Lanterns and Lessons

Compare themes as they grow across a short literary text.

ELA.7.R.1.2 "Compare two or more themes and their development throughout a literary text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show Nia persisting, circle details that show her accepting or working with others, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside the clearest details in the order each idea develops.

Lanterns on the Water

1 On the morning of the Harbor Lantern Festival, Nia found the old rowboat tipped beside her grandmother's shed. Every year, her family floated lanterns from it at sunset, but a storm had split one wooden seat. Nia wanted to repair it alone before anyone noticed. She gathered nails, a hammer, and a board from the shed. After two crooked swings, she bruised her thumb and bent a nail. Still, she told herself that quitting would disappoint Grandmother.

2 At the dock, Nia saw Mr. Vale mending nets. She almost walked past, then showed him the bent nail. Instead of taking over, he asked her to hold the board steady while he demonstrated a straight strike. Soon, Nia's friend Inez arrived with a clamp from her father's workshop. Nia explained the problem and invited Inez to help. By noon, the seat was secure. Nia noticed that asking for help had not made the repair less hers. It had taught her new skills and brought neighbors together.

3 That evening, Nia and her grandmother carried the repaired boat to the water. A breeze pushed the first lantern sideways, and water slipped over the rim. Nia quickly adjusted the lanterns, using Mr. Vale's knot and Inez's clamp to steady the seat. When the boat glided into the harbor, neighbors cheered from the pier. Nia smiled, not because she had finished everything alone, but because she had kept working and learned when to lean on others. The lanterns drifted together, bright across the dark water.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What are two themes in the passage? State each theme as a complete message, then explain how the themes differ.

2. How does Nia's idea about asking for help develop from the first paragraph to the last paragraph? Include the turning point in the middle paragraph.

3. Compare how the boat repair develops the themes of persistence and cooperation. How is each theme shown?

4. Why does Nia smile at the end? Explain how her reason connects the two themes.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 4-sentence paragraph that compares two themes in "Lanterns on the Water." Explain how each theme begins, changes or grows, and connects at the end. Use at least two specific details.

ANSWER KEY

Lanterns and Lessons

GRADE 7 · ELA.7.R.1.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that show Nia persisting, circle details that show her accepting or working with others, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside the clearest details in the order each idea develops. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two themes in the passage? State each theme as a complete message, then explain how the themes differ.	**One theme is that persistence helps a person overcome challenges. Another is that accepting help and working with others can strengthen a person's efforts. The first focuses on continuing to work, while the second focuses on learning to rely on others.**
2	How does Nia's idea about asking for help develop from the first paragraph to the last paragraph? Include the turning point in the middle paragraph.	**At first, Nia wants to repair the boat alone. The turning point comes when she shows Mr. Vale the bent nail and invites Inez to help. By the end, she values their support and understands that help does not make the work less hers.**
3	Compare how the boat repair develops the themes of persistence and cooperation. How is each theme shown?	**Persistence is shown when Nia continues after bruising her thumb and later adjusts the lanterns in the breeze. Cooperation is shown when Mr. Vale teaches her, Inez brings a clamp, and Nia uses their help to complete the repair.**
4	Why does Nia smile at the end? Explain how her reason connects the two themes.	**Nia smiles because she kept working and learned when to lean on others. Her success comes from both persistence and accepting support from her neighbors.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

One theme is that persistence helps a person meet challenges, while another is that accepting help can make that work stronger. At first, Nia keeps trying after she bruises her thumb, but she believes she must repair the boat alone. When Mr. Vale demonstrates a technique and Inez brings a clamp, Nia learns that help gives her skills and connects her to neighbors. At the harbor, she uses their support while continuing to work, so the successful launch joins both themes.

Accept other defensible theme statements, such as independence growing into interdependence, when students support them with accurate details. Strong responses compare both themes and explain how each changes from the beginning to the ending.