| Sample Items for Grade 6: Excerpt from "Julie of the Wolves" by Jean Craighead George | |
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| **Sample Item 1: Questions and Standards** | **Sample Item 1: Advances and Answers** |
| **Part A Question: What does the word "regal" mean as it is used in the passage?**<br><br>a. generous<br>b. threatening<br>c. kingly*<br>d. uninterested | **Part A Item Advances:** The first part of this Evidence-Based Selected-Response item resembles vocabulary questions that have traditionally appeared on reading assessments. However, sometimes those items focused on words that were not necessarily central to the meaning of the story. This item, however, calls on students to show their understanding of a key vocabulary word of the passage, "regal." Understanding the word "regal" helps establish the black wolf as a strong influence in his pack and as an avenue for hope for Miyax. The item also critically sets the stage for Part B, which is an advance on past testing practice.<br><br>**Part A Answer Choice Rationales:** Options A, B, and D can sometimes be thought of as traits for those in a position of leadership or power, but they do not mean the same thing as "regal." |
| **Part B Question: Which of the phrases from the passage best helps the reader understand the meaning of "regal?"**<br>a. "wagging their tails as they awoke"<br>b. "the wolves, who were shy"<br>c. "their sounds and movements expressed goodwill"<br>d. "with his head high and his chest out"* | **Part B Item Advances:** Part B of this Evidence-Based Selected-Response question takes the item in a new direction, asking students to show the context within a passage that helps determine the meaning of the academic vocabulary word. Students not only must determine the meaning of the word (Part A) but also must provide the context used to establish the accuracy of their answer. Part B asks students to identify a quotation from the text that supports their answer in Part A, illustrating one of the key shifts in CCSS assessment: use of textual evidence.<br><br>**Part B Answer Choice Rationales:** Option A identifies how the wolves react to seeing one another when they awake and does not help determine the meaning of "regal." Option B provides a detail about the wolves in the pack and is unrelated to the meaning of "regal." Option C is again describing the wolves in the pack, and although "goodwill" can be a trait of one in power, this option does not provide context for the meaning of "regal." |

| **Sample Item 1: Alignment** | |
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| **Explanation of Alignment:** The item meets the PARCC Assessment Claim for Vocabulary Interpretation and Use and these two standards and related evidence statements by asking students to use context within this literary passage to determine the meaning of an academic vocabulary word that is key to the passage. | **PARCC Assessment Claim, Standards, and Evidence Statements Assessed**<br><br>**PARCC Assessment Claim**: Vocabulary Interpretation and Use: Students use context to determine the meaning of words and phrases.<br><br>Standard RL.6.4*:* Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.<br><br>Evidence Statements for RL.6.4:<br>*The student's response*<br>• *Determines the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text.*<br>Standard RL.6.1*:* Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.<br><br>Evidence Statement for RL.6.1*:*<br>*The student's response*<br>• *Provides cited textual evidence to support analysis of inferences drawn from the text.* |
| **Sample Item 1: Scoring Points and Rationale** | |
| **Scoring Rationale:** Past tests would have given credit for a right answer regardless of how a student arrived at the answer, but the PARCC assessment reflects the key shift of requiring close reading by offering credit for Part A only if Part B is correct and vice versa. | **Scoring Points:**<br>• 2 points are earned when the student correctly chooses the answer to Part A (A) and the answer to Part B (D).<br>• There is no opportunity for partial credit on this item. |

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