Grade 6
English Language Arts
(Read this caption to Students with Visual Impairments Only.)
This is a picture of King Tut's face.
King Tut’s Tomb

1 King Tutankhamen, or “King Tut,” was an Egyptian pharaoh who lived over 3,000 years ago. The discovery of his tomb made headlines all over the world.

2 Howard Carter, a British archaeologist, found Tut’s tomb in 1922. Much of the tomb was almost untouched. The king’s sarcophagus (coffin) and mummy were not harmed. Robbers had taken much of the gold treasure.

3 Treasure was not the only reason people were excited over Carter’s discovery. When other tombs were broken into, the mummies were also often broken open. Tut’s mummy was not. Scientists learned a great deal about mummies from Tut’s tomb. Ancient Egyptians had many secrets in making their mummies, but modern science has helped today’s scientists unlock those secrets.
(Read this caption to Students with Visual Impairments Only.)
This is a picture of a boy standing next to a poster on an easel. The poster is labeled “Planets” and there are pictures of planets labeled “Mars,” “Jupiter,” and “Saturn.”
Manuel’s Science Report

1 Manuel is uneasy about presenting his science report about the planets. He wrote a paper and made a display to show the unique details about each planet. He even made a small model to show the planets orbiting the Sun. But tomorrow he must present his project to his class. What if he does not remember to talk about Saturn’s rings or Jupiter’s moons?

2 Manuel talks to his friend Nathan. Yesterday, Nathan read his report about growing plants without soil. It was really interesting, and Manuel was impressed.

3 “How did you remember all the details?” Manuel asks.

4 “I practiced giving my presentation many times,” says Nathan. “Then, when I was in front of the class and started getting nervous, I just imagined everyone cheering me on.”

5 That afternoon, Manuel practices his report. He feels a little better, but he is still worried.

6 The next day, Manuel stands in front of the class. He looks down at his notes. When he looks back up, he imagines that everyone in his class is cheering for him. He takes a deep breath and starts to read his report.
Grade 8
English Language Arts
(Read this caption to Students with Visual Impairments Only.)

This is a picture of two girls having a serious discussion. One girl is holding a cookbook with a cupcake on the cover. The other girl is holding a magazine with a lady on the cover.
The Fund-Raiser

1 Jenny and Maggie were excited to be in charge of this year’s school fund-raiser. The money they raised would help buy all new gym equipment for their school. The girls were sure that being best friends meant that the process would run smoothly. However, as the time for the fund-raiser came closer, they found that they couldn’t have been more wrong.

2 Jenny was sure a bake sale would raise the most money, and Maggie was convinced that selling magazines would bring in more funds.

3 “Maggie, no one reads print magazines anymore,” Jenny pointed out. “They only read them online!”

4 Maggie shook her head. “That’s not true!” she exclaimed. “What about your bake-sale idea?” she asked. “Today, people worry about eating healthy. No one will want to buy cookies and brownies!”

5 Eventually, the girls sat together in silence as they wondered how to resolve their problem. They knew if they didn’t make a decision soon, the fund-raiser could never be organized in time.

6 Finally, Jenny said, “Why don’t we take a survey?” she suggested. “We can ask the other students which idea they like best.”

7 Jenny and Maggie looked at each other and smiled. “Okay! At least that is something we can agree on,” they laughed.
Grades 6–8
English Language Arts—Writing
(Read this caption to Students with Visual Impairments Only.)
This is a picture of a boy texting on a cell phone.
Texting

1 Texting is convenient. It can be a good way to keep in touch with friends and family. It takes only seconds to type and send a text message. Texting can be done from anywhere that a cell phone can be used.

2 In some ways texting is like a conversation because replies go back and forth quickly. It is handy for making plans. It’s a quick way to get in touch with others in case of an emergency. Texting is also a great way to let someone know you’re on the way to meet them.

3 However, texting can be a problem. Some people respond to a text no matter what else they are doing—talking to someone else, sitting in class, or eating a family meal. That is rude. Texting can also be dangerous. People who text while they drive are a danger to themselves and to other people on the road. Many states now have laws against texting while driving.
(Read this caption to Students with Visual Impairments Only.)
This is a picture of a letter. The letter reads “Dear Max, Thank you for the . . . Sincerely, Sam.”
Thank-You Notes

1 Thank-you notes are especially important to write. With all of the electronic ways to stay in touch with people, writing a letter seems old-fashioned to some. People like to write “real” thank-you letters.

2 Writing a letter to say thank you takes time. When using pen and paper instead of a keyboard, mistakes are harder to correct. Your handwriting must be readable. To mail the letter, you need an envelope, a stamp, and the correct address.

3 Receiving a written thank-you note makes people feel special. Writing a thank-you note to someone requires time and attention. That may be why some people believe writing a thank-you note is the best way to show that you are truly thankful.