



**Grade 4**

**English Language Arts/Literacy  
Narrative Writing Task**

**2017 Released Items**

## **2017 Released Items: Grade 4 Narrative Writing Task**

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

The 2017 blueprint for PARCC's grade 4 Narrative Writing Task includes Evidence-Based Selected Response/Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response items as well as one Prose Constructed Response prompt.

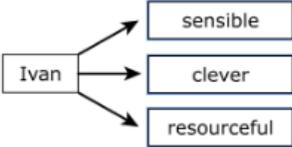
### **Included in this document:**

- 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 2016
- PARCC English Language Arts/Literacy Assessment: General Scoring Rules for the 2016 Summative Assessment

**PARCC Release Items Answer and Alignment Document  
ELA/Literacy: Grade 4**

<b>Text Type:</b> NWT		
<b>Passage(s):</b> "There's Plenty of Fish in the Trees" from Ivan: Stories of Old Russia		
<b>Item Code</b>	<b>Answer(s)</b>	<b>Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment</b>
1227_A	<b>Item Type:</b> EBSR <b>Part A:</b> B <b>Part B:</b> A	RL 4.1.1 RL 4.3.1
1753_A	<b>Item Type:</b> EBSR <b>Part A:</b> A <b>Part B:</b> D	RL 4.1.1 RL 4.3.3
1226_A	<b>Item Type:</b> EBSR <b>Part A:</b> C <b>Part B:</b> A	RL 4.1.1 RL 4.3.1
1229_A	<b>Item Type:</b> TECR <b>Part A:</b>  <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <b>Part B:</b> D	RL 4.1.1 RL 4.3.1
1232	<b>Item Type:</b> PCR	Refer to Grade 4 Scoring Rubric
1751_A	<b>Item Type:</b> EBSR (additional item) <b>Part A:</b> A <b>Part B:</b> D	RL 4.1.1 RL 4.3.3
1754	<b>Item Type:</b> PCR (additional item)	Refer to Grade 4 Scoring Rubric
1785_A	<b>Item Type:</b> EBSR (additional item) <b>Part A:</b> B <b>Part B:</b> C	RL 4.1.1 RL 4.3.3
1225_A	<b>Item Type:</b> EBSR (additional item) <b>Part A:</b> D <b>Part B:</b> D	RL 4.1.1 RL 4.3.1 L 4.5.2
1230_A	<b>Item Type:</b> EBSR (additional item) <b>Part A:</b> B <b>Part B:</b> C	RL 4.1.1 RL 4.4.1 L 4.4.1

**Today you will read the story “There’s Plenty of Fish in the Trees” from *Ivan: Stories of Old Russia*. As you read, pay close attention to point of view and the events as you answer the questions to prepare to write a narrative story**

Read the story “There’s Plenty of Fish in the Trees.” Then answer the questions.

There’s Plenty of Fish in the Trees

from *Ivan: Stories of Old Russia*

by Marcus Crouch

- 1** Not all Ivans were silly. Here is a story of one who had his head on the right way round.
- 2** Ivan had a wife who could never keep quiet. Tell her a secret and be sure all her gossips would know it before dinner. He did his best to cure her of her habit, but in vain; her tongue just went on flapping like washing on the line.
- 3** One day Ivan was working in the fields and his spade hit something hard. He felt around with his hands and found that he had struck a chest full of gold coins. He took it home and showed it to his wife.
- 4** “Our fortune’s made,” he said, “But we must be very careful. If the Master hears about it he will surely claim the treasure for himself. After all, it was buried on his land.”
- 5** They thought carefully about where they should hide the gold, and the wife said they should dig a hole in the floor. This is what they did, and Ivan smoothed the surface so that no signs of the treasure were to be seen.
- 6** “Now, my love, whatever you do, say no word of this to one living soul,” said Ivan. “If a whisper of this reaches the Master’s ears we shall be poor again, and he will have me whipped into the bargain.”
- 7** “Trust me,” said his wife. “You know I always keep your secrets safe.”

- 8** Ivan knew no such thing. He waited until his wife was fast asleep; then he got up, dug up the gold and buried it in the barn, under a great heap of dung.
- 9** Next morning he said to his wife: "Tomorrow we must go into the woods to catch fish."
- 10** "Fish in the woods?" she said. "I never knew that is where you catch them."
- 11** "Why, of course; it's much the best place." And Ivan kept his face very serious indeed.
- 12** While his wife was at the market, he took some fish that he had caught a day or two earlier, together with a dead hare and a basket full of stale cakes from the baker's, and he took them into the woods. When he came home he was empty-handed.
- 13** After they had eaten next morning Ivan took his wife by the hand and they walked to the woods together. Very soon she found a pike dangling from a tree. Next she found a perch and two roaches. She was even more surprised when she came upon a tree which was growing cakes.
- 14** "Look, husband," she said. "Cakes on a tree!"
- 15** "Of course," he said, "everyone knows that's where they grow."
- 16** Now Ivan went down to the river and pulled in his line. On the hook there was a hare.
- 17** "Goodness me!" said the wife. "Just fancy, hare in the river."
- 18** "Quite a good one, too," said Ivan calmly. "Usually they are only half that size."
- 19** He unhooked the hare and put it in his bag. Then they went home with the day's catch. They ate a good dinner that night.
- 20** By now the wife's wagging tongue had made sure that all the village knew about Ivan's treasure. Very soon the news reached the ears of

the Master in his big house. He sent for Ivan. The man went to the house, and he took his good wife with him.

- 21** "What is this I hear?" said the Master gravely. "Have you found treasure on my land and not reported it to me?"
- 22** "It's just idle gossip," said Ivan. "There's not a word of truth in it."
- 23** "But your own wife says it is true."
- 24** "Oh, she's a crazy woman," said Ivan. "You can never believe a word she says."
- 25** "That's not true," said the wife. "You know very well that you brought the treasure home."
- 26** "When was that?"
- 27** "Why, it was the day before we caught fish in the woods."
- 28** "What is this?" said the Master. "Fish in the woods?"
- 29** "Yes, Master," said the wife eagerly. "And the very same day we picked cakes off the trees. There were lots of them. Then on the way home my man fished a fat hare out of the river."
- 30** "Take her home," said the Master to Ivan. "You are right. She *is* a crazy woman."
- 31** Still, the Master was no fool. He sent his men to the cottage when Ivan was out. They dug up the floor and searched high and low, but no treasure could they find. Ivan spent it coin by coin in the market, and it kept them in comfort for many years.

"There's Plenty of Fish in the Trees" from *IVAN: STORIES OF OLD RUSSIA* by Marcus Crouch (OUP, 1989), text copyright © 1989 by Marcus Crouch, reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press.

**1. Part A**

Why does the author use the simile, **her tongue just went on flapping like washing on the line**, to describe Ivan’s wife in paragraph 2?

- A. to describe the way she speaks in riddles
- B. to reinforce the idea that she talks uncontrollably
- C. to explain why she likes to talk while doing chores
- D. to illustrate why she enjoys visiting with people so much

**Part B**

Which sentence from the story supports the answer to Part A?

- A. “Ivan had a wife who could never keep quiet.” (paragraph 2)
- B. “They thought carefully about where they should hide the gold, and the wife said they should dig a hole in the floor.” (paragraph 5)
- C. ““But your own wife says it is true.”” (paragraph 23)
- D. ““You can never believe a word she says.”” (paragraph 24)

**2. Part A**

Why does Ivan need his wife to tell the Master about finding fish in the trees?

- A. He wants to make the Master think that anything his wife says is false.
- B. He wants to impress the Master with his creative thinking.
- C. He wants to fool the Master into believing crazy things.
- D. He wants to please the Master with amusing tales.

**Part B**

Which detail from the story supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "'Fish in the woods?' she said. 'I never knew that is where you catch them.'" (paragraph 10)
- B. "'Why, of course; it's much the best place.' And Ivan kept his face very serious indeed." (paragraph 11)
- C. "'What is this?' said the Master. 'Fish in the woods?'" (paragraph 28)
- D. "'Take her home,' said the Master to Ivan. 'You are right. She *is* a crazy woman.'" (paragraph 30)

**3. Part A**

Which description **best** reflects the Master in the story?

- A. He was untrustworthy and miserly with his wealth.
- B. He was honorable and respected by his subjects.
- C. He was greedy and treated people unfairly.
- D. He was prosperous and loved by his subjects.

**Part B**

Which detail from the story **best** supports the answer to Part A?

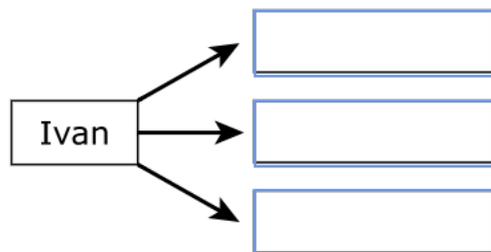
- A. “If a whisper of this reaches the Master’s ears we shall be poor again, and he will have me whipped into the bargain.” (paragraph 6)
- B. “What is this I hear?’ said the Master gravely. ‘Have you found treasure on my land and not reported it to me?’” (paragraph 21)
- C. “Yes, Master,’ said the wife eagerly. ‘And the very same day we picked cakes off the trees.’” (paragraph 29)
- D. “Take her home,’ said the Master to Ivan. ‘You are right. She *is* a crazy woman.’” (paragraph 30)

**4. Part A**

Which character traits describe Ivan's personality?

Drag **three** character traits from the list into the empty boxes on the chart.

sensible	clever	resourceful
extreme	controllable	reluctant
impatient		

**Part B**

Which paragraph **best** shows how Ivan's character traits influence his actions in the story?

- A. paragraph 3
- B. paragraph 4
- C. paragraph 6
- D. paragraph 8

- 5.** What would the story be like if it were told from the wife’s point of view?  
Consider how descriptions of the setting and events might change based on the point of view of the person telling the story.  
Retell the story from the wife’s point of view. Include specific details about the setting and events that occur in the story to support this point of view.

**6. Part A**

Why is the event of Ivan burying the treasure in the barn important to the story?

- A. It reveals how well Ivan understands the Master.
- B. It demonstrates that Ivan trusts his wife.
- C. It shows how much Ivan wants the money all to himself.
- D. It shows that Ivan believes his wife is crazy.

**Part B**

Which detail in the story supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "They thought carefully about where they should hide the gold, and the wife said they should dig a hole in the floor." (paragraph 5)
- B. "'Trust me,' said his wife. 'You know I always keep your secrets safe.'" (paragraph 7)
- C. "'Oh, she's a crazy woman,' said Ivan. 'You can never believe a word she says.'" (paragraph 24)
- D. "Still, the Master was no fool. He sent his men to the cottage when Ivan was out." (paragraph 31)

**7. Part A**

You have read “There’s Plenty of Fish in the Trees.” How would the story change if it were told from the point of view of the Master? Retell the story from the Master’s point of view. Include specific details about the events and the characters that occur in the story to support this point of view.

**8. Part A**

How does the Master respond to the wife's story about seeing fish in the woods and fishing a hare out of the river?

- A. He thinks her story is silly and forgets about the treasure on his land.
- B. He believes the wife is crazy but still wonders if there is treasure on his land.
- C. He feels sorry for Ivan and allows him to slowly spend the treasure.
- D. He wonders if the story is true but decides to leave the treasure alone.

**Part B**

Which sentence supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "What is this I hear?" said the Master gravely. "Have you found treasure on my land and not reported it to me?" (paragraph 21)
- B. "Take her home," said the Master to Ivan. "You are right. She *is* a crazy woman." (paragraph 30)
- C. "Still, the Master was no fool. He sent his men to the cottage when Ivan was out." (paragraph 31)
- D. "Ivan spent it coin by coin in the market, and it kept them in comfort for many years." (paragraph 31)

**9. Part A**

What does the author mean when he states in the first paragraph that Ivan **had his head on the right way round**?

- A. Ivan was a lazy worker.
- B. Ivan was dishonest and mean.
- C. Ivan was a loyal husband.
- D. Ivan was intelligent and cautious.

**Part B**

Which sentence from the story supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "One day Ivan was working in the fields and his spade hit something hard." (paragraph 3)
- B. "He took it home and showed it to his wife." (paragraph 3)
- C. "After they had eaten next morning Ivan took his wife by the hand and they walked to the woods together." (paragraph 13)
- D. "Ivan spent it coin by coin in the market, and it kept them in comfort for many years." (paragraph 31)

**10. Part A**

Based on paragraphs 21 to 25, what does the word **idle** mean as it is used in paragraph 22?

- A. quiet
- B. worthless
- C. vacant
- D. motionless

**Part B**

Which sentence from the story helps the reader to understand the meaning of the word **idle** as it is used in paragraph 22?

- A. "What is this I hear?" (paragraph 21)
- B. "Have you found treasure on my land and not reported it to me?" (paragraph 21)
- C. "There's not a word of truth in it." (paragraph 22)
- D. "But your own wife says it's true." (paragraph 23)

