Keepsakes in Motion

Compare how authors use meaningful objects to develop a shared theme.

11.T.T.1.c "Compare how different authors develop a similar theme, comparing passages within and across texts, providing both reasoning and supportive textual evidence. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each passage, underline one detail that reveals what the character chooses to do with a meaningful object. Number the underlined details 1, 2, and 3 to show how each author develops a similar idea differently.

Three Ways to Carry Memory

(1) Passage A, from "North Window" by Mira Solis: On the morning after her father's funeral, Lena carried his brass compass to the cliff above their town. Its needle trembled as wind pressed her coat against her knees. Her father had taught her to trust its pull when fog erased the trail. At the overlook, she set the compass inside a weatherproof box marked FOR LOST HIKERS. When she walked away, her hands were empty, but she pictured strangers finding their way home by the same small insistence.

(2) Passage B, from "Chain Song" by Omar Reed: Malik kept his sister's blue bicycle in the garage for a year after she moved across the ocean. Each Saturday, he polished the handlebars until they reflected the rafters. Yet the silent bicycle made the room feel smaller. One afternoon, he heard twelve-year-old Inez tell her mother she could not afford bus fare to her new job. Malik adjusted the seat, showed Inez how to mend a flat, and rolled the bicycle into sunlight. The garage echoed with its departing bell.

(3) Passage C, from "The Salt Jar" by Priya Nair: After her grandmother's death, Anika found a recipe card stained with turmeric and rain. The directions were incomplete: "Add salt until the soup remembers the sea." Anika laughed, then cried, because no measuring spoon could explain that line. Instead of sealing the card in a drawer, she invited neighbors to cook the soup with her. At the meal, each person added a pinch and told a story about a relative who had taught them to cook. Anika copied the recipe, with the stories, into the community center's cookbook.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What shared theme about memory and meaningful objects develops across all three passages? Support your answer with evidence from at least two passages.

2. Compare the compass in Passage A with the bicycle in Passage B. How does each author use the object to develop the shared theme? Cite one detail from each passage.

3. How do Reed and Nair develop the theme differently through character interaction? Use evidence from Passages B and C.

4. Compare the endings of Passages A and C. What different effect does each ending create while supporting a similar theme?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose two passages and write a four-sentence comparative paragraph. State a shared theme, use one specific detail from each passage, and explain how the authors use different narrative choices to develop that theme.

ANSWER KEY

Keepsakes in Motion

GRADE 11 · 11.T.T.1.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each passage, underline one detail that reveals what the character chooses to do with a meaningful object. Number the underlined details 1, 2, and 3 to show how each author develops a similar idea differently. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What shared theme about memory and meaningful objects develops across all three passages? Support your answer with evidence from at least two passages.	**A shared theme is that memories of loved ones can continue when people put meaningful objects or traditions into use rather than keep them private. Lena leaves the compass for lost hikers, Malik gives the bicycle to Inez, and Anika shares her grandmother's recipe with neighbors.**
2	Compare the compass in Passage A with the bicycle in Passage B. How does each author use the object to develop the shared theme? Cite one detail from each passage.	**Solis uses the compass to extend Lena's father's guidance to unknown hikers, shown when Lena places it in a box for lost hikers. Reed uses the bicycle to turn Malik's memory of his sister into direct help for Inez, shown when he teaches her to repair it and gives it to her.**
3	How do Reed and Nair develop the theme differently through character interaction? Use evidence from Passages B and C.	**Reed develops the theme through a one-to-one act of help, as Malik responds to Inez's transportation problem. Nair develops it through a community gathering, as neighbors cook together and share stories about relatives who taught them to cook.**
4	Compare the endings of Passages A and C. What different effect does each ending create while supporting a similar theme?	**Passage A ends quietly with Lena imagining strangers finding their way home, creating a private and reflective effect. Passage C ends with a recipe and stories placed in a community cookbook, creating a collective and lasting effect. Both show memory continuing through sharing.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Solis and Nair suggest that a loved one's influence can continue when a personal keepsake is shared. In "North Window," Lena puts the compass in a box for lost hikers, so her father's guidance reaches people he never met. Solis uses the quiet cliff setting and the image of strangers finding home to make that sharing feel private and reflective. Nair instead gathers neighbors around a recipe, making memory communal and showing that stories can expand a family legacy.

Accept comparable theme statements that are supported by accurate details from the selected passages. Students should explain how an author's object, setting, interaction, imagery, or ending develops the theme, not merely identify similar plot events.