



Grade 8
English Language Arts/Literacy
Literary Analysis Task

2017 Released Items

2017 Released Items: Grade 8 Literary Analysis Task

The Literary Analysis Task requires students to read two literary texts that are purposely paired. Students read the texts, answer questions for each text and for the texts as a pair, and then write an analytic essay.

The 2017 blueprint for PARCC's grade 8 Literary Analysis Task includes six 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(s)

Additional related materials not included in this document:

- Sample scored student responses with annotations and practice papers
- PARCC Scoring Rubric for Prose Constructed Response Items
- Guide to English Language Arts/Literacy Released Items: Understanding Scoring
- PARCC English Language Arts/Literacy Assessment: General Scoring Rules for the 2015 Summative Assessment

PARCC Release Items Answer and Alignment Document
ELA/Literacy: Grade 8

Text Type: LAT		
Passage(s): from "Trial by Combat"/ from "Summer Ball"		
Item Code	Answer(s)	Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment
VF906934	Item Type: EBSR Part A: D Part B: B	RL 8.1.1 L 8.4.1
VF906951	Item Type: TECR Part A: B Part B: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>hesitated about complaining to the landlady because her losses were trivial and because she had felt certain that sooner or later she would know how to deal with the situation herself. It had seemed logical to her from the beginning that the one person in the rooming-house who was home all day was the most likely suspect, and then, one Sunday morning, coming downstairs from the roof, where she had been sitting in the sun, Emily had seen someone come out of her room and go down the stairs, and had recognized the visitor. Tonight, she felt, she knew just what to do. She took off her coat and hat, put her packages down, and, while a can of tamales was heating on her electric plate, she went over what she intended to say.</p> </div>	RL 8.1.1 RL 8.2.3
VF906941	Item Type: EBSR Part A: C Part B: D	RL 8.1.1 RL 8.3.3
VF907019	Item Type: EBSR Part A: B Part B: A	RL 8.1.1 RL 8.4.1 RL 8.3.3
VF907085	Item Type: EBSR Part A: A Part B: B	RL 8.1.1 RL 8.2.1
VF907077	Item Type: EBSR Part A: C Part B: C	RL 8.1.1 RL 8.2.3
VH034767	Item Type: PCR Refer to Grade 8 Scoring Rubric	RL 8.1.1 RL 8.6.1

Today you will analyze a passage from "Trial by Combat" and a passage from *Summer Ball*. As you read these texts, you will gather information and answer questions about differences in point of view of the characters so you can write an essay.

Read the passage from "Trial by Combat." Then answer the questions.

from "Trial by Combat"

by Shirley Jackson

Copyright restrictions prevent the excerpt from "Trial by Combat" by Shirley Jackson from being displayed in this format. Please refer to the short story beginning at "When Emily Johnson came home one evening..." and ending with "'Good night,' Mrs. Allen said." from THE LOTTERY by Shirley Jackson, © 1949, published by Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, accessible through your local library.

1. Part A

In paragraph 1, what does the word **trivial** mean?

- A. reasonable
- B. frustrating
- C. personal
- D. insignificant

Part B

What evidence from paragraph 1 **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A. “. . . three of her best handkerchiefs . . .”
- B. “. . . small things occasionally.”
- C. “. . . hesitated about complaining . . .”
- D. “. . . she would know how to deal with the situation. . . .”

2. Part A

Why did Emily decide to approach Mrs. Allen?

- A. She hoped Mrs. Allen could identify the thief.
- B. She suspected Mrs. Allen of taking her things.
- C. She needed Mrs. Allen's help to speak to the landlady.
- D. She was concerned Mrs. Allen's belongings were also missing.

Part B

Select **one** sentence in paragraph 1 that **best** supports the answer to Part A.

1 When Emily Johnson came home one evening to her furnished room and found three of her best handkerchiefs missing from the dresser drawer, she was sure who had taken them and what to do. She had lived in the furnished room for about six weeks and for the past two weeks she had been missing small things occasionally. There had been several handkerchiefs gone, and an initial pin which Emily rarely wore and which had come from the five-and-ten. And once she had missed a small bottle of perfume and one of a set of china dogs. Emily had known for some time who was taking the things, but it was only tonight that she had decided what to do. She had hesitated about complaining to the landlady because her losses were trivial and because she had felt certain that sooner or later she would know how to deal with the situation herself. It had seemed logical to her from the beginning that the one person in the rooming-house who was home all day was the most likely suspect, and then, one Sunday morning, coming downstairs from the roof, where she had been sitting in the sun, Emily had seen someone come out of her room and go down the stairs, and had recognized the visitor. Tonight, she felt, she knew just what to do. She took off her coat and hat, put her packages down, and, while a can of tamales was heating on her electric plate, she went over what she intended to say.

3. Part A

What does the conversation between paragraph 6 and paragraph 20 reveal about the characters?

- A. Emily is intimidated by Mrs. Allen.
- B. Emily and Mrs. Allen have a lot in common.
- C. Mrs. Allen already knows why Emily is visiting.
- D. Emily and Mrs. Allen will likely become friends.

Part B

What other part of the passage contributes to the conclusion found in Part A?

- A. the description of the missing items in paragraph 1
- B. the introduction of Mrs. Allen in paragraph 3
- C. the description of the apartment in paragraph 3
- D. the reaction of Mrs. Allen in paragraph 4

Read the passage from *Summer Ball*. Then answer the questions.

from *Summer Ball*

by Mike Lupica

- 1** It was Gampel's night to use the phone, which meant it was Danny's first chance to talk to his dad about everything that had—and hadn't—happened in the last day or so.
- 2** As soon as Richie Walker got on the line, he wanted to know everything about the knee, whether the swelling was on the inside or the outside, if the doctor was sure it was just a sprain and not ligaments, if the doctor was sure there was nothing floating around in there. His dad still considered himself a medical expert, not just on knees, but everything else after all the broken parts he'd had fixed in his life.
- 3** "Dad," Danny said, "I'm fine."
- 4** "Well, you're not fine if they still want to do an MRI," his dad said. "That doesn't sound fine to me."
- 5** Danny was in the phone booth with the door open, because it was a hot, muggy night in Cedarville. Zach was waiting to use the phone next. Danny closed the door now, even if Zach knew most of the story about the fake knee injury. It was more Danny being so embarrassed about what he was going to say next that he didn't even want *himself* to hear.
- 6** Like he was telling somebody he was afraid of the dark.
- 7** "When I say fine, Dad, it means I was never really hurt," he said. "I wanted an excuse to get out of here."

- 8** Out with it, just like that. He felt bad enough about having lied to the doctor and his mom and maybe himself. He was done with that, for good. He wasn't going to lie to his dad. Before he'd even considered doing something this lame, he should have thought about what his dad looked like in the hospital after his last accident. He should have remembered how his dad's basketball life—and nearly his whole life—ended in that first car accident his rookie year.
- 9** He could hear Tarik's voice inside his head now.
- 10** True *that*.
- 11** On the other end of the phone line, Richie Walker didn't say anything at first. It was one of those killer silences parents gave you sometimes, in person or over the phone, when they were trying to make you keep talking.
- 12** Or maybe his dad couldn't believe what he'd just heard.
- 13** "I'm not sure I heard you right," Richie Walker said.
- 14** Danny said, "You heard right."
- 15** Finally, Richie said, "That's not you." There was another pause and then he said, "Man, that's never been you."
- 16** "Dad," Danny said, "I know that now. I would have figured it out on my own. But Tess—she's here—got in my face the other night and made me see how dumb I'd been." He paused before he said, "Dad, believe me, there's nothing you could say that would make me feel worse than I already do."

17 “I don’t care how much this coach got to you,” Richie said. “You never fake an injury in sports. Never.” He spit out the last word. “You quit before you do that.”

18 “I know that now,” Danny said.

19 “Do you?”

20 “Dad, I made a mistake, and I’m owning up to it. Isn’t that what you always tell me to do?”

21 “You want a trophy for that?”

22 There was a lot more Danny wanted to tell his dad, to make him understand, wanted to tell him about Coach Powers saying he should switch sports, that maybe soccer would be better for him. But he was afraid it would come out sounding like one more lame excuse for faking the injury.

23 So he kept what had happened at Coach Powers’s cabin to himself, through a silence from his dad that felt longer than eighth grade.

24 “You want to come home, come home,” Richie said. “You want to stay, then show this coach he was wrong about you. Other than that, I’ve got nothin’ right now. Talk to you soon.”

25 Didn’t say he loved him. Didn’t wait for Danny to say that to him.

26 Just hung up.

27 Danny stood there, the receiver still to his ear, listening to the dial tone.

28 Then he took a deep breath, leaned out and asked Zach if he could make one more quick call. He pumped some change into the phone, called the number at Tess’s uncle’s house. He was going to tell her about the

conversation with his dad, but when she came on, telling him in this happy excited voice about a fish she'd caught that afternoon, he decided against it. He would have skipped talking about the game, too, but she asked him about it once she was finished with her fish tale.

29 "Aren't you the one who always says there's a lot more that goes into a game than the last play?" Tess said.

30 "Yeah, but—"

31 Tess cut him off. "Forget the ending and think about the good stuff as a beginning."

32 "Okay," Danny said.

33 "Promise?"

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4. Part A

What does the repetition of the word **lame** in paragraphs 8 and 22 reveal about Danny?

- A. his feeling of fear
- B. his feeling of guilt
- C. his feeling of frustration
- D. his feeling of humiliation

Part B

What incident contributes the **most** to the answer in Part A?

- A. the memory of his father's accident
- B. the opinion of Coach Powers
- C. his desire to go home
- D. his promise to Tess

5. Part A

What is a central idea of *Summer Ball*?

- A. There is no excuse for lying.
- B. There are two sides to every story.
- C. There are never times when one should quit.
- D. There is reward for admitting one's mistakes.

Part B

What piece of evidence from *Summer Ball* supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "It was Gampel's night to use the phone, which meant it was Danny's first chance to talk to his dad about everything that had—and hadn't—happened. . . ." (paragraph 1)
- B. "It was more Danny being so embarrassed about what he was going to say next that he didn't even want *himself* to hear." (paragraph 5)
- C. "There was another pause and then he said, 'Man, that's never been you.'" (paragraph 15)
- D. "'Aren't you the one who always says there's a lot more that goes into a game than the last play?'" (paragraph 29)

6. Part A

How does the setting of the camp contribute to the central idea of *Summer Ball*?

- A. The supportive atmosphere of the camp influences Danny to conquer his fears.
- B. The encouragement given at the camp pushes Danny to set new goals.
- C. The isolation at camp forces Danny to have a difficult conversation over the telephone.
- D. The independence gained at camp provides Danny with the courage to tackle a new sport.

Part B

What evidence from the text supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "Danny closed the door now, even if Zach knew most of the story about the fake knee injury." (paragraph 5)
- B. "Like he was telling somebody he was afraid of the dark." (paragraph 6)
- C. "On the other end of the phone line, Richie Walker didn't say anything at first." (paragraph 11)
- D. ". . . wanted to tell him about Coach Powers saying he should switch sports, that maybe soccer would be better for him." (paragraph 22)

7. In "Trial by Combat" and *Summer Ball*, the characters have conversations where a lot goes unsaid. Analyze how these unspoken viewpoints influence the tension within the conversations that are held throughout the passages.

