



Grade 10
English Language Arts/Literacy
End of Year Paired Text Set

2017 Released Items

2017 Released Items: Grade 10 End of Year Paired Text Set

The paired text set requires students to read two texts that are purposely paired. Students read the texts and answer questions about each text and about the texts as a pair.

The 2017 blueprint for the grade 10 paired text set includes Evidence-Based Selected Response/Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response items.

Included in this document:

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

Additional related materials not included in this document:

- Guide to English Language Arts/Literacy Released Items: Understanding Scoring
- PARCC English Language Arts/Literacy Assessment: General Scoring Rules for the 2015 Summative Assessment

PARCC Release Items Answer and Alignment Document
ELA/Literacy: Grade 10

Text Type: Paired Lit		
Passage(s): "Three Questions" / "Carpe Diem"		
Item Code	Answer(s)	Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment
VF822019	Item Type: EBSR Part A: B Part B: C	RL 10.1.1 L 10.4.1
VH004473	Item Type: EBSR Part A: B Part B: A	RL 10.1.1 RL 10.3.2
VF822030	Item Type: EBSR Part A: D Part B: D	RL 10.1.1 RL 10.3.1
VF822045	Item Type: EBSR Part A: C Part B: C	RL 10.1.1 RL 10.2.2 RL 10.5.1
VF822185	Item Type: EBSR Part A: A Part B: C	RL 10.1.1 L 10.5.1
VH004505	Item Type: EBSR Part A: A Part B: D	RL 10.1.1 RL 10.2.2 RL 10.3.1

Today you will read the story “Three Questions” and the poem “Carpe Diem” about taking advantage of the present moment.

Read the story “Three Questions.” Then answer the questions.

Three Questions

by Leo Tolstoy

- 1** It once occurred to a certain king, that, if he always knew the right time to begin everything, if he knew who were the right people to attend to and whom to avoid, and, above all, if he always knew what was the most important thing to do, he would never fail in any of his undertakings.
- 2** And this thought having occurred to him, he had it proclaimed throughout his dominions that he would give a great reward to anyone who would teach him how to know the right time for every action, and who were the most necessary people, and how to be sure what was the most important thing to do.
- 3** And learned men came to the king, but they all gave different answers to his questions.
- 4** In reply to the first question, some said that, to know the right time for every action, one must draw up, in advance, a table of the days, months, and years—and strictly follow this table. Only thus said they, could everything be done at its proper time. Others declared that it was impossible to decide beforehand the right time for every action; but, not letting oneself be absorbed in idle pastimes, one should always attend to all that goes on, and then do what is most needful. Others, again, said that, however attentive the king might be to what was going on, it was impossible for one man to decide correctly the right time for every action, but that he should have a council of wise men, who would help him to fix the proper time for everything.
- 5** But then, again, others said, there were some things which could not wait to be laid before a council, but about which one had to decide at once whether to undertake them or not. But to decide thus, one must know

beforehand what is going to happen. Only magicians could know that; and, therefore, in order to know the right time for every action, one must consult the magicians.

- 6** Equally various were the answers to the second question. Some said, the people the king most needed were his councilors; others, that those needed were the priests; others, that he needed the doctors most; while some said that the warriors were the most necessary.
- 7** To the third question, as to what was the most important occupation, some replied that the most important thing in the world was science. Others said it was skill in warfare, and others again, that it was religious worship.
- 8** All the answers being different, the king agreed with none of them, and gave the reward to no one. But, in order to find the right answers to his questions, he decided to consult a hermit widely renowned for his wisdom.
- 9** The hermit lived in a wood, never went out anywhere, and received only common folk. So the king put on simple clothes, and, before reaching the hermit's cell, dismounted from his horse, and, leaving his bodyguard behind, went on alone.
- 10** When the king approached, the hermit was digging some beds in front of his hut. Seeing the king, he greeted him and went on digging. The hermit was thin and weak, and each time he stuck his spade into the ground and turned a little earth, he breathed heavily.
- 11** The king went up to him and said:
- 12** "I have come to you, wise hermit, to ask you to answer me three questions: What time must one use and not neglect, lest one repent it? Who are the people one most needs, and, therefore, to whom should one pay most attention? And, what affairs are the most important, and should be first attended to?"
- 13** The hermit listened to the king, but answered nothing; he just spat on his hand and recommenced digging.

- 14** “You are tired,” said the king; “let me have the spade: I’ll work awhile for you.”
- 15** “Thanks!” said the hermit, and giving the spade to the king, he sat down on the ground.
- 16** When he had dug two beds, the king stopped and repeated his questions. The hermit again gave no answer, but rose, stretched out his hand for the spade, and said:
- 17** “Now rest awhile. Let me work a bit.”
- 18** But the king did not give him the spade, and continued digging. One hour passed, and another. The sun began to sink behind the trees, and the king at last struck his spade into the ground and said:
- 19** “I came to you, wise man, for an answer to my questions. If you can give me none, tell me so, and I will go home.”
- 20** “Here comes someone running,” said the hermit; “let us see who it is.”
- 21** The king turned round, and saw a bearded man come running out of the wood. The man held his stomach with his hands, and blood was flowing from under them. When he reached the king, the runner fell fainting on the ground and only moaned feebly. The king and the hermit unfastened the man’s clothing. There was a large wound in his stomach. The king washed it as best he could, and bandaged it with his handkerchief and with the hermit’s towel. But the blood would not stop flowing, and the king again and again removed the bandage soaked with warm blood, and washed and rebandaged the wound. When at last the blood ceased to flow, the man revived and asked for something to drink. The king brought fresh water and gave it to him. Meanwhile the sun had quite set, and it grew cool. So the king, with the hermit’s help, carried the wounded man into the hut and laid him on the bed. Lying on the bed the man closed his eyes and was quiet; but the king was so tired with his walk and with the work he had done that he crouched down on the threshold, and also fell asleep—so soundly that he slept all through the short summer night. When he awoke in the morning, it was long before he could make out

where he was, or who was that strange bearded man lying on the bed and gazing intently at him with glittering eyes.

22 “Forgive me!” said the bearded man in a weak voice, when he saw that the king was awake and looking at him.

23 “I do not know you, and have nothing to forgive you for,” said the king.

24 “You do not know me, but I know you. I am that enemy of yours who swore to revenge himself on you, because you executed my brother and seized my property. I knew you had gone alone to see the hermit, and I resolved to kill you on your way back. But the day passed and you did not return. So I came out from my ambush to discover where you were, and I came upon your bodyguard, and they recognized me and wounded me. I ran away from them, but I should have bled to death had you not dressed my wound. I wished to kill you, and you have saved my life. Now, if I live, and if you wish it, I will serve you as your most faithful slave, and will bid my sons do the same. Forgive me!”

25 The king was very glad to have made peace with his enemy so easily, and not only forgave him, but said he would send his servants and his own physician to attend him, and promised to restore his property.

26 Having taken leave of the wounded man, the king went out into the porch and looked round for the hermit. Before going away he wished once more to ask for an answer to the questions he had put. The hermit was outside, on his knees, sowing vegetable seeds in the beds that had been dug before.

27 The king approached him, and said:

28 “For the last time, I beg you to answer my questions, wise man.”

29 “Why, you have been answered,” said the hermit, crouching on his thin legs and looking up at the king, who stood before him.

30 “Answered? What do you mean?” asked the king.

31 “Why, of course,” replied the hermit, “if you had not pitied my weakness yesterday and dug these beds for me, but had gone back alone, that man

would have attacked you, and you would have repented of not having stayed with me. So the most important time was when you were digging the beds; and I was the most important man; and to do me good was your most important business. Afterward, when that man ran to us, the most important time was when you were attending to him, for if you had not bound up his wounds he would have died without having made peace with you. So he was the most important man, and what you did for him was your most important business. Remember then: there is only one time that is important—*now*. It is the most important time, because it is the only time when we have any power. The most necessary man is *he with whom you are*, for no man knows whether he will ever have dealing with anyone else: and the most important affair is, *to do him good*, because for that purpose alone was man sent into this life.”

“Three Questions” by Leo Tolstoy—Public Domain

1. Part A

What is the meaning of the phrase **repented of** as it is used in paragraph 31 of the story?

- A. regarded with doubt
- B. regretted
- C. brought into being
- D. feared

Part B

Which phrase from paragraph 31 **best** helps to clarify the meaning of **repented of**?

- A. “. . . if you had not pitied my weakness yesterday . . .”
- B. “. . . had gone back alone. . . .”
- C. “. . . that man would have attacked you . . .”
- D. “So the most important time”

2. Part A

In paragraph 14, what do the king's actions suggest about his character?

- A. He is willing to work hard to prove he is a worthy king.
- B. He acts with kindness and generosity toward others.
- C. He is frustrated with the hermit's refusal to answer his questions.
- D. He enjoys undertaking new and diverse tasks.

Part B

In which paragraph do the King's actions show the **most** contrast with the answer to Part A?

- A. paragraph 8
- B. paragraph 18
- C. paragraph 25
- D. paragraph 30

3. Part A

The motivations of which character undergo the **greatest** change over the course of the story?

- A. the king
- B. the hermit
- C. the bodyguard
- D. the bearded man

Part B

Which paragraph from the story provides the **best** evidence to support the answer to Part A?

- A. paragraph 1
- B. paragraph 9
- C. paragraph 18
- D. paragraph 24

4. Part A

Which sentence describes how the king’s interaction with the **learned men** helps to advance the plot of the story?

- A. Although the king’s questions have no good answers, he persists in asking them anyway.
- B. The king’s desire to have his questions answered distracts him from ruling his kingdom.
- C. Because the learned men cannot agree among themselves, the king seeks guidance elsewhere.
- D. The king’s pride prevents him from listening to the learned men’s answers to his questions.

Part B

Which sentence provides the **best** support for the answer to Part A?

- A. “In reply to the first question, some said that, to know the right time for every action, one must draw up, in advance, a table of the days, months, and years—and strictly follow this table.” (paragraph 4)
- B. “But to decide thus, one must know beforehand what is going to happen.” (paragraph 5)
- C. “All the answers being different, the king agreed with none of them, and gave the reward to no one.” (paragraph 8)
- D. “The hermit listened to the king, but answered nothing; he just spat on his hand and recommenced digging.” (paragraph 13)

Read the poem "Carpe Diem." Then answer the questions.

Carpe Diem

by Robert Frost

Copyright restrictions prevent the poem "Carpe Diem" by Robert Frost from being displayed in this format. Please refer to pages 335–336 from THE POETRY OF ROBERT FROST edited by Edward Connery Lathem, © 1969, published by Henry Holt and Company, accessible through your local library.

5. Part A

Which quality does the speaker **most** associate with **Age** in the poem?

- A. experience
- B. sincerity
- C. feebleness
- D. arrogance

Part B

Which statement about **Age best** exemplifies this quality?

- A. Age sees two quiet children.
- B. Age does not know the children.
- C. Age knows the children are not ready to hear his advice.
- D. Age wonders if the children are going to church.

6. Part A

Which phrase **best** describes the speaker's tone in the poem's conclusion (lines 20–26)?

- A. philosophical
- B. remorseful
- C. confused
- D. disengaged

Part B

Which lines elsewhere in the poem are **most** similar in tone to lines 20–26?

- A. lines 3–5
- B. lines 6–8
- C. lines 9–11
- D. lines 12–14

