Hands at Work

Track how recurring ideas develop through choices and consequences.

ELA.10.R.1.2 "Analyze and compare universal themes and their development throughout a literary text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that reveal one recurring idea, and circle details that reveal a second recurring idea. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside details that show how either idea changes from the beginning to the end.

The Open Gate

1 On Saturday morning, Lena found the gate to the community garden swinging open. Last week's storm had torn a hinge loose, and dry bean vines lay across the path. Her uncle had asked her to water the plot while he worked a double shift, but she had planned to meet friends at the skate park. Through the gap, she saw Mrs. Ortiz, the oldest gardener, trying to lift a fallen trellis alone. Lena checked the time, then turned toward the bus stop. Behind her, metal scraped against stone, and Mrs. Ortiz called, "I can manage."

2 At the corner, Lena saw a school bus pass the garden. Two children pressed their faces to the windows and asked the driver why the beds looked broken. The driver slowed and said that families depended on the garden's vegetables. Lena remembered carrying tomatoes home with her uncle and watching neighbors trade recipes by the fence. The skate park would still be there after lunch. She returned, set her backpack on a bench, and held the trellis steady while Mrs. Ortiz tied the vines. Together, they cleared the path before the next bus arrived.

3 At dusk, Lena's friends stopped at the gate on their way home. They joked that she had traded skateboards for dirt, but then one noticed a basket of small peppers marked FREE. Mrs. Ortiz invited them to take some and showed them the repaired trellis. Lena explained that the beans would feed families at the Tuesday market. When her friends offered to carry tools to the shed, Lena no longer felt like someone completing her uncle's chore. She felt connected to a place kept alive by many hands, and she promised to return after school each week.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Identify two universal themes in the passage. Give one detail that develops each theme.

2. How does Lena's understanding of responsibility change from paragraph 1 to paragraph 3?

3. How does the passage develop the theme of belonging from the beginning to the end?

4. Compare the two themes. How does Lena's responsible choice help create belonging?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence mini-scene about a choice in a different shared place, such as a team, library, or apartment building. Develop two universal themes across the scene, and make their connection clear through the character's actions.

ANSWER KEY

Hands at Work

GRADE 10 · ELA.10.R.1.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that reveal one recurring idea, and circle details that reveal a second recurring idea. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside details that show how either idea changes from the beginning to the end. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Identify two universal themes in the passage. Give one detail that develops each theme.	**Responsibility is developed through Lena's decision to help repair and care for the garden. Belonging or community is developed as Lena recognizes that the garden connects neighbors and later feels connected to the people who maintain it.**
2	How does Lena's understanding of responsibility change from paragraph 1 to paragraph 3?	**At first, Lena sees watering the plot as an uncle's chore that conflicts with her plans. By the end, she understands that her actions help many people and promises to return each week.**
3	How does the passage develop the theme of belonging from the beginning to the end?	**Lena begins apart from Mrs. Ortiz and ready to leave. She learns that neighbors rely on the garden, works with Mrs. Ortiz, and ends by feeling connected to a shared place cared for by many people.**
4	Compare the two themes. How does Lena's responsible choice help create belonging?	**By choosing to repair the garden, Lena joins Mrs. Ortiz and helps the community. Her helpful action leads her friends to participate and makes Lena feel that she belongs there.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Milo planned to leave the school theater after rehearsal, even though he noticed loose programs scattered across the lobby. When a younger actor tripped over one, he began gathering them and asked the cast to help. As they worked, Milo learned that parents had folded the programs for the opening-night audience. He stayed until the lobby was ready, and the director trusted him with the key. Milo's choice develops responsibility, while the cast's help turns responsibility into trust and belonging.

Accept other clearly stated universal themes if students support them with accurate passage details. For the open task, look for exactly five sentences, two developed themes, and a clear connection between the character's actions and both themes.