Voices After Rain

Trace how genre choices develop a common theme.

ELA.11.R.3 "Reading Across Genres"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in each excerpt that develops a common theme, then circle one word or phrase in each excerpt that gives that genre its distinct voice.

After the Storm

1. **Journal Entry** At sunrise, I walked to the library carrying a bucket and two dry cloths. The storm had pushed brown water through the front doors, leaving paper scraps tangled around the steps. Inside, neighbors passed books from shelf to shelf while fans hummed. I expected the building to feel defeated, but Mr. Ortiz opened a warped atlas and said, "We can start with one page." His calm voice made the room seem less like a ruin and more like a promise that all of us could keep.

2. **Community News Report** By noon, thirty-three volunteers had cleared mud from the Riverton Library's main floor, according to branch manager Laila Chen. The group sorted damp materials for preservation and set aside books that could not be saved. "People arrived with gloves, carts, and time," Chen said. A local bakery delivered lunch, and high school students labeled boxes for the archive team. The library will reopen its reading room next week, even though repairs to the lower level will continue. Organizers said the work showed that public places depend on many ordinary hands.

3. **Free-Verse Poem** The rain has gone, but its fingerprints remain on every windowsill. We lift each book as if it were a small lamp, and the dark backs away. No single hand can hold up a roof, yet hand after hand raises the fallen stories. Tomorrow, readers will enter through doors that remember water and still open toward the sun, carrying the bright weight of every returned voice in a room made whole by everyone who came before dawn to save the stories that no flood can take from us.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the point of view in the journal entry differ from the point of view in the news report? Explain how each choice shapes the reader's understanding of the cleanup.

2. What does the comparison of each book to "a small lamp" suggest in the poem? Explain how this image supports a theme in the passage.

3. How do the precise number of volunteers and Chen's quotation make the news report different from the journal entry and poem?

4. State one theme developed across all three excerpts. Use one detail from two different genres to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a community place that needs care, such as a park, garden, or bus stop. Write three labeled brief pieces about it, a journal entry, a news report, and a free-verse poem, that develop the same theme through genre-specific choices.

ANSWER KEY

Voices After Rain

GRADE 11 · ELA.11.R.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in each excerpt that develops a common theme, then circle one word or phrase in each excerpt that gives that genre its distinct voice. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the point of view in the journal entry differ from the point of view in the news report? Explain how each choice shapes the reader's understanding of the cleanup.	**The journal uses first person to show one volunteer's feelings and observations. The news report uses third person and a manager's statement to present the cleanup as a community event.**
2	What does the comparison of each book to "a small lamp" suggest in the poem? Explain how this image supports a theme in the passage.	**The comparison suggests that books bring light or hope after the storm. It supports the theme that people can restore what a community values through shared effort.**
3	How do the precise number of volunteers and Chen's quotation make the news report different from the journal entry and poem?	**The number and quotation provide factual, report-like evidence about the cleanup. The journal and poem focus more on personal feeling and imagery.**
4	State one theme developed across all three excerpts. Use one detail from two different genres to support your answer.	**One theme is that shared effort can restore a valued community space. The journal shows neighbors passing books shelf to shelf, and the poem describes "hand after hand" raising the fallen stories.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Journal Entry: I pressed my muddy shoes beside Maya's and planted the last bean seed, realizing the empty lot had room for every neighbor's hope. News Report: Twenty volunteers cleared trash from the Maple Street lot Saturday, and organizers said donated tools allowed the neighborhood garden to open before summer. Free-Verse Poem: Shovels rise like silver birds, and the bare ground learns our names.

Accept equivalent statements of the shared-effort theme when supported by accurate details from at least two excerpts. For the open task, look for three recognizable genres that use appropriate features and develop one consistent theme.