**Extended Constructed Response Prompts**

**Grades 3-English II**

\*Prompts were taken from TEA’s released scoring guides of 2022, online practice questions, released STAAR practice tests, and STAAR 2023-25.

**Grade 3 ECR Prompts**

Read the poem “Pants.” Based on the information in the poem, write a response to the following: Explain the relationship between the poet and the pants and how this relationship is developed by the poet. **Informative**

Read the article “From Seed to Pumpkin to Seed.” Explain how bees and pumpkins are beneficial to one another. **Informative**

Read the selections “Rewards for Recycling” and “Laws for Less Trash.” Based on the information in the selections, write a response to the following: Explain your opinion about why people should or should not be rewarded for recycling. Write a well-organized argumentative essay that uses specific evidence from the selections to support your answer. (STAAR 2023) **Argumentative Paired Texts**

Read the article “Digging on Dirt.” Based on the information in the article, write a response to the following: Explain the ways that soil is important to Earth. Write a well-organized informational composition that uses specific evidence from the article to support your answer. (STAAR 2024) **Informative**

Read the story “The Farm Where Nothing Grew” and the poem “Olivia’s Soccer Practice.” Based on the details in both selections, write a response to the following: Explain why the farmer and Olivia feel DIFFERENTLY while working toward their goals. Write a well-organized essay that uses specific evidence from the selections to support your answer. (STAAR 2025) **Informative Paired Texts**

**Grade 4 ECR Prompts**

Read the play “The Spelling Test.” Explain how Herbie’s behavior changes and how this is developed by the playwright. **Informative**

Read the article from *Powwow Summer* and the article “Dancing Dragons.” Explain how the people in BOTH articles dance for similar reasons. **Informative Paired Texts**

Read the article “Austin’s Secret Salamander.” Based on the information in the article, write a response to the following: Explain why the Edwards Aquifer is important in the article. Write a well-organized informational composition that uses specific evidence from the story to support your answer. (STAAR 2023) **Informative**

Read the story from Surprise Kick. Based on the information in the story, write a response to the following: Explain how the events in the story cause Cody to change his opinions. Write a well-organized informational composition that uses specific evidence from the story to support your answer. (STAAR 2024) **Informative**

Read the article “Cultural Cooking Connections” and the selection “Tradition with a Twist.” Based on the information in both selections, write a response to the following: Explain whether or not people should make changes to traditional dishes. Write a well-organized argumentative essay that uses specific evidence from the selections to support your answer. (STAAR 2025) **Argumentative Paired Texts**

**Grade 5 ECR Prompts**

Read the play “The Return of Goldie Locks.” Explain why Baby Bear changes his attitude toward Goldie over the course of the play. **Informative**

Read the poem “One Saturday.” Explain how the speaker’s feelings about the grandparents change as they spend time together. **Informative**

Read “Steam and Sail” to answer the following question. Steamboats and clippers were popular forms of transportation in the United States in the 1800s. Explain whether you think the steamboat or the clipper ship changed life in the United States more. **Argumentative**

Read the story “The Camping Trip.” Based on the information in the story, write a response to the following: Explain how Kim shows determination throughout the story. Write a well-organized informational composition that uses specific evidence from the story to support your answer. (STAAR 2023) **Informative**

Read the selection from Tales from Watership Down. Based on the information in the selection, write a response to the following: Explain how El-ahrairah’s kindness helps him throughout the selection. Write a well-organized informational composition that uses specific evidence from the selection to support your answer. (STAAR 2024) **Informative**

Read the article “Pencils or Programs? Traditional Animation Is Here to Stay.” Based on the information in the article, write a response to the following: Explain the effects that technology has had on animation. Write a well-organized informational essay that uses specific evidence from the article to support your answer. (STAAR 2025) **Informative**

**Grade 6 ECR Prompts**

Read the articles “George Washington’s Portrait” and “The Story Behind *The Silmarillion*.” Based on the information in both articles, write a response to the following: Though The Silmarillion and the painting of George Washington were left incomplete by their creators, both are widely known today. Explain how the painting and the novel are different in their journeys from unfinished projects to popular and important works. **Informative** **Paired Texts**

Read the story from The Most Marvelous International Spelling Bee. Explain how India’s reactions to a series of surprises help develop her character. **Informative**

Read “Mission-Ready” to answer the following question. Explain how the author develops the idea in the article that it is not easy to become a NASA astronaut. **Informative**

Read the article “One Book, One Camel.” Based on the information in the article, write a response to the following: Explain how the Camel Mobile Library has affected the people of Garissa. Write a well-organized informational composition that uses specific evidence from the article to support your answer. (STAAR 2023) **Informative**

Read the excerpt from The Last Wild Place and the poem “A Wave of a Day.” Based on the information in both selections, write a response to the following: Explain how Chip in the excerpt from The Last Wild Place and Xavier in the poem “A Wave of a Day” behave SIMILARLY to each other. Write a well-organized informational composition that uses specific evidence from the selections to support your answer. (STAAR 2024) **Informative** **Paired Texts**

Read the selection “The Bat’s Cave: A Dark City.” Based on the information in the selection, write a response to the following: The town council, a group of people who make decisions about town laws and policies, is considering closing off public access to a bat cave in your town to protect the bat population that lives inside. Write a letter addressed to the town council about whether public access to the cave should be closed off. Write a well-organized argumentative letter that uses specific evidence from the selection to support your response. (STAAR 2025) **Argumentative**

**Grade 7 ECR Prompts**

Read the play “A Star-Spangled Catastrophe.” Explain how the friendship between Angie and Pete contributes to the development of a theme in the play. **Informative**

Read the article “Camels Join the Army!” Based on the information in the article, write a response to the following: Based on information in the article, write an essay in which you argue that the U.S. Army should or should not have attempted to rebuild the Camel Corps following the Civil War. **Argumentative**

Read the article “Are People Ready for Robots?” Based on the information in the article, write a response to the following: Explain some ways humans benefit from allowing robots to complete simple tasks at home and in the workplace. Write a well-organized informational composition that uses specific evidence from the article to support your answer. (STAAR 2023) **Informative**

Read the selection “A Different Approach to Budgeting.” Based on the information in the selection, write a response to the following: Should students be involved in deciding how money is spent in their schools or communities through participatory budgeting? Why or why not? Write a well-organized argumentative essay that uses specific evidence from the selection to support your answer. (STAAR 2024) **Argumentative**

Read the selection “Winter Wisdom.” Based on the information in the selection, write a response to the following: Describe how the relationship between the author and her grandmother influenced the author’s life. Write a well-organized essay that uses specific evidence from the selection to support your response. (STAAR 2025) **Informative**

**Grade 8 ECR Prompts**

Read the story “Starting from Scratch.” Explain how Anthony’s interactions with Grandpa help to develop a theme about how sharing experiences may lead to greater understanding between people. **Informative**

Read the story “Avery’s Gift” and the article “Chicken of the Sea Is So Wacky- Of Course It Was Created by Kids.” Based on the information in both selections, write a response to the following: Explain how Avery’s father in the story “Avery’s Gift” is similar to Ellison’s father in the article “Chicken of the Sea is So Wacky - Of Course It Was Created by Kids.” **Informative Paired Texts**

Read the excerpt from “Say What, Horse?” Based on the information in the article, write a response to the following: Explain what new research reveals about horses’ ability to communicate. Write a well-organized informational composition that uses specific evidence from the article to support your answer. (STAAR 2023) **Informative**

Read the excerpt from “Mr. Linden’s Library.” Based on the information in the excerpt, write a response to the following: Explain how Carol’s curiosity influences events in the excerpt. Write a well-organized informational composition that uses specific evidence from the excerpt to support your answer. (STAAR 2024) **Informative**

Read the article “Seeing in a Sea of Snow.” Based on the information in the article, write a response to the following: Explain what the invention of snow goggles reveals about ancient cultures. Write a well-organized informational composition that uses specific evidence from the article to support your answer. (STAAR 2025) **Informative**

**English I ECR Prompts**

Read the excerpt from “The Namesake.” Explain how the characterizations of Ashoke and Mrs. Lapidus contribute to the development of the plot in this excerpt. **Informative**

Read the article “The Cowboy’s Home on Wheels” and the poem “The U-S-U Range.” Based on the information in both selections, write a response to the following: Explain how the author of the article and the poet both emphasize how the quality of food had an effect on the cowboys’ morale. **Informative Paired Texts**

Read from “Tending Roses” to answer the following question. Explain how reading the journal leads Katie to remind herself to look for fireflies. **Informative**

Read the article “Back in Time: The National Road.” Based on the information in the article, write a response to the following: Explain why travelers enjoy using the National Road today. Write a well-organized essay that uses specific evidence from the article to support your answer. (STAAR 2023) **Informative**

Read the excerpt from Parnassus on Wheels. Based on the information in the excerpt, write a response to the following: Identify and explain the significance of the revelation Miss McGill has from her dealings with Mr. Mifflin. Write a well-organized essay that uses specific evidence from the excerpt to support your answer. (STAAR 2024) **Informative**

Read the article “Buried History.” Based on the information in the article, write a response to the following: Explain how the treatment of the time capsule over time has demonstrated that people value its significance. Write a well-organized essay that uses specific evidence from the article to support your answer. (STAAR 2025) **Informative**

**English II ECR Prompts**

Read the poem “The Fox.” Explain the feelings the poet expresses while watching the fox and how those feelings are developed by the poet. **Informative**

Read the article “Volunteering Is Its Own Reward.” Based on the information in the article, write a response to the following: Write a letter to your principal in which you argue who would benefit most from a volunteering program at school: student participants or members of the community they could serve. **Argumentative**

Read the excerpt from The Song of the Lark. Based on the information in the excerpt, write a response to the following: Explain how acquiring the loft room changes Thea. Write a well-organized informational composition that uses specific evidence from the excerpt to support your answer. (STAAR 2023) **Informative**

Read the article “Antarctica: Governing the Icy Continent.” Based on the information in the article, write a response to the following: Explain what makes the situation in Antarctica unusual. Write a well-organized informational composition that uses specific evidence from the article to support your answer. (STAAR 2024) **Informative**

Read the article “Falling into Place along the Fall Line.” Based on the information in the article, write a response to the following: Explain how geological features have helped shape the history of human civilizations. Write a well-organized informational composition that uses specific evidence from the article to support your answer. (STAAR 2025) **Informative**