

Grade 8
English Language Arts/Literacy
End of Year Short/Medium
Literary Text

2019 Released Items

2019 Released Items: Grade 8 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 2019 blueprint for the grade 8 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
- 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 8**

Text Type: S-M Lit		
Passage(s): from <i>1984</i>		
Item Code	Answer(s)	Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment
F1190	Item Type: EBSR Part A: B Part B: A, E	RL 8.1.1 RL 8.4.1
F1194	Item Type: EBSR Part A: D Part B: D	RL 8.1.1 RL 8.2.1 RL 8.2.3
F1191	Item Type: EBSR Part A: C Part B: D, F	RL 8.1.1 RL 8.3.3
F1193	Item Type: TECR Summary of the Passage from <i>1984</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">Winston Smith comes home after work to his run-down apartment building and climbs the stairs.</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">Inside his apartment is a telescreen that sees and hears everything he does.</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">As he gazes out the window, he sees police helicopters flying around and posters stating that everyone is being watched.</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">He has learned to accept that the Thought Police could be watching anyone at any moment.</div>	RL 8.1.1 RL 8.2.4
F1189	Item Type: EBSR (additional item) Part A: C Part B: A	RL 8.1.1 RL 8.4.1 L 8.4.1

Read the passage from *1984*. Then answer the questions.

from *1984*

by George Orwell

- 1** It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen. Winston Smith, his chin nuzzled into his breast in an effort to escape the vile wind, slipped quickly through the glass doors of Victory Mansions, though not quickly enough to prevent a swirl of gritty dust from entering along with him.
- 2** The hallway smelt of boiled cabbage and old rag mats. At one end of it a colored poster, too large for indoor display, had been tacked to the wall. It depicted simply an enormous face, more than a meter wide: the face of a man of about forty-five, with a heavy black mustache and ruggedly handsome features. Winston made for the stairs. It was no use trying the lift. Even at the best of times it was seldom working, and at present the electric current was cut off during daylight hours. It was part of the economy drive in preparation for Hate Week. The flat was seven flights up, and Winston, who was thirty-nine, and had a varicose ulcer above his right ankle, went slowly, resting several times on the way. On each landing, opposite the lift shaft, the poster with the enormous face gazed from the wall. It was one of those pictures which are so contrived that the eyes follow you about when you move. BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU, the caption beneath it ran.
- 3** Inside the flat a fruity voice was reading out a list of figures which had something to do with the production of pig iron. The voice came from an oblong metal plaque like a dulled mirror which formed part of the surface of the right-hand wall. Winston turned a switch and the voice sank somewhat, though the words were still distinguishable. The instrument (the telescreen, it was called) could be dimmed, but there was no way of shutting it off completely. He moved over to the window: a smallish, frail figure, the meagerness of his body merely emphasized by the blue overalls which were the uniform of the Party. His hair was very fair, his face naturally sanguine, his skin roughened by coarse soap and blunt razor blades and the cold of the winter that had just ended.

- 4** Outside, even through the shut window pane, the world looked cold. Down in the street little eddies of wind were whirling dust and torn paper into spirals, and though the sun was shining and the sky a harsh blue, there seemed to be no color in anything except the posters that were plastered everywhere. The black-mustachio'd face gazed down from every commanding corner. There was one on the house front immediately opposite. BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU, the caption said, while the dark eyes looked deep into Winston's own. Down at street level another poster, torn at one corner, flapped fitfully in the wind, alternately covering and uncovering the single word INGSOC. In the far distance a helicopter skimmed down between the roofs, hovered for an instant like a blue-bottle, and darted away again with a curving flight. It was the Police Patrol, snooping into people's windows. The patrols did not matter, however. Only the Thought Police mattered.
- 5** Behind Winston's back the voice from the telescreen was still babbling away about the pig iron and the overfulfillment of the Ninth Three-Year Plan. The telescreen received and transmitted simultaneously. Any sound that Winston made, above the level of a very low whisper, would be picked up by it; moreover, so long as he remained within the field of vision which the metal plaque commanded, he could be seen as well as heard. There was of course no way of knowing whether you were being watched at any given moment. How often, or on what system, the Thought Police plugged in on any individual wire was guesswork. It was even conceivable that they watched everybody all the time. But at any rate they could plug in your wire whenever they wanted to. You had to live—did live, from habit that became instinct—in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and, except in darkness, every movement scrutinized.

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1. Part A

Which phrase would **best** replace **scrutinized** in paragraph 5?

- A. harshly punished
- B. carefully studied
- C. restricted by force
- D. achieved by habit

Part B

Which **two** details from the passage show that Winston Smith and others are being **scrutinized**?

- A. Police helicopters fly low over the buildings.
- B. Winston wears a uniform associated with his duties.
- C. A voice on the telescreen talks constantly about pig iron production.
- D. The telescreen could be dimmed.
- E. Individuals' wires could be monitored at any time.
- F. Large color posters are hanging on walls everywhere.

2. Part A

Which sentence **best** states the central idea of the passage?

- A. Under certain conditions, even ordinary people can reach a breaking point.
- B. In a society with highly developed technology, people must fend for themselves as best they can.
- C. Pollution and lack of community services can cause hardship for certain individuals.
- D. An all-powerful government can use fear to control an entire society.

Part B

Which detail of the physical setting in the passage supports the answer to Part A?

- A. The world outside Winston Smith's window looks cold, colorless, and harsh.
- B. The hallway of Winston Smith's building smells strongly of cooked food and old rugs.
- C. The elevator in Winston Smith's building does not work.
- D. The dark eyes of the man on the poster seem to look directly into Winston Smith's eyes.

3. Part A

Which sentence **best** describes Winston Smith as he is presented in this passage?

- A. He is elderly and untidy.
- B. He is fearful and hopeless.
- C. He is weak and cautious.
- D. He is tolerant and unaware.

Part B

Which **two** details illustrate the character traits selected in Part A?

- A. “[Winston Smith] slipped quickly through the glass doors of Victory Mansions, though not quickly enough to prevent a swirl of gritty dust from entering along with him.” (paragraph 1)
- B. “It depicted simply an enormous face, more than a meter wide: the face of a man of about forty-five, with a heavy black mustache and ruggedly handsome features.” (paragraph 2)
- C. “Winston turned a switch and the voice sank somewhat, though the words were still distinguishable.” (paragraph 3)
- D. “He moved over to the window: a smallish, frail figure, the meagerness of his body merely emphasized by the blue overalls which were the uniform of the Party.” (paragraph 3)
- E. “Behind Winston’s back the voice from the telescreen was still babbling away about the pig iron and the overfulfillment of the Ninth Three-Year Plan.” (paragraph 5)
- F. “You had to live . . . in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard. . . .” (paragraph 5)

4. Select **four** sentences that belong in a summary of the passage from *1984* and place them in the correct order.

The colorful posters show a picture of a handsome man with dark eyes and a mustache.

Inside his apartment is a telescreen that sees and hears everything he does.

He has learned to accept that the Thought Police could be watching anyone at any moment.

Winston Smith is a small man with a red, rough face, and blonde hair.

As he gazes out the window, he sees police helicopters flying around and posters stating that everyone is being watched.

Winston Smith comes home after work to his run-down apartment building and climbs the stairs.

Summary of the Passage from *1984*

5. Part A

Which phrase is closest in meaning to **economy drive** as it is used in paragraph 2?

- A. laws to prevent property damage
- B. rules to require physical exercise
- C. actions to decrease costs
- D. ways to prepare for holidays

Part B

Which detail from the passage gives the **best** clue to the meaning of **economy drive**?

- A. The electricity is shut off during the day.
- B. Winston Smith seems to ignore the smell in the hallway.
- C. Winston Smith pauses several times while climbing the stairs.
- D. The large posters are placed on every landing.

