THESIS STATEMENTS: ANSWERING THE HOW OR WHY

EXACT STUDENT WORDING • STAAR ECR

SELECTED FROM TEA'S PUBLISHED SCORE 5 AND SCORE 4 RESPONSES

2024 TO 2026 • GRADES 3 TO 8 + ENGLISH I & II • ORIGINAL SPELLING RETAINED

ELEMENTARY

GRADE	2026	2025	2024
GRADE 3	**Prompt asks WHY** I think life was better **because**, the cowboys didn't have to do a lot of work and were able to rest more. **Answers WHY with: because** TEA p. 21 · Response 1	**Prompt asks WHY** The **reason** the farmer and Olivia feel differently while working toward their goals is **because** the farmer didn't even think about giving up on his goal to grow plants ,but Olivia would've given up on soccer if it wasn't for her dads support. **Answers WHY with: reason, because** TEA p. 21 · Response 1	**Prompt asks HOW** Soil is important to all living things in **ways** you might not know. **Answers HOW with: ways** TEA p. 19 · Response 1
GRADE 4	**Prompt asks HOW** The carved wooden animals in paragraph 2 **contribute** to the story **by** revealing how she likes animals, which explains why she wanted the crystal dove. **Answers HOW with: contribute, by** TEA p. 23 · Response 2	**Prompt asks WHY** I believe that people should change traditional dishes **because** it will bring a new idea based off of another wich might become world popular. **Answers WHY with: because** TEA p. 22 · Response 1	**Prompt asks WHY** Cody changed his opinion on how good Mud is at soccer **because** when Amanda had nowhere to go, she passed the ball to Mud. **Answers WHY with: because** TEA p. 17 · Score 4 · Response 1
GRADE 5	**Prompt asks WHY** Hare was right to solve her problem the way she did **because** it was not just only her problem but her friends' too. **Answers WHY with: because** TEA p. 22 · Response 1	**Prompt asks HOW** Technology had an effect on animation **by** making it more relistic, makig it easyer to creat, and making 2D less popular. **Answers HOW with: by** TEA p. 19 · Score 4 · Response 2	**Prompt asks HOW** El-ahrairah's kindess helps him throughout the story **by** saving him and possibly the whole warren. **Answers HOW with: by** TEA p. 23 · Response 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADE	2026	2025	2024
GRADE 6	**Prompt asks HOW** Art has **impacted** Wang Yani's experiences in life **by** a land slide! **Answers HOW with: impacted, by** TEA p. 24 · Response 2	**Prompt asks WHY** Closing off public access to a bat cave in my town is a good idea **because** it will help protect the bats from people entering the cave or people trying to damage them. **Answers WHY with: because** TEA p. 25 · Response 2	**Prompt asks HOW** **One way** they are similar is that they both are very smart. **Answers HOW with: One way** TEA p. 21 · Response 2
GRADE 7	**Prompt asks WHY** Why he spent so much time on making them wear saftey equitment is **because** they were high up in the air and he didnt want anything to happen to him and have to send his family a letter while they were on his watch. **Answers WHY with: because** TEA p. 22 · Score 4 · Response 2	**Prompt asks HOW** The relationship between the author and her grandmother **influenced** the author's life **by** showing her how to be patient and providing a safe space where she can relax surrounded with kindness and warmth. **Answers HOW with: influenced, by** TEA p. 24 · Response 1	**Prompt asks WHY** The following are **reasons why** schools should take up participatory budgeting. **Answers WHY with: reasons why** TEA p. 23 · Response 1
GRADE 8	**Prompt asks WHY** The United States should invest in maglev trains **because** they are quieter, more fuel effecient, and allow for a more comfortable ride than old diesel and electricpowered trains. **Answers WHY with: because** TEA p. 24 · Response 1	**Prompt asks HOW** The invention of the snow goggles **reveals** that ancient cultures held the smarts to create items that solved their initial problem, as well others that may not have been present during their time. **Answers HOW with: reveals** TEA p. 26 · Response 2	**Prompt asks HOW** In "Mr. Linden's Library", Carol's curiosity **influences** the story's events **in many ways**. **Answers HOW with: influences, in many ways** TEA p. 23 · Response 2

HIGH SCHOOL

GRADE	2026	2025	2024
ENGLISH I	**Prompt asks HOW** Stage directions can **influence** how a character develops throughout a story **by** showing the characters emotions, actions, and reactions. **Answers HOW with: influence, by** TEA p. 26 · Response 2	**Prompt asks HOW** Historical items have a large impact on modern day society **by** providing vision into the past and giving clear insight on events. **Answers HOW with: by** TEA p. 22 · Response 1	**Prompt asks WHY** Her defiance is significant **because** it allows her to free herself from her restrictive bonds and begin exploring her role outside the standard of traditional. **Answers WHY with: because** TEA p. 23 · Response 2
ENGLISH II	**Prompt asks HOW** The author uses language throughout the excerpt to build toward the encounter with the leopard in paragraph 19 **by** creating a sense of familiarity and suspense. **Answers HOW with: by** TEA p. 24 · Response 1	**Prompt asks HOW** Geological features have helped shape the history of human civilizations **by influencing** where people live and forming a natural border between different groups of people. **Answers HOW with: by influencing** TEA p. 26 · Response 1	**Prompt asks WHY** The **reason** that the situation in Antarctica is particularly unusual is **because** the area is governed by many nations unlike other territories on earth and people are putting in a lot of effort to preserve the local ecosystems in the region. **Answers WHY with: reason, because** TEA p. 24 · Response 2