



READING **Grade 3**

Modified

2011 Released Selections and Test Questions

These released test questions represent how the modification process can be applied to the 2011 STAAR Released Test Questions. Not every STAAR released test question has been modified. These test questions are samples only and do not represent all the TEKS student expectations from each reporting category eligible for assessment. Nor do they represent all the ways in which a test question can be modified.



The Well-Worn Path

In this poem by David Crawley, the speaker shares special feelings for a childhood pet.

The Well-Worn Path

by David Crawley

You scampered down this well-worn path
when you were just a pup.
And as we grew, I ran with you.
I struggled to keep up.

5 My legs grew long. Your legs grew slow.
You're happy now to walk,
ignoring all those squirrels and birds
you once would chase and stalk.

And as we walk I think of all
10 the moments that we shared.
The day we found you at the pound,¹
you looked so small and scared.

The times I fed you table scraps
in spite of Mother's rule.
15 The days you greeted me with joy
when I came home from school.

And as we walk this well-worn path,
no longer running free,
I hope I was as good to you
20 as you have been to me.



"The Well-Worn Path" from *Dog Poems* by David Crawley. Copyright © 2007 by David Crawley. Published by Wordsong, an imprint of Boyds Mills Press. Used by permission.

¹A *pound* is a place for keeping stray animals.

- 1 Read line 4 from the poem.

I struggled to keep up.

The poet includes this line most likely to show that the dog —

- A ran faster than the speaker
 - B was lost
 - C looked larger than the speaker
-
- 2 What is the main message in the poem?
- A It is important for owners to train their pets.
 - B Dogs and people are very different.
 - C Pets and their owners can make each other happy.

- 3** Why are lines 11 through 16 included in the poem?
- A** They give reasons why the speaker chose the dog.
 - B** They are examples of experiences the speaker and the dog shared.
 - C** They tell why the speaker and the dog do not run together anymore.
-
- 4** Which words best describe the feeling that the poet creates in this poem?
- A** Very thankful
 - B** Very surprised
 - C** Very unhappy
-
- 5** What is the speaker doing in the poem?
- A** Picking up the dog at the pound
 - B** Feeding the dog dinner
 - C** Taking the dog for a walk

6 Read lines 5 through 8.

My legs grew long. Your legs grew slow.
You're happy now to walk,
ignoring all those squirrels and birds
you once would chase and stalk.

These lines are important to the poem because they show that the dog —

- A wants the speaker to slow down
- B is getting older
- C is not listening to the speaker

7 Why did the poet most likely title this poem "The Well-Worn Path"?

- A The dog and the speaker have walked on the same path for many years.
- B The dog got tired when it went for walks.
- C The poem describes the place where the speaker found the dog.



Vaqueros: The Original Cowboys

This article is about vaqueros, who worked on the cattle ranches in Mexico, Texas, and California. They were hired by Spanish ranchers to care for herds of cattle. Vaqueros also trained the settlers who came to be known as Texas cowboys. Read to find out about the special tools and clothing, including the *sombrero*, *sarape*, and lariat, that the vaqueros needed in order to do their work.



Making History

January 2009

- 1 There were vaqueros in Texas long before there were cowboys. A vaquero could tame a wild horse. He could stop a steer without using a rope. Vaqueros worked well with their horses and could do great tricks.

Caring for Cattle

- 2 At one time, Spanish ranchers owned huge herds of cattle. The cattle lived on large areas of land in Mexico, Texas, and California. All those cows needed a lot of food. The animals walked freely across the land so they could find enough food to eat.



- 3 Taking care of the cattle was a big job. Ranchers hired vaqueros to keep the cattle safe. Vaqueros spent long days in their saddles, riding their horses across the land. They scared away any animals that might harm the cattle. If a cow was hurt or sick, it was the vaquero's job to help it.

4 Spring was a busy time for vaqueros because that was when the calves were born. Each rancher sent a team of vaqueros to look for the new babies and their mothers. The vaqueros would bring the whole herd back to the ranch to be counted and sorted. Each team of vaqueros searched a specific area. Altogether the teams would search hundreds of miles to find stray cattle. Sometimes the cattle were hard to find among the rocky hills and in the small valleys.

1 Which words in paragraph 4 help the reader understand the meaning of stray?

- A** *a specific area*
- B** *the small valleys*
- C** *hard to find*

2 Why is the picture next to paragraph 2 included in the article?

- A** To show what a vaquero might have looked like while doing his job
- B** To explain why many vaqueros were needed on a cattle ranch
- C** To show how fast a vaquero could ride his horse

Which Cow Belongs Where?

- 5 Once the cows and calves were found, it was the vaqueros' job to bring all the cattle to a large fenced area so they could be counted. Getting cattle to move in one direction was not an easy job. Using their horses, the vaqueros worked together to surround the cattle. Then they herded the animals into the fenced area.
- 6 Next the cows were sorted and counted. Vaqueros checked the brand, or special mark, on a cow's body to tell which rancher owned it. Each calf would get the same brand as its mother.

- 3** How did the vaqueros herd the cattle into a fenced area?
- A** By counting the calves and telling the numbers to the rancher
 - B** By surrounding the cattle and moving them as a group
 - C** By putting out food for the cattle

Getting the Job Done

- 7 Special tools and clothing helped vaqueros with their work. They wore *sombreros* to shade them from the sun and rain. Vaqueros also tied a *sarape* to their saddle. They could use it to protect themselves and to move cattle. Something vaqueros didn't wear while doing their job was a pair of boots. They usually worked barefoot or in sandals.
- 8 A lariat was another important tool for vaqueros. It was used to catch cattle or animals that could harm the cattle, such as coyotes. If a vaquero roped a coyote, everyone knew he was good at his job.
- 9 Every good vaquero needed a well-trained horse that could make quick turns. The horses were also trained to step in front of a cow that was trying to escape from the herd. The horses could stop quickly if the vaquero pulled back on their rope.

Tools and Clothing	Common Name	Purpose
Lariat 	Leather rope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To catch cattle and other animals
Sarape 	Small blanket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect vaqueros from the cold To herd cattle
Sombrero 	Large hat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To shade vaqueros' faces

- 4 Why is the table after paragraph 9 included?
- A To identify the tools and clothing vaqueros used
 - B To explain why ranchers hired vaqueros
 - C To show which jobs were most difficult for vaqueros

Training the Cowboys of Texas

10 Spanish ranchers didn't stay in Texas. When they moved, their cattle and the vaqueros often did stay. The new settlers who moved into Texas didn't know what to do with the cattle. But the vaqueros did. The vaqueros worked with the new settlers and taught them how to care for cattle. Soon some of these settlers were able to do the same work as the vaqueros, but they became known by a different name—Texas cowboys.

- 5 What happened to the vaqueros when the Spanish ranchers moved away?
- A They continued searching for lost cattle.
 - B They moved the cattle to new homes.
 - C They stayed and taught their skills to the new settlers.

**Use the whole article “Vaqueros: The Original Cowboys”
on pages 8–14 to answer questions 6–8.**

- 6 Which sentence best supports the idea that horses were helpful in controlling cattle?
- A *The animals walked freely across the land so they could find enough food to eat.*
 - B *Vaqueros spent long days in their saddles, riding their horses across the land.*
 - C *The horses were also trained to step in front of a cow that was trying to escape from the herd.*

- 7** Which of the following is the best summary of this article?
- A** Ranchers owned a lot of cattle. To find enough food, the cattle had to walk freely across large areas of land. The ranchers hired vaqueros because they needed help with their cattle.
 - B** Spanish ranchers hired vaqueros to take care of their cattle. Vaqueros used horses, special clothing, and tools to help them with their work. The vaqueros taught their skills to new settlers when the ranchers moved away.
 - C** Vaqueros took care of cattle that wandered across large areas of land. The vaqueros watched over the cattle and chased harmful animals away. They also helped find calves in springtime.
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- 8** Why does the author include headings in bold print?
- A** To explain why the article was written
 - B** To describe why pictures were included in the article
 - C** To tell what information is in each section

Item Number	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting	Content Student Expectation	Correct Answer
READING Selection 1				
1	2	Supporting	3.6 Fig. 19(D)	A
2	2	Supporting	3.5 Fig. 19(D)	C
3	2	Supporting	3.6 Fig. 19(D)	B
4	2	Supporting	3.6 Fig. 19(D)	A
5	2	Supporting	3.2(B)	C
6	2	Supporting	3.6 Fig. 19(D)	B
7	2	Supporting	3.6 Fig. 19(D)	A
READING Selection 2				
1	1	Readiness	3.4(B)	C
2	3	Supporting	3.16 Fig. 19(D)	A
3	3	Readiness	3.13(A)	B
4	3	Supporting	3.15 Fig. 19(D)	A
5	3	Readiness	3.13(B)	C
6	3	Readiness	3.13(B)	C
7	3	Readiness	3.13 Fig. 19(E)	B
8	3	Readiness	3.13(D)	C

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