QUESTION STEMS

EXACT TEA WORDING • STAAR READING

MULTIPLE CHOICE STEMS SORTED BY READING SKILL

2024–2026 • GRADES 3–8 + ENGLISH I & II • ITEM NUMBERS CITED

SKILL	ELEMENTARY (3–5)	MIDDLE (6–8)	HIGH (ENG I–II)
main idea	What is the central idea of the article “More Than Air”? Item 11 · 2024 · Grade 3 What is the main claim the author makes in the article? Item 22 · 2025 · Grade 5	What is the controlling idea of the article from Competitive Cheerleading ? Item 9 · 2025 · Grade 6 What is the main claim the author makes in the selection? Item 6 · 2026 · Grade 7	Which sentence best expresses the author’s main claim in the selection? Item 3 · 2025 · English II Which of these best states the author’s main claim about email? Item 9 · 2026 · English II
summary	What is the best summary of the article? Item 2 · 2024 · Grade 4 Which is the best summary of the poem “The World Is at My Fingertips”? Item 12 · 2024 · Grade 5	Which of these is the best summary of paragraphs 10 and 11 ? Item 20 · 2024 · Grade 7 What is the best summary of the section titled “The Role of a Teacher” in the excerpt from “Music and the Maestro”? Item 12 · 2025 · Grade 8	Which of these is the best summary of the section “Governed by Treaty” ? Item 25 · 2024 · English II What is the best summary of the excerpt from “Big Wheels Keep On Turnin’ ”? Item 15 · 2024 · English I
inference	Who is most likely the intended audience of the article? Item 19 · 2025 · Grade 5 Based on lines 4 and 5 , what can the reader infer about Leila and Dominic? Item 2 · 2026 · Grade 5	What can the reader infer about Chanute based on paragraph 11 ? Item 6 · 2024 · Grade 8 What can the reader infer about chess based on the details in paragraphs 6 and 7 ? Item 1 · 2026 · Grade 6	Based on the events at the end of the play, what will Lina most likely do next? Item 1 · 2024 · English II Who is most likely the author’s intended audience for the article? Item 3 · 2026 · English I
theme	What message does the author express in paragraphs 10 through 13 of the story? Item 20 · 2024 · Grade 4 Which sentence best expresses a theme in the poem? Item 12 · 2025 · Grade 4	Which of the following is an important theme in the story “Grandfather’s Legacy”? Item 12 · 2024 · Grade 7 What is the main theme of the selection? Item 24 · 2025 · Grade 7 What is the poet’s main message in the poem “The Yellow Kite”? Item 16 · 2026 · Grade 7	Which of the following most directly develops a theme of the excerpt? Item 22 · 2024 · English I Which event from the excerpt from Kokoro best contributes to a theme connected to the importance of being authentic ? Item 12 · 2025 · English I In the poem “Twilight,” how does the speaker’s characterization of the man who sits by the window contribute to a theme? Item 14 · 2026 · English II

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SKILL	ELEMENTARY (3–5)	MIDDLE (6–8)	HIGH (ENG I–II)
author purpose	What is the most likely reason the author includes the chart in the article? Item 22 · 2024 · Grade 3 What is the most likely reason the author includes the photograph after paragraph 2? Item 21 · 2025 · Grade 5 What is the most likely reason the author includes paragraphs 11 and 12 ? Item 21 · 2026 · Grade 4 What is the most likely reason the playwright includes line 15 ? Item 2 · 2024 · Grade 3	What is the most likely reason the author includes the photograph in the article “Art for the People, Art by the People”? Item 11 · 2024 · Grade 7 Why does the author include information about video games in the selection? Item 3 · 2026 · Grade 8 In paragraph 1 , what is the most likely reason the author uses a rhetorical question ? Item 2 · 2026 · Grade 7 What is the most likely reason the author wrote the article “Counting like the Maya”? Item 12 · 2025 · Grade 7	Who is the author most likely addressing in the selection? Item 5 · 2024 · English I What audience is the author most likely addressing in the selection? Item 5 · 2025 · English I What is the most likely reason the author includes the appeal in paragraph 7 ? Item 8 · 2026 · English II What is the most likely reason the author included details about the AirCar in paragraph 1 ? Item 6 · 2025 · English II
text structure	Why does the poet present the ideas in the poem using a description structure? Item 11 · 2025 · Grade 4 The author of the selection from Clarence Birdseye: Frozen Food Innovator uses description in paragraphs 6 and 7 most likely to — Item 9 · 2026 · Grade 5	Which statement best explains the organizational pattern used in the article? Item 2 · 2024 · Grade 6 How is the section “An Unusual Design” organized in order to develop the thesis of the article? Item 22 · 2025 · Grade 8 Which statement best describes the organizational structure of paragraphs 2 and 3 in the selection from The Automobile ? Item 15 · 2026 · Grade 6	How does the cause-and-effect relationship described in paragraphs 6 and 7 contribute to the development of the article’s thesis? Item 26 · 2024 · English II How does the chronological structure of the section “Piedmont Meets Plain” help develop the thesis of the article? Item 27 · 2025 · English II How does the structure used in lines 73 through 75 contribute to the overall meaning of the poem “What Community Means”? Item 12 · 2026 · English I
vocabulary	In paragraph 14, the word dissolve means — Item 20 · 2024 · Grade 5 What is the meaning of worked up in line 10? Item 14 · 2025 · Grade 4 What is the meaning of the word oblige in line 8? Item 1 · 2026 · Grade 4	In line 20 of the poem “A Wave of a Day,” the word propelled means — Item 21 · 2024 · Grade 6 Which word from paragraph 3 helps the reader understand the meaning of roost ? Item 27 · 2025 · Grade 6 In paragraph 2 of the excerpt from Orville and Wilbur Wright: Pioneers of the Age of Flight , the word newfangled means — Item 9 · 2026 · Grade 7	In paragraph 11 of the excerpt from Finding Dorothy, what does the word spindly mean? Item 11 · 2024 · English I In paragraph 5, what does the word refutes mean? Item 1 · 2025 · English I What is the meaning of sous-chef in paragraph 13? Item 1 · 2026 · English I
point of view	Which point of view does the author use in the story? Item 24 · 2024 · Grade 5 Which point of view does the poet use in the poem “Olivia’s Soccer Practice”? Item 19 · 2025 · Grade 3 Which point of view does the author use in the story “Swim Team”? Item 9 · 2026 · Grade 3	Which of the narrator’s statements in scene 1 foreshadows the events that occur in scene 3? Item 3 · 2025 · Grade 7 The subjective point of view in the selection helps the reader understand — Item 26 · 2025 · Grade 7 In the selection, the third-person point of view used by the author helps the reader understand — Item 27 · 2026 · Grade 6	The three stanza breaks in lines 1 through 8 of the poem “Narwhals Are Real” each interrupt a thought the speaker is expressing. How do these interruptions affect the reader? Item 15 · 2024 · English II The reader can infer from lines 1 through 4 of the poem “The Apollo 11 Moon Landing” that the speaker is probably — Item 16 · 2025 · English II
comparison	Which idea in the selection “Riding Out West” is SIMILAR in the poem “Going Home (Burlington Route)”? Item 16 · 2024 · Grade 4 Which idea about young people is expressed in BOTH the story “Tasha’s Hat” and the article “Crochet Away !”? Item 17 · 2025 · Grade 5 What idea is in BOTH the article “Save the Screens” and the selection “Write It Down”? Item 18 · 2026 · Grade 4	What is most likely a DIFFERENCE in the authors’ reasons for writing the article “Art for the People, Art by the People” and the story “Grandfather’s Legacy”? Item 17 · 2024 · Grade 7 Which sentence best expresses a DIFFERENCE in the authors’ reasons for including information about the materials the artists use in their work in the article “Art for the People, Art by the People” and the story “Grandfather’s Legacy”? Item 16 · 2024 · Grade 7 Which sentence best represents an important idea in BOTH the story “The Cardboard Catastrophe” and the selection from The Automobile ? Item 20 · 2026 · Grade 6	Which inference about the actual moon landing do details from the story “Moon Landing” and the poem “The Apollo 11 Moon Landing” BOTH support? Item 19 · 2025 · English II Which statement best describes a DIFFERENCE in how the author of the article “The Art and Practice of Mindfulness Meditation” and the poet who wrote the poem “Twilight” use language to establish tone ? Item 21 · 2026 · English II

Source: Texas Education Agency, STAAR released reading tests, 2024 to 2026. Stems quoted exactly as written. A selection of stems from the released tests, 2024 to 2026; six items that could not be matched to TEA’s answer key with certainty are left out. • **teachbig.com**