

STAAR 2.0 Transitional Items

Reading Language Arts

The lead4ward RLA transitional items are designed to provide teachers and leaders with examples of how released STAAR 2.0 new item types' assessment of reading and writing skills compares with STAAR 1.0. Within the STAAR-tested grades, the lead4ward crew has aligned elementary and secondary items that assess similar knowledge and skills.

The transitional items can be used with the PLC:

- when planning for application of learning and transfer to STAAR
- to analyze and discuss the STAAR 1.0 and 2.0 examples, including:
 - the similarities and differences between multiple-choice and new item type thinking, stimuli, and representation of the content
 - how the new item types may be better or more challenging for students
 - student misconceptions and mistakes
 - how specific online tools and resources may support particular new item types

The transitional items can also be used with students during instruction:

- as prompts for bell ringers, modeling with assessment items, analysis and discussion in centers or workstations, and with Learning from Mistakes strategies on the lead4ward playlist
- to analyze and discuss the STAAR 1.0 and 2.0 examples, including:
 - the similarities and differences between multiple-choice and new item type thinking, stimuli, and representation of the content
 - how the new item types may be better or more challenging
 - possible learning mistakes
 - how specific online tools may support particular new item types

STAAR Released Item	Multiselect (Elementary Example)
<p>What is the most likely reason the author includes the information in paragraph 7?</p> <p>A To show the reader how to find creative ways to spend time</p> <p>B To provide the reader with a reason that hammocks need to be strong</p> <p>C To inform the reader of a different way that hammocks are used</p> <p>D To tell the reader about the equipment needed for one sport</p>	<p>Use "The Cholla Cactus" to answer the following question.</p> <p>What are the most likely reasons the author includes paragraphs 1 and 2 of the article "The Cholla Cactus"?</p> <p>Select TWO correct answers.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To connect the reader to the topic</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To argue for the protection of a species</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To explain how a cactus grows in the desert</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To provide a mental picture of the subject</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To show how animals survive in harsh climates</p>
STAAR Released Item	Multiselect (Secondary Example)
<p>Read this quotation from paragraph 2 of the excerpt from the article "Those Old Piano Blues."</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p><i>Then a slow, downward sales arpeggio started.</i></p> </div> <p>What does the author's use of musical terminology convey in the quotation?</p> <p>A How the popularity of the piano has shifted like notes in a song</p> <p>B How piano dealers use musical language when they speak</p> <p>C How piano tones affect the price of the instruments</p> <p>D How piano music will persist despite its decrease in popularity</p>	<p>How does the author's use of language in paragraph 36 emphasize a theme in the excerpt?</p> <p>Select TWO correct answers.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> By showing why Mrs. Lapidus wants Gogol to pick a new name</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> By suggesting that Gogol will adapt to kindergarten</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> By specifying the importance of a classroom environment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> By exaggerating the power of nicknames in school</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> By contrasting the schooling experiences of Gogol and his parents</p>

STAAR Released Item	Multipart (Elementary Example)
<p>Which words from paragraph 14 best help the reader understand what <u>cradled</u> means?</p> <p>A <i>at her classmates</i></p> <p>B <i>down the trail</i></p> <p>C <i>with the tour guide</i></p> <p>D <i>gently in her hands</i></p>	<p>Part A What is the meaning of the word <u>limp</u> in line 28 of the poem?</p> <p>A Ready to be worn</p> <p>B Like something new</p> <p>C Weak and without shape</p> <p>D Fresh and without dirt</p> <p>Part B Which word from the poem helps the reader understand the meaning of the word <u>limp</u>?</p> <p>A spinning (line 27)</p> <p>B lifeless (line 29)</p> <p>C slip (line 30)</p> <p>D inside (line 31)</p>
STAAR Released Item	Multipart (Secondary Example)
<p>Read this quotation from paragraph 16 of the excerpt from <i>The Piano Shop on the Left Bank</i>.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p><i>"Think of it as an investment in personal expression."</i></p> </div> <p>What can the reader infer about the narrator's wife based on her words?</p> <p>F The wife believes it is more important to invest in the arts than in other things.</p> <p>G The wife does not believe people should deny themselves things that they want.</p> <p>H The wife views the piano as an attractive addition to their living room.</p> <p>J The wife sees music as a necessary outlet for her husband's creativity.</p>	<p>This question has two parts.</p> <p>Part A The poet's description of the setting emphasizes —</p> <p>A a clear portrayal of life</p> <p>B the importance of preserving nature</p> <p>C a sense of playfulness</p> <p>D the freedom of the outdoors</p> <p>Part B Which phrase from the poem best supports the answer to Part A?</p> <p>A something red move outside (line 3)</p> <p>B untamed patch of land (line 4)</p> <p>C head tucked into his tail (line 14)</p> <p>D safe enough to rest (line 17)</p>

STAAR Released Item	Inline Choice (Secondary Example)
<p>What change should Noah make in sentence 24?</p> <p>A Insert a colon after <i>questioning</i></p> <p>B Change <i>different</i> to <i>diffrent</i></p> <p>C Insert a comma after <i>conversation</i></p> <p>D Change <i>correspondense</i> to <i>correspondence</i></p>	<p>Select the response that corrects the spelling error in sentence 11.</p> <p>Records show that in 1890 a man named J. J. Ott assembled a group of rocks from the field that played a concert for the local society.</p> <div data-bbox="1732 414 1990 799" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;"> <div style="background-color: #2c5e8c; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">✓</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> historicle historical historrical historacel </div>
STAAR Released Item	Inline Choice (Secondary Example)
<p>Arjun wants to strengthen the transition between the second paragraph (sentences 5–6) and the third paragraph (sentences 7–13). Which sentence should replace sentence 7 to provide a better transition?</p> <p>A Additionally, the orchid garden of Las Pozas was a failure.</p> <p>B But what would happen to the orchid garden of Las Pozas?</p> <p>C Sadly, the orchid garden of Las Pozas was not destined to last.</p> <p>D The orchid garden of Las Pozas drew a lot of attention.</p>	<p>Rose wants to improve the transition between the second paragraph (sentences 8-13) and the third paragraph (sentences 14-20). Select the phrase that should be added to the beginning of sentence 14 to help with this transition.</p> <p>As if the physical benefits weren't enough, participating in martial arts also helps kids develop strong mental focus.</p>

STAAR Released Item	Hot Text (Grade 3 Example)
<p>Which sentence from the selection suggests that the author likes sloths?</p> <p>F <i>The sloth is the slowest mammal on Earth.</i> (paragraph 1)</p> <p>G <i>One thing that scientists do know is that sloths are very different from most other animals.</i> (paragraph 2)</p> <p>H <i>With gentle brown eyes and a flat little nose, the sloth might win the award for cutest animal.</i> (paragraph 4)</p> <p>J <i>Sloths grow to be only about 25 inches long—around the size of a human baby.</i> (paragraph 4)</p>	<p>Which sentence from paragraph 6 best explains why Snell thought he and his workers would know how to build a new Big Tex?</p> <p>Unfortunately, in 2012 there was an accident, and Big Tex was destroyed in a fire. Although people were disappointed, a man named R. Eddy Snell realized this was a chance to make a bigger and better Big Tex. Snell’s company had built a large dragon and giant cowboy boots before. Yet he knew the big cowboy would not be an easy job.</p>
STAAR Released Item	Hot Text (Grade 5 Example)
<p>Which sentence from the article “The Broken-Crayon Solution” best supports the conclusion that Cassidy’s product was profitable?</p> <p>A <i>She noticed that all of her crayons were broken.</i> (paragraph 1)</p> <p>B <i>Cassidy knew that her invention would make many young artists happy.</i> (paragraph 3)</p> <p>C <i>Eventually so many crayon holders were sold that Cassidy was able to pay for most of her college education out of her earnings.</i> (paragraph 3)</p> <p>D <i>Cassidy’s invention encourages others to waste less.</i> (paragraph 4)</p>	<p>Which sentences from lines 12 through 21 show that Mama Bear is defending Goldie Locks?</p> <p>Select TWO correct answers.</p> <p>12 PAPA BEAR: Do you mean that hooligan who broke into our house?</p> <p>13 MAMA BEAR: Oh, she didn’t break in, dear. You forgot to lock the door.</p> <p>14 BABY BEAR: She broke my chair!</p> <p>15 MAMA BEAR: You were getting too big for that chair anyway, Baby Bear.</p> <p>16 PAPA BEAR: Isn’t he getting too old for that name? We should start calling him Robert.</p> <p>17 MAMA BEAR: He will always be my Baby Bear.</p> <p>18 PAPA BEAR: Well, I never felt right about how Goldie ran out of here all those years ago. Let’s face it—she did commit a crime!</p> <p>19 MAMA BEAR: She was only five years old! She has matured since then.</p> <p>20 BABY BEAR: She probably thinks that just because we’re bears, we’re going to eat her.</p> <p>21 MAMA BEAR: Nonsense. We certainly would never eat a guest.</p>

STAAR Released Item	Text Entry (Grade 6 Example)
<p>Read this sentence from paragraph 27.</p> <div data-bbox="367 354 961 509" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p><i>As Marcos hugged Mom, he looked accusingly over her shoulder at Elena—the aroma of fresh cookies in the air whispered to him that his visit was no surprise.</i></p> </div> <p>What does the author’s use of personification emphasize?</p> <p>F Marcos realizes Mom has prepared in advance for his visit.</p> <p>G Mom understands what Marcos likes to eat.</p> <p>H Elena wishes that Marcos had not noticed the smell of the cookies.</p> <p>J Marcos feels welcomed by the smell of his favorite cookies.</p>	<p>Use “George Washington’s Portrait” to answer the following question.</p> <p>Read the sentence from paragraph 2 of “George Washington’s Portrait.”</p> <div data-bbox="1108 391 1923 524" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p><i>But instead of making his subjects sit perfectly still, as was commonly practiced at the time, Stuart <u>engaged</u> them in interesting conversation.</i></p> </div> <p>Enter your answer in the box.</p> <p>In this sentence, the word <input type="text"/> provides a clue to the meaning of <u>engaged</u>.</p>
STAAR Released Item	Text Entry (English II Example)
<p>In paragraph 1 of the excerpt from <i>The Piano Shop on the Left Bank</i>, why does the narrator describe the piano as “a strange and wonderful combination of the robust and the delicate”?</p> <p>F To explain why he feels this particular piano is special</p> <p>G To reveal that he needs a piano that is not too fragile or ornate</p> <p>H To state why he is physically able to play this particular piano</p> <p>J To suggest that he prefers a piano that won’t require much upkeep</p>	<p>Enter your answer in the box.</p> <p>In stanza 4 (lines 10-12), the poet uses the word <input type="text"/> to emphasize the fox’s delicate beauty.</p>

STAAR Released Item	Match Table Grid (Grade 8 Example)																		
<p>What is the best summary of the selection?</p> <p>A Food forests are self-sustaining gardens that produce various fruits and vegetables. These public areas, which can be found in several cities across the country, are similar to community gardens but offer additional benefits to local residents. Two such food forests are Thorne-Rider Park in Wyoming and Coastal Roots Farm in California.</p> <p>B Food forests are not a new concept, and many cities have taken advantage of these edible landscapes. However, critics warn that there are many drawbacks that should be considered, such as issues with funding, labor, and pests.</p> <p>C The first food forest was founded in Asheville, North Carolina, in 1997. Since then, organizations across the country have taken note of the permaculture design and have implemented it into similar projects such as Coastal Roots Farm in Encinitas, California, and Thorne-Rider Park in Sheridan, Wyoming.</p> <p>D Carol LeResche is a food forest coordinator who enjoys creating edible gardens so that local residents can have access to free vegetables such as zucchini and potatoes. She received a grant to begin a food forest at Thorne-Rider Park in Sheridan, Wyoming.</p>	<p>Determine whether each detail should be included in a summary of the story. Select the correct answer in each row.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Detail from the Story</th> <th>Include in a Summary</th> <th>Do Not Include in a Summary</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Grandpa decides to make pasta with pesto sauce for Anthony.</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grandpa says that when Anthony’s mom was a kid, she liked pesto sauce from a jar.</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anthony and Grandpa spend the day gathering ingredients and preparing the pesto and the pasta.</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anthony tells Grandpa that he loves the pasta with pesto sauce, even though it tastes awful.</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Detail from the Story	Include in a Summary	Do Not Include in a Summary	Grandpa decides to make pasta with pesto sauce for Anthony.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grandpa says that when Anthony’s mom was a kid, she liked pesto sauce from a jar.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Anthony and Grandpa spend the day gathering ingredients and preparing the pesto and the pasta.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Anthony tells Grandpa that he loves the pasta with pesto sauce, even though it tastes awful.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
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<p>Which quotation best suggests that Kevin probably feels increasing pressure from external expectations?</p> <p>F <i>When he was four he was better than the five-year-olds, and when he was five he was better than the seven-year-olds.</i> (paragraph 1)</p> <p>G <i>Year after year they have heard the boy’s body grow—the banging becoming harder and harder, faster and faster.</i> (paragraph 3)</p> <p>H <i>“Kevin? He’s the real deal,” Peter Andersson, general manager of the club, always says, and he ought to know. . . .</i> (paragraph 4)</p> <p>J <i>Kevin knows what it takes; everyone’s been telling him ever since he first stood on a pair of skates.</i> (paragraph 5)</p>	<p>Which phrases from the poem emphasize the fox’s vulnerability? Select the correct answer in each row.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Phrase</th> <th>Emphasizes the Fox’s Vulnerability</th> <th>Does Not Emphasize the Fox’s Vulnerability</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>he trotted and sniffed (line 7)</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>like a child’s face— (line 10)</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>He stood for awhile, (line 11)</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>a patch of sand (line 13)</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>circle of fur: (line 14)</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Phrase	Emphasizes the Fox’s Vulnerability	Does Not Emphasize the Fox’s Vulnerability	he trotted and sniffed (line 7)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	like a child’s face— (line 10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	He stood for awhile, (line 11)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a patch of sand (line 13)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	circle of fur: (line 14)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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STAAR Released Item	Short Constructed Response (Elementary Example)
<p>Based on information in paragraph 4, what can the reader infer about elephants?</p> <p>F An elephant’s ears help the elephant communicate.</p> <p>G Elephants usually feel either happy or scared.</p> <p>H A large herd will rarely experience danger.</p> <p>J Scientists are confused by an elephant’s body language.</p>	<p>Read the question carefully. Then enter your answer in the box provided.</p> <p>What is one key idea found in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the article? Support your answer with evidence from the article.</p> <div data-bbox="1087 467 1982 701" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;"> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid #ccc; height: 100px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> # Chars 0/475 </div> </div>
STAAR Released Item	Short Constructed Response (Secondary Example)
<p>Why are the events in paragraphs 1 and 2 important to the plot?</p> <p>F The events reveal Lucy’s regrets about registering at a new school.</p> <p>G The events explain Lucy’s reasons for not liking her new school.</p> <p>H The events hint at Lucy’s confusion as she walks to her first-period class.</p> <p>J The events set the conditions for Lucy’s attitude as the school day begins.</p>	<p>Read the statement carefully. Then enter your answer in the box provided.</p> <p>Explain how Anthony’s behavior in paragraphs 12 through 14 affects the resolution of the plot. Support your answer with evidence from the story.</p> <div data-bbox="1075 1123 1974 1357" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;"> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid #ccc; height: 100px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> # Chars 0/475 </div> </div>

STAAR Released Item	Short Constructed Response (Elementary Example)
<p>READ the following quotation.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Good teachers know how to bring out the best in students.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">—Charles Kuralt</p> </div> <p>THINK carefully about the best teacher you know.</p> <p>WRITE about the best teacher you know. Tell who it is and explain the characteristics that make this person a good teacher.</p> <p>Be sure to —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clearly state your central idea organize your writing develop your writing in detail choose your words carefully use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences 	<p>Read the poem "Pants." Based on the information in the poem, write a response to the following:</p> <p>Explain the relationship between the poet and the pants and how this relationship is developed by the poet.</p> <p>Write a well-organized informational essay that uses specific evidence from the poem to support your answer.</p> <p>Remember to —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clearly state your central idea organize your writing develop your ideas in detail use evidence from the selection in your response use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar <p>Manage your time carefully so that you can —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review the selection plan your response write your response revise and edit your response <p>Write your response in the box provided.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> </div>
STAAR Released Item	Short Constructed Response (Secondary Example)
<p>READ the following information.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>We can show our appreciation of others with both words and actions. Showing appreciation means that we understand how valuable, special, or unique someone is.</p> </div> <p>THINK about ways people show their appreciation for each other.</p> <p>WRITE an essay explaining why showing people you appreciate them can be important.</p> <p>Be sure to —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clearly state your controlling idea organize and develop your explanation effectively choose your words carefully use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences 	<p>Read the excerpt from "The Namesake." Based on the information from the excerpt, write a response to the following:</p> <p>Explain how the characterizations of Ashoke and Mrs. Lapidus contribute to the development of the plot in this excerpt.</p> <p>Write a well-organized informational essay that uses specific evidence from the excerpt to support your answer.</p> <p>Remember to —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clearly state your thesis organize your writing develop your ideas in detail use evidence from the selection in your response use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar <p>Manage your time carefully so that you can —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review the selection plan your response write your response revise and edit your response <p>Write your response in the box provided.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> </div>