

2022 STAAR Grade 7 Reading Rationales

Item #	Rationale	
1	Option C is correct	The author includes the cartoon most likely because showing children using their phones during a game of tag is an exaggerated way for the author to stress that children use digital technology far too much. As the author points out in paragraph 1, “Young people today rely heavily on digital technology.”
	Option A is incorrect	Although this might be a new game these children came up with, highlighting this is not why the author includes the cartoon. Throughout the selection, the author encourages young people to reduce screen time, such as when they’re outdoors. For example, in paragraph 3, the author states, “By taking a break from digital devices, young people have more time to go outside.”
	Option B is incorrect	The cartoon shows kids using their phones outside, but the author is showing them as being limited in their game because of their phones. The cartoon helps the author promote the idea of a “digital diet,” such as for the benefits of creativity and better fitness, as described in paragraph 3, not the idea that children should use phones when outside.
	Option D is incorrect	



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3	Option D is correct	In paragraph 2, the author explains a “digital diet” involves limiting time with digital devices. In paragraph 5, the author encourages people to pay more attention to other people than their phones. Information throughout the selection indicates people can practice digital dieting by putting away phones while with friends.
	Option A is incorrect	The author mentions device use at night in paragraph 4 but focuses on shutting off devices several hours before bedtime, not adjusting the brightness of the screen. The “digital diet” described by the author involves less screen time, not adjusted brightness.
	Option B is incorrect	Playing computer games with friends is not practicing digital dieting, which involves spending more time with people without the use of digital devices. In paragraph 5, the author encourages people to put aside devices “to be more present when interacting with others.”
	Option C is incorrect	Using digital devices less when navigating would reduce time spent on those devices which is related to the digital diet described by the author, but this use would likely be considered useful by the author. Paragraph 6 states that a person driving to an unfamiliar location would benefit from using GPS, and the author emphasizes that “the goal is to use digital devices when they are needed.”

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6	Option F is correct	The best summary of the excerpt is presented in these sentences. Information is provided about why technology is important, why its usage should be limited and balanced with other activities, and how this balance benefits people’s lives.
	Option G is incorrect	This is not the best summary of the selection because it does not present the author’s balanced view; it lacks information about what the benefits of reduced screen time actually are. The negative side of an over-reliance on technology and recommendations for people to use screens less are included in this summary, but the idea about developing healthy technology habits is left out.
	Option H is incorrect	This is not the best summary because it omits the author’s view that healthy technology habits involve balance (paragraph 2) and overstates how the author presents digital dieting benefits. While the author suggests outdoor time might improve school performance and creativity (paragraph 3), the author does not say this is the reason people should go outside.
	Option J is incorrect	This is not the best summary because it presents only a portion of the ideas from the selection, primarily paragraph 2. These sentences miss key details presented by the author, such as the benefits of digital dieting and the importance of taking a balanced approach.

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7	Option D is correct	In paragraph 1 the author uses the phrase “Everywhere you look” to point out how a problem, that “people are distracted by screens,” is widespread, or affecting a lot of people.
	Option A is incorrect	This is not why the author includes the phrase “Everywhere you look” in paragraph 1. For people to ignore an issue, they need to first be aware of it, and the author’s focus is primarily on educating people about a digital diet. For example, the author explains in paragraph 1 that “it is possible to achieve a more balanced relationship with technology.”
	Option B is incorrect	The author includes the phrase “Everywhere you look” to point out what’s currently happening, not to make any statement about society changing.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 1, the author does not provide any details to explain that people are fascinated by trends; rather, the focus is on how many people are distracted by screens, and this is why the author includes the phrase “Everywhere you look.”

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9	Option A is correct	The author includes the quotation in paragraph 4 as support for why it's important to take technology breaks and to show what can happen when people don't take these breaks. According to the quotation, not taking a break from technology at night can cause "disturbed sleep."
	Option B is incorrect	The author's use of the quotation in paragraph 4 does not support the idea that people must be able to send information at any time; rather, it supports the idea that it's important to put technology aside at times.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the quotation in paragraph 4 could help emphasize why it's important to break the routine of using too much technology, its focus is on identifying negative effects of using technology, not highlighting a typical routine of a technology user.
	Option D is incorrect	The quotation in paragraph 4 is focused on negative effects of overusing devices, not on whether people can give up their devices.





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14	Option H is correct	A central message in this play is that it can take time and patience to understand a situation. Betsy required time and patience to feel comfortable divulging her reason for her disguise and for making the trip; also, it can take time and patience to connect different pieces of information, such as the connection between Sam and Betsy disclosed in lines 51 and 52.
	Option F is incorrect	The playwright focuses the play on Betsy's trip and her reason for making it rather than on the letter that



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16	Option F is correct	In paragraph 11, <u>reminisce</u> means to remember things that happened in the past. As Julie prepares to bid goodbye to her sister, who is leaving for college, she reflects on their dances together.
	Option G is incorrect	<u>Reminisce</u> does not mean to have doubts, which means to distrust something.
	Option H is incorrect	Julie is not judging anyone; <u>reminisce</u> does not mean to judge, which means to form an opinion about something.
	Option J is incorrect	The tradition of dancing was created by their dad to resolve their anger during an argument, but <u>reminisce</u> does not mean to resolve an issue. Instead, Julie is simply remembering earlier days with her sister when their “biggest problems involved Olivia the doll.”

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18	Option G is correct	Personification is a type of figurative language where human characteristics are applied to something that is not alive. In this story, the author’s personification of the girls’ anger in the sentence from paragraph 5—“our anger crept out of the living room”—emphasizes how well the dancing overpowered the anger.
	Option F is incorrect	The girls do learn to appreciate the dance parties, but it is not the author’s use of personification (“our anger crept out of the living room”) that shows this.
	Option H is incorrect	It is the dancing itself, not the personification in paragraph 5 (“our anger crept out of the living room”), that emphasizes the bond the girls share.
	Option J is incorrect	The girls dance in the same room at the insistence of their father, though they are initially unwilling to do so. The use of personification (“our anger crept out of the living room”) shows that they are forgetting their argument as they dance, but there is no evidence that they are willing to work together.

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20	Option F is correct	A message in "The Tree" is that the speaker does not fully appreciate the beauty of the tree until it is gone. The speaker says in line 10, "For years I never noticed," and then in line 16 remarks on "the presence of the absence of the tree."
	Option G is incorrect	The speaker fully understands that the tree was cut down and recognizes in lines 14 and 15 the "gap it left created . . . an emptiness."
	Option H is incorrect	The speaker is reflecting on the absence of a tree. This statement about being comfortable at home is not part of the message given in the poem.
	Option J is incorrect	Although the poem describes the tree's shadow against the neighbor's house, the neighbors and their specific actions are not mentioned in the poem.



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26	Option J is correct	In both the story "Last Dance" and the poem "The Tree," the theme is of not taking small wonders for granted. For example, in the story, Julie says she realizes "that these were the moments to cherish" (paragraph 20), and in the poem, the speaker reflects, "For years I never noticed" (line 10) and "The gap it left created a silence" (line 14).
	Option F is incorrect	Although loss, which is a theme in both the story "Last Dance" and the poem "The Tree," takes courage to face and deal with, neither the story nor poem presents a theme of having the courage to live life to its fullest.
	Option G is incorrect	It is hinted in the story "Last Dance" that the narrator should have confided in her sister, but this is not a theme of the poem "The Tree."
	Option H is incorrect	Although it can take patience to come to terms with change and loss, which are themes in both the story "Last Dance" and the poem "The Tree," having the patience to achieve a goal is not a theme for either the story or the poem.

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27	Option B is correct	Unlike the poem "The Tree," the story "Last Dance" ends with a sense of fulfillment, in that Julie gets to experience a last dance with her sister and realizes that it is a moment "to cherish." In contrast, the poem does not end with a sense of fulfillment; it ends with a sense of loss and reflection.
	Option A is incorrect	Although "Last Dance" ends with Becca heading off to college, which can be considered an adventure, the ending of the story deals more with acceptance of change and cherishing good moments. The poem "The Tree" does not end with any sense of adventure; it ends with a sense of loss and reflection.
	Option C is incorrect	In the story "Last Dance," the sisters discover that the dances are important to them both, so there is no need for a sense of sympathy; in the poem "The Tree," the speaker feels a sense of loss but does not feel a need for sympathy from anyone.
	Option D is incorrect	Neither the story "Last Dance" nor the poem "The Tree" ends with a sense of concern. The story ends more with acceptance, not concern, that Becca is leaving; the poem ends with the speaker reflecting on the loss of the tree, but he does not demonstrate a sense of concern.

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30	Option G is correct	In paragraph 9, Brittany is "holding her head as if it were a weighty boulder," then stares at the empty stands, "imagining how she must have made Alix feel,"

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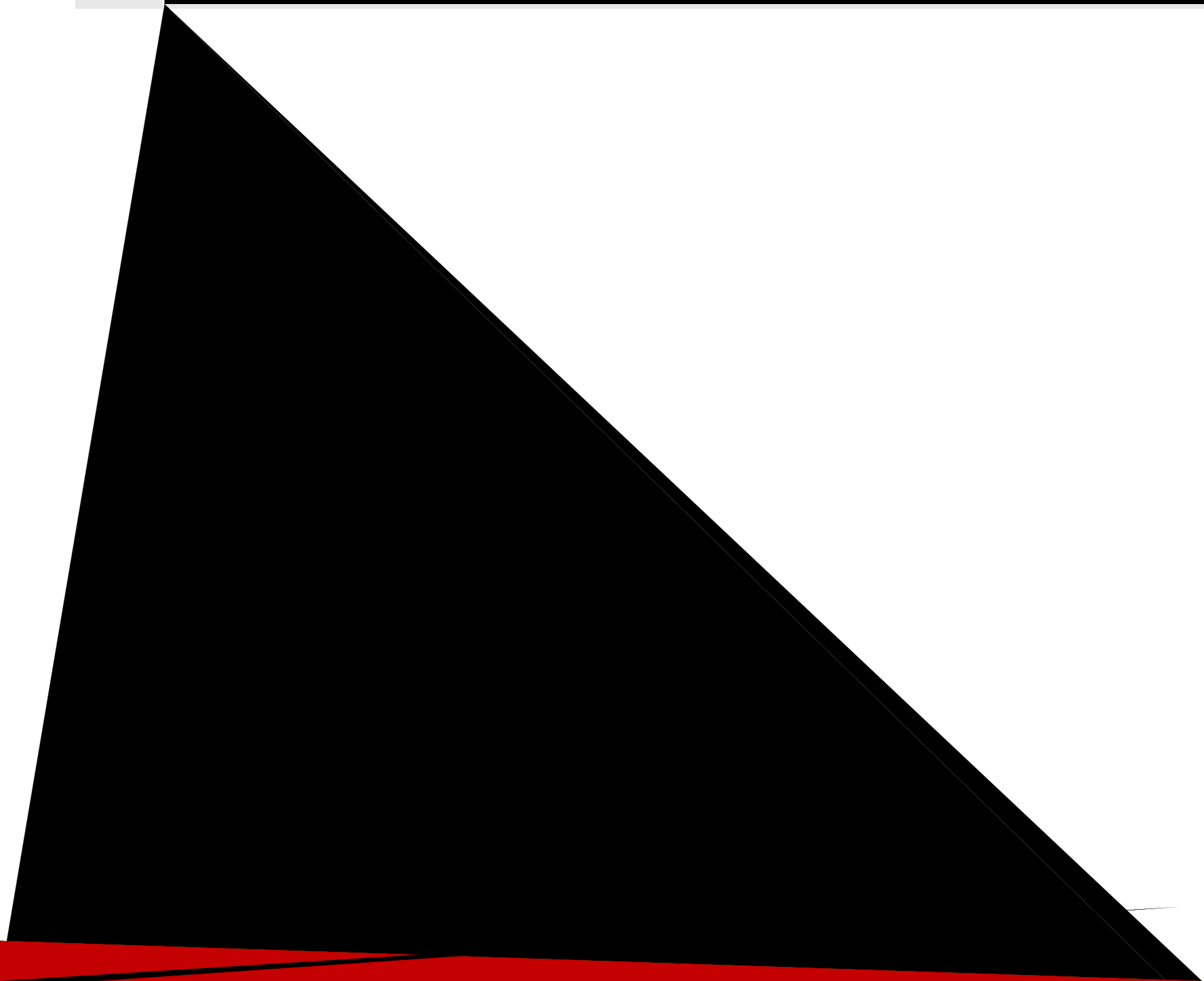
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31	Option C is correct	In paragraph 8, the coach communicates that Brittany’s performance in practice is not up to her usual level by telling her that she is “off [her] game.” Right before this point, in paragraph 7, Brittany notices Alix’s empty seat “and tried to ignore the pang she felt from her friend’s absence.” This suggests Alix’s absence is the reason Brittany’s performance suffers.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 4, Alix apologizes for hurting Brittany’s feelings, but there is no suggestion in this sentence that Alix is absent from Brittany’s performance or that she affected the performance.
	Option B is incorrect	This sentence from paragraph 6 is simply giving the time frame before the actual competition begins, but it does not suggest Brittany’s performance is suffering because of Alix’s absence.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 15, by holding her head high, Brittany displays the return of her confidence now that Alix has come to support her.

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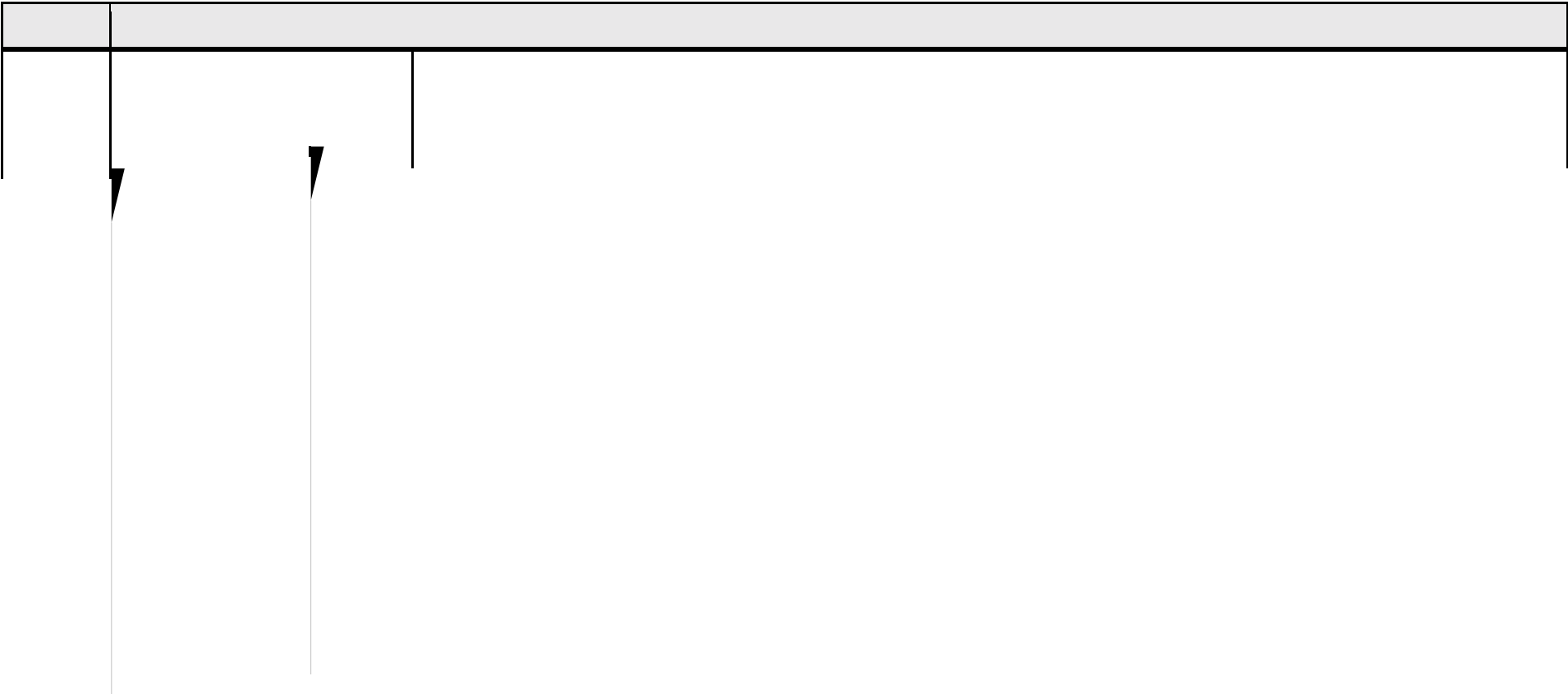
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32	Option G is correct	In paragraph 10, the setting changes to the day of the competition, with only Brittany's parents and Coach Jen there to support her. Since it's the day of the competition and Alix is not there to support her, Brittany feels increased pressure, and "clumsy and insecure," about her upcoming performance.
	Option F is incorrect	The day of the competition is not what causes Brittany to believe that Alix will not come; Brittany has already been concerned about that for days. For example, in paragraph 9, Brittany is shown before competition day, missing "the encouragement Alix gave her when she was doubting herself.

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33	Option D is correct	This sentence from paragraph 14 supports the story's theme that people who share a good relationship can overcome minor disagreements or repair small ruptures between them. Alix is telling her friend that "no matter what happens," she'll be there for her. As Alix explains in paragraph 13, "I know you needed your space, but that doesn't mean I was going to abandon you."
	Option A is incorrect	







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39	Option C is correct	The study findings discussed in paragraph 5 offer evidence that walking is beneficial to people’s health and well-being, which is the author’s argument.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 5, the author includes benefits of walking, which could cause people to appreciate walking; however, the author never makes a connection between the findings and people’s appreciation of walking.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 5, although the author describes benefits people gain from walking, the author does not present these benefits as explanations for why people choose to take walks.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the findings in paragraph 5 reveal the minimum frequency at which study participants walked, this is not the information that supports the author’s argument, which is focused on the idea that walking is beneficial.

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40	Option etTce28tTs8tTc l(e1tTi(etTck28tTe28tTctrmm346 -0.c8tTck28tTe28tTrmm34s)tTc a28tTn28tTd28tTcc8tTcomm34umm34n28tTte28tTrm	_____

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41	Option D is correct	Throughout the passage, the author provides information useful for people interested in starting an exercise routine. For example, in paragraph 2, the author explains how to begin an exercise routine; in

