



Grade 6

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

2017 Released Items

2017 Released Items: Grade 6 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 6 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 6**

| Text Type: NWT | | |
|--|--|---|
| Passage(s): from <i>Spy Cat</i> | | |
| Item Code | Answer(s) | Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment |
| VF633103 | Item Type: EBSR Part A: D Part B: A | L 6.4.1 RL 6.1.1 RL 6.4.1 |
| VF633108 | Item Type: EBSR Part A: C Part B: A | RL 6.1.1 RL 6.6.1 |
| VH029994 | <p>Item Type: TECR</p> <p>Part A:</p> <p>Two character traits that describe Pete the Cat are (A) <input type="text" value="arrogant"/> and (B) <input type="text" value="motivated"/>.</p> <p>Part B:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Character Trait A</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Humans think they are smarter than the rest of us animals when any cat knows it's the other way around." (paragraph 4)</i></p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Character Trait B</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Writing is challenging, fun, and satisfying—like catching a fly." (paragraph 8)</i></p> </div> | RL 6.1.1 RL 6.3.2 |
| VF633153 | Item Type: EBSR Part A: A Part B: D | RL 6.1.1 RL 6.6.1 |
| VF633166 | Item Type: PCR | Refer to Grade 6 Scoring Rubric |
| VF633112 | Item Type: EBSR (additional item) Part A: A Part B: C | RL 6.1.1 RL 6.6.1 |

Today you will read the prologue to the story *Spy Cat*. As you read, pay close attention to each narrator's point of view. You will answer questions to prepare to write a narrative story.

Read the prologue to the story *Spy Cat*. Then answer the questions.

Prologue from *Spy Cat*

by Peg Kehret and Pete the Cat

- 1** *Every animal, human or other, needs work that matters. I am Pete the cat, and I have more than one important responsibility. I'm an excellent lap-warmer, a fearless protector of my family, and a published author. You are reading my second book, and I must say that this part of my job doesn't get any easier.*
- 2** *When I first approached the keyboard, I had no desire for literary fame. I wanted to write because I had heard that every computer has a mouse. Then I got interested in the story that my person, Peg, was working on, so I began to add my ideas to hers. We ended up writing a novel together and we had fun doing it.*
- 3** When I first discovered that my big white-and-brown cat, Pete, knows how to read and write, I was shocked. His papers from the humane society said "good with children," but there was no hint of any literary ability, so you can imagine my surprise when he began adding pages to the book I was writing.
- 4** *I know how to talk, too, but she hasn't yet learned to understand me. Humans think they are smarter than the rest of us animals when any cat knows it's the other way around.*
- 5** In the first book that Pete and I coauthored, *The Stranger Next Door*, I wrote the parts about people and he wrote the parts about the cat. We did that with this book, too. His parts are in bold so you can tell which ones they are.
- 6** *Actually, the cat's parts are in italics because they are the most important.*

- 7** I thought Pete would get tired of writing after the first book, but when I started this story I left my computer on at night, in case he wanted to add something. Sure enough, the next morning there were two pages told from the cat’s point of view.
- 8** *She hasn’t grown tired of writing, so why would I? Writing is challenging, fun, and satisfying—like catching a fly. I used to spend my nights batting at catnip-scented balls and trying to wake up my people. Now I write novels because novelists get to go to bookstores and put their paw prints in their books. No one ever got famous by playing with catnip balls.*
- 9** All of the characters in this book except one are fictional. I’m sure you’ll be able to tell which one is real.
- 10** *There was no need to make up a cat character when a clever, courageous, and capable cat like me was willing to be in the story. If you ever need to describe me, remember the three C’s.*
- 11** It should really be four C’s—add one for “corpulent.”
- 12** *Corpulent! There isn’t an ounce of fat on me. That uninformed veterinarian who suggested diet cat food doesn’t know muscle when he sees it.*
- 13** Having a cat as my coauthor has worked well. The only problem we had on this book was when Pete kept changing the cover so that his name was in bigger letters than my name. Our editor vetoed that.
- 14** *I did most of the work, so I should get most of the credit, but I settled for extra kitty num-num.*
- 15** Enough of this explanation. Here is the second story that Pete and I wrote together.

“Prologue” from SPY CAT by Peg Kehret and Pete the Cat, copyright © 2003 by Peg Kehret. Used by permission of Dutton Children’s Books, a division Penguin Group (USA) LLC.

1. Part A

Based on paragraphs 11 and 12, what does the word **corpulent** mean?

- A. intelligent
- B. hungry
- C. strong
- D. plump

Part B

Which phrase from paragraph 12 **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A. ". . . *isn't an ounce of fat on me . . .*"
- B. ". . . *uninformed veterinarian . . .*"
- C. ". . . *cat food . . .*"
- D. ". . . *doesn't know muscle . . .*"

2. Part A

Based on Pete’s response in paragraph 8, what other activity would Pete **most** enjoy?

- A. one that occurs at night and allows him to play
- B. one that allows him to do more traveling
- C. one that provides excitement and requires thinking
- D. one that he can do with other cats

Part B

Which sentence from paragraph 8 **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A. *“Writing is challenging, fun, and satisfying—like catching a fly.”*
- B. *“I used to spend my nights batting at catnip-scented balls and trying to wake up my people.”*
- C. *“Now I write novels because novelists get to go to bookstores and put their paw prints in their books.”*
- D. *“No one ever got famous by playing with catnip balls.”*

3. Part A

Identify **two** character traits that describe Pete the Cat. Select from the two drop-down menus to complete the statement accurately.

Two character traits that describe Pete the Cat are

(A) Choose... and (B) Choose...

- A. apologetic
- B. arrogant
- C. flexible
- D. greedy

- A. gentle
- B. insincere
- C. motivated
- D. suspicious

(continues on next page)

Part B

Select evidence from the list that supports the answer to Part A. Drag **two** pieces of supporting evidence from the list into the chart, **one** piece of evidence that supports character trait A and **one** that supports character trait B.

Supporting Evidence

“You are reading my second book, and I must say that this part of my job doesn’t get any easier.”
(paragraph 1)

“I wanted to write because I had heard that every computer has a mouse.” (paragraph 2)

“We ended up writing a novel together and we had fun doing it.”
(paragraph 2)

“Humans think they are smarter than the rest of us animals when any cat knows it’s the other way around.” (paragraph 4)

“Writing is challenging, fun, and satisfying—like catching a fly.” (paragraph 8)

“I used to spend my nights batting at catnip-scented balls and trying to wake up my people.”
(paragraph 8)

Character Trait A

Character Trait B

4. Part A

What is Peg's point of view in the passage?

- A. She is pleased about being able to successfully create stories with Pete.
- B. She hopes that she can one day understand what Pete is saying.
- C. She wishes that Pete would refrain from adding to her stories.
- D. She is jealous that Pete wrote most of the story by himself.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "When I first discovered that my big white-and-brown cat, Pete, knows how to read and write, I was shocked." (paragraph 3)
- B. "His papers from the humane society said 'good with children,' but there was no hint of any literary ability, so you can imagine my surprise when he began adding pages to the book I was writing." (paragraph 3)
- C. "Sure enough, the next morning there were two pages told from the cat's point of view." (paragraph 7)
- D. "Having a cat as my coauthor has worked well." (paragraph 13)

- 5.** The prologue to *Spy Cat* describes how Peg and Pete write books together. Think about Peg’s and Pete’s approach and style to writing and their individual personalities. Write an original story that shows the first time Peg and Pete write together. Be sure to use details in your story that demonstrate Peg’s and Pete’s distinctive qualities.

6. Part A

Which statement describes the **main** difference between the two narrators' points of view?

- A. Peg is reserved with her thoughts, but Pete is not.
- B. Pete is interested in book deals, but Peg is not.
- C. Pete is excited about the new book, but Peg is not.
- D. Peg is organized when writing, but Pete is not.

Part B

Which paragraph supports the answer to Part A?

- A. paragraph 2
- B. paragraph 5
- C. paragraph 6
- D. paragraph 9

