# The Tin and Towel

Trace character changes and support a theme with story details.

**5.LF.23** "Determine and analyze themes of various culturally-diverse literary texts, supporting analysis with textual evidence. a. Analyze common themes of diverse texts with support from textual evidence. b. Summarize a story or drama..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline one detail that shows each child's challenge, then circle one later action by each child that shows a change.

### Family Night

1. Mei carried a tin of mooncakes into the school library for Family Night. Her grandmother had pressed a flower pattern into each cake. When Mei saw trays of familiar cookies, she slid her tin behind a stack of napkins. "What if nobody tries them?" she whispered. Her friend Luis asked about the flower, but Mei just shrugged. She wanted to share Grandma's baking, yet she feared the cakes would seem strange.

2. Across the room, Luis set down a plate of pan dulce from his father's bakery. He had planned to tell everyone how his dad made the sweet bread. Then two children hurried past without looking, and his face grew hot. Luis nearly covered the plate with a towel. Instead, he broke one piece in half and offered it to Mei. "My dad taught me to choose the softest one," he said.

3. Mei took a bite and asked Luis about the bread's shell pattern. Luis grinned and traced the curved lines his dad had pressed into the sweet topping. Mei brought out her tin and explained that her grandmother pressed the flowers into the mooncakes. Soon the two children were inviting others to taste both treats. Mei stopped hiding the tin, and Luis left the towel folded beside his plate.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Mei's response to sharing her mooncakes change? Give one detail from before and one from after.

2. What makes Luis doubt his plan, and what does he do instead of giving up? Use two details.

3. Summarize how Family Night unfolds. Include how both children respond to feeling unsure, with at least two details from the story.

4. What theme do Mei's and Luis's experiences share? Support your idea with one action by each child.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine Mei leaves her tin hidden after Luis offers her bread. In 4 to 5 sentences, explain how her choice might change the ending and its theme. Use one detail from the story to support your idea.

ANSWER KEY

# The Tin and Towel

GRADE 5 · 5.LF.23

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail that shows each child's challenge, then circle one later action by each child that shows a change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How does Mei's response to sharing her mooncakes change? Give one detail from before and one from after. | **Mei first hides her tin behind napkins because she fears no one will try the mooncakes. Later, she brings it out and invites others to taste them.** |
| 2 | What makes Luis doubt his plan, and what does he do instead of giving up? Use two details. | **Two children pass his plate without looking, so Luis nearly covers it. Instead, he offers Mei a piece of bread.** |
| 3 | Summarize how Family Night unfolds. Include how both children respond to feeling unsure, with at least two details from the story. | **Mei hides her mooncakes, and Luis nearly covers his bread when children pass it. Luis offers Mei a piece, and she asks about its pattern. Mei then brings out her tin, and both children invite others to try their treats.** |
| 4 | What theme do Mei's and Luis's experiences share? Support your idea with one action by each child. | **Sharing something important to you can help you connect with others. Luis offers Mei his family's bread, and Mei brings out her grandmother's mooncakes to share.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

If Mei left her tin hidden, Luis might still invite others to try his bread, but no one would taste her mooncakes. Earlier, Mei slid the tin behind napkins because she worried nobody would try them. Without Mei's choice to bring out the cakes, the ending might show that a kind invitation does not always overcome fear. The two children would miss a chance to share both families' treats.

Accept other reasonable themes and imagined endings when students support them with accurate story details. Summaries should show the order of events and how both children respond to their worries.