

**Grade 7**  
**English Language Arts/Literacy**  
**Narrative Writing Task**

**2018 Released Items**

## **2018 Released Items: Grade 7 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 2018 blueprint for grade 7 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 2015
- Guide to English Language Arts/Literacy Released Items: Understanding Scoring 2016

## Release Items Answer and Alignment Document

<b>Text Type:</b> NWT		
<b>Passage(s):</b> from Wild River		
<b>Item Code</b>	<b>Answer(s)</b>	<b>Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment</b>
<b>VF737548</b>	<b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A:</b> D <b>Part B:</b> B	RL 7.1.1 RL 7.3.1
<b>VF737528</b>	<b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A:</b> A <b>Part B:</b> C	RL 7.1.1 RL 7.2.2
<b>VH015559</b>	<b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A:</b> D <b>Part B:</b> D	RL 7.1.1 RL 7.3.1
<b>VH015565</b>	<b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A:</b> C <b>Part B:</b> A, C	RL 7.1.1 RL 7.2.1
<b>VF737579</b>	<b>Item Type: PCR</b> Refer to Grade 7 Scoring Rubric	
<b>VF737570</b>	<b>Item Type: EBSR (additional item)</b> <b>Part A:</b> A <b>Part B:</b> D	RL 7.1.1 RL 7.2.1

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

Read the passage from the novel *Wild River*. Then answer the questions.

from *Wild River*

by P. J. Petersen

- 1** We floated for a while. It was warm in the sunshine, and Tanner took off his shirt. He caught one more fish and let it go. "Bigger," he said. "But not big enough."
- 2** I looked downstream. Then I took a really good look. "Tanner," I said, "there's nothing but rocks up ahead."
- 3** He laughed and shouted, "Get ready for the chute!"
- 4** "The what?"
- 5** "The chute. River gets narrow for a minute. It's like a waterslide. No big deal. Just keep going straight."
- 6** I glanced over my shoulder. Tanner had put down his fishing pole and picked up his paddle.
- 7** I could hear the roar of water. That scared me a little. "It sounds like Niagara Falls," I yelled.
- 8** "Relax, bro. It's just a little waterslide."
- 9** Up ahead I could see a steep cliff on one side. On the other side were big black rocks. In the middle was a little opening. I hoped our kayak would fit.
- 10** "Keep `er straight!" Tanner yelled.
- 11** The opening was wider than I'd thought at first. But I couldn't see anything past it. And the roar got louder and louder.

- 12** The nose of the kayak went straight into the opening. Then we were headed down too fast for me to do anything but hold on. We hit a pool at the bottom and shot ahead.
- 13** "All right!" Tanner yelled.
- 14** I glanced back. The chute didn't look very high. Or very steep. But I knew better.
- 15** "That was awesome," Tanner said. "Brady and I didn't get anything like that last year."
- 16** I waited a minute, then asked, "Tanner, didn't that scare you?"
- 17** "Sure," he said. "That's why it was fun."
- 18** "Maybe for you," I said. "I'm no hero."
- 19** He didn't answer. He was getting out his fishing pole again. A few minutes later he hooked a fish, but it got away. I kept the kayak steady in the current.
- 20** "Hey, Ryan," he said, "that hero stuff—that's garbage. The only heroes these days are in video games or comic books."
- 21** "That's easy for you to say." I looked back at him for a second. "You ran into that burning house and saved that old guy."
- 22** "I just happened to be there. You'd have done the same thing. Later on, they made a big deal about it. But it was no biggie."
- 23** "I probably would have been too scared."
- 24** "You'd have been scared, sure. Everybody gets scared. But that wouldn't stop you. You do what you have to do."
- 25** "Maybe," I said. But I didn't believe it.
- 26** We drifted along for a while. It was warm in the sun. Until some icy water splashed on me. Which happened every minute or two.

- 27** “We’re coming up on another chute,” Tanner said. He reeled his line, then picked up his paddle. “I think this one is shorter. Maybe a little steeper.”
- 28** This time there was no cliff. Just big boulders on both sides of the river. I could hear the water roaring. The sound scared me. Maybe not as much as the first time, but I was still scared.
- 29** We did everything right. The kayak was straight, and we were in the middle of the river. I lifted my paddle and braced myself for the slide.
- 30** “Hang on, buddy!” Tanner yelled.
- 31** Just as we started down, I saw something ahead. A big black log. Right in the middle of the chute. With a jagged end pointed straight at us. And it wasn’t moving. Not at all.
- 32** I opened my mouth to yell, but no words came out.

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**1. Part A**

What is the **main** way the setting helps develop the relationship between the characters?

- A. The setting allows the characters to learn new skills together.
- B. The setting inspires the characters to share an interest in adventure.
- C. The setting causes the characters to debate the benefits of being in nature.
- D. The setting allows the characters to share their points of view on courage.

**Part B**

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

- A. "Up ahead I could see a steep cliff on one side." (paragraph 9)
- B. "'That's easy for you to say.' I looked back at him for a second. 'You ran into that burning house and saved that old guy.'" (paragraph 21)
- C. "We drifted along for a while. It was warm in the sun. Until some icy water splashed on me. Which happened every minute or two." (paragraph 26)
- D. "'Hang on, buddy!' Tanner yelled." (paragraph 30)

**2. Part A**

What is one way the author develops the central idea of the passage?

- A. by showing how the characters respond to risky situations
- B. by showing how the characters help each other
- C. by showing how Ryan struggles to steer the kayak toward the chute
- D. by telling what Ryan sees and hears as the kayak approaches the rocks

**Part B**

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

- A. "I looked downstream. Then I took a really good look. 'Tanner,' I said, 'there's nothing but rocks up ahead.'" (paragraph 2)
- B. "The opening was wider than I'd thought at first. But I couldn't see anything past it. And the roar got louder and louder." (paragraph 11)
- C. "'That was awesome,' Tanner said. 'Brady and I didn't get anything like that last year.'" (paragraph 15)
- D. "'I think this one is shorter. Maybe a little steeper.'" (paragraph 27)

**3. Part A**

How do the events in paragraphs 29–32 **mainly** affect the narrator?

- A. He is able to prove what he has learned on the trip.
- B. He is amazed and excited.
- C. He is given the chance to prove his loyalty.
- D. He is shocked and scared.

**Part B**

Which detail from paragraphs 29–32 **best** supports the answer in Part A?

- A. Ryan follows Tanner’s directions.
- B. Ryan agrees to go down the chute.
- C. Ryan correctly evaluates what the log will do.
- D. Ryan is unable to react.

**4. Part A**

Which sentence **best** states a theme of the passage?

- A. Friendship can help a person through tough times.
- B. Acknowledge and appreciate what makes people unique.
- C. Boldness can have both positive and negative consequences.
- D. Plan ahead for any potential problems.

**Part B**

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

- A. Tanner saved someone's life.
- B. Ryan worries about danger.
- C. Tanner and Ryan face a serious problem.
- D. Tanner and Ryan work together to steer the kayak.
- E. Tanner enjoys kayaking.
- F. Ryan tries his best at a new task.

5. The passage from *Wild River* is told from Ryan’s point of view. Retell the narrative from Tanner’s point of view. Be sure to include Tanner’s thoughts as the kayak moves down the river. Your narrative should clearly reflect the characterization and setting in the passage.

**6. Part A**

Which statement **best** describes the life philosophy Tanner has developed?

- A. Tanner believes that people will instinctively do the right thing.
- B. Tanner believes that most people are followers rather than leaders.
- C. Tanner believes personal excellence must be demanded of everyone.
- D. Tanner believes patience and understanding with other people is a must.

**Part B**

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

- A. "He caught one more fish and let it go. 'Bigger,' he said. 'But not big enough.'" (paragraph 1)
- B. "'It's like a waterslide. No big deal. Just keep going straight.'" (paragraph 5)
- C. "'Relax, bro. It's just a little waterslide.'" (paragraph 8)
- D. "'Everybody gets scared. But that wouldn't stop you. You do what you have to do.'" (paragraph 24)

