

## **2016 Released Items: Grade 9 Narrative Writing Task**

The Narrative Writing Task focuses on one literary text. Students read the text, answer questions, and then write a narrative response that is tied to and draws on the text.

The 2016 blueprint for grade 9 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**  
**ELA/Literacy: Grade 9**

Text Type: NWT										
Passage(s): from <i>Water Lily</i>										
Item Code	Answer(s)	Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment								
6381_A	<b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A:</b> A <b>Part B:</b> B	RL 9.1.1 RL 9.2.1								
6382_A	<b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A:</b> A <b>Part B:</b> C	RL 9.1.1 RL 9.5.1								
6386_A	<b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A:</b> D <b>Part B:</b> D, F	RL 9.1.1 RL 9.5.1 RL 9.3.3								
6384_A	<b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A:</b> A <b>Part B:</b> B, D, G	RL 9.1.1 RL 9.5.1 RL 9.3.3								
6388	<b>Item Type: PCR</b> Refer to Grade 9 Scoring Rubric	RL 9.1.1    W 9.3 RL 9.3.2    W 9.4—W 9.10 RL 9.3.3								
6387	<b>Item Type: TECR (additional item)</b> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Before Waterlily's Birth</th><th>After Waterlily's Birth</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>" . . . never been entirely happy . . . "</td><td>" . . . a different kind of happiness . . . "</td></tr><tr><td>" . . . could not feel satisfied . . . "</td><td>" . . . satisfying, if subdued . . . "</td></tr><tr><td>" . . . never ceased to yearn . . . "</td><td>" . . . again completely happy."</td></tr></tbody></table>	Before Waterlily's Birth	After Waterlily's Birth	" . . . never been entirely happy . . . "	" . . . a different kind of happiness . . . "	" . . . could not feel satisfied . . . "	" . . . satisfying, if subdued . . . "	" . . . never ceased to yearn . . . "	" . . . again completely happy."	RL 9.1.1 RL 9.3.1
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6973_A	<b>Item Type: EBSR (additional item)</b> <b>Part A:</b> B <b>Part B:</b> D, F, G	RL 9.1.1 RL 9.3.3 RL 9.3.3								

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by Ella Cara Deloria

**1** Blue Bird had never been entirely happy either in her marriage or in her life in a camp circle that was not her own. It was not that the people were unkind; quite the contrary. But she could not feel satisfied there. She never ceased to yearn for her own people. It was almost four years now she and her grandmother had been staying there. Sometimes she wished they had risked everything and struck out alone in search of their own camp circle. Even if they had perished on the way, it would have been worth trying.

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5 But busy as they were, the old grandmother took time out one afternoon for a walk under the tall cottonwoods nearby. The next day she announced, as they sat eating, “There is a large cache of earth beans over yonder, where many little paths under the matted grass come together from all directions. The field mice, too, have been busy preparing for winter.”

6 “Well, that is indeed good news,” her son’s wife said. “Now maybe we can take back earth beans as well as meat. I hope you can remember where the cache is.”

7 “Oh, yes. And anyway I set up a stick to mark the spot,” the old woman assured her, adding, “I could easily have thumped in the dirt roof right then with my club and brought the beans home. But of course I waited.”

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That was no way for a girl to speak to a brother, and few adults would fail to correct such a slip. Blue Bird’s mother said gently but firmly, “Daughter, one does not call one’s brother ‘silly.’” And then she turned to her mother-in-law saying, “I have some dried corn in that rawhide box. Will it answer?”

The old woman was delighted. “Of course. It will be just the thing. Too good, I should say. For who are they, to have green corn dried for them? They should be too happy with it to think of bewitching me—I hope.” She said this laughingly, but it was plain she half feared the common belief about the powers of resentful mice.

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Out of the woods and into the clear they came, but when they looked toward their camp, it was not there. Everything was in ruins. How could it have happened so quickly, so quietly? It was unbelievable that in the short time since Blue Bird and her grandmother had left it, an enemy war party had raided their camp. Yet that was the case.

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## Part A

Which sentence states a central idea of the passage from *Waterlily*?

- ☐ A. Sometimes the pain of a loss can be soothed by a gift of new life.
- ☐ B. Experiencing great pain makes a person kinder to others.
- ☐ C. If you take happiness for granted, unhappiness will find you.
- ☐ D. Time gives us the ability to understand what once bewildered us.

## Part B

Which detail from the passage helps develop the answer in Part A?

- ☐ A. "It was not that the people were unkind; quite the contrary." (paragraph 1)
- ☐ B. "Tonight for the first time, with her infant, *Waterlily*, asleep beside her, she was again completely happy." (paragraph 2)
- ☐ C. "She had been fourteen years old at the time." (paragraph 3)
- ☐ D. "But busy as they were, the old grandmother took time out one afternoon for a walk under the tall cottonwoods nearby." (paragraph 5)

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## Part A

Why does the author choose to begin *Blue Bird*'s story in paragraph 2 with **so cruelly ended in a day**?

- ☐ A. to hint that Blue Bird will experience loss
- ☐ B. to explain why Blue Bird was unable to remember events of the past
- ☐ C. to suggest the reason for Blue Bird's dissatisfaction with her marriage
- ☐ D. to indicate how long Blue Bird has been separated from her family

## Part B

Which other phrase in the passage serves a purpose similar to the answer in Part A?

- ☐ A. "... yearn for her own people." (paragraph 1)
- ☐ B. "... a different kind of happiness ..." (paragraph 2)
- ☐ C. "... robbed her of her family." (paragraph 2)
- ☐ D. "... long ago in a far-off place." (paragraph 2)

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#### Part A

Why does the author include the flashback that starts in paragraph 3?

- ☐ A. to establish a different tone from the first two paragraphs
- ☐ B. to examine why Blue Bird feels so strongly about *Waterlily*
- ☐ C. to explore Blue Bird's relationship with her grandmother
- ☐ D. to explain a past event that changed Blue Bird's life

#### Part B

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

- ☐ A. Blue Bird had not been happy in her marriage.
- ☐ B. People were kind, but Blue Bird did not feel satisfied.
- ☐ C. Blue Bird's childhood among her own kinsmen had been happy.
- ☐ D. Blue Bird's carefree life had ended in a day.
- ☐ E. Blue Bird felt happy with *Waterlily* sleeping beside her.
- ☐ F. For the first time, Blue Bird remembered the details of the day she lost her family.



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#### Part A

How do paragraphs 12 and 13 add to the surprise of the ending of the passage?

- ☐ A. The everyday activities of Blue Bird and her grandmother contrast with the shock of their return.
- ☐ B. Blue Bird's willingness to help her grandmother foreshadows the importance of their future relationship.
- ☐ C. The grandmother's eagerness to gather the beans symbolizes the family members' love for one another.
- ☐ D. Blue Bird's observation of her grandmother's work shows her respect for traditions of the family she loses.

#### Part B

Which **three** details support the answer to Part A?

- ☐ A. Blue Bird's mother offered some corn to replace the beans the mice had gathered.
- ☐ B. Blue Bird watched as her grandmother happily gathered beans from the cache.
- ☐ C. The mice would like the corn because it had been parboiled and dried.
- ☐ D. Blue Bird and her grandmother tossed the beans in a blanket to loosen the dirt.
- ☐ E. The clumps of dirt in the blanket that held the beans could be removed later.
- ☐ F. The grandmother always wore a pack strap for a belt.
- ☐ G. The family's camp was empty and in ruins when Blue Bird and her grandmother returned.

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Write a first-person narrative in which you describe the events of the flashback from the grandmother's perspective. Your narrative may include actions, words, and thoughts that you imagine based on the details of the passage you have read.

B I U ≡ ≡ ↶ ↷ ↺

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from *Waterlily*

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At the beginning of the passage from *Waterlily*, Blue Bird is a wife and mother living in the camp of her cousin. What has happened to Blue Bird since the day she and her grandmother lost their own family in such a sudden and tragic way? Write a first-person narrative in which Blue Bird tells the story of her life since she lost her family. Use details from the passage to imagine the events of the narrative.

B I U ≡ ≡ ↶ ↷

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The narrator suggests that *Waterlily*'s birth has transformed Blue Bird in an important way. Drag **three** phrases that describe Blue Bird's emotions before *Waterlily*'s birth into the box labeled Before *Waterlily*'s Birth. Drag **three** phrases that describe Blue Bird's emotions after *Waterlily*'s birth into the box labeled After *Waterlily*'s Birth.

Blue Bird's Emotions

"... never been entirely happy . . ."	"... satisfying, if subdued . . ."
"... a different kind of happiness . . ."	"... could not feel satisfied . . ."
"... never ceased to yearn . . ."	"... again completely happy."

Before <i>Waterlily</i> 's Birth	After <i>Waterlily</i> 's Birth

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#### Part A

After finding a cache of beans, the grandmother marks the cache with a stick rather than bringing the beans back to the camp right away. What was the basis of her decision?

- ☐ A. knowledge of the natural world
- ☐ B. a shared cultural belief
- ☐ C. spite toward her family
- ☐ D. lack of time and energy

#### Part B

Which **three** pieces of evidence support the answer to Part A?

- ☐ A. The grandmother found the beans while the rest of the family was drying meat.
- ☐ B. The grandmother recognized that the beans had been gathered by field mice.
- ☐ C. The mother thought the grandmother's find was good news.
- ☐ D. When she mentioned the cache, the grandmother said, "But of course I waited."
- ☐ E. The brother pouted that his grandmother had left the beans behind.
- ☐ F. Blue Bird chided her brother for not knowing a gift must be left for the mice.
- ☐ G. The mother offered a store of dried corn to replace the beans and wondered if it would be sufficient.