

## Answer Key

The STAAR Reading test given by the state of Texas assesses a specific set of skills. The answer key identifies what skill each question is testing.

The answer key also includes notes on key reading skills that students will need to understand to master the test. Use the notes to review the questions with students so they gain a full understanding of these key reading skills.

## Section 3: STAAR Reading Practice Test

Question	Answer	Reading Skill
1	D	Use context to determine the meaning of words
2	B	Identify the sequence of events
3	A	Identify the purpose of specific sections
4	B	Identify and use antonyms
5	A	Summarize information given in a passage
6	A	Identify the author's purpose
7	C	Make inferences based on information from a passage
8	B	Identify the purpose of text features
9	C	Use context to determine the meaning of words
10	B	Locate facts and details in a passage
11	B	Identify the characteristics of poems
12	C	Understand and analyze literary techniques (simile)*
13	A	Identify the purpose of text features
14	A	Identify the tone of a passage*
15	C	Understand and analyze literary techniques (alliteration)*
16	A	Identify different types of poems*
17	A	Understand and analyze word use
18	A	Identify and use synonyms
19	A	Understand information in graphs, charts, or tables
20	D	Distinguish between fact and opinion*
21	B	Locate facts and details in a passage
22	B	Identify how a passage is organized*
23	B	Identify the author's main purpose
24	A	Understand information in graphs, charts, or tables
25	B	Understand and analyze word use
26	A	Identify the meaning of phrases
27	C	Make predictions based on information in a passage
28	A	Identify and use antonyms
29	C	Draw conclusions about characters
30	B	Draw conclusions about characters
31	B	Understand and analyze literary techniques (hyperbole)*
32	A	Use context to determine the meaning of words
33	D	Understand and analyze literary techniques (simile)*
34	C	Understand and analyze the plot of a passage
35	D	Identify point of view
36	C	Locate facts and details in a passage
37	C	Summarize information given in a passage
38	C	Identify the main idea*
39	B	Make inferences about characters

Question	Answer	Reading Skill
40	B	Use context to determine the meaning of words
41	C	Use word parts to determine the meaning of words
42	C	Identify different types of texts*
43	C	Understand cause and effect
44	D	Identify the sequence of events
45	A	Identify and summarize the theme of a passage
46	D	Identify point of view*

### \*Key Reading Skills

#### Q12: Simile

A simile compares two things using the words “like” or “as.” The phrase “like an india-rubber ball” is an example of a simile.

#### Q14: Tone

The tone of a passage refers to the author’s attitude. It is how the author feels about the content of the passage. For example, the tone could be playful, sad, cheerful, or witty. In this case, the tone is lighthearted.

#### Q15: Alliteration

Alliteration is a literary technique where consonant sounds are repeated in neighboring words. The phrase “heels up to the head” uses alliteration because of the repeated “h” sound.

**Q16: Types of Poems**

- A rhyming poem is a poem with a set rhyme pattern.
- A free verse poem is a poem that does not have a pattern for rhythm or rhyme.
- A limerick is a poem with five lines. The first, second, and last lines rhyme. The third and fourth lines also rhyme.
- A sonnet is a special type of poem with 14 lines and a set rhyme pattern.

The poem rhymes, but does not have the structure of a limerick or a sonnet. The poem is best described as a rhyming poem.

**Q20: Fact and Opinion**

A fact is a statement that can be proven to be correct. An opinion is a statement that cannot be proven to be correct. The sentence given in answer choice D is an opinion. It cannot be proven to be correct.

**Q22: Patterns of Organization**

There are several common ways that passages are organized. Students will often be asked to identify how a passage, or a paragraph within a passage, is organized. The common patterns of organization are:

- Cause and effect – a cause of something is described and then its effect is described
- Chronological order, or sequence of events – events are described in the order that they occurred
- Compare and contrast – two or more people, events, places, or objects are compared or contrasted
- Problem and solution – a problem is described and then a solution to the problem is given
- Main idea/supporting details – a main idea is stated and then details are given to support the main idea
- Question and answer – a question is asked and then answered

**Q31: Hyperbole**

Hyperbole is a literary technique where exaggeration is used to make a point or emphasize the qualities of something or someone. Casey uses hyperbole to exaggerate how long she feels like she has been at the school for. This use of hyperbole emphasizes how at ease she feels.

**Q33: Simile**

A simile compares two things using the words “like” or “as.” The author uses a simile by describing Taylor as being “like a shadow.” The simile is used to show that Taylor is always right next to Gemma. Taylor sticks to Gemma like a shadow sticks to a person.

**Q38: Main Idea**

One way that identifying the main idea is tested is by asking what would be another good title for the passage. The correct answer is a title that describes what the passage is mainly about.

**Q42: Identifying Genres (Realistic Fiction)**

Realistic fiction refers to fiction that describes events that could really happen. The passage is still fictional, or made-up. However, the events described could actually happen to someone.

### Q46: Point of View

This question is asking about the point of view of the passage. There are four possible points of view. They are:

- First person – the story is told by a narrator who is a character in the story. The use of the words *I*, *my*, or *we* indicate a first person point of view.  
*Example: I went for a hike. After a while, my legs began to ache.*
- Second person – the story is told by referring to the reader as “you.” This point of view is rarely used.  
*Example: You are hiking. After a while, your legs begin to ache.*
- Third person limited – the story is told by a person outside the story. The term *limited* refers to how much knowledge the narrator has. The narrator has knowledge of one character, but does not have knowledge beyond what that one character knows, sees, or does.  
*Example: Jacky went for a hike. After a while, her legs began to ache.*
- Third person omniscient – the story is told by a person outside the story. The term *omniscient* refers to how much knowledge the narrator has. An omniscient narrator knows everything about all characters and has unlimited information.  
*Example: Jacky went for a hike. Like most of the other hikers, her legs began to ache.*

The point of view of the passage is third person omniscient. It is told by a person outside the story that knows everything about the characters.