



TEA – STAAR Released Test Selection 4th Grade

Genre – Expository *Zach Bonner's Little Red Wagon*

Click here to get the released STAAR selection:
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/>

The Expository Thinking Guide is provided. The Expository Thinking Guide identifies the topic, central idea of the selection, and the main idea of each paragraph. In addition, the main ideas are clustered by color code to develop a meaningful summary.

- ★ Zach Bonner's Little Red Wagon Expository Thinking Guide
- ★ Color-Coded Expository Thinking Guide and Summary

The Expository Thinking Guide is used to develop other fun and interactive activities. Fisher Reyna Education offers the following activities:

- ★ Matching Pre-Reading Activity
- ★ Matching Activity Part 1
- ★ Matching Activity Part 2
- ★ Outline Scramble Activity
- ★ Thinking Guide Cloze 1st Letter Activity
- ★ Thinking Guide Cloze Blank Activity
- ★ Thinking Guide Write Main Ideas Activity
- ★ Vocabulary Activity



Expository Thinking Guide
Content-Based Topic

Title of the Selection Zach Bonner's Little Red Wagon

Source: STAAR Grade 4 Selection 3

Genre: Informational/Expository

Topic of Selection	Zach Bonner
Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection)	He enjoys helping people.
Main Idea of Each Paragraph	1. Introduction to Zach Bonner
	Responding to a Storm
	2. Zach began offering his help to people in 2004 after hurricane Charley.
	3. He decided to ask others to donate.
	New Ways to Help
	4. Zach Pack for homeless children
	5. Money for homeless children
	Beyond Florida
	6. Walked from Tallahassee to Atlanta to teach about homelessness
	7. Traveled from Atlanta to Washington D.C. and collected money
8. Planning a journey across the United States	
9. One person can make a difference	

Zack Bonner enjoys helping people. After hurricane Charley, he decided to offer his help and asked others to donate. Then he decided to find ways to help homeless children. Now he travels across the country teaching about and collecting money to help the homeless. He continues to show how one person can make a difference.

Color-Coded Expository Thinking Guide
Content-Based Topic

Title of the Selection Zach Bonner's Little Red Wagon

Source: STAAR Grade 4 Selection 3

Genre: Informational/Expository

Topic of Selection	Zach Bonner
Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection)	He enjoys helping people.
Main Idea of Each Paragraph	1. Introduction to Zach Bonner
	Responding to a Storm
	2. Zach began offering his help to people in 2004 after hurricane Charley.
	3. He decided to ask others to donate.
	New Ways to Help
	4. Zach Pack for homeless children
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	Beyond Florida
	6. Walked from Tallahassee to Atlanta to teach about homelessness
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8. Planning a journey across the United States	
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Zach Bonner enjoys helping people. After hurricane Charley, he decided to offer his help and asked others to donate. Then he decided to find ways to help homeless children. Now he travels across the country teaching about and collecting money to help the homeless. He continues to show how one person can make a difference.

Matching Pre-Reading Activity



Directions and Activity Variations

Students may work individually or with a partner. Teacher shows the titles, subtitles and photos with captions as a pre-reading activity to the Matching Activity.

Zach Bonner's Little Red Wagon

Responding to a Storm

New Ways to Help

Beyond Florida



Zach Bonner pulls his little red wagon on the final mile of his trip to the White House.

© Will McNamee/Getty Images News/Getty Images

Matching Activity Part 1



Directions and Activity Variations

Students may work individually or with a partner.

1. Cut apart the main ideas and give one main idea to individual student or partners. Teacher reads the selection one paragraph at a time. Students identify when they have the matching main idea.
2. Provide the selection and cut-apart main ideas. Students read the selection and match cut-apart main ideas to paragraphs in the selection.
3. Provide cut-apart selection and cut-apart main ideas. Students match cut-apart paragraphs to the cut-apart main ideas.



Introduction to Zach Bonner

Responding to a Storm

Zach began offering his help to people in 2004 after hurricane Charley.

He decided to ask others to donate.

New Ways to Help

Zach Pack for homeless children

Money for homeless children

Beyond Florida

Walked from Tallahassee to Atlanta to teach about homelessness

Traveled from Atlanta to Washington D.C. and collected money

Planning a journey across the United States

One person can make a difference



Matching Activity Part 2

Zach Bonner enjoys helping people. He cares so much about people that he spends his time and energy finding ways to make their lives better. People like Zach are hard to find. What makes Zach even more amazing is that he is a sixth grader who has been on a mission to help others since he was six years old.

Zach began offering his help to people in 2004. In late summer, a hurricane named Charley left many people near Zach's hometown of Tampa, Florida, without drinking water. When Zach heard that people in his community were collecting bottles of water, he realized that his family could help. He and his mother brought their extra bottles to the collection site.

But Zach wanted to do more. He decided to ask others to donate. With his mother's permission, six-year-old Zach pulled his little red wagon through his neighborhood. He passed out flyers to his neighbors. When they read about his plan to collect drinking water, they were happy to help. They put their bottled water into Zach's wagon, and they even added other helpful supplies, such as clothes and canned food. It didn't take long before Zach's wagonloads added up to truckloads—27 truckloads of water and supplies, to be exact!

Most people would have been satisfied with their efforts if they had collected 27 truckloads of materials for people in need. But not Zach. He wanted to keep helping people, so he and his mother looked for other ways to contribute. They heard about an organization that helps homeless children. The organization had a wish list of things that homeless children need. Zach asked people to donate supplies on the list, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and first-aid kits. He put the supplies into backpacks and called them "Zach Packs." A Zach Pack wasn't complete until it also contained a toy!

In 2007 Zach decided to pull his little red wagon on a longer walk. Zach wanted to collect money to help homeless children. He planned to walk from his home in Tampa to Florida's state capital, Tallahassee—280 miles away! It took Zach and his mother 23 days to reach their destination. But it was worth the blisters and sore muscles. By the time they arrived in Tallahassee, Zach had raised \$25,000. It was enough money to provide food and supplies for 800 families.



Matching Activity Part 2

Zach knew that homelessness wasn't a problem only for children in Florida. He wanted to help kids all over the country, so in 2008 he planned another journey. He decided to start in Tallahassee and walk to Atlanta, Georgia. Along the way Zach stopped to talk to groups and teach people some facts about homelessness. He explained that homeless kids aren't different from other kids, except that they might not have access to some of the things that other kids take for granted. Zach wanted others to know what essential things kids are missing when they don't have a home. He hoped his message would encourage others to donate these needed items.

The next year, Zach and his now-famous wagon traveled all the way from Atlanta, Georgia, to the White House. This was the longest walk of all! It took 10 weeks, and along the way donations totaled \$50,000. The money was used to purchase supplies for a homeless shelter in Washington, D.C., and to build a playground in Florida for children without permanent homes.

What's next for Zach and his little red wagon? He says he is planning a 2,300-mile journey across the United States. This time other volunteers will take turns walking to help Zach reach his goal.

Zach's journeys have raised a lot of money to help others. They have also brought Zach to the attention of some very important people. Zach has met with two former presidents of the United States as well as current president Barack Obama. The presidents wanted to let Zach know they appreciated his work. Zach continues to show how one person can make a difference. One person and a little red wagon, that is!

Outline Scramble Activity

Title of the Selection Zach Bonner's Little Red Wagon

Source: STAAR Grade 4 Selection 3

Genre: Informational/Expository



Directions

Main ideas are arranged in alphabetical order. Article is read and students write the paragraph number by the correct main idea. This may be –

1. teacher guided with individual student recording correct paragraph number.
2. teacher guided with main ideas projected with teacher marking the correct response from the group.
3. partners working together as they take turns reading and recording correct paragraph number.

Paragraph Number	Paragraph Main Ideas
	He decided to ask others to donate.
	Introduction to Zach Bonner
	Money for homeless children
	One person can make a difference
	Planning a journey across the United States
	Traveled from Atlanta to Washington D.C. and collected money
	Walked from Tallahassee to Atlanta to teach about homelessness
	Zach began offering his help to people in 2004 after hurricane Charley.
	Zach Pack for homeless children

Expository Thinking Guide
Cloze – 1st Letter Activity



Title of the Selection Zach Bonner's Little Red Wagon

Directions

As selection is read, complete the words in the blanks with the first letter given.

Topic of Selection	Z_____ B_____
Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection)	He enjoys h_____ people.
Main Idea of Each Paragraph	1. I_____ to Zach Bonner
	Responding to a Storm
	2. Zach began offering his help to people in 2004 after h_____ Charley.
	3. He decided to ask others to d_____.
	New Ways to Help
	4. Zach Pack for h_____ children
	5. M_____ for homeless children
	Beyond Florida
	6. Walked from T_____ to A_____ to teach about homelessness
	7. Traveled from A_____ to W_____ D.C. and collected money
	8. Planning a journey across the U_____ S_____
	9. One person can make a d_____

Expository Thinking Guide
Cloze – Blank Activity

Title of the Selection Zach Bonner's Little Red Wagon



Directions

As selection is read, fill in the blanks.

Topic of Selection	_____
Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection)	He enjoys _____ people.
Main Idea of Each Paragraph	1. _____ to Zach Bonner
	Responding to a Storm
	2. Zach began offering his help to people in 2004 after _____ Charley.
	3. He decided to ask others to _____.
	New Ways to Help
	4. Zach Pack for _____ children
	5. _____ for homeless children
	Beyond Florida
	6. Walked from _____ to _____ to teach about homelessness
	7. Traveled from _____ to _____ D.C. and collected money
	8. Planning a journey across the _____
	9. One person can make a _____

Write Main Ideas Activity

Title of the Selection Zach Bonner's Little Red Wagon



Directions

Students take notes that include topic, central idea of the selection, and main idea of each paragraph. Paragraphs with implied main ideas increase the level of difficulty with this activity.

Topic of Selection	
Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection)	
Main Idea of Each Paragraph	1.
	Responding to a Storm
	2.
	3.
	New Ways to Help
	4.
	5.
	Beyond Florida
	6.
	7.
	8.
	9.

Zach Bonner's Little Red Wagon Vocabulary – Using Context Clues

Note: This vocabulary activity should be used after students have read the article.

Directions: Display the following vocabulary list. Ask the students to define the words they recognize. Then read Zach Bonner's Little Red Wagon as the students listen for these words. After hearing one of the listed words in context, ask students to give its definition. The words are listed in the order in which they appear in the article.

1. mission
2. donate
3. flyers
4. contribute
5. contained
6. sore
7. essential
8. former