

## 2021 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
1	Option B is correct	In paragraph 28, the author highlights that Elena feels upset about spoiling Marcos's surprise. Picking at her food and being quiet while everyone else is talking are signs that Elena is upset, and her behavior will lead to the story's climax.
	Option A is incorrect	Quietness can be mistaken for shyness, but there is no reason Elena would feel shy at a family dinner.
	Option C is incorrect	The family eats dinner together, but in paragraph 28, the author focuses on Elena's discomfort, not the family's enjoyment from spending time together.
	Option D is incorrect	Elena is feeling upset because she has realized it is her own fault the surprise was spoiled, not her mother's.
2	Option F is correct	Personification is a type of figurative language where human characteristics are applied to something that is not alive. In this sentence, the author describes the cookies' aroma as "[whispering]" to Marcos, revealing that the surprise is ruined, and Mom is expecting him.
	Option G is incorrect	Mom does know what Marcos likes to eat, but the personification of the cookies' aroma whispering to Marcos tells him that his mother was prepared for his arrival.
	Option H is incorrect	The emphasis of this sentence is on Marcos, so what Elena wishes for is not revealed by the use of personification.
	Option J is incorrect	Marcos may feel welcomed, but the personification of the cookies' aroma is used to indicate that "his visit was no surprise."

2021 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

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3	Option C is correct	Point of view is the perspective from which the events in the story are told. In this story, third-person limited point of view is used, meaning the author tells the story from a single character's (Elena's) point of view, so the reader can only know how Elena feels about her actions.
	Option A is incorrect	The author only reveals Elena's thoughts and feelings, so the reader does not know Marcos's reasoning for not visiting sooner.
	Option B is incorrect	Because the author tells the story from Elena's point of view, the reader does not know Aunt Laura's reasoning for anything she doesn't tell Elena.
	Option D is incorrect	The author only tells Elena's thoughts and feelings, so Mom's thoughts about the party are not revealed.
4	Option F is correct	In paragraph 8, the word <u>futile</u> is closest in meaning to the word "useless." Elena is so distracted with the news that her brother is coming that concentrating on her homework is useless, or <u>futile</u> .
	Option G is incorrect	Elena is trying to concentrate on her homework assignment, so she is making an effort.
	Option H is incorrect	Elena cannot concentrate because she is excited by her brother's news, not because the work is boring.
	Option J is incorrect	Elena is unable to concentrate on her assignment, so "concentrating on her work" is not "troubling;" it is useless.

2021 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

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5	Option A is correct	Figurative language is language that uses words that mean something different than their literal interpretation. In this sentence, Elena’s cheeks do not actually feel as hot as if they were on fire. They just feel warm because she is embarrassed, since Mom is not supposed to know about Marcos’s visit.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no context to support the idea that Elena is feeling sick. Having hot cheeks means she is feeling embarrassed.
	Option C is incorrect	Elena’s face flushes because Mom has discovered the secret Elena was supposed to keep. She is embarrassed, not angry.
	Option D is incorrect	Elena pretends to be unaware of Marcos’s visit in paragraph 21, not 20. In paragraph 20, she knows she made a mistake and is embarrassed.
6	Option J is correct	In paragraph 26, “Elena’s stomach churned wildly all day long,” revealing that Elena cannot enjoy her brother’s arrival because Mom is not hiding the fact that she knows Marcos is coming.
	Option F is incorrect	Marcos has not changed his plans for visiting the family. For Mom, it only seems like Marcos will never arrive because she is so excited to see him.
	Option G is incorrect	The date of the anniversary party is not mentioned in this paragraph and does not change.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no mention of Aunt Laura in this paragraph.
7	Option B is correct	The best summary of the story is presented in these sentences. An overview of the events is given, and the main conflict (Elena spoiling Marcos’s surprise for their parents) and its resolution (Marcos forgiving Elena) are described.
	Option A is incorrect	The resolution of the conflict (Marcos forgiving Elena) is not included in this summary, making it incomplete.
	Option C is incorrect	The conflict of Elena spoiling Marcos’s surprise for their parents is not mentioned in this summary, making it incomplete.
	Option D is incorrect	Minor details are included in this summary, and the conflict and resolution are not clearly defined.

2021 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

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8	Option J is correct	The word <u>bolts</u> in line 15 is closest in meaning to definition 4, "to move suddenly or rapidly." Owner is surprised that Dog is talking and rapidly gets up out of the chair into a standing position.
	Option F is incorrect	Owner is suddenly getting out of the chair in surprise, not to break away from something controlling.
	Option G is incorrect	Owner does stop sitting in the chair, but the inclusion of "to his feet," makes this meaning of <u>bolt</u> incorrect.
	Option H is incorrect	Owner gets up and onto his feet and continues to talk to Dog. He does not run off.
9	Option C is correct	The reader can infer that the underlying cause of Owner and Dog's disagreement is that Dog feels neglected. In line 46, Dog says that he sometimes gets a walk "once a week," and in line 50, he describes the things he and Owner used to do but don't do anymore.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no context to support the idea that Dog has interrupted Owner's naps before.
	Option B is incorrect	Owner discusses Dog chewing up <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> in line 41, but the discussion of Dog's needs begins far before that in line 12.
	Option D is incorrect	Dog wants his needs to be met like they used to be (line 50). He does not express desire for praise anywhere in the play.
10	Option J is correct	In line 15, Owner can barely get a whole sentence out and takes pauses (indicated by the ellipses) between words. His inability to speak clearly at that moment shows his surprise at Dog's ability to speak.
	Option F is incorrect	These are normal dog sounds and are not used to indicate what Owner is thinking or feeling.
	Option G is incorrect	In line 11, Dog has not spoken yet, so Owner does not yet know Dog can talk.
	Option H is incorrect	Dog's actions in line 11 are normal for a dog, and Owner's actions (turns on light) are not used to indicate any emotions.

2021 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

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11	Option A is correct	In lines 4 and 8, Owner repeats his thoughts that Dog is unaware of how good his life is, emphasizing that Owner does not realize how he’s been treating Dog.
	Option B is incorrect	Dog does not speak until line 12, and there is no context in this dialogue used to suggest Dog will be able to speak.
	Option C is incorrect	In lines 4 and 8, Dog has not yet spoken, so the idea that Owner does not want Dog to act like a human is not supported.
	Option D is incorrect	The mail carrier is not mentioned until line 36, so the idea that Dog believes the mail carrier is a threat is not supported by lines 4 and 8.
12	Option G is correct	The conversation between Owner and Dog allows Dog to be honest about his feelings. He tells Owner that he wishes Owner would make more time for him. This leads to a resolution in line 55 when Owner promises to make time to play with Dog.
	Option F is incorrect	In line 36, Dog explains that he protects Owner from the “strange man wearing blue,” but Owner does not yet realize Dog’s feelings of being neglected, so this does not lead to the resolution.
	Option H is incorrect	Owner explains how busy he is, but this alone does not resolve the conflict because it does not make Dog feel less neglected.
	Option J is incorrect	Dog chewing up a book does not lead to the resolution of the play.
13	Option C is correct	The reader can conclude that in scene 1, Owner does not realize how Dog feels about their relationship. Owner repeatedly says Dog “has no idea how good he’s got it,” even though Dog continues to seek attention from Owner (lines 3 and 4) and is dismissed by Owner when he tells Dog to lie down (line 6).
	Option A is incorrect	Owner tells Dog to lie down in line 6, so he does not disapprove of Dog’s laziness.
	Option B is incorrect	Owner does not express frustration about being tired.
	Option D is incorrect	Owner says, “That was a good walk” (line 2) and does not express any annoyance at walking Dog.

2021 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

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14	Option F is correct	The order of events that brought <i>Endeavour</i> to its final destination are detailed in these paragraphs. The author explains the route the space shuttle took from Florida to California, the work people did to prepare for the shuttle to pass through the streets of Los Angeles, and where the shuttle resides now.
	Option G is incorrect	The author mentions these steps briefly in paragraph 2 but does not organize paragraphs 2 through 5 around this information.
	Option H is incorrect	In paragraphs 2 through 5, the author describes the space shuttle’s journey after its missions, not how the shuttle was useful to NASA.
	Option J is incorrect	The author makes no comparison between <i>Endeavour</i> and the Boeing 747 airplane in these paragraphs.
15	Option C is correct	<i>Endeavour’s</i> flight was “celebratory” (paragraph 2), which suggests that the purpose of the flight was to commemorate the shuttle’s arrival in California and allow people to see it.
	Option A is incorrect	It likely took a lot longer to prepare the streets of Los Angeles (paragraph 3) than it did for <i>Endeavour</i> to fly to different places in California, so this is not the reason for the shuttle’s flight over that state.
	Option B is incorrect	The shuttle itself did not fly. It was strapped to a plane (paragraph 2), so they did not test to see if the shuttle was working.
	Option D is incorrect	The shuttle was strapped to a plane (paragraph 2), so the flight was not used to remind people how <i>Endeavour</i> was previously used in space.

2021 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

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16	Option J is correct	The idea that the shuttle’s move was a “once-in-forever moment in history” is supported by the statement that “[d]ozens of photographers and filmmakers” wanted to capture the shuttle’s trip through Los Angeles. The knowledge that this would likely only happen once made the event worthy of being filmed and photographed.
	Option F is incorrect	The sentence from paragraph 1 is related to the shuttle’s “crawl through the streets of Los Angeles,” but this sentence from paragraph 2 is used to describe its flight.
	Option G is incorrect	The shuttle’s “crawl through the streets of Los Angeles” is the focus of the sentence from paragraph 1, but this sentence is used to describe its flight and landing.
	Option H is incorrect	The idea that the shuttle’s move was a “once-in-forever moment in history” is not best supported by this sentence regarding the use of steel plates.
17	Option B is correct	The author highlights the efforts taken to transport <i>Endeavour</i> to a museum in this selection. The author describes the steps people took to make the shuttle’s journey from Florida to the California Science Center a success.
	Option A is incorrect	The author describes <i>Endeavour’s</i> journey by plane and through the streets, not its missions in space.
	Option C is incorrect	The author briefly mentions money in paragraph 4, but this is not the focus of the selection.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not go into depth on <i>Endeavour’s</i> importance or compare it to other space shuttles.
18	Option J is correct	In this sentence, the author describes the move as a “huge social event,” meaning that it attracted a large crowd of people who were there to see and support the shuttle’s journey. This shows that spectators were enthusiastic about the event.
	Option F is incorrect	There are no people mentioned in this sentence.
	Option G is incorrect	People’s reaction to <i>Endeavour’s</i> journey are not described in this sentence.
	Option H is incorrect	The need for police officers to direct traffic does not reveal people’s enthusiasm about <i>Endeavour’s</i> journey.

2021 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

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19	Option C is correct	The idea that the “Grand Canyon Skywalk brings visitors to Grand Canyon West” is highlighted by the photographs and captions. Instead of showing the skywalk empty, the author includes photographs of tourists (described in captions) enjoying it.
	Option A is incorrect	The completed skywalk is shown in the photographs, and no dates are included in the captions, so the length of time it took to construct the skywalk is not revealed.
	Option B is incorrect	The entrance building is not shown in the photographs or described in the captions, so this is not the reason for the photographs’ inclusion.
	Option D is incorrect	There are no tribal elders shown in the photographs or described in the captions.
20	Option H is correct	The use of questions helps the author emphasize that creating the skywalk was a complex process because it was the first of its kind. The builders had to consider many different aspects, such as capacity, style, and safety.
	Option F is incorrect	It is not specified that the Hualapai tribe members were the people who asked these questions, nor is it suggested that they would serve as the project’s engineers.
	Option G is incorrect	These questions are related to the actual skywalk design rather than what that area of the Grand Canyon looks like.
	Option J is incorrect	The mention of a number of visitors in the questions is in regard to safety rather than hope that many tourists will come.
21	Option D is correct	The word <u>protrudes</u> is closest in meaning to “Sticks out from an area.” The walkway sticks out “70 feet beyond the canyon wall.”
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, <u>protrudes</u> is used to tell how the walkway looks rather than how it works.
	Option B is incorrect	The walkway sticks out from the canyon, but there is no context to suggest that it appears separate. In fact, it is connected to the entrance building.
	Option C is incorrect	The way in which the walkway will be used is not described in paragraph 1, so this is not the meaning of <u>protrudes</u> .

## 2021 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

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22	Option F is correct	Tribal elders had “much discussion” and met with architects and engineers before moving forward with the skywalk. The reader can conclude that they carefully considered the impact that the skywalk would have on their community.
	Option G is incorrect	Tribe members were being cautious, but they did not specify the pace for building the skywalk.
	Option H is incorrect	Based on paragraph 4, tribal elders were thinking about “safety and performance” of the skywalk, not interesting features.
	Option J is incorrect	There is no information in this paragraph to support the conclusion that tribal elders wondered about managing the number of visitors on the skywalk.
23	Option B is correct	According to paragraph 2, “few people made the long journey” to Grand Canyon West. The Hualapai needed an “extreme attraction” to bring tourists to their area so that they could make money, just as the South Rim attracted “visitors and revenue.”
	Option A is incorrect	The fact that nature lovers visit the Grand Canyon does not explain why the Hualapai wanted to create the skywalk.
	Option C is incorrect	David Jin and his idea to create the skywalk are described in this sentence, but the reason the Hualapai wanted to create it is not revealed.
	Option D is incorrect	The Hualapai tribal elders’ final decision to build the skywalk is described in this sentence, not their reason for wanting to build it.

2021 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

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24	Option F is correct	In both paragraphs, the authors emphasize that planning ahead was a critical part of the projects. In paragraph 3 of "A Massive Mission," people worked "around the clock" to change the structure of the roads in Los Angeles in preparation for the shuttle. In paragraph 4 of "DO Look Down!," professionals helped the tribe plan the bridge, taking many aspects into concern.
	Option G is incorrect	Only in paragraph 4 of "DO Look Down!" does the author present information about how the project was approved.
	Option H is incorrect	The expectation of creating job opportunities is discussed in paragraph 4 of "DO Look Down!," but no hopes are discussed in paragraph 3 of "A Massive Mission."
	Option J is incorrect	The cost of the projects is not mentioned in either of these paragraphs.
25	Option B is correct	Unlike the space shuttle <i>Endeavour</i> , the Grand Canyon Skywalk "has served as a model for other projects that followed," such as those in Canada and Malaysia (paragraph 6 of "DO Look Down!"). The last voyage of <i>Endeavour</i> was likely a singular historical event that will never be repeated (paragraph 1 of "A Massive Mission").
	Option A is incorrect	<i>Endeavour</i> is also an attraction the public can enjoy because it is in the California Science Center (paragraph 5 of "A Massive Mission"), so this is not a difference.
	Option C is incorrect	<i>Endeavour</i> was designed for space travel and was able to withstand the extreme conditions of space. This feature is a similarity between the shuttle and the skywalk.
	Option D is incorrect	<i>Endeavour</i> is likely also constructed of heavy metals to withstand the extreme conditions of space travel, so this is not a way the two projects are unlike.

2021 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

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26	Option J is correct	Unlike the people who organized <i>Endeavour's</i> move, the builders of the Grand Canyon Skywalk were hoping their project would "provide job opportunities" (paragraph 4 of "DO Look Down!"). Creating new jobs is not mentioned in "A Massive Mission."
	Option F is incorrect	Builders of the skywalk were also pleased with the results of their efforts because it has brought in \$30 million, and they plan to add to it (paragraph 6 of "DO Look Down!").
	Option G is incorrect	Engineers were also involved in building the skywalk (paragraph 4 of "DO Look Down!"), so this is not a difference.
	Option H is incorrect	This is not a difference because the organizers of <i>Endeavour's</i> move took many safety precautions as well (paragraph 3 of "A Massive Mission").
27	Option C is correct	In this sentence from paragraph 6 of "DO Look Down!," the author includes a similar idea to the sentence from paragraph 5 of "A Massive Mission." The idea that many people come to see the main attraction ( <i>Endeavour</i> and the skywalk) is conveyed in each sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	Work and job opportunities are not mentioned in the sentence from paragraph 5 of "A Massive Mission," so this is not a similar idea.
	Option B is incorrect	The skywalk's strength is highlighted in this sentence from "DO Look Down!," but the strength of the shuttle is not mentioned in the sentence from paragraph 5 of "A Massive Mission."
	Option D is incorrect	The future of the space shuttle's exhibit is not discussed in the sentence from paragraph 5 of "A Massive Mission," so these two sentences do not convey a similar idea.

2021 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

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28	Option F is correct	Throughout the selection, the author focuses on what scientists can learn from studying Egyptian papyrus and describes the challenges of this task, so this statement best expresses the main idea of the selection.
	Option G is incorrect	A minor detail from the selection is described in this sentence, rather than the main idea.
	Option H is incorrect	Knowledge of languages is important in decoding the papyri, but this is a minor detail from paragraph 9; it is not the main idea of the entire selection.
	Option J is incorrect	The Egyptian’s use of brushes and reeds to write on papyrus is mentioned in paragraph 3, but the main idea of the selection is not presented in this sentence.
29	Option A is correct	In paragraph 12, the word <u>scribe</u> is closest in meaning to “a person who records messages.” The royal <u>scribe</u> recorded a police officer’s report about a missing person.
	Option B is incorrect	The <u>scribe</u> in this sentence is a person who wrote something down, not a book.
	Option C is incorrect	The <u>scribe</u> is described as “royal,” but there is no implication that all <u>scribes</u> are royal, and no palaces are mentioned.
	Option D is incorrect	The <u>scribe</u> in this sentence is a person who wrote something down, so this definition is incorrect.

2021 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

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30	Option G is correct	The author’s most likely purpose is to explain how “the work of papyrologists provides knowledge about an ancient culture.” Throughout the selection, the author explains that scientists have learned about ancient Egyptians’ communication, spells, recipes, homework reports, stories, and other uses for papyrus from decoding papyrus.
	Option F is incorrect	Although written communication in ancient Egypt is discussed in this selection, the author’s reason for writing the selection is specifically to share information about the discovery and decoding of papyri and what it can teach people about ancient Egyptians.
	Option H is incorrect	The author’s purpose for writing goes beyond explaining the mystery of the papyri in the tin box. The author also tells about the work of Dr. Hickey and other scientists who learn about the culture of ancient Egypt by studying papyri and how they go about that process.
	Option J is incorrect	The author’s purpose is specifically related to the work of papyrologists to learn about ancient Egypt. Changes to civilization throughout history are not discussed.
31	Option C is correct	The idea that ancient Egyptians used writing for many different purposes is supported by the information in paragraphs 4 and 14. In paragraph 4, the author says Egyptians wrote down spells, recipes, and homework. In paragraph 14, the author explains they also read different types of stories written on papyrus.
	Option A is incorrect	Homework and stories are mentioned, but the writings Egyptians studied in school are not specified.
	Option B is incorrect	Health and safety were a concern, but the author does not suggest they were a primary concern, and there is a broader range of information in these paragraphs.
	Option D is incorrect	Writing for entertainment is only mentioned in paragraph 14, but a preference is not specified.

2021 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

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32	Option G is correct	The words "rare treasure" are used to suggest that the papyri can provide information about a past time about which little is known. The author considers them valuable because there are not many other things that can "[tell] us much about the secrets of life in ancient Egypt."
	Option F is incorrect	The author acknowledges that the treasure "isn't covered in gold," meaning that its value is not monetary. The papyri are a "rare treasure" because of the knowledge they contain.
	Option H is incorrect	The fact that the papyri are difficult to decode is not explained until paragraph 8, so this is not why the words "rare treasure" are used.
	Option J is incorrect	The papyrus is "tattered," but it is a "rare treasure" because of what is written on it, not its fragile condition.
33	Option B is correct	The author organizes these paragraphs to show that experts must "follow steps in a certain order to read papyri." Scientists dampen the paper, unroll it, scrape off dirt, join torn pieces, and then finally decode the words.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no comparison being made in these paragraphs.
	Option C is incorrect	A process is explained in paragraphs 7 through 10; there is more than just a list of materials presented.
	Option D is incorrect	The task of unrolling the papyri (paragraph 7) is just one of several steps described in these paragraphs.

2021 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

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34	Option H is correct	The best summary of the selection is presented in these sentences. A brief explanation of papyrus is given, and the main idea of using writing on papyrus from ancient Egypt to learn about their society is conveyed.
	Option F is incorrect	Dr. Todd Hickey is not the focus of the entire selection, so he should not be the focus of the entire summary.
	Option G is incorrect	The overall significance of the information gained from reading the papyrus is not conveyed in this summary.
	Option J is incorrect	This summary includes minor details and omits the overall significance of the information gained from reading the papyrus.
35	Option D is correct	The main message of the poem is that it is acceptable to use your imagination when the circumstances are right. Gabby used to daydream, but her teacher and her mom told her to stop (lines 14 through 16). Her teacher explains that it's good to dream, but her daydreams might have to wait until later when he is done teaching (lines 30 through 36).
	Option A is incorrect	Gabby is honest with her teacher, but the main message comes from Mr. Spicer's advice in lines 30 through 36 about dreaming at an appropriate time.
	Option B is incorrect	Mr. Spicer does use the Wright Brothers as an example, but this is to demonstrate the message that there is an appropriate time for dreaming rather than the relevance of history.
	Option C is incorrect	Mr. Spicer can be considered wise and he does listen to Gabby, but there is no context to support this as the main message of the poem.

2021 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

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36	Option F is correct	Based on lines 9 and 10, "I'd argue but my sigh/gives me away," the reader can infer that Gabby "cannot hide her frustration from her teacher." She wants to argue that she is fine, but sighs out loud, revealing to her teacher that something is wrong.
	Option G is incorrect	Sighing usually shows that someone is sad or that something is wrong, not that someone is necessarily calm.
	Option H is incorrect	Gabby does not find it difficult to express herself to her teacher; she tells him her feelings in lines 11 through 16. She would just rather keep her feelings to herself.
	Option J is incorrect	Mr. Spicer does show understanding, but Gabby does not know in lines 9 and 10 that he will react in this way.
37	Option C is correct	The poet most likely uses this description to refer to the ability to "stop daydreaming for a while." Gabby acknowledges ("I nod") that she should "slide [her] daydreams/in a drawer/and let them wait until later."
	Option A is incorrect	Gabby agrees with what Mr. Spicer said about waiting for the appropriate time to daydream, so the poet does not likely mean to recommend giving up on daydreaming completely.
	Option B is incorrect	The idea of limiting or refocusing one's daydreams on "what is important" is not supported by the poem. Gabby just needs to wait for the appropriate time to daydream.
	Option D is incorrect	Gabby needs to wait for the appropriate time to daydream, not keep her daydreams from being unobtainable. As Mr. Spicer explains "The best thinkers,/writers, inventors in the world/allow their thoughts/to carry them away."

2021 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

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38	Option G is correct	Personification is a type of figurative language where human characteristics are applied to something that is not alive. In lines 24 and 25, the poet uses personification to emphasize that successful people (writers and inventors) use their imaginations. The phrase “allow their thoughts/to carry them away,” is another way to say “imagine.”
	Option F is incorrect	In these lines, the people are not literally being carried away to somewhere else; they are just imagining.
	Option H is incorrect	The people described in these lines are not actually writing, inventing, or creating anything; they are daydreaming.
	Option J is incorrect	The personification is used to describe the individual experience of daydreaming. There is no communication taking place.
39	Option C is correct	A simile is a figure of speech in which two objects are compared using the word “like” or “as.” The simile in lines 17 through 19 is used to compare the teacher’s top lip to a door, behind which are the appropriate words. He is taking his time to make sure to clearly communicate his thoughts.
	Option A is incorrect	The teacher is not frowning, so he most likely does not feel sad about Gabby’s response. He is just thinking carefully.
	Option B is incorrect	The message that the teacher conveys to Gabby is helpful to her: “Dreams are great things, Gabby.” The idea that he thinks his words might offend her is not supported.
	Option D is incorrect	The teacher seems confident in the advice he gives Gabby; there is no evidence that he has changed his opinion on the subject.

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40	Option J is correct	The teacher “keeps an eye on” Gabby because he realizes that Gabby is not acting the way she usually does. In lines 7 and 8, the teacher tells Gabby to tell him what’s wrong because he has noticed that she is not happy.
	Option F is incorrect	Gabby explains, “I give him no reason/to call me aside,” (lines 3 and 4), suggesting that she has not been daydreaming and this is not the reason for Mr. Spicer’s scrutiny.
	Option G is incorrect	The teacher has not come to a sudden realization that Gabby should be permitted to daydream. He encourages Gabby to daydream except during his lessons.
	Option H is incorrect	In line 8, the teacher calls Gabby aside by saying ““Tell me what’s wrong.”” This suggests that he is worried about her, not that he thinks she has an important idea to share.