Threads Through Time

Trace how a future adventure reshapes an ancient story pattern.

9.T.T.1.d "Analyze how literary works draw 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 the future plot to an older story, and circle details that change the older pattern. Use your marks to analyze how the story adapts ideas across time periods.

The Floating Library

1 By 2189, the old streets of New Orleans lay beneath a green Gulf, but the city's library floated above them on steel pontoons. Sixteen-year-old Inez repaired its delivery drones. When a storm knocked out the underwater power station, the library's director asked Inez to enter the flooded tunnels and restart it. Her cousin Leo laughed at the choice. "Send a trained diver," he said. Inez had never swum below the surface alone. Still, she packed a lamp, a wrench, and a spool of bright cable from her workbench. She planned to unroll the cable behind her so she could find the way back.

2 Inside the tunnels, the cable glowed behind Inez like a thin river of stars. In the library's story room, she had read how Theseus entered the Greek Labyrinth with thread from Ariadne, then used it to escape after facing the Minotaur. Inez did not expect a monster. Her danger was a machine, a security drone whose damaged sensors treated every moving object as an intruder. When it rushed toward her, she did not strike it. She tossed her metal wrench down a side passage, and the noise lured the drone away. Then she followed the cable to the power station.

3 At the station, Inez discovered that the storm had trapped Leo in an elevator shaft above the waterline. Restarting the station would drain power from the emergency lift for several minutes. Rather than switch on the station first, Inez used the cable to guide herself back and freed him. Together, they returned to the controls and restored the library before dawn. Leo admitted that he had expected a hero to be fearless and strong. Inez answered that courage meant acting while afraid, and skill mattered more than winning a fight. The old maze pattern remained, but this future story made cooperation, not conquest, its final victory.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two details connect Inez's journey to the story of Theseus and the Labyrinth? Explain the event pattern these details create.

2. How does Inez differ from the traditional hero Leo expects? Use one detail from the passage.

3. How does the story change the conflict from the ancient Greek tale?

4. What theme does the ending create by having Inez rescue Leo before restarting the station?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write 2 to 3 sentences that create a modern or future scene borrowing an event pattern or character type from an older literary tradition. Name the source, then explain one change and how that change affects the theme.

ANSWER KEY

Threads Through Time

GRADE 9 · 9.T.T.1.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that connect the future plot to an older story, and circle details that change the older pattern. Use your marks to analyze how the story adapts ideas across time periods. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two details connect Inez's journey to the story of Theseus and the Labyrinth? Explain the event pattern these details create.	**Inez travels through confusing tunnels and leaves a cable behind her, like Theseus using Ariadne's thread in the Labyrinth. Both characters enter a dangerous maze-like place and need a guide to escape.**
2	How does Inez differ from the traditional hero Leo expects? Use one detail from the passage.	**Leo expects a hero to be fearless and strong, but Inez is afraid and succeeds through skill and quick thinking. She distracts the drone instead of fighting it.**
3	How does the story change the conflict from the ancient Greek tale?	**Instead of fighting the Minotaur, Inez faces a damaged security drone and avoids it by making a noise in another passage. The conflict becomes a technological problem solved with strategy rather than conquest.**
4	What theme does the ending create by having Inez rescue Leo before restarting the station?	**The ending develops the theme that courage and cooperation matter more than individual strength or victory in a fight. Inez helps Leo, and they restore the library together.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a present-day city, a teen hacker exposes a landlord who has secretly raised rents and sends the evidence to tenants. The scene borrows Robin Hood's pattern of helping ordinary people against unfair wealth, but digital proof and community action shift the theme from one outlaw's generosity to shared civic power.

Accept responses that identify the ancient Greek connection and explain how the future setting changes its maze, danger, hero type, or theme. For Part 3, accept a range of older literary sources if the student clearly names the source, adapts a recognizable element, and explains a thematic effect.