

Grade 6
English Language Arts/Literacy
Narrative Writing Task

2018 Released Items

2018 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 2018 blueprint for 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
- Scoring Rubric for Prose Constructed Response Items
- Guide to English Language Arts/Literacy Released Items: Understanding Scoring 2016
- English Language Arts/Literacy Assessment: General Scoring Rules for the 2016 Summative Assessment

Release Items Answer and Alignment Document

Text Type: NWT		
Passage(s): from <i>Zoobreak</i>		
Item Code	Answer(s)	Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment
VH000578	Item Type: EBSR Part A: D Part B: E, F	RL 6.1.1 RL 6.3.2
VH000305	Item Type: EBSR Part A: B Part B: C	RL 6.1.1 RL 6.5.2
VH000235	Item Type: EBSR Part A: C Part B: D	RL 6.1.1 RL 6.2.1 RL 6.2.2
VH000240	Item Type: EBSR Part A: A Part B: C	RL 6.1.1 RL 6.3.1
VH000592	Item Type: PCR Refer to Grade 6 Scoring Rubric	
VH000227	Item Type: EBSR (additional item) Part A: B Part B: D	RL 6.1.1 RL 6.3.2 RL 6.4.1

Today you will read the passage from *Zoobreak*. As you read, pay close attention to the details the author uses to develop the characters as you answer the questions to prepare to write a narrative story.

Read the passage from the book *Zoobreak*. Then answer the questions.

from Zoobreak

by Gordon Korman

THE PEOPLE VS. MR. DRYSDALE (PERSON) AND CLEOPATRA (MONKEY) CLOSING ARGUMENT: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the DEFENSE has shown that when Officer McElroy gave Mr. Drysdale a TICKET for UNSAFE DRIVING, this was NOT FAIR because: (i) Mr. DRYSDALE was not breaking any laws. (ii) Luthor Drysdale (dog) was hanging his head out the window, which every dog does. (iii) Everyone in Cedarville knows that Cleopatra always rides on the back of Luthor's neck, whether driving in a car or not.

- 1** Ben Slovak looked up from the paper. "Do they have juries in traffic court?"
- 2** "Okay, I'll change it to 'Your Honor.'" Griffin Bing was impatient. "What about the reasoning? Perfect, right?"
- 3** Ben wanted to agree with Griffin. Life was so much smoother when you did.
- 4** "I guess so," he said uncertainly. "But wouldn't it be easier just to pay the ticket?"
- 5** "Never!" Griffin thundered. "There can't possibly be a law against driving around with a monkey piggybacking your dog! The whole thing comes down to that cop saying it isn't safe. Who do you think knows more about animals—the cop or Savannah?"
- 6** No contest there. Their fellow sixth grader Savannah Drysdale was Cedarville's greatest authority on animals. In addition to Cleopatra and Luthor, she was the housemate—she refused to call herself the owner—of cats, rabbits, hamsters, turtles, a parakeet, and an albino chameleon.

- 7 Ben looked distracted. "Listen, Griffin, I need to talk to you about something."
- 8 "Later," Griffin promised. "I want to get this over to Savannah's. I can't wait to see the look on her face when she reads our plan for her dad's defense."
- 9 Wordlessly, Ben followed Griffin down the street and up the Drysdales' front walk. You didn't argue with Griffin when there was a plan involved. In this town, Griffin Bing was The Man With The Plan.
- 10 Griffin marched up to the house and rang the bell. Almost instantly, the door was flung open and Savannah burst out onto the porch, eyes wild.
- 11 "You've got to help me!" she cried.
- 12 Griffin thrust the paper into her hand. "Don't worry, we have a plan."
- 13 Savannah stared at the closing argument like it was written in Martian. "What's this supposed to be?"
- 14 "Your father's defense for the traffic ticket!"
- 15 "Are you nuts?" Savannah wailed. "Nobody cares about the ticket! Cleopatra is *gone*!"
- 16 "Gone?" Griffin repeated. "Gone where?"
- 17 Savannah could barely contain herself. "Well, if I knew that, I'd go get her back, wouldn't I?"
- 18 "When did you last see her?" Ben asked with kind concern.
- 19 "She was puttering around the backyard, relaxing in the hammock and listening to NPR. And when I came out with her plantains, she wasn't there anymore!"
- 20 "You mean you left her outside all alone?" Griffin asked. "She probably ran away."
- 21 Savannah was indignant. "She's a monkey, not a wild animal! Cleo knows where she lives. Something's happened to her! She would never just leave like this." She wiped at her watery eyes. "Poor Luthor!"

- 22** Ben was mystified. "If Cleopatra is the one who's missing, why poor Luthor?"
- 23** She regarded him pityingly. "How would you like to lose *your* best friend?"
- 24** Ben assumed a stricken look and turned to Griffin. "I really need to talk to you about something, man!"
- 25** Before Griffin could respond, the door swung wide again, and out slunk Luthor.
- 26** Both boys froze, poised for flight. Savannah might have thought her dog was the mildest, sweetest creature on earth, but Griffin and Ben did not share her opinion. Luthor was a large brown and black Doberman with rippling muscles and jaws as wide as a small hippo's. Not long ago, this animal had been a trained guard dog, mean as they come. It had taken all Savannah's skills as a dog whisperer to bring him down to merely vicious.
- 27** But they could see right away that Luthor was not himself. His taut, athletic belly practically dragged on the floor, and his face sagged with sadness. From time to time, he would swipe at the back of his neck, as if feeling for the absent monkey. His constant threatening growl had been replaced by a sad whimpering sound.
- 28** "We've got posters all over town," Savannah went on. "I can't leave the house, in case somebody phones. You've got to do this for me!"
- 29** Griffin was cautious. "Do what?"
- 30** "I thought of a few extra places we forgot to search the first time around—places Cleo really likes. The jungle gym at Growing Minds Day Care; the blue box behind the Chinese restaurant where they throw out the empty pineapple tins; and the top of that shaky dryer at the Laundromat." She stopped for breath. "Take Luthor. He'll be able to pick up Cleo's scent."
- 31** She held out the big dog's leash. They made no move to take it.
- 32** Griffin gulped. "Are you sure this is a good idea?"
- 33** Savannah patted the dog sympathetically. "The poor, sweet baby needs to feel like he's helping. He's so upset he can't even eat."

34 “Can I get that in writing?” Ben asked nervously.

Glossary Definition

NPR = National Public Radio

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1. Part A

Which statement **best** describes how Cleopatra's absence affects Luthor?

- A. He becomes angry and destructive.
- B. He becomes fearful and timid.
- C. He becomes lazy and out of shape.
- D. He becomes unhappy and lonely.

Part B

Which **two** details from the passage **best** support the answer to Part A?

- A. "... mildest, sweetest creature on earth . . ." (paragraph 26)
- B. "... a large brown and black . . ." (paragraph 26)
- C. "... rippling muscles . . ." (paragraph 26)
- D. "... taut, athletic belly . . ." (paragraph 27)
- E. "... face sagged . . ." (paragraph 27)
- F. "... whimpering sound." (paragraph 27)

2. Part A

How does paragraph 24 contribute to the passage?

- A. It builds the action.
- B. It creates suspense.
- C. It introduces humor.
- D. It establishes the conflict.

Part B

Which paragraph contributes to the passage in a similar way as the answer to Part A?

- A. paragraph 6
- B. paragraph 14
- C. paragraph 26
- D. paragraph 30

3. Part A

Which sentence **best** describes a theme in the passage?

- A. Goals can be achieved through hard work.
- B. Courtesy and kindness should be rewarded.
- C. Support from friends is helpful in unexpected situations.
- D. Good plans are important in avoiding unexpected problems.

Part B

Which detail in the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A. Ben agrees with Griffin.
- B. Savannah and Luthor hang posters around town.
- C. Ben asks questions when he learns what happened to Cleopatra.
- D. Griffin and Ben are asked to search for Cleopatra while Savannah waits by the phone.

4. Part A

What is the **main** problem the characters encounter in the passage?

- A. The characters need to locate a lost monkey.
- B. The characters need to write a closing argument.
- C. The characters need to take a dangerous dog on a walk.
- D. The characters need to find out if juries are used in traffic court.

Part B

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

- A. “But wouldn’t it be easier just to pay the ticket?” (paragraph 4)
- B. “Griffin marched up to the house and rang the bell.” (paragraph 10)
- C. “Take Luthor. He’ll be able to pick up Cleo’s scent.” (paragraph 30)
- D. “Both boys froze, poised for flight.” (paragraph 26)

- 5.** In the passage from *Zoobreak*, the author develops two very different characters named Ben and Griffin. Consider the details the author uses to develop these two characters.

Write an original story that continues where the passage ends. In your story, be sure to use what you have learned about the characters as you tell what happens next.

6. Part A

Read the sentence from paragraph 10 of the passage.

Almost instantly, the door was flung open and Savannah burst out onto the porch, eyes wild.

What does the use of the word **burst** imply about Savannah?

- A. She is full of anger.
- B. She is anxious and moving quickly.
- C. She is injured and needs help.
- D. She is confused about her surroundings.

Part B

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

- A. "Savannah stared at the closing argument like it was written in Martian." (paragraph 13)
- B. "'What's this supposed to be?'" (paragraph 13)
- C. "'Are you nuts?'" (paragraph 15)
- D. "Savannah could barely contain herself." (paragraph 17)