

**Grade 7**  
**English Language Arts/Literacy**  
**Short/Medium Literary Text**

**2021 Released Items**

## **2021 Released Items: Grade 7 End-of-Year Short/Medium Literary Text Set**

The End-of-Year short/medium (S/M) literary text set requires students to read a literary text and answer questions.

The 2021 blueprint for the grade 7 End-of-Year S/M literary text set includes Evidence-Based Selected Response/Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response items.

### **Included in this document:**

- Answer key and standards alignment
- Items with the associated text

### **Additional related materials not included in this document:**

- Guide to English Language Arts/Literacy Released Items: Understanding Scoring

**Released Items Answer and Alignment Document ELA/Literacy:  
Grade 7**

| <b>Text Type:</b> Literary S-M EOY           |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Passage:</b> from <i>The Coral Island</i> |   |   |
| <b>Item Code</b>                             | <b>Answer(s)</b>  | <b>Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment</b> |
| 4755_A                                       | <b>Item Type: EBSR</b><br><b>Part A:</b> B<br><b>Part B:</b> A  | L 7.4.1<br>RL 7.1.1<br>RL 7.4.1               |
| 4753_A                                       | <b>Item Type: EBSR</b><br><b>Part A:</b> C<br><b>Part B:</b> A  | RL 7.1.1<br>RL 7.3.1                          |
| 4754_A                                       | <b>Item Type: EBSR</b><br><b>Part A:</b> D<br><b>Part B:</b> B  | RL 7.1.1<br>RL 7.2.1                          |
| 4503_A                                       | <b>Item Type: EBSR</b><br><b>Part A:</b> D<br><b>Part B:</b> C, F   | RL 7.1.1<br>RL 7.2.1                          |
| 4506_A                                       | <b>Item Type: TECR (additional item)</b><br><b>Part A:</b><br><br><div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40%;"> <p><b>Peterkin</b></p> <p>the inconveniences were annoying</p> <p>the situation was hopeless</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40%;"> <p><b>Jack</b></p> <p>a solution could be found</p> <p>giving up was not an option</p> </div> </div><br><b>Part B:</b> B, D | RL 7.1.1<br>RL 7.6.1                          |
| 4540_A                                       | <b>Item Type: EBSR (additional item)</b><br><b>Part A:</b> D<br><b>Part B:</b> C, D, E  | RL 7.1.1<br>RL 7.3.1                          |

Read the passage from *The Coral Island*. Then answer the questions.

from *The Coral Island*

by R. M. Ballantyne

- 1** The air of our island was so genial and balmy that we could have slept quite well without any shelter; but we were so little used to sleeping in the open air, that we did not quite relish the idea of lying down without any covering over us: besides, our bower would shelter us from the night dews or rain, if any should happen to fall. Having strewed the floor with leaves and dry grass, we bethought ourselves of supper.
- 2** But it now occurred to us, for the first time, that we had no means of making a fire.
- 3** “Now, there’s a fix!—what shall we do?” said Peterkin, while we both turned our eyes to Jack, to whom we always looked in our difficulties. Jack seemed not a little perplexed.
- 4** “There are flints enough, no doubt, on the beach,” said he, “but they are of no use at all without steel. However, we must try.” So saying, he went to the beach, and soon returned with two flints. On one of these he placed the tinder, and endeavoured to ignite it; but it was with great difficulty that a very small spark was struck out of the flints, and the tinder, being a bad, hard piece, would not catch. He then tried the bit of hoop iron, which would not strike fire at all; and after that the back of the axe, with no better success. During all these trials Peterkin sat with his hands in his pockets, gazing with a most melancholy visage at our comrade, his face growing longer and more miserable at each successive failure.
- 5** “Oh dear!” he sighed, “I would not care a button for the cooking of our victuals,—perhaps they don’t need it,—but it’s so dismal to eat one’s supper in the dark, and we have had such a capital day, that it’s a pity to finish off in this

glum style. Oh, I have it!" he cried, starting up; "the spyglass,—the big glass at the end is a burning-glass!"

- 6 "You forget that we have no sun," said I.
- 7 Peterkin was silent. In his sudden recollection of the telescope he had quite overlooked the absence of the sun.
- 8 "Ah, boys, I've got it now!" exclaimed Jack, rising and cutting a branch from a neighbouring bush, which he stripped of its leaves. "I recollect seeing this done once at home. Hand me the bit of whipcord." With the cord and branch Jack soon formed a bow. Then he cut a piece, about three inches long, off the end of a dead branch, which he pointed at the two ends. Round this he passed the cord of the bow, and placed one end against his chest, which was protected from its point by a chip of wood; the other point he placed against the bit of tinder, and then began to saw vigorously with the bow, just as a blacksmith does with his drill while boring a hole in a piece of iron. In a few seconds the tinder began to smoke; in less than a minute it caught fire; and in less than a quarter of an hour we were drinking our lemonade and eating cocoa nuts round a fire that would have roasted an entire sheep, while the smoke, flames, and sparks, flew up among the broad leaves of the overhanging palm trees, and cast a warm glow upon our leafy bower.
- 9 That night the starry sky looked down through the gently rustling trees upon our slumbers, and the distant roaring of the surf upon the coral reef was our lullaby.

From THE CORAL ISLAND by R. M. Ballantyne—Public Domain

**1. Part A**

What does the word **genial** mean as it is used in paragraph 1?

- A. misty
- B. pleasant
- C. windy
- D. humid

**Part B**

Which phrase from the passage helps the reader understand the meaning of **genial**?

- A. “. . . we could have slept quite well without any shelter. . . .” (paragraph 1)
- B. “. . . we were so little used to sleeping. . . .” (paragraph 1)
- C. “. . . the idea of lying down without any covering . . .” (paragraph 1)
- D. “. . . the night dews or rain, if any should happen to fall.” (paragraph 1)

**2. Part A**

How does the description in paragraph 1 reveal the narrator’s feelings about the island?

- A. by showing his excitement about being with his friends
- B. by expressing his anxiety about getting wet from the rain
- C. by conveying his sense of contentment about his surroundings
- D. by communicating his sense of urgency to find food

**Part B**

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

- A. “The air of our island was so genial and balmy. . . .” (paragraph 1)
- B. “. . . we were so little used to sleeping in the open air. . . .” (paragraph 1)
- C. “. . . we did not quite relish the idea of lying down without any covering over us. . . .” (paragraph 1)
- D. “. . . we bethought ourselves of supper.” (paragraph 1)

**3. Part A**

What is the central idea of paragraph 8?

- A. The boys keep warm that night because Jack's fire is large enough to roast a sheep.
- B. The boys could use the same process to start a fire like Jack's.
- C. Jack's bow works like the drill of a blacksmith when he makes the fire.
- D. Jack's resourcefulness allows the boys to enjoy an evening around a fire.

**Part B**

How does the author **mainly** develop the central idea in Part A?

- A. by using dialogue to convey where the idea for the fire came from
- B. by explaining the process used to make the fire and describing its effect on the boys
- C. by describing the meal the boys shared around the fire
- D. by showing the materials for making a fire were available on the island once the boys started looking

**4. Part A**

Which statement **best** states a theme in the passage?

- A. Hardships can bring people closer together.
- B. Success requires preparation.
- C. Good leadership demands a strong personality.
- D. Determination pays off in difficult situations.

**Part B**

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

- A. The boys cover the floor of the sheltered area with leaves and dry grass.
- B. Peterkin and the narrator look to Jack to figure out how to make a fire.
- C. Jack tries striking the flint with a bit of hoop iron and the back of an axe.
- D. Peterkin becomes distressed about having to sit in the dark.
- E. The boys drink lemonade and eat cocoa nuts around the fire.
- F. Jack makes a bow from a branch and a whipcord to start a fire.

**5. Part A**

Peterkin and Jack each had a different viewpoint about their experience on the island. Drag and drop **two** phrases for each character that **best** describe his viewpoint into the correct box.

List

|                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a solution could be found         | need to return to their homes    |
| sleeping in the open would be fun | the inconveniences were annoying |
| the situation was hopeless        | giving up was not an option      |

**Peterkin****Jack****Part B**

How does the author **best** develop the viewpoints of Peterkin and Jack? Select **two** answers.

- A. through their thoughts
- B. through their dialogue
- C. by revealing their relationship to one another
- D. through detailed descriptions of their actions
- E. by presenting background information about each character
- F. by telling the story in third person

**6. Part A**

What aspect of the setting creates a problem for the characters?

- A. the camp area
- B. the climate
- C. the closeness to the sea
- D. the limited resources

**Part B**

Which **three** details in the passage provide evidence for the answer to Part A?

- A. "The air of our island was so genial and balmy that we could have slept quite well without any shelter. . . ." (paragraph 1)
- B. "Having strewed the floor with leaves and dry grass, we bethought ourselves of supper." (paragraph 1)
- C. "But it now occurred to us, for the first time, that we had no means of making a fire." (paragraph 2)
- D. "'There are flints enough, no doubt, on the beach,' said he, 'but they are of no use at all without steel.'" (paragraph 4)
- E. ". . . the tinder, being a bad, hard piece, would not catch." (paragraph 4)
- F. ". . . the broad leaves of the overhanging palm trees, and cast a warm glow upon our leafy bower." (paragraph 8)
- G. ". . . the distant roaring of the surf upon the coral reef was our lullaby." (paragraph 9)