Threads Through Darkness

Trace an ancient story pattern in a modern suspense scene.

8.T.T.1.d "Analyze how a modern literary work draws on themes, event patterns, or character types from different time periods. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that connect Mara's station journey to the Greek myth. Circle the actions of helpers, and number the steps Mara takes to reach safety so you can compare the old pattern with this modern story.

Signal Below

1. At 6:15, Mara stepped into the closed Northgate station, where a power failure had trapped her younger cousin on the far platform. Her phone flashlight showed three dark tunnels and a wall map covered with route lines. Earlier that day, her class had discussed the ancient Greek myth of Theseus, who entered the Labyrinth to face the Minotaur. Ariadne gave him a thread so he could find his way back. Mara remembered the thread as she listened to water drip somewhere below.

2. At the stairwell, Mara met Mr. Bell, the station custodian, who handed her a roll of orange survey tape. "Tie it to the rail," he said, "and keep it behind you." A grinding roar came from the service tunnel, where an automatic gate had jammed and swung back and forth. Mara did not enter that tunnel. Instead, she studied the map, followed the tape through a narrow passage, and used her phone to call her cousin. Theo answered from beside a blue emergency cabinet.

3. Mara found Theo shivering but unhurt. The cabinet held a hand crank that controlled a loudspeaker, and Mara used it to tell Mr. Bell where they were. He shut off the gate and opened a staff door near the platform. Mara and Theo followed the orange tape back to the stairwell while station workers waited above. Outside, Mara noticed a scrap of tape caught on her sleeve. She folded it into her pocket before the first train replacements arrived.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which two plot events in Mara's story echo the Labyrinth story described in paragraph 1? Explain each connection.

2. What role does Mr. Bell play in the story pattern? Which character from the Greek myth does he most resemble, and why?

3. How does Mara's response to the jammed gate differ from Theseus's purpose in entering the Labyrinth? What does this difference show about Mara as a modern hero?

4. How does changing an ancient maze with a monster into a subway station with a mechanical danger change the story's message? Use two details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly four sentences about a modern character or event that draws on an older character type or event pattern. In sentence 1, name the older work or tradition, in sentences 2 and 3, show the modern scene, and in sentence 4, explain the connection.

ANSWER KEY

Threads Through Darkness

GRADE 8 · 8.T.T.1.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that connect Mara's station journey to the Greek myth. Circle the actions of helpers, and number the steps Mara takes to reach safety so you can compare the old pattern with this modern story. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two plot events in Mara's story echo the Labyrinth story described in paragraph 1? Explain each connection.	**Mara enters branching, dark tunnels as Theseus enters the Labyrinth. She uses survey tape to guide her return, echoing Ariadne's thread.**
2	What role does Mr. Bell play in the story pattern? Which character from the Greek myth does he most resemble, and why?	**Mr. Bell is a helper like Ariadne because he gives Mara the survey tape that helps her find her way back.**
3	How does Mara's response to the jammed gate differ from Theseus's purpose in entering the Labyrinth? What does this difference show about Mara as a modern hero?	**Theseus enters to face the Minotaur, while Mara avoids the gate and uses the map, tape, and phone to reach Theo. Mara is a modern hero who solves danger through planning and communication.**
4	How does changing an ancient maze with a monster into a subway station with a mechanical danger change the story's message? Use two details from the passage.	**The modern setting emphasizes solving a realistic emergency through resourcefulness and cooperation instead of defeating a creature. Mara studies the map and uses the tape, then communicates with Mr. Bell through the loudspeaker.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I drew on the medieval Arthur legend. During robotics tryouts, quiet Jalen lifted the heavy practice robot after the older students had failed. The coach asked him to lead the repair team, although Jalen had never wanted attention. Like Arthur pulling the sword from the stone, Jalen's unexpected success reveals a leader whom others had overlooked.

Accept equivalent evidence-based comparisons between the subway journey and the Labyrinth pattern. For theme and message responses, accept reasonable interpretations supported by details about Mara's planning, the tape, communication, or help from Mr. Bell.