



## NJSLA Literary Analysis Task Grade 7 Reading

### Lesson 1: Introducing the EBSR and TECR

#### Rationale

- The format of the test items for NJSLA's Literary Analysis Task (LAT) is a significant change from previous standardized tests. This lesson will present students with an overview of the selected response and constructed response items of the assessment.

#### Goal

- To familiarize students with the format of NJSLA's LAT evidence-based selected response (EBSR) and technology-enhanced constructed response (TECR) questions.

#### Task Foci

- **CCSS RL.7.1:** Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- **CCSS RL.7.2:** Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.
- **CCSS RL.7.3:** Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).
- **CCSS RL.7.4:** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.

#### Objectives

- Students will know what to expect from the evidence-based selected response and technology-enhanced constructed response items.

#### Materials

- Literary Text
- EBSR/TECR questions

#### Procedures

- Tell students that today they will explore the types of questions they will encounter on NJSLA's assessments.
- Distribute the text. Read it as a class or have students read it independently.
- Distribute the sample EBSR.
- Explain to students, **"There are two formats that the questions on NJSLA's assessments take. One is the evidence-based selected response. This type is similar to the multiple-choice**

questions you're used to seeing on tests. However, the difference is that these are two-part questions. The first part resembles the traditional multiple-choice question. The second part will often ask you to select the best evidence to support your answer to the first part."

- Direct students to look at the EBSR question. Discuss Part A.
- Ask students what is similar and what is different between Part A and traditional multiple-choice questions.
- Discuss Part B.
- Distribute the sample TECR. Introduce the technology-enhanced constructed responses: **"These questions are probably very different from what you are used to seeing on a test. The layout for these questions will vary. Some may ask you to drag and drop quotations from the text, rearrange plot points into a summary list, identify causes and effects..."**
- Discuss the TECR question with the class. Make sure students understand what the question is asking them and what they need to do.
- Work through the sample TECR as a class.

## The Myth of Echo and Narcissus

### Jean Lang

When the world was young, and nymphs, fauns, and dryads dwelled in the forests, there was no nymph more lovely and gay than Echo. Those whom she met in the leafy pathways of the dim, green woods would pass on smiling at the remembrance of her merry chatter and tricky humor.

It was an evil day for Echo when she crossed the path of Hera, queen of the gods. The jealous goddess sought her errant husband, who was amusing himself with some nymphs, and Echo, full of mischievous glee, kept her in talk until the nymphs had fled to safety. Hera was furious when she found out that a frolicsome nymph had dared to play such a trick on her, and she cursed Echo.

“Henceforth,” she said, “the tongue with which you have cheated me shall be in bonds. No longer will you have the power to speak in greeting. Your tongue will be a slave to others, and from this day on you shall repeat only the last words you hear.”

Despite the curse, Echo remained merry until she spied Narcissus.

Narcissus, the beautiful son of a nymph and a river god, was hunting in a forest when Echo saw him. To her, he seemed more fair than god or man, and once she had seen him she knew that she must gain his love or die. From that day on, she haunted him like his shadow, watching him from afar while he rested. Thus she fed her hungering heart and found contentment by looking on his face each day.

As evening drew near one night, Narcissus heard the nymph’s soft footfall on the rustling leaves.

“Who’s here?” he called.

“*Here!*” answered Echo.

Narcissus saw no one and called, “Come!”

And “*Come!*” called the glad voice of Echo, while the nymph, with fast-beating heart, felt that her day of happiness had arrived.

“Why do you shun me?” then called Narcissus.

“*Why do you shun me?*” Echo repeated.

“Let us join one another,” said the lad, and the simple words seemed turned into song when Echo said them over.

*“Let us join one another!”* she said as she ran forward with her white arms outstretched.

With cold eyes and colder heart, Narcissus beheld her.

“Away!” he cried, shrinking back as if from something that he hated. “Away! I would rather die than that you should have me!”

*“Have me!”* cried Echo pitifully, but she pled in vain. Narcissus had no love to give her, and his scorn filled her with shame.

Afterward, Echo hid her grief in the solitude of mountain cliffs, caves, and forests. When the Winds blew through the darkest places at night, they could hear far below them the voice of Echo repeating their moans and sighs. For her, long nights followed hopeless days. Her love was in vain. Then came a night when the Winds no longer saw the figure of the nymph, white and frail as a broken flower. Grief had slain the body of Echo. Only her voice remained.

Content and happy, Narcissus went on his way. Other nymphs besides Echo suffered from loving him in vain. One nymph, less gentle than Echo, poured out her tale of scorned love to the goddess of Love and implored her to punish Narcissus.

One day, hot and tired, Narcissus found a pool in the woods to rest and quench his thirst.

As he stooped down to drink, a face looked at him through the crystal clear water, and a pair of beautiful eyes met his own. His surprise and joy at the sight of what he felt sure must be the most beautiful creature on earth, was evidently shared by the nymph of the pool, who gazed back at him.

When Narcissus smiled at her, her red lips also parted in a smile. He stretched out his arms towards her, and her arms were stretched to him. Almost trembling in his delight, he slowly stooped to kiss her. Nearer she drew to him, nearer still, but when his mouth would have given itself to that other mouth, only the chilly water of the pool touched his lips, and the thing of his delight vanished away. In passionate disappointment Narcissus waited for her to return, and as soon as the water of the pool grew still, once more he saw her exquisite face gazing wistfully up into his. Passionately he pled with the beautiful creature—spoke of his love—besought her to have pity on him. Although the face in the pool reflected his every look of adoration and longing, time and again he vainly tried to clasp in his arms his own mirrored likeness.

The avenging goddess inflicted upon Narcissus the restless longing of unsatisfied love. By day and night, he haunted the forest pool. Before long,

the face that looked back at his was pale as a lily in the dawn. When the moonbeams spilled down the branches, Narcissus knelt by the pool. The white face that the water mirrored had the eyes of an animal mortally wounded. Narcissus was slain by a hopeless love for what in truth was but an image—the reflection of his own face.

Echo and the other nymphs were avenged. Yet when they looked on the beautiful dead Narcissus, they were filled with sorrow. As their cries filled the air, the voice of Echo repeated each mournful one. Even the gods were saddened for they turned Narcissus into a white flower, a bloom that still bears his name.

**1. Part A:** What is the meaning of the word **frolicsome** as it is used in the excerpt?

- A. innocent
- B. charming
- C. ignorant
- D. playful

**Part B:** Which description of Echo best clarifies the meaning of **frolicsome** in **Part A**?

- A. “merry chatter”
- B. “lovely and gay”
- C. “mischievous glee”
- D. “fast-beating heart”

2. **Part A:** What conclusion can be drawn from this myth?

- A. The gods curse mortals who displease them.
- B. Ancient people loved myths about beauty and revenge.
- C. Ancient people sought explanations for echoes and narcissism.
- D. Mortals should not anger the gods.

**Part B:** What detail best explains the answer to Part A?

- A. “The avenging goddess inflicted upon Narcissus the restless longing of unsatisfied love.”
- B. “Even the gods were saddened for they turned Narcissus into a white flower, a bloom that still bears his name.”
- C. “To her, he seemed more fair than god or man, and once she had seen him she knew that she must gain his love or die.”
- D. “One nymph, less gentle than Echo, poured out her tale of scorned love to the goddess of Love and implored her to punish Narcissus.”

3. Create a summary of the excerpt from “The Myth of Echo and Narcissus” by selecting four statements from the list and writing them in chronological order in the table titled “Summary.” Note that not all statements will be used.

- a. Narcissus spurns Echo, who withers away, until only her voice remains.
- b. Hera curses Echo so the nymph can only repeat what others say.
- c. Echo sees Narcissus and follows him everywhere.
- d. Narcissus seeks relief by a cool pond.
- e. Narcissus rejects many nymphs as he did with Echo.
- f. The creatures of the woods like Echo.
- g. Narcissus dies by the pool and is replaced by a flower.
- h. The goddess of love dooms Narcissus, who falls in love with his own image.
- i. Echo falls in love with Narcissus.

Summary
1.
2.
3.
4.

### **Answer Key**

**1A. D**

**1B. C**

**2A. C**

**2B. B**

**3.**

- Hera curses Echo so the nymph can only repeat what others say.
- Narcissus spurns Echo, who withers away, until only her voice remains.
- Narcissus dies by the pool and is replaced by a flower.
- The goddess of love dooms Narcissus, who falls in love with his own image.