



Grade 7

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

2017 Released Items

2017 Released Items: Grade 7 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 7 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 7**

Text Type: NWT		
Passage(s): from <i>The Phoenix Dance</i>		
Item Code	Answer(s)	Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment
VH119547	<p>Item Type: TECR</p> <p>“Nearly every day for the past three months she had stood at this window dreaming of being the shoemaker’s apprentice.” (paragraph 2)</p> <p>“She seized the ribbon, which was a good three inches long, and backed away. Now she could run.” (paragraph 12)</p>	RL 7.1.1 RL 7.3.1
VH119416	<p>Item Type: EBSR</p> <p>Part A: A Part B: D</p>	RL 7.1.1 RL 7.6.1
VH119435	<p>Item Type: TECR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Phoenix is standing outside a shoemaker’s shop and sees an advertisement for an apprentice. 2. Phoenix looks through garbage behind the shop to find discarded materials to make shoes. 3. Phoenix gets into an argument with a boy who works at the shop. 4. Phoenix meets the shop owner and explains why she is looking through the trash. 	RL 7.1.1 RL 7.2.3
VH119360	<p>Item Type: EBSR</p> <p>Part A: A Part B: D</p>	RL 7.1.1 RL 7.2.1
VH119641	Item Type: PCR	Refer to Grade 7 Scoring Rubric
VH119305	<p>Item Type: EBSR (additional item)</p> <p>Part A: D Part B: A</p>	RL 7.1.1 RL 7.3.1
VH119371	<p>Item Type: EBSR (additional item)</p> <p>Part A: B Part B: A</p>	RL 7.1.1 RL 7.2.2

Today, you will read a passage from the novel *The Phoenix Dance*. As you read, you will gather information to prepare for writing an original narrative.

A young woman named Phoenix is interested in the process of making shoes. Read the passage from *The Phoenix Dance*. Then answer the questions.

from *The Phoenix Dance*

by Dia Calhoun

- 1** A cold wind sliced through Pearl Street as Phoenix Dance stood by the shoemaker's window staring at a sign wedged between a pair of black-and-white satin shoes. The sign said, in crudely written letters: *Apprentice wanted, inquire within.*
- 2** As Phoenix's cloak and her patched brown skirt blew around her, a twinge of excitement shot from her feet to the crown of her head. She could not believe her eyes. The sign had not been there yesterday, or the day before, or the day before that. Nearly every day for the past three months she had stood at this window dreaming of being the shoemaker's apprentice. Phoenix gazed at the exquisite shoes with their rhinestones and ribbons and rosettes, then touched the scrolling blue lettering painted on the window that said: Percy Snailkips Shoemaker to the Royal Household, by Appointment to Her Majesty, Queen Zandora of the Royal House of Seaborne.
- 3** Imagine making shoes for the queen! Phoenix smiled and clapped her hands. Why shouldn't she be Percy Snailkips's new apprentice?
- 4** A blur of movement rippled behind the glass; two people were coming out of the shop, probably to chase her away as usual. Before they could, Phoenix ran around the corner, down a side street, around another corner, and into the alley until she reached the rubbish can behind the shoemaker's shop. She took a deep breath and then lifted the lid off the can. The smell of rotting turnips assaulted her nose.

- 5** As Phoenix began picking through the garbage, bright treasures shone among the apple peels and soggy tea leaves—six brass beads, two crumpled peacock feathers, and a patch of glue-stained red velvet the size of her palm. Phoenix stuffed them into her cloak pocket. Her hands were cold, like the rest of her. On the island of Faranor, the capital of the archipelago kingdom of Windward, the late winter month of Zephyrus was always cold and wet, with chill winds blowing in from the islands in the Northern Reach. Phoenix had just spied a snippet of tapestry ribbon down deep when a door creaked.
- 6** “You!” A boy stuck his blond head out of the shoemaker’s back door. Phoenix knew she should run, but she wanted that bit of ribbon.
- 7** “First you go pressing your hands and your snotty nose against the shop window,” the boy said, “every day without fail. Saw you there a minute ago. Now I got to wash it off again. And here you are, snooping in the alley. How many times have I told you to keep clear of the shop? I’ll set the guards on you, I swear I will.”
- 8** “Go ahead,” Phoenix said, moving a jar in the rubbish can.
- 9** “I’ll see you rot in Five Towers Prison!” the boy exclaimed.
- 10** “Kloud’s Thunder, what’s all this racket?” And the shoemaker himself, Percy Snailkips, came to the door. “Why are you letting in all the cold wind, Alfred?” The shoemaker’s brown leather apron bulged over his fat stomach. Beneath the apron, he wore a red shirt and brown pants. The wind ruffled the tufts of hair that fringed the top of his bald head. Phoenix gazed at him with awe. Had his sausage-like fingers really fashioned the delicate, fanciful shoes in the shop window?
- 11** “It’s that snot-nosed beggar girl again,” the boy said. “Picking through our trash.”
- 12** “I’m no beggar.” Phoenix reached for the tapestry ribbon. “I’m just looking for little pretties. You don’t want them. You threw them out. I’m not hurting anything.” She seized the ribbon, which was a good three inches long, and backed away. Now she could run.

13 “What do you want the scraps for?” The shoemaker scratched his head.
“Making clothes for your dolly?”

14 “No!” Phoenix exclaimed. “I’m too old for dolls. I want them same as you, sir, for shoemaking.”

15 He looked at her battered shoes with holes in the toes.

16 “For my aunts,” she explained. “They’re street dancers. Best you’ll see in Faranor, too. And they need pretty doodads for their dancing slippers.”

17 “I see.” The shoemaker nodded. “So, Alfred, it seems we have a fellow shoemaker here. A person worthy of respect.”

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1. In the passage, Phoenix shows she is determined. Select the **two** pieces of evidence that **best** show how Phoenix’s determination advances the plot. Then drag them into the boxes.

“Nearly every day for the past three months she had stood at this window dreaming of being the shoemaker’s apprentice.” (paragraph 2)

“A blur of movement rippled behind the glass; two people were coming out of the shop, probably to chase her away. . . .” (paragraph 4)

“Her hands were cold, like the rest of her.” (paragraph 5)

“‘I’ll see you rot in Five Towers Prison!’ the boy exclaimed.” (paragraph 9)

“She seized the ribbon, which was a good three inches long, and backed away. Now she could run.” (paragraph 12)

“‘No!’ Phoenix exclaimed. ‘I’m too old for dolls.’” (paragraph 14)

2. Part A

What does the dialogue in paragraphs 10–17 **mainly** reveal about Percy?

- A. He does not share Alfred’s opinion of Phoenix.
- B. He is a demanding employer to Alfred.
- C. He is a poor judge of Phoenix’s character.
- D. He wants Phoenix to replace Alfred in the shop.

Part B

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

- A. “. . . what’s all this racket?” (paragraph 10)
- B. “Why are you letting in all the cold wind, Alfred?” (paragraph 10)
- C. “What do you want the scraps for?” (paragraph 13)
- D. “. . . it seems we have a fellow shoemaker here. A person worthy of respect.” (paragraph 17)

3. Create an objective summary of the passage by dragging **four** of the sentences into the table in the correct order. Not all sentences will be used.

Phoenix lives on the island of Faranor, which is the capital of the kingdom of Windward.

Phoenix is standing outside a shoemaker's shop and sees an advertisement for an apprentice.

Phoenix explains what her shoes look like and why she makes them.

Phoenix gets into an argument with a boy who works at the shop.

Phoenix looks through garbage behind the shop to find discarded materials to make shoes.

Phoenix meets the shop owner and explains why she is looking through the trash.

Phoenix finally grabs the ribbon she was searching for.

Summary

1.

2.

3.

4.

4. Part A

Which sentence **best** describes a theme of the passage from *The Phoenix Dance*?

- A. Appearances can be deceiving.
- B. Friends can be difficult to find.
- C. Desire for wealth can corrupt the innocent.
- D. People in power can often be dishonest.

Part B

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

- A. "Phoenix gazed at the exquisite shoes with their rhinestones and ribbons and rosettes. . . ." (paragraph 2)
- B. "Percy Snailkips Shoemaker to the Royal Household. . . ." (paragraph 2)
- C. "Imagine making shoes for the queen!" (paragraph 3)
- D. "Why shouldn't she be Percy Snailkips's new apprentice?" (paragraph 3)

5. Write a narrative that continues the story after paragraph 17 and is told from the point of view of Percy Snailkips. Use details from the passage to support your narrative.

6. Part A

In paragraph 5, what does the detailed description of the materials Phoenix finds suggest about the characters?

- A. Phoenix is aware of the materials, while Percy and Alfred are not.
- B. Percy and Alfred take good care of the materials, while Phoenix does not.
- C. Phoenix is easily able to locate the materials, while Percy and Alfred have trouble.
- D. Percy and Alfred view the materials as worthless, while Phoenix thinks they are valuable.

Part B

Which evidence from paragraph 5 **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A. “. . . bright treasures shone among the apple peels and soggy tea leaves . . .”
- B. “. . . two crumpled peacock feathers, and a patch of glue-stained red velvet the size of her palm.”
- C. “Phoenix stuffed them into her cloak pocket. Her hands were cold. . . .”
- D. “Phoenix had just spied a snippet of tapestry ribbon down deep. . . .”

7. Part A

How is a central idea of the passage developed in paragraphs 6–11?

- A. The paragraphs show the disrespect between Phoenix and Percy.
- B. The paragraphs show the tension between Phoenix and Alfred.
- C. The paragraphs show the relationship between Phoenix and Percy.
- D. The paragraphs show the difference between the skills of Phoenix and Alfred.

Part B

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

- A. “‘You!’ A boy stuck his blond head out of the shoemaker’s back door. Phoenix knew she should run. . . .” (paragraph 6)
- B. “‘Saw you there a minute ago.’” (paragraph 7)
- C. “Beneath the apron, he wore a red shirt and brown pants.” (paragraph 10)
- D. “Phoenix gazed at him with awe. Had his sausage-like fingers really fashioned the delicate, fanciful shoes . . . ?” (paragraph 10)