

Grade 4
English Language Arts/Literacy
Literary Analysis Task

2017 Released Items

2017 Released Items: Grade 4 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 grade 4 Literary Analysis Task includes Evidence-Based Selected Response/Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response items as well as 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
- 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 4

Text Type: LAT		Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment
Passage(s): from "Desert Sea Gulls"/from "Sweetened Condensed Milk"		
Item Code	Answer(s)	
VF925457	<p>Item Type: EBSR</p> <p>Part A: C Part B: D</p>	RL 4.1.1 L 4.5.1 RL 4.3.1
VF925583	<p>Item Type: TECR</p> <p>Part A: A Part B:</p> <p>instead of chickens, friends to play with instead of only Ben.</p> <p>11 I flip the page over, where I've started another list: New Things I Love. It's still blank.</p> <p>12 That night I dream of sea gulls calling, their shrieks rising and falling with the wind. They flap over the ocean, trailing the lobster boats.</p> <p>13 I open my eyes and look up at Aunt Cindy's pink ceiling, dim in the early morning light. I'm awake, but I still hear sea gulls. I rub my eyes and sit up. I hear something else, too: the chugging of farm machinery. I creep down the stairs onto the back porch and squint toward the pasture. Grandpa is driving his tractor, dragging something that churns up the dirt. A silver flapping cloud flutters around him.</p> <p>14 Sea gulls.</p> <p>15 They don't seem to mind that they don't belong here. Their gray wings and long hooks skim the freshly</p>	RL 4.1.1 L 4.4.1 RL 4.4.1

VF925509	<p>Item Type: TECR</p> <p>1st</p> <p>Marissa unpacks a box filled with important things from home.</p> <p>2nd</p> <p>Marissa creates two lists: "Old Things I Miss" and "New Things I Love."</p> <p>3rd</p> <p>Marissa sees that the gulls are following Grandpa on his tractor.</p> <p>4th</p> <p>Dad explains the gulls to Marissa.</p> <p>5th</p> <p>Marissa starts to feel a connection to home.</p>	RL 4.1.1 RL 4.2.2
VF925601	<p>Item Type: EBSR</p> <p>Part A: D</p> <p>Part B: B</p>	RL 4.1.1 RL 4.3.3
VF925619	<p>Item Type: EBSR</p> <p>Part A: A</p> <p>Part B: D</p>	RL 4.1.1 L 4.4.1 RL 4.4.1
VF925670	<p>Item Type: EBSR</p> <p>Part A: C</p> <p>Part B: D</p>	RL 4.1.1 RL 4.3.3
VF925727	<p>Item Type: PCR</p>	RL 4.1.1 RL 4.3.2
VF925469	<p>Item Type: EBSR (additional item)</p> <p>Part A: C</p> <p>Part B: E, F</p>	RL 4.1.1 RL 4.2.2

Today you will read and think about the passages from “Desert Sea Gulls” and “Sweetened Condensed Milk.” As you read these texts, you will gather information and answer questions about how the characters experience new places, so you can write an essay.

Read the passage from “Desert Sea Gulls.” Then answer the questions.

from “Desert Sea Gulls”

by Kimberly Webb

- 1** “Welcome home!” Grandpa calls from the front porch. His wrinkly face smiles so big I almost don’t notice that word again. He steers us inside to the kitchen and pours us each a glass of milk from a pitcher. I gulp it down as fast as I can. I know it isn’t from a grocery store but fresh from the smelly cow grazing in Grandpa’s yard. Ben likes it, and soon milk is dripping down his chin. He toddles over to the sliding back door and presses his nose against the glass. “Moo!”
- 2** “That’s right, Ben,” Mom says. “That’s a cow. And see over there? Those are sheep.”
- 3** Ben laughs and stamps his feet. “Moo!”
- 4** I scowl. It’s easy for a two-year-old to find new things to love.
- 5** “Let’s get you folks settled,” Grandpa says. “Marissa, why don’t you take the attic bedroom? It was Aunt Cindy’s—perfect for a girl like you.”
- 6** I climb the creaky staircase and find pink wallpaper covering a vaulted ceiling. I carry only one box, the most important one: FAVORITE STUFF FROM HOME. I unfold my pink and blue beach towel and toss it over the back of a chair, as if I’ll be using it tomorrow. I unpack my framed sand dollar and hang it next to the window. Then I

GO ON ►

unwrap my shell collection from its packing paper and place each shell on the window sill. It's strange to see reflections of shells in the glass next to the rundown barn outside.

- 7 The night before I go to school, Grandpa fixes us beef and potatoes for dinner. The greasy gravy doesn't help my knotted tummy untie itself, so before bed Mom brings me a heated flannel bag filled with dried corn kernels. The warmth of the corn bag and the harvest smell almost make me feel better.
- 8 "Do I have to start school this year?" I ask for the millionth time. "It's practically summer. The school year's almost over."
- 9 "Maybe you'll like school," Mom says, smoothing my hair. "Sleep tight, O.K.?"
- 10 Before I turn out the lamp, I pull my notebook out from under the bed. I've started a list of Old Things I Miss: the salt scent instead of farm stink, sea gulls instead of chickens, friends to play with instead of only Ben.
- 11 I flip the page over, where I've started another list: New Things I Love. It's still blank.
- 12 That night I dream of sea gulls calling, their shrieks rising and falling with the wind. They flap over the ocean, trailing the lobster boats.
- 13 I open my eyes and look up at Aunt Cindy's pink ceiling, dim in the early morning light. I'm awake, but I still hear sea gulls. I rub my eyes and sit up. I hear something else, too: the chugging of farm machinery. I creep down the stairs onto the back porch and squint toward the pasture. Grandpa is driving his tractor, dragging something that churns up the dirt. A silver flapping cloud flutters around him.
- 14 Sea gulls.
- 15 They don't seem to mind that they don't belong here. Their gray wings and long beaks skim the freshly turned soil, as if they are more

GO ON ►

at home in the desert sky than over the waves.

- 16** "Reminds you of home, doesn't it?"
- 17** I almost jump out of my slippers. Dad leans in the doorway behind me, arms folded. He chuckles. "Look at them chase Grandpa for a snack."
- 18** I don't see any clams spitting out from under the tractor tires.
- 19** "Earthworms," Dad says. "Maybe beetles, too—whatever the plow digs up."
- 20** I'm afraid if I ask, the magic will disappear, and the birds will go back home. I gulp. "What are they doing here?"
- 21** "They live here," Dad says. "The sea gull is the state bird of Utah. More than 150 years ago, sea gulls from the Great Salt Lake ate swarms of crickets that were devouring the crops of the first settlers. Their coming was like a miracle that saved the people from starvation."
- 22** I close my eyes and listen to the gulls who have lived here forever. This place doesn't feel like home. It definitely does not smell like home. But I feel a piece of home sneaking up on me anyway.
- 23** Before heading to the bus stop, I slip my notebook into my backpack. I have something new to put on the list. Maybe sea gulls aren't new, but desert gulls are new to me. I wonder if a sea girl can learn to be happy here, too.
- 24** Maybe someday Mom, Dad, Ben, and I will be watching the rosy sunrise over the ocean—or the mountains—and I'll hear a gull shriek. I'll say, "Reminds you of home, doesn't it?" And it won't matter which home I mean.

From "Desert Sea Gulls" by Kimberly Webb from CRICKET MAGAZINE, Carus Publishing Co. © 2007.

GO ON ►

1. Part A

Read the sentence from paragraph 7 of the passage from "Desert Sea Gulls."

The greasy gravy doesn't help my knotted tummy untie itself, so before bed Mom brings me a heated flannel bag filled with dried corn kernels.

What is the meaning of **help my knotted tummy untie itself** as it is used in the sentence?

- A. teach me
- B. fill me up
- C. comfort me
- D. make me tired

Part B

Which detail from paragraph 7 of the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "... before I go to school . . ."
- B. "... beef and potatoes for dinner."
- C. "... before bed . . ."
- D. "... make me feel better . . ."

GO ON ►

2. Part A

What is the meaning of **shrieks** as it is used in paragraph 12?

- A. cries
- B. feathers
- C. paths
- D. wings

Part B

Select one sentence in paragraphs 11–13 that **best** supports the answer to Part A.

11 I flip the page over, where I've started another list: New Things

I Love. It's still blank.

12 That night I dream of sea gulls calling, their shrieks rising and

falling with the wind. They flap over the ocean, trailing the lobster boats.

13 I open my eyes and look up at Aunt Cindy's pink ceiling, dim in

the early morning light. I'm awake, but I still hear sea gulls. I rub

my eyes and sit up. I hear something else, too: the chugging of farm machinery. I creep down the stairs onto the back porch and squint

toward the pasture. Grandpa is driving his tractor, dragging

something that churns up the dirt. A silver flapping cloud flutters

around him.

GO ON ►

3. Create a summary of the passage from “Desert Sea Gulls” by dragging and dropping the events from the list into the graphic organizer in the order that they happened in the passage.

Marissa creates two lists: “Old Things I Miss” and “New Things I Love.”

Dad explains the gulls to Marissa.

Marissa unpacks a box filled with important things from home.

Marissa sees that the gulls are following Grandpa on his tractor.

Marissa starts to feel a connection to home.

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

5th

GO ON ►

4. Part A

Which detail from the passage from “Desert Sea Gulls” **best** shows the theme of the passage?

- A. “I know it isn’t from a grocery store but fresh from the smelly cow grazing in Grandpa’s yard.” (paragraph 1)
- B. ““What are they doing here?”” (paragraph 20)
- C. ““The sea gull is the state bird of Utah.”” (paragraph 21)
- D. “But I feel a piece of home sneaking up on me anyway.” (paragraph 22)

Part B

Which theme is **best** supported by the answer to Part A?

- A. Food can affect how people feel about themselves.
- B. Familiar things can make new places feel like home.
- C. People should continue to learn throughout their lives.
- D. People should rely on their own self-confidence.

GO ON ►

Read the passage from "Sweetened Condensed Milk." Then answer the questions.

from "Sweetened Condensed Milk"

by Vashanti Rahaman

- 1** Ishmael lived in Missouri with his mom and dad and little brother. They had lived there for years. It was home. It was the only place Ishmael could imagine feeling homesick for.
- 2** Then one summer Ishmael went to visit his grandma. She lived in the West Indies in a country made up of two islands called Trinidad and Tobago. His mom and dad and little brother went along, too.
- 3** First they drove a hundred miles from their house to the airport in St. Louis, Missouri.



- 4** Then they flew to Nashville, Tennessee, and to Miami, Florida, and to San Juan, Puerto Rico, and to Port of Spain, Trinidad.
- 5** Ishmael had been born in Trinidad, but he had moved to the United

GO ON ►

States with his mom and dad when he was very little. There were lots of things about Trinidad that were strange to him. There were lots of things that he had forgotten.



Lizards are everywhere!

- 6 He had forgotten how big Grandma's house was, with upstairs and downstairs and sidestairs. It had four full bathrooms with openings high in the brick walls. He could take a shower at night and hear birds and frogs and crickets outside.
- 7 He had forgotten that even the inside walls were concrete block. They were plastered smooth like wallboard, so he didn't know how hard they were until he banged his head by accident. That hurt!
- 8 He had forgotten about the metal roof that made rain sound as loud as hail.

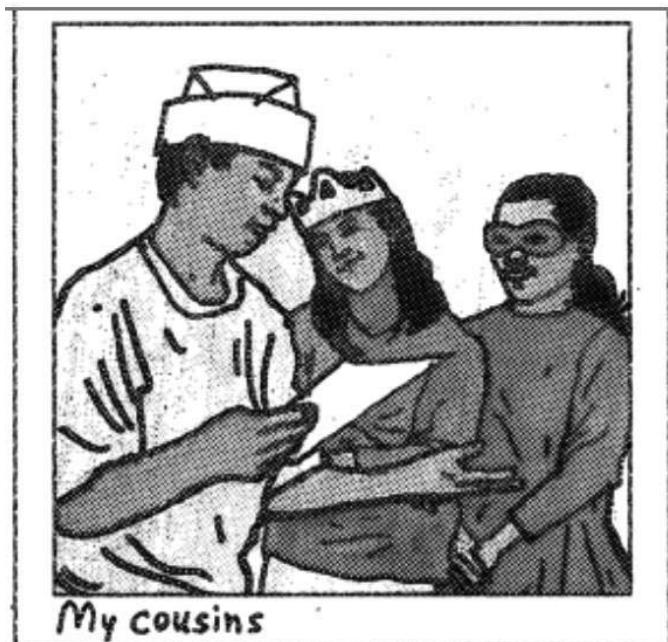
GO ON ►



- 9 He had forgotten about the bats scrabbling above the upstairs ceiling at dusk as they got ready to fly from the eaves of the house.
- 10 He had forgotten about the lizards. They were everywhere outside, on the garden wall and on the mango tree and under the rosebushes. Some of them even lived inside the house. They caught tiny moths fluttering around the light bulbs at night.
- 11 He had forgotten about the strange and wonderful fruit—juicy mangoes with no strings to catch in his teeth; bananas that were tiny and smelled like apples; green coconuts with cool, sweet water inside; plums that were too small; papayas that were too huge; sweet oranges that always had green skins; and sour oranges with skins that turned bright orange.
- 12 He had forgotten about relatives. In Missouri, his family had no relatives who lived nearby.
- 13 He had forgotten about cousins who wanted him to act in plays. They let him have the best parts, even though they giggled at his American accent. One cousin helped Ishmael's little brother catch a huge praying mantis.

GO ON ►

- 14** Ishmael had forgotten about baby cousins who wanted to climb all over him and who tried to do everything he did.
- 15** He had forgotten about uncles who bought him chicken nuggets and pizza and ice cream, and took him for drives over mountains, through rain forests, and to beaches and coral reefs. They had to fly in an airplane to Tobago to see the coral reefs.



- 16** He had forgotten about great-uncles who were doctors and who brought medicines for upset tummies and the sandfly bites on his legs.
- 17** He had forgotten about the aunts who cooked mountains of spicy food and some special dishes with "no pepper at all" just for him.
- 18** He had forgotten about Great-grandma, with her tiny wrinkled hands and cool soft skin and gentle smiles.

GO ON ►



Praying mantis

- 19 He had forgotten about cocoa that tasted spicy, not at all like American cocoa. He had even forgotten about sweetened condensed milk.
- 20 Ishmael's little brother didn't like the sweetened condensed milk. He had been born in Missouri, and their mom had never bought sweetened condensed milk in America.



I love this stuff!

GO ON ►

-
- 21** Sweetened condensed milk in Trinidad was special. It was not just for making candies and desserts. In Trinidad, sweetened condensed milk came in cans, but it also came in little brick packs like juice boxes. Ishmael learned how to pull up the corner of a brick pack and cut it off. He learned to pour the sweetened condensed milk into a spoon and to stir it into tea or cocoa. He learned to trickle the sweetened condensed milk onto bread or, when no one was watching, to put whole spoonfuls in his mouth.
 - 22** Then their visit to Trinidad ended. He had to leave Grandma and her great big house, and the rain forests and the coral reefs and the relatives and the fruit. Ishmael was a little sad.
 - 23** When they got back to Missouri, Ishmael felt homesick for Trinidad. It was strange to feel homesick for a place that wasn't home.

From "Sweetened Condensed Milk" by Vashanti Rahaman from HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN, INC. Copyright © 2000.

GO ON ►

5. Part A

What does the phrase **to feel homesick for a place that wasn't home** from paragraph 23 tell the reader about Ishmael?

- A. Ishmael realizes that Trinidad is like home to him.
- B. Ishmael understands that Missouri will always be his home.
- C. Ishmael does not think of Missouri as his home because his family is in Trinidad.
- D. Ishmael does not want to leave Missouri because he has forgotten about his home in Trinidad.

Part B

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

- A. "Ishmael lived in Missouri with his mom and dad and little brother." (paragraph 1)
- B. "In Missouri, his family had no relatives who lived nearby." (paragraph 12)
- C. "He had forgotten about cousins who wanted him to act in plays." (paragraph 13)
- D. "He had forgotten about Great-grandma, with her tiny wrinkled hands and cool soft skin and gentle smiles." (paragraph 18)

GO ON ►

6. Part A

Based on “Sweetened Condensed Milk,” which part of visiting Trinidad **most likely** had the greatest impact on Ishmael?

- A. the look of Grandma’s house
- B. the types of animals that live there
- C. the family members that Ishmael sees
- D. the different kinds of food that Ishmael likes

Part B

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

- A. “. . . the metal roof . . .” (paragraph 8)
- B. “. . . bats scrabbling above . . .” (paragraph 9)
- C. “. . . plums that were too small . . .” (paragraph 11)
- D. “. . . uncles who bought him chicken nuggets . . .” (paragraph 15)

GO ON ►

- 7.** In the passages from “Desert Sea Gulls” and “Sweetened Condensed Milk,” Marissa and Ishmael think about what makes a place feel like home. Use details from **both** passages to write an essay about what “home” means to each character.

GO ON ►

8. Part A

Which statement is the **best** summary of the passage from *Desert Sea Gulls*?

- A. Marissa is welcomed by her grandfather to his home in Utah. She does not want to be there and wishes she could go back home to the beach.
- B. Marissa moves to her grandfather's home in Utah. Her new room once belonged to her Aunt Cindy, but she does not feel comfortable in it.
- C. Marissa moves to Utah and misses her old home. When she sees gulls circling her grandfather's farm, she thinks she might one day accept Utah as her home.
- D. Marissa keeps a list of what she misses about her old home by the beach. She wants to list what she loves about her new home but has not thought of anything yet.

Part B

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

- A. "He steers us inside to the kitchen and pours us each a glass of milk from a pitcher." (paragraph 1)
- B. "I climb the creaky staircase and find pink wallpaper covering a vaulted ceiling." (paragraph 6)
- C. "It's easy for a two-year-old to find new things to love." (paragraph 4)
- D. "The night before I go to school, Grandpa fixes us beef and potatoes for dinner." (paragraph 7)
- E. "I've started a list of Old Things I Miss: the salt scent instead of farm stink, sea gulls instead of chickens, friends to play with instead of only Ben." (paragraph 10)
- F. "I wonder if a sea girl can learn to be happy here, too." (paragraph 23)

