

2027 MCAS Sample Student Work and Scoring Guide

Grade 5 English Language Arts Practice Test

Question 28: Extended Response

Reporting Categories: Language and Writing

Standard: [L.PK-12.1](#) – Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

Standard: [L.PK-12.2](#) – Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Standard: [L.PK-12.3](#) – Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

Standard: [W.PK-12.1](#) – Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Standard: [W.PK-12.4](#) – Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Extended Response Prompt

Write a response that is about **one to two paragraphs** in length. Be sure to:

- Include an opinion based on the passage.
- Use evidence from the passage to support the opinion.
- Use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Based on *A Crooked Kind of Perfect*, write a response that states an opinion about the character trait that **best** describes the narrator. Use evidence from the passage to support your response.

Continue to the following page to see the scoring guides for this question. Sample student responses begin on page 3.

Scoring Guide for Written Expression

Select a score point in the table below to view the sample student response.

Score*	Description
3A 3B	- clearly explains ideas - thoroughly uses evidence to support ideas - clearly organizes ideas
2A 2B	- partially explains ideas - adequately uses evidence to support ideas - partially organizes ideas
1A 1B	- minimally explains ideas - insufficiently uses evidence to support ideas - minimally organizes ideas
0A 0B	does not address the question or incorrectly responds to the question

Scoring Guide for Standard English Conventions

Select a score point in the table below to view the sample student response.

Score*	Description
2A 2B 2C	- mostly consistent control of sentence structure relative to the length of the response - mostly consistent control of grammar, usage, and mechanics relative to the length of the response - any errors do not interfere with communication
1A 1B 1C	- some control of sentence structure relative to the length of the response - some control of grammar, usage, and mechanics relative to the length of the response - some errors begin to interfere with communication
0A 0B	- incorrectly formed sentences with no control of grammar, usage, and mechanics and/or sentences of insufficient length - contains many errors that interfere with communication

*In both Scoring Guides, letters are used to distinguish between sample student responses that earned the same score (e.g., 2A and 2B).

Written Expression—Score Point 3A**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 2A**

In my opinion, the character trait that best describes the narrator in *A Crooked Kind of Perfect* is motivated. She is really motivated to play the piano and thought it was what she was meant to do. The narrator wants to be like the piano prodigy Vladamir Horowitz. He played a professional concert when he was only seventeen years old. The narrator is almost eleven years old and she said “That means I have six years to get good.” She wants to keep practicing piano for six years because she is so motivated to be a piano prodigy.

The narrator wants to play at Carnegie Hall because Vladamir Horowitz played a concert there and she wants to be like Vladamir. She told her Dad “I am destined to play Carnegie Hall.” She asked her dad three times to take lessons and he finally said yes. That shows how motivated she is. The final reason was because near the end of the passage the narrator went to take lessons from Lester Renet for six weeks even though it was at the senior center and they used paper keyboards. This shows the narrator is motivated throughout the whole passage.

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Written Expression—Score Point 3B**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 2B**

In the story *A Crooked Kind of Perfect*, the character trait that best describes the narrator is excited. The narrator was excited about learning how to play the piano. The narrator shows this when imagining giving a concert at Carnegie Hall. “Everyone is quiet when you are about to play the piano. They don’t even breathe. They wait for the first notes.” The narrator really wants to be like a Vladimir Horowitz who was a piano prodigy from Russia. He played a professional concert when he was 17 years old and the narrator really wants to do that too. In the passage, “I’m ten. Almost eleven. That means I have six years to get good.” That definitely shows being excited and working hard to get to a big dream. The narrator told dad about it and that they were supposed to learn the piano and told him it was destiny to play Carnegie Hall. The narrator asked dad three times. Finally, the narrator got to take lessons with Lester Renner but it was not glamorous at all. It was only a paper keyboard. It was supposed to be the “ticket to Carnegie Hall.” I think the narrator was so excited to keep on trying.

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Written Expression—Score Point 2A**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 2C**

In my opinion, the trait that best describes the narrator in the passage is confidence. That is an important trait for success. The narrator shows confidence in the passage because they really believes they were going to play the piano and learn to do it.

The narrator is confident to learn how to play the piano. Sometimes they even even imagines being on the stage playing a concert like the music prodigy they saw one time. They remember the audience waiting to start and holding hands high above the head. This all shows that you have to believe in yourself. I think confidence is a great character trait for success and that's what I think the narrator is.

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Written Expression—Score Point 2B**Standard English Conventions—Score Point 1A**

I pick the character trait determined. The narrator really wants to play piano because says it is a elegant beautiful instrument and says “It is a wonderful thing to play the piano...” which makes the narrator really determined to learn how to play the instrument. Another reason I picked determined is because they really wants to be like a prodigy who played like a grown up even when he was a kid and he played at carnegie hall and is determined to do it too. The narrator keeps asking the pareants to take lessons but at the lessons it turned out to be with a paper piano but wanted to learn anyway.

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Written Expression—Score Point 1A

Standard English Conventions—Score Point 1B

I think the narrator has a big imaginalltion. The narrator thinks about playing piano at carnegie hall wearing a tiara and slippers with rubies on the toes.

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Written Expression—Score Point 1B

Standard English Conventions—Score Point 0A

that they really loves piano and tries really hard to learn it be in concerts like the man
she saw

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Written Expression—Score Point 0A

Standard English Conventions—Score Point 1C

The paper keyboard is a magic ticket. It makes a sound *rrrrrrrip*.

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Written Expression—Score Point 0B

Standard English Conventions—Score Point 0B

narrator is a prodigy and really likes the tiara and music show

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