

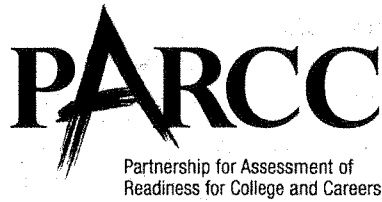
# 2013 PARCC Released Items

## Ovid's *Metamorphoses*: Daedalus and Icarus

290 But Daedalus abhorred the Isle of Crete--  
and his long exile on that sea-girt shore,  
increased the love of his own native place.  
"Though Minos blocks escape by sea and land."  
He said, "The unconfined skies remain  
though Minos may be lord of all the world  
295 his sceptre is not regnant of the air,  
and by that untried way is our escape."  
This said, he turned his mind to arts unknown  
and nature unrevealed. He fashioned quills  
and feathers in due order -- deftly formed  
300 from small to large, as any rustic pipe  
prom straws unequal slants. He bound with thread  
the middle feathers, and the lower fixed  
with pliant wax; till so, in gentle curves  
arranged, he bent them to the shape of birds.  
305 While he was working, his son Icarus,  
with smiling countenance and unaware  
of danger to himself, perchance would chase  
the feathers, ruffled by the shifting breeze,  
or soften with his thumb the yellow wax,  
310 and by his playfulness retard the work  
his anxious father planned.  
But when at last  
the father finished it, he poised himself,  
and lightly floating in the winnowed air  
315 waved his great feathered wings with bird-like ease.  
And, likewise he had fashioned for his son  
such wings; before they ventured in the air  
he said, "My son, I caution you to keep  
the middle way, for if your pinions dip  
320 too low the waters may impede your flight;  
and if they soar too high the sun may scorch them.  
Fly midway. Gaze not at the boundless sky,  
far Ursa Major and Bootes next.  
Nor on Orion with his flashing brand,  
325 but follow my safe guidance."  
As he spoke  
he fitted on his son the plumed wings  
with trembling hands, while down his withered cheeks  
the tears were falling. Then he gave his son  
330 a last kiss, and upon his gliding wings  
assumed a careful lead solicitous.

As when the bird leads forth her tender young,  
from high-swung nest to try the yielding air;  
so he prevailed on willing Icarus;  
335 encouraged and instructed him in all  
the fatal art; and as he waved his wings  
looked backward on his son.  
Beneath their flight,  
the fisherman while casting his long rod,  
340 or the tired shepherd leaning on his crook,  
or the rough plowman as he raised his eyes,  
astonished might observe them on the wing,  
and worship them as Gods.  
Upon the left  
345 they passed by Samos, Juno's sacred isle;  
Delos and Paros too, were left behind;  
and on the right Lebinthus and Calymne,  
fruitful in honey. Proud of his success,  
the foolish Icarus forsook his guide,  
350 and, bold in vanity, began to soar,  
rising upon his wings to touch the skies;  
but as he neared the scorching sun, its heat  
softened the fragrant wax that held his plumes;  
and heat increasing melted the soft wax—  
355 he waved his naked arms instead of wings,  
with no more feathers to sustain his flight.  
And as he called upon his father's name  
his voice was smothered in the dark blue sea,  
now called Icarian from the dead boy's name.  
360 The unlucky father, not a father, called,  
"Where are you, Icarus?" and "Where are you?  
In what place shall I seek you, Icarus?"  
He called again; and then he saw the wings  
of his dear Icarus, floating on the waves;  
365 and he began to rail and curse his art.  
He found the body on an island shore,  
now called Icaria, and at once prepared  
to bury the unfortunate remains;  
but while he labored a pert partridge near,  
370 observed him from the covert of an oak,  
and whistled his unnatural delight.  
Know you the cause? 'Twas then a single bird,  
the first one of its kind. 'Twas never seen  
before the sister of Daedalus had brought  
375 him Perdix, her dear son, to be his pupil.  
And as the years went by the gifted youth

began to rival his instructor's art.  
          He took the jagged backbone of a fish,  
          and with it as a model made a saw,  
380 with sharp teeth fashioned from a strip of iron.  
          And he was first to make two arms of iron,  
          smooth hinged upon the center, so that one  
          would make a pivot while the other, turned,  
          described a circle. Wherefore Daedalus  
385 enraged and envious, sought to slay the youth  
          and cast him headlong from Minerva's fane,--  
          then spread the rumor of an accident.  
          But Pallas, goddess of ingenious men,  
          saving the pupil changed him to a bird,  
390 and in the middle of the air he flew  
          on feathered wings; and so his active mind--  
          and vigor of his genius were absorbed  
          into his wings and feet; although the name  
          of Perdix was retained.  
395 The Partridge hides  
          in shaded places by the leafy trees  
          its nested eggs among the bush's twigs;  
          nor does it seek to rise in lofty flight,  
          for it is mindful of its former fall.



## **TO A FRIEND WHOSE WORK HAS COME TO TRIUMPH<sup>1</sup>**

By Anne Sexton

Consider Icarus, pasting those sticky wings on,  
testing that strange little tug at his shoulder blade,  
and think of that first flawless moment over the lawn  
of the labyrinth. Think of the difference it made!

- 5 There below are the trees, as awkward as camels;  
and here are the shocked starlings pumping past  
and think of innocent Icarus who is doing quite well:  
larger than a sail, over the fog and the blast  
of the plushy ocean, he goes. Admire his wings!
- 10 Feel the fire at his neck and see how casually  
he glances up and is caught, wondrously tunneling  
into that hot eye. Who cares that he fell back to the sea?  
See him acclaiming the sun and come plunging down  
while his sensible daddy goes straight into town.

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## Grade 10 EBSR from Literary Analysis Task

### Sample Item

### Part A

Which of the following sentences best states an important theme about human behavior as described in Ovid's "Daedalus and Icarus"?

- a. Striving to achieve one's dreams is a worthwhile endeavor.
- b. The thoughtlessness of youth can have tragic results.
- c. Imagination and creativity bring their own rewards
- d. Everyone should learn from his or her mistakes.

### Part B

Select three pieces of evidence from Ovid's "Daedalus and Icarus" that support the answer to Part A.

- a. "and by his playfulness retard the work/his anxious father planned" (lines 310-311)
- b. "But when at last/the father finished it, he poised himself" (lines 312-313).
- c. "he fitted on his son the plumed wings/ with trembling hands, while down his withered cheeks/the tears were falling" (lines 327-329).
- d. "Proud of his success/the foolish Icarus forsook his guide" (lines 348-349)."
- e. "and, bold in vanity, began to soar/rising upon his wings to touch the skies"
- f. "and as the years went by the gifted youth/began to rival his instructor's art "
- g. "Wherefore Daedalus/enraged and envious, sought to slay the youth "
- h. "The Partridge hides/in shaded places by the leafy trees...for it is mindful of its former fall "

### Passage


Excerpt from "Daedalus and Icarus" <sup>[1]</sup>, from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* Volume Two. Copyright © 1941 by Trenchard More, Jr. Used by permission.

"To A Friend Whose Work Has Come To Triumph" <sup>[2]</sup> Reprinted by permission of SLL/Sterling Lord Literistic, Inc. Copyright by Anne Sexton.

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## Grade 10 Prose Constructed Response—Sample #1 from Literary Analysis Task

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### SAMPLE ITEM

#### Student Directions

Use what you have learned from reading "Daedalus and Icarus" by Ovid and "To a Friend Whose Work Has Come to Triumph" by Anne Sexton to write an essay that provides an analysis of how Sexton transforms Daedalus and Icarus.

As a starting point, you may want to consider what is emphasized, absent, or different in the two texts, but feel free to develop your own focus for analysis.

Develop your essay by providing textual evidence from both texts. Be sure to follow the conventions of standard English.

Answer:

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