

# Tracks to Tomorrow

Compare themes, character choices, plot, and setting in two stories.

**6.7** "Multiple genres: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--literary elements. The student recognizes and analyzes literary elements within and across increasingly complex traditional, contemporary..."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Read both fictional stories. Beside events in Text A, mark E (exposition), R (rising action), C (climax), F (falling action), and Rn (resolution). Circle its flashback. Underline evidence for a theme shared by both texts.

### Text A: Aiko's Suitcase / Text B: The Welcome Quilt

- ① Text A (historical fiction, continued below): In 1942, Aiko's Japanese American family was confined at Tanforan, a California racetrack. Their room had been a horse stall. Mending a sleeve, Aiko remembered her grandmother teaching her to stitch festival cloths at home. A guard announced departure by train tomorrow. Her younger brother Ken ran toward the locked gate. Frightened, Aiko hesitated, then chased him.
- ② Aiko took Ken's hand. "I'm scared too. Stay with me." Back in their room, they packed a festival cloth; their parents added a photograph. Ken asked about their garden at home. Next morning, they boarded together. Ken held the cloth as Aiko described cherry blossoms. Their confinement was unjust; their future remained uncertain. But Aiko no longer hid her fear. Sharing memories gave them strength.
- ③ Text B (contemporary fiction): At her new school's welcome night, Dara waited beside a quilt made from family clothes. Each family would share an object's story. Seeing trophies nearby, she felt embarrassed. Her turn came; she froze. Her mother squeezed her hand. Remembering rainy afternoons choosing patches together, Dara pointed to her grandfather's gardening shirt. A classmate asked about another patch. Soon they were exchanging family stories. Walking home, Dara asked when they could return.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Infer two themes in Text A. Give one supporting detail for each.

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2 How do Aiko's feelings and actions change the plot? Use two details.

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3 Identify Text A's five plot stages and flashback. Brief labels are enough. What does the flashback reveal?

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4 How does each setting shape the character's choices? State an important difference between the situations.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Read both fictional stories. Beside events in Text A, mark E (exposition), R (rising action), C (climax), F (falling action), and Rn (resolution). Circle its flashback. Underline evidence for a theme shared by both texts. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                   | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Infer two themes in Text A. Give one supporting detail for each.                                           | <b>Family memories offer strength: the cloth and garden story comfort Ken. Sharing fear can build support: Aiko admits fear and takes Ken's hand.</b>                                                                            |
| 2 | How do Aiko's feelings and actions change the plot? Use two details.                                       | <b>Fear makes Aiko hesitate; concern for Ken makes her chase him and lead him back. Admitting fear helps them choose a keepsake and leave together.</b>                                                                          |
| 3 | Identify Text A's five plot stages and flashback. Brief labels are enough. What does the flashback reveal? | <b>E: life at Tanforan. R: departure announced; Ken runs. C: Aiko takes Ken's hand at the gate. F: they pack the cloth. Rn: they board together. Flashback: grandmother teaches stitching; family traditions matter to Aiko.</b> |
| 4 | How does each setting shape the character's choices? State an important difference between the situations. | <b>Aiko is unjustly confined and cannot return home; family traditions offer comfort. Dara is free to join a welcoming school tradition and chooses to speak. Forced confinement differs from moving to a new school.</b>        |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

Both stories suggest that family memories can give people courage. Aiko shares a festival cloth and a garden story; Dara shares a quilt made from family clothes. Both also suggest that support makes it easier to face uncertainty. Aiko takes Ken's hand, and Dara's mother encourages her to speak. Their situations differ greatly, but each character finds strength through connection.

Accept supported themes and plot boundaries; climax means a turning point. Observe partner listening/speaking. Do not equate forced incarceration with moving schools. These stories are fictional; Tanforan's 1942 confinement and horse-stall housing are historical (NPS, Japanese American Confinement Sites, Newsletter 11).