

STAAR Practice 1

INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the passage and answer _____ questions per night. You will check the answers in class the following morning. This packet will serve as your homework for multiple nights. Remember to do the following when reading and answering the questions:

Read the questions before you read the passage. Keep the questions in mind while reading the passage.

Use the skills and strategies learned in class.

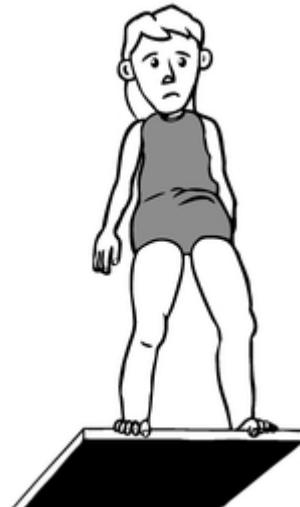
Take a deep breath, relax, and do your best!

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Paige Takes the Plunge!

by Laura Bresko

1 Paige stood at the edge of the diving board while the other children waited for her to jump. Paige was frightened and didn't know what to do. If she didn't dive, the other kids would know she was scared. She had to do it, but she worried about water getting up her nose. Last summer, she dove in and felt like she was going to drown. She drank in water and came to the surface, choking and coughing.



2 Paige had taken swimming lessons at the community pool during the winter. She knew how to swim, but she wanted to learn how to control her breathing so she wouldn't swallow water and choke to death. Then she could dive off the high diving board like the other kids. It was so hard to overcome her fears. Ever since she was little, she'd been scared to put her head underwater. Her instructor was very patient and helped her to concentrate. In the end, she'd earned a certificate. Swimming with the instructor was one thing, but diving in front of her friends was another!

3 She was still perched at the end of the board, waiting to get the courage up, when the other kids started to help her. "Come on, Paige. You can do it!" they cheered. She focused on her breathing, just like her instructor had taught her. She took in a deep breath, then bent her knees and sprang off the board, arching her back and making a perfect entry into the water.

4 When she came up, she wasn't choking. She'd remembered to breathe out through her nose to keep the water from getting in. The other kids were clapping and saying, "Way to go!" She felt a little embarrassed. All this time she thought she had them fooled into thinking she was a good swimmer. It was okay now. She'd taken the plunge and it felt good—so good that maybe she'd even do it again!

1 What is the best lesson that can be learned from this selection?

- A** One good turn deserves another.
- B** Fair-weather friends aren't worth much.
- C** There is nothing to fear but fear itself.
- D** Slow and steady wins the race.

2 What does the word overcome mean in paragraph 2?

- F** Conquer
- G** Announce
- H** Deceive
- J** Depart

3 What does the word instructor mean in paragraph 2?

- A** Coach
- B** Teammate
- C** Player
- D** Officer

4 What does the word focused mean in paragraph 3?

- F** Cheered
- G** Circled
- H** Worked
- J** Concentrated

5 What does the word embarrassed mean in paragraph 4?

- A** Ashamed
- B** Clever
- C** Shy
- D** Tired

6 What is the most important lesson Paige learns?

- F** To be a hero
- G** To swim well
- H** To make friends
- J** To face a problem

7 Which event occurs first in Paige's experiences?

- A** Paige is cheered by her friends.
- B** Paige earns a certificate.
- C** Paige takes swimming lessons at the community pool.
- D** Paige dives and comes to the surface choking.

8 Why does the author reveal Paige's thoughts?

- F** To show her confidence
- G** To explain her enjoyment of diving
- H** To show her problem
- J** To explain her relationship with friends

9 What is the purpose of "Paige Takes the Plunge!"?

- A** To explain how to swim safely
- B** To tell a story about learning to dive
- C** To convince others to take swimming lessons
- D** To present facts about diving safety

- 10** The author shows that Paige overcomes her fear of diving by —
- F** identifying the certificates Paige receives for taking swimming lessons.
 - G** describing how Paige feels when she finally jumps.
 - H** listing the things Paige used to be scared to do.
 - J** providing details about how the other kids encourage Paige.

- 11** Read this sentence from paragraph 2.

Swimming with the instructor was one thing, but diving in front of her friends was another!

Why does the author compare swimming with friends to swimming with the instructor?

- A** To suggest that swimming without the instructor's help would be much more difficult
- B** To express concern about the instructor's swimming skills
- C** To suggest that Paige's friends would be much harder to please than the instructor
- D** To show off the swimming ability of Paige's friends

- 12** Why does Paige want to take swimming lessons?

- F** To learn to dive
- G** To learn how to swim
- H** To learn how to control her breathing
- J** To learn to not be scared of diving

13 Look at the chart below and use it to answer the question.



Which of the following causes belongs in the empty box?

- A** Paige receives a certificate from her instructor.
- B** Paige's friends cheer her on as she jumps off the diving board.
- C** Paige learns to breathe out through her nose while underwater.
- D** Paige learns to breathe in through her nose while underwater.

14 The author organizes this selection by —

- F** comparing Paige's diving now with her diving during lessons with the instructor.
- G** explaining how Paige's friends teach her to control her breathing.
- H** describing Paige's fear and how she overcomes it.
- J** listing the steps Paige should take to complete the dive without choking.

15 What is the main topic of "Paige Takes the Plunge!"?

- A** The certificates necessary to swim at the public pool
- B** The types of dives that can be done from the high diving board
- C** The unexpected support from friends
- D** The ability to overcome a fear of drowning

16 At the beginning of the selection, Paige is best described as —

- F** swimming.
- G** unsure.
- H** silly.
- J** scared.

17 How do Paige's friends act?

- A** They are encouraging.
- B** They are embarrassed.
- C** They laugh.
- D** They cry.

18 How does Paige feel at the end of the selection?

- F** Scared
- G** Worried
- H** Embarrassed
- J** Proud

19 Which words best state the difference between Paige's attitude at the beginning of the selection and her attitude at the end?

- A** Confident, then upset
- B** Angry, then patient
- C** Fearful, then pleased
- D** Excited, then anxious