



**Grade 5**

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

**2017 Released Items**

## **2017 Released Items: Grade 5 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 5 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 5**

| Text Type: NWT                                    |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Passage(s): from Lost and Found in the Black Hole |   |  |
| Item Code   | Answer(s)   | Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment |
| 2228_A  | Item Type: EBSR<br>Part A: B<br>Part B: C   | RL 5.1.1<br>L 5.5.1<br>RL 5.4.1        |
| 2726_A  | Item Type: EBSR<br>Part A: C<br>Part B: B, C  | RL 5.1.1<br>RL 5.3.1                   |
| 2232_A  | Item Type: EBSR<br>Part A: C<br>Part B: B   | RL 5.1.1<br>RL 5.3.3                   |
| 2230_A  | Item Type: EBSR<br>Part A: B<br>Part B: D   | RL 5.1.1<br>RL 5.2.1                   |
| 2727  | Item Type: PCR  | Refer to Grade 5 Scoring Rubric        |
| 9256_A  | Item Type: TECR (additional item)<br>Part A: B<br>Part B:<br><p>8 "You don't really expect to find your stuff here?" Mr. Grabber grunted.</p> <p>9 Darin peered over the counter into the vast array of lost and forgotten items.</p> <p>10 "There's always a first time."</p> <p>11 "Once an item goes into the last box, it's destroyed."</p> <p>12 "But I've lost them today. They might be in the first one."</p> <p>13 Mr. Grabber waved him over. Darin knelt and rummaged through the box.</p> <p>14 "Trouble is," Mr. Grabber said, "no one puts any importance into a sweater, or lunchbox, or even a pair of glasses. These things are lost forever because nobody cares."</p> <p>15 "They're not here. At this rate, I'll be paying \$30 a week, easy. I need help."</p> | RL 5.1.1<br>RL 5.3.1                   |
| 2725_A  | Item Type: EBSR (additional item)<br>Part A: C<br>Part B: C   | RL 5.1.1<br>RL 5.5.1                   |
| 2235  | Item Type: PCR (additional item)  | Refer to Grade 5 Scoring Rubric        |

**Today you will read a passage from “Lost and Found in the Black Hole.” As you read, pay close attention to the point of view of the characters as you answer the questions to prepare to write a narrative story.**

Read the passage from “Lost and Found in the Black Hole.” Then answer the questions.

from “Lost and Found in the Black Hole”

by J. Louis Messina

- 1 Darin sped across the schoolyard, holding onto his possessions with a whirlwind of hands, from head to back to chest to legs to feet and back up again.
- 2 Screeching to a halt, he checked his belongings. He’d lost three things already. He glanced suspiciously around him.
- 3 Was a black hole following him?
- 4 “All matter that comes within a certain distance of a black hole will be trapped forever,” his teacher had said. “Even light, the fastest phenomenon known to exist.”
- 5 At recess, he retraced his steps on foot, then on hands and knees, going over the same ground so often that he’d worn down his pants legs. But he’d come up empty.
- 6 *Only one thing left to do, he thought: visit the Lost & Found . . . again.*
- 7 Through the long, dreary room he plodded, the sound of his footsteps echoing down the gloomy hall. Mr. Grabber, the crusty guardian of the Lost & Found Department, sat behind the desk, watching Darin’s arrival with dour eyes.
- 8 “You don’t really expect to find your stuff here?” Mr. Grabber grunted.

- 9 Darin peered over the counter into the vast array of lost and forgotten items.
- 10 "There's always a first time."
- 11 "Once an item goes into the last box, it's destroyed."
- 12 "But I've lost them today. They might be in the first one."
- 13 Mr. Grabber waved him over. Darin knelt and rummaged through the box.
- 14 "Trouble is," Mr. Grabber said, "no one puts any importance into a sweater, or lunchbox, or even a pair of glasses. These things are lost forever because nobody cares."
- 15 "They're not here. At this rate, I'll be paying \$30 a week, easy. I need help."
- 16 "No kidding," Mr. Grabber said.
- 17 "I need you guys to keep me from losing things," Darin told his best friends, Carlton and Elvin. "Can you follow me around?"
- 18 "No way!" said Carlton.
- 19 "Get lost," Elvin said sarcastically.
- 20 "I'll pay \$5 a week, each."
- 21 "We're in!" said Carlton and Elvin.
- 22 "Good," Darin said. "Cause I just lost my socks, and I need them back before I get home. They have my name on them."
- 23 Elvin and Carlton scrambled across the yard, searching in every trash bin, behind every building, until Elvin found one sock behind the batting cage, and Carlton found one 15 yards away under the drinking fountain.
- 24 "Here," Carlton said, wiping sweat from his brow.

- 25 "I want a raise," Elvin wheezed, holding out the stinky sock.
- 26 On Tuesday, Carlton and Elvin rescued six items. Wednesday they found seven; Thursday, nine. Although the lost items were rising like a flood, by Friday, it looked as if Darin was home free. But he hadn't counted on losing one very important thing.
- 27 It happened while walking home.
- 28 The sky darkened as Darin, daydreaming about his recent success, floundered down the sidewalk, while Carlton and Elvin scanned the ground, like eager bloodhounds on a scent.
- 29 Darin, way ahead of his friends, turned blithely onto an unfamiliar street. He wandered down the block; gradually, he looked up, and realized he'd gone the wrong way. He turned. Carlton and Elvin were nowhere in sight.
- 30 "Guys?" he said, then shouted, "Hey, guys!"
- 31 For a moment he only stood, looking far down the road. He began to walk, then run, and slowed and stopped at the end of the block. He didn't recognize this place, either. Houses on either side, like insurmountable mountains, obscured his view.
- 32 His heart pounded; he spun around, trying to find his bearings, and took off in one direction, stopped, and tried another, circled a block and arrived at the same spot where he'd started.
- 33 "Lost," he croaked.
- 34 The dark, bleak clouds obliterated the sun. He felt as if he were falling through the black hole, toward the center, past event horizon. If he didn't find his way out soon, he'd be torn apart!
- 35 *Don't panic*, he thought. *Stop and think*. He'd been too careless, and now he'd lost himself.
- 36 Suddenly, he knew what he had to do: stay put, and remember where he'd been. Scrutinizing the area, he summoned his memory.

Was he really lost, or simply misplaced? As he stood looking about, he realized he was in front of Elvin's house, only several blocks away from home. He'd simply missed his turn.

- 37** "There you are!" Carlton shouted. "We found you!"
- 38** Darin marched onward as Carlton and Elvin, keeping an eye on the ground, followed him back to his house.
- 39** "We're very proud of you, Darin," Dad said.
- 40** "You haven't lost anything for weeks!" Mom marveled.
- 41** Darin hadn't mislaid so much as a paper clip now that he cared about his things. And he had volunteered at the Lost & Found to help Mr. Grabber sort the lost items, even finding their owners.

"Lost and Found in the Black Hole" by J. Louis Messina from BOYS' LIFE, February 2012 by J. Louis Messina. Used by permission of the author.

**1. Part A**

What does the simile **rising like a flood** mean as it is used in paragraph 26?

- A. The lost items were quickly disappearing.
- B. The number of lost items was steadily increasing.
- C. The boys found one of the lost items under the drinking fountain.
- D. The boys were stacking the lost items into a pile as they located them.

**Part B**

Which quotation from the story helps the reader understand the meaning of the simile in Part A?

- A. "Screeching to a halt, he checked his belongings." (paragraph 2)
- B. ". . . Elvin found one sock behind the batting cage, and Carlton found one 15 yards away under the drinking fountain." (paragraph 23)
- C. "Wednesday they found seven; Thursday, nine." (paragraph 26)
- D. "The sky darkened as Darin, daydreaming about his recent success, floundered down the sidewalk. . . ." (paragraph 28)



**2. Part A**

How do Darin and Mr. Grabber differ in the story?

- A. Darin is angry about losing his items, but Mr. Grabber is pleasant.
- B. Darin can take care of himself, but Mr. Grabber needs help.
- C. Darin hopes to find his items in the Lost & Found, but Mr. Grabber is doubtful.
- D. Darin enjoys spending time alone, but Mr. Grabber enjoys being around other people.

**Part B**

Which **two** details from the story support how Darin and Mr. Grabber differ? Choose **one** detail that supports Darin and **one** detail that supports Mr. Grabber.

- A. "Mr. Grabber, the crusty guardian of the Lost & Found Department, sat behind the desk, watching Darin's arrival with dour eyes."
- B. "'There's always a first time.'"
- C. "'Once an item goes into the last box, it's destroyed.'"
- D. "'No kidding,' . . ."
- E. "'I need you guys to keep me from losing things,' . . ."
- F. "And he had volunteered at the Lost & Found to help Mr. Grabber sort the lost items, even finding their owners."

**3. Part A**

How does getting lost affect Darin differently than losing his belongings?

- A. When Darin gets lost, he feels confident rather than fearful.
- B. When Darin gets lost, he panics rather than responding to the situation calmly.
- C. When Darin gets lost, he finds his own way rather than depending on other people.
- D. When Darin gets lost, he blames Elvin and Carlton rather than blaming himself.

**Part B**

Which quotation from the passage supports the answer in Part A?

- A. "The sky darkened as Darin, daydreaming about his recent success, floundered down the sidewalk, while Carlton and Elvin scanned the ground, like eager bloodhounds on a scent." (paragraph 28)
- B. "Suddenly, he knew what he had to do: stay put, and remember where he'd been." (paragraph 36)
- C. "Darin marched onward as Carlton and Elvin, keeping an eye on the ground, followed him back to his house." (paragraph 38)
- D. "Darin hadn't mislaid so much as a paper clip now that he cared about his things." (paragraph 41)

**4. Part A**

What is a theme in the passage?

- A. Setting a good example is important.
- B. Problem solving requires calm thinking.
- C. Spending time with friends is rewarding.
- D. Achieving a goal requires practice.

**Part B**

Which paragraph from the passage illustrates the theme selected in Part A?

- A. paragraph 29
- B. paragraph 31
- C. paragraph 32
- D. paragraph 36

5. In the passage from "Lost and Found in the Black Hole," Darin is always losing his things and depends on his friends Elvin and Carlton to find them.

Retell the passage from Elvin's point of view using details of the events in the passage.

**6. Part A**

According to the story, how does Mr. Grabber’s attitude toward the Lost & Found differ from Darin’s?

- A. Mr. Grabber feels the Lost & Found serves an important purpose.
- B. Mr. Grabber feels it is a waste of time to look in the Lost & Found.
- C. Mr. Grabber is frustrated that so many things get lost in the Lost & Found.
- D. Mr. Grabber is angry because Darin is looking in the Lost & Found.

**Part B**

Select **two** pieces of evidence that support the answer to Part A

5 At recess, he retraced his steps on foot, then on hands and knees, going over the same ground so often that he’d worn down his pants legs. But he’d come up empty.

6 *Only one thing left to do, he thought: visit the Lost & Found . . . again.*

7 Through the long, dreary room he plodded, the sound of his footsteps echoing down the gloomy hall. Mr. Grabber, the crusty guardian of the Lost & Found Department, sat behind the desk, watching Darin’s arrival with dour eyes.

8 “You don’t really expect to find your stuff here?” Mr. Grabber grunted.

9 Darin peered over the counter into the vast array of lost and forgotten items.

10 “There’s always a first time.”

11 “Once an item goes into the last box, it’s destroyed.”

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15 "They're not here. At this rate, I'll be paying \$30 a week, easy. I need help."

16 "No kidding," Mr. Grabber said.

17 "I need you guys to keep me from losing things," Darin told his best friends, Carlton and Elvin. "Can you follow me around?"

**7. Part A**

What is the purpose of the description in paragraphs 31–34?

- A. The description reveals Darin’s anger over losing things.
- B. The description reveals Darin’s reasons for losing himself.
- C. The description emphasizes Darin’s difficult situation and his fearfulness.
- D. The description emphasizes Darin’s conflict with his friends and his home.

**Part B**

Which sentence from the passage is used for the same purpose as the answer to Part A?

- A. “Darin sped across the schoolyard, holding onto his possessions with a whirlwind of hands, from head to back to chest to legs to feet and back up again.” (paragraph 1)
- B. “Through the long, dreary room he plodded, the sound of his footsteps echoing down the gloomy hall.” (paragraph 7)
- C. “The dark, bleak clouds obliterated the sun.” (paragraph 34)
- D. “As he stood looking about, he realized he was in front of Elvin’s house, only several blocks away from home.” (paragraph 36)

8. In *Lost and Found in the Black Hole*, the author introduces the reader to Mr. Grabber, who manages the school's Lost & Found Department.

Rewrite the story from the point of view of Mr. Grabber, the crusty guardian. Support your ideas with events and details from the passage.

