



**PAWS
Reading
Grade 8**

**Released Items
With Data**

2011

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Reporting for Work



- 1 From the hallway Roberta could hear the office phone ringing. Balancing the stack of library books she had just checked out, she unlocked the door to the office just as the fax machine began its annoying beep. Roberta burst into the room, dumped her armload of books on the floor, and grabbed the phone receiver. She paused for a split second to take a deep, calming breath.
- 2 "Julia Guzman's office, this is Roberta. How may I help you?"
- 3 The caller rattled off a name and a phone number as Roberta scoured for a pen under the mountain of papers on the desk. As her fingers closed around a pen, she snatched an unopened letter off the top of a stack of mail and scribbled the caller's information on the back of the envelope.
- 4 "Yes, yes, THE Ms. Guzman," Roberta said. "Yes. That's correct, three awards. Yes, yes, I'll tell her. Goodbye."
- 5 As she hung up the phone, a loud beep sounded and she jumped. Turning quickly, she glared at the fax machine and the freshly printed pages begging to be retrieved. There had been many things she had to adjust to during her first two weeks as an intern with Julia Guzman, internationally renowned journalist. The sheer volume of faxes had been one of the hardest things to deal with, second only to her actual job of doing background research.
- 6 Looking back at the mound of paperwork on the desk, Roberta sighed. Okay, she thought, so maybe the fax machine is the third-hardest part of the job. Scanning the fax quickly, Roberta saw that she had time to catch her breath. As she slumped into her chair, Roberta thought back to her very first day working for the very important journalist.
- 7 It was a Monday, and Roberta had arrived fifteen minutes early, only to find Ms. Julia Guzman already at her desk, her hands flying over the keys on the computer. She glanced at Roberta over the top of her glasses and gave the high school student a quick smile.

8 "Give me one second while I finish this email," she said. "Please have a seat."

9 Roberta sat down in the only other chair in the room and balanced her notepad on her lap. Realizing that Ms. Guzman may not appreciate staring, Roberta gazed around the room at the piles of paper stacked precariously on every surface. Turning her head slightly, she looked at the side table where one particularly tall stack of papers trembled slightly as the fax machine beside it continued to print.

10 "Done," Ms. Guzman announced. "Now, let's discuss exactly what you'll be doing here."

11 Roberta knew exactly what Ms. Guzman was going to say because Roberta had read the advertisement posted at her school outlining the duties of the job. However, to show her new employer that she listened to instructions and paid attention to detail, Roberta uncapped her pen and prepared to take notes.

12 "The reason I chose you over the others was because you are qualified to do the job. I need someone who has the ability to check my facts."

13 Roberta paused, her pen hovering over her notepad as she tried to grasp what Ms. Guzman had just said. Looking up, she saw the journalist watching her, and, at a loss for words, Roberta merely nodded.

14 "Great. Then why don't you get started with these," Ms. Guzman said as she held out a bundle of papers thicker than Roberta's notepad. "You can work . . ." The journalist paused as she glanced about the room, then she rose quickly, stepped to the side table, and wrestled the tall pile of papers to the floor.

15 Thinking she should help, Roberta got to her feet just as Ms. Guzman reached for Roberta's chair, dragging it over to the table.

16 "I've got some resources here," she said, pointing to a pile of books on the floor near the door. "The library's just down the street, and you can use the Internet from my computer until we get one set up for you. Don't worry about the mess; I'll get around to cleaning it one of these days."

17 Then, as quickly as the meeting had begun, it was over. Ms. Guzman started typing at her keyboard and seemed to forget that Roberta was even in the room. Ignoring the funny feeling in the pit of her stomach, Roberta sat down at the table and stole a glance at the clock on the wall. She had been at her new job only ten minutes, and the next four hours seemed to loom like the stacks of paper surrounding her.

- 18 The sound of the fax machine shook Roberta from her daydream, and as she watched a page drop into the tray, she spotted her name near the top. Looking closer, Roberta saw that it was from Ms. Guzman's home fax. As she scanned the page, Roberta caught the phrases "story accepted," "editor especially pleased with thorough research," and "great work!"
- 19 Roberta smiled as she opened one of the library books, and before long, she was so engrossed that she didn't even hear the fax machine when it beeped again.



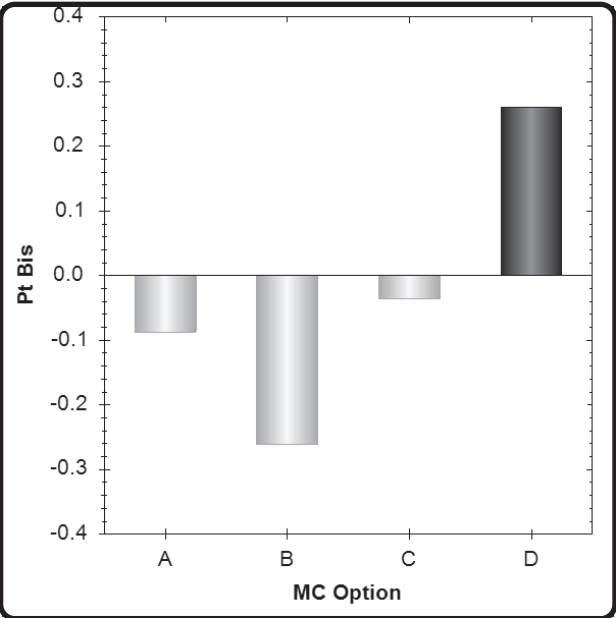
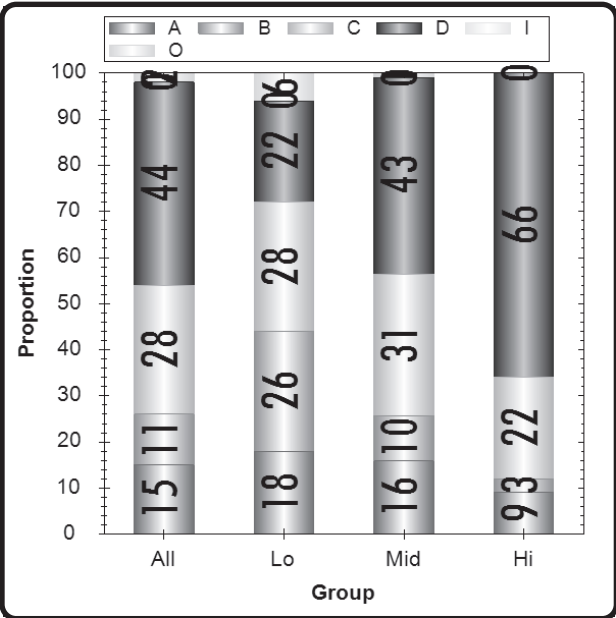
Why is Roberta carrying a stack of books in the beginning of the story?

- Ⓐ She does not yet have access to the Internet.
- Ⓑ She does her homework when she does not have much research work to do.
- Ⓒ She wants to read background material for an article that she is writing.
- Ⓓ She needs them to complete her research for Julia Guzman.

Type	Max Points	Correct Answer	N Count	Item Mean	Discrimination
Multiple Choice	1	D	4000	0.452	0.261

	A	B	C	D	Inv	Omit
All	15	11	28	44	0	2
Low Scorers	18	26	28	22	0	6
Middle Scorers	16	10	31	43	0	1
High Scorers	9	3	22	66	0	0

MC Item Option Discriminations			
A	B	C	D
-0.087	-0.261	-0.036	0.261



Notes:

3342379

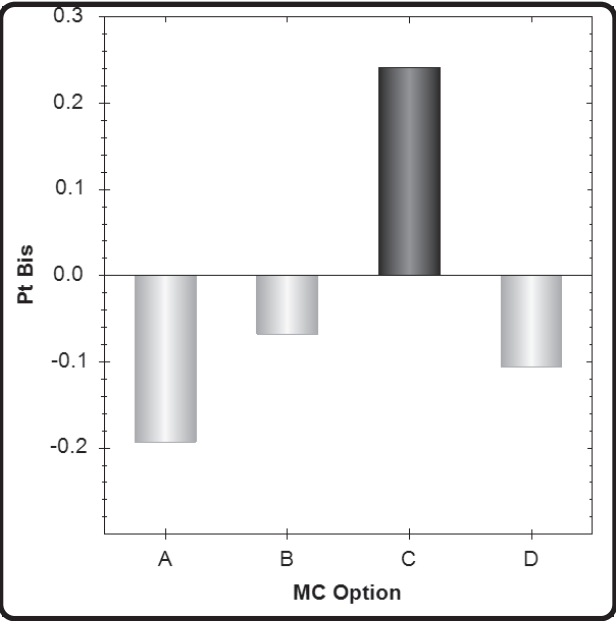
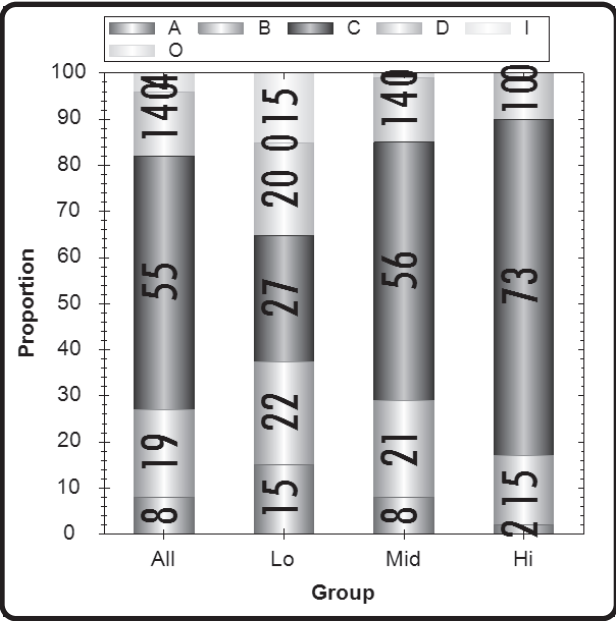
00 Which word best describes Roberta's daily tasks?

- Ⓐ Basic
- Ⓑ Repetitive
- Ⓒ Hectic
- Ⓓ Boring

Type	Max Points	Correct Answer	N Count	Item Mean	Discrimination
Multiple Choice	1	C	1056	0.573	0.242

	A	B	C	D	Inv	Omit
All	8	19	55	14	0	4
Low Scorers	15	22	27	20	0	15
Middle Scorers	8	21	56	14	0	1
High Scorers	2	15	73	10	0	0

MC Item Option Discriminations			
A	B	C	D
-0.193	-0.068	0.242	-0.106



Notes:

3342377

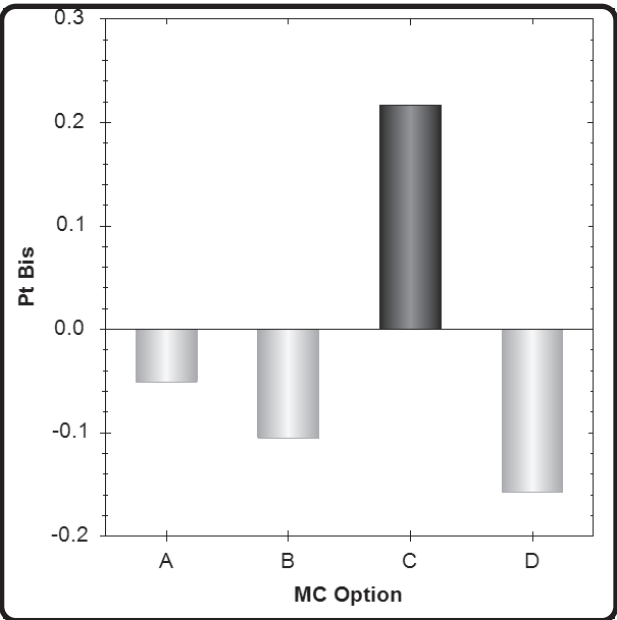
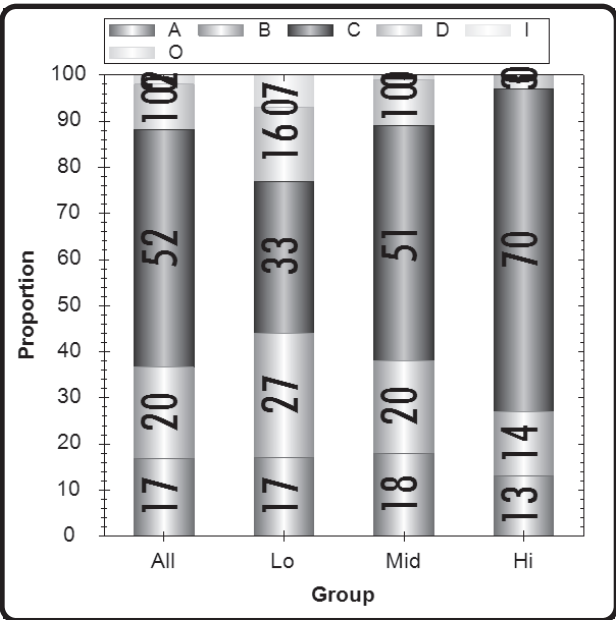
00 Which of these qualifications for Roberta's job best helps to develop the plot?

- Ⓐ The ability to communicate well
- Ⓑ The ability to establish a routine
- Ⓒ The ability to work independently
- Ⓓ The ability to organize a team

Type	Max Points	Correct Answer	N Count	Item Mean	Discrimination
Multiple Choice	1	C	3996	0.531	0.217

	A	B	C	D	Inv	Omit
All	17	20	52	10	0	2
Low Scorers	17	27	33	16	0	7
Middle Scorers	18	20	51	10	0	1
High Scorers	13	14	70	3	0	0

MC Item Option Discriminations			
A	B	C	D
-0.051	-0.105	0.217	-0.157



Notes:

3342385

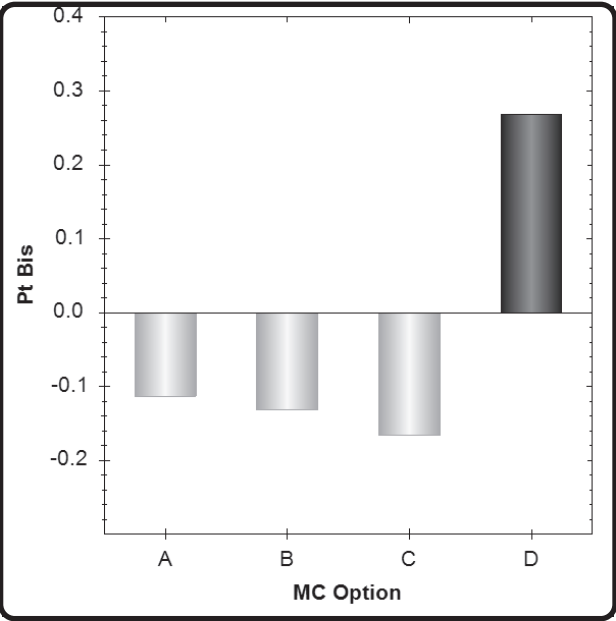
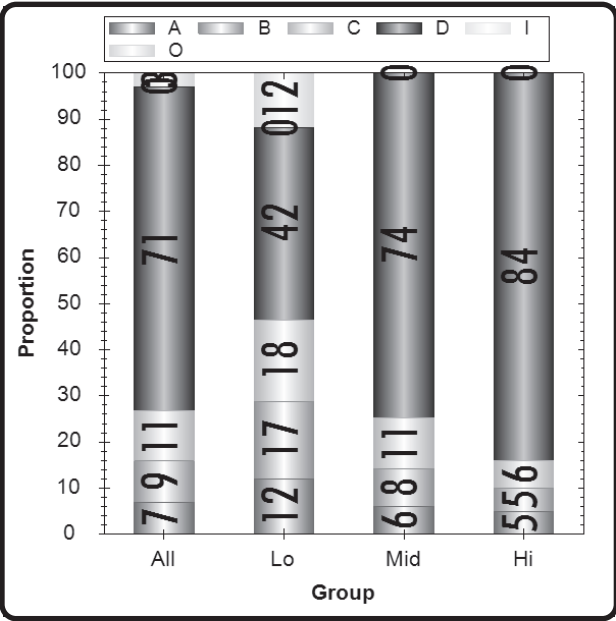
00 Which of these best describes the character of Julia Guzman?

- Ⓐ Creative and imaginative
- Ⓑ Talkative and relaxed
- Ⓒ Systematic and arrogant
- Ⓓ Focused and hardworking

Type	Max Points	Correct Answer	N Count	Item Mean	Discrimination
Multiple Choice	1	D	2135	0.723	0.268

	A	B	C	D	Inv	Omit
All	7	9	11	71	0	3
Low Scorers	12	17	18	42	0	12
Middle Scorers	6	8	11	74	0	0
High Scorers	5	5	6	84	0	0

MC Item Option Discriminations			
A	B	C	D
-0.113	-0.132	-0.166	0.268



Notes:

3342375

00 Which word best describes Julia Guzman's office space?

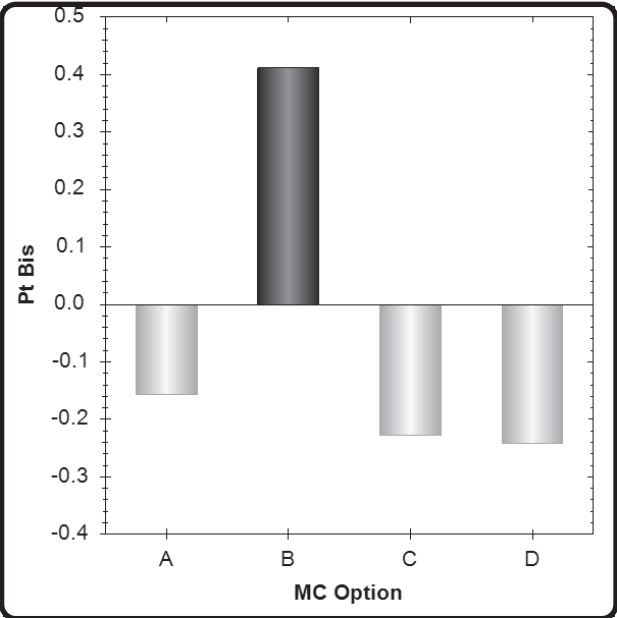
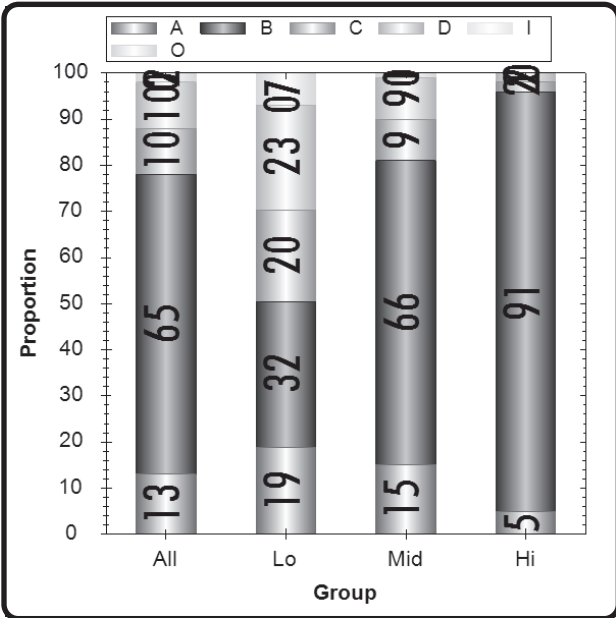
- Ⓐ Loud
- Ⓑ Chaotic
- Ⓒ Gloomy
- Ⓓ Mysterious

Grade 8	Reading	CID 3342375
Item # 3	OP07	R.08.N.1
Psg : Reporting For Work		

Type	Max Points	Correct Answer	N Count	Item Mean	Discrimination
Multiple Choice	1	B	3997	0.663	0.412

	A	B	C	D	Inv	Omit
All	13	65	10	10	0	2
Low Scorers	19	32	20	23	0	7
Middle Scorers	15	66	9	9	0	1
High Scorers	5	91	2	2	0	0

MC Item Option Discriminations			
A	B	C	D
-0.157	0.412	-0.228	-0.241



Notes:

Non SPED students may perform better on this item as compared to SPED students. (B)

3342386

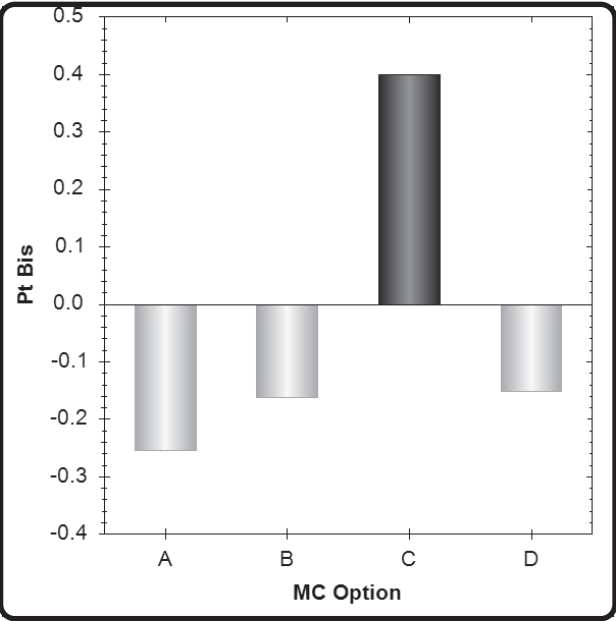
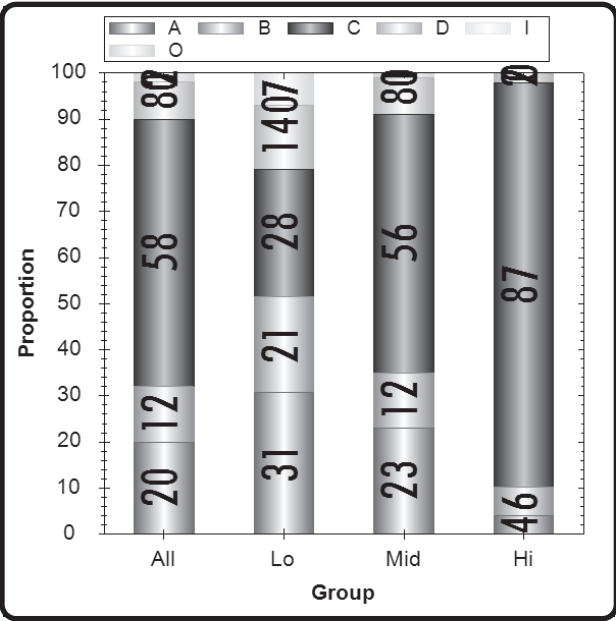
00 Based on details in the story, when will Julia Guzman most likely clean up “the mess” as she promises?

- Ⓐ At the end of the day
- Ⓑ In the following week
- Ⓒ In the distant future
- Ⓓ After receiving an award

Type	Max Points	Correct Answer	N Count	Item Mean	Discrimination
Multiple Choice	1	C	3995	0.595	0.400

	A	B	C	D	Inv	Omit
All	20	12	58	8	0	2
Low Scorers	31	21	28	14	0	7
Middle Scorers	23	12	56	8	0	1
High Scorers	4	6	87	2	0	0

MC Item Option Discriminations			
A	B	C	D
-0.255	-0.162	0.400	-0.152



Notes:

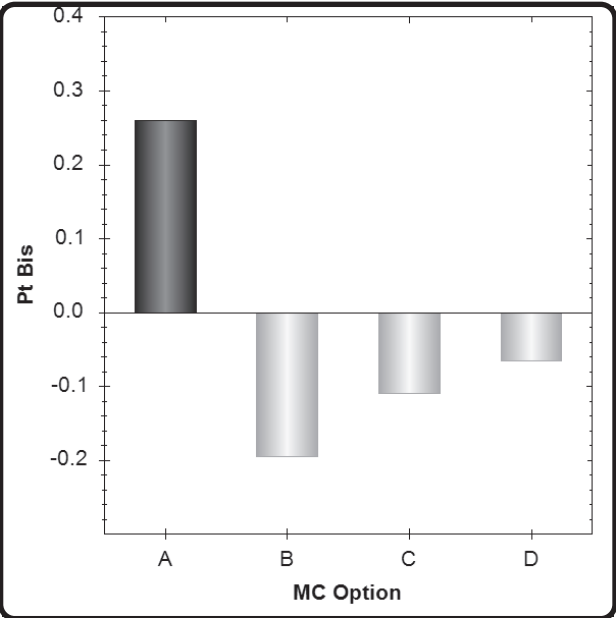
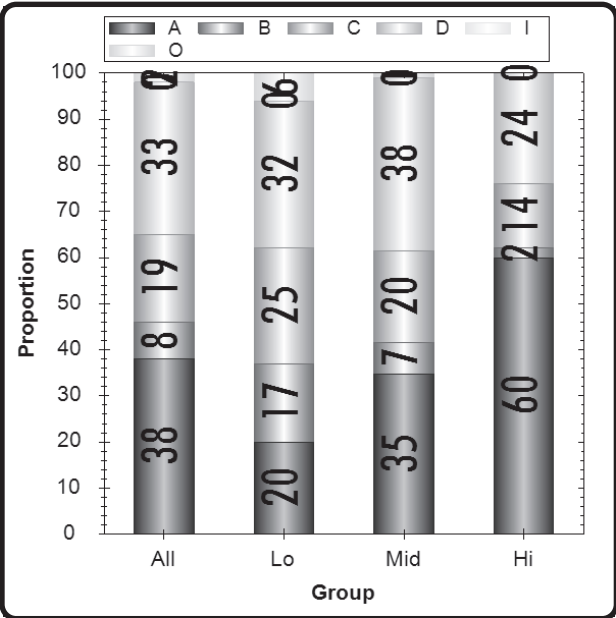
00 What is one conflict in the story?

- Ⓐ Roberta is questioning her satisfaction with her job.
- Ⓑ Roberta is considering getting another job.
- Ⓒ The office atmosphere is overwhelming for Julia Guzman.
- Ⓓ The lack of organization in the office is stressful for Julia Guzman.

Type	Max Points	Correct Answer	N Count	Item Mean	Discrimination
Multiple Choice	1	A	3999	0.389	0.260

	A	B	C	D	Inv	Omit
All	38	8	19	33	0	2
Low Scorers	20	17	25	32	0	6
Middle Scorers	35	7	20	38	0	1
High Scorers	60	2	14	24	0	0

MC Item Option Discriminations			
A	B	C	D
0.260	-0.195	-0.109	-0.065



Notes:

3342388

00

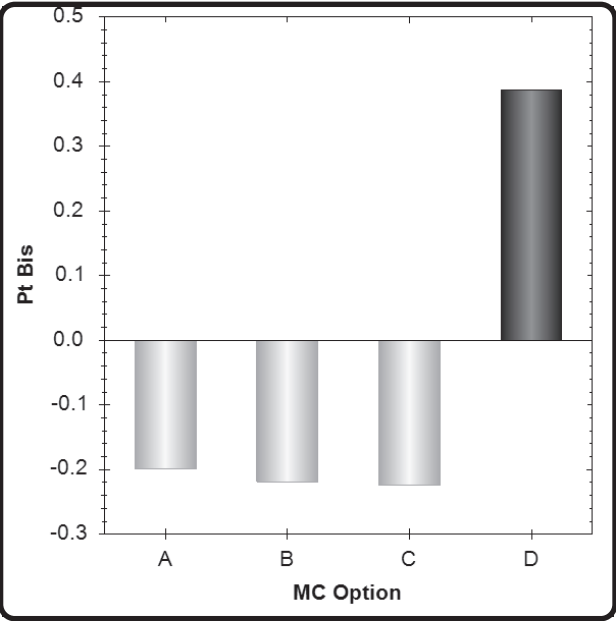
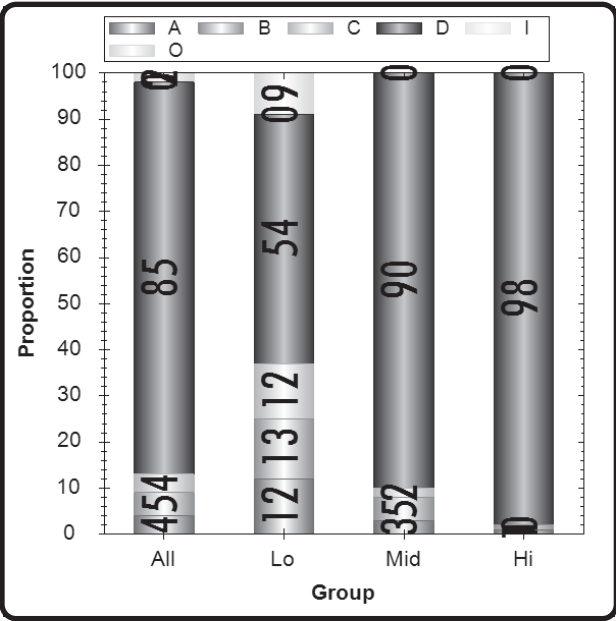
Which detail from the story helps to establish that the story is set in modern times?

- Ⓐ Library books
- Ⓑ Stack of mail
- Ⓒ Telephone
- Ⓓ Fax machine

Type	Max Points	Correct Answer	N Count	Item Mean	Discrimination
Multiple Choice	1	D	1075	0.863	0.388

	A	B	C	D	Inv	Omit
All	4	5	4	85	0	2
Low Scorers	12	13	12	54	0	9
Middle Scorers	3	5	2	90	0	0
High Scorers	1	1	0	98	0	0

MC Item Option Discriminations			
A	B	C	D
-0.199	-0.219	-0.224	0.388



Notes:

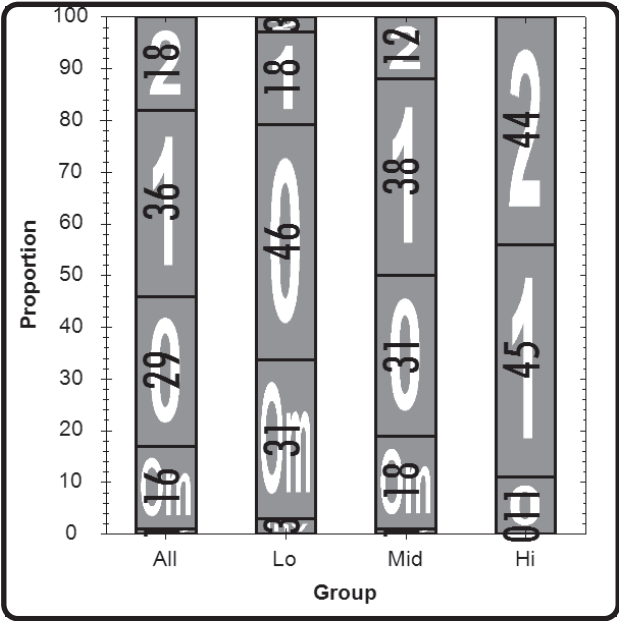
3342394

00 Explain how details of the setting like the trembling side table affect the story's tone. Use examples from the story to support your response.

Grade 8	Reading	CID 3342394
Item # 6	OP07	R.08.N.1
Psg : Reporting For Work		

Type	Max Points	N Count	Item Mean	Discrimination
Short Response	2	3382	0.875	0.440

	0	1	2	Inv	Omit
All	29	36	18	1	16
Low Scorers	46	18	3	3	31
Middle Scorers	31	38	12	1	18
High Scorers	11	45	44	0	0



Notes:

7

I think that the details make the story seem chaotic and hectic. All the towers of papers, fax machine, telephone ringing, and messy room seem to add to the story's tone.

Score 2

The student accurately states that the details make the tone of the story seem “*chaotic*” and “*hectic*” and provides sufficient details describing the setting to support this analysis and to tie the setting to the tone (. . . *towers of papers, fax machine, telephone ringing, and messy room*).

7 Things that effect the story's tone are things like the mess in Ms. Guzman's office. It helps explain the environment.

Score 1

While the student provides a general detail that describes the setting (. . . *the mess in Ms. Guzman's office*) and attempts to tie this detail to the tone of the story (. . . *It helps explain the environment*), he/she does not provide the tone. Overall, the response is only somewhat accurate and relevant, and the details are insufficient to support the student's position.

7	Details affect the story's tone by it helps tell the story.

Score 0

The student attempts to address the task, but does not clearly address the tone or the setting of the story. The statement, “*It helps tell the story*” is too general to explain how the details of the setting affect the tone.

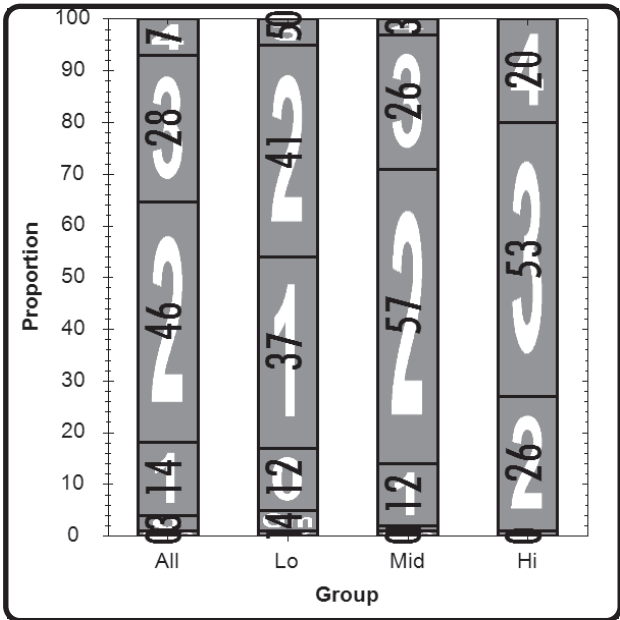
00

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Grade 8 Item # 36	Reading OP06 Psg : Reporting For Work	CID 3342398 R.08.N.3
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Type Extended Response	Max Points 4	N Count 6659	Item Mean 2.204	Discrimination 0.584
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	0	1	2	3	4	Inv	Omit
All	3	14	46	28	7	0	1
Low Scorers	12	37	41	5	0	1	4
Middle Scorers	1	12	57	26	3	0	1
High Scorers	0	1	26	53	20	0	0



Notes:

Female students may perform better on this item as compared to Male students. (B)

Non SPED students may perform better on this item as compared to SPED students. (B)

I think Julia Guzman is not a very good boss.

One reason is that she doesn't have time to show Roberta around to get familiar with the office.

Another reason Ms. Guzman isn't a great boss is because she isn't very orderly. She didn't even have a place for Roberta and had to set a stack of paper on the floor.

In the story it said that once the meeting was over she went back to work not even knowing Roberta was in the room and that wouldn't be good because if Roberta had questions she wouldn't be able to ask them.

That's why I think Ms. Guzman wouldn't make a very good boss.

Score 4

The student answers the question by stating that Julia Guzman is not a good boss. The student goes on to explain that there are three reasons that Julia Guzman is not a good boss (. . . *doesn't have time to show Roberta around, she isn't very orderly, [and] if Roberta had questions she wouldn't be able to ask them*). Furthermore, these explanations are supported by details from the passage (. . . *she didn't have a place for Roberta and had to set a stack of paper on the floor . . . she went back to work not even knowing Roberta was in the room*).

I think I would be frustrated with Julia Guzman being my boss because she doesn't talk to you, she's too focused on her work. Like when she first has her meeting with Julia she said "Just as fast as the meeting began, she was back typing on the computer." I don't think I would be comfortable.

Score 3

The student answers the question by saying that he/she would be frustrated with Julia Guzman, which implies that the student believes that Julia is not a good boss. The explanation for why Julia is not a good boss (. . . *she doesn't talk to you she is too focused on her work*) is supported by a detail from the passage (. . . *when she has her first meeting with Julia she said "Just as fast as the meeting began, she was back typing on the computer."*). This reflects a basic understanding of the character and is minimally sufficient to support the student's interpretation.

NO because she doesn't give good instructions. She also doesn't really "talk" to the helper. And finally no because she is very unorganized.

Score 2

The student provides the interpretation that Julia Guzman is not a good boss and provides details from the passage to support this interpretation (. . . *she doesn't give good instructions . . . doesn't really "talk" to the helper . . . she is very unorganized*). However, these details are general and insufficient to show a clear understanding of the character.

8

She's Just like any other boss
you do what she tells you
to do.

Score 1

This response reflects little understanding of the task and does not provide any details from the passage to support the position. While, the student attempts to address the task by indicating that Julia Guzman is "*Just like any other boss*," this does not clearly explain whether Julia Guzman was a good boss or not.

8

NO: Because she is always checking on Roberta
like if she didn't trust her or like is she
had something to hide from her.

Score 0

The response attempts to explain that Julia Guzman is not a good boss, but the details provided for support (. . . *always checking on Roberta*) are not accurate.

