

**GRADE 6**  
**Reading**  
**STAAR Alternate 2**

**Administered April 2016**

**RELEASED**



READING



# Sailing to School

In Bangladesh a boat comes down the river to pick up students for school.



## Sailing to School

In Bangladesh a boat comes down the river to pick up the students for school. The students attend school on the boat!

2b



© David Bathgate/CORBIS



© Péter Feketa/iStock/Thinkstock

Mohammed Rezwan grew up in Bangladesh. Because the country is very close to sea level, it is flooded for five months every year.



Rezwan was often frustrated when the flooding made it impossible for him to go to school. He wanted to solve the problem of getting kids to school when the river was flooded. After Rezwan graduated, he began designing boats that became schools.

3a

The school boats travel along the rivers and pick up students for classes. When the class is over, the boat drops the students off at home and picks up more students. Teachers on the boats usually teach three or four classes every day.



Rezwan picked up students in boats for classes and dropped them off at home.

Rezwan taught three to four classes in boats several times a day.

Rezwan designed boats for students to attend classes when the river was flooding.

4a

In addition to designing and building school boats, Rezwan started an organization to help the people of Bangladesh receive an education.



© David Bathgate/CORBIS

Rezwan's school boats are a great success. Today there are 88 boats in the waters around Bangladesh. Half the boats are used as schools. The other half are used as houses during the flooding season. There is also a floating computer center, a floating library that allows students to check out books, and a floating health-care center.

4a

Parents in Bangladesh are happy to have the boats so their children can go to school. When a mother with a six-year-old daughter was asked about the program, she said, "It was difficult for my parents to send me to school. But now my daughter can study every day. I hope she will become a doctor or an engineer."

Rezwan's boats deliver more than books. They also bring hope to the many people who live in the flooded areas of Bangladesh.



“It was difficult for my parents to send me to school. But now my daughter can study every day. I hope she will become a doctor or an engineer.”

This mother's words show that —

Rezwan believes that his school boats will help many students become doctors and engineers

Rezwan's school boats improved education for many families in Bangladesh

Rezwan's school boats have caused parents to worry about their children's education



This girl has  
straight hair.



© Valua Vitally/iStock/Thinkstock

This girl has  
curly hair.



© iStock.com/Mienny

This girl has curly hair.



6b



© Minerva Studio/Shutterstock



© Pavel L. Photo and Video/Shutterstock

Frogs live near the water. They have webbed feet for swimming and long legs for jumping. A frog's skin is smooth and slippery.



© kazoka/Shutterstock

Toads live in dry areas. They have short, strong legs that are good for walking and hopping. A toad's skin is bumpy and dry.



© ViseChak/Bigstock.com

smooth and bumpy

long and dry

webbed and strong

8a

White-water rafting is a dangerous sport. The rushing waters can be very treacherous. People must wear life jackets in the rubber rafts to be



© iStockphoto.com/Ammit

happy

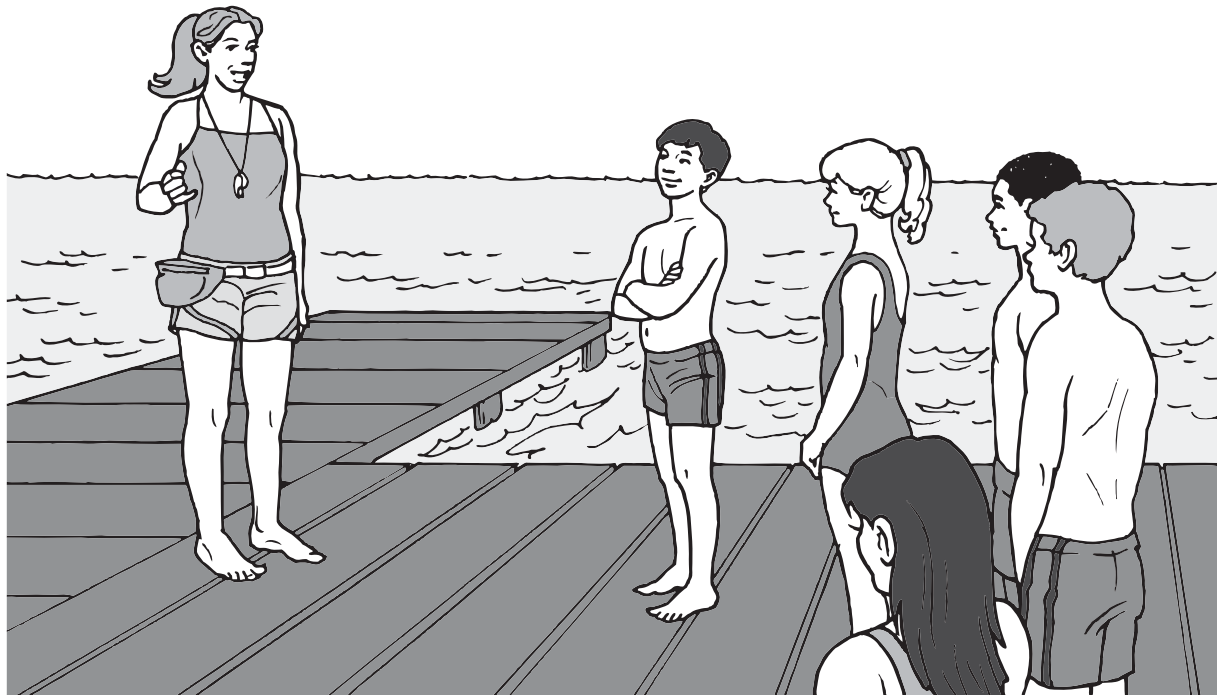
warm

safe



## The Super Swimmer

"O.K., people! It's time for swimming lessons!" said Coach Karen to the kids standing on the pier.

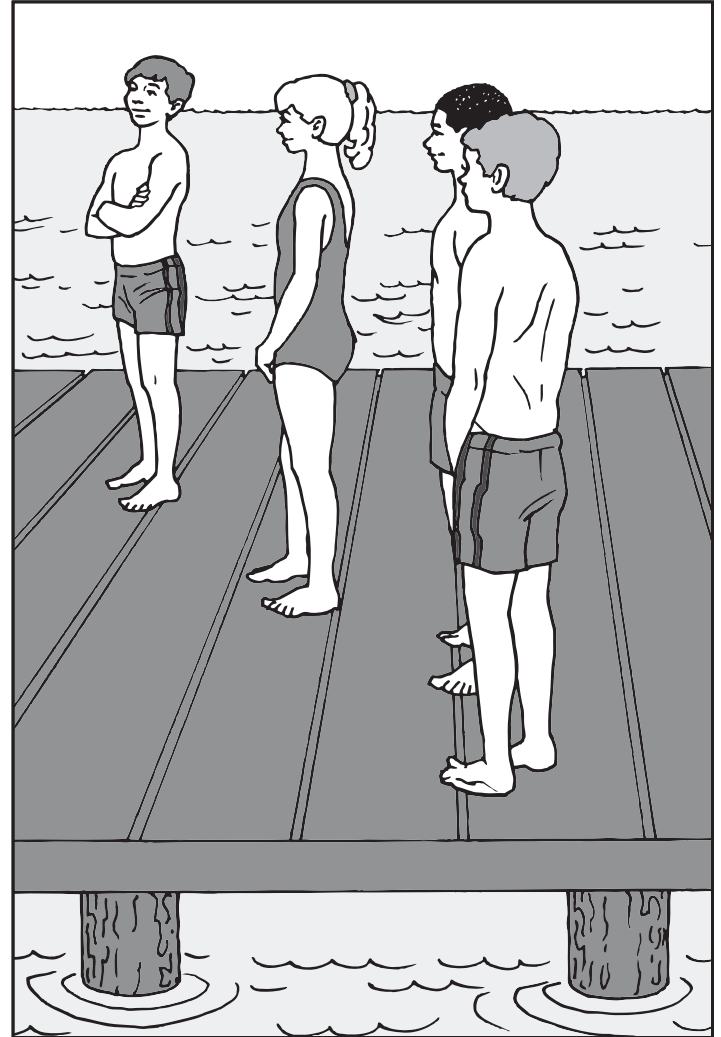


## The Super Swimmer

"O.K., people! It's time for swimming lessons!"  
said Coach Karen to the kids standing on the pier.

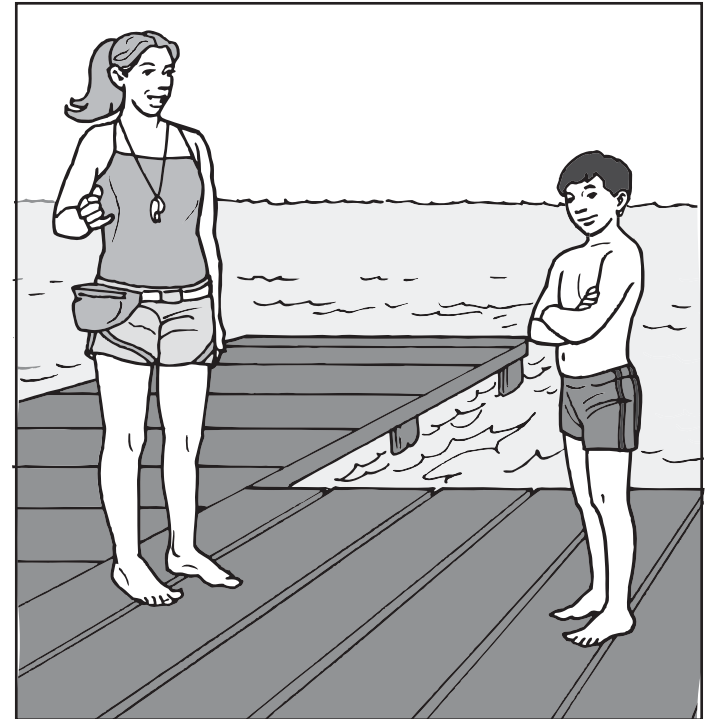
The kids groaned. They just wanted to jump in  
the water and play.

10b



"Attitude, people, attitude! You need the right attitude, just like Billy here! His progress learning to swim last year was awesome. He was so determined."

Everyone looked at Billy. He turned red but did not say anything. He hadn't learned to swim last summer. His brother Tommy had, but Billy hadn't even gone to camp the year before.



Coach Karen asked, "Billy, did you keep practicing even when the lessons were over?"

Billy just couldn't be rude to an adult in front of all the other kids. He nodded his head yes even though he knew that Coach Karen was talking about his brother Tommy.

Coach Karen continued talking. "By the end of the summer, Billy had earned a Super Swimmer award!"

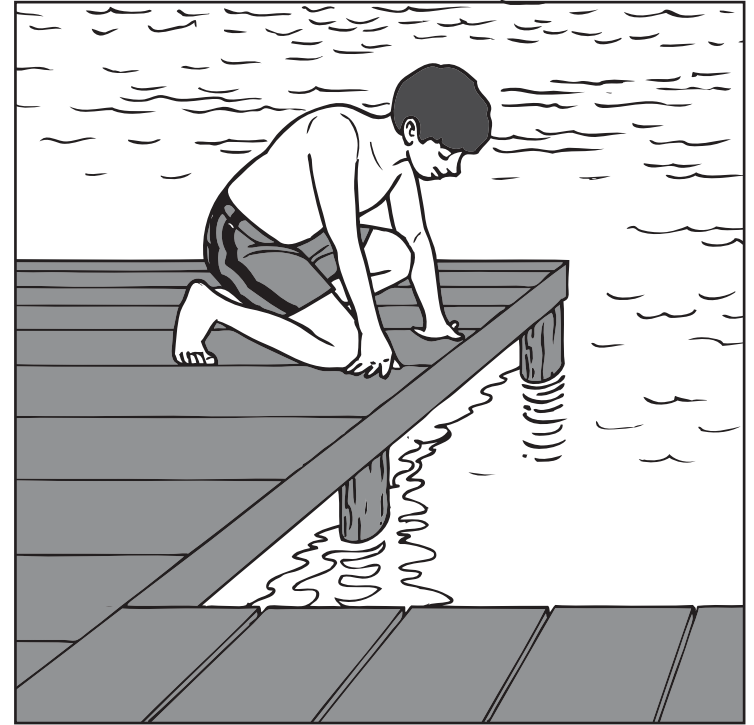


Billy is worried about being rude to the coach.

Billy is proud he learned to swim last summer.

Billy is afraid to jump in the water with the other kids.

Billy had been confused, but now things were beginning to make sense. Billy and his brother Tommy looked a lot alike. And Tommy had gone to camp and learned to swim last summer. In fact, Tommy was so proud of his Super Swimmer award that he



thought he could swim in the Olympics. Coach Karen thought Billy was his brother Tommy.

Coach Karen said to the other kids, "I want to see all of you working hard. You have to want it like Billy!"

Billy wanted to tell Coach Karen that he was Billy—not Tommy. But he didn't want to embarrass the coach, and he was too afraid to speak up.

"You need to see Billy dive to the bottom of the lake," said Coach Karen. Then she picked up a brick and dropped it off the end of the pier. The brick splashed into the water.

The lake water was deep and freezing cold.

Coach Karen said, "Dive in and get the brick, Billy. Show them how it is done."

"Um, Coach Karen . . . ," Billy said. Coach Karen gave Billy a funny look.



"I can't," said Billy. He knew he had to say something. Billy couldn't dive into the water, but he could tell the truth. "My brother Tommy could," Billy admitted. "I'm Billy, and I can't swim."

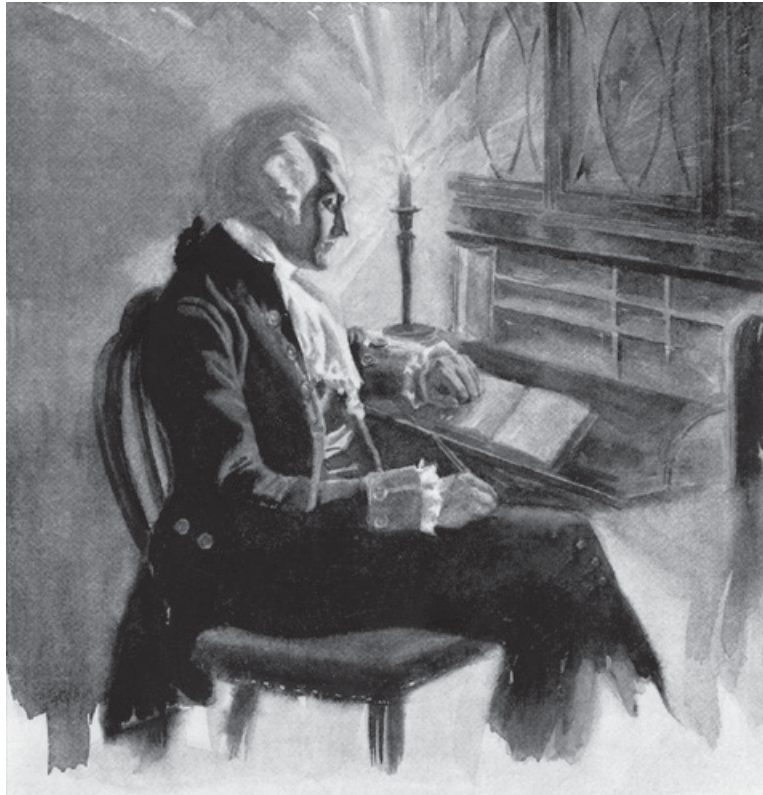
Billy likes knowing that Coach Karen thinks he is a good swimmer.

Billy is worried that the other kids will not like him.

Billy is not brave enough to tell Coach Karen that she is confused.

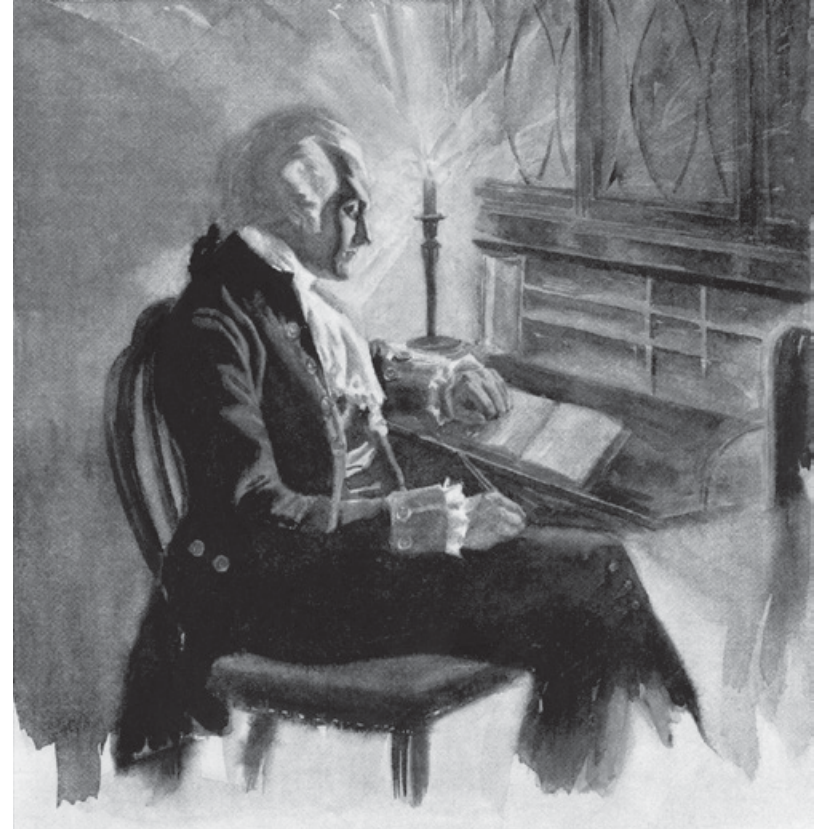


George Washington used lemon juice  to  write secret messages he did not want the enemy to read.

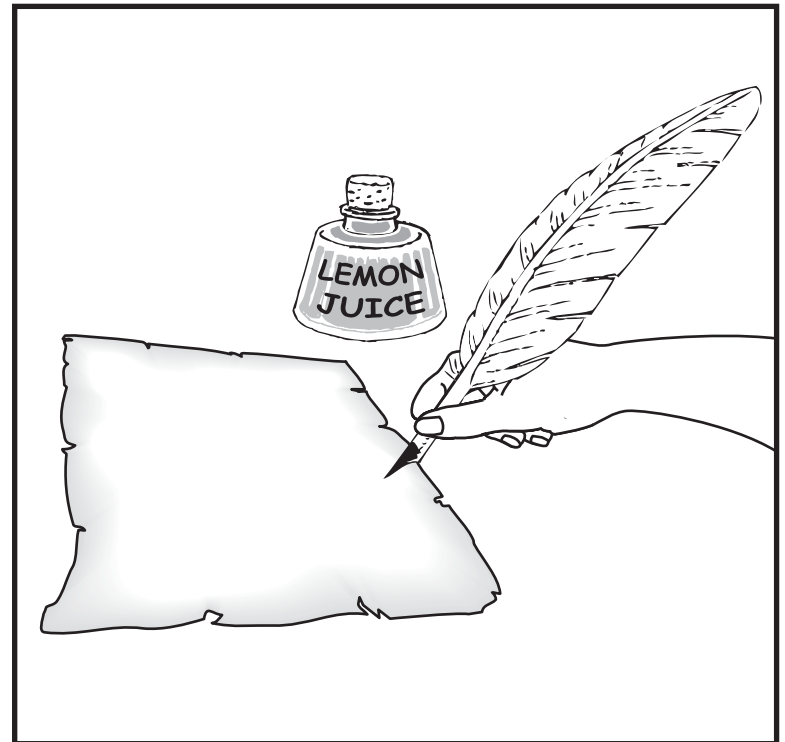
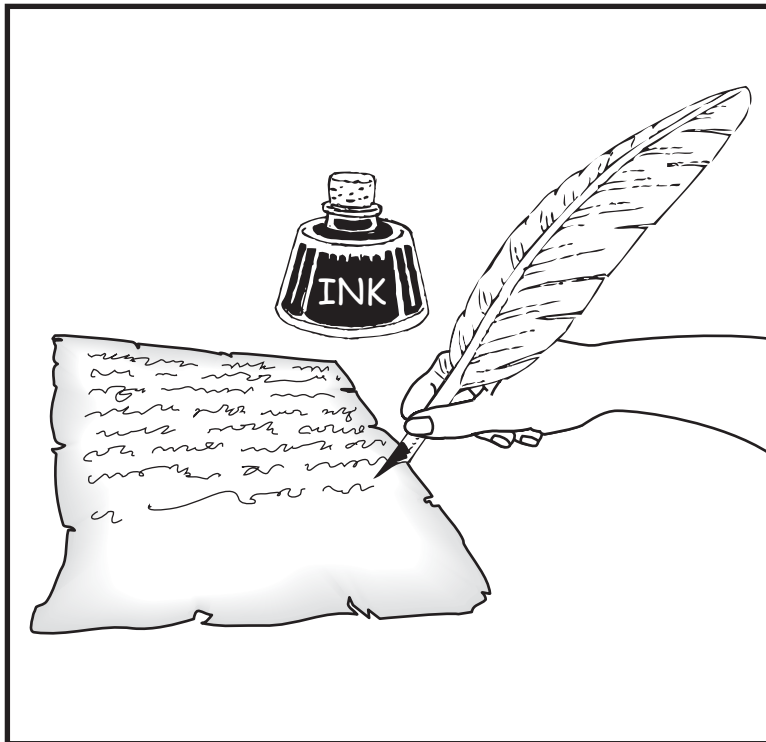


George Washington  
wrote secret  
messages with  
lemon juice.

The messages could  
not be seen on  
white paper.

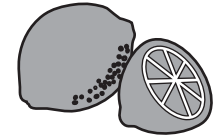


14b



## How to Send and Read a Secret Message

1. Squeeze the juice from a lemon into a bowl.



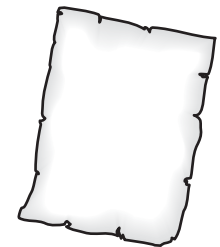
2. Find a writing tool—toothpick, small paintbrush, feather.



3. Dip the tip of the writing tool in the lemon juice.

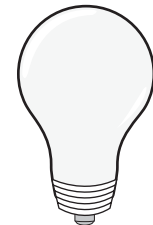


4. Write your message on a blank piece of paper.

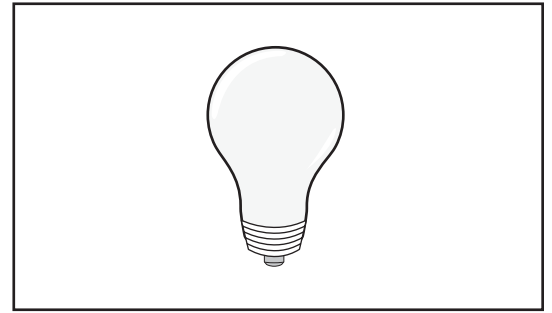
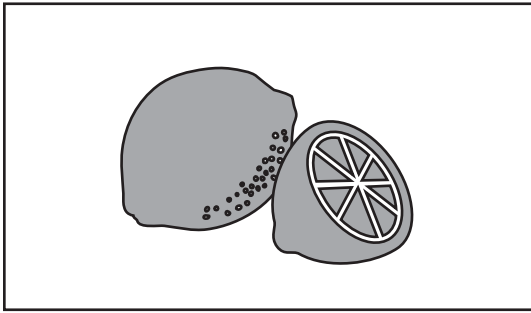


5. Let the lemon juice get completely dry.

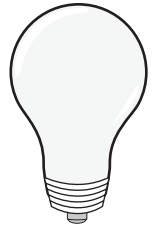
6. Heat the paper by holding it near a lightbulb to read the secret message.



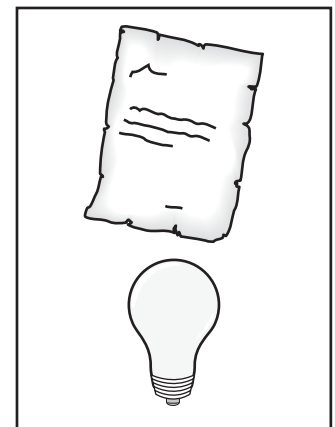
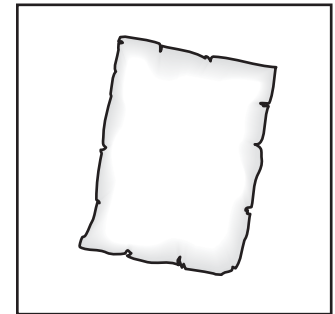
15b



6. Heat the paper by holding it near a lightbulb to read the secret message.



The lemon juice causes the fibers in the paper to weaken. When the paper is heated by the lightbulb, the fibers quickly get dark, and the message can be seen. However, if the paper is close to the lightbulb too long, the entire sheet of paper will get too dark, and the message will be lost.



When the message is held over a lightbulb —

the paper becomes wrinkled and difficult to read

the words on the paper get dark so that the message can be read

the lemon juice cooks and produces a lovely smell



The butterfly's open wings flap like flags in a parade.



The butterfly's open wings flap like flags in a parade.





© Butterfly Hunter/Shutterstock



© Butterfly Hunter/Shutterstock

Mina took the silk scarf from the bottom drawer of the old chest. It was the scarf her grandma had worn when she was a little girl. The fabric that once was snow white was now frayed and had yellowed like the color of butter. Mina was surprised at how soft and fine the threads were. She couldn't believe that an ugly silkworm could make something so pretty.

The fabric was —

stiff and wrinkled

neatly folded

old but beautiful

Maria stared into the mirror. Her wild brown hair, the freckles on her cheeks, and her button nose made her look just like her mother, her grandmother, and her great-grandmother. Maria wanted to look different. Instead, Maria looked as though she had popped out of a copy machine.

Instead, Maria looked as though she had popped out of a copy machine.

The author uses sensory language to show that —

Maria's face is exactly like the faces of the other females in her family

Maria is the youngest female in her family

Maria wants to have many pictures of her female relatives

**STAAR ALTERNATE 2  
GRADE 6  
Reading  
April 2016**