

Grade 4
English Language Arts/Literacy
Literary Analysis Task

2019 Released Items

2019 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 2019 blueprint for the 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:

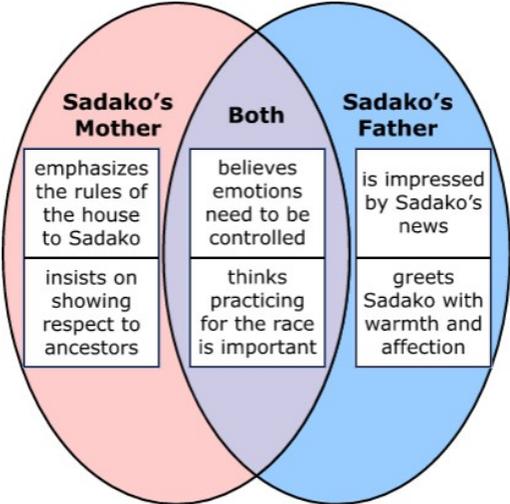
- Answer key and standards alignment
- PDFs of each item with the associated text(s)

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

**Release Items Answer and Alignment Document ELA/ Literacy:
Grade 4**

Text Type: LAT												
Passage(s): from <i>A Thousand Cranes</i> / <i>"Fiddle Fanatic"</i>												
Item Code	Answer(s)	Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment										
BB431743385	Item Type: EBSR Part A: B Part B: D	L .4.4.1 RL 4.1.1 RL 4.4.1										
BB605638602	Item Type: TECR <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; text-align: center;">1.</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Kenji helps Sadako prepare for the race.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2.</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Kenji tells Sadako that he believes she can win the race.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3.</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Sadako rushes into her home to share exciting news.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4.</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Mother reminds Sadako of important customs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5.</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Father and Mother encourage Sadako by giving advice and hugs.</td> </tr> </table>	1.	Kenji helps Sadako prepare for the race.	2.	Kenji tells Sadako that he believes she can win the race.	3.	Sadako rushes into her home to share exciting news.	4.	Mother reminds Sadako of important customs.	5.	Father and Mother encourage Sadako by giving advice and hugs.	RL 4.1.1 RL 4.2.2
1.	Kenji helps Sadako prepare for the race.											
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5.	Father and Mother encourage Sadako by giving advice and hugs.											
BB431754207	Item Type: EBSR Part A: C Part B: C	RL 4.1.1 RL 4.2.1										
BB605232100	Item Type: EBSR Part A: B Part B: D	L 4.4.1 RL 4.1.1 RL 4.4.1										
BB605326515	Item Type: EBSR Part A: B Part B: D	RL 4.1.1 RL 4.3.1										
BB431751124	Item Type: TECR Sadako is excited because <input type="text" value="Kenji thinks she will win"/> . She is also frustrated because <input type="text" value="Mother makes her wait"/> . Mel is upset because <input type="text" value="Abbie plays the violin in the restaurant"/> . She is also ashamed because she <input type="text" value="failed to express pride in her sister"/> .	RL 4.1.1 RL 4.3.1										
BB431879093	Item Type: PCR Refer to Grade 4 Scoring Rubric											

<p>BB431757054</p>	<p>Item Type: TECR (additional item)</p> 	<p>RL 4.1.1 RL 4.3.1</p>
<p>BB605235993</p>	<p>Item Type: EBSR (additional item) Part A: A Part B: D</p>	<p>RL 4.1.1 RL 4.3.1 RL 4.5.1</p>
<p>BB605243300</p>	<p>Item Type: EBSR (additional item) Part A: D Part B: C, E</p>	<p>RL 4.1.1 RL 4.3.1</p>

Today you will read a passage from the drama *A Thousand Cranes* and a passage from “Fiddle Fanatic.” As you read these passages, you will gather information about the characters, the settings, and the events. Then you will answer questions so you can write a response.

Read the passage from the drama *A Thousand Cranes*. Then answer the questions.

from *A Thousand Cranes*

by Kathryn Schultz Miller

(SADAKO runs in out of breath and laughing.)

- 1 KENJI:** Beat you by four seconds!
- 2 SADAKO:** Four? You’re lying!
- 3 KENJI:** (*Laughing.*) It was actually four and a half, but I let you have that.
- 4 SADAKO:** Oh! You . . . ! (*Slumping.*) You always win! You should let somebody else win sometime.
- 5 KENJI:** Why, Sadako. You can’t mean that I should cheat so that you can win.
- 6 SADAKO:** Oh, it wouldn’t be cheating so much as . . . polite.
- 7 KENJI:** (*Laughing.*) And I suppose when you run in the girl’s contest next month, you’ll want the judges to be *polite* and let somebody else win.
- 8 SADAKO:** Well, no.
- 9 KENJI:** I thought so.
- 10 SADAKO:** Oh, Kenji, do you think I have a chance to win?
- 11 KENJI:** (*Mocking.*) You? You win a race against the fastest girls in Hiroshima? You can’t win.
- 12 SADAKO:** Why not?

- 13 KENJI:** Because you're a turtle that's why. A great, big, lumbering turtle. (*Mimes slow turtle, laughing at his jest.*)
- 14 SADAKO:** I am not a turtle!
- 15 KENJI:** Yes, you are.
- 16 SADAKO:** Am not.
- 17 KENJI:** Are, too.
- 18 SADAKO:** Well, if I'm a turtle, then you're a frog!
- 19 KENJI:** A frog?
- 20 SADAKO:** Yes. A great big green one with warts all over it.
- 21 KENJI:** Sadako, you can't possibly mean . . . croak . . . (*Putting her on.*) Well, where on earth could that have come from? Croak!
- 22 SADAKO:** Oh, you.
- 23 KENJI:** Look, Sadako, my hand is turning green . . . croak . . . and it has warts all over it! (*He crouches to a frog position and sticks out his tongue, leaping around, croaking. Uses bill of his cap to indicate the mouth of the croaking frog.*) Croak! Croak!
- 24 SADAKO:** (*Laughing in spite of herself.*) Now, you stop that. (*She is laughing almost uncontrollably, soon KENJI stops and laughs with her. They stop, leaning on each other, gaining composure.*) Kenji, tell me the truth. Do you think I have *any* chance of winning the races next month?
- 25 KENJI:** Sadako, I will tell you the truth. I believe you will win.
- 26 SADAKO:** (*Thrilled.*) You really think so? You really, really do?
- 27 KENJI:** Yes. I really, really do.
- 28 SADAKO:** Oh, Kenji! (*She hugs him.*) Wait until I tell my father. He will be so proud of me! (*She starts to go.*)
- 29 KENJI:** Now, don't quit practicing!

30 SADAKO: Oh, I won't.

31 KENJI: See you tomorrow?

32 SADAKO: Tomorrow! *(She moves upstage as if to exit.)*

(KENJI, now ACTOR 1, moves to instrument station and makes music for scene change. SADAKO moves upstage as ACTOR 2, now MOTHER, moves into the scene. She is counting out candles and putting them on the table. She wears a kimono. ACTOR 1 counts and then fades as MOTHER joins in and finally ends the counting.)

33 ACTOR 1: One hundred and eighteen, one hundred and nineteen, one hundred and twenty, one hundred and twenty-one, one hundred and twenty-two . . . one hundred and twenty-three . . . *(Again, they speak the primary numbers together.)*

34 MOTHER: *(Counting candles.)* One . . . two . . . three . . . four . . .

(SADAKO comes running in, very excited.)

35 SADAKO: Mother, Mother! Wait till you hear! I have wonderful news!

36 MOTHER: *(Not looking up, continues working.)* Your shoes, Sadako.

37 SADAKO: Oh. *(She calms down to remove her shoes, puts them by the door, then rushes back to MOTHER.)* Wait till I tell you!

38 MOTHER: Sadako, show your respect to your elders.

39 SADAKO: Oh. *(She bows, puts hands together as in prayer and bows her head toward MOTHER.)* Mother, Kenji just told me . . . !

40 MOTHER: Sadako, show your respect to our beloved ancestors. *(Disheartened, SADAKO kneels before an imaginary shrine, hands in prayer and bowing her head. Returns to MOTHER, somewhat subdued.)*

41 SADAKO: Mother, I . . .

42 MOTHER: You must wait for your father to tell this earth-shattering news. Now, it is time to prepare for dinner.

- 43 SADAKO:** But, Mother . . .
- 44 MOTHER:** Sushi has been prepared, the rice plates have been set. Sadako, you may warm the saki for your father.
- 45 SADAKO:** Yes, Mother. (*MOTHER straightens candles on the table.*)
(*FATHER enters, takes off his shoes.*)
- 46 SADAKO:** Father! (*She runs to him, grabs him in embrace and almost twirls him around.*) Wait till I tell you!
- 47 FATHER:** Well, what is this?
- 48 MOTHER:** (*Not angry.*) This daughter of yours will not learn discipline.
- 49 FATHER:** Your mother is right, Sadako. You must learn moderation in all things.
- 50 SADAKO:** But, Father, I have such wonderful news!
- 51 FATHER:** (*Warm.*) It seems that everything in your world is wonderful, Sadako. (*Kisses the top of her head.*) You may tell us your news.
- 52 SADAKO:** (*Looks anxiously at them BOTH.*) Now?
- 53 FATHER:** (*Laughing.*) Now, Sadako.
- 54 SADAKO:** Kenji says I'm fast enough to win the race next month! Isn't that wonderful? He thinks I can *win!*
- 55 FATHER:** (*Genuinely impressed.*) You have been practicing very hard.
- 56 SADAKO:** Oh, yes, Father. Kenji and I run every day.
- 57 FATHER:** Kenji is a fast runner, an excellent athlete.
- 58 SADAKO:** Yes, he is, Father. And a good teacher, too.
- 59 MOTHER:** Even so, you must use discipline to practice very hard if you really want to win.

60 SADAKO: Oh, I want to win, Mother. I want to win more than anything on earth!

61 FATHER: We are very proud of you, Sadako. (BOTH *parents hug her*. MOTHER *begins to light candles*.)

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1. Part A

What is the meaning of **composure** as it is used in speech 24 of the passage from *A Thousand Cranes*?

- A. imagination
- B. self-control
- C. honesty
- D. self-confidence

Part B

Which detail is another example of **composure**?

- A. "Well, if I'm a turtle, then you're a frog!" (speech 18)
- B. "*He crouches to a frog position and sticks out his tongue.....*" (speech 23)
- C. "Kenji, tell me the truth." (speech 24)
- D. "*She calms down to remove her shoes. . . .*" (speech 37)

2. Create a summary by dragging the major events in the passage from *A Thousand Cranes* into the boxes in the order that they happen.

Sadako rushes into her home to share exciting news.

Father recognizes Kenji's abilities.

Mother reminds Sadako of important customs.

Kenji helps Sadako prepare for the race.

Sadako tells Kenji that he is a frog.

Kenji tells Sadako that he believes she can win the race.

Father and Mother encourage Sadako by giving advice and hugs.

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

3. Part A

Which statement describes a theme of the passage from *A Thousand Cranes*?

- A. Sometimes rules are accidentally broken.
- B. Silliness can limit the ability to solve problems.
- C. Preparation is necessary for achieving success.
- D. Having a positive attitude is the best way to win.

Part B

Which statement supports the answer to Part A?

- A. Sadako and Kenji laugh and tease each other.
- B. Sadako forgets to remove her shoes when she comes home.
- C. Sadako's mother encourages her to continue practicing.
- D. Sadako's father appreciates her eagerness.

Read the passage from “Fiddle Fanatic” about Melanie (Mel) and her sister Abigail (Abbie). Then answer the questions.

from “Fiddle Fanatic”

by Elisabeth Deffner

- 1** *Mendoza, Abigail. Concertmistress.* Her little sister—leader of the whole orchestra?
- 2** Abbie squealed. “I can’t believe it!”
- 3** Mel kept reading. *Mendoza, Melanie. Second violins.* What? She wasn’t even in the first violin section?
- 4** “I can’t wait to tell Mom and Dad!” Abbie hurtled down the street toward their parents’ restaurant.
- 5** Mel followed Abbie slowly. There had to be some mistake. Mr. Benson had probably mixed up their names. She’d straighten everything out tomorrow.
- 6** But tomorrow was a long way off. When Mel reached the restaurant, Abbie was playing her audition piece right in the middle of the dining room.
- 7** Music poured from Abbie’s bow like water from a teapot—pure and perfect. And the trill sounded like a bird warbling. Customers applauded as Abbie lowered her violin. Mel fought the urge to clap. Abbie was good—really good—but that wasn’t the point.
- 8** Blushing, Abbie turned to Mel.
- 9** “Why are you playing in here?” Mel snapped.
- 10** Abbie frowned. “I like playing in the restaurant.”
- 11** “I guess you would be happy to play anywhere, even if you’re sitting with the seconds.”
- 12** “What?”
- 13** “Mr. Benson mixed us up. I should be in the first violins this summer, not you.”

- 14** Abbie stiffened. “He didn’t make a mistake, Melanie. He made me first chair because I’m good. Because I actually practice!”
- 15** “I practice!”
- 16** “Not the way I do. You’d rather spend time with your friends.”
- 17** “Because I actually care about having a social life.”
- 18** Her ponytail absolutely still, Abbie turned and walked toward the back of the restaurant. Mel’s stomach ached. She didn’t like it when Abbie was upset with her. But what would her friends say if her little sister had a better seat than she did?
- 19** The next morning, on the way to school, Mel watched her sister marching ahead of her again. Mel was a little mad and a little sad. But also a little glad. She didn’t want Abbie to see her slipping into the music room.
- 20** Inhaling stale air and rosin dust, Mel squared her shoulders. “Mr. Benson, I want to talk to you about the orchestra seats.”
- 21** “Yes—you must be proud of your sister.” Mr. Benson smiled. “Abigail is a rare student. If she continues to work hard and grow as a musician, she could become a professional. Then we’ll look back on our little orchestra and think about how lucky we were.”
- 22** Mel froze. So there wasn’t any mix-up. *She* was the one who’d made a mistake. Her little sister had earned the top spot—and she hadn’t even congratulated her.

From “Fiddle Fanatic” by Elisabeth Deffner from HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN, INC.
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4. Part A

What is the meaning of **applauded** as it is used in paragraph 7 of the passage from “Fiddle Fanatic”?

- A. ended the performance
- B. showed strong approval
- C. surprised the performer
- D. paid close attention

Part B

Which detail from paragraph 7 helps the reader understand the meaning of **applauded**?

- A. “. . . like water from a teapot . . .”
- B. “. . . sounded like a bird warbling.”
- C. “. . . lowered her violin.”
- D. “. . . the urge to clap.”

5. Part A

What is the **main** reason Mel’s stomach aches in paragraph 18 of the passage from “Fiddle Fanatic”?

- A. She is nervous about talking to Mr. Benson.
- B. She feels bad because Abbie is angry with her.
- C. She realizes that Mr. Benson wants her to practice more.
- D. She feels jealous because customers liked the way Abbie performed.

Part B

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

- A. “Abbie frowned. ‘I like playing in the restaurant.’” (paragraph 10)
- B. “‘Mr. Benson mixed us up. I should be in the first violins this summer, not you.’” (paragraph 13)
- C. “. . . Abbie turned and walked toward the back of the restaurant.” (paragraph 18)
- D. “She didn’t like it when Abbie was upset with her.” (paragraph 18)

6. Both Sadako in the passage from *A Thousand Cranes* and Mel in the passage from "Fiddle Fanatic" have different feelings.

Use the drop-down menus to correctly complete the sentences.

Sadako is excited because .

- | |
|--------------------------------|
| Mother gives her useful advice |
| Father is proud of her |
| Kenji thinks she will win |

She is also frustrated because .

- | |
|--------------------------|
| Kenji acts like a frog |
| Mother makes her wait |
| Father arrives home late |

Mel is upset because .

- | |
|--|
| Abbie races ahead |
| she would rather be with her friends |
| Abbie plays the violin in the restaurant |

She is also ashamed because she .

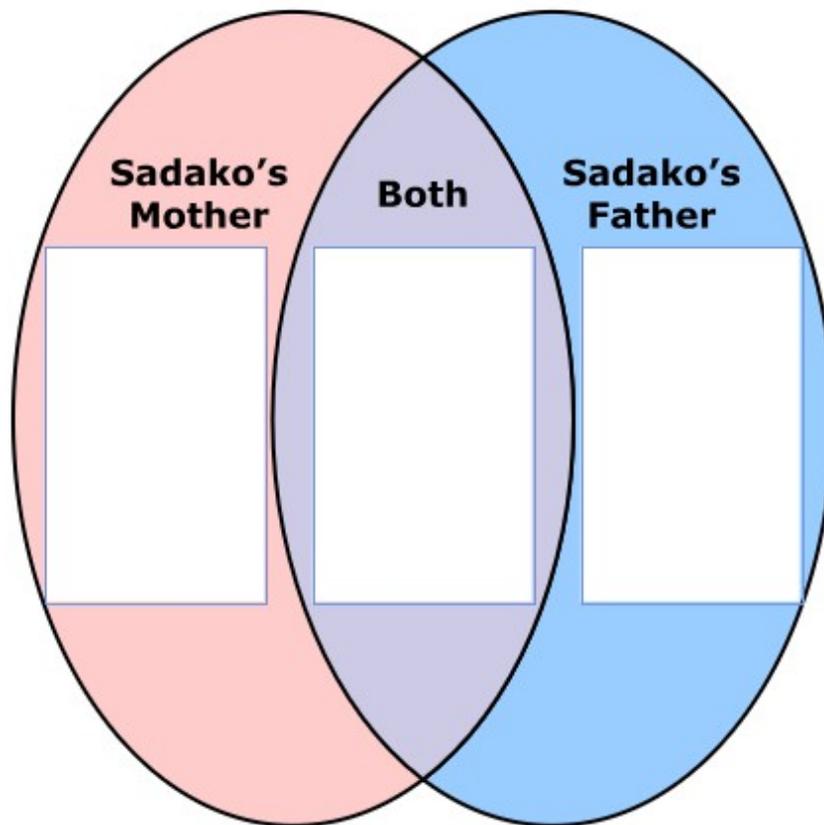
- | |
|---------------------------------------|
| failed to express pride in her sister |
| secretly talks to Mr. Benson |
| put little effort into practicing |

7. You have read about Sadako in the passage from *A Thousand Cranes*. You have also read about Mel in the passage from "Fiddle Fanatic." Think about the different feelings that these characters experience in the passages.

Write an essay that describes how the feelings of the two characters are similar and how they are different. Be sure to use specific examples from **both** passages to support your ideas.

8. Compare and contrast Sadako's mother and father by dragging **two** phrases into **each** section of the Venn diagram.

is impressed by Sadako's news	believes emotions need to be controlled	emphasizes the rules of the house to Sadako	thinks practicing for the race is important
insists on showing respect to ancestors	greeted Sadako with warmth and affection		



9. Part A

Think about the structural elements found in **both** the passage from *A Thousand Cranes* and the passage from "Fiddle Fanatic."

Which structural element is found **only** in the passage from *A Thousand Cranes*?

- A. stage directions
- B. setting
- C. figurative language
- D. dialogue

Part B

Which evidence in the passage from *A Thousand Cranes* is an example of the answer to Part A?

- A. "You win a race against the fastest girls in Hiroshima?" (speech 11)
- B. "Because you're a turtle that's why. A great, big, lumbering turtle." (speech 13)
- C. "Sadako, I will tell you the truth. I believe you will win." (speech 25)
- D. "(Again, they speak the primary numbers together.)" (speech 33)

10. Part A

How is Sadako in the passage from *A Thousand Cranes* similar to Mel in the passage from "Fiddle Fanatic"?

- A. Both believe another character does not succeed in a fair way.
- B. Both enjoy teasing and joking with another character.
- C. Both feel sorry about not praising another character.
- D. Both learn from another character that success takes effort.

Part B

Select **two** details, one from **each** passage, that support the answer to Part A.

- A. "You should let somebody else win sometime." (speech 4, passage from *A Thousand Cranes*)
- B. "Yes. A great big green one with warts all over it." (speech 20, passage from *A Thousand Cranes*)
- C. "Even so, you must use discipline to practice very hard if you really want to win." (speech 59, passage from *A Thousand Cranes*)
- D. "There had to be some mistake." (paragraph 5, passage from "Fiddle Fanatic")
- E. "He made me first chair because I'm good. Because I actually practice!" (paragraph 14, passage from "Fiddle Fanatic")
- F. "Her little sister had earned the top spot—and she hadn't even congratulated her." (paragraph 22, passage from "Fiddle Fanatic")

