

**SIRIUS**

***SAMPLER***  
*Use with Your  
Students!*

**GRADE  
4**

# **READING ZINGERS**

**Answering the Most Common STAAR® Test Items**

**New  
TEKS**



- STAAR skill instruction
- Scaffolded STAAR practice
- STAAR test tips and strategies

**SAMPLE**

# To the Teacher

*Grade 4 Reading Zingers* helps prepare all students for the STAAR test by focusing on how to **read**, **analyze**, and **answer** STAAR test items by:

1. looking for academic vocabulary or key terms in the items to help focus their thinking
2. organizing information to help practice the tested skill
3. applying test-taking strategies that show how to decode test items and avoid traps
4. practicing the most common tested skills with four levels of scaffolded practice (A, B, C, and Mixed Review)

This workbook can be used in many ways, including:

- **Transition Activities** that can be used with partners or small groups.
- **Spaced Review**, such as one day a week, to review content in the format of the test.
- **Intense Review/Preparation** in the weeks before the STAAR test.

**Mixed Practice** is intended to add another rung to the scaffolding ladder by having students practice with a longer selection and with two skills in tandem.



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Printed in Texas.

ISBN: 978-1-949656-41-1

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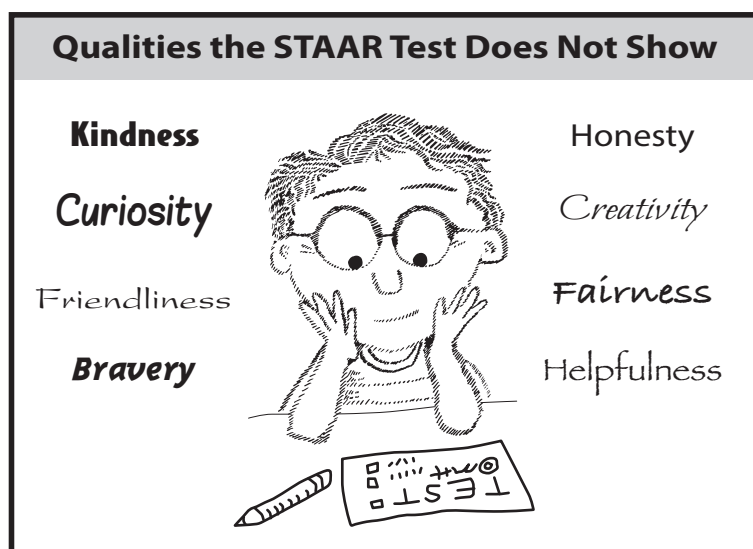
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Dear Student,

You are amazing in so many ways. There is no test that shows all the qualities that make you YOU.



You will take the STAAR Grade 4 Reading test later this year. This workbook will help you. It has questions like the ones on the STAAR Reading test, and it shows you how to answer them!

### What's a Zinger?

A Zinger is one of the most commonly tested skills on the STAAR test. It is a skill you will definitely see tested when you take the test! And here's a secret. That skill will be easier for you to handle. Why? Because you will learn more about the skill and the types of STAAR questions for that skill. So they won't surprise you when you see them on the STAAR Reading test.

### Practice Smart

Here's another secret. You can do well on the STAAR Reading test if you practice. But it's important to practice smart. Practice with questions like the ones on the test. You'll have a chance to practice smart by using this workbook.

Getting ready for the STAAR Reading test can be fun! Read each Zinger carefully, and practice, practice, practice. Keep trying and you will succeed!

Your STAAR success coaches,  
*The Sirius Education Team*



# Using This Book for STAAR Success

## Skill Instruction with Scaffolded Practice

Each lesson teaches **how to read, analyze, and answer** the STAAR questions for one of the most commonly tested TEKS. **Scaffolded practice A, B, and C** increases in complexity by modifying the number of answer choices.

**STAAR skill instruction**

**ZINGER 1 Plot and Character** (4.8B, 4.8C)

Plot is the series of events that make up a story. The major events in a plot include the **rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution**.

Characters are the people, or sometimes the animals, who move the plot along. Events in the plot are often influenced by what the characters say and do with one another.

On the STAAR test, you will be asked questions about main events in the plot and how characters affect the plot.

**1 Read the selection. Think about the plot and characters.**

1 Sammy looked at his bike and scratched his head. How was he going to get to the park with a flat tire?

2 Sammy's dad walked into the garage and asked him why he hadn't left yet to go play baseball. Sammy told him about the flat tire. Sammy's dad walked over to the tire. He reached down and pulled out a nail.

3 "I found your problem," his dad said. "That's the first step for fixing the flat."

4 "I remember the next step!" Sammy said brightly. "I'll find the tire pump."

**2 Complete the organizer by filling in the details from the story.**

Cause	Effect
Sammy runs over a nail.	Sammy _____
Sammy's dad finds the nail.	Sammy and his dad _____

**3 Read each STAAR test question below. Write "plot" if it is asking about an event in the story. Write "character" if it is asking about a character's actions.**

1. When Sammy shows his father the tire, Sammy's father most likely feels — \_\_\_\_\_

2. Paragraph 4 is important to the plot because — \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Grade 4 Reading Zingers** Answering the Most Common STAAR Test Items

**Practice A**

Read the selection.

1 The little boy was sure his grumbling stomach could be heard for miles. He walked into the center square and placed a large pot on the ground. Then he started a fire and added water to the pot.

2 People began to gather and ask him what he was doing.

3 "I'm making soup!" he said. "Anyone who adds something to the pot can have a bowl." Then the boy took a large spoonful of warm water from the pot and slurped it. "Delicious!" he exclaimed.

4 Curious, many other people wanted to taste the soup as well. They brought carrots, celery, potatoes, and salt and added them to the pot. Before long, the pot was filled with delicious soup.

5 The boy ate until his stomach was full, and all of his new friends enjoyed a bowl of special soup as well.

**Short selection with focused practice**

**12** Paragraph 7 is important because it shows that the fox is —

F annoyed by the squirrel's response

G uncertain about his own ability

H awed by the size of the pond

J confident he will beat the rabbit

**STAAR Think!** Carmine chose answer F for question 12. Explain in one or two sentences why he is correct or incorrect.

**Reflect** Circle the best answer to each question.

13. Which question asks about character? 11 | 12

14. Which question asks about plot? 11 | 12

**6 Grade 4 Reading Zingers** Answering the Most Common STAAR Test Items

**on level practice**

**Question analysis**

## Mixed Practice

Practice two Zinger skills using **longer selections** and **mixed question types**.

**checklist**

**ZINGERS 1–2 Mixed Practice** Part 1

**STAAR TIPS!** Read the questions first. Take notes in the selection. Look up words you don't know.

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.**

**The Big Day**

1 Today was the big day! Ismael and Dante sat in the waiting area and talked excitedly. Ismael was now 18 years old, like Dante, so the two of them could go skydiving together.

2 They had watched the safety video and signed all the necessary forms. Next, they walked over to the hangar to put on jumpsuits and harnesses. All beginners made a tandem jump, meaning that each one would jump while attached to an instructor.

3 Ismael was nervous as they followed the instructor to the hangar. Dante had convinced Ismael to go skydiving. He had said that his older brother loved skydiving with friends. Right now, Ismael wasn't sure he had made the right decision.

4 "Dante, are you sure we should do this?" he asked nervously.

5 "You can't chicken out now," Dante said. "It's too much fun. Trust me!"

6 Ismael wasn't sure that his friend was right. Ismael put on his jumpsuit, his hands shaking slightly. Thankfully, Dante didn't notice. He was talking to the instructor about what they would see from the air.

7 Ismael's shaking had increased by the time they boarded the plane. They sat on a bench, and each harness was buckled to a jump instructor's harness. Dante and his instructor sat in front of Ismael and his instructor.

8 As the plane taxied down the runway, Ismael looked at the scenery whizzing past. His mind was racing, and his palms felt sweaty. When they reached 13,000 feet, Dante and his instructor jumped. Next, Ismael and his instructor stood in the door. Before Ismael knew what was happening, his instructor yelled, "Go!" and then they were sailing through the air.

9 They fell freely for the first minute, and Ismael found he was no longer afraid. At 8,000 feet, the instructor pulled the parachute and they bounced upward. Floating back to earth, Ismael could not stop grinning. Hitting the ground, he shouted to Dante, "We have to do this again!"

**Longer selections**

**Mixed Practice: Part 1** Zingers 1–2 13

**Authentic STAAR test questions**

1 Which sentence from the selection best shows that Ismael does not want Dante to know how he is feeling? 4.8B

A They had watched the safety video and signed all the necessary forms. (paragraph 2)

B Ismael was nervous as they followed the instructor to the hangar. (paragraph 3)

C Thankfully, Dante didn't notice. (paragraph 6)

D Ismael's shaking had increased by the time they boarded the plane. (paragraph 7)

2 Based on the selection, the reader can infer that — 4.6F

F Dante and his instructor have met each other before.

G Ismael and his instructor will jump before Dante and his instructor.

H there are several other beginners and instructors on the plane.

J Ismael and Dante and their instructors are the only jumpers on the plane.

3 What does paragraph 3 show about Ismael? 4.6C

A He likes to do adventurous things.

B He is afraid to try new experiences.

C He respects people who are older than he is.

D He makes decisions based on other people's opinions.

4 Read this sentence from paragraph 9.

Floating back to earth, Ismael could not stop grinning.

Based on the details in this sentence, what can the reader tell about Ismael's experience? 4.8C

F He thought the instructor saved him from falling.

G He is glad that the experience is over.

H He has lost his fear of skydiving.

J He is glad that he has a friend like Dante.

**STAAR Tip** Think about Ismael's main conflict in the story. How is this conflict resolved?

**14 Grade 4 Reading Zingers** Answering the Most Common STAAR Test Items

**TEKS designation**

**Test tips**

The **plot** is the series of events that make up a story. The major events in a plot include the **rising action**, **climax**, **falling action**, and **resolution**.

**Characters** are the people, or sometimes the animals, who move the plot along. Events in the plot are often influenced by what the characters say and do with one another.

On the STAAR test, you will be asked questions about main events in the plot and how characters affect the plot.

## 1 Read the selection. Think about the plot and characters.

- 1 Sammy looked at his bike and scratched his head. How was he going to get to the park with a flat tire?
- 2 Sammy's dad walked into the garage and asked him why he hadn't left yet to go play baseball. Sammy told him about the flat tire. Sammy's dad walked over to the tire. He reached down and pulled out a nail.
- 3 "I found your problem," his dad said. "That's the first step for fixing the flat."
- 4 "I remember the next step!" Sammy said brightly. "I'll find the tire pump."

## 2 Complete the organizer by filling in the details from the story.

Cause	Effect
Sammy runs over a nail.	Sammy _____.
Sammy's dad finds the nail.	Sammy and his dad _____.

## 3 Read each STAAR test question below. Write "plot" if it is asking about an event in the story. Write "character" if it is asking about a character's actions.

1. When Sammy shows his father the tire, Sammy's father most likely feels — \_\_\_\_\_
2. Paragraph 4 is important to the plot because — \_\_\_\_\_

## Practice A

### Read the selection.

- 1 The little boy was sure his grumbling stomach could be heard for miles. He walked into the center square and placed a large pot on the ground. Then he started a fire and added water to the pot.
- 2 People began to gather and ask him what he was doing.
- 3 "I'm making soup!" he said. "Anyone who adds something to the pot can have a bowl." Then the boy took a large spoonful of warm water from the pot and slurped it. "Delicious!" he exclaimed.
- 4 Curious, many other people wanted to taste the soup as well. They brought carrots, celery, potatoes, and salt and added them to the pot. Before long, the pot was filled with delicious soup.
- 5 The boy ate until his stomach was full, and all of his new friends enjoyed a bowl of special soup as well.

### Complete the organizer by filling in the details from the story.

Cause	Effect
People want to taste the boy's special soup.	The people _____.

### Choose the best answer to each question. Use the organizer to help you.

- 3 Which sentence from the story reveals that the boy is actually tricking the townspeople?
  - A *Then he started a fire and added water to the pot.* (paragraph 1)
  - B *"Delicious!" he exclaimed.* (paragraph 3)
- 4 Which idea is developed throughout the story?
  - F The boy is more clever than the townspeople.
  - G The boy learns a lesson about dishonesty.

### Reflect Circle the best answer to each question.

5. Which question asks about **character**? 3 | 4
6. Which question asks about **plot**? 3 | 4

**Practice B**

**Read the selection.**

- 1 The girls walked silently next to the wagon. They were tired, and their feet hurt from the long trip. Other children, too young to understand the dangers, played a game of tag nearby. The girls were old enough at ten and twelve to know that this trip out west was full of danger. Many people in their wagon train had gotten sick from unknown diseases.
- 2 The older of the two girls, Mary, was always near tears. She was anxious and worried about everything. The younger girl, Laura, was more curious and adventurous and, if not for Mary's worried warnings, would explore the camp more. As it was, both girls always stayed close to their wagon.
- 3 Laura was excited to get to their new home in Minnesota. Her excitement made her forget about her aching feet or Mary's fears. Their father had told them many stories about their new life. She could not wait to swim in the many lakes her father talked about. She smiled at Mary. She was sure the lakes would make Mary happy again.

**Complete the organizer by filling in the details from the story.**

Cause	Effect
<i>Laura and Mary take a demanding trip.</i>	<i>Mary feels _____ because of the trip.</i>
<i>Laura thinks about the future in their new home.</i>	<i>Laura's excitement helps her _____.</i>

**Choose the best answer to each question. Use the organizer to help you.**

- 7 Which of the following describes the main conflict in the story?
  - A** Mary is suffering from a strange disease.
  - B** The girls are too young to make the trip alone.
  - C** Mary is anxious about the family's trip west.
- 8 Laura's feelings in paragraph 3 reveal that she is —
  - F** happy about the new home her father described
  - G** worried that Mary will get sick on the trip
  - H** missing her old friends and the home she left



**STAAR Think!** Tanya chose answer **F** for question 8. Explain in one or two sentences why she is correct or incorrect.

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**Reflect** Circle the best answer to each question.

9. Which question asks about **character**? 7 | 8
10. Which question asks about **plot**? 7 | 8

### Practice C

Read the selection.

#### Characters

#### FOX, MOUSE, and RABBIT

- 1 [Setting: A forest]
- 2 **FOX:** Everyone knows that I am the fastest animal in the forest.
- 3 **MOUSE:** You are always bragging. I think the rabbit is faster. Let's have a race to see who is right. What do you think, rabbit?
- 4 **RABBIT:** I don't know who is faster. I have never been in a race.
- 5 **MOUSE:** Then let's do it! You both have to run from here to the lake and back. Whoever comes back first is the faster animal!
- 6 **FOX:** I will be back long before the rabbit.
- 7 *As he runs through the forest, the fox stops to look at himself in the pond as he passes by. He talks to a squirrel and even stops at the blueberry bush for a snack. Meanwhile, the rabbit happily races through the forest. The mouse and some other animals wait at the finish line.*
- 8 **MOUSE:** I see someone coming. It's the rabbit!
- 9 *[As the rabbit crosses the finish line, the mouse declares her the fastest animal in the forest. The fox does not show up until several minutes later and is a poor loser.]*

Complete the organizer by filling in the details from the story.

Cause	Effect
<i>The fox is over-confident and foolish.</i>	<i>The fox _____</i> _____.

Choose the best answer to each question. Use the organizer to help you.

- 11** Which sentence from the story best reveals why the mouse may have suggested the animals race?
- A** *Everyone knows that I am the fastest animal in the forest.* (paragraph 2)
  - B** *You are always bragging.* (paragraph 3)
  - C** *I will be back long before the rabbit.* (paragraph 6)
  - D** *He talks to a squirrel and even stops at the blueberry bush for a snack.* (paragraph 7)

**STAAR Tip**

The fox brags about being “the fastest animal in the forest.” This evidence helps you understand his attitude.

- 12** Paragraph 7 is important because it shows that the fox is —
- F** annoyed by the squirrel’s response
  - G** uncertain about his own ability
  - H** awed by the size of the pond
  - J** confident he will beat the rabbit

**STAAR Think!** Carmine chose answer F for question 12. Explain in one or two sentences why he is correct or incorrect.

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**Reflect** Circle the best answer to each question.

- 13.** Which question asks about **character**? 11 | 12
- 14.** Which question asks about **plot**? 11 | 12

When authors of stories or poems do not explain or say something directly, readers must **infer** the meaning. Making an **inference** about meaning is not the same as making a guess. All inferences are based on **evidence** from the selection. The **details** in the text support the inference.

On the STAAR test, questions will ask you to make an inference or to select evidence from the text that supports an inference.

- 1** Read the selection. Connect details in the story to what you know about the world.

Long ago, the world had no fire. Then, lightning struck fire in a hollow tree beside a river. The raven and horned owl flew to get it. But the fire burned the raven's feathers black. The smoke made white circles around the horned owl's eyes. Finally, a tiny water spider spun a small bowl to carry on her back. She ran across the top of the river. She stole a live coal from the hollow tree and raced home with the coal in the bowl. At last, the world had fire.

- 2** Complete the organizer by adding evidence and completing the inference.

What the Text Says	+	What I Know	=	Inference
"She stole _____ from the hollow tree and _____ in the bowl."		Fire and coals are hot. You need something to carry the coal in so you don't get burned.		The spider carried the hot coal in a bowl so that she _____.

- 3** Read each STAAR test question below. Write "inference" if it is asking you to infer. Write "evidence" if it is asking you for text evidence to support an inference.

- How can the reader tell that fire is important? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which sentence from the selection supports the inference that the spider understood how not to be burned? \_\_\_\_\_

**Practice A**

**Read the selection.**

In the old days, Thunderfoot, the shaggy king of the plains, raced proudly across the prairie and caused the ground to tremble. He never looked down for any small creatures. Once, Mrs. Meadowlark flew by and begged, "Please don't step on my nest and my four precious eggs." Thunderfoot did not listen. As the huge buffalo ran, his enormous hooves squashed the bird's eggs. Mother Nature became angry at Thunderfoot. She jerked him up by his neck and shook him. After that, Thunderfoot had a giant hump on his back. And he had to run with his head always looking down.

**Complete the organizer by adding evidence and completing the inference.**

What the Text Says	+	What I Know	=	Inference
<i>"As the huge buffalo ran, his enormous hooves</i> <hr/> <hr/> <i>Mother Nature</i> <hr/> <i>at Thunderfoot."</i>		<i>Mother Nature is an imaginary person who takes care of all plants and animals.</i>  <i>A buffalo is a large, heavy animal that runs fast.</i>		<i>Because Thunderfoot was</i> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <i>he smashed the small eggs on the ground.</i>

**Choose the best answer to each question. Use the organizer to help you.**

- 3** Which of these events from the story makes Mother Nature angry?
- A** The sound of Thunderfoot's hooves makes the ground tremble.
- B** Thunderfoot doesn't look down to see where he is going.
- 
- 4** Which sentence from the story tells why the buffalo has a hump?
- F** *Thunderfoot did not listen.*
- G** *She jerked him up by his neck and shook him.*

**Reflect Circle the best answer to each question.**

5. Which question asks about **evidence in the story**? **3** | **4**
6. Which question asks about an **inference**? **3** | **4**

## Practice B

Read the poem.

### Going Down Hill on a Bicycle

*by Henry Charles Beeching*

With lifted feet, my hands still,  
I wait a while; then, down the hill  
I dart, with uplifted mind.  
The air goes by like the wind.

5 Swifter and yet more swift,  
Until my heart with a mighty lift  
Makes my lungs laugh, my throat cry:  
"See, O Bird; Look! I can fly!"

"Is this, O Bird, your wonderful thrill—  
10 To feel like I do when bicycling down a hill?  
For one golden moment, then, I can share  
Your feathery life as you fly in air!"

My speed slows now, and I float  
Awhile in my airy boat  
15 Until the wheels can scarcely crawl,  
And to the pedals my feet fall.

In life, like this, the longest hill  
Must end in a valley, but still  
Whoever to its heights does dare  
20 Will find WINGS waiting there!





Complete the organizer by adding evidence and completing the inference.

What the Text Says	+	What I Know	=	Inference
<p>Stanza 5:</p> <p>"In life, like this, the longest hill/ Must end in a valley, but still/ _____ _____ _____ _____."</p>		<p>When I accomplish a difficult task, I feel more confident about trying new things.</p>		<p>The poet uses the bicycle ride to teach a lesson about _____ _____ _____.</p>

Choose the best answer to each question. Use the organizer to help you.

- 7 Which lines from the poem best show that riding a bicycle down a steep hill will help the rider master any other fear in life?

- A** I wait a while; then, down the hill  
I dart, with uplifted mind.
- B** "See, O Bird; Look! I can fly!"
- C** Whoever to its heights does dare  
Will find WINGS waiting there!

**STAAR Tip**

Look for the lines that suggest a theme, or a big idea that can apply to many different people.

- 8 Stanzas 2 and 3 are important to the poem because they —

- F** introduce the speaker's bicycle ride
- G** compare the speaker's speed to a bird's flying
- H** explain the speaker's problems with breathing

**STAAR Tip**

Look for the actions and feelings that the speaker describes. Who is the speaker talking to?

**STAAR Think!** Myles chose answer **B** for question 7. Explain in one or two sentences why he is correct or incorrect.

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**Reflect** Circle the best answer to each question.

9. Which question asks about making an **inference** in the poem? 7 | 8
10. Which question asks about **evidence**? 7 | 8

## Practice C

### Read the selection.

- 1 Once a father had three sons who were always quarreling. They argued about whose turn it was to do a chore, they fought with each other over which video game to play, and they even fussed about who had the largest slice of pizza.
- 2 Finally, the father had enough of their constant bickering. He called his sons to him and gave each brother a single stick to break. CRACK! The first son broke his stick. SNAP! The second son broke his stick. POP! The third son broke his stick.
- 3 Next, the father tied a bundle of strong sticks together and asked each son to break the bundle of sticks in two. Each boy tried, but each in turn failed to break the bundle.
- 4 Then, the father said, "Now, my sons, if you can learn to get along with one another, you will be as strong as this *bundle* of sticks. Nothing and no one will be able to overcome you. However, if you continue to argue with one another, you will become as weak and easily broken as a single stick. Do you understand my lesson?"
- 5 Ashamed, the sons answered, "Yes, Father, we understand." And from that day forward, the boys no longer argued with each other. Neither did they disagree, except when they smelled freshly baked cookies. Then, each boy raced to eat the most cookies.

### Complete the organizer by filling in the missing details.

What the Text Says	+	What I Know	=	Inference
Paragraphs 2, 3, and 4: The father taught a lesson by _____		It is important for parents to help children learn _____		The father in the story is a _____ parent because _____
_____		_____		_____
_____		_____		_____
_____				He does not yell or punish his sons.
_____				
_____				

Choose the best answer to each question. Use the organizer to help you.

**11** Which sentence from the story shows that the sons will change the way they treat one another?

- A** *They argued about whose turn it was to do a chore, they fought with each other over which video game to play, and they even fussed about who had the largest slice of pizza.* (paragraph 1)
- B** *He called his sons to him and gave each brother a single stick to break.* (paragraph 2)
- C** *Each boy tried, but each in turn failed to break the bundle.* (paragraph 3)
- D** *Ashamed, the sons answered, "Yes, Father, we understand."* (paragraph 5)

**STAAR Tip**  
Which answer refers to events after the story's main conflict was resolved?

**12** How can the reader tell that the father is being a good parent?

- F** The father decides he has had enough of his sons' arguments.
- G** The father has each son break a stick to show that each one of them is strong.
- H** The father gives his sons a task to show that they must get along and work together without arguing.
- J** The father punishes his sons by taking away their pizza.

**STAAR Think!** Desiree chose answer **H** for question 12. Explain in one or two sentences why she is correct or incorrect.

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**Reflect** Circle the best answer to each question.

**13.** Which question asks about **evidence**? 11 | 12

**14.** Which question asks about making an **inference** in the story? 11 | 12

**STAAR TIPS!**


Read the questions first.



Take notes in the selection.



Look up words you don't know.

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.**

## The Big Day

- 1 Today was the big day! Ismael and Dante sat in the waiting area and talked excitedly. Ismael was now 18 years old, like Dante, so the two of them could go skydiving together.
- 2 They had watched the safety video and signed all the necessary forms. Next, they walked over to the hangar to put on jumpsuits and harnesses. All beginners made a tandem jump, meaning that each one would jump while attached to an instructor.
- 3 Ismael was nervous as they followed the instructor to the hangar. Dante had convinced Ismael to go skydiving. He had said that his older brother loved skydiving with friends. Right now, Ismael wasn't sure he had made the right decision.
- 4 "Dante, are you sure we should do this?" he asked nervously.
- 5 "You can't chicken out now," Dante said. "It's too much fun. Trust me!"
- 6 Ismael wasn't sure that his friend was right. Ismael put on his jumpsuit, his hands shaking slightly. Thankfully, Dante didn't notice. He was talking to the instructor about what they would see from the air.
- 7 Ismael's shaking had increased by the time they boarded the plane. They sat on a bench, and each harness was buckled to a jump instructor's harness. Dante and his instructor sat in front of Ismael and his instructor.
- 8 As the plane taxied down the runway, Ismael looked at the scenery whizzing past. His mind was racing, and his palms felt sweaty. When they reached 13,000 feet, Dante and his instructor jumped. Next, Ismael and his instructor stood in the door. Before Ismael knew what was happening, his instructor yelled, "Go!" and then they were sailing through the air.
- 9 They fell freely for the first minute, and Ismael found he was no longer afraid. At 8,000 feet, the instructor pulled the parachute and they bounced upward. Floating back to earth, Ismael could not stop grinning. Hitting the ground, he shouted to Dante, "We have to do this again!"

**1** Which sentence from the selection best shows that Ismael does not want Dante to know how he is feeling? (4.8B)

- A** *They had watched the safety video and signed all the necessary forms.* (paragraph 2)
- B** *Ismael was nervous as they followed the instructor to the hangar.* (paragraph 3)
- C** *Thankfully, Dante didn't notice.* (paragraph 6)
- D** *Ismael's shaking had increased by the time they boarded the plane.* (paragraph 7)

**2** Based on the selection, the reader can infer that — (4.6F)

- F** Dante and his instructor have met each other before.
- G** Ismael and his instructor will jump before Dante and his instructor.
- H** there are several other beginners and instructors on the plane.
- J** Ismael and Dante and their instructors are the only jumpers on the plane.

**3** What does paragraph 3 show about Ismael? (4.6B)

- A** He likes to do adventurous things.
- B** He is afraid to try new experiences.
- C** He respects people who are older than he is.
- D** He makes decisions based on other people's opinions.

**4** Read this sentence from paragraph 9.

*Floating back to earth, Ismael could not stop grinning.*

Based on the details in this sentence, what can the reader tell about Ismael's experience? (4.8C)

- F** He thought the instructor saved him from falling.
- G** He is glad that the experience is over.
- H** He has lost his fear of skydiving.
- J** He is glad that he has a friend like Dante.

**STAAR Tip**

Think about Ismael's main conflict in the story. How is this conflict resolved?



**STAAR TIPS!**


Read the questions first.



Take notes in the selection.



Look up words you don't know.

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.**

## A Day at the Zoo

- 1 "This is not how I wanted to spend my vacation before high school starts again," Santiago thought to himself. He and his family walked around the zoo. His younger sister excitedly ran ahead, swinging her little white purse beside her.
- 2 Santiago walked slowly behind his family. He looked at his phone to see what his friends were doing. His friend Asher had posted a picture of his family at a water park. "Now that looks like fun," Santiago thought.
- 3 He caught up to his family at the rhinoceros pit. The huge rhinos were sleeping in the mud. "Oh, boy! Big deal," Santiago thought. "They aren't doing anything very exciting."
- 4 He had barely finished his thought when his little sister started crying and pointing. At that moment, Santiago spotted her white purse in the pit.
- 5 His mother calmed his little sister. Within minutes, his dad had alerted a zoo worker. The worker arrived at the pit with a huge, long-handled hook. He was careful not to disturb the sleeping rhinos as he used the hook to scoop the now-muddy white purse out of the pit.
- 6 Santiago took a few pictures with his phone and posted them to social media. His friends began to comment in return. Several friends were impressed by the worker's skill at using the hook so near the sleeping rhinos.
- 7 Santiago took more photos of the worker's hook. As he did, he saw one of the rhinos stand up and shake the mud off its hide. Santiago took a short video of the rhino tossing its head with its enormous, dangerous horn. Posting the video caused most of his friends to comment "WOW!"
- 8 "I guess the zoo isn't such a bad place," Santiago thought. "Maybe a zoo can be just as much fun as a water park!"

**5** Which sentence best shows how Santiago feels about the zoo at the beginning of the story? (4.8B)

- A** *He looked at his phone to see what his friends were doing.*  
(paragraph 2)
- B** *His friend Asher had posted a picture of his family at a water park.*  
(paragraph 2)
- C** *He had barely finished his thought when his little sister started crying and pointing.* (paragraph 4)
- D** *At that moment, Santiago spotted her white purse in the pit.*  
(paragraph 4)

**6** Paragraph 4 is important to the story because — (4.8C)

- F** Santiago rescues his sister
- G** Santiago's sister has an accident
- H** Santiago becomes interested in a zoo event
- J** Santiago's sister has to be calmed down

**STAAR Tip**

Santiago thinks the zoo will be boring. What changes for him in paragraph 4?

**7** In paragraph 7, Santiago's friends write "WOW!" on social media most likely because they — (4.6F)

- A** think that Santiago's video of a rhino is exciting
- B** want to see more of the long-handled hook
- C** will ask their parents to take them to the zoo
- D** are glad the zoo workers can help with accidents

**8** What is the most likely reason that Santiago changes his mind about his visit to the zoo? (4.6F)

- F** He wants his sister to enjoy the rest of the day at the zoo.
- G** He believes his parents will take them to a water park next.
- H** He becomes interested in taking pictures of animals in action.
- J** He decides that he will not go on another boring family vacation.

# SAMPLER

## GRADE 4 READING ZINGERS CONTENTS

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**Mixed Practice 9–10**

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