

2018 STAAR Grade 6 Reading Rationales

Item #	Rationales	
1	Option A is correct	In paragraph 12, Eric thinks about how “everyone else is enjoying the festival” and <u>wistfully</u> watches people pass by while he is stuck at work. This context is included to suggest that Eric is feeling sad about his circumstances.
	Option B is incorrect	Eric’s friends are going to the festival, and Eric clearly wants to join them, so he is not feeling “relief” as he watches people pass by Sam’s Deli on the way to the parade.
	Option C is incorrect	Although Eric is unhappy about working rather than attending the festival, there is no evidence that he feels anxious.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 12, Eric watches people walk by the window of the deli, and he knows where the “festival attendees” are going. Therefore, the idea that Eric is curious about what people are doing is not supported by context in the paragraph.
2	Option H is correct	Figurative language is language that uses words that mean something different than their literal interpretation. The author uses the verb “trickled” and the comparison of a tidal wave with a stream to suggest that the number of customers at the deli decreases to a manageable flow.
	Option F is incorrect	The author uses the figurative phrase “the tidal wave of customers trickled to a stream” to suggest a contrast in the number of customers from one period of time to another; therefore, that number was not steady but varied.
	Option G is incorrect	There is no evidence that the customers at the deli got wet from the hoses.
	Option J is incorrect	The author uses the figurative language in paragraph 23 to refer to the number of people coming into the deli, not the customers’ feelings.
3	Option D is correct	Eric declines his parents’ offer to stop working and find his friends, he refers to “special orders” that are the “most important ones of the day,” and then he carefully makes the orders for the deli’s “regulars.” These actions are included to reveal that Eric realizes the importance of loyal customers.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraphs 31 and 32, Eric stays at the deli because he wants to “take care of” the deli’s “regulars,” not because he thinks working is more fun than being with friends.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no evidence that Eric thinks his parents should rest.
	Option C is incorrect	Although Eric does run the deli while his parents are absent, there is no evidence that he will be taking on more responsibilities.
4	Option H is correct	The conflict is established in paragraph 2: Eric has to help his parents at the deli instead of enjoying the day at the Twin Rivers Summer Festival with his friends as he had planned.
	Option F is incorrect	Although Eric at first does not know the names of the regular deli customers, this is not the main conflict of the story.
	Option G is incorrect	There is no evidence to support that Eric thinks that his parents need to offer a better variety of sandwiches.
	Option J is incorrect	In paragraph 5, Eric refers to the days at the deli as “quiet,” but his main conflict is not the lack of excitement at Sam’s Deli.

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5	Option B is correct	The term point of view refers to the person telling or narrating a piece of writing. First-person point of view is used to allow the reader to understand Eric's changing point of view regarding the deli. At first Eric doesn't understand why his mom and dad cater to the regular customers so much. By the end of the story, however, Eric realizes that these customers' "special orders" are "the most important ones of the day."
	Option A is incorrect	Eric does describe the actions of the "regulars" at the deli, but the actions of other characters are described as well.
	Option C is incorrect	Dialogue is used in paragraphs 24 and 25 to reveal why Eric's father and mother are late returning to the deli; the reader does not understand this as a result of the point of view used in the story.
	Option D is incorrect	Eric is telling the story, so the reader can only know Eric's inner thoughts, not the thoughts of the customers at the deli.
6	Option F is correct	The author develops the story's theme, or central message, by revealing Eric's changing perspective regarding the "regulars" at Sam's Deli. When Eric is overwhelmed by the crowd at the deli, the "regulars" all pitch in to help out. When Eric's parents return and offer Eric the opportunity to take a break, Eric opts to stay to help with the "most important" orders of the day, as he finally realizes how the "regulars" are key to making Sam's Deli a "special place."
	Option G is incorrect	This sentence is included to show Eric's initial resentment toward the deli's loyal customers; it is not used to express the theme of the story.
	Option H is incorrect	Eric's parents do appreciate Eric's help, but the theme of the story is not expressed in this sentence.
	Option J is incorrect	This sentence is included to support, but not express, the story's theme.
7	Option C is correct	In this poem, the speaker feels safe and content with Abuelita. These feelings are emphasized by the speaker's description of how he buries himself "deep, hidden in Abuelita's soft arms" in both lines 5 and 25. The image of their embrace is one of affection, love, and contentment.
	Option A is incorrect	In line 7, the speaker indicates that he is excited to spend the weekend with Abuelita, not that he wishes to live permanently with her.
	Option B is incorrect	The speaker runs from Papa's car to his grandmother for an embrace. There is no evidence in the poem that the speaker fears being seen when hugging Abuelita.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no evidence to suggest that the embrace makes the speaker forget where he is.

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8	Option G is correct	In line 7, the speaker is clearly excited about “A whole weekend with Abuelita!” This excitement is emphasized by the goodbye shout to Papa in line 8, which the poet punctuates with an exclamation point.
	Option F is incorrect	Although the reader can infer that the speaker respects Abuelita, the poet’s use of exclamation points in the third stanza (verse) emphasizes the speaker’s excitement regarding the visit.
	Option H is incorrect	Papa is smiling as he “drives off in a puff of white smoke,” suggesting that he is not hesitant about leaving the speaker with Abuelita.
	Option J is incorrect	It cannot be determined from the poem how much time has passed since the speaker last visited Abuelita.
9	Option B is correct	A simile is a figure of speech in which two objects are compared using the word “like” or “as.” In lines 14 and 15, the poet describes Abuelita’s house as “yellow-white like a forgotten Easter egg” and “cracked here and there.” These similes are included to help the reader visualize Abuelita’s house.
	Option A is incorrect	It cannot be determined from the poem how much time has passed since the speaker last visited Abuelita.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no evidence to suggest that Easter is the speaker’s favorite holiday to spend with his grandmother.
	Option D is incorrect	The poet includes the similes in lines 14 and 15 to convey the general appearance and condition of Abuelita’s house, not any specific place in her home.
10	Option J is correct	The poet includes the lines ““You are so big! My big boy!”” to show that Abuelita is proud of the speaker. The speaker’s reaction—laughing and standing on his toes—is included to show how the speaker encourages and enjoys Abuelita’s feeling of pride.
	Option F is incorrect	Although standing on his toes would make the speaker appear taller than he is, the speaker is encouraging Abuelita’s feeling of pride, not wishing to be taller.
	Option G is incorrect	The speaker laughs and stands on his toes, which clearly shows that he is not embarrassed by Abuelita calling him “big boy.”
	Option H is incorrect	Although the speaker may be amused by Abuelita’s words and actions, it is more likely that the speaker laughs with pleasure because he knows Abuelita is proud of him.
11	Option C is correct	Based on the speaker’s excitement upon arriving for a weekend visit with Abuelita, the feeling of safety and contentment the speaker experiences in “Abuelita’s soft arms,” and the obvious joy Abuelita feels regarding her grandson, the reader can learn that time spent with family should be cherished.
	Option A is incorrect	The poet does not focus on the appreciation of parents in this poem.
	Option B is incorrect	The experience related in the poem seems like one familiar to both the speaker and Abuelita, so the poet is not suggesting that happiness can be found in trying new things.
	Option D is incorrect	Abuelita and the speaker clearly have a strong relationship, but the poet does not provide evidence that their relationship has strengthened over time.

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12	Option H is correct	Dialogue refers to the lines spoken by a character in a story, poem, or play. Abuelita tells her “cielo” (the speaker) that she needs “a big abrazo” from him, she calls the speaker her “big boy,” and she tells him that he is “so big.” The poet includes these words of simple dialogue to emphasize Abuelita’s feeling of affection for the speaker.
	Option F is incorrect	Although Abuelita does describe the speaker as “big,” she is demonstrating her affection for him, not emphasizing that she likes certain qualities about him.
	Option G is incorrect	The poet does not indicate what Abuelita and the speaker enjoy doing together by including her dialogue.
	Option J is incorrect	Although Abuelita does use some Spanish words while talking to the speaker, the speaker does not respond in Spanish.
13	Option D is correct	The interaction between the speaker and Abuelita throughout the poem is included to develop a theme, or central message, of familial affection and pride. Abuelita smiles and calls out to the speaker as he enthusiastically runs into her arms. The speaker expresses his joy at having Abuelita to himself for the “whole weekend,” and Abuelita is happy to see her “big boy.”
	Option A is incorrect	Papa is only briefly mentioned in the poem, and the poet does not compare him to Abuelita. This is a minor detail that is only minimally used to develop the theme.
	Option B is incorrect	The poet does not explain why the visit takes place.
	Option C is incorrect	The photographs are less important to the theme of the poem than the interactions between the speaker and Abuelita.
14	Option J is correct	The words “interesting conversation” are included to provide context to help the reader understand the meaning of <u>engaged</u> by suggesting that Stuart and his subjects were involved in the shared activity of conversation.
	Option F is incorrect	Although Stuart’s “charm as a person” may have contributed to the conversations he <u>engaged</u> in with his subjects, these words are not used to indicate that the subjects were actively involved.
	Option G is incorrect	The words “sat for a portrait” are not used to indicate what the subjects did while sitting, so this definition is incorrect.
	Option H is incorrect	The words “practiced at the time” are not used to provide context for the meaning of <u>engaged</u> .
15	Option A is correct	In paragraph 2, the author focuses on Stuart’s method of engaging his subjects in conversation while painting them so that his subjects would be at ease and Stuart could “capture their most natural expression and pose.”
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author states in paragraph 2 that Stuart “painted the portraits of approximately 1,000 people during his lifetime,” this is a detail, not the main idea of the paragraph.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 2, the author mainly focuses on Stuart’s unique method of interacting with his subjects, not on Stuart’s reasons for wanting to paint their portraits.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 2, the author does not focus on the popularity of the portraits Stuart painted during his lifetime. That information is presented later in the selection.

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16	Option G is correct	In paragraph 3, the author states that “one of Stuart’s aspirations was to paint George Washington” and then explains how Stuart overcame the challenges of arranging a meeting with Washington to “eventually [have] the opportunity” to paint the president.
	Option F is incorrect	There is no evidence in paragraph 3 that Stuart was worried his portrait would not please Washington.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no evidence in paragraph 3 that Stuart was nervous in the presence of Washington.
	Option J is incorrect	Although Stuart and Washington did discuss horses, the author is stating that this was one of the president’s “favorite topics,” not that Stuart shared the president’s interests.
17	Option A is correct	The author gives details in paragraph 5 to explain that Stuart’s portrait of Washington is so well known because it has appeared on the dollar bill since 1869; anyone who has ever seen a dollar bill has seen the portrait.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 4, the author states that Stuart “made and sold multiple copies of the portrait” of Washington, which suggests that the portrait was well known while Stuart was alive.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 5, the author focuses on the portrait of Washington rather than on Washington as an important figure in history.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 5, the author discusses Stuart’s unfinished portrait of Washington, but the author does not suggest that most of Washington’s portraits were left unfinished.
18	Option J is correct	The central idea and key details from the selection are included in this summary. Information about Gilbert Stuart and why he is an important figure is included in the first sentence. In the second sentence, the incomplete portrait of Washington is addressed, and the central idea that this portrait became the most popular portrait of Washington ever painted is conveyed.
	Option F is incorrect	Key information about the significance of Stuart’s portrait of Washington is not included in this summary.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the central idea that the most famous portrait of George Washington was painted by Gilbert Stuart is included in this summary, additional details regarding why Stuart was an important figure are not included. Unnecessary information, such as when Stuart lived, is included in the summary.
	Option H is incorrect	The key detail that Stuart’s famous portrait of George Washington was left unfinished is omitted from this summary, while less important details are included.

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19	Option C is correct	Based on paragraph 3, Tolkien had “many writings” that his son “gathered together.” The reader can use the information in the box to understand the meaning of <u>amassed</u> because gathering Tolkien’s writings most likely meant that the pieces had to be brought together to become one, or “to form a lump.”
	Option A is incorrect	Based on the origin information provided in the box, the reader cannot infer that <u>amassed</u> means “searched for.”
	Option B is incorrect	Although Christopher shared the writings Tolkien had <u>amassed</u> by publishing them in a book, Tolkien himself did not share these writings with a group.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no evidence that Tolkien’s writings were “stored in a safe place,” nor does the origin of <u>amassed</u> support this meaning.
20	Option J is correct	The author structures paragraphs 3 through 5 to emphasize the problem of Tolkien being unable to finish <i>The Silmarillion</i> before he died and to explain how the problem was solved: Tolkien’s son Christopher completed the work.
	Option F is incorrect	The problem is that Tolkien died before finishing <i>The Silmarillion</i> , not that he needed help finishing the book, and the author’s description of the solution goes beyond an explanation of how only certain parts of the story were used.
	Option G is incorrect	The problem introduced in paragraph 3 is that Tolkien died before finishing <i>The Silmarillion</i> . Christopher Tolkien persuading a friend to help him finish the book was only part of the solution.
	Option H is incorrect	Christopher Tolkien deciding which of his father’s writings to include in <i>The Silmarillion</i> was part of the solution, not the problem, and the author does not identify how Christopher decided what to include in the final version of <i>The Silmarillion</i> .
21	Option C is correct	In paragraph 5, the author suggests that completing <i>The Silmarillion</i> provided Christopher with challenges—from organizing the pieces into five different parts to finishing incomplete sections.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 5, the author does not imply that the challenge of completing the book resulted from Christopher’s lack of experience as an author.
	Option B is incorrect	There is no evidence in paragraph 5 that Christopher tried to include alternate endings in the book.
	Option D is incorrect	The conclusion that this was Christopher’s intention when he published <i>The Silmarillion</i> is not supported by information in paragraph 5.
22	Option F is correct	Christopher believed that including everything his father wrote for <i>The Silmarillion</i> “would lead only to confusion for the reader,” so Christopher decided to omit some of the material.
	Option G is incorrect	Christopher was more concerned about the reader being confused than about the reader being exposed to unfamiliar ideas.
	Option H is incorrect	There is no evidence that Christopher planned to create a different ending for the story.
	Option J is incorrect	Tolkien originally intended for the book to have five parts, so this was not a factor in Christopher’s decision to omit certain material.

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23	Option B is correct	In this sentence, the author reveals an attitude of curiosity about how the book <i>The Silmarillion</i> was put together, suggesting that its creation “may be just as interesting as the story told on its pages.”
	Option A is incorrect	This is a statement of fact about <i>The Silmarillion</i> . The author’s attitude toward the writing of <i>The Silmarillion</i> is not revealed in this sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence, the author states an opinion regarding Guy Gavriel Kay’s work; the author’s attitude toward the writing of <i>The Silmarillion</i> is not revealed.
	Option D is incorrect	In this sentence, the author suggests that readers had varying opinions about <i>The Silmarillion</i> when it was published; how the author feels about the writing of the book is not revealed in the sentence.
24	Option J is correct	Based on paragraph 3, <i>The Silmarillion</i> was “Tolkien’s first and last work,” making it unique.
	Option F is incorrect	Although <i>The Silmarillion</i> does take place in a fantasy world, this is true of many of Tolkien’s other works as well.
	Option G is incorrect	The author explains in paragraph 6 that “Christopher published more of his father’s unfinished writings” after <i>The Silmarillion</i> .
	Option H is incorrect	Both fictional creatures and humans are included in <i>The Silmarillion</i> , but this is also true of <i>The Hobbit</i> and <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> , as the author states in paragraph 2.
25	Option C is correct	In paragraph 6, the author suggests that some of Tolkien’s fans were disappointed with <i>The Silmarillion</i> because “it was too different from what they had come to expect from Tolkien’s writing.”
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, the author does not suggest that <i>The Silmarillion</i> was not well received.
	Option B is incorrect	In this sentence, the author does not suggest that <i>The Silmarillion</i> was not well received.
	Option D is incorrect	Christopher did have to work with incomplete materials while compiling his father’s writing for <i>The Silmarillion</i> . However, the author does not suggest in this sentence that the book was not well received.
26	Option F is correct	Both Stuart and Tolkien were accomplished in their field of creative art. Gilbert Stuart, known for “his talent as a painter,” painted the portraits of many distinguished and famous people. Stuart also created “the definitive representation of George Washington.” Tolkien created a “world of fantasy” through his many books and has “devoted readers around the world.”
	Option G is incorrect	Tolkien did spend several decades working on <i>The Silmarillion</i> . However, the time Stuart spent painting Washington “was limited.”
	Option H is incorrect	Although Tolkien’s son Christopher did finish <i>The Silmarillion</i> on behalf of his father, Stuart’s portrait of Washington remained unfinished, so this is not a similarity between the two men.
	Option J is incorrect	Although Stuart engaged his subjects in “interesting conversation,” there is no evidence in the second selection that Tolkien was known for his interest in having conversations with others.

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27	Option A is correct	Based on the first selection, “Stuart made and sold multiple copies of the portrait” of George Washington, despite the fact that it was unfinished. Unlike Stuart’s portrait, <i>The Silmarillion</i> was completed before it was published and sold.
	Option B is incorrect	Stuart sold copies of his portrait of Washington during his lifetime, but there is no evidence presented in the second selection that anyone saw Tolkien’s manuscript for <i>The Silmarillion</i> while the author was still alive.
	Option C is incorrect	Stuart prepared for his portrait by learning of Washington’s interest in horses and then engaging the president in conversation. Information about how much time Tolkien spent preparing to write <i>The Silmarillion</i> is not included in the second selection.
	Option D is incorrect	Stuart’s portrait of Washington is highly regarded. It has appeared on the dollar bill since 1869 and is described by the author of the first selection as “amazing.” In contrast, Tolkien’s <i>The Silmarillion</i> , with its “grim mood” and “complicated plot,” was not as well received as some of Tolkien’s other works.
28	Option G is correct	For unknown reasons Stuart never completed his portrait of George Washington. Tolkien worked on <i>The Silmarillion</i> off and on for decades but “was unable to complete the work before he died.”
	Option F is incorrect	Neither selection includes information regarding how much money the creators earned for their works.
	Option H is incorrect	Neither Stuart’s portrait of Washington nor Tolkien’s book was included in a larger body of work that its creators had made.
	Option J is incorrect	Although the completion of <i>The Silmarillion</i> required the efforts of Tolkien’s son Christopher, Stuart’s portrait of Washington was, based on the selection, the work of Stuart alone.
29	Option D is correct	Throughout the story the author portrays the older brother as greedy, “living an extravagant lifestyle” and “spending money freely.” The older brother ultimately suffers negative consequences when his greed for gold leaves him stranded alone on an island.
	Option A is incorrect	There are no strong relationships between characters in the story.
	Option B is incorrect	The younger brother is rewarded with gold because he shares his star fruit with the raven, not because he works hard. Therefore, this is not the primary theme, or central message, of the story.
	Option C is incorrect	The older brother in the story clearly has faults. However, there is no evidence to suggest that he is a role model for his younger brother, so this is not a theme that is developed in the story.

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30	Option F is correct	The younger brother is concerned when his star fruit, which he sold to support his family, starts “disappearing into the belly of the raven.” However, the raven comforts the younger brother by telling him “Don’t be afraid” and explaining how he will pay the younger brother for the star fruit in gold.
	Option G is incorrect	There is no evidence to suggest that the raven is “mocking” the owner of the star fruit tree.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the raven’s claim may initially seem hard to believe, he is sincere and follows through on his promise to provide the younger brother with gold.
	Option J is incorrect	The raven’s promise to pay for star fruit in gold is welcome news to the younger brother. However, the raven’s tone in these sentences is “comforting” rather than “joyful.”
31	Option C is correct	Unlike the older brother, whose greed for gold ultimately leaves him stranded on an island, the younger brother takes only the amount of gold that he can “easily carry,” allowing him to return home with his wealth unharmed.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 7, the younger brother flies with the raven because the raven wants to reward him, not because the younger brother is more interested in flying than in growing star fruit.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 7, the younger brother shares his wealth with his family and others in need, so he is not the only one who benefits from the relationship.
	Option D is incorrect	The actions of the younger brother in paragraph 7 are not included to indicate that he depends on the raven to assist him in helping his older brother.
32	Option G is correct	Despite receiving an “enormous inheritance” from his father, the older brother is not satisfied with what he has. The older brother is stranded on an island because of this greedy attitude when he refuses to give up any of the gold he has collected.
	Option F is incorrect	The younger brother is left with a small inheritance; however, this is not the main problem in the story.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the older brother does spend his inheritance on “an extravagant lifestyle,” which suggests he is spending his money unwisely, his main problem is never being satisfied with what he has.
	Option J is incorrect	The younger brother does share his wealth with others who are in need. However, this does not cause him problems.
33	Option A is correct	Key events from paragraphs 8 through 10 are included in this summary. The scene is set in the first two sentences of the summary: the older brother arrives at the younger brother’s house after receiving multiple invitations to dinner. Information about the conflict is included in the third and fourth sentences: the older brother wants the star fruit tree, and the younger brother refuses to give it to him.
	Option B is incorrect	Information about the raven is not included in this summary, making it incomplete.
	Option C is incorrect	The story’s conflict is not included in this summary, making it incomplete.
	Option D is incorrect	The younger brother’s refusal to trade the star fruit tree is not included in this summary. In addition, it is not true that the older brother’s motive for owning the tree is to meet the raven.

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34	Option G is correct	As the author explains in paragraph 6, lightning flashes illuminated Sir Francis Drake's ships and ruined a surprise attack on the city of Maracaibo in 1595. Definition 2, "to assign responsibility to someone or something," is supported by this information in paragraph 6 as the best match for the way <u>credited</u> is used in the paragraph.
	Option F is incorrect	Although the events in paragraph 6 are presented as facts, Definition 1 does not match the way <u>credited</u> is used in paragraph 6.
	Option H is incorrect	The meaning of <u>credited</u> in paragraph 6 relates to giving responsibility; the events have no connection to money or accounts.
	Option J is incorrect	The use of <u>credited</u> in paragraph 6 does not relate to grades or school.
35	Option D is correct	The author includes the map to illustrate the area in Venezuela around Lake Maracaibo, helping the reader to better understand where the lightning strikes occur.
	Option A is incorrect	There is no scale included on the map, so the reader cannot determine the width of the lake.
	Option B is incorrect	The names of other countries in South America are not listed, nor is that the purpose of the map.
	Option C is incorrect	The author does not include the map to help the reader understand the causes of the lightning. That explanation is provided in the text of the selection.
36	Option G is correct	In paragraphs 2 through 4, the author provides a thorough explanation of why the Catatumbo Lightning is unique. The lightning's "predictability is remarkable," and it has been occurring in the same area for centuries. Also the lightning storms are "exceptional" because they produce "an average of 1,680 strikes per hour."
	Option F is incorrect	In paragraph 4, although the author does describe the appearance of the lightning, this is only a detail included to support the main idea that the Catatumbo Lightning is unique.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the appearance of the Catatumbo Lightning is most likely dramatic, the author does not state a main idea and support it with details in order to add a sense of drama and suspense.
	Option J is incorrect	In paragraph 4, the author does provide scientific reasons behind the colorful display during a Catatumbo Lightning storm. However, this only relates to one reason why the storms are unique.

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37	Option B is correct	In paragraphs 8 and 9, the author offers theories behind the Catatumbo Lightning—“increased amounts of methane gas around the area” or “very hot, humid air from the Catatumbo River and Lake Maracaibo [meeting] cool air from the Andes mountains”—while also emphasizing that no one really knows what causes the lightning. The actual cause is still “a scientific mystery.”
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 8, the author does refer to the theory that “increased amounts of methane gas around the area” may cause the Catatumbo Lightning, but this is just a supporting detail.
	Option C is incorrect	Some scientists believe that the lightning is caused by hot air from the Catatumbo River and Lake Maracaibo meeting cool air from the Andes mountains. However, this is not the main idea of paragraphs 8 and 9.
	Option D is incorrect	Scientists did speculate that weather patterns may affect the occurrence of the lightning. However, this is just a supporting detail.
38	Option H is correct	This author supports the idea that local people embrace the Catatumbo Lightning by including the fact that “the lightning is mentioned in poetry and songs” and that “the state of Zulia even has a lightning bolt on its flag.”
	Option F is incorrect	In this sentence, the author does not support the idea that the local people embrace the lightning.
	Option G is incorrect	The author does not include this fact to show the affection the local people feel for the lightning.
	Option J is incorrect	In this sentence, the author states a fact about the lightning but does not indicate the high regard the local people have for the lightning.
39	Option D is correct	The people of Zulia appreciate the Catatumbo Lightning as a special feature of their area. They demonstrate this appreciation by composing songs and poems about the lightning and featuring a lightning bolt on their flag.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the people of Zulia may not know what causes the Catatumbo Lightning, they are not indifferent to this natural phenomenon.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the lightning is certainly a powerful force of nature, there is no evidence that the people of Zulia are afraid of it.
	Option C is incorrect	The lightning is not problematic for the Zulian community but rather a source of pride, as evidenced by its mention in poems and songs and its inclusion on the state flag.
40	Option G is correct	The author’s purpose for writing this selection is to discuss the mysterious lightning in a region of Venezuela. The author introduces the topic of the Catatumbo Lightning and provides a variety of facts, including where the lightning takes place, why the lightning is unusual, how many strikes the storms produce, what the sky looks like during a lightning storm, and why the lightning is important to the region where it occurs.
	Option F is incorrect	The author wrote the selection to discuss the Catatumbo Lightning, not to warn the reader about the dangers of lightning.
	Option H is incorrect	Comparing and contrasting lightning storms around the world is not the author’s main purpose for writing the selection.
	Option J is incorrect	Explaining the weather conditions that cause the lightning in general is not the author’s main purpose for writing the selection.