



**Grade 7**  
**English Language Arts/Literacy**  
**End of Year S/M Informational**  
**Text Set**

**2017 Released Items**

## **2017 Released Items: Grade 7 End of Year S/M Informational Text Set**

The short/medium (S/M) informational text set requires students to read an informational text and answer questions.

The 2017 blueprint for the grade 7 S/M informational text set includes Evidence-Based Selected Response/ Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response items.

### **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:**

- 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**

<b>Text Type:</b> S-M Info								
<b>Passage(s):</b> "Hey, Saw Lady!"								
<b>Item Code</b>	<b>Answer(s)</b>	<b>Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment</b>						
<b>4188_A</b>	<b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A: C</b> <b>Part B: C</b>	RI 7.1.1 RI 7.4.1						
<b>4191_A</b>	<b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A: A</b> <b>Part B: D</b>	RI 7.1.1 RI 7.3.1						
<b>4194_A</b>	<b>Item Type: TECR</b> <b>Part A: B</b> <b>Part B:</b> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 30%; padding: 5px;">Support for Author's Purpose</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">"When God closed the door on dance, he opened a window into a whole new musical world for me," (paragraph 9)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Support for Author's Purpose</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">"But her performance was a hit, and the Salvation Army center recommended her to another center . . ." (paragraph 11)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Support for Author's Purpose</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">"Soon, Natalia was fielding invitations from all over the city." (paragraph 11)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Support for Author's Purpose	"When God closed the door on dance, he opened a window into a whole new musical world for me," (paragraph 9)	Support for Author's Purpose	"But her performance was a hit, and the Salvation Army center recommended her to another center . . ." (paragraph 11)	Support for Author's Purpose	"Soon, Natalia was fielding invitations from all over the city." (paragraph 11)	RI 7.1.1 RI 7.6.2
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<b>4192_A</b>	<b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A: D</b> <b>Part B: C</b>	RI 7.1.1 RI 7.2.1 RI 7.2.2						
<b>4190_A</b>	<b>Item Type: EBSR (additional item)</b> <b>Part A: D</b> <b>Part B: A, D</b>	RI 7.1.1 RI 7.3.1						
<b>4690_A</b>	<b>Item Type: EBSR (additional item)</b> <b>Part A: B</b> <b>Part B: D, F</b>	RI 7.1.1 RI 7.6.2						

<b>4189_A</b>	<b>Item Type: EBSR (additional item)</b> <b>Part A: A</b> <b>Part B: B</b>	RI 7.1.1 RI 7.4.1
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Read the article "Hey, Saw Lady!" Then answer the questions.

Hey, Saw Lady!

by Julie A. Evans

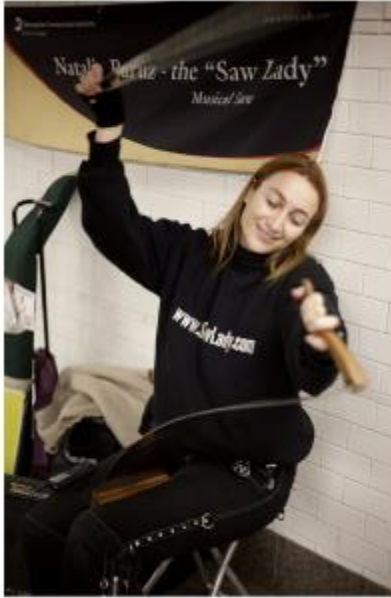


- 1** Natalia Paruz came to the United States from Israel in 1989. She was 14, already a talented dancer, and she had been accepted as a student at the prestigious Alvin Ailey school in New York City. Two years into her training, tragedy struck. Natalia was hit by a taxicab as she crossed a city street. "The cab came around the corner and didn't stop. It hit me at full speed," she recalls.
- 2** Natalia would suffer permanent injury to her upper spine. Physical therapy, massage, and acupuncture helped ease the pain, but her nascent career was over before it had begun. "I feel fortunate because I can walk," says Natalia. "But I can't turn my head all the way to the left and right. I can't bend backwards. And I can't dance."
- 3** To cheer up their grieving daughter, Natalia's parents took her to Austria for a tour of the countryside where her favorite childhood movie, *The Sound of Music*, was filmed. One night, the family attended a concert featuring a musician playing, of all things, a carpenter's hand saw. Natalia was entranced. The saw moved as if it was dancing. "It was the first time since the accident that I felt excited about something," she says.
- 4** After the show, Natalia went backstage and asked the man if he would teach her how to play the saw.

- 5** He said no.
- 6** “He told me to go home, pick up any saw for carpentry, and figure it out.”
- 7** When Natalia returned to New York, she borrowed a rusty saw from a friend. She was able to make it sing, just a little, creating six distinct notes. Encouraged, she went to the hardware store and tested a few saws until she found one that played a full octave and a half.
- 8** Just like Maria in *The Sound of Music*, Natalia had found her calling. Within a few years, she excelled at this instrument, which produces a sound eerily like that of a soprano opera singer. “It’s amazing that a piece of metal can sound so human,” she says.
- 9** “The accident changed my life for the better. When God closed the door on dance, he opened a window into a whole new musical world for me,” she says, alluding to well-known words spoken by Maria in the popular film.
- 10** At first, playing the saw was just a hobby for Natalia. She would play the saw while on break from her job selling souvenirs in Broadway theaters. She practiced at home but always worried that neighbors would complain about the peculiar sounds coming from her apartment. Ironically it was one of these very same neighbors who referred Natalia for her first public appearance, playing for senior citizens at a local Salvation Army center.
- 11** “I was still new to the saw and I really didn’t know if I was good enough,” says Natalia. But her performance was a hit, and the Salvation Army center recommended her to another center, which in turn led to more referrals. Soon, Natalia was fielding invitations from all over the city.
- 12** Since those early days, Natalia has played the saw with some of the world’s greatest musicians, including the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. She has been invited to play at Madison Square Garden, Carnegie Hall, and other New York institutions.
- 13** Natalia also works in the studio, recording music for television commercials, singer-songwriters, and movie soundtracks. She appeared as a saw player in the 2002 movie, *Dummy*, starring Adrien Brody.

Garrison Keillor of the *Prairie Home Companion* radio show has named Natalia the show's "official saw player."

**14** But her favorite venue is the cavernous New York City subway system, where she performs regularly. "It's such an honor to fill the artery of this great city with my sound and provide the soundtrack to people's lives," says Natalia.



"Hey, Saw Lady!" Story © 2012 SEPS licensed by Curtis Licensing Indianapolis, IN. All rights reserved.

Photos: Natalia "Saw Lady" Paruz

**1. Part A**

As used in paragraph 2 of the article, what is the meaning of the word **nascent**?

- A. becoming well-known
- B. becoming threatened
- C. beginning to develop
- D. beginning to lose control

**Part B**

Which phrase from paragraph 2 of the article helps the reader understand the meaning of **nascent**?

- A. “. . . would suffer permanent injury . . .”
- B. “. . . acupuncture helped ease the pain. . . .”
- C. “. . . over before it had begun.”
- D. “. . . can’t turn my head all the way . . .”



**2. Part A**

Which phrase from paragraph 3 of the article **best** shows why Natalia’s parents took her on the trip?

- A. “To cheer up their grieving daughter . . .”
- B. “. . . for a tour of the countryside . . .”
- C. “. . . her favorite childhood movie . . . was filmed.”
- D. “. . . the family attended a concert. . . .”

**Part B**

How did Natalia’s experiences on the trip influence her?

- A. The events helped her regain her physical strength to dance again.
- B. The events led her to appreciate New York City in a new way.
- C. The events helped her become more outgoing and sociable.
- D. The events led her to develop a new talent and career.

**3. Part A**

What is **most likely** the author's purpose for writing the article?

- A. to describe the lasting effects of Natalia's injuries in her professional life
- B. to show how the accident changed Natalia's life in positive ways
- C. to encourage readers to find new interests
- D. to describe a young immigrant's life in the United States

**(continues on next page)**

**Part B**

Drag and drop **three** quotations into the chart that support the answer to Part A.

## Possible Support for the Author's Purpose

<p>"At first, playing the saw was just a hobby for Natalia." (paragraph 10)</p>	<p>"When God closed the door on dance, he opened a window into a whole new musical world for me. . . ." (paragraph 9)</p>
<p>"Ironically it was one of these very same neighbors who referred Natalia for her first public appearance. . . ." (paragraph 10)</p>	<p>"But her performance was a hit, and the Salvation Army center recommended her to another center. . . ." (paragraph 11)</p>
<p>"She practiced at home but always worried that neighbors would complain. . . ." (paragraph 10)</p>	<p>"Soon, Natalia was fielding invitations from all over the city." (paragraph 11)</p>

Support for Author's Purpose	
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**4. Part A**

How does the author **mainly** develop the central idea throughout the article?

- A. by contrasting the danger of playing the saw with the beauty of the music
- B. by contrasting Natalia's feelings of loneliness with her feelings of joy
- C. by contrasting the innocence of a child with the wisdom of an adult
- D. by contrasting Natalia's obstacles with her accomplishments

**Part B**

Which **two** paragraphs highlight how the author develops the central idea throughout the article?

- A. paragraphs 1 and 3
- B. paragraphs 3 and 10
- C. paragraphs 2 and 8
- D. paragraphs 7 and 9

**5. Part A**

How did the trip to Austria affect Natalia's mood?

- A. She felt peaceful.
- B. She felt proud.
- C. She felt relieved.
- D. She felt renewed.

**Part B**

Which **two** quotations from the article show how Natalia's mood was affected?

- A. "It was the first time since the accident that I felt excited about something. . . ." (paragraph 3)
- B. "He told me to go home, pick up any saw for carpentry, and figure it out." (paragraph 6)
- C. ". . . she went to the hardware store and tested a few saws. . . ." (paragraph 7)
- D. "The accident changed my life for the better." (paragraph 9)
- E. "She would play the saw while on break from her job. . . ." (paragraph 10)
- F. "Natalia also works in the studio, recording music for television commercials, singer-songwriters, and movie soundtracks." (paragraph 13)

**6. Part A**

What **most likely** was the author’s purpose for writing this article?

- A. to persuade readers that a carpenter’s hand saw should be considered a legitimate musical instrument
- B. to inspire readers by telling the story of how a young woman overcame a life trauma by developing a unique talent
- C. to warn readers to be especially cautious about stepping out into busy streets
- D. to convince readers that their dreams can come true if they find a skill they are passionate about and practice it diligently

**Part B**

Which **two** details did the author include to support the answer to Part A?

- A. “Natalia Paruz came to the United States from Israel in 1989.” (paragraph 1)
- B. “She was 14, already a talented dancer, and she had been accepted as a student at the prestigious Alvin Ailey school in New York City.” (paragraph 1)
- C. “To cheer up their grieving daughter, Natalia’s parents took her to Austria for a tour of the countryside where her favorite childhood movie, *The Sound of Music*, was filmed.” (paragraph 3)
- D. “Just like Maria in *The Sound of Music*, Natalia had found her calling.” (paragraph 8)
- E. “At first, playing the saw was just a hobby for Natalia.” (paragraph 10)
- F. “Since those early days, Natalia has played the saw with some of the world’s greatest musicians, including the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.” (paragraph 12)

**7. Part A**

As used in paragraph 3 of the article, what is the meaning of the word **entranced**?

- A. captivated her attention
- B. reminded her of past events
- C. motivated her to sing better
- D. surprised her

**Part B**

Which phrase from the article **best** helps the reader understand the meaning of **entranced**?

- A. “. . . playing, of all things, a carpenter’s hand saw.” (paragraph 3)
- B. “. . . saw moved as if it was dancing.” (paragraph 3)
- C. “. . . pick up any saw for carpentry, and figure it out.” (paragraph 6)
- D. “. . . playing the saw was just a hobby . . .” (paragraph 10)

