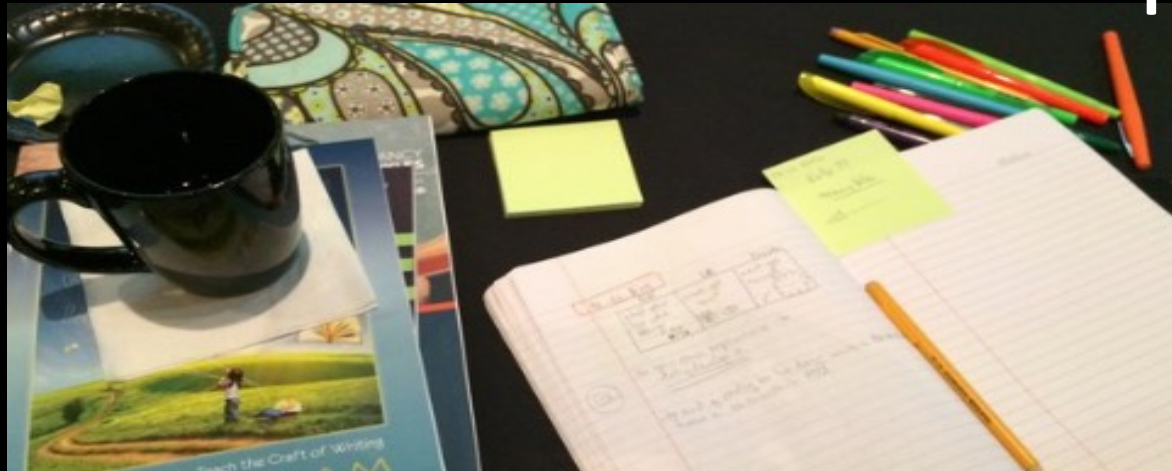


# STAAR 2.0 Reader Rubric for the Extended Constructed Response



Gretchen Bernabei

Disclaimer:

The thoughts you're about to see are not from  
the State of Texas,  
not from the Texas Education Agency.

Disclaimer:

They are interpretations and observations,  
of Gretchen Bernabei, shared with you.

To give a paper a score,  
a scorer asks four questions.

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First: is this paper **kernelizable**?

To give a paper a score,  
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First: is this paper **kernelizable**?

Could you kernelize it?  
chunk it up,  
summarize each part in a sentence,  
read it back,  
hear a clear main point

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First: is this paper **kernelizable**?

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\*For more about kernelizing texts, visit [www.trailofbreadcrumbs.net](http://www.trailofbreadcrumbs.net)  
or read any of Gretchen Bernabei's books.

Secondly...does the paper use **support**  
from the reading selection?  
(Using direct quotes or paraphrase)



Third:

Does the student explain with some  
**precise details?**

\*Not fill the paragraphs with **dead giveaways**

vague

repetitious

throwaway writing

Last,

how about those **conventions**?

Could a reader read this paper out loud?

To recap:

Kernelizable?

Text support?

Details?

Conventions?

The following high-scoring essays  
were published in the scoring guide  
released by TEA on October 7, 2022.

Let's read aloud this fifth grade essay.

K?  
kernelizable?

T?  
text  
evidence

D?  
details

Conv?  
conventions?

In my opinion I think that steamboats changed more lives than the clipper did. This is because they are fast and can travel quickly through the water. They helped bring goods to other parts of the country to build large towns along the river. They can hold a lot of cargo and sometimes would trade with people along the way. The Steamboats set a record of time of traveling from the Hudson River to Albany, New York in just a day and a half.

First, steamboats helped bring goods along the water to builders that are building towns. The boats were quick so it would help the construction workers build the towns faster so that citizens could live in the houses and continue with their life. This changes people's lives because they can live in houses so they can be protected and can survive.

Next, steamboats can hold a lot of cargo. The cargo helps with construction miles away. The steamboat can deliver cargo to other people miles away for food or supplies. This will help people miles away get what they need to live and grow. Some people would trade with the cargo on steamboats. This would help by making less trips from here or there.

Last, steamboats held a record time of going from the Hudson River to Albany, New York. This trip only took a day and a half when it usually was a week to get there from the Hudson River. This helps people because there is faster transportation. Faster transportation will help people get from a place to another place very quickly.

To sum it up, I think that the steamboat changed more people's lives than the clipper. The steamboat help give supplies from a place to another place. They hold a lot of cargo and some of the cargo is being traded by people along the river that are in need of that certain thing. It also helped people's lives because it set a new record of speed on water which can help people get from one place to another quickly than in a week or two.

**K**emelizable?  
yes!

**T**ext  
evidence?  
yes!

**D**etails?  
yes!

**C**onventions?  
Yes!

In my opinion I think that steamboats changed more live's than the clipper did. This in because they are fast and can travel quickly through the water. They helped bring goods to other parts of the country to build large towns along the river. They can hold a lot of cargo and sometimes would trade with people along the way. The Steamboats set a record of time of traveling from the Hudson River to Albany, New York in just a day and a half.

1 First, steamboats helped bring goods along the water to builders that are building towns. The boats were quick so it would help the constrution workers build the towns faster so that citizens could live in the houses and continue with their life. This changes peoples lives because they can live in houses so they can be protected and can survive.

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This grade 5 essay scored a 5 in the 2022 scoring study.

5-9 <sup>th</sup> essay				
opinion	1 reason	reason 2	reason 3	opinion



Hypothetical Reader Rubric for STAAR 2.0\*\*

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<b>Yes</b>	<b>1</b> Practically kernelizes itself at a glance, including transitions	<b>1</b> Text evidence is well chosen and woven in fluidly	<b>1</b> Effective details Crafted for the reader's understanding	<b>2</b> Varied and sophisticated syntax; pitchforks; a pleasure to read aloud
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\*\* inferred by Gretchen Bernabel

\*\*for instructional purposes only



Your thoughts?

Here's an essay for  
**grade 6**

"We are training everyday..." In the selection "Mission-Ready" by Melanie Kletter, she explains how it can be tough to become NASA astronaut. There are a lot of steps, studying, and preparing to do before becoming a certified astronaut. The training is serious and you need to stay focused in order to get every step and piece of information correct. You need to work hard and try your best!

The author develops the idea that it is not easy to become a NASA astronaut in many different ways, depending on the heading. One way that she describes that it is not easy to become a NASA astronaut, is by explaining the conditions in space and how the astronauts prepare for that. "One of the most difficult tasks astronauts aboard the ISS face is going outside the station to do repairs." (paragraph 7). Soon after, the astronauts would go to a special lab in Houston to prepare. The lab provides the world's largest indoor pool where the astronauts can dive in and experience conditions similar to the conditions in space. "To prepare, astronauts spend time in NASA'S Neutral Buoyancy Lab in Houston. It is the world's largest indoor pool. The conditions there are so close to those in space. While diving, astronauts wear the space suit they would wear on a spacewalk." (paragraph 8). In the picture, to me, the pool looks really deep with a pole attached to it so that the astronauts can practice their spacewalks.

Another way that the author develops the idea that it is not easy to become a NASA astronaut is by stating how the astronauts have to learn how to take care of their own medical issues if one occurs during their mission. "Arnold says that much of his training focuses on preparing for problems that might come up in space." (paragraph 10). In space, you would have to know to fix and solve different kinds of situations. Some of them may require one person, while others may require some more hands. "They must know how to fix parts of the ISS..." "If you need stitches, it's going to be you or one of your buddies doing it for you..." (paragraph 10). It seems that space just makes stuff harder than they already are! "Astronauts must relearn how to get dressed, go to the bathroom, and take care of their living areas in a weightless environment." (paragraph 11).

Lastly the author also develops the idea that it is not easy to become a NASA astronaut by stating how long it takes for the classes to get done, and how many classes they actually have to take. "Candidates need a degree in engineering, biological science, physical science, computer science, or math." (paragraph 15).

As you can see, it's not that easy to become a NASA astronaut. It takes a lot of patients and effort, studying and working. Maybe one day, you can become a NASA astronaut!

This grade 6 essay scored a 5 in the 2022 Scoring Guide.

K? <sup>emphasizable?</sup>

T? <sup>ext  
evidence?</sup>

D? <sup>etals?</sup>

C? <sup>ventions?</sup>

"We are training everyday..." In the selection "Mission-Ready" by Melanie Kletter, she explains how it can be tough to become NASA astronaut. There are a lot of steps, studying, and preparing to do before becoming a certified astronaut. The training is serious and you need to stay focused in order to get every step and piece of information correct. You need to work hard and try your best!

The author develops the idea that it is not easy to become a NASA astronaut in many different ways, depending on the heading. One way that she describes that it is not easy to become a NASA astronaut, is by explaining the conditions in space and how the astronauts prepare for that. "One of the most difficult tasks astronauts aboard the ISS face is going outside the station to do repairs." (paragraph 7). Soon after, the astronauts would go to a special lab in Houston to prepare. The lab provides the world's largest indoor pool where the astronauts can dive in and experience conditions similar to the conditions in space. "To prepare, astronauts spend time in NASA'S Neutral Buoyancy Lab in Houston. It is the world's largest indoor pool. The conditions there are so close to those in space. While diving, astronauts wear the space suit they would wear on a spacewalk." (paragraph 8). In the picture, to me, the pool looks really deep with a pole attached to it so that the astronauts can practice their spacewalks.

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Kernel made?

Text support?

Details?

Conventions?

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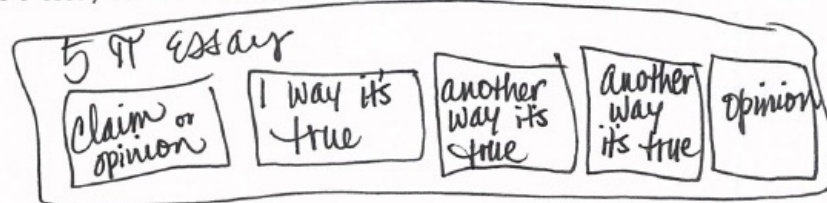
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What do you notice?

# Grade 9 prompt:

**English I Extended Constructed Response**    **Excerpt:** *from "Tending Roses"*  
**Prompt:** Explain how reading the journal leads Katie to remind herself to look for fireflies.



In the excerpt from *Tending Roses*, Katie finds her grandmother's journal next to a firefly jar. After reading the journal, Katie goes outside and releases the fireflies, promising to herself that she will look for the fireflies tonight. I believe the reason she does this is because the journal is all about cherishing your childhood.

Katie's grandma was someone who was always busy with her tasks. "I looked upon those waving trees, or knobbylegged yearlings in the pasture, or the flowers by the road, and wondered how they grew so tall while my back was to them. Then I turned my back again and hurried on to my tasks." She now doesn't have time to truly appreciate those things outside."

"I saw the farmhouse, saw bits of my life through the windows, heard the faint sounds of my children laughing the way children do-about nothing at all." Grandma explains more and more of those precious times with her children. Paragraph 8 further reinforces the theme by saying how she mourned for her childhood. She misses how she wished for the same treasures she heard her children ask for when she passed their doors at night, that part of her that once created bigger worlds.

After reading this, Katie promises to look for the fireflies tomorrow. The fireflies are a symbol of memories that you may never have again so you must cherish them. Going out tomorrow to look for the fireflies means to Katie that she will find her childhood once again.

Kernelizable?

Text Support?

Details?

Conventions?

English I Extended Constructed Response

Excerpt: from "Tending Roses"

Prompt: Explain how reading the journal leads Katie to remind herself to look for fireflies.

In the excerpt from Tending Roses, Katie finds her grandmother's journal next to a firefly jar. After reading the journal, Katie goes outside and releases the fireflies, promising to herself that she will look for the fireflies tonight. I believe the reason she does this is because The journal is all about cherishing your childhood.

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"I saw the farmhouse, saw bits of my life through the windows, heard the faint sounds of my children laughing the way children do-about nothing at all." Grandma explains more and more of those precious times with her children. Paragraph 8 further reinforces the theme by saying how she mourned for her childhood. She misses how she wished for the same treasures she heard her children ask for when she passed their doors at night, that part of her that once created bigger worlds.

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Kernelizable?

Text Support

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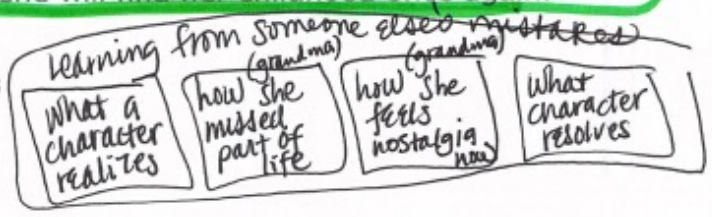
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Katie's grandma was someone who was always busy with her tasks. "I looked upon those waving trees, or knobbylegged yearlings in the pasture, or the flowers by the road, and wondered how they grew so tall while my back was to them. Then I turned my back again and hurried on to my tasks." She now doesn't have time to truly appreciate those things outside."

"I saw the farmhouse, saw bits of my life through the windows, heard the faint sounds of my children laughing the way children do-about nothing at all." Grandma explains more and more of those precious times with her children. Paragraph 8 further reinforces the theme by saying how she mourned for her childhood. She misses how she wished for the same treasures she heard her children ask for when she passed their doors at night, that part of her that once created bigger worlds.

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Score Point 5





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