



## NJSLA Literary Analysis Task

### Grade 11 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.11-12.1:** Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
- **CCSS RL.11-12.2:** Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.
- **CCSS RL.11-12.3:** Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).
- **CCSS RL.11-12.4:** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including words with multiple meanings or language that is particularly fresh, engaging, or beautiful. (Include Shakespeare as well as other authors.)

##### **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.

from *Wuthering Heights*  
Emily Bronte

1. Yesterday afternoon set in misty and cold. I had half a mind to spend it by my study fire, instead of wading through heath and mud to Wuthering Heights. On coming up from dinner, however, (N.B.—I dine between twelve and one o'clock; the housekeeper, a matronly lady, taken as a fixture along with the house, could not, or would not, comprehend my request that I might be served at five)—on mounting the stairs with this lazy intention, and stepping into the room, I saw a servant-girl on her knees surrounded by brushes and coal-scuttles, and raising an infernal dust as she extinguished the flames with heaps of cinders. This spectacle drove me back immediately; I took my hat, and, after a four-miles' walk, arrived at Heathcliff's garden-gate just in time to escape the first feathery flakes of a snow-shower.
2. On that bleak hill-top the earth was hard with a black frost, and the air made me shiver through every limb. Being unable to remove the chain, I jumped over, and, running up the flagged causeway bordered with straggling gooseberry-bushes, knocked vainly for admittance, till my knuckles tingled and the dogs howled.
3. 'Wretched inmates!' I ejaculated, mentally, 'you deserve perpetual isolation from your species for your churlish inhospitality. At least, I would not keep my doors barred in the day-time. I don't care—I will get in!' So resolved, I grasped the latch and shook it vehemently. Vinegar-faced Joseph projected his head from a round window of the barn.
4. 'What are ye for?' he shouted. 'T' maister's down i' t' fowld. Go round by th' end o' t' laith, if ye went to spake to him.'
5. 'Is there nobody inside to open the door?' I hallooed, responsively.
6. 'There's nobbut t' missis; and shoo'll not oppen 't an ye mak' yer flaysome dins till neeght.'
7. 'Why? Cannot you tell her whom I am, eh, Joseph?'
8. 'Nor-ne me! I'll hae no hend wi't,' muttered the head, vanishing.
9. The snow began to drive thickly. I seized the handle to essay another trial; when a young man without coat, and shouldering a pitchfork, appeared in the yard behind. He hailed me to follow him, and, after marching through a wash-house, and a paved area containing a coal-shed, pump, and pigeon-cot, we at length arrived in the huge, warm, cheerful apartment where I was formerly received. It glowed delightfully in the radiance of an immense fire, compounded of coal, peat, and wood; and near the table, laid for a plentiful evening meal, I was pleased to observe the 'missis,' an individual whose existence I had never previously suspected. I bowed and waited, thinking she would bid me take a seat. She looked at me, leaning back in her chair, and remained motionless and mute.
10. 'Rough weather!' I remarked. 'I'm afraid, Mrs. Heathcliff, the door must bear the consequence of your servants' leisure attendance: I had hard work to make them hear me.'
11. She never opened her mouth. I stared—she stared also: at any rate, she kept her eyes on me in a cool, regardless manner, exceedingly embarrassing and disagreeable.
12. 'Sit down,' said the young man, gruffly. 'He'll be in soon.'
13. I obeyed; and hemmed, and called the villain Juno, who deigned, at this second interview, to move the extreme tip of her tail, in token of owning my acquaintance.
14. 'A beautiful animal!' I commenced again. 'Do you intend parting with the little ones, madam?'

15. 'They are not mine,' said the amiable hostess, more repellingly than Heathcliff himself could have replied.
16. 'Ah, your favourites are among these?' I continued, turning to an obscure cushion full of something like cats.
17. 'A strange choice of favourites!' she observed scornfully.
18. Unluckily, it was a heap of dead rabbits. I hemmed once more, and drew closer to the hearth, repeating my comment on the wildness of the evening.
19. 'You should not have come out,' she said, rising and reaching from the chimney-piece two of the painted canisters.
20. Her position before was sheltered from the light; now, I had a distinct view of her whole figure and countenance. She was slender, and apparently scarcely past girlhood: an admirable form, and the most exquisite little face that I have ever had the pleasure of beholding; small features, very fair; flaxen ringlets, or rather golden, hanging loose on her delicate neck; and eyes, had they been agreeable in expression, that would have been irresistible: fortunately for my susceptible heart, the only sentiment they evinced hovered between scorn and a kind of desperation, singularly unnatural to be detected there. The canisters were almost out of her reach; I made a motion to aid her; she turned upon me as a miser might turn if any one attempted to assist him in counting his gold.
21. 'I don't want your help,' she snapped; 'I can get them for myself.'
22. 'I beg your pardon!' I hastened to reply.
23. 'Were you asked to tea?' she demanded, tying an apron over her neat black frock, and standing with a spoonful of the leaf poised over the pot.
24. 'I shall be glad to have a cup,' I answered.
25. 'Were you asked?' she repeated.
26. 'No,' I said, half smiling. 'You are the proper person to ask me.'
27. She flung the tea back, spoon and all, and resumed her chair in a pet; her forehead corrugated, and her red under-lip pushed out, like a child's ready to cry.
28. Meanwhile, the young man had slung on to his person a decidedly shabby upper garment, and, erecting himself before the blaze, looked down on me from the corner of his eyes, for all the world as if there were some mortal feud unavenged between us. I began to doubt whether he were a servant or not: his dress and speech were both rude, entirely devoid of the superiority observable in Mr. and Mrs. Heathcliff; his thick brown curls were rough and uncultivated, his whiskers encroached bearishly over his cheeks, and his hands were embrowned like those of a common labourer: still his bearing was free, almost haughty, and he showed none of a domestic's assiduity in attending on the lady of the house. In the absence of clear proofs of his condition, I deemed it best to abstain from noticing his curious conduct; and, five minutes afterwards, the entrance of Heathcliff relieved me, in some measure, from my uncomfortable state.
29. 'You see, sir, I am come, according to promise!' I exclaimed, assuming the cheerful; 'and I fear I shall be weather-bound for half an hour, if you can afford me shelter during that space.'
30. 'Half an hour?' he said, shaking the white flakes from his clothes; 'I wonder you should select the thick of a snow-storm to ramble about in. Do you know that you run a risk of being lost in the marshes? People familiar with these moors often miss their road on such evenings; and I can tell you there is no chance of a change at present.'
31. 'Perhaps I can get a guide among your lads, and he might stay at the Grange till morning—could you spare me one?'

32. 'No, I could not.'
33. 'Oh, indeed! Well, then, I must trust to my own sagacity.'
34. 'Umph!'
35. 'Are you going to mak' the tea?' demanded he of the shabby coat, shifting his ferocious gaze from me to the young lady.
36. 'Is *he* to have any?' she asked, appealing to Heathcliff.
37. 'Get it ready, will you?' was the answer, uttered so savagely that I started. The tone in which the words were said revealed a genuine bad nature. I no longer felt inclined to call Heathcliff a capital fellow. When the preparations were finished, he invited me with—'Now, sir, bring forward your chair.' And we all, including the rustic youth, drew round the table: an austere silence prevailing while we discussed our meal.
38. I thought, if I had caused the cloud, it was my duty to make an effort to dispel it. They could not every day sit so grim and taciturn; and it was impossible, however ill-tempered they might be, that the universal scowl they wore was their every-day countenance.
39. 'It is strange,' I began, in the interval of swallowing one cup of tea and receiving another—'it is strange how custom can mould our tastes and ideas: many could not imagine the existence of happiness in a life of such complete exile from the world as you spend, Mr. Heathcliff; yet, I'll venture to say, that, surrounded by your family, and with your amiable lady as the presiding genius over your home and heart—'
40. 'My amiable lady!' he interrupted, with an almost diabolical sneer on his face. 'Where is she—my amiable lady?'
41. 'Mrs. Heathcliff, your wife, I mean.'
42. 'Well, yes—oh, you would intimate that her spirit has taken the post of ministering angel, and guards the fortunes of Wuthering Heights, even when her body is gone. Is that it?'
43. Perceiving myself in a blunder, I attempted to correct it. I might have seen there was too great a disparity between the ages of the parties to make it likely that they were man and wife.

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

- A. focus
- B. situation
- C. judgment
- D. refinement

**Part B:** Which detail from the story best supports the answer to Part A?

- A. ““Perhaps I can get a guide among your lads, and he might stay at the Grange till morning—could you spare me one?” ‘No, I could not.’” (Paragraphs 31 and 32)
- B. ““Are you going to mak’ the tea?’ demanded he of the shabby coat, shifting his ferocious gaze from me to the young lady.” (Paragraph 35)
- C. ““Get it ready, will you?” was the answer, uttered so savagely that I started.” (Paragraph 37)
- D. ““People familiar with these moors often miss their road on such evenings; and I can tell you there is no chance of a change at present.”” (Paragraph 30)

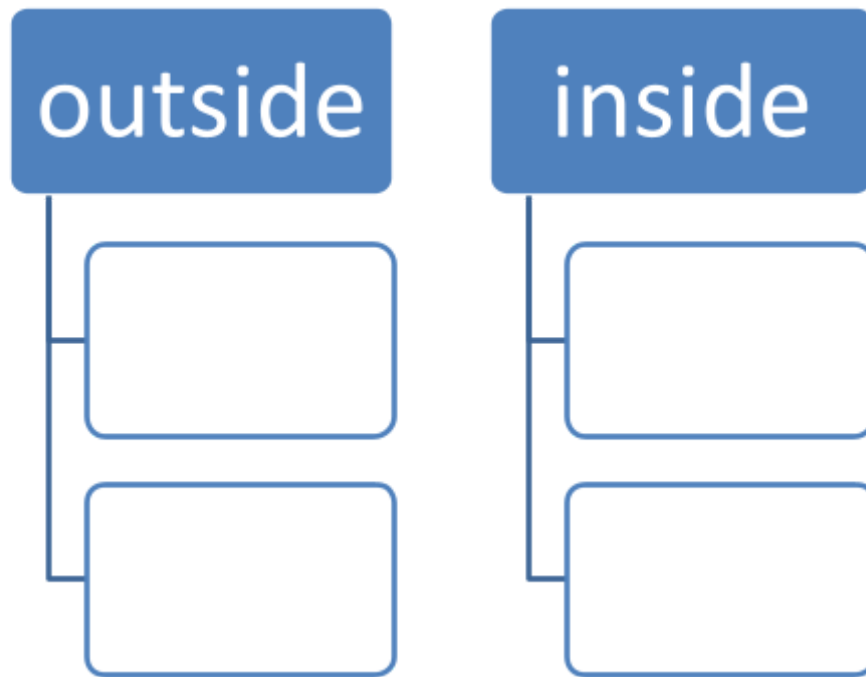
**2. Part A:** How did Lockwood’s assessment of Heathcliff change in this excerpt?

- A. Lockwood realized Heathcliff’s estate was near foreclosure.
- B. He began to think Heathcliff had a bad character.
- C. He realized Heathcliff was very dangerous and may hurt him.
- D. He learned that Heathcliff was well-admired.

**Part B:** Which detail from the story best supports the answer to Part A?

- A. “They could not every day sit so grim and taciturn; and it was impossible, however ill-tempered they might be, that the universal scowl they wore was their every-day countenance.” (Paragraph 38)
- B. ““it is strange how custom can mould our tastes and ideas: many could not imagine the existence of happiness in a life of such complete exile from the world as you spend, Mr. Heathcliff” (Paragraph 39)
- C. “I might have seen there was too great a disparity between the ages of the parties to make it likely that they were man and wife.” (Paragraph 43)
- D. “The tone in which the words were said revealed a genuine bad nature. I no longer felt inclined to call Heathcliff a capital fellow.” (Paragraph 37)

3. The setting plays a role in the action of the story in this excerpt. Think about how the author describes the outdoor environs versus the interior space. Select details from the excerpt and add them to this graphic organizer to show the contrast in setting. Options are listed below.



**Options:**

- A. “We at length arrived in the huge, warm, cheerful apartment where I was formerly received. (Paragraph 9)
- B. “On that bleak hill-top the earth was hard with a black frost, and the air made me shiver through every limb.” (Paragraph 2)
- C. “I thought, if I had caused the cloud, it was my duty to make an effort to dispel it” (Paragraph 38)
- D. “It glowed delightfully in the radiance of an immense fire, compounded of coal, peat, and wood; and near the table, laid for a plentiful evening meal, I was pleased to observe the ‘missis,’ an individual whose existence I had never previously suspected.” (Paragraph 9)
- E. “Five minutes afterwards, the entrance of Heathcliff relieved me, in some measure, from my uncomfortable state.” (Paragraph 28)
- F. “Yesterday afternoon set in misty and cold.” (Paragraph 1)

## **Answer Key**

**1A. C**

**1B. A**

**2A. B**

**2B. D**

**3. Outside:**

- “On that bleak hill-top the earth was hard with a black frost, and the air made me shiver through every limb.” (Paragraph 2)
- “Yesterday afternoon set in misty and cold.” (Paragraph 1)

**Inside:**

- “We at length arrived in the huge, warm, cheerful apartment where I was formerly received. (Paragraph 9)
- “It glowed delightfully in the radiance of an immense fire, compounded of coal, peat, and wood; and near the table, laid for a plentiful evening meal, I was pleased to observe the ‘missis,’ an individual whose existence I had never previously suspected.” (Paragraph 9)