Three Views, One Flood

Compare how narrative choices shape a shared event.

11.T.T.1.a "Compare how narrative techniques (including archetypes, multiple perspectives, plot structure, and symbolism) develop and interact across two or more texts, using textual evidence. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one time-order clue in each text, circle each reference to the bolt, and place a star beside a detail that shows what each narrator knows or does not know.

Accounts from Pier 8

1. Text A, "Field Notes from the Floodwall." At 6:10 p.m., Mara, the harbor engineer, notices water sliding through a crack beneath Pier 8. She radios the council, but its members argue about costs. At 6:40, Theo, a teenage deckhand, brings a coil of rope and follows Mara into the rain. Together they fasten a gate across the opening. When the surge strikes, the gate holds long enough for families to leave the lower streets. At dawn, Mara finds Theo asleep beside the pump. She places the rusted gate bolt in his palm, saying nothing.

2. Text B, "The Brass Bolt." Theo woke to gulls and a bolt pressing lines into his hand. Across the wet street, neighbors stacked sandbags near the bakery. Mara stood by the pump, her coat torn at the sleeve. "You came back," she said. Three weeks earlier, Theo had sold his father's old compass to pay a mechanic, then avoided the pier because he feared Mara would ask about the missing tool money. On the storm night, he saw her alone at the crack and remembered his father tying boats in winter. He carried rope from the shed. The bolt felt heavier now than any coin.

3. Text C, "Nara's Letter." Dear Ivo, you asked why I kept the little bolt after the flood. I did not see Mara and Theo at the pier. I was in our apartment, carrying Grandma's photo albums upstairs while the stairwell filled with muddy water. Later, Mrs. Vale told me that a boy had brought rope when the engineer needed help. By morning, the council had posted new evacuation maps, and volunteers had painted blue lines on doors marking safe routes. I gave the bolt to the library display, beside Grandma's photograph of the old harbor. It reminds me that a town survives by noticing who is still inside.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Compare how Text A and Text C present Theo's help during the flood. How does the source of information in each text affect what you learn? Use evidence from both texts.

2. Across Texts A and B, which archetypal role does Mara fill, and which role does Theo fill? Support each choice with evidence.

3. How does the order of events differ in Text A and Text B? Explain one effect of Text B's structure on the reader.

4. Compare the bolt's symbolic meaning in Text B and Text C. What different ideas about responsibility does it suggest?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 90 to 120 word comparative analysis of Texts A and B or Texts B and C. Explain how two narrative techniques, such as perspective, archetype, plot structure, or symbolism, work together to shape the meaning of the flood story. Include specific evidence from both texts.

ANSWER KEY

Three Views, One Flood

GRADE 11 · 11.T.T.1.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one time-order clue in each text, circle each reference to the bolt, and place a star beside a detail that shows what each narrator knows or does not know. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare how Text A and Text C present Theo's help during the flood. How does the source of information in each text affect what you learn? Use evidence from both texts.	**Text A gives a detailed account of Theo bringing rope and fastening the gate with Mara. In Text C, Nara did not witness the event and learns from Mrs. Vale that "a boy had brought rope," so Theo's action is less detailed and the focus shifts to the town's response.**
2	Across Texts A and B, which archetypal role does Mara fill, and which role does Theo fill? Support each choice with evidence.	**Mara fills a guardian or leader role because she notices the crack, radios the council, and works to secure the gate. Theo fits a reluctant-hero role because he avoids the pier out of fear, but returns with rope to help Mara.**
3	How does the order of events differ in Text A and Text B? Explain one effect of Text B's structure on the reader.	**Text A moves forward from the first warning through the storm and dawn. Text B begins after the flood, then moves back to Theo's earlier choice and the storm night. This structure first creates questions about why Theo returned, then reveals his guilt and motivation.**
4	Compare the bolt's symbolic meaning in Text B and Text C. What different ideas about responsibility does it suggest?	**In Text B, the bolt feels "heavier now than any coin," suggesting Theo's guilt and the weight of his choice to help. In Text C, the bolt belongs in a public display and reminds Nara to notice who remains in danger, suggesting shared community responsibility.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Texts A and B use Theo differently to shape the flood story. In Text A, the chronological sequence shows him bringing rope at 6:40 and helping secure the gate, so he appears immediately as a capable partner. Text B opens after the storm, then moves to his sale of the compass and his fear of Mara. That disrupted order makes his decision to carry rope seem like a response to guilt and memory. In both texts, the bolt symbolizes more than metal. Mara gives it to Theo as quiet recognition in A, while B calls it "heavier now than any coin," connecting courage to responsibility.

Accept supported interpretations that compare at least two texts and accurately cite or paraphrase passage details. For archetypes and symbolism, accept reasonable labels or meanings when the student explains them with evidence.