

## PARCC QUESTION FORMAT I: If Part “A,” Then Support in Part “B” - TEXT

### By Far the Most Prevalent Question Format Used for All Grade Levels

These questions almost always reference “main idea” and “key details” from the content, except in the vocabulary variation.

**Part A Question:** The student is asked to identify the main idea, theme or purpose from the content (usually 300-600 words), both for informational or narrative content. The student is given four choices to select an answer.

- a. Choice
- b. Choice
- c. Choice
- d. Choice

**Part B Question:** Student is required to select *one or more* choices of selected text from the content that reflect the choice made in Part A. The choices can range from four to eight in number.

- a. Selected text in quotes (“
- b. Selected text in quotes (“
- c. Selected text in quotes (“
- d. Selected text in quotes (“
- e. Selected text in quotes (“
- f. Selected text in quotes (“

**Comments:** This format is related to the “**ESBR**” type response = **Evidence Based** (i.e. the provided content) **Selected Response**, which, in turn, is tied to the End of Year (**EOY**) **Literary Analysis Task (LAT)**.

Student may also be asked to select an answer that best describes how events are related to each other. When a narrative is provided, the questions may refer to setting or character.

Student *must* examine the content closely in order to discern the main idea being conveyed or its primary purpose. The textual content is numbered by paragraph for easy reference. Key conceptual terms the student would have to understand are: **Theme, Main Idea, Determine, Meaning, Claim, Evidence, Support, Key Details**.

**Comments:** This gets a little tricky in that the student can be required to provide *more than one answer*. The student should check his or her choices against the selection they made in Part A and make sure that their selections here support (i.e. justify) the answer in Part A.

Keep in mind that the student will almost always be asked to cite text (i.e. evidence) to support (i.e. justify) their decision or choice

The “**TECR**” variation of this format = **Technology Enhanced Constructed Response** is tied to the **EOY** (End of Year) **Research Simulation Task (RST)**. It merely means that the kid will have to use a computer to select and drag text (i.e. evidence) from the selected content into a text box in Part B in order to justify (i.e. support) the choice they made in Part A.

**PRACTICE:** Using any appropriate content, have students learn to distinguish between subject, main idea, and key details. For literary practice, replace “main idea” with “theme.”