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Sample Booklet

Grade 4
Writing



Lori Mammen
Editorial Director

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Selected pages from
STAAR MASTER™
Student Practice Book
Writing, Grade 4

for the State of Texas Assessments
of Academic Readiness



Lori Mammen
Editorial Director

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Willa is a fourth grader. Her teacher asked each student to write a story about a time s/he had fun with friends. Willa wrote about playing miniature golf. This is a draft of her story. Read her story, and think about corrections and improvements she should make. Then, answer the multiple-choice questions that follow.

Crocodiles and Moose Legs

(1) Have you ever tried to hit a golf ball between a moose's legs? (2) It's not easy! (3) My friends and I played miniature golf last night. (4) A giant moose on the first hole was the most normal thing we saw.

(5) The second hole had giant crabs that tried to *SNAP! SNAP!* at us as we took our turns. (6) Next, we played through a pirate ship. (7) I hit my ball off of a parrot, through a cannon, and got a hole-in-one! (8) Everyone else took five strokes at that hole. (9) I think bowling is easier than miniature golf.

(10) Then, we had to hit the ball up a slippery slope and into a volcano. (11) Mist drifted down and blocked my view. (12) I kept hitting rocks! (13) I took four extra strokes and lost the lead.

(14) Next, we played through a hole with a giant typewriter that tried to smash our golf balls with its keys. (15) At another hole, we had to hit the ball off of a crocodile's forehead. (16) My ball rolled toward the crocodile's head. (17) Then, its jaws crashed together and blocked my shot. (18) That were the toughest hole I had ever played!

(19) The final hole was the best of all. (20) I hit the ball into one of three holes. (21) Then, I had to run down a set of stairs. (22) Finally, I watched my ball drift through an aquarium. (23) If your ball landed on one of the gold pieces at the bottom of the tank, you won free games for a year! (24) My friends and I didn't win. (25) We're going to try again soon!



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Reporting Category 2: Revision

1. What is the **BEST** way to combine sentences 24 and 25?
 - A Because my friends and I didn't win, we're going to try again soon!
 - B My friends and I didn't win, and we're going to try again soon!
 - C My friends and I didn't win, but we're going to try again soon!
 - D My friends and I didn't win, we're going to try again soon!

2. Which sentence does **NOT** belong in this story?
 - A Sentence 4
 - B Sentence 9
 - C Sentence 11
 - D Sentence 21

Reporting Category 3: Editing

3. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 10?
 - A Change *slippery* to *slipery*
 - B Change *slop* to *slope*
 - C Change *into* to *out*
 - D Make no change

4. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 17?
 - A Change *its* to *it's*
 - B Change *jawes* to *jaws*
 - C Change *shot* to *shoot*
 - D Make no change

5. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 18?
 - A Change *were* to *was*
 - B Change *toughest* to **most tough**
 - C Change *ever* to **even**
 - D Make no change

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Andrea is a fourth grader. Her teacher asked each student to write a report about a strange and interesting animal. Andrea wrote about a special kind of ant. This is a draft of her report. Read her report, and think about corrections and improvements she should make. Then, answer the multiple-choice questions that follow.

Living Life Boats

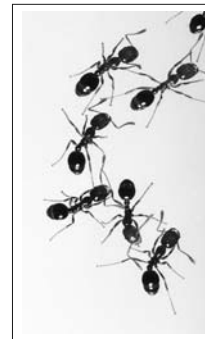
(1) Most people know ants are really good at building on land, but did you know that some ants are good at building on water, too? (2) Fire ants can join together and make rafts with their bodies. (3) These “ant rafts” can float on water for weeks at a time!

(4) Many fire ants live in the amazon rainforest where it rains very hard. (5) Whole colonies, or ant communities, are flooded out of their homes on the forest floor. (6) A single ant is not a good swimmer it can barely stay afloat in water. (7) But the ants know that they can make a giant, floating raft by holding on to each other with their mandibles, or mouths, as well as the claws on their legs. (8) Humans can also make rafts out of different kinds of materials.

(9) The ants make sure the queen ant and her eggs rest safely at the center of the pancake-like raft. (10) The ants hold on tightly and let the water carry them. (11) A single raft might contain tens of thousands of ants.

(12) Scientists have been studying how these ants are able to stay afloat. (13) When the ants come together, their bodies form air pockets that not only let the ants breath but keep the whole structure above water. (14) Not even the ants on the bottom drown.

(15) While the ant raft is a great example of the neat way nature works, scientists also want to see what humans can learn from the ants. (16) Scientists think that they can learn how to make best waterproof products for humans by studying the ants in water.



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Reporting Category 2: Revision

1. What is the **BEST** way to rewrite the ideas in sentence 6?
 - A A single ant can barely swim in water.
 - B A single ant can barely swim and float.
 - C A single ant is not a good swimmer. Can barely stay afloat in water.
 - D A single ant is not a good swimmer and can barely stay afloat in water.

2. Which sentence does **NOT** belong in this report?
 - A Sentence 4
 - B Sentence 8
 - C Sentence 12
 - D Sentence 15

Reporting Category 3: Editing

3. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 4?
 - A Change *live* to **life**
 - B Change *amazon rainforest* to **Amazon Rainforest**
 - C Change *where* to **wear**
 - D Make no change

4. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 13?
 - A Change *their* to **there**
 - B Change *bodies* to **body's**
 - C Change *breath* to **breathe**
 - D Make no change

5. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 16?
 - A Change *Scientists* to **Scientist's**
 - B Change *best* to **better**
 - C Change *studying* to **study**
 - D Make no change

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Maribel is a fourth grader. Her teacher asked each student to give his or her opinion about owning a pet. This is a draft of Maribel's paper. Read her paper, and think about corrections and improvements she should make. Then, answer the multiple-choice questions that follow.

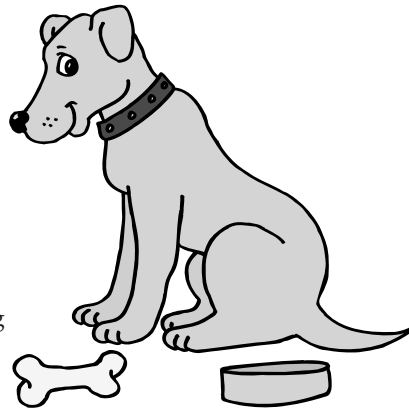
Pet Perks

(1) Many parents don't want their kids to have pets because they think that pets are too much work. (2) Owners need to feed, walk, and play with their pets. (3) However, the benefits of owning a pet are worth it.

(4) Pets need fresh food and water every day. (5) Filling up a pet's dishes with water and food is something that even young kids can do. (6) Childs enjoy caring for furry family members. (7) Doing this teaches kids that others sometime depend on them.

(8) Owning pets doesn't just teach responsibility. (9) Pets also help families spend time together. (10) Dogs need to be walked every day. (11) Instead of watching TV, the whole family can walk the dog together. (12) It's good exercise and a chance for parents and kids to talk. (13) Even pets that don't need to be walked can still bring families closer together. (14) Everyone can toss toys for the cat or relax in front of the fish tank.

(15) Finally, pets makes good friends. (16) If you have a bad day at school or a fight with a friend, a pet can remind you that you are still loved. (17) Plus, pets are good listeners. (18) You can tell them anything, and they'll never tell your secrets. (19) Pets are hard work. (20) Their friendships are priceless. (21) A wagging tail is a great reward and a happy purr, too.



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Reporting Category 2: Revision

1. What is the **BEST** way to combine sentences 19 and 20?
 - A Pets are hard work, their friendships are priceless.
 - B Pets are hard work, but their friendships are priceless.
 - C Pets are hard work, and their friendships are priceless.
 - D Because pets are hard work, their friendships are priceless.
2. What is the **BEST** way to revise sentence 21?
 - A A wagging tail is a great reward, a happy purr is a great reward.
 - B A wagging tail is a great reward. And a happy purr, too.
 - C A wagging tail or a happy purr, they are great rewards.
 - D Either a wagging tail or a happy purr is a great reward.

Reporting Category 3: Editing

3. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 6?
 - A Change *Childs* to **Children**
 - B Change *caring* to **careing**
 - C Change *furry* to **fury**
 - D Make no change
4. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 7?
 - A Change *teaches* to **teachs**
 - B Change *others* to **other's**
 - C Change *sometime* to **sometimes**
 - D Make no change
5. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 15?
 - A Change *Finally* to **Soon**
 - B Change *makes* to **make**
 - C Change *friends* to **friend's**
 - D Make no change

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