



## **2015 Released Items: Grade 7 Performance-Based Assessment 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 2015 blueprint for PARCC's grade 7 Narrative Writing Task includes five Evidence-Based Selected Response/Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response items as well as one Prose Constructed Response prompt. This document includes a complete Narrative Writing Task from an online summative assessment form.

### **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
- PARCC English Language Arts/Literacy Assessment: General Scoring Rules for the 2015 Summative Assessment

### **Note:**

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**PARCC PBA Release Items Answer and Alignment Document**  
**ELA/Literacy: Grade 7**

| <b>Task: Narrative Writing Task (NWT)</b>                |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Passage(s): Believing in Horses by Valerie Ormond</b> |  |   |
| <b>Item Code</b>   | <b>Answer(s)</b>   | <b>Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment</b> |
| VF909250   | <b>Item Type: EBSR</b><br><b>Part A: C</b><br><b>Part B: D</b> | RL 7.1.2<br>RL 7.4.1                          |
| VF908825   | <b>Item Type: EBSR</b><br><b>Part A: B</b><br><b>Part B: B</b> | RL 7.1.2<br>RL 7.6.1                          |
| VF908816   | <b>Item Type: EBSR</b><br><b>Part A: A</b><br><b>Part B: B</b> | RL 7.1.1<br>RL 7.3.1                          |
| VF908965   | <b>Item Type: EBSR</b><br><b>Part A: C</b><br><b>Part B: C</b> | RL 7.1.2<br>RL 7.2.1                          |

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| VF909254 | <p><b>Item Type: TECR</b><br/> <b>Part A: C</b><br/> <b>Part B: Any two of the highlighted sentences from paragraphs 8, 11 and 12.</b></p> <p><b>8</b> Another clap of thunder shook their ears, and Sadie looked back to ensure Lucky was okay. His eyes were wide, his nostrils flared, but he looked at Sadie as if he trusted her. Sadie continued forward, picking up the pace because she wasn't sure how long Lucky could keep his cool. Thinking she was on a familiar path, she turned back to Lucky to calm him and tell him they were almost there. By the time she faced forward again, it was too late. She plunged down a deep ravine and into a stream at the bottom with a loud splash and a scream.</p> <p><b>11</b> It was useless. He was well out of her earshot, and the rain and thunder were too loud. Horses instinctively return to their homes, and Sadie hoped that Lucky was on his way back to the barn. She didn't blame him for being so scared and losing his confidence in her.</p> <p><b>12</b> Sadie went for her cell phone to let somebody know what was happening. This was no longer about her stubbornness or pride, it was about making sure Lucky was safe. Of course, her cell phone was safely tucked into her saddle bag—on Lucky. She took a deep breath, told herself that was okay, and that everyone would find out soon enough what was going on when Lucky came galloping up the path to the barn alone. As a source of strength she said out loud, "I believe you're going to know what to do, Lucky," and trudged back towards the barn, paying very close attention to where she was going this time.</p> | <p>RL 7.1.2<br/> RL 7.3.1</p> |
| VF909277 | <p><b>Item Type: PCR</b><br/> Refer to Grade 6-11 Scoring Rubric</p>  | <p>W 7.3<br/> W 7.4-7.10</p>  |

Today you will read a passage from *Believing in Horses*. As you read, pay close attention to the characters and setting as you answer the questions to prepare to write a narrative story.

Copyright restrictions prevent the passage from *Believing In Horses* from being displayed in this format. Please refer to *Believing In Horses* by Valerie Ormond, accessible through your local library.

### Part A

In paragraphs 9 and 11, what do the words **instincts** and **instinctively** suggest about why horses often return to their homes on their own?

- A. They are taught to do it by their parents.
- B. They learn to do it from skillful riders.
- C. They automatically do it by nature.
- D. They choose to do it when humans are at risk.

### Part B

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

- A. "Sadie continued forward, picking up the pace because she wasn't sure how long Lucky could keep his cool." (paragraph 8)
- B. "Lucky looked at her as if to say 'I told you it was the other way,' and she couldn't help but laugh." (paragraph 3)
- C. "Sadie had let the reins go during her fall." (paragraph 9)
- D. "Lucky took off in a terrified gallop through the woods." (paragraph 9)

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### Part A

Based on the passage, how are Sadie's and Lucky's points of view different?

- A. Lucky prefers to stay near the barn, while Sadie enjoys adventures.
- B. Lucky is intimidated by the storm, while Sadie more calmly focuses on practical needs.
- C. Lucky enjoys the company of horses, while Sadie prefers to be with humans.
- D. Lucky is used to the outdoors, while Sadie is just learning survival skills.

### Part B

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

- A. "His eyes were wide, his nostrils flared, but he looked at Sadie as if he trusted her." (paragraph 8)
- B. "Sadie continued forward, picking up the pace because she wasn't sure how long Lucky could keep his cool." (paragraph 8)
- C. "Horses instinctively return to their homes, and Sadie hoped that Lucky was on his way back to the barn." (paragraph 11)
- D. "Of course, her cell phone was safely tucked into her saddle bag—on Lucky." (paragraph 12)

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### Part A

How does the storm affect Sadie's behavior toward Lucky?

- A. It causes her to observe Lucky closely.
- B. It leads her to speak sternly to Lucky.
- C. It makes her decide to walk next to Lucky.
- D. It inspires her to give Lucky more freedom.

### Part B

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

- A. "It hadn't been a nice day, but she hadn't expected this!" (paragraph 6)
- B. "Another clap of thunder shook their ears, and Sadie looked back to ensure Lucky was okay." (paragraph 8)
- C. "Sadie had let the reins go during her fall." (paragraph 9)
- D. "She didn't blame him for being so scared and losing his confidence in her." (paragraph 11)

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### Part A

Which phrase reflects the **main** theme of the passage?

- A. Loyalty is unappreciated until it is tested.
- B. The beauty of nature should be respected.
- C. Decisions can have unintended consequences.
- D. Companionship is a universal necessity.

### Part B

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

- A. "Perhaps because there were no other riders in the barn, Sadie felt a tinge of loneliness, and was relieved that she had her best friend, Lucky, right there." (paragraph 1)
- B. "It seemed like it could be bright and sunny one minute, pouring rain the next, and then bright and sunny again." (paragraph 6)
- C. "Sadie regretted going out on the trail alone now." (paragraph 7)
- D. "Sadie could not afford to feel pain or panic." (paragraph 10)

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### Part A

How do events in the plot shape the relationship of the characters in the passage?

- A. The years Sadie has lived in Maryland have led her to be a knowledgeable guide for Lucky.
- B. The difficult events Sadie and Lucky have gone through together have caused them to drift apart.
- C. The time Sadie and Lucky spent together helped them to understand each other.
- D. The poor training Sadie has given Lucky has caused Lucky to distrust her.

### Part B

Select **two** sentences in paragraphs 8–12 that support the answer in Part A.



**Today you will read a passage from *Believing in Horses*. As you read, pay close attention to the characters and setting as you answer the questions to prepare to write a narrative story.**

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Write a narrative in which you continue the story of *Believing in Horses*. Your narrative should be a believable continuation of the events, and it should clearly reflect the characterization and setting in the passage.

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|----------|----------|----------|---|---|---|---|
| <b>B</b> | <i>I</i> | <u>U</u> | ☰ | ☷ | ↶ | ↷ |
|          |          |          |   |   |   |   |