

NJSLA Narrative Task Grade 3 Reading

Lesson 1: Introducing the EBSR and TECR

Rationale

- The format of the test items for NJSLA’s Narrative Task (NT) 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 NT evidence-based selected response (EBSR) and technology-enhanced constructed response (TECR) questions.

Task Foci

- **CCSS RL.3.1:** Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
- **CCSS RL.3.2:** Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.
- **CCSS RL.3.3:** Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

Objectives

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

Materials

- Literary text
- EBSR and TECR questions

Procedures

- Tell students that today they will explore the types of questions they will encounter on NJSLA’s assessments. Explain that the Narrative Task will ask them questions about the literary elements, namely, theme, character, plot, setting, conflict, and point of view. On the task, these EBSR and TECR questions will get students thinking about story elements to prime them to write their own story (see NJSLA NT writing lessons). Distribute the sample 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 task. 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 “ALADDIN AND THE MAGIC LAMP”

By: James Howard Kunstler

1. Aladdin was a poor boy who lived in a city of Persia. His mother was a widow. She supported herself by weaving mats.
2. One day Aladdin was playing in the street. A tall, dark man stood watching him. When the game was finished, the man beckoned to Aladdin to come to him.
3. "What is your name, my boy?" asked the man, who was a Magician.
4. "My name is Aladdin," answered the boy. He wondered who the stranger might be.
5. "And what is your father's name?" the Magician asked.
6. "My father was Mustapha the tailor, but he died when I was only two years of age," replied Aladdin.
7. "Alas!" cried the Magician, pretending to weep. "He was my brother, and you must be my nephew. I am your long lost uncle."
8. Then he embraced Aladdin and gave him five gold coins, saying, "Come with me, and I will show you the sights."
9. They went from the city, through pretty gardens, into the open country. They walked a long distance.
10. The Magician gave Aladdin some delicious fruit to eat and told him wonderful stories. The lad scarcely noticed how very far they had gone.
11. At last they reached a valley between two mountains.
12. The Magician stood still for a moment and looked about him.
13. "Ah!" he exclaimed. "This is the very place for which I have been searching. Gather some sticks. I will kindle a fire."
14. Soon the fire was burning merrily. The Magician took a curious powder from his girdle. He mumbled strange words as he sprinkled it upon the flames.
15. In an instant, the earth beneath their feet trembled, and they heard a rumbling sound like distant thunder.
16. Then the ground opened in front of them. There lay a large flat stone with a brass ring fastened to the top.
17. "A wonderful treasure lies hidden below," said the Magician. "Obey me, and it will soon be ours."
18. Then Aladdin grasped the ring in the way the Magician told him to do, and easily lifted the stone.
19. "Now," said the Magician, "go down the steps which you see before you. You will come to three great halls.
20. "Pass through the halls, but be careful to touch nothing, not even the walls, for if you do, you will certainly die. When you have passed through the halls, you will reach a garden of fruit trees. In a niche in the garden wall, you will see a lighted lamp. Put out the light, pour the oil from the bowl, and bring the lamp to me."
21. Then the Magician placed a magic ring upon Aladdin's finger, to guard him, and commanded him to go at once in search of the lamp.
22. Aladdin found everything exactly as the Magician had said. He went through the halls and the garden until he found the lighted lamp. When he had poured out the oil and had placed the lamp inside his coat, he began to look about him.
23. Upon the trees were fruits of every color of the rainbow. Some were clear as crystal, some were ruby red, and others sparkled with a green, blue, or purple light.
24. The leaves of the trees were silver and gold. Aladdin did not know that these fruits were precious stones--diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and amethysts, but they looked so beautiful that he filled his pockets with them as he passed back through the garden.
25. The Magician stood at the top of the steps as Aladdin began to climb upward.
26. "Give the lamp to me," he cried, holding out his hand.
27. "Wait until I reach the top of the steps," Aladdin answered.
28. "Hand the lamp to me at once!" screamed the Magician.
29. "Not until I am safely out," replied Aladdin.
30. Then in a rage the Magician rushed to the fire. He threw more of the curious powder upon the fire and muttered the same strange words as before.
31. Instantly the stone slipped back into its place. The earth closed over it, and Aladdin was left in darkness.

EBSR: Part A: What is the **main** message of this story?

- A. Great treasure can be found if you search hard enough for it.
- B. Don't trust strangers who offer gifts.
- C. The world is full of magic.
- D. Always follow instructions.

Part B: What detail from the story supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "The Magician stood at the top of the steps as Aladdin began to climb upward." (Paragraph 25)
- B. "The Magician gave Aladdin some delicious fruit to eat and told him wonderful stories. The lad scarcely noticed how very far they had gone." (Paragraph 10)
- C. "Pass through the halls, but be careful to touch nothing, not even the walls, for if you do, you will certainly die." (Paragraph 20)
- D. "Then the Magician placed a magic ring upon Aladdin's finger, to guard him, and commanded him to go at once in search of the lamp." (Paragraph 21)

TECR: Match each of Aladdin’s character traits with the detail from the story that shows that trait. One trait and one detail won’t be used.

Character Traits	Details
Trusting	“He wondered who the stranger might be.” (Paragraph 4)
Greedy	“The Magician gave Aladdin some delicious fruit to eat and told him wonderful stories. The lad scarcely noticed how very far they had gone.” (Paragraph 10)
Wise	“Then Aladdin grasped the ring in the way the Magician told him to do, and easily lifted the stone.” (Paragraph 18)
Obedient	“...they looked so beautiful that he filled his pockets with them as he passed back through the garden.” (Paragraph 24)

Answer Key

EBSR

Part A: B

Part B: B

TECR

Character Traits	Details
Trusting	“He wondered who the stranger might be.” (Paragraph 4) (NOT USED)
Greedy	“The Magician gave Aladdin some delicious fruit to eat and told him wonderful stories. The lad scarcely noticed how very far they had gone.” (Paragraph 10)
Wise (NOT USED)	“Then Aladdin grasped the ring in the way the Magician told him to do, and easily lifted the stone.” (Paragraph 18)
Obedient	“...they looked so beautiful that he filled his pockets with them as he passed back through the garden.” (Paragraph 24)