

## About Our Samples

The Texas STAAR Tutorials by TripleNterprises Publishing (TEP) are developed for teachers (or any tutoring instructor) and students to use in order to prepare for the STAAR exam. These materials are designed to work together. All teacher manuals contain lesson plans, answer keys and other information specific to the grade and subject being taught, while the student workbook contains all the practice tests and exercised that go with a specific lesson.

Our tutorials cover all of the standards and TEKS assessed on the STAAR exam.

For purposes of illustrating how our materials work together, this sample contains the lesson plan and transparencies for a given standard/TEK, followed by the student material associated with that lesson.

Products may be purchased in single book quantities, multiple book quantities with volume discounts or in full classroom kits, our best value.

If you have a class size that does not fit our class kit, give us a call and we will work with you to build a kit to fit your class.

Products can be ordered via our website at [www.txstaar.com](http://www.txstaar.com), via faxed purchase order at 866-213-2483, or by calling our offices at 210-481-1324.

**Student workbooks** **\$13.95 (discount breaks at 5, 10 and 20 books)**

**Teacher manuals** **\$25.95 (free with class kits)**

**Class kits** **\$249.00**

- 20 Student Books
- 1 Teacher Manual
- Scripted Lesson Plans
- Answer Key

**Practice Tests** **\$199.00**

Each Test Pack contains tests for 20 students. All Reporting Categories and TEKS are included in the tests.

See our website ([www.txstaar.com](http://www.txstaar.com)) for freight rates.

## Texas STAAR Exam -- Lesson 7, Reporting Category 2, 8(A)

- (8) **Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Fiction.** Students understand, make inferences and draw conclusions about the structure and elements of fiction and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to
- (A) sequence and summarize the plot's main events and explain their influence on future events; **Readiness Standard**
- 

**Say:** To be able to retell the events of a story in the order that they occur is important. Life would be very confusing if we communicated things that happened out of order. It would make things very difficult to understand.

Put transparency 1 on the overhead

Read transparency 1

**Say:** I'm going to read this story to you, so listen carefully.

Remove transparency 1

**Say:** How many of you were able to follow what is happening in the story? I am guessing no one, since the story was told in a sequence, or order, that doesn't make sense. Now listen to the story in the proper sequence.

Put transparency 2 on the overhead

Read transparency 2

**Ask:** Which version made better sense? [Answer: the second or version 2]

**Say:** Again, we can see how important it is to be able to tell a story in the order in which it occurs. Be sure when retelling a story or just telling about something that happens, that you get the events in the right order, or sequence, if you want your audience to understand what you are communicating.

**Say:** Read *Off to California* and do STAAR Practice 7 and Skills Exercise 7

## Lesson 7, Transparency 1

### Version 1

#### A Bell for the Cat

An Aesop Fable

The mice talked and talked and talked. No one could think of a good way to solve the problem. At last, a little mouse stood up. He said, "I know what to do. The cat can sneak up on us because it is so quiet. We should put a bell around the cat's neck. Then we could hear when it is coming and run for cover."

The cat was causing a terrible problem. It was catching and eating all of the mice! "What can we do? What can we do?" cried the mice.

One of the older mice called a meeting. "We need to find a way to solve this problem," said the mouse. "How can we keep that hungry cat from catching any more of us?"

The room became very quiet. Slowly each mouse left the room. No one wanted to bell the cat.

The cat was causing a terrible problem. It was catching and eating all of the mice! "What can we do? What can we do?" cried the mice.

"Hoorah!" shouted the other mice. "We're saved! We're saved! We'll put a bell on the cat!"

As the mice shouted with a joy, a quiet old mouse stood up. The old mouse said, "I think a bell on the cat is a good plan. It would give us a chance to escape that hungry cat. But, tell me, just who will put it there?"

## Lesson 7, Transparency 2

### Version 2

#### A Bell for the Cat An Aesop Fable

The cat was causing a terrible problem. It was catching and eating all of the mice! “What can we do? What can we do?” cried the mice.

One of the older mice called a meeting. “We need to find a way to solve this problem,” said the mouse. “How can we keep that hungry cat from catching any more of us?”

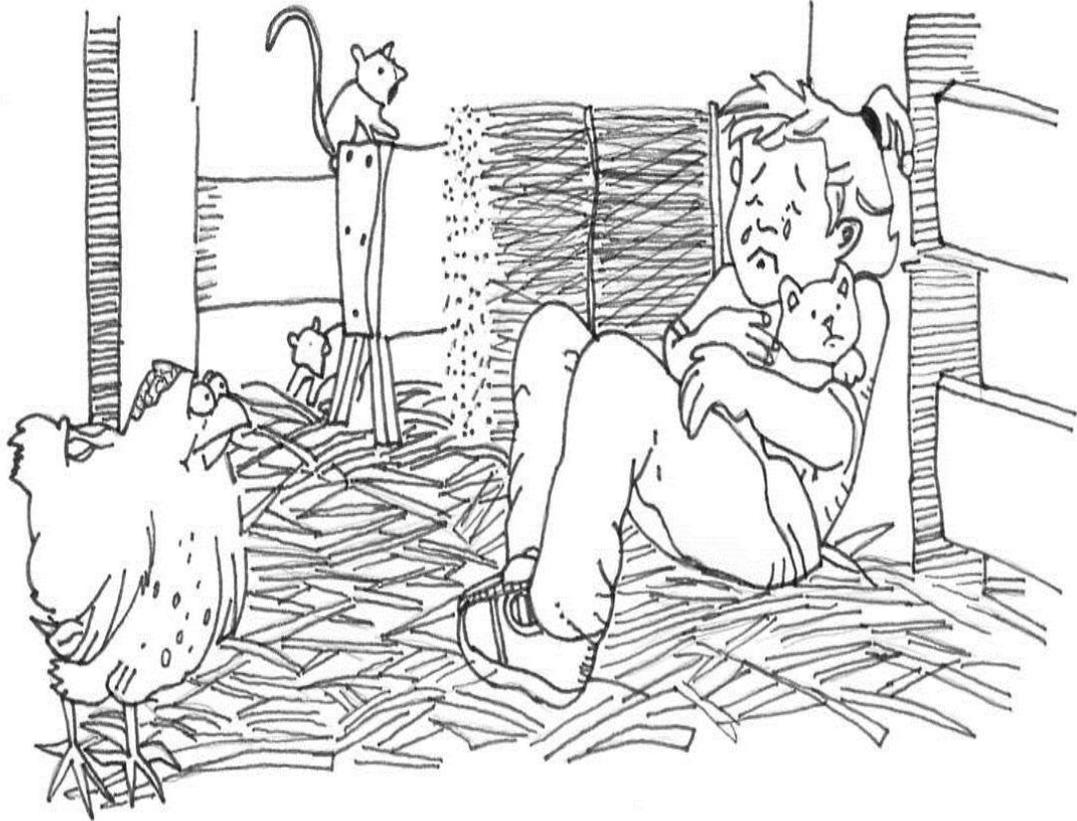
The mice talked and talked and talked. No one could think of a good way to solve the problem. At last, a little mouse stood up. He said, “I know what to do. The cat can sneak up on us because it is so quiet. We should put a bell around the cat’s neck. Then we could hear when it is coming and run for cover.”

“Hoorah!” shouted the other mice. “We’re saved! We’re saved! We’ll put a bell on the cat!”

As the mice shouted with a joy, a quiet old mouse stood up. The old mouse said, “I think a bell on the cat is a good plan. It would give us a chance to escape that hungry cat. But, tell me, just who will put it there?”

The room became very quiet. Slowly each mouse left the room. No one wanted to bell the cat.

## Off to California



1 Mama looked around and muttered, "Where is that child now? I told her we'd be off right after dinner time."

2 Mama and Papa were just about finished packing up the car. Pa was tying mattresses to the roof of the car. Mama was packing her pots and pans among the clothes and tools in the trunk. It was time to say goodbye, load the children and dog in the backseat and hit the road. Pa wanted to get a good start before dark. They would be camping along the side of the road every night until they reached California.

3 Laura was hiding behind the barn. She huddled in a corner clinging to a wiggling kitten. "I won't go, Skeeter. I won't go without you. Who will take care of you if I go? It's not fair to leave you behind. Dog gets to go. Why can't you? I won't go. I won't! I won't!" she cried.

4 Mama looked for Laura under the porch and in the tree house. As she walked by the barn she heard Laura crying. Mama went in and sat down beside her weeping daughter.

5 "I know you're unhappy," said Mama as she gave Laura a hug. "But we have to go. Times are hard, there's no work around here. Uncle Henry says he can help your Pa find work if we go to his place in California."

## Off to California (continued)

6 Laura petted her kitten as she listened to Mama talk, "You know, Laura, we all have to leave behind things we love," Mama continued. "We had to sell your sister's piano and your brother's horse. Pa and I can't take much from the house. We all will be leaving family and friends. It's hard on everyone, we just don't have a choice right now; Pa has to have work."

7 Laura looked up at Mama and whispered, "Will we ever get to come back home?"

8 Mama smiled and wiped away Laura's tears as she explained, "We're going to make a new home in California. When times are better we'll come back for a good long visit. I know it doesn't seem fair that Dog gets to go and Skeeter can't. But we're taking Dog because he is a good watch dog. There isn't much Skeeter can do to help. Don't you worry about her. Aunt Lizzie wants a kitten. She'll take good care of Skeeter."

9 Laura got up, hugged Mama one more time, and went to find Aunt Lizzie. She was determined to be brave and helpful as the family set off for their new home.



## STAAR Practice 7

sequence and summarize the plot's main events and explain their influence on future events; **Readiness Standard**

### Off to California

- 1 Why did Laura and her family have to move to California?
  - A They were tired of where they lived.
  - B They found a better house in California.
  - C There was no work where they lived.
  - D The sunshine was better in California.
  
- 2 Which of these happened first in the passage?
  - A Laura was hiding behind the barn.
  - B Pa was tying mattresses to the roof of the car.
  - C Laura told her kitten she wouldn't go.
  - D Mama gave Laura a big hug.
  
- 3 In this passage the word clinging means?
  - A To hold
  - B To wrap
  - C To stick
  - D To watch
  
- 4 The reader can tell that Mama doesn't want Laura to feel \_\_\_\_\_?
  - A silly
  - B useful
  - C happy
  - D sad



**STAAR Practice 7** *continued*

**5** Why could Dog go with the family?

- A** He was a good worker.
- B** The family liked him more.
- C** He was a good watch dog.
- D** The kitten didn't want to go.

**6** What will happen to Skeeter once the family moves to California?

- A** He will stay with Aunt Lizzie.
- B** He will go with the neighbors.
- C** He will be on his own.
- D** He will find his way to California.

**7** What did Laura's sister have to sell?

- A** Her horse.
- B** Her piano.
- C** Her dolls.
- D** Her kitten.

**8** Why did the author probably write this story?

- A** to teach about sacrifice
- B** to explain why a little girl was sad
- C** to tell about a trip to California
- D** to tell about a family

**STAAR Skill Exercise 7**

sequence and summarize the plot's main events and explain their influence on future events; **Readiness Standard**

**Questions about Off to California**

1. What did Mama and Pa pack in the car for the trip to California?

---

---

2. Why was the family moving to California?

---

---

3. Why was Laura hiding in the barn?

---

---

4. Mama was upset with Laura at the beginning of the story. Why was she so kind to Laura when she found her in the barn?

---

---

5. What did Mama say that made Laura feel better?

---

---

6. Why do you think they sold the piano and horse instead of leaving them with someone?

---

---

**Think About It**

Think about how you would feel if your family had to leave for a strange place with only what you could take in the car. List at least three reasons you would feel that way.

---

---

---

### Retell Events Using the Word Webs

Write the correct word in each box.

Word Box

aunt	explained	parents
backseat	Laura	roof
whispered	Lizzie	sister
brother	muttered	Skeeter
cried	trunk	

