

**English Language Arts
Grade 8**

Sample Items

Introduction

The South Carolina State Department of Education provides districts and schools with tools to assist in delivering focused instruction aligned with the *2024 South Carolina College- and Career-Ready English Language Arts Standards*. This document contains a set of twenty SC READY English Language Arts (ELA) Grade 8 test items that have been written to align with the *2024 South Carolina College- and Career-Ready English Language Arts Standards*. These items were reviewed for content and bias prior to being field tested and approved for release to the public.

Purpose

This document is intended to be a resource for educators; it is not designed to be a practice test for students. The sample items are examples of college- and career-ready assessment items. The SC READY test assesses content standards in a variety of ways. This document does not include all item types. To see the full functionality of Technology Enhanced item types, access the Online Tools Training. <https://portal.te.drcedirect.com/SC>

Item Information Format

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item (#)	
Indicator Alignment	2024 South Carolina College- and Career-Ready English Language Arts Indicator
Indicator Description	text from the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready English Language Arts Indicator
Item Type	Drag and Drop, Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR), Selected Response
Answer Key	correct answer
Depth of Knowledge	cognitive demand
Estimated Difficulty	estimated based on student responses

Links

Assessment Quick Links for Teachers

<https://ed.sc.gov/tests/assessment-information/quick-links-for-teachers/>

South Carolina College- and Career-Ready English Language Arts Standards

<https://www.ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards/english-language-arts/standards/>

Norman Webb's Depth-of-Knowledge for the Four Content Areas

<https://www.webbalign.org/dok-summary-tables>

1. A student is writing a report about Hadrian's Wall. Read the sentences from the report.

Hadrian's Wall served to physically keep enemies out of the Roman Empire and to remind its neighbors that a great civilization lay on the other side. And the wall was likely plastered and whitewashed so that it would have been visible for miles.

Which transition **best** replaces the underlined word to clarify the relationship between the claim and the evidence?

- A. Considering this idea,
- B. To achieve this effect,
- C. By accomplishing these goals,
- D. To add to the mystery,

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 1	
Indicator Alignment	C.1.1c
Indicator Description	Write arguments to support a claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence. When writing: c. use transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships between claim(s), a counterclaim, reasons, evidence.
Item Type	Selected Response
Answer Key	B
Depth of Knowledge	2
Estimated Difficulty	Medium

2. A student is writing a report about pesticides. Read the paragraph the student wrote.

Pesticides are products that repel or destroy pests, such as harmful insects. For years, many farmers used chemical pesticides to protect their crops from being eaten or infected. _____, many farmers are choosing to use natural or organic pesticides instead of chemical pesticides. Natural and organic pesticides keep pests away without harming ecosystems.

Which transition **best** completes the sentence to clarify the ideas in the paragraph?

- A. However
- B. Today
- C. As a result
- D. For example

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 2	
Indicator Alignment	C.2.1c
Indicator Description	Write informative texts to examine a topic and analyze information from multiple sources. When writing: c. use varied transitions to clarify the relationships between ideas and concepts.
Item Type	Selected Response
Answer Key	B
Depth of Knowledge	2
Estimated Difficulty	High

3. A student is writing a report about an ancient trade route called the Silk Road. Read the paragraph from the student's report.

Once the Romans conquered Egypt in the year 30 BCE, communications and trade across continents became more and more frequent. China's silk and spices were prized throughout India, the Middle East, and parts of Europe.

Under which heading in the student's report would the paragraph **best** fit?

- A. The Beginnings of an Empire
- B. Secrets of the Past Revealed
- C. Methods of Travel
- D. Valuable Products

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 3	
Indicator Alignment	R.1.4
Indicator Description	Logically organize findings as relevant to the purpose.
Item Type	Selected Response
Answer Key	D
Depth of Knowledge	2
Estimated Difficulty	High

4. A student is writing a report about the Roman army's military structure in ancient Rome.

Which question would **best** help the student find more information about the topic?

- A. Why is the color red associated with the Roman army?
- B. How did soldiers in the Roman army dress for battle?
- C. Who was the most successful leader of the Roman army?
- D. How were the ranks of soldiers in the Roman army organized?

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 4	
Indicator Alignment	R.1.1a
Indicator Description	Conduct short and more sustained research by: a. generating and answering a research question(s) about a topic.
Item Type	Selected Response
Answer Key	D
Depth of Knowledge	2
Estimated Difficulty	Medium

The essay below needs revisions or edits. Read the essay. Then answer the questions.

More Than Chocolate

(1) Milton Hershey was born on September 13, 1857. (2) Many people know that he was the Founder of the Hershey Chocolate Company. (3) But many people do not know other aspects of his life. (4) His chocolate company did well and gave Hershey money. (5) A community was created when he used some of his money. (6) The community he started is the town of Hershey, Pennsylvania. (7) There, he built everything that a modern town needed. (8) He built schools, parks, and houses for his employees. (9) Hershey used a lot of his wealth to help children. (10) When he was growing up, Hershey had to leave school early, but education was very important to him. (11) He wanted to make sure that students in his town had a great education. (12) Hershey and his wife, Catherine, started what is now known as the Milton Hershey School. (13) Hershey wanted to make sure that people in his town had good jobs. (14) He had people build a hotel and new offices for his company so there were more good jobs available. (15) Milton was more than a man who started a chocolate company. (16) He was a man who cares about the people around him.

5. Which sentence is the **best** revision of sentence 4 to show precise language?

(4) His chocolate company did well and gave Hershey money.

- A. His chocolate company was very successful and helped make Hershey a rich man.
- B. His chocolate company was really great and it earned him a vast amount of money.
- C. His chocolate company was super successful and that big success helped make Hershey very rich.
- D. His chocolate company was pretty successful and it gave Hershey all the money he could want.

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 5	
Indicator Alignment	C.2.1d
Indicator Description	Write informative texts to examine a topic and analyze information from multiple sources. When writing: d. use precise language and thoughtful elaboration to inform or to explain the topic.
Item Type	Selected Response
Answer Key	A
Depth of Knowledge	2
Estimated Difficulty	High

6. Which information could the author add after sentences 11 and 12 to provide clarity?
- A. when Hershey originally moved to Pennsylvania
 - B. how the Milton Hershey School differed from other schools
 - C. what Hershey did with his money made from selling chocolate
 - D. why people wanted to work for Hershey and his chocolate business

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 6	
Indicator Alignment	C.5.1
Indicator Description	Improve writing by planning, editing, and considering feedback from adults and peers and revising for clarity and cohesiveness.
Item Type	Selected Response
Answer Key	B
Depth of Knowledge	2
Estimated Difficulty	Medium

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

The Science of Origami

Origami is a system of folding paper into fun and complex designs, but it is also a lot more than that. Scientists have used the principles of origami to solve some truly perplexing problems.

Storage and Transportation

One of the major design challenges today is creating products that can be folded for easy storage and transportation and then opened once they are needed. Packaging engineers have been using origami to solve this problem. One company designed a kayak that comes folded into what looks like a large suitcase. When unfolded, it transforms into a full-size kayak. The kayak is not some flimsy model. It is just as durable as a regular kayak. When the day on the water is done, the kayak can be refolded to fit inside the trunk of a car for the trip back home.

Space Exploration

Knowledge of space has come a long way since the early days of space exploration. Today, scientists want to observe other galaxies far beyond Earth's Milky Way galaxy. Some of these galaxies are better observed from space as opposed to from Earth's surface. Scientists need to place telescopes into space. Each space telescope needs to be bigger than what fits into a rocket. The challenge is designing one that is lightweight and compact. The solution? Scientists at a laboratory in California designed a folding telescope that can be sent into space by being packed into a space shuttle. It then opens into a larger shape once it reaches its outer space destination.

The study of exoplanets, the planets that revolve around stars outside our solar system, presents another problem. Some exoplanets orbit stars. Many of the stars are so bright that it is difficult to see and study the exoplanets. This task has been described as "a bit like trying to see a speck of dust floating near a light bulb."

To address this problem, scientists are currently designing a star shade. The shade is folded to fit into a 16-foot-wide launch vehicle. Once fully extended, the shade would be about half the size of a football field. It would travel thousands of miles in front of a telescope, blocking the light from the star and allowing scientists to study an exoplanet.

Scientists at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are exploring the possibility of using origami folding principles to send solar panels into orbit that would bring energy from outer space down to Earth. They are currently working on a model of a solar panel that is about 9 feet across when folded but expands to more than 80 feet across when it is unfolded.

In addition, NASA engineers are testing the Bigelow Expandable Activity Model (BEAM). It looks like a giant airbag attached to the International Space Station. When inflated, it increases the living space for the astronauts at the space station. If the BEAM works as well as expected, it will be a huge breakthrough.

For missions to Mars in the future, space shuttles will need to be able to expand their size. This expansion may be made possible by using origami principles.

Medicine

Origami has several applications within the medical field. A team of scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) recently developed a tiny robot that is folded up and fits inside a pill capsule. The patient swallows the capsule, and as it makes its way through the body, the robot unfolds. It moves around by using preprogrammed magnetic fields. The robot can then remove foreign objects that have been accidentally swallowed.

Scientists are currently studying the feasibility of putting medicine inside a tiny robot like the one developed at MIT. The robot could then be directed to the source of pain or be used to patch a wound. Although the technology does not exist yet, some biomedical engineers envision a time when surgeries can be performed with no cutting, no pain, and no risk of infection. Such technology would be based, in part, on the mathematical principles of origami.

Recently, a team at Harvard has been using origami to create artificial muscles. Initial tests show that these artificial muscles can lift up to 1,000 times their weight.

Architecture

The Al Bahar Towers in the United Arab Emirates use principles of origami to withstand blowing sand and intense temperatures. The towers are made with 1,049 origami-inspired shade panels. The panels open during the day, shading the towers and conserving energy by reducing the need for air-conditioning. The system reduces the absorption of heat by over 50 percent. The screen panels open and close depending on the Sun's position. Solar and wind sensors open the panels during high winds and close them during cloudy, overcast weather.

These are only a few of the scientific advances made possible by using the principles of origami. Engineers continue to be inspired to use origami in new and creative ways. While the future of origami-inspired technology is still unfolding, it seems that art and science have become one.

7. Read the sentences from the passage.

Some exoplanets orbit stars. Many of the stars are so bright that it is difficult to see and study the exoplanets. This task has been described as “a bit like trying to see a speck of dust floating near a light bulb.”

How do the sentences help develop the author’s argument?

- A. by demonstrating the importance of humans studying space
- B. by emphasizing the amount of light emitted from some stars
- C. by highlighting the small size of some exoplanets
- D. by illustrating the challenge of observing some exoplanets

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 7	
Indicator Alignment	AOR.5.3
Indicator Description	Trace the development of an author’s argument while analyzing the types of reasoning and/or rhetorical appeals used in an informational text.
Item Type	Selected Response
Answer Key	D
Depth of Knowledge	3
Estimated Difficulty	Medium

8. How do the headings in the passage contribute to the author's purpose?
- A. by introducing specific origami techniques
 - B. by making comparisons between different uses of origami
 - C. by identifying different areas where origami is being used
 - D. by providing steps to follow for creating origami

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 8	
Indicator Alignment	AOR.5.2
Indicator Description	Analyze how the structure of individual text sections (e.g., a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section) and/or text features convey an author's purpose in an informational text.
Item Type	Selected Response
Answer Key	C
Depth of Knowledge	2
Estimated Difficulty	Low

9. Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the idea that origami principles can be used to make large items fit into small spaces?
- A. Scientists at a laboratory in California designed a folding telescope that can be sent into space by being packed into a space shuttle.
 - B. To address this problem, scientists are currently designing a star shade.
 - C. It would travel thousands of miles in front of a telescope, blocking the light from the star and allowing scientists to study an exoplanet.
 - D. Scientists at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are exploring the possibility of using origami folding principles to send solar panels into orbit that would bring energy from outer space down to Earth.

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 9	
Indicator Alignment	AOR.2.2
Indicator Description	Analyze how supporting details contribute to the development of two or more central ideas within and across informational texts.
Item Type	Selected Response
Answer Key	A
Depth of Knowledge	2
Estimated Difficulty	Medium

10. Read the sentence from the passage.

Recently, a team at Harvard has been using origami to create artificial muscles. Initial tests show that these artificial muscles can lift up to 1,000 times their weight.

Which statement **best** explains the author’s use of rhetoric in the sentences?

- A. The sentences appeal to credibility by admitting that the results of the study are only in the early stages.
- B. The sentences appeal to emotion by exaggerating the potential benefit of the artificial muscles.
- C. The sentences appeal both to credibility by referring to a reputable institution’s study and to logic by including numerical data.
- D. The sentences appeal both to logic by explaining origami’s role in medicine and to emotion by making artificial muscles seem believable.

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 10	
Indicator Alignment	AOR.5.3
Indicator Description	Trace the development of an author’s argument while analyzing the types of reasoning and/or rhetorical appeals used in an informational text.
Item Type	Selected Response
Answer Key	C
Depth of Knowledge	3
Estimated Difficulty	Medium

11. This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

Which statement **best** represents the author’s perspective about origami?

- A. People who want to be successful need to learn the principles of origami.
- B. The principles of origami have the potential to inspire new technology.
- C. Origami is an interesting way to use folding techniques to make unique designs.
- D. Many of the challenges society faces can be overcome with the help of origami.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the answer in part A?

- A. Origami is a system of folding paper into fun and complex designs, but it is also a lot more than that.
- B. Knowledge of space has come a long way since the early days of space exploration.
- C. They are currently working on a model of a solar panel that is about 9 feet across when folded but expands to more than 80 feet across when it is unfolded.
- D. For missions to Mars in the future, space shuttles will need to be able to expand their size.

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 11	
Indicator Alignment	AOR.4.1
Indicator Description	Analyze an author’s perspective or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance that perspective or purpose.
Item Type	Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR)
Answer Key	B / C
Depth of Knowledge	3
Estimated Difficulty	High

12. Which statement **best** explains the reasoning the author provides for using origami for surgeries?
- A. Origami could allow for painless surgery without risk of infection.
 - B. Doctors could use origami folding techniques to mend wounds.
 - C. Origami could allow for delivering medicine to body parts during surgery.
 - D. Doctors could determine whether surgery is possible by testing methods with origami.

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 12	
Indicator Alignment	AOR.5.3
Indicator Description	Trace the development of an author's argument while analyzing the types of reasoning and/or rhetorical appeals used in an informational text.
Item Type	Selected Response
Answer Key	A
Depth of Knowledge	2
Estimated Difficulty	Medium

13. Read the sentences from the passage.

Some of these galaxies are better observed from space as opposed to from Earth’s surface. Scientists need to place telescopes into space. Each space telescope needs to be bigger than what fits into a rocket.

How do the sentences convey the author’s purpose?

- A. by explaining a problem that could be solved by origami principles
- B. by explaining a process for space exploration that involves origami
- C. by providing examples of how origami has influenced space technology
- D. by providing a comparison between different origami principles

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 13	
Indicator Alignment	AOR.5.2
Indicator Description	Analyze how the structure of individual text sections (e.g., a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section) and/or text features convey an author’s purpose in an informational text.
Item Type	Selected Response
Answer Key	A
Depth of Knowledge	3
Estimated Difficulty	High

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

The Lost Village of Tiny Thicket

Travis didn't relish his family moving far from the city to a musty old house where the loudest noise came from crickets. He tried to console himself with the thought that the move would only be temporary, as Mom had agreed to help Grandma renovate her house so she could sell it. Unfortunately, this also meant that Travis and his older brother, Chris, would be spending their summer break lugging boxes and rummaging through forty-plus years of miscellaneous items.

"Don't think of it as work," Mom told the boys. "It's really more like a family treasure hunt to get everything properly sorted!"

Travis and Chris were not convinced by their mother's cheerful interpretation of chores, but they still pitched in to help Grandma. The matriarch of the Wilson family had lived in the blue-shuttered house for over forty years, and there was a great deal to organize in every nook and cranny.

However, after a long afternoon spent sifting through trunks of old clothes, books, and toys stored in the hot, humid attic, even Mom decided that they'd had enough of the indoors for the day. She squeezed lemons to make lemonade and ushered the boys out to the patio for some relaxation.

As Travis sat on a tree stump close to the patio, clinking the ice cubes in his cup, he felt his gaze drawn to the dense foliage at the edge of the yard. He'd never seen such a tangle of saplings and briars, and his fascination grew as he watched the world of nature unfold. Leaves trembled as a rabbit ran under a forsythia bush, and the canopy rang with the chirp of birds and the chitter of squirrels chasing each other in the branches.

"Amazing!" he exclaimed. "There's practically an entire forest in Grandma's yard."

"Yes, but even more marvelous is the secret that it keeps inside its wild heart," Mom said.

"Let me guess—an abandoned fort, a fox's den, or maybe the lair of a black bear?" Travis asked, his mind running rampant with exciting possibilities.

"Wait, I think I read this book once in school. Is there a hidden garden back there?" Chris joked.

"No," Mom said, "but when I was a young girl, your grandma helped me create the miniature village of Tiny Thicket. We built twig huts beside a small stream that was so narrow that I could hop over it with one foot! I decorated the village with little stone tables and grass-woven chairs. Sometimes, Grandma even filled acorn caps with seeds and cheese so that field mice, chipmunks, and sparrows could have their own private feast."

"So you were like an architect for small animals?" Chris tipped his lemonade glass toward his mother. "Very cool, Mom."

"Can you show us where you and Grandma built Tiny Thicket, please?" Travis begged.

Mom shook her head, sighing as she stared at the foreboding tree line. “Oh, I’m sure the trees are far too overgrown to find it now, but I’d like to imagine that a mossy remnant of Tiny Thicket still exists even after all these years.”

The wistful note in Mom’s voice pierced Travis deeply, and he made up his mind to find the lost village of Tiny Thicket for her.

Early the next morning, he slipped outside and listened carefully for the sound of running water until he discovered a thin rivulet barely a foot wide running through one corner of the yard. Ducking through the brush, he followed the stream, but he found no sign of the little village until he crunched the fragments of a pebble arch underfoot. Only then did he realize that he was standing in the wreckage of Tiny Thicket! After a stormy deluge in the past, the stream must have overflowed its banks and washed most of the village away.

“I can totally fix this; it’s not like I haven’t built loads of model sets and structures before,” Travis declared. The problem was that those structures were all made from plastic bricks, while Tiny Thicket should be constructed only with materials from the yard.

Travis thought his brother would tease him when Chris caught him carrying a bucketful of pine cones, pebbles, and twigs, but to his surprise, his older brother wanted to join in on the crazy idea.

“If we work together, we can make Tiny Thicket 2.0 before the summer’s end,” Chris said.

Travis grinned. “OK, it’s a brothers’ pact!”

The summer flew by in a haze of building with mud-packed pebbles and twigs and foraging for flat stones and pieces of bark suitable for serving bird meals and chipmunk snacks. The pair waited until the end of August to lead their mother to the site of their secret restoration project.

“Thank you for using your creativity to make my wish come true,” Mom said, her eyes glistening with happiness.

Grandma’s house sold barely a week later, and already Travis missed the little village they would be leaving behind. Yet after he saw the astonished eyes of the two young children who discovered that Tiny Thicket would be a part of their new home, he realized that the magic of imagination was just beginning again.

14. Read the sentence from the passage.

“There’s practically an entire forest in Grandma’s yard.”

Which tone is created by the figurative language in the sentence?

- A. concern
- B. astonishment
- C. aggravation
- D. curiosity

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 14	
Indicator Alignment	AOR.1.2
Indicator Description	Analyze how figurative language impacts mood, tone, and meaning in a text(s); explain an author’s use of symbolism.
Item Type	Selected Response
Answer Key	B
Depth of Knowledge	2
Estimated Difficulty	Low

15. Which statement accurately explains the dramatic irony created by Travis and Chris working on re-creating the Tiny Thicket village?
- A. The reader understands that Mom made a small village in the yard years ago, while the brothers are unaware of it.
 - B. The reader understands that other children will enjoy the small village in the future, while the brothers are unaware of this.
 - C. The reader understands that the brothers are making the small village, while Mom is unaware of their work.
 - D. The reader understands that the brothers prefer working outdoors on the small village, while Mom is unaware of their preference.

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 15	
Indicator Alignment	AOR.3.1
Indicator Description	Analyze how points of view and/or perspectives create effects to include suspense and dramatic irony.
Item Type	Selected Response
Answer Key	C
Depth of Knowledge	2
Estimated Difficulty	Medium

16. This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A


Which statement **best** explains how Travis's perspective on spending the summer at Grandma's house changes?

- A. He goes from having a negative attitude about the summer to appreciating his new experiences.
- B. He goes from being unhappy about working with his brother to forming a bond with his sibling.
- C. He goes from worrying about the size of the task to being proud of his accomplishments.
- D. He goes from wanting to impress his family to feeling satisfied with meeting his personal goals.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the answer in part A?

- A. Travis and Chris were not convinced by their mother's cheerful interpretation of chores, but they still pitched in to help Grandma.
- B. She squeezed lemons to make lemonade and ushered the boys out to the patio for some relaxation.
- C. The problem was that those structures were all made from plastic bricks, while Tiny Thicket should be constructed only with materials from the yard.
- D. Grandma's house sold barely a week later, and already Travis missed the little village they would be leaving behind.

Item information on following page 

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 16	
Indicator Alignment	AOR.3.1
Indicator Description	Analyze how points of view and/or perspectives create effects to include suspense and dramatic irony.
Item Type	Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR)
Answer Key	A / D
Depth of Knowledge	3
Estimated Difficulty	High

17. Move **two** sentences from the passage into each box to show which theme they develop. All sentences will be used.

Theme: Working on a project can be rewarding.	Theme: Family should be willing to help each other.

He tried to console himself with the thought that the move would only be temporary, as Mom had agreed to help Grandma renovate her house so she could sell it.

The wistful note in Mom’s voice pierced Travis deeply, and he made up his mind to find the lost village of Tiny Thicket for her.

“Thank you for using your creativity to make my wish come true,” Mom said, her eyes glistening with happiness.

Yet after he saw the astonished eyes of the two young children who discovered that Tiny Thicket would be a part of their new home, he realized that the magic of imagination was just beginning again.

Key:

Theme: Working on a project can be rewarding.	Theme: Family should be willing to help each other.
<p>“Thank you for using your creativity to make my wish come true,” Mom said, her eyes glistening with happiness.</p> <p>Yet after he saw the astonished eyes of the two young children who discovered that Tiny Thicket would be a part of their new home, he realized that the magic of imagination was just beginning again.</p>	<p>He tried to console himself with the thought that the move would only be temporary, as Mom had agreed to help Grandma renovate her house so she could sell it.</p> <p>The wistful note in Mom’s voice pierced Travis deeply, and he made up his mind to find the lost village of Tiny Thicket for her.</p>

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 17	
Indicator Alignment	AOR.2.1
Indicator Description	Analyze how key details contribute to the development of two or more themes within and across literary texts.
Item Type	Drag and Drop
Answer Key	Working theme: Thank you; Yet after Family theme: He tried; The wistful
Depth of Knowledge	2
Estimated Difficulty	Medium

18. Read the excerpt from the passage.

He'd never seen such a tangle of saplings and briars, and his fascination grew as he watched the world of nature unfold. Leaves trembled as a rabbit ran under a forsythia bush, and the canopy rang with the chirp of birds and the chitter of squirrels chasing each other in the branches.

How do the details in the excerpt contribute to the meaning of the passage?

- A. by demonstrating how Travis considers Grandma's house boring
- B. by highlighting that Travis's family values spending time in nature
- C. by emphasizing how unfamiliar the rural setting is to Travis
- D. by suggesting how much Grandma wanted Travis to enjoy the yard

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 18	
Indicator Alignment	AOR.1.1
Indicator Description	Analyze how key elements contribute to the meaning of the text as a whole.
Item Type	Selected Response
Answer Key	C
Depth of Knowledge	2
Estimated Difficulty	Medium

19. Read the sentence from the passage.

Unfortunately, this also meant that Travis and his older brother, Chris, would be spending their summer break lugging boxes and rummaging through forty-plus years of miscellaneous items.

How would replacing the word lugging with moving affect the reader's understanding of the brothers' task?

- A. by making the task seem more important
- B. by making the task seem more helpful
- C. by making the task seem less formal
- D. by making the task seem less unpleasant

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 19	
Indicator Alignment	AOR.8.1c
Indicator Description	Interpret an author's use of figurative, connotative, and technical language in literary, informational, and multimedia texts: c. distinguish connotations of words with similar denotations (e.g., willful, resolute).
Item Type	Selected Response
Answer Key	D
Depth of Knowledge	2
Estimated Difficulty	Medium

20. How does Mom's description of her childhood activity in the yard affect the passage?
- A. It inspires Travis to restore an important memory for Mom.
 - B. It leads Chris to read a book about a hidden garden.
 - C. It causes Travis and Chris to miss their lives in the city.
 - D. It makes Mom reconsider having Grandma move out of the house.

SC READY ELA Grade 8 Sample Item 20	
Indicator Alignment	AOR.1.1
Indicator Description	Analyze how key elements contribute to the meaning of the text as a whole.
Item Type	Selected Response
Answer Key	A
Depth of Knowledge	2
Estimated Difficulty	High