

Read the text and answer the questions.

Sensory Objects Are for Learning

- 1 Sensory objects, such as stress balls and playdough, have been banned at our school recently. However, I believe there are compelling reasons why students should be permitted to use sensory objects in our classrooms.
- 2 Sensory objects allow students to relieve stress and anxiety. School can be an intimidating place for many students. Reading aloud, answering questions, and participating in groups are daunting for some students. Allowing these students to use sensory objects can help to reduce these feelings.
- 3 Sensory objects help students focus on their tasks. Students who struggle to pay attention to the teacher or to assignments benefit from sensory objects. They help to minimize distractions and to increase concentration.
- 4 Most importantly, sensory objects increase the way the brain functions. The repetitive actions used with these sensory objects actually increase connections in the brain. Greater connections lead to deeper learning.
- 5 Sensory objects serve many purposes because they help students relieve stress, provide students with comfort, and allow students to focus. Because these objects can only produce positive effects in our classrooms, teachers and administrators should endorse rather than oppose their use.

ThinkUp! ELAR

Unit 1

- 1 Which word in paragraph 2 best helps the reader determine the meaning of the word daunting?
 - A *relieve*
 - B *intimidating*
 - C *reduce*
 - D *feelings*

- 2 The Latin root *mini*, meaning “small,” helps the reader determine that minimize in paragraph 3 means —
 - F *lessen*
 - G *predict*
 - H *notice*
 - H *reject*

- 3 Read the dictionary entry for the word deep.

deep /dēp/ *adjective*
1. extending far below a surface 2. mysterious or odd 3. rich in quality 4. difficult to understand

- Which definition best matches how the word deeper is used in paragraph 4?
- A Definition 1
 - B Definition 2
 - C Definition 3
 - D Definition 4
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- 4 Explain how the author provides context clues throughout the text for the meaning of the word endorse in paragraph 5. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	B	8.2(B)	2	Apply	(c)4.F
2	F	8.2(C)	1	Apply	(c)4.F
3	C	8.2(A)	1	Apply	(c)4.F

4 Answers may vary. Student responses might include: In paragraph 1, the author says that sensory objects “should be permitted.” Paragraphs 2, 3, 4, and 5 provide reasons that students should be allowed to use sensory objects. In the last paragraph, the author states that teachers and administrators should endorse, or allow, the use.

(C.T. Traits: Adapt, Strive, Link, TEKS: 8.2(B), DOK: 2, RBT: Apply, ELPS: (c)4.F)

Read the text and answer the questions.

The Farmer and His Dream

adapted from the English tale “A Cobbler in Somersetshire”

- 1 There was once a poor farmer who lived in an English countryside. He was happy in his humble home. He had a lovely garden with beautiful flowers and tall oak trees. But for three nights in a row, he had the same strange dream. He dreamt that if he went to London Bridge and stood there patiently, he would receive wonderful news.

- 2 After much consideration, the farmer decided to make the long journey. He stood on London Bridge for three days. The owner of a nearby shop noticed the farmer standing on the bridge. On the third day, the shop owner decided to ask the farmer what he was doing. When the farmer explained to the shop owner his purpose, the shop owner laughed.

- 3 “Why, Sir! I have had a similar dream for many nights too. I dreamt that if I traveled to the English countryside, I would find a great treasure buried under a tall oak behind a farmer’s humble home. I would be a fool to take such a journey based on a silly dream!”

- 4 The farmer wondered if the shop owner’s dream was about him. He made the journey back home and discovered a pot filled with gold under his tallest oak tree. For the rest of his days, the farmer had everything he needed. He gave much of his gold to those who were less fortunate. And he never failed to follow his dreams.

ThinkUp! ELAR**Unit 2**

- 1 Which of these best summarizes the text?
- A Obeying a dream, a farmer travels to London Bridge where he meets a shop owner who has dreamt there is treasure on the farmer's land. The farmer goes home, finds the treasure, and lives happily ever after.
 - B A farmer travels to London Bridge as his recurring dreams instruct him to do. After three days, he meets a shop owner who laughs at him for making a journey based on nothing more than a silly dream.
 - C While looking for treasure under a tall oak tree behind his home, a farmer is amazed to find a pot of gold. Since he feels thankful for his discovery and has all he needs, he decides to share the money with others in need.
 - D A farmer explains to a curious shop owner why he has been standing on London Bridge for three days. In response, the shop owner tells the farmer his own recurring dream about a pot of gold buried under a tall oak tree.
- 2 Which is the best paraphrase of paragraph 1?
- F An English farmer who lives in the countryside has a humble home and a beautiful garden. He dreams he should go to London Bridge and stand there.
 - G For three nights, a farmer dreams about London Bridge and waiting patiently. He is happy with his home because he has beautiful flowers and oak trees.
 - H A poor but happy farmer has a strange dream three times in a row. He dreams if he travels from the countryside to London Bridge, he will get good news.
 - J Lovely flowers and towering oak trees grow in the garden of a happy farmer. Oddly, the farmer dreams three times about going to London Bridge.
- 3 Which summary of paragraphs 2 and 3 keeps the events in a logical order?
- A Waiting on London Bridge for three days to pass, a farmer makes conversation with a shop owner. The shop owner describes his own recurring dream, which involves a treasure buried under an oak near a farmer's home.
 - B Visiting London Bridge, the farmer recalls the reason for his journey and shares the information with a curious shop owner. He and the shop owner tell each other about strange dreams they have had more than once.
 - C A shop owner dreams he should travel to the English countryside because there is a treasure buried on a farmer's land. The shop owner meets a farmer who stands patiently on London Bridge and shares his silly dream.
 - D After waiting on London Bridge for three days, a farmer talks with a shop owner, who mocks him for following a dream. The shop owner says he has had dreams of treasure in the country, but he would never base a journey on that.
- 4 How can paragraph 4 best be summarized in a way that maintains meaning? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
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Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	A	8.6(D)	2	Understand	(c)4.1
2	H	8.6(D)	2	Understand	(c)4.1
3	D	8.6(D)	2	Understand	(c)4.1

4 Answers may vary. Student responses might include: The farmer returns home. Thanks to the shop owner's dream, he finds a pot of gold which he generously shares with others.

(C.T. Traits: Examine, Link, TEKS: 8.6(D), DOK: 2, RBT: Understand, ELPS: (c)4.1)

Read the text and answer the questions.

The Mascot Contest

- 1 On Monday morning, Mrs. Martinez beamed at her students. “This weekend,” she announced, “school administrators chose the winner of our school’s Pick-Our-Mascot contest. And . . .” she paused dramatically “. . . the winner is someone in this class!”
- 2 Izzy sat up a little straighter. She knew Mrs. Martinez was about to say her name. When the mascot contest had been announced, Izzy had made a beeline for the nearest computer. She’d spent hours researching school mascots. She’d even polled her family and friends for their preferences.
- 3 “Those both stink,” her twin brother, Ryan, had said promptly when Izzy asked him whether she should go with Sarah the Seahawk or Liv the Lion. Izzy had decided to ignore him. She knew Sarah and Olivia were two of the most popular girl names in America.
- 4 When the day of the contest had finally arrived, Izzy had actually felt a flash of pity for Ryan. He obviously had no idea what to write down on his blank slip of paper. He’d just stared out their classroom window at the dark clouds massing overhead.
- 5 Izzy snapped back to attention just in time to hear Mrs. Martinez congratulate Ryan for winning the contest. “From now on,” Mrs. Martinez chirped, “our sports teams will be known as The Storm!”
- 6 *That’s awful, Izzy thought. How can our mascot dress up as a storm?*
- 7 She looked at Ryan. He was grinning from ear to ear.
- 8 *It’s more original than my idea, she admitted to herself. And who knows, maybe he’ll be willing to split that \$50 gift card with his beloved sister.*
- 9 Izzy stood up and joined the congratulatory crowd.

ThinkUp! ELAR

- 1 Why does Izzy spend time researching mascots?
 - A She finds doing research enjoyable and interesting.
 - B She believes doing research will help her win a contest.
 - C She knows it will be hard to beat her brother’s contest entry.
 - D She wants to find a mascot that everyone at her school will like.

- 2 Ryan’s actions in the story influence the events by —
 - F helping Izzy decide which of her ideas to enter in the contest
 - G reminding Izzy that contest entries should be creative
 - H causing Izzy to secretly hope that he wins the contest
 - J making Izzy think he will share his prize with her

- 3 The fact that Izzy chooses to congratulate Ryan indicates that she —
 - A is making an effort to be a good sport
 - B knows her classmates are watching her
 - C is curious to learn how Ryan got his idea
 - D feels she contributed to Ryan’s win

- 4 How does the announcement Mrs. Martinez makes in paragraph 1 influence the story? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	B	8.7(B)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
2	G	8.7(B)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
3	A	8.7(B)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K

4 Answers may vary. Student responses might include: Mrs. Martinez announces that the contest winner is someone in her class. This makes Izzy feel certain that she has won.

(C.T. Traits: Communicate, Reflect, TEKS: 8.7(B), DOK: 2, RBT: Analyze, ELPS: (c)4.K)

Read the text and answer the questions.

Make Way for Millet

- 1 Can you guess the number of plastic utensils thrown into landfills each year? Experts estimate 40 billion in the United States alone. And in India, where the population hovers around 1.3 billion, scientists say they throw away 120 billion pieces a year. That's more than the number of stars in the Milky Way!
- 2 One man, Narayana Peesapaty of India, wondered how he could make a difference. He began to experiment with a recipe to bake edible spoons. You heard right. Bakey's, the company manufacturing these "eat-able" utensils, wants to change the way you sip soup (and stir coffee and eat ice cream).
- 3 The edible spoons are made mostly from sorghum, a grain in the millet family. Not only do they leave no waste, they use very little water or energy to produce. According to the company's website, it takes the same amount of energy to produce 100 edible spoons as to produce a single plastic spoon.
- 4 The edible spoons come in eight flavors from sugar to black pepper. But if you don't like the options, you can always throw them away. They will biodegrade in as few as three days. Compare that with the 450- year life expectancy of a plastic spoon.

No Straw, Please

- 1 500,000,000—that's the number of straws used in the United States every day, enough to circle the globe 2.5 times! That sounds alarming. But what does it really mean? Why does it matter? How can I help?
- 2 Plastics, especially disposable straws, do circle the globe. Much of our plastic waste winds up in our oceans. Unfortunately, once plastic objects are caught up in a gyre, an orbiting ocean current, that's where they stay. As the trash piles up on the surface of the ocean, it forms what is commonly referred to as a garbage patch. The largest garbage patch on Earth is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Conservative estimates say the garbage patch is about 270,000 square miles. That's the size of Texas!
- 3 All plastic debris is harmful to marine life. Plastic straws are especially deadly. Sea birds, sea turtles, and dolphins mistake the colorful objects for food. Many animals choke when straws obstruct their airways. And plastic is indigestible. That means it sits in the digestive tract, sometimes puncturing organs, and prevents animals from absorbing necessary nutrients.
- 4 Thanks to the No Straw, Please social media campaign and others such as the Last Plastic Straw organization, the straw dilemma has a simple solution. Just tell your waiter, "No straw, please." You can make your last plastic straw your last plastic straw.

ThinkUp! ELAR

- 1 What is one **difference** between the texts?
- A Only “Make Way for Millet” acknowledges the usefulness of plastic items.
 - B Only “Make Way for Millet” shows that many countries are affected by plastic waste.
 - C Only “No Straw, Please” provides details about how discarded plastic items harm the Earth.
 - D Only “No Straw, Please” suggests that individuals can take steps to reduce plastic waste.
- 2 How are the texts **similar**?
- F Both texts use statistics to try to convince the reader that plastic waste is a serious problem.
 - G Both texts describe someone who has developed a solution to the problem of plastic waste.
 - H Both texts indicate that a few large countries produce much of the world’s plastic waste.
 - J Both texts emphasize that plastic waste takes a very long time to break down.
- 3 Which is an important **difference** between “Make Way for Millet” and “No Straw, Please”?
- A “Make Way for Millet” suggests people must live with the harmful effects of too much plastic, while “No Straw, Please” suggests the problem can be easily solved.
 - B “Make Way for Millet” suggests replacing a plastic item with something else, while “No Straw, Please” suggests doing without a plastic item.
 - C “Make Way for Millet” suggests plastic waste mainly affects the land, while “No Straw, Please” suggests plastic waste mainly affects the ocean.
 - D “Make Way for Millet” suggests some plastic items are essential, while “No Straw, Please” suggests humans should reject anything made of plastic.
- 4 Based on **both** texts, do you think edible spoons and the campaign to stop using plastic straws are effective ways to help the planet? Why or why not? Use evidence from the texts to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	C	8.5(E)	3	Understand	(c)4.J
2	F	8.5(E)	3	Understand	(c)4.J
3	B	8.5(E)	3	Understand	(c)4.J

4 Answers may vary. Student responses might include an affirmative response: Yes, both ideas are good because they will result in less plastic waste; the edible spoons biodegrade in a few days (according to paragraph 4 of “Make Way for Millet”) and the anti-straw campaign will result in less straws ending up in the ocean where they harm sea life (paragraphs 2 and 3 of “No Straw, Please.”) Student responses might include a negatory response: No, they are unlikely to be effective because even though plastic waste is harmful (paragraph 3 of “No Straw, Please”), these ideas do not do enough to combat the problem of plastic waste. The edible spoon company is only in India (paragraph 2 of “Make Way for Millet”), and many people around the world will go on using straws.

(C.T. Traits: Link, Reflect, TEKS: 8.5(E), DOK: 3, RBT: Understand, ELPS: (c)4.J)

Read the text and answer the questions.

Making the Model T

- 1 One night, Matteo did not arrive home from his job at Highland Park Plant at the usual time. When Doria could no longer justify fussing with the stew that simmered on the stove, she sat on the sofa wringing her hands. Matteo never complained about the work he did for Mr. Henry Ford, but Doria knew factory work could be dangerous.
- 2 To calm her fears, Doria thought of her happiest memory. She and Matteo had been newlyweds when they emigrated from Sicily to the United States. Upon reaching Ellis Island they had been separated, as was typical, to endure questioning by doctors and inspectors. Several hours later, they had both been cleared to begin their new lives in America. Matteo had turned to her with sparkling eyes and promised, “Now we will make our dreams come true!”
- 3 And despite a few rough spots, they were closing in on those dreams. Matteo had been working at the auto plant for eight months now. Bolting axles onto automobile frames hour after hour was far from enjoyable. Many of his coworkers had left their jobs on the assembly line to become tile setters, woodworkers, or tailors. But Matteo was loyal to Mr. Ford, who had given him a job when few employers would hire Italian immigrants. Ford offered English-language classes so workers like Matteo could learn English, and best of all, he had raised wages to five dollars a day. This was twice as much as other factory owners paid!
- 4 Doria’s thoughts were suddenly broken by the unmistakable “a-o-ogha” of a Model T horn. She rushed outside. Her mouth fell open at the sight of Matteo sitting proudly in the driver’s seat of a shiny black automobile.

ThinkUp! ELAR

- 1 Doria’s thoughts in paragraph 3 mainly affect the plot by —
 - A showing that Matteo finds his job satisfying
 - B revealing that Matteo is well paid
 - C explaining how Ford’s assembly line works
 - D emphasizing challenges faced by immigrants

- 2 Which event in the story occurs in a flashback?
 - H Doria prepares a stew for Matteo’s dinner.
 - F Doria worries over Matteo’s safety.
 - G Matteo assures Doria that their dreams will come true.
 - J Matteo sits in the driver’s seat of a Model T.

- 3 How do the events in paragraph 4 affect the text?
 - A They show that Doria was right to be concerned about Matteo.
 - B They indicate that Matteo has succeeded in keeping a specific promise to Doria.
 - C They provide further evidence of Ford’s generosity to workers like Matteo.
 - D They reveal the reason Matteo arrives home later than usual.

- 4 How does the flashback influence the plot? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	B	8.7(C)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
2	G	8.7(C)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
3	D	8.7(C)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K

4 Answers may vary. Student responses might include: The flashback provides important background about Matteo and Doria, such as the fact that they are Italian immigrants. It also helps the reader understand that Matteo is an optimistic person who is excited to live in America.

(C.T. Traits: Reflect, Communicate, TEKS: 8.7(C), DOK: 2, RBT: Analyze, ELPS: (c)4.K)

Read the text and answer the questions.

The Queen of Iodized Salt

- 1 Iodine is a necessary nutrient. It contributes to the function of the thyroid gland, which maintains healthy weight and energy. More importantly, it protects the brains of unborn babies.
- 2 Iodine occurs naturally in only a few foods. The World Health Organization recommends iodizing salt. Salt is widely used to flavor foods around the globe. Fatick, Senegal, is one of the largest salt-harvesting areas in western Africa. Small salt-harvesting businesses are common. These small operations rarely add iodine to the salt they harvest.
- 3 But Marie Diouf is no ordinary salt harvester. When the opportunity arose, Diouf purchased a salt flat in her hometown of Fatick and started her own company. She employs twelve women. They harvest, process, and package the salt. Diouf learned that adding iodine to salt would improve the lives of her people. Today, she works with an international health organization that provides the equipment needed to iodize the salt. Women and children who benefit from the addition of iodine call her the Queen of Iodized Salt.
- 4 Marie Diouf is making her country more flavorful by increasing awareness of iodine deficiency in women and babies.

ThinkUp! ELAR

- 1 What is the author’s main purpose in this text?
 - A To show the cause and effect of adding nutrients to food sources
 - B To explain why certain foods are more important than others
 - C To compare specific minerals in degree of necessity for humans
 - D To tell about a person who made a difference in her country

- 2 Why did the author begin the text with the information in the first paragraph?
 - F To provide an analogy that clarifies why humans need this nutrient
 - G To explain the specific reasons that iodine is necessary in the human body
 - H To show the most common argument for the addition of iodine to salt
 - J To give support to the idea that iodine should be consumed more frequently

- 3 Why is the information in paragraph 3 important to the text?
 - A It provides details that help the reader understand why the work of Marie Diouf is important.
 - B It refers to a respected organization that has made recommendations about salt harvesting.
 - C It explains how salt is used by people around the world.
 - D It tells why one particular country is a world leader in salt harvesting.

- 4 What purpose does the last paragraph serve in the text? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	D	8.9(B)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
2	G	8.9(B)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
3	A	8.9(B)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K

4. Answers may vary. Student responses might include: The last paragraph provides a concluding statement about the importance of Marie Diouf in her country and the contribution she is making. It wraps up the major point in the text and does so in a creative way with the use of “making her country more flavorful.”

(C.T. Traits: Examine, Link, TEKS: 8.9(B), DOK: 2, RBT: Analyze, ELPS: (c)4.K)

Read the text and answer the questions.

Goat on the Rooftop

adapted from the Aesop fable “The Kid on the Housetop”

Characters

GOAT

WOLF

SCENE 1

1 *[A small thatched cottage covered in thick wildflowers and mosses sits in the middle of a clearing.]*

2 **GOAT:** *[Trotting past.]* Oh, how lucky I am to have stumbled across such a delightful cottage! A feast for the eyes, exercise for the body, . . . and another feast for my belly!

3 *[Goat gazes for a moment at the cottage, scrambles happily to the rooftop, and munches the wildflowers and mosses growing there.]*

SCENE 2

4 *[Something yet unseen catches Goat’s attention.]*

5 **GOAT:** What have we here? That wily Wolf usually terrorizes me with his ferocious bark and even worse bite. I believe I’ll have a bit of fun from the safety of my rooftop retreat!

6 *[Wolf comes into view. As he strolls near the cottage, Goat pushes a clod of moss onto his head.]*

7 **GOAT:** *[Scampering to the highest point of the roof.]* Hello, there, Wolf! I guess you’re not so big after all! Bark all you want, but you can’t bite me up here! Let this teach you a lesson!

8 **WOLF:** *[Looking up at Goat.]* I will neither bark nor bite, for it is not you who mock me, young Goat, but the roof on which you stand.

9 *[Wolf walks away, leaving Goat feeling rather sheepish.]*

10 **GOAT:** Perhaps, it is I who has the lesson to learn.

11 *[Goat climbs down from the rooftop and walks away in the direction from which he had come.]*

- 1 How does Scene 1 contribute to the action in the drama?
 - A It portrays Goat as playful and impulsive.
 - B It emphasizes the importance of healthy living.
 - C It demonstrates Goat’s attention to his surroundings.
 - D It shows the role that luck plays in the lives of the characters.

- 2 Read this dialogue from Scene 2.

GOAT: What have we here? That wily Wolf usually terrorizes me with his ferocious bark and even worse bite. I believe I’ll have a bit of fun from the safety of my rooftop retreat!

This dialogue by Goat contributes to the action in the drama because it —

- F resolves the conflict between Goat and Wolf
 - G proves that Goat is smarter than he appears
 - H shows why Wolf deserves to be mistreated
 - J provides evidence for Goat’s motivations
-
- 3 The playwright creates a sudden shift in the action between Scenes 1 and 2 by —
 - A describing how Wolf enters the scene
 - B providing background information about the relationship between Wolf and Goat
 - C stating that something grabs Goat’s attention
 - D illustrating the cause and effect of Goat’s behavior on the rooftop
-
- 4 How are tension and suspense created at the beginning of Scene 2? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	A	8.8(C)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
2	J	8.8(C)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
3	C	8.8(C)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K

4. Answers may vary. Student responses might include: Scene 2 begins with stage directions that indicate that Goat is aware of something that the reader is not yet aware of. The playwright creates tension and suspense because the reader is left to wonder what it is that Goat sees and what effect it will have.

(C.T. Traits: Link, Examine, TEKS: 8.8(C), DOK: 2, RBT: Analyze, ELPS: (c)4.K, (c)5.G)

Read the text and answer the questions.

The Human Brain

1 The human brain is a complex organ that controls the activities of the human body. It is composed of three main structures:

Cerebrum

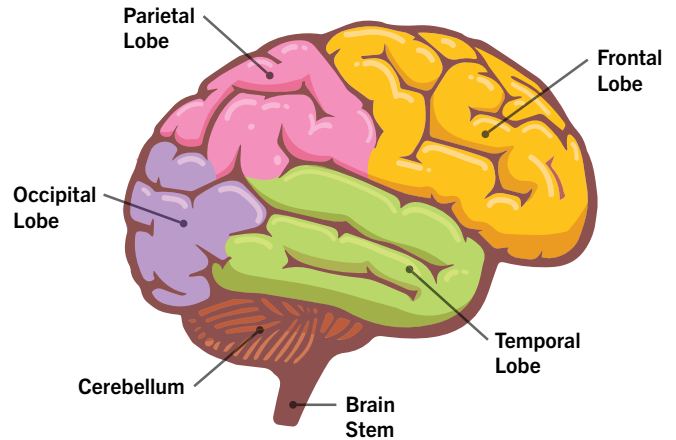
- Is the largest part of the brain
- Interprets and responds to the body’s signals
- Is divided into two hemispheres and into four different lobes

Cerebellum

- Coordinates movement

Brain Stem

- Connects brain to spinal cord
- Regulates breathing and heartbeat



This chart shows which parts of the brain are involved with which functions, although functions overlap.

Part of Brain	Function
frontal lobe	critical thinking skills memory personality and emotions movement speech (speaking and writing)
parietal lobe	touch pain spatial perception visual perception
temporal lobe	speech (understanding language) long-term memory hearing
occipital lobe	vision dreams
cerebellum	balance muscle coordination
brain stem	breathing heart rate consciousness

ThinkUp! ELAR

- 1 What information about the brain does the diagram provide that the text and chart do not?
 - A It shows which part of the brain is responsible for a person’s breathing.
 - B It shows that the human brain is more complex than many other organs.
 - C It shows how the different brain parts are connected to one another.
 - D It shows that some parts of the brain are more important than others.

- 2 Both the diagram and the chart emphasize that —
 - F there are six distinct areas of the brain
 - G the occipital lobe is responsible for dreams
 - H the frontal lobe is the largest of the four lobes
 - J each part of the brain has more than one function

- 3 Based on the chart, the functions of the temporal lobe appear to most closely overlap with the —
 - A parietal lobe
 - B brain stem
 - C cerebellum
 - D frontal lobe

- 4 Based on **both** the bulleted list and the diagram of the brain, what is the relationship between the cerebrum and the four lobes of the brain? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	C	8.9(C)	2	Apply	(c)4.1
2	F	8.9(C)	2	Apply	(c)4.1
3	D	8.9(C)	2	Apply	(c)4.1

4 Answers may vary. Student responses might include: Based on the bulleted list and the diagram, the reader can tell that the four lobes (frontal, parietal, temporal, and occipital) make up the cerebrum. One of the bullet points under “Cerebrum” mentions that it has four different lobes. And although the diagram does not include the label “Cerebrum,” it shows that the four lobes must be the cerebrum because they are neither the Cerebellum nor the Brain Stem.

(C.T. Traits: Examine, Strive, TEKS: 8.9(C), DOK: 2, RBT: Apply, ELPS: (c)4.1)

Read the text and answer the questions.

The Girl and the Almost Art Entry

a modern-day retelling of an Aesop fable

- 1 Rita gripped her latest masterpiece firmly in her hands. She just knew this painting was going to win the contest. She had spent five long weeks on it, dedicating every weeknight to it and all day on the weekends. With that much time invested, there was no way that she wouldn't win. No way.
- 2 "I think with my prize money I'll buy some chiseling tools," Rita concluded, picturing in her mind the sharp instruments that would carve Grandfather's blocks of wood into intricate totems.
- 3 "Then, I'll sell those totems at the farmers' bazaar next month," she determined. "I know I'll be able to sell them for big bucks. The people who come to the bazaar love artsy stuff like that." Rita could almost feel the money bulging from her hands.
- 4 She could picture what she was going to buy with it too—a summer pass to the pool. Rita's imagination transported her to next summer—the sun suddenly beat down on her like an oven and the cool water splashed onto her suit from the deep blue. Rita pictured her flight up to the diving board to make her perfect swan dive. She threw her arms outward and . . .
- 5 Just as she did, Rita was suddenly thrust back into reality as her beautiful masterpiece crashed to the ground, right into a big muddy puddle on the sidewalk.
- 6 Rita burst out in tears as she retrieved her soggy painting from the ground. As she did, she could almost hear her grandmother's words of wisdom replaying in her mind. "Don't count your chicks before they hatch, my dear," she frequently would say when Rita's imagination got the best of her. And today, Grandmother's words couldn't ring more true.

ThinkUp! ELAR

- 1 For what purpose did the author most likely write this text?
 - A To teach an important life lesson
 - B To convince people to compete in contests
 - C To show how one’s imagination can be helpful
 - D To tell why a girl remembers her grandmother’s words

- 2 The organizational structure of the text allows the author to —
 - F explain why Rita decides to enter the contest
 - G compare and contrast Rita’s dreams from earlier times
 - H show how Rita’s thoughts about winning the contest build on one another
 - J demonstrate that Rita has a close relationship with her grandmother

- 3 The author uses paragraph 4 to show —
 - A why Rita decided to paint the picture
 - B why Rita feels confident about her contest entry
 - C how Rita plans to spend time with her family
 - D how Rita becomes involved in her imagination

- 4 Why is paragraph 6 important to the text? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	A	8.9(A)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
2	H	8.9(B)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
3	D	8.9(B)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K

4. Answers may vary. Student responses might include: This paragraph brings the story to a close by explaining the lesson that Rita learns as she remembers her grandmother's words.

(C.T. Traits: Link, Reflect, Examine, TEKS: 8.9(A), 8.9(B), DOK: 2, RBT: Analyze, ELPS: (c)4.K)

Read the text and answer the questions.

Why So Silent?

- 1 “You want popcorn?” Elena asked Becca. Her friend just shrugged. Although Becca normally talked a mile a minute, she had been practically silent all the way to the movie theater.
- 2 Elena thought she knew what was going on. Yesterday, when the girls had talked about seeing a movie, they had disagreed about what to see. Becca had finally agreed to Elena’s choice. Elena hadn’t thought it was a big deal, but now, she wondered how long Becca was planning to sulk.
- 3 The girls made their way into the theater and waited for the movie to begin. As the uncomfortable silence continued, Elena’s annoyance grew. Becca was acting so childish. Elena struggled to contain her emotions, but she ultimately failed. She snapped, “You didn’t have to come, you know!”
- 4 Becca turned shocked eyes in Elena’s direction. “What do you mean?”
- 5 “You’re upset with me,” Elena fumed.
- 6 “Yes, I’m upset,” Becca admitted, “but not with you. Last night my aunt and uncle came over to tell us they’re moving to Singapore.”
- 7 “Singapore?” Elena repeated blankly. “Why didn’t you tell me?”
- 8 “I would have. I’m not ready to talk about it yet,” Becca said with a snuffle. Feeling remorseful, Elena squeezed Becca’s hand and resolved to be a better friend.

Looking Closely

- 1 Jayesh’s grandmother looked critically at one of the paintings on the wall at the Student Art Show. “This one’s not as good as yours,” she commented loudly.
- 2 “Shhh!” Jayesh looked at the painting, in which swirling, colorful forms blurred into each other. “I’m glad you liked my self-portrait, but this is a different kind of art. It’s abstract.”
- 3 His grandmother looked skeptical, but Jayesh continued to study the painting. “Look at that big blue streak, Grandma. Kind of looks like a river, doesn’t it? A clover-shaped river. The artist clearly wants the viewer to think about nature.” He warmed to his topic. “Here on the left side, it’s all bright colors and rounded shapes. But look at that top right corner, full of ugly, jagged streaks.”
- 4 He snapped his fingers. “I’ve got it! This painting is about pollution. It’s saying we should have more respect for the environment.”
- 5 “Dude!” said a floppy-haired boy standing nearby. “You got all that from this painting?”
- 6 “Anyone can learn to interpret art. You just have to look closely,” Jayesh said modestly. “Of course, there’s no way to be absolutely sure what the artist was thinking--”
- 7 “I wasn’t thinking about anything in particular,” said the boy. “But I like your interpretation. I think I’ll change the title from *Almost Lunchtime* to *Save Our Planet*.”

ThinkUp! ELAR

- 1 Which theme is explored in **both** texts?
 - A It can be dangerous to assume you know what another person is thinking.
 - B Different art forms may require different methods of interpretation.
 - C People should consider each other’s preferences when planning outings together.
 - D Listening is a more important skill than talking.

- 2 Which sentence in “Why So Silent?” best develops the theme that a misunderstanding can quickly escalate?
 - F *Although Becca normally talked a mile a minute, she had been practically silent all the way to the movie theater.*
 - G *Yesterday, when the girls had talked about seeing a movie, they had disagreed about what to see.*
 - H *The girls made their way into the theater and waited for the movie to begin.*
 - J *As the uncomfortable silence continued, Elena’s annoyance grew.*

- 3 Which theme is developed by paragraphs 6 and 7 of “Looking Closely”?
 - A Trying to understand a work of art may lead to frustration.
 - B The same work of art may mean different things to different people.
 - C There is no such thing as ugly art or a bad painting.
 - D Discussing art with others is an enjoyable activity.

- 4 How does the author of “Why So Silent?” develop the theme that being self-centered can be harmful to a friendship? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	A	8.7(A)	3	Understand	(c)4.J
2	J	8.7(A)	3	Understand	(c)4.J
3	B	8.7(A)	3	Understand	(c)4.J

4 Answers may vary. Student responses might include: The text conveys this theme by showing that misunderstandings, resentment, hurt feelings, etc., can happen when people focus only on themselves. Elena responds to Becca's silence by assuming she is angry and getting angry in return. Likewise, Becca focuses only on her own sadness without considering that she may be affecting Elena.

(C.T. Traits: Communicate, Link, TEKS: 8.7(A), DOK: 3, RBT: Understand, ELPS: (c)4. J)

Read the text and answer the questions.

Googie Architecture

- 1 During the 1950s and 1960s, an American design movement emerged. This new style was called Googie architecture. The new style was named for a coffee shop called Googies in West Hollywood, California, that was designed in 1949.
- 2 Googie architecture was a reflection of America's fascination with the Space Age. Shapes such as boomerangs, atomic shapes, starbursts, and flying saucers were staples in Googie design. Buildings often resembled spacecraft.
- 3 The architectural designs used in Googie were originally used to attract customers. Owners of gas stations, restaurants, and motels along freeways needed original ways to attract people. The futuristic designs of Googie were the answer to that need.
- 4 By the late 1960s, Googie architecture faded. But buildings such as the Space Needle in Seattle and the Theme Building at Los Angeles International Airport still exist as proof of this period in American design.



Seattle's Space Needle

- 1 Soaring above the Seattle, Washington, skyline is an iconic image: Seattle's Space Needle. Built for the 1962 World's Fair, the unique saucer design reflects elements of the Googie architecture design movement.
- 2 The Space Needle is 605 feet high. At the time it was completed, it was the tallest building west of the Mississippi River. The foundation for this unique tower goes 30 feet underground. The 72 bolts which hold it in place are 30 feet in length. Visitors can take an elevator up to 520 feet and observe amazing views of the city. At 500 feet, the rotating SkyCity Restaurant is a big draw.
- 3 Googie architecture was meant to make a statement and attract attention, and the Space Needle certainly does that. It rises over the city of Seattle like an alien invasion has just entered the emerald city's atmosphere and is one of the most recognizable landmarks in the United States. It's estimated that about 1.3 million people zip up to the Space Needle's observation deck every year.



ThinkUp! ELAR

- 1 Based on the information in “Googie Architecture,” the reader can infer that —
 - A people in the 1950s and 1960s were excited about space exploration
 - B buildings were more difficult to construct in the 1950s and 1960s than today
 - C this space-age architectural style is soon to make a comeback
 - D people like visiting buildings that were constructed long ago

- 2 Which evidence from “Seattle’s Space Needle” supports the idea that the architect of the Space Needle had safety in mind?
 - F The top of the building is designed like a spacecraft.
 - G The tower extends 30 feet into the ground.
 - H The elevator climbs over 500 feet above the main floor.
 - J The building was designed as a showcase for the World’s Fair.

- 3 Read the sentence from “Googie Architecture.”

The architectural designs used in Googie were originally used to attract customers.

Which sentence from “Seattle’s Space Needle” supports the suggestion that Googie designs have the ability to attract attention?

- A *Soaring above the Seattle, Washington, skyline is an iconic image: Seattle’s Space Needle.*
 - B *At the time it was completed, it was the tallest building west of the Mississippi River.*
 - C *Visitors can take an elevator up to 520 feet and observe amazing views of the city.*
 - D *It’s estimated that about 1.3 million people zip up to the Space Needle’s observation deck every year.*
-
- 4 Describe the relationship between “Googie Architecture” and “Seattle’s Space Needle.” Use evidence from the texts to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	A	8.5(F)	3	Understand	(c)4.J
2	G	8.5(F)	3	Understand	(c)4.J
3	D	8.5(H)	3	Understand	(c)4.J

4. Answers may vary. Student responses might include: “Googie Architecture” explains a style of design that was popular in the 1950s and 1960s. The author discusses how the unique Googie designs were influenced by America’s fascination with the Space Age and were utilized to attract people’s attention. “Seattle’s Space Needle” expands on the first text by discussing a specific Googie design and by providing details about the Space Needle’s construction and popularity.

(C.T. Traits: Examine, Inquire, Strive, Reflect, TEKS: 8.5(F), 8.5(H), DOK: 3, RBT: Understand, ELPS: (c)4.J)

Read the text and answer the questions.

Bike Ride

- 1 Cool morning air streamed into my face as I crouched low over my handlebars and pedaled for dear life. At this hour, there was very little traffic, allowing me to focus my gaze on the dazzling emerald forest that stretched away from the road on both sides. Birds swooped and called as I drew closer to my destination, a sunny spot with a beautiful view of the creek.
- 2 I was enjoying my ride so much that I didn't notice right away that my front tire felt a little weird. It seemed to be bumping against the ground more forcefully than it should have been. Of course, my thoughts flashed to my dad, who believes in being over-prepared for absolutely everything. Last night, when I told him I was going for a long ride this morning, he urged me to carry his bicycle repair kit with me. I didn't bring it because I didn't want to be weighed down. I knew my bike was fine since I had just ridden it the day before yesterday.
- 3 After another minute of riding, I could no longer ignore the "whump, whump" of my tire against the road. I dismounted to take a look. My heart sank as I realized I had a flat. I must have ridden over something sharp on my last ride, and air had been slowly leaking out ever since. If I had only squeezed the tire this morning before heading out, I would have discovered the problem. Now here I was, over a mile from home. It would be a long walk back—plenty of time to consider if maybe Dad was right about that "being prepared" thing.

ThinkUp! ELAR

- 1 Using the first-person point of view allows the author to emphasize —
 - A the beauty of the landscape that the narrator rides through
 - B the narrator’s change of heart regarding her father’s advice
 - C the nature of the problem with the narrator’s bicycle
 - D the narrator’s father’s attempts to prepare for different situations

- 2 Which event best illustrates the author’s use of irony?
 - F The narrator has to head home even though she would have liked to take a longer ride.
 - G The narrator thinks her front tire feels strange shortly before it begins making a strange sound.
 - H The narrator experiences a problem with her bicycle even though it was fine the last time she rode it.
 - J The narrator needs a bicycle repair after ignoring her father’s suggestion that she carry his repair kit.

- 3 The author’s language in paragraph 1 helps create a mood of —
 - A confidence
 - B recklessness
 - C exhaustion
 - D determination

4 Read the sentence from paragraph 2.

Of course, my thoughts flashed to my dad, who believes in being over-prepared for absolutely everything.

How does the language in this sentence help develop the narrator’s voice? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	B	8.9(E)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
2	J	8.9(E)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
3	A	8.9(F)	3	Analyze	(c)4.K

4 Answers may vary. Student responses might include: The language in this sentence helps develop the narrator’s voice by showing that she is a confident person who is convinced that she knows better than her father.

(C.T. Traits: Examine, Strive, TEKS: 8.9(E), DOK: 2, RBT: Analyze, ELPS: (c)4.K)

Read the text and answer the questions.

Perplexing Pets

- 1 High-rise syndrome is the term used to describe a cat's fall from a high-rise building and the relatively minor injuries sustained from such a fall. There's even a high-rise season the summer months when pet owners are more likely to open their windows to let in a cool breeze.
- 2 At one animal hospital in New York City, an average of 317 cats are diagnosed with high-rise syndrome each year. Most of the cats land on concrete. Most of the cats survive. The higher the fall, the higher the rate of survival.
- 3 Terminal velocity is the scientific term used to describe the highest speed an object reaches as it falls. The terminal velocity of an average house cat is 60 miles per hour. When cats reach terminal velocity, an important reaction occurs.
- 4 Cats relax their muscles and spread their legs. This flying squirrel-like behavior creates wind resistance, slowing the speed at which the cats fall. This reaction also distributes the cats' weight more evenly. When they reach the point of impact, cats are practically floating to the ground. "Like well-trained paratroopers," says Dr. Jared Diamond, a professor of physiology.
- 5 Incidentally, the highest recorded survival was from 32 stories. That's more than 325 feet! Luckily, that cat also landed on all four of hers.

ThinkUp! ELAR

- 1 Which statement best expresses the central idea of the text?
- A Cats have a unique ability that has surprised scientists.
 - B Cats are more likely to fall from high-rise buildings in the summer.
 - C Cats are the best pets for people who live in high-rise buildings.
 - D Cats are closely related to flying squirrels.
- 2 What does the organizational pattern used in paragraphs 3 and 4 help the reader understand?
- F The fact that cats may have inspired inventors with the idea for parachutes
 - G The sequence of events that could lead to a cat falling out of a window
 - H The effect that falling at a very high speed has on a cat’s chance of survival
 - J The problem-solving abilities that some cats have when experiencing a fall
- 3 How does the author support the idea that the higher the distance from which a cat falls, the greater its chance for survival?
- A By defining terminal velocity
 - B By telling what a cat naturally does when it falls a long distance
 - C By providing a quote from a professional
 - D By describing the types of surfaces onto which cats fall
- 4 How does the organizational pattern of the last paragraph provide a lighthearted conclusion to the topic? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	A	8.8(D)	2	Understand	(c)4.I
2	H	8.8(D)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
3	B	8.8(D)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K

4. Answers may vary. Student responses might include: The author provides an intriguing fact about “feet” and then follows it up with a joke about the cat landing on all four feet. This helps the reader see the topic as more interesting than disturbing. It is remarkable that the cat has this ability to protect itself and survive.

(C.T. Traits: Examine, Link, TEKS: 8.8(D), DOK: 2, RBT: Understand/Analyze, ELPS: (c)4.I, (c)4.K)

Read the text and answer the questions.

Let's Go for a Crun!

- 1 What do you get when you cross running with crawling? Crunning! Crunning is essentially running on your hands and feet. The term and the fitness movement were developed by Australian Shaun McCarthy. McCarthy explains that crunning is a good workout because it engages both the upper and lower body. During this workout, crunners engage their full body, with an emphasis on the thighs and shoulders.
- 2 As with any form of exercise, technique and safety are key. McCarthy recommends wearing gloves to protect the hands. Proper running shoes are also essential before engaging in this activity. Fitness specialists recommend stretching before and after crunning.
- 3 So far, this new exercise trend has been seen mostly in Australia. But in China, people are doing a similar movement at a slower pace; it's more like crawl-walking rather than crawl-running.
- 4 McCarthy encourages people to give crunning a try. He reminds people that crunning engages more muscle groups than running upright. Because crunning is both an upper body and lower body workout, it burns calories more quickly.
- 5 So if you enjoy physical activity, why not try crunning? You may just help crunning become the next big thing.

ThinkUp! ELAR

- 1 The details in paragraph 3 allow the author to —
 - A emphasize that crunning is a new form of exercise
 - B give advice to someone who is interested in trying crunning
 - C suggest that crunning is as beneficial as other types of exercise
 - D make a comparison between crunning and a similar movement

- 2 Which detail in the text might interest sports enthusiasts the most?
 - F Crunning was invented in Australia.
 - G Crunning provides both an upper and lower body workout.
 - H Technique and safety are important considerations when exercising.
 - J People should wear good running shoes while crunning.

- 3 Which sentence in the text best supports the idea that crunning might be superior to running as a form of exercise?
 - A *Crunning is essentially running on your hands and feet.*
 - B *During this workout, crunners engage their full body, with an emphasis on the thighs and shoulders.*
 - C *Fitness specialists also recommend stretching before and after crunning.*
 - D *McCarthy encourages people to give crunning a try.*

4 Why does the author include the details in paragraph 2? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	D	8.5(G)	3	Understand	(c)4.J
2	G	8.5(G)	2	Understand	(c)4.J
3	B	8.5(G)	3	Understand	(c)4.J

4 Answers may vary. Student responses might include: The author discusses in paragraph 2 what someone interested in crunning will need to know and do to be safe and to perform crunning properly. Details include needing gloves to protect the hands and having good running shoes, along with stretching before crunning. All of the details in paragraph 2 support the author's idea that safety and technique are key.
(C.T. Traits: Examine, Link, TEKS: 8.5(G), DOK: 2/3, RBT: Understand, ELPS: (c)4.J)

Read the text and answer the questions.

My First 5K

- 1 The 2nd Annual Fun Run to benefit the Furry Friends Pet Shelter was about to begin. All around me, people in running clothes were stretching, jogging in place, and otherwise preparing to sprint toward the finish line. I studied them with the curiosity of an anthropologist suddenly dropped in the midst of an alien culture. While I wanted to do my part to help the animal shelter, I wasn't a runner; I had no problem with walking every step of this race.
- 2 At precisely 9 a.m., the race organizers shouted "Go!" Most of the runners took off as if they were thoroughbred colts trying to win the Kentucky Derby. By contrast, I plodded along like a Clydesdale hitched to a heavy wagon. Like any good draft horse, I focused on my task, resolutely placing one foot in the front of the other while ignoring the distractions all around me. Within minutes, most of the thoroughbreds were out of sight.
- 3 At first I enjoyed the relative calm. But then I started to feel self-conscious about my uncontested last-place status. Trees and stop signs were looking at me reproachfully, as if reminding me I had signed up for a Fun Run, not a Fun Walk. Somewhat unwillingly, I quickened my pace from snail to turtle.
- 4 The next hour was the longest of my life. However, after I crossed the finish line, my pain was forgotten. As I accepted a banana and a cup of water from a volunteer, I knew I had helped the pet shelter just as much as the first-place finisher.

ThinkUp! ELAR

- 1 Which sentence in the text contains personification?
- A *All around me, people in running clothes were stretching, jogging in place, and otherwise preparing to sprint toward the finish line.*
 - B *Trees and stop signs were looking at me reproachfully, as if reminding me I had signed up for a Fun Run, not a Fun Walk.*
 - C *Somewhat unwillingly, I quickened my pace from snail to turtle.*
 - D *As I accepted a banana and a cup of water from a volunteer, I knew I had helped the pet shelter just as much as the first-place finisher.*
- 2 Why did the author most likely include the figurative language in paragraph 1?
- F To show the narrator has a keen interest in science
 - G To emphasize that the narrator feels reluctant to take part in the 5K
 - H To introduce the idea that the narrator feels different from the other participants
 - J To acknowledge the narrator’s realization that he should have worn running clothes
- 3 Which idea in the story is reinforced by the hyperbole in paragraph 4?
- A Taking part in a race is not the narrator’s preferred type of activity.
 - B The narrator finds walking more enjoyable than running.
 - C Helping the pet shelter animals is important to the narrator.
 - D The narrator feels critical of himself for moving at such a slow pace.
- 4 How does the extended metaphor in the text contribute to the reader’s understanding of the story? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	B	8.9(D)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
2	H	8.9(D)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
3	A	8.9(D)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K

4 Answers may vary. Student responses might include: The extended metaphor in paragraph 2 develops the idea introduced in paragraph 1, that the narrator does not care about winning the race or even being fast. It also characterizes the narrator by showing that he values being dependable over being flashy.

(C.T. Traits: Adapt, Strive, TEKS: 8.9(D), DOK: 2, RBT: Analyze, ELPS: (c)4.K)

Read the text and answer the questions.

Trust

by Alissa Everett

Trust is a warm blanket.

He embraces me with confidence.

He calms my insecurities

and allows me to be

5 free.

Trust is not a broken mirror.

He does not shatter

when times are tough.

Trust is not a dying tree.

10 His branches do not break

from pressure.

Trust is a smile.

He brings joy to my heart

and comfort to my soul.

15 Trust is my friend.

- 1 Why is the word *free* placed on a line by itself in the first stanza?
 - A To add emphasis to one of the poet’s most important thoughts on the topic
 - B To balance the meter and flow created by the other lines
 - C To show that the word *free* is a synonym for *trust*
 - D To introduce the ideas presented in the next stanzas

- 2 What effect does indenting stanzas 2 and 3 have on the poem?
 - F It creates a feeling of distrust between the poet and the reader.
 - G It shows that these stanzas are less important than the others.
 - H It separates the poet’s ideas about what trust is from what trust is not.
 - J It allows the poet to use personification when describing the main topic.

- 3 Which of these best describes how the poet composes the poem?
 - A The lines each express a complete thought.
 - B The lines end in a specific rhyme scheme.
 - C The sentences are relatively short and direct.
 - D The stanzas have a specific meter.

- 4 What is the most likely reason the poet ends the poem with a stanza of only one line? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	A	8.8(B)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
2	H	8.8(B)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
3	C	8.8(B)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K

4. Answers may vary. Student responses might include: The poet provides many ideas and descriptions of what trust is and what trust is not throughout the poem. But in the end, the poet concludes by saying that above all, trust is her friend. By placing this idea in a stanza by itself, the poet emphasizes that this idea is most important and does not need elaboration.

(C.T. Traits: Examine, Link, TEKS: 8.8(B), DOK: 2, RBT: Analyze, ELPS: (c)4.K)

Read the text and answer the questions.

Jason deCaires Taylor: An Environmental Artist

- 1 In 2004, Jason deCaires Taylor started working on a creative solution to a problem. As a scuba diving instructor, Taylor had seen the destruction of natural reefs firsthand. He wanted to do something to turn the tide. He knew he needed to keep scuba divers away from endangered natural reefs.
- 2 Taylor spent two years researching the problem. He spoke with scientists and government officials. He decided to create sculptures and place them underwater. He wanted his sculptures to become artificial reefs. So, he made sculptures from pH-neutral cement and anchored them to the seabed to prevent movement. This stable foundation encouraged coral growth. In turn, coral changed the appearance of the sculptures from year to year.
- 3 In 2006, he submerged his first sculpture, a young man sitting at a desk in front of a typewriter. Each piece that Taylor sculpts holds special significance in his life. This first sculpture, which Taylor calls *The Lost Correspondent*, was inspired by his grandfather, an avid letter writer.
- 4 Taylor has installed underwater sculpture gardens in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean in Grenada, Cancun, England, the Bahamas, and the Canary Islands. His works have been recognized worldwide. Taylor is famous for combining art and awareness about the environment in a unique way.

- 1 Which of these best summarizes the text while keeping the ideas in a logical order?
- A A scuba instructor named Jason Taylor felt worried about the safety of natural coral reefs. After doing research, Taylor decided he could best help by making underwater sculptures. Taylor places his sculptures in different locations, and in time, they become artificial reefs.
 - B Jason Taylor creates sculptures out of ph-neutral cement and attaches them to the seafloor. He has spoken with scientists and government officials and spent two years researching a problem he noticed while scuba diving. His sculptures encourage the formation of coral reefs.
 - C Many different locations under the Atlantic Ocean have anchored cement sculptures made by the artist Jason Taylor. Taylor has become famous because his personally meaningful art encourages people to be more aware of the environment. Taylor is also a scuba diving instructor.
 - D In a creative solution to a problem, Jason Taylor makes sculptures that encourage the growth of coral. Before starting to make his sculptures, Taylor spent two years talking to government officials and scientists. His first submerged sculpture was of a young man at a typewriter.
- 2 Which is the best paraphrase of paragraph 3?
- F The first sculpture Taylor made was called *The Lost Correspondent*. He submerged this sculpture, which was inspired by his grandfather, underwater in 2006. This sculpture of a young man holds special significance in Taylor’s life.
 - G In 2006, Taylor made a sculpture which held special meaning for him and submerged it underwater. The sculpture was based on his grandfather and portrayed a young man sitting at a desk. Taylor also gave the sculpture a name.
 - H Before submerging a sculpture of a young man sitting at a desk typing, Taylor named it *The Lost Correspondent*. Taylor’s grandfather loved to write letters. This and other memories from Taylor’s life hold great meaning for him.
 - J Taylor’s first underwater sculpture was of a young man typing. Like all of Taylor’s work, this sculpture, named *The Lost Correspondent*, means something important to Taylor. It is based on his letter-writing grandfather.
- 3 Which summary best maintains the meaning of paragraph 4?
- A Artists like Taylor are able to combine their love of sculpting with awareness about the environment.
 - B Scuba divers can view Taylor’s sculptures in Grenada, Cancun, England, the Bahamas, and the Canary Islands.
 - C Taylor’s underwater sculpture gardens have earned him worldwide recognition as an environmental artist.
 - D Taylor has become famous as a result of the locations he has chosen for his underwater sculpture gardens.
- 4 How might paragraphs 1 and 2 best be summarized in a way that maintains a logical order? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	A	8.6(D)	2	Understand	(c)4.1
2	J	8.6(D)	2	Understand	(c)4.1
3	C	8.6(D)	2	Understand	(c)4.1

4 Answers may vary. Student responses might include: Jason Taylor became concerned about coral reefs while teaching scuba diving. After much research, he began creating sculptures to anchor to the seafloor. He made sculptures that coral could grow on to encourage artificial reefs.

(C.T. Traits: Examine, Link, TEKS: 8.6(D), DOK: 2, RBT: Understand, ELPS: (c)4.1)

Read the text and answer the questions.

from
Trade Rats

by Ethel Twycross Foster

- 1 Mary and her mother lay on a bunk and beyond the partition one could hear the even breathing of Father and cousin Jack. All else was still save the occasional cry of a night hawk or the far distant call of a coyote.
- 2 Slowly, cautiously, stealthily into this silence crept a tiny object. Its sharp black eyes flashed fire in the moonlight and in its small mouth it carefully carried a cactus burr.
- 3 “Mary, did you hear something?” Jack’s whisper awakened Mary. All she could hear was a little scratching sound unlike any she had ever heard around camp.
- 4 Next morning at breakfast all were wondering who the strange visitor could have been, but soon the incident was forgotten. Toward noon, Mary went to a vacant bunk where she kept her clothes and picked up her new doll. She removed its dress and looked about for a little red wool gown. But the gown was gone.
- 5 On the day following, one of Dolly’s stockings was gone, on the next, its mate; on the next, a pretty velvet bonnet, and so on for a week. The strangest part of it was that something or somebody was bringing in little sticks of wood and cactus burrs and piling them up among the doll clothes.
- 6 At the end of the week, Jack decided to solve the mystery.
- 7 Patter, patter, patter, something was coming. He had left a candle burning in a distant corner. He saw a big gray rat dart across the floor with a twig in its mouth.
- 8 Jack gave a hearty laugh and awakened the whole family and told them his story.
- 9 “Of course,” said Father, “it was a trade rat. They never take anything without replacing it with a cactus burr, a twig, a chip of wood, or something of the sort. They seem to think it wrong not to leave something in place of what they take.”

ThinkUp! ELAR

- 1 Why is the description of the setting important in paragraphs 1–3?
 - A To show that the characters are not in their usual surroundings
 - B To reveal that the camp setting is unsafe for the characters
 - C To establish that the characters respect nature
 - D To indicate that the characters are imagining things

- 2 Read this sentence from paragraph 7.

He had left a candle burning in a distant corner.

What does this detail show about Jack?

- F He is willing to put the family in danger in order to solve the mystery.
 - G He thinks the family suspects that he is playing a trick on them by stealing items.
 - H He thinks he might not be able to stay awake long enough to solve the mystery.
 - J He has put thought into planning how he can solve the mystery.
-
- 3 How does the setting influence the values of the characters?
 - A It allows them to find humor in the simpler moments in life.
 - B It makes them rely on knowledge rather than experience.
 - C It causes them to focus on superficial things more than people.
 - D It helps them find new interests that they enjoy doing together.
-
- 4 What do the last two paragraphs suggest about the family’s attitude about the happenings at camp? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	A	8.7(D)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
2	J	8.7(D)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
3	A	8.7(D)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K

4 Answers may vary. Student responses might include: Jack gives a “hearty laugh” and cannot wait to tell the family about his discovery of the trade rat. Father explains what he knows about trade rats. These details suggest that the family is likely amused by the actions of the trade rat taking the family’s items but offering items from nature in return.

(C.T. Traits: Reflect, Communicate, TEKS: 8.7(D), DOK: 2, RBT: Analyze, ELPS: (c)4.K)

Read the text and answer the questions.

The Case for Print Books

- 1 E-books, which are read on electronic devices like phones or tablets, have become popular in recent years. Supporters claim that this method of reading makes the most sense in our technological world. However, print books are superior to e-books in many ways.
- 2 Publishers are keenly interested in the reading habits of young adults. They know that we are the next generation of book buyers. Our choices will shape what they produce and sell. For this reason, we must support print books, which are more appealing and better for learning.
- 3 Print books have an aesthetic appeal that e-books simply cannot offer. Book illustrations in a print book have more impact than those in an e-book. Turning the pages of a print book provides a sensory experience that an e-book cannot match. Another reason to favor print books is that many famous authors, including literary geniuses Maurice Sendak and Sherman Alexie, prefer them over e-books. In addition, print books support learning in a way e-books do not. Studies have shown that people who read print books remember more of what they have read.
- 4 E-book supporters point to the fact that e-books are convenient. It is true that e-books are easy to store and carry. However, they are not necessarily more convenient than print books. If a person's electronic device is not charged, they will not be able to read their e-book, which is certainly not convenient! In my humble opinion, e-books will never replace the joy of reading a print book.

ThinkUp! ELAR

- 1 What is the author’s main claim in the text?
 - A E-books have become much more popular than they used to be.
 - B Publishers pay attention to the preferences of book buyers.
 - C Print books offer significant advantages over e-books.
 - D People tend to learn more from a print book than from an e-book.

- 2 Based on the text, who is the author’s main audience?
 - F Young people
 - G Book authors
 - H Students of all ages
 - J Fans of picture books

- 3 Which sentence in the text is an example of a logical fallacy?
 - A *Supporters claim that this method of reading makes the most sense in our technological world.*
 - B *For this reason, we must support print books, which are more appealing and better for learning.*
 - C *Another reason to favor print books is that many famous authors, including literary geniuses Maurice Sendak and Sherman Alexie, prefer them over e-books.*
 - D *If a person’s electronic device is not charged, they will not be able to read their e-book, which is certainly not convenient!*

- 4 How and why does the author use a counterargument in the text? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	C	8.8(E)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
2	F	8.8(E)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K
3	C	8.9(G)	2	Analyze	(c)4.K

4 Answers may vary. Student responses might include: The author uses a counterargument by saying that e-books are convenient to store and carry. Including this counterargument strengthens the argument by showing that the author considered the benefits of e-books before concluding that print books are better.

(C.T. Traits: Examine, Link, TEKS: 8.8(E), 8.9(G), DOK: 2, RBT: Analyze, ELPS: (c)4.K)

Read the text and answer the questions.

Sammezzano Castle

- 1 Ah, the Italian countryside. Ancient villages, rolling hills, and . . . a Moorish castle? Unbelievable as it may seem, a fabulous piece of Moorish-style architecture lies hidden just 20 minutes from Florence, Italy.

From Ordinary to Anything But

- 2 Sammezzano was a fairly typical castle when it was built in 1605. In 1843, however, the Italian nobleman who inherited it decided to give free reign to his passion for Oriental design. For the next 46 years, Panciaticchi Ximenes Aragona transformed Sammezzano into a place like none other on earth. Thanks to him, the castle now boasts 365 rooms, one for every day of the year. Each room is a riot of bright colors and intricate designs. Each has a poetic name, such as the White Room, the Peacock Room, or the Room of Stars.



One of Sammezzano Castle's 365 rooms

An Uncertain Future

- 3 Sammezzano Castle remained in the nobleman's family till the 1970s, when it was bought and briefly turned into a luxury hotel. In the 1990s it was sold again, but due to the great expense of repairing the property, the company that purchased it has not developed the castle as planned.
- 4 Some groups strongly feel that the Italian government should buy this breathtaking property and turn it into a museum. At this time, however, the castle remains under the control of the company that acquired it, its gorgeous rooms slowly becoming ruins. The fate of Sammezzano Castle remains to be seen.

Seeing Sammezzano

The castle is not officially open to visitors. However, Comitato FPXA, a nonprofit group dedicated to preserving this landmark, occasionally leads tours inside. Sign up for alerts through their Web page—or just browse the photos and videos of those lucky enough to have visited.

ThinkUp! ELAR

- 1 In which part of the text can the reader expect to find information about visiting Sammezzano Castle?
 - A Under the subheading “From Ordinary to Anything But”
 - B In the photograph
 - C Under the subheading “An Uncertain Future”
 - D In the sidebar

- 2 The subheadings help the reader predict that the author will structure the text by —
 - F describing the castle from its creation until the present
 - G comparing the castle to others that were built around the same time
 - H explaining the function of the castle both in the past and today
 - J describing the most important rooms in the castle

- 3 Based on the central idea the author states in paragraph 1, what information is the text most likely to include?
 - A A description of the landscape that surrounds the castle
 - B An explanation of why the castle exists in Italy
 - C A list of tourist sites close to the city of Florence
 - D A history of Moorish-style architecture

- 4 How does looking at the photograph before reading provide the reader a clue about the likely focus of the text? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Item	Answer	TEKS	DOK	RBT	ELPS
1	D	8.5(C)	2	Apply	(c)4.I
2	F	8.5(C)	2	Apply	(c)4.I
3	B	8.5(C)	2	Understand	(c)4.J

4 Answers may vary. Student responses might include: The photograph shows a lavish and colorful room decorated in a Moorish style. The reader can conclude that the text will focus on how visually striking the castle is and how and why the castle was decorated in that way.

(C.T. Traits: Strive, Inquire, TEKS: 8.5(C), DOK: 2, RBT: Understand/Apply, ELPS: (c)4.I, (c)4.J)

