

BROWNSVILLE ISD

Curriculum Department



ELAR Reading & Writing

G08 ELAR 1-6W 2122

8th Grade

District 6 Weeks 1st
Regular English Version

Student ID

Student Name

Score(S)

REVISING AND EDITING



Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Mikayla wrote a paper about a person she admires. Read Mikayla's paper and look for any corrections she should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.

A Race of Determination

(1) Anna Lee Aldred's determination and desire to race professionally provoked her to become the first woman to be granted a professional jockey's license in the United States. (2) Since she was the daughter of a well-known race horse trainer, and sister of a jockey then the racing of horses ran in her blood. (3) Anna learned to ride when she was only three and raced ponies at fairs and amateur tracks throughout her grade school and early teen years.

(4) When she turned eighteen in 1939, she applied for a professional jockey's license from the agua caliente racetrack. (5) The staff was reluctant to grant the license to a woman, but she finally was approved for it because there was no specific rule stating that women couldn't ride. (6) In her debut race, Anna lost, but not by much. (7) However, she didn't let this loss discourage her from riding future races. (8) Getting right back up again, she went on to win scores of races. (9) While even now the community of jockeys is mostly male-dominated, she started a wave of change and inspired other women to become professional jockeys, too. (10) Unfortunately, by 1945 she had grown to 5'5", which was slightly too tall to continue her career as a jockey.

(11) Even though she had grown too tall to continue racing as a jockey, she didn't let this keep her away from horses. (12) After her career as a jockey, Anna decides to open a riding school in California to teach others the pleasure of riding horses. (13) She also became a self-taught rodeo trick rider. (14) In the quiet of the night, she would teach herself daring stunts in the empty arena. (15) One of her most famous skills was standing straight up on the saddle of a horse as it galloped down the arena. (16) She also learned how to dangle upside-down by just one foot from the side of a horse as they ran. (17) She then taught herself how to perform the 'falling tower,' which essentially is a back bend done on a galloping horse. (18) She had trust in horses and understood them after growing up around them; she let this guide her instead of the fear of getting injured while

pulling off one of her tricks. (19) She continued riding until 2001, when, at the age of eighty, she broke her hip.

(20) Anna Lee Aldred died in 2006, but she will always be remembered for her perseverance as the United States' first professional female jockey, as well as for her impressive, fearless stunts. (21) She was inducted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in 1983, where her blue-and-white jockey silks and wooden badge still hang.

1 Mikayla would like to use a more appropriate word in sentence 1. Which word should replace **provoked** in this sentence?

- A showed
- B created
- C shoved
- D led

2 What is the **MOST** effective way to revise sentence 2?

- F The daughter of a well-known race horse trainer and sister of a jockey, and racing horses ran in her blood.
- G Since she was the daughter of a well-known race horse trainer and sister of a jockey, racing horses ran in her blood.
- H After all, she was the daughter of a well-known race horse trainer and sister of a jockey and therefore racing horses ran in her blood.
- J Since she was the daughter of a well-known race horse trainer and sister of a jockey. Racing horses ran in her blood.

3 What change should be made in sentence 4?

- A Change **turned** to **turns**
- B Delete the comma
- C Change **jockey's** to **jockeys**
- D Change **agua caliente racetrack** to **Agua Caliente Racetrack**

- 4 Mikayla would like to add the following detail to the second paragraph (sentences 4–10).

Weighing in at only 100 pounds, she raced as a professional jockey for six years and became known as a fierce competitor.

Where is the **MOST** effective place to add this sentence?

- F After sentence 5
- G After sentence 7
- H After sentence 8
- J After sentence 10

-
- 5 What is the **MOST** effective way to combine sentences 6 and 7?

- A In her debut race, Anna lost, but not by much; however, she didn't let this loss discourage her from riding future races.
- B In her debut race, Anna lost, but not by much however she didn't let this loss discourage her from riding future races.
- C In her debut race, Anna lost, but not by much, and however, she didn't let this loss discourage her from riding future races.
- D In her debut race, Anna lost but not by much, however, she didn't let this loss discourage her from riding future races.

6 What change should be made in sentence 12?

- F Change ***After*** to **Because**
 - G Delete the comma after ***jockey***
 - H Change ***decides*** to **decided**
 - J Change ***others*** to **other's**
-

7 What change should be made in sentence 16?

- A Change ***dangle*** to **dangel**
- B Insert a comma after ***foot***
- C Change ***as*** to **since**
- D Change ***they*** to **it**

READING



Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

A Matter of Taste

- 1 Maria liked to think that she had reasonably good taste. She enjoyed good books, read on rainy days alongside a cup of hot cocoa. She liked pastries, preferably flakey ones with cream cheese or jams. She liked good food, preferably sushi or lasagna. She could play the piano, she liked going to museums, and she even had tropical fish that were so beautiful they had won competitions.
- 2 So yes, Maria liked to think that she had good taste, excellent taste even. It was such a pity that other people did not share that taste. And nothing, unfortunately, displayed that as clearly as class picture day.
- 3 "Can you believe Hunter?" she asked, adjusting her scarf. It was lilac, to match her nails. "He is deliberately trying to demolish our class photo. The yearbook is ruined."
- 4 "Tragedy of tragedies," her friend Penny muttered from beside her. "Your nonexistent career will never recover."
- 5 "My social life won't."
- 6 "Maria, we're all in the same boat," Penny told her. "But Hunter clearly wanted to wear a cowboy hat and boots. And a bandana. And a red leather jacket, which admittedly doesn't match at all."
- 7 "Exactly! It's disgraceful." Maria tossed her dark hair over her shoulder, nose wrinkled in disdain. "He shouldn't be allowed in the photo."
- 8 "Maybe he thinks the same of you," Penny pointed out. "After all, that's a very vivid scarf you're wearing. Borderline distracting, really. And it clashes with Justine's red shoes." Maria glanced down and sure enough, Justine's red shoes were very bright, drawing the eye as long as they were in her line of vision.
- 9 "Yes, but at least Justine is trying," Maria said. "And after all, they would be cute to wear to a party. Besides, you really can't trust Hunter's taste."
- 10 "Why do you say that?" asked Penny.
- 11 "Because he listens to country music, and everyone knows that no one cool listens to country music," Maria scoffed. "It's ridiculous. And boring. No one actually likes it." Penny pursed her lips, suddenly very quiet.
- 12 "Penny? Are you alright?" Maria asked. Penny smiled at her, but it didn't reach her eyes.

- 13 "I'm fine," she said.
- 14 Class pictures went as smoothly as they ever did, and the photographer only seemed a little exasperated by the time they had finished. But Penny, Maria noticed, was still very quiet, and seemed almost unwilling to look Maria in the eye.
- 15 "Penny, I didn't say something wrong, did I?" she asked at lunch. Penny shrugged. "This isn't about me insulting Hunter earlier, is it?" Maria checked. "Because alright, I might have been a little harsh."
- 16 "You were," Penny said. "But not for the reasons you might think."
- 17 "What's that supposed to mean?"
- 18 "I like country music," Penny said. "I listen to it a lot with my family when we go on our annual summer road trips, and I really enjoy it."
- 19 Maria stared at her friend, unable to believe it. And all this time, she had assumed that Penny had good taste. Sure, it was unusual taste, because who listened to soundtrack music without the movie just for fun? But Penny knew "Quality" when she saw it. Country didn't fit her personality at all.
- 20 "That can't be right," Maria said, and Penny sighed.
- 21 "Just because you don't like something doesn't mean it's all bad," she told Maria sadly and then stood up.
- 22 "Where are you going?" asked Maria.
- 23 "Somewhere I won't feel judged for my horrible music taste," Penny shot back, and Maria was left alone at her table with just a sandwich and an empty feeling in her chest like the vacant seat next to her.
- 24 That afternoon, she went home and looked up country music, sticking her ear buds into her ears and clicking the first song that came up.
- 25 She decided very quickly that she didn't like it.
- 26 Still, Penny normally had good taste, and if she liked country music there must be a reason. So she tried another. This time, she was met with a rapid explosion of notes from a fiddle in the opening bars. She didn't skip it, not right away. Stringed instruments took talent to play, and this reminded her a little of a piece by Paganini she had heard in a classical music concert once. She didn't like the singer's voice very much, but the fiddle in the background certainly added some interest, so she clicked on another song.
- 27 This one had a bright opening played on the guitar, and when the singer's voice joined in with the fiddle, Maria sat up in surprise from her sprawl on the floor. It

was. . . lovely. The lyrics were surprisingly sweet, a little clever even, and the instrumentals were fast-paced. This song took talent to play, and probably to sing, for that matter. (Maria would know; she had enough good taste to know she wasn't meant to be a singer.)

28 The next day at school, Maria sat down next to Penny at lunch. She had barely gotten to see her friend all day, and Penny didn't seem all that eager to talk.

29 "What do you want?" Penny asked.

30 "To apologize," Maria said sheepishly. "I went home and, well, I might have listened to some country music."

31 "Oh?"

32 Maria nodded. "It wasn't all bad."

33 Penny's face split into a smug grin. "Maria, are you suggesting that you may have been wrong?"

34 "Look, it's still not my favorite genre, okay? But you—and Hunter, for that matter—might not be so crazy for liking it after all. Some of it at least is kind of cool." Penny hugged her, and Maria felt herself smiling again.

35 "I'm glad," she said. And then, "Does this mean you'll come with me to a country music festival next weekend?"

36 Maria was about to say "no," but then she saw the hope hiding behind the mischief in her friend's eyes.

37 "Why not?" she said. "After all, it's high time I expanded my horizons."

8 What does the word exasperated in paragraph 14 mean? Select two correct answers.

- F** Excited
 - G** Irritated
 - H** Enraged
 - J** Annoyed
-

9 What can the reader conclude about Maria from her actions in the story?

- A** She does not enjoy listening to music.
 - B** She wants to be a photographer when she grows up.
 - C** She sometimes makes snap judgements but is willing to rethink them.
 - D** She wishes that everyone would dress just like her.
-

10 The dialogue between Maria and Penny while taking their class pictures indicates that Maria —

- F** feels confident that the class photograph will turn out well
- G** cares greatly about having a fashionable image
- H** feels frustrated with Penny for not wearing a matching outfit
- J** thinks that Hunter will help create a memorable class photo

11 Read this sentence from paragraph 23.

Maria was left alone at her table with just a sandwich and an empty feeling in her chest like the vacant seat next to her.

The author uses a simile in this sentence to —

- A** illustrate how much Maria prefers eating lunch by herself
- B** suggest that Penny should have stayed to discuss her feelings
- C** highlight how lonely Maria feels after hurting Penny's feelings
- D** show how often the two girls share their lunches

12 Through Maria's experience, the author explores the idea of —

- F** appreciating and learning from other's opinions
- G** discovering talents you never knew you had
- H** learning about yourself through distressing situations
- J** understanding how to form closer connections with friends and family

13 Which sentence or sentences best illustrate Maria’s conflict?

- A** *She could play the piano, she liked going to museums, and she even had tropical fish that were so beautiful they had won competitions. (paragraph 1)*
- B** *Class pictures went as smoothly as they ever did, and the photographer only seemed a little exasperated by the time they had finished. (paragraph 14)*
- C** *"Just because you don't like something doesn't mean it's all bad," she told Maria sadly and then stood up. (paragraph 21)*
- D** *She didn't like the singer's voice very much, but the fiddle in the background certainly added some interest, so she clicked on another song. (paragraph 26)*

14 This question has two parts. First answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

What point of view does the author use in this story?

- F** First person, as told by Penny
- G** First person, as told by Maria
- H** Third person, limited
- J** Third person, omniscient

Part B

Based on the answer in Part A, the author's use of this point of view helps the reader understand —

- F** Penny's internal thoughts about Maria's opinions on fashion
- G** what all the characters think about being in the class photograph
- H** why Hunter chose to wear the red jacket
- J** how Maria feels when she realizes that she hurt Penny's feelings

15 Read this sentence from paragraph 26.

Still, Penny normally had good taste, and if she liked country music there must be a solid reason.

Maria's thoughts influence the theme of the story most likely because they show that she —

- A** understands that her friends will probably never appreciate her favorite music
- B** recognizes that she can usually rely on her friend's judgement
- C** realizes that she needs to find a way to enjoy all the same things Penny likes
- D** wishes she had never told Penny that country music was boring

16 The word nonexistent comes from the Latin root *exsistere*, which means "to come into being or to appear." What does nonexistent in paragraph 4 mean?

- F** Despairing or gloomy
- G** Giving comfort or support
- H** Fictional or not real
- J** Conquered by force





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