The Missing Tile

Trace how a theme grows through a character's choices.

RL.7.2 "Determine themes of a text and analyze their development through citing textual evidence, paraphrasing or summarizing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in each paragraph that shows how Mara responds to someone else's idea. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 to trace how her response changes.

The Torn Moon

1. Mara had drawn the mural on graph paper until every square fit. For the spring art show, her class would cover a blank cafeteria wall with paper tiles painted to look like a city at night. When Imani offered to cut the windows, Mara slid the scissors away. “I can keep the edges straight,” she said. At lunch, Mara carried a stack of painted tiles toward the wall. One slipped, hit the floor, and tore across a bright yellow moon. She hid it beneath the stack.

2. The next morning, Imani found the torn moon while sorting the tiles. Mara waited for her to laugh. Instead, Imani held the pieces a finger’s width apart. “That gap could be a river,” she said. Mara shook her head; there was no river on her drawing. But the art show was two days away, and Mara could not paint another moon before class ended. She let Imani set the pieces against the wall. The pale space between them looked like moonlight on water.

3. Soon their classmates cut thin blue strips for the river, while Mara moved the buildings to make room. A boy who lived near the actual river painted the little footbridge he crossed to school. Mara had never noticed it from the bus. At the art show, she pointed to the bridge when visitors asked about her careful drawing. “That part wasn’t in my plan,” she said, “but now it feels like our city.” The torn moon stayed at the center, its uneven edge visible if you looked closely.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What theme about accepting others' ideas begins to develop in the first paragraph? Cite a detail that shows Mara's starting attitude.

2. How does Mara's response to Imani change in the second paragraph? Use a detail from the passage to explain how this develops the theme.

3. What detail in the final paragraph shows that Mara now values contributions from her classmates? Explain how it supports the theme.

4. Summarize how the theme about accepting others' ideas develops from the beginning to the end of the story. Include a detail from the middle.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences about a different theme: how a mistake can lead to a new idea. Use two details from different parts of the story, and put at least one detail in your own words.

ANSWER KEY

The Missing Tile

GRADE 7 · RL.7.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in each paragraph that shows how Mara responds to someone else's idea. Number the details 1, 2, and 3 to trace how her response changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What theme about accepting others' ideas begins to develop in the first paragraph? Cite a detail that shows Mara's starting attitude.	**Making room for others' ideas can improve shared work. At first, Mara slides the scissors away when Imani offers to help, showing that Mara wants to control the mural.**
2	How does Mara's response to Imani change in the second paragraph? Use a detail from the passage to explain how this develops the theme.	**Mara first shakes her head at Imani's river idea, but then lets Imani place the torn pieces against the wall. She begins to consider an idea she did not plan.**
3	What detail in the final paragraph shows that Mara now values contributions from her classmates? Explain how it supports the theme.	**Mara points out the footbridge and says the mural now feels like "our city." She values a classmate's addition even though it was not in her drawing.**
4	Summarize how the theme about accepting others' ideas develops from the beginning to the end of the story. Include a detail from the middle.	**Mara begins by turning down Imani's help. In the middle, she allows Imani to arrange the torn moon as a river. By the end, she welcomes her classmates' additions and calls the mural "our city."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A mistake can lead to a new idea. When Mara tears the moon tile, she hides it because she thinks the damage has ruined her plan. Imani sees a river in the space between the torn pieces, and the class adds a footbridge based on a real place. By the art show, the uneven moon remains at the center, showing that the mistake helped create a mural that reflects their city.

Accept other defensible statements of either theme when the cited details support them. For Part 3, look for four sentences, evidence from different moments, and at least one paraphrased detail.