Lanterns Across Town

Track how parallel character arcs build related themes.

7.T.T.1.c "Compare and contrast how themes are developed and expressed in texts through characters, events, and plot structure. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one choice by each main character that reveals a change. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside events from the beginning, middle, and end that develop an important message.

The Lantern Route

1 On the evening before the town's lantern festival, Nia discovered that the battery in her grandfather's old radio was dead. He had promised to announce the parade route from the porch, as he did every year. Nia wanted to buy a new battery, but the hardware store had closed. Across the street, her neighbor Tomas was building a paper lantern alone. He had avoided the festival since his sister moved away. Nia hurried past him, certain her own problem mattered most.

2 At home, Nia found a box of spare parts and tried to force a mismatched battery into the radio. The radio stayed silent. From the window, she saw Tomas's lantern collapse when rain soaked its paper sides. He did not ask for help. Nia remembered how her grandfather always said that a parade was not a performance by one person. She carried tape, dry paper, and the spare parts across the street. Together, they rebuilt the lantern and discovered that one small battery fit the radio after all.

3 When the parade began, Tomas placed his lantern beside Grandfather's porch, where its light shone on the route map. Nia handed her grandfather the working radio, but he asked Tomas to make the announcement with him. Tomas hesitated, then spoke clearly while Nia held the map steady. The crowd followed the glowing lanterns down the street. Nia realized that solving a problem alone had nearly left both projects unfinished. Tomas realized that joining others did not erase his missing sister. Afterward, they planned next year's lantern together.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What theme develops through Nia's change from hurrying past Tomas to bringing materials to help him? Use one event from the passage in your answer.

2. What different but related theme develops through Tomas's storyline? Explain how his final actions express that theme.

3. Compare Nia's and Tomas's actions in the final paragraph. How do their actions express the themes of their two storylines?

4. How does the plot structure, from the beginning through the ending, develop the message about working with others?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write 5 to 7 sentences about two characters facing related problems. Develop a different but connected theme for each character through their choices, events, and the order of the plot.

ANSWER KEY

Lanterns Across Town

GRADE 7 · 7.T.T.1.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one choice by each main character that reveals a change. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside events from the beginning, middle, and end that develop an important message. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What theme develops through Nia's change from hurrying past Tomas to bringing materials to help him? Use one event from the passage in your answer.	**Nia's storyline develops the theme that problems can be solved better through cooperation than through focusing only on oneself. Her choice to bring tape, paper, and spare parts to Tomas shows this change.**
2	What different but related theme develops through Tomas's storyline? Explain how his final actions express that theme.	**Tomas's storyline develops the theme that joining a community can bring connection without erasing a loss. He makes the announcement with Grandfather and plans a future lantern, even though he still misses his sister.**
3	Compare Nia's and Tomas's actions in the final paragraph. How do their actions express the themes of their two storylines?	**Nia supports the group by holding the map, while Tomas joins Grandfather in making the announcement. Nia learns to offer help and work with others, while Tomas learns to accept connection with others.**
4	How does the plot structure, from the beginning through the ending, develop the message about working with others?	**The beginning shows Nia and Tomas handling separate problems alone. The middle gives both characters setbacks and brings them together to solve problems. The ending shows them sharing roles in the parade and planning another project together.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the start, Jalen hides his damaged bike because he is ashamed to ask for help. His story develops the idea that asking for help can be responsible. Meanwhile, Sora gathers broken headphones from classmates and plans a repair table. Her story shows that skills become more useful when shared. In the middle, Jalen brings his bike to Sora after he cannot fix the chain. Both themes value connection, but Jalen changes by accepting help, while Sora changes by sharing leadership. By the end, Jalen teaches younger students to check their brakes, and Sora lets classmates run the table.

Accept reasonable theme statements supported by character choices and events. Students should distinguish the related themes by explaining Nia's growth in offering cooperation and Tomas's growth in accepting community connection.