



2015 Released Items: Grade 8 Performance-Based Assessment Narrative Writing Task

The Narrative Writing Task focuses on one literary text. Students read the text, answer questions, and then write a narrative response that is tied to and draws on the text.

The 2015 blueprint for PARCC's grade 8 Narrative Writing Task includes five Evidence-Based Selected Response/Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response items as well as one Prose Constructed Response prompt. This document includes a complete Narrative Writing Task from an online summative assessment, as well as an additional item from a paper form.

Included in this document:

- Answer key and standards alignment
- PDFs of each item with the associated text

Additional related materials not included in this document:

- Sample scored student responses with practice papers
- PARCC Scoring Rubric for Prose Constructed Response Items
- Guide to English Language Arts/Literacy Released Items: Understanding Scoring
- PARCC English Language Arts/Literacy Assessment: General Scoring Rules for the 2015 Summative Assessment

Note:

Item 5913_A represents an item type no longer being developed for the PARCC ELA/literacy summative assessment.

PARCC Release Items Answer and Alignment Document
ELA/Literacy Grade 8
Narrative Writing Task

Task: Narrative Writing Task (NWT)														
Passage(s): The Fox and the Horse														
Item Code	Answer(s)	Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment												
5685	Item Type: TECR <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Character</th> <th>Trait</th> <th>Evidence</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>peasant</td> <td>honesty</td> <td>The peasant takes back the horse and offers to feed him forever.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>lion</td> <td>avarice</td> <td>The lion allows the fox to tie him to the horse in order to get the promised meal.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>fox</td> <td>honesty</td> <td>The fox offers to help the horse.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Character	Trait	Evidence	peasant	honesty	The peasant takes back the horse and offers to feed him forever.	lion	avarice	The lion allows the fox to tie him to the horse in order to get the promised meal.	fox	honesty	The fox offers to help the horse.	RL 8.1.1 RL 8.2.3 RL 8.3.3
Character	Trait	Evidence												
peasant	honesty	The peasant takes back the horse and offers to feed him forever.												
lion	avarice	The lion allows the fox to tie him to the horse in order to get the promised meal.												
fox	honesty	The fox offers to help the horse.												
5814_A	Item Type: EBSR Part A: B Part B: A	RL 8.1.1 RL 8.2.3 RL 8.3.1 RL 8.3.2 RI 8.1.2												
5682_A	Item Type: EBSR Part A: A Part B: B	RL 8.1.1 RL 8.3.1 RL 8.3.3												
5913_A	Item Type: EBSR Part A: A, C Part B: C, D	RL 8.1.1 RL 8.2.4												
5681_A	Item Type: EBSR Part A: D Part B: C	RL 8.1.1 RL 8.2.1 RL 8.1.2												
5687	Item Type: PCR Refer to Grade 6-11 Scoring Rubric	W 8.3 W 8.4—W 8.10												
5683_A	Item Type: EBSR (paper form – additional item) Part A: A Part B: C	RL 8.1.1 RL 8.3.1												

Today you will read the folktale “The Fox and the Horse.” As you read, pay close attention to characters and events as you answer the questions to prepare to write a narrative story.

Read the folktale “The Fox and the Horse.” Then answer the questions.

The Fox and the Horse

- 1 A peasant once had a faithful horse, but it had grown old and could no longer do its work. Its master grudged it food, and said: “I can’t use you any more, but I still feel kindly towards you, and if you show yourself strong enough to bring me a lion I will keep you to the end of your days. But away with you now, out of my stable”; and he drove it out into the open country.
- 2 The poor horse was very sad, and went into the forest to get a little shelter from the wind and weather. There he met a fox, who said: “Why do you hang your head, and wander about in this solitary fashion?”
- 3 “Alas!” answered the horse, “avarice and honesty cannot live together. My master has forgotten all the service I have done him for these many years, and because I can no longer plough he will no longer feed me, and he has driven me away.”
- 4 “Without any consideration?” asked the fox.
- 5 “Only the poor consolation of telling me that if I was strong enough to bring him a lion he would keep me, but he knows well enough that the task is beyond me.”
- 6 The fox said: “But I will help you. Just you lie down here, and stretch your legs out as if you were dead.” The horse did as he was told, and the fox went to the lion’s den, not far off, and said: “There is a dead horse out there. Come along with me, and you will have a rare meal.” The lion went with him, and when they got up to the horse, the fox said: “You can’t eat it in comfort here. I’ll tell you what. I will tie it to you, and you can drag it away to your den, and enjoy it at your leisure.”
- 7 The plan pleased the lion, and he stood quite still, close to the horse, so that the fox should fasten them together. But the fox tied the lion’s legs together with the horse’s tail, and twisted and knotted it so that it would be quite impossible for it to come undone.
- 8 When he had finished his work he patted the horse on the shoulder, and said: “Pull, old grey! Pull!”
- 9 Then the horse sprang up, and dragged the lion away behind him. The lion in his rage roared, so that all the birds in the forest were terrified, and flew away. But the horse let him roar, and never stopped till he stood before his master’s door.
- 10 When the master saw him he was delighted, and said to him: “You shall stay with me, and have a good time as long as you live.”
- 11 And he fed him well till he died.

“The Fox and the Horse”—Public Domain

In paragraph 3, the horse tells the fox that **avarice and honesty cannot live together**.

The peasant, the fox, and the lion represent the traits in the folktale as shown in the chart. Drag **one** piece of evidence into the appropriate box to support **each** trait.

Evidence

- The peasant drives the horse away after years of service.
- The peasant offers no sympathy to the horse and gives the horse a task to prove himself.
- The fox plays a trick on the lion.
- The lion allows the fox to tie him to the horse in order to get the promised meal.
- The lion roars angrily.
- The peasant takes back the horse and offers to feed him forever.
- The fox offers to help the horse.

Character	Trait	Evidence
peasant	honesty	
lion	avarice	
fox	honesty	

Today you will read the folktale “The Fox and the Horse.” As you read, pay close attention to characters and events as you answer the questions to prepare to write a narrative story.

Read the folktale “The Fox and the Horse.” Then answer the questions.

The Fox and the Horse

- 1 A peasant once had a faithful horse, but it had grown old and could no longer do its work. Its master grudged it food, and said: “I can’t use you any more, but I still feel kindly towards you, and if you show yourself strong enough to bring me a lion I will keep you to the end of your days. But away with you now, out of my stable”; and he drove it out into the open country.
- 2 The poor horse was very sad, and went into the forest to get a little shelter from the wind and weather. There he met a fox, who said: “Why do you hang your head, and wander about in this solitary fashion?”
- 3 “Alas!” answered the horse, “avarice and honesty cannot live together. My master has forgotten all the service I have done him for these many years, and because I can no longer plough he will no longer feed me, and he has driven me away.”
- 4 “Without any consideration?” asked the fox.
- 5 “Only the poor consolation of telling me that if I was strong enough to bring him a lion he would keep me, but he knows well enough that the task is beyond me.”
- 6 The fox said: “But I will help you. Just you lie down here, and stretch your legs out as if you were dead.” The horse did as he was told, and the fox went to the lion’s den, not far off, and said: “There is a dead horse out there. Come along with me, and you will have a rare meal.” The lion went with him, and when they got up to the horse, the fox said: “You can’t eat it in comfort here. I’ll tell you what. I will tie it to you, and you can drag it away to your den, and enjoy it at your leisure.”
- 7 The plan pleased the lion, and he stood quite still, close to the horse, so that the fox should fasten them together. But the fox tied the lion’s legs together with the horse’s tail, and twisted and knotted it so that it would be quite impossible for it to come undone.
- 8 When he had finished his work he patted the horse on the shoulder, and said: “Pull, old grey! Pull!”
- 9 Then the horse sprang up, and dragged the lion away behind him. The lion in his rage roared, so that all the birds in the forest were terrified, and flew away. But the horse let him roar, and never stopped till he stood before his master’s door.
- 10 When the master saw him he was delighted, and said to him: “You shall stay with me, and have a good time as long as you live.”
- 11 And he fed him well till he died.

“The Fox and the Horse”—Public Domain

Part A

In order for his plan to work, what did the fox need **most**?

- A. The horse had to be a good actor.
- B. The lion had to trust the fox.
- C. The horse had to be patient with the fox.
- D. The lion had to be hungry.

Part B

What does the fox tell the lion that causes the answer to Part A?

- A. The lion should eat his meal in comfort.
- B. Horse meat is delicious.
- C. The horse is dead.
- D. The lion should lie down and wait for the fox to return.

Today you will read the folktale “The Fox and the Horse.” As you read, pay close attention to characters and events as you answer the questions to prepare to write a narrative story.

Read the folktale “The Fox and the Horse.” Then answer the questions.

The Fox and the Horse

- 1 A peasant once had a faithful horse, but it had grown old and could no longer do its work. Its master grudged it food, and said: “I can’t use you any more, but I still feel kindly towards you, and if you show yourself strong enough to bring me a lion I will keep you to the end of your days. But away with you now, out of my stable”; and he drove it out into the open country.
- 2 The poor horse was very sad, and went into the forest to get a little shelter from the wind and weather. There he met a fox, who said: “Why do you hang your head, and wander about in this solitary fashion?”
- 3 “Alas!” answered the horse, “avarice and honesty cannot live together. My master has forgotten all the service I have done him for these many years, and because I can no longer plough he will no longer feed me, and he has driven me away.”
- 4 “Without any consideration?” asked the fox.
- 5 “Only the poor consolation of telling me that if I was strong enough to bring him a lion he would keep me, but he knows well enough that the task is beyond me.”
- 6 The fox said: “But I will help you. Just you lie down here, and stretch your legs out as if you were dead.” The horse did as he was told, and the fox went to the lion’s den, not far off, and said: “There is a dead horse out there. Come along with me, and you will have a rare meal.” The lion went with him, and when they got up to the horse, the fox said: “You can’t eat it in comfort here. I’ll tell you what. I will tie it to you, and you can drag it away to your den, and enjoy it at your leisure.”
- 7 The plan pleased the lion, and he stood quite still, close to the horse, so that the fox should fasten them together. But the fox tied the lion’s legs together with the horse’s tail, and twisted and knotted it so that it would be quite impossible for it to come undone.
- 8 When he had finished his work he patted the horse on the shoulder, and said: “Pull, old grey! Pull!”
- 9 Then the horse sprang up, and dragged the lion away behind him. The lion in his rage roared, so that all the birds in the forest were terrified, and flew away. But the horse let him roar, and never stopped till he stood before his master’s door.
- 10 When the master saw him he was delighted, and said to him: “You shall stay with me, and have a good time as long as you live.”
- 11 And he fed him well till he died.

“The Fox and the Horse”—Public Domain

Part A

Which aspect of the horse’s character **best** helps to solve the conflict in the folktale?

- A. trust
- B. sorrow
- C. strength
- D. persistence

Part B

Which sentence from the folktale **best** illustrates the answer to Part A?

- A. “The poor horse was very sad, and went into the forest to get a little shelter from the wind and weather.” (paragraph 2)
- B. “The horse did as he was told, and the fox went to the lion’s den, not far off, and said: ‘There is a dead horse out there.’” (paragraph 6)
- C. “When he had finished his work he patted the horse on the shoulder, and said: ‘Pull, old grey! Pull!’” (paragraph 8)
- D. “But the horse let him roar, and never stopped till he stood before his master’s door.” (paragraph 9)

Today you will read the folktale “The Fox and the Horse.” As you read, pay close attention to characters and events as you answer the questions to prepare to write a narrative story.

Read the folktale “The Fox and the Horse.” Then answer the questions.

The Fox and the Horse

- 1 A peasant once had a faithful horse, but it had grown old and could no longer do its work. Its master grudged it food, and said: “I can’t use you any more, but I still feel kindly towards you, and if you show yourself strong enough to bring me a lion I will keep you to the end of your days. But away with you now, out of my stable”; and he drove it out into the open country.
- 2 The poor horse was very sad, and went into the forest to get a little shelter from the wind and weather. There he met a fox, who said: “Why do you hang your head, and wander about in this solitary fashion?”
- 3 “Alas!” answered the horse, “avarice and honesty cannot live together. My master has forgotten all the service I have done him for these many years, and because I can no longer plough he will no longer feed me, and he has driven me away.”
- 4 “Without any consideration?” asked the fox.
- 5 “Only the poor consolation of telling me that if I was strong enough to bring him a lion he would keep me, but he knows well enough that the task is beyond me.”
- 6 The fox said: “But I will help you. Just you lie down here, and stretch your legs out as if you were dead.” The horse did as he was told, and the fox went to the lion’s den, not far off, and said: “There is a dead horse out there. Come along with me, and you will have a rare meal.” The lion went with him, and when they got up to the horse, the fox said: “You can’t eat it in comfort here. I’ll tell you what. I will tie it to you, and you can drag it away to your den, and enjoy it at your leisure.”
- 7 The plan pleased the lion, and he stood quite still, close to the horse, so that the fox should fasten them together. But the fox tied the lion’s legs together with the horse’s tail, and twisted and knotted it so that it would be quite impossible for it to come undone.
- 8 When he had finished his work he patted the horse on the shoulder, and said: “Pull, old grey! Pull!”
- 9 Then the horse sprang up, and dragged the lion away behind him. The lion in his rage roared, so that all the birds in the forest were terrified, and flew away. But the horse let him roar, and never stopped till he stood before his master’s door.
- 10 When the master saw him he was delighted, and said to him: “You shall stay with me, and have a good time as long as you live.”
- 11 And he fed him well till he died.

“The Fox and the Horse”—Public Domain

Part A

Which **two** sentences belong in a summary of “The Fox and the Horse”?

- A. The old horse is sent away by his owner.
- B. The horse lay down as the fox told him to do.
- C. The horse receives help from a cunning fox.
- D. The peasant does not want to feed an old horse.
- E. The birds in the forest are frightened by the lion.
- F. The horse ignores the lion’s enraged roar.

Part B

Which **two** additional sentences belong in the summary in Part A?

- A. The horse was sad when his master turned him out.
- B. The fox promises the lion a special meal.
- C. The fox tricks the lion into being tied to the horse.
- D. The horse is able to bring a lion back to his master.
- E. The lion is in his den when the fox comes to trick him.
- F. The master forgot the horse’s many years of service.

Today you will read the folktale “The Fox and the Horse.” As you read, pay close attention to characters and events as you answer the questions to prepare to write a narrative story.

Read the folktale “The Fox and the Horse.” Then answer the questions.

The Fox and the Horse

- 1 A peasant once had a faithful horse, but it had grown old and could no longer do its work. Its master grudged it food, and said: “I can’t use you any more, but I still feel kindly towards you, and if you show yourself strong enough to bring me a lion I will keep you to the end of your days. But away with you now, out of my stable”; and he drove it out into the open country.
- 2 The poor horse was very sad, and went into the forest to get a little shelter from the wind and weather. There he met a fox, who said: “Why do you hang your head, and wander about in this solitary fashion?”
- 3 “Alas!” answered the horse, “avarice and honesty cannot live together. My master has forgotten all the service I have done him for these many years, and because I can no longer plough he will no longer feed me, and he has driven me away.”
- 4 “Without any consideration?” asked the fox.
- 5 “Only the poor consolation of telling me that if I was strong enough to bring him a lion he would keep me, but he knows well enough that the task is beyond me.”
- 6 The fox said: “But I will help you. Just you lie down here, and stretch your legs out as if you were dead.” The horse did as he was told, and the fox went to the lion’s den, not far off, and said: “There is a dead horse out there. Come along with me, and you will have a rare meal.” The lion went with him, and when they got up to the horse, the fox said: “You can’t eat it in comfort here. I’ll tell you what. I will tie it to you, and you can drag it away to your den, and enjoy it at your leisure.”
- 7 The plan pleased the lion, and he stood quite still, close to the horse, so that the fox should fasten them together. But the fox tied the lion’s legs together with the horse’s tail, and twisted and knotted it so that it would be quite impossible for it to come undone.
- 8 When he had finished his work he patted the horse on the shoulder, and said: “Pull, old grey! Pull!”
- 9 Then the horse sprang up, and dragged the lion away behind him. The lion in his rage roared, so that all the birds in the forest were terrified, and flew away. But the horse let him roar, and never stopped till he stood before his master’s door.
- 10 When the master saw him he was delighted, and said to him: “You shall stay with me, and have a good time as long as you live.”
- 11 And he fed him well till he died.

“The Fox and the Horse”—Public Domain

Part A

Which statement **best** expresses a central idea in the folktale?

- A. Loyal friends can be trusted.
- B. Honest people are good friends.
- C. Individuals who show kindness are often treated the same way.
- D. Individuals can accomplish more with the help of others.

Part B

Which sentence from the folktale **best** demonstrates this idea?

- A. “A peasant once had a faithful horse, but it had grown old and could no longer do its work.” (paragraph 1)
- B. “Only the poor consolation of telling me that if I was strong enough to bring him a lion he would keep me, but he knows well enough that the task is beyond me.” (paragraph 5)
- C. “Then the horse sprang up, and dragged the lion away behind him.” (paragraph 9)
- D. “When the master saw him he was delighted, and said to him: ‘You shall stay with me, and have a good time as long as you live.’” (paragraph 10)

Today you will read the folktale “The Fox and the Horse.” As you read, pay close attention to characters and events as you answer the questions to prepare to write a narrative story.

Read the folktale “The Fox and the Horse.” Then answer the questions.

The Fox and the Horse

- 1 A peasant once had a faithful horse, but it had grown old and could no longer do its work. Its master grudged it food, and said: “I can’t use you any more, but I still feel kindly towards you, and if you show yourself strong enough to bring me a lion I will keep you to the end of your days. But away with you now, out of my stable”; and he drove it out into the open country.
- 2 The poor horse was very sad, and went into the forest to get a little shelter from the wind and weather. There he met a fox, who said: “Why do you hang your head, and wander about in this solitary fashion?”
- 3 “Alas!” answered the horse, “avarice and honesty cannot live together. My master has forgotten all the service I have done him for these many years, and because I can no longer plough he will no longer feed me, and he has driven me away.”
- 4 “Without any consideration?” asked the fox.
- 5 “Only the poor consolation of telling me that if I was strong enough to bring him a lion he would keep me, but he knows well enough that the task is beyond me.”
- 6 The fox said: “But I will help you. Just you lie down here, and stretch your legs out as if you were dead.” The horse did as he was told, and the fox went to the lion’s den, not far off, and said: “There is a dead horse out there. Come along with me, and you will have a rare meal.” The lion went with him, and when they got up to the horse, the fox said: “You can’t eat it in comfort here. I’ll tell you what. I will tie it to you, and you can drag it away to your den, and enjoy it at your leisure.”
- 7 The plan pleased the lion, and he stood quite still, close to the horse, so that the fox should fasten them together. But the fox tied the lion’s legs together with the horse’s tail, and twisted and knotted it so that it would be quite impossible for it to come undone.
- 8 When he had finished his work he patted the horse on the shoulder, and said: “Pull, old grey! Pull!”
- 9 Then the horse sprang up, and dragged the lion away behind him. The lion in his rage roared, so that all the birds in the forest were terrified, and flew away. But the horse let him roar, and never stopped till he stood before his master’s door.
- 10 When the master saw him he was delighted, and said to him: “You shall stay with me, and have a good time as long as you live.”
- 11 And he fed him well till he died.

“The Fox and the Horse”—Public Domain

Beginning after paragraph 9, write an alternate ending to the folktale using details about the characters and events from the passage. You may choose to use dialogue in your new ending.

B
I
U
☰
☰
↶
↷

Today you will read the folktale “The Fox and the Horse.” As you read, pay close attention to characters and events as you answer the questions to prepare to write a narrative story.

Read the folktale “The Fox and the Horse.” Then answer the questions.

The Fox and the Horse

- 1 A peasant once had a faithful horse, but it had grown old and could no longer do its work. Its master grudged it food, and said: “I can’t use you any more, but I still feel kindly towards you, and if you show yourself strong enough to bring me a lion I will keep you to the end of your days. But away with you now, out of my stable”; and he drove it out into the open country.
- 2 The poor horse was very sad, and went into the forest to get a little shelter from the wind and weather. There he met a fox, who said: “Why do you hang your head, and wander about in this solitary fashion?”
- 3 “Alas!” answered the horse, “avarice and honesty cannot live together. My master has forgotten all the service I have done him for these many years, and because I can no longer plough he will no longer feed me, and he has driven me away.”
- 4 “Without any consideration?” asked the fox.
- 5 “Only the poor consolation of telling me that if I was strong enough to bring him a lion he would keep me, but he knows well enough that the task is beyond me.”
- 6 The fox said: “But I will help you. Just you lie down here, and stretch your legs out as if you were dead.” The horse did as he was told, and the fox went to the lion’s den, not far off, and said: “There is a dead horse out there. Come along with me, and you will have a rare meal.” The lion went with him, and when they got up to the horse, the fox said: “You can’t eat it in comfort here. I’ll tell you what. I will tie it to you, and you can drag it away to your den, and enjoy it at your leisure.”
- 7 The plan pleased the lion, and he stood quite still, close to the horse, so that the fox should fasten them together. But the fox tied the lion’s legs together with the horse’s tail, and twisted and knotted it so that it would be quite impossible for it to come undone.
- 8 When he had finished his work he patted the horse on the shoulder, and said: “Pull, old grey! Pull!”
- 9 Then the horse sprang up, and dragged the lion away behind him. The lion in his rage roared, so that all the birds in the forest were terrified, and flew away. But the horse let him roar, and never stopped till he stood before his master’s door.
- 10 When the master saw him he was delighted, and said to him: “You shall stay with me, and have a good time as long as you live.”
- 11 And he fed him well till he died.

“The Fox and the Horse”—Public Domain

Part A

Why does the horse decide to follow the fox’s plan without knowing what it is?

- A. because the horse has lost his self-confidence
- B. because the fox has helped him before
- C. because the fox knows where the lion’s den is
- D. because the horse is lonely

Part B

Which excerpt from the folktale supports the answer to Part A?

- A. “The poor horse was very sad” (paragraph 2)
- B. “Why do you hang your head, and wander about in this solitary fashion?” (paragraph 2)
- C. “. . . if I was strong enough to bring him a lion he would keep me, but he knows well enough that the task is beyond me.” (paragraph 5)
- D. “The horse did as he was told, and the fox went to the lion’s den” (paragraph 6)