summary is a brief statement of the main details of the article from beginning to end.
17	A is incorrect because definition 1 does not match the way "common" is used in paragraph 1.	B is correct because definition 2 best matches the way "common" is used in paragraph 1.	C is incorrect because definition 3 does not match the way "common" is used in paragraph 1.	D is incorrect because definition 4 does not match the way "common" is used in paragraph 1.
18	F is incorrect because there is no evidence to support the conclusion that McDermott thinks horses are better guide animals than dogs.	G is incorrect because there is no evidence to support the conclusion that McDermott helps others find guide animals.	H is incorrect because there is no evidence to support the conclusion that McDermott believed Confetti needed more training.	J is correct because the reader can conclude that McDermott misses Confetti but is happy that the horse can help Spencer.
19	A is incorrect because paragraph 4 does not explain what Confetti does when she is not working.	B is incorrect because paragraph 4 does not demonstrate that Confetti is a friendly guide horse.	C is correct because paragraph 4 describes what Confetti's life is like living with Spencer.	D is incorrect because paragraph 4 does not show that Confetti is able to take care of herself.
20	F is incorrect because there are not enough details to support this as the main idea.	G is correct because the title and the details in the selection support that Confetti has become a wonderful guide animal.	H is incorrect because there are not enough details to support this as the main idea.	J is incorrect because there are not enough details to support this as the main idea.
21	A is incorrect because both Ricochet and Confetti help a person with special needs.	B is incorrect because both Ricochet and Confetti have owners that care about them.	C is correct because Ricochet's "energetic activity" made her unfit at becoming a guide animal.	D is incorrect because both Ricochet and Confetti obtained their special skill by learning it first before helping others.
22	F is incorrect because neither selection expresses the importance of making animals famous.	G is incorrect because although both animals made a new friend in the people they helped, it is not expressed as important in both selections.	H is incorrect because neither selection expresses the importance of teaching about animals.	J is correct because the overall importance of both selections is caring for those with special needs.
23	A is incorrect because both Ricochet and Confetti did require special training in order to help others with special needs.	B is correct because Ricochet raises money for many causes that help both people and animals, while Confetti is a full-time guide for one person.	C is incorrect because both Ricochet and Confetti spend time outdoors helping people with special needs.	D is incorrect because Ricochet notices birds, which is why she could not be a service animal.

## 2017 STAAR Grade 4 Reading Rationales

Item #	Response A/F	Response B/G	Response C/H	Response D/J
24	F is correct because Ricochet was able to stay with her original owner, but Confetti had to leave her original owner in order to become a guide animal.	G is incorrect because Ricochet's talents are unusual, but Confetti performs the same tasks as a guide dog.	H is incorrect because there is no evidence to support that Confetti's owner worried that she would not make a good guide animal.	J is incorrect because both Ricochet and Confetti travel with their owners in order to help people with special needs.
25	A is incorrect because the lack of spaces between the words does not create a sense of mystery.	B is correct because the lack of spaces between the words creates a sense of feeling rushed.	C is incorrect because the lack of spaces between the words does not create a sense of happiness.	D is incorrect because the lack of spaces between the words does not create a sense of feeling surprised.
26	F is incorrect because the message of the poem is not about time moving at the same pace no matter what is happening.	G is incorrect because the message of the poem is not about time passing more quickly in the morning than in the evening.	H is incorrect because the message of the poem is not about the passage of time being noticed more by older people than younger people.	J is correct because the message of the poem is time seems to pass at different speeds depending on what we are doing.
27	A is incorrect because line 21 does not show that the speaker is confused.	B is incorrect because line 21 does not show that the speaker has to leave.	C is incorrect because line 21 does not suggest that the speaker is having fun.	D is correct because line 21 uses a sound to describe the speaker's sense of time passing quickly.
28	F is correct because the word "peculiar" introduces the strangeness of time.	G is incorrect because the word "peculiar" does not show how time is "certain."	H is incorrect because the word "peculiar" does not show how time is "sensible."	J is incorrect because the word "peculiar" does not show how time is "cautious."
29	A is correct because the repetition of "crawl along" helps the reader understand that time seems to pass slowly.	B is incorrect because line 12 is not an example of meter.	C is incorrect because line 12 is not an example of a line break.	D is incorrect because line 12 is not an example of rhyme.
30	F is incorrect because the first stanza does not describe an experience the speaker enjoys.	G is correct because the first stanza introduces time as the subject of the poem.	H is incorrect because the first stanza does not identify the setting of the poem.	J is incorrect because the first stanza does not reveal the speaker's feelings.
31	A is incorrect because the picture does not show the number of years artists train.	B is incorrect because the picture does not show a person working alone.	C is correct because the picture shows the designs for <i>papel picado</i> .	D is incorrect because the picture does not show the amount of time needed to make <i>papel picado</i> .
32	F is correct because the word <i>beautiful</i> is an opinion, which can not be proven.	G is incorrect because this is a fact that can be proven to be true.	H is incorrect because this is a fact that can be proven to be true.	J is incorrect because this is a fact that can be proven to be true.
33	A is incorrect because paragraph 6 does not provide information where <i>papel picado</i> can be displayed.	B is incorrect because paragraph 6 does not provide reasons why people like <i>papel picado</i> .	C is incorrect because paragraph 6 does not tell where materials can be found for <i>papel picado</i> .	D is correct because paragraph 6 begins with the problem of preserving the art, and then explains how artists solved the problem.
34	F is incorrect because unfolding the paper is in step 4 and putting glue on the paper is after step 4.	G is incorrect because unfolding the paper is in step 4 and using string is after step 4.	H is correct because unfolding the paper is in step 4 and cutting the paper is just before in step 3.	J is incorrect because this section does not include drawing the design.
35	A is correct because paragraph 1 explains that people had a lot of the paper that made <i>papel picado</i> and that's why they began to create it.	B is incorrect because it explains how the design looked and not why the artists created <i>papel picado</i> .	C is incorrect because it explains the same patterns used in <i>papel picado</i> but not why it was created.	D is incorrect because it gives an example of how a wedding banner is designed and not why artists created <i>papel picado</i> .

## 2017 STAAR Grade 4 Reading Rationales

Item #	Response A/F	Response B/G	Response C/H	Response D/J
36	F is incorrect because this section tells the meaning of <i>papel picado</i> and not about when it is displayed.	G is incorrect because this section tells how <i>papel picado</i> is made and not when it is displayed.	H is correct because paragraph 5 provides examples of when <i>papel picado</i> is used such as holidays, birthdays, and other events.	J is incorrect because this section gives directions on making <i>papel picado</i> and not when it is displayed.