

Seeds Across Time

Identify historical fiction and connect its ideas across texts, cultures, and times.

4R9 "Recognize genres and make connections to other texts, ideas, cultural perspectives, eras, personal events, and situations. (RI&RL)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show the real Dust Bowl era, circle two details that show Rosa's story is imagined, and number 1 and 2 beside two connections to another text, culture, or modern situation.

Rosa's Seed Packet

- ① In 1936, dust storms crossed the Great Plains during the Dust Bowl. Ten-year-old Rosa closes the window of her family's Oklahoma farmhouse. Fine brown dust slips through the cracks. Her father wraps a wet cloth around his face before walking to the barn. Rosa worries that the little garden behind the house will not live.
- ② At supper, Grandma tells Rosa about saving bean seeds after each harvest. She says her Mexican American family learned this practice from older relatives, who treated seeds as a promise for the next season. Rosa remembers a folktale her class read, "The Empty Pot," in which a child learns that being honest matters more than winning. Both stories show people facing a hard choice with care.
- ③ The next morning, Rosa gives half her saved seeds to a neighbor whose packet blew away. This made-up event could not be checked in a history book, but the Dust Bowl setting is real. Like a modern community garden, Rosa's choice shows neighbors sharing supplies during a difficult time. The scene also helps readers imagine how one child might have felt in that earlier era.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What genre is this passage? Give two details that support your answer.

2 How does Rosa's story connect to "The Empty Pot"?

3 What family or cultural perspective does Grandma share? How does it affect Rosa?

4 How does the passage connect Rosa's actions to a modern community garden?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a story, poem, film, or book you know. Write exactly three sentences that name its genre, point to one genre clue, and explain one connection to this passage, another text, your life, or a situation today.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show the real Dust Bowl era, circle two details that show Rosa's story is imagined, and number 1 and 2 beside two connections to another text, culture, or modern situation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What genre is this passage? Give two details that support your answer.	Historical fiction. The Dust Bowl in 1936 is a real setting, but Rosa giving seeds to her neighbor is a made-up event.
2	How does Rosa's story connect to "The Empty Pot"?	Both texts show someone facing a difficult choice with care. Rosa shares her seeds, and the child in the folktale chooses honesty.
3	What family or cultural perspective does Grandma share? How does it affect Rosa?	Grandma shares her Mexican American family's practice of saving bean seeds for the next season. Rosa saves seeds and later shares them.
4	How does the passage connect Rosa's actions to a modern community garden?	In both situations, neighbors share supplies during a difficult time.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I chose the fantasy film *My Neighbor Totoro*. The magical forest creatures show that it is fantasy. It connects to Rosa's story because both show children finding comfort and hope during hard times.

Accept any accurate genre supported by a clue from the student's chosen text. Accept a clear, explained connection to this passage, another text, personal experience, or a present-day situation.