

Race or Responsibility

Trace how setting, choices, and actions shape a story.

4.8 "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 Underline two details that show Rosa changes. Number four events 1 through 4 to show the rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

The Acequia Race

- ① In 1912, Rosa lived in a small New Mexico village where families shared water from an acequia, an irrigation ditch. Each spring, neighbors cleaned the ditch before planting. On cleaning day, Rosa wanted to race her cousin Tomas to the cottonwood tree instead of carrying mud baskets. Tomas said, "If we finish early, we can race." Rosa frowned and dropped her basket beside the ditch.
- ② Later, a pile of wet leaves blocked the narrow gate that guided water into Rosa's grandmother's bean field. Water spilled over the bank and rushed toward the road. Tomas called for help, but adults were far upstream. Rosa grabbed her abandoned basket. As Tomas held a board against the gate, Rosa scooped leaves and stones away. The water rose to the edge of her boots.
- ③ Then the board slipped. Rosa jumped into the cold ditch, braced it with her shoulder, and shouted, "Pull the leaves now!" Tomas cleared the gate, and water streamed safely into the bean field. Afterward, Rosa helped carry the last baskets without being asked. When the work ended, Tomas raced her to the cottonwood tree. Rosa lost the race, but she laughed because the beans would grow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What theme does the story suggest? Give two details from the story that support your answer.

2 How do Tomas's words and actions affect Rosa? Explain how Rosa changes by the end.

3 Name one event for each plot part: rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

4 How does the 1912 New Mexico village setting influence the plot? Use details about the acequia and the community's work.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a six-sentence story set in a community with a shared tradition or in a historical time. Include rising action, a climax, falling action, a resolution, two characters who affect each other, and a theme shown by an action.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show Rosa changes. Number four events 1 through 4 to show the rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What theme does the story suggest? Give two details from the story that support your answer.	A theme is that responsibility to others can matter more than having fun. Rosa stops thinking only about racing and helps save the bean field, then carries the last baskets without being asked.
2	How do Tomas's words and actions affect Rosa? Explain how Rosa changes by the end.	Tomas reminds Rosa that work can come before racing and works with her at the gate. Rosa changes from avoiding the work to helping protect the field and finishing the job willingly.
3	Name one event for each plot part: rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.	Rising action: Leaves block the gate, and water rushes toward the road. Climax: Rosa jumps into the ditch and braces the slipping board while Tomas clears the leaves. Falling action: Water streams safely into the bean field. Resolution: Rosa helps finish the work, then races Tomas and is happy the beans will grow.
4	How does the 1912 New Mexico village setting influence the plot? Use details about the acequia and the community's work.	Because families share the acequia and must clean it before planting, the blocked water gate threatens Rosa's grandmother's bean field. The community water system makes Rosa and Tomas's work important.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During the 1930s, Mae lived on a farm where neighbors took turns using one windmill to fill their water barrels. When a dry week emptied her family's barrel, Mae wanted to keep the windmill for herself, but her friend Eli reminded her that Mrs. Chen had a baby. A hard wind snapped the rope that raised the bucket, and water splashed into the sand. At sunset, Mae climbed the windmill frame and tied Eli's spare rope to the bucket. Eli pulled while Mae guided the bucket, and together they filled Mrs. Chen's barrel first. Mae then shared the remaining water with her family and neighbors, learning that helping others makes a hard time easier.

Accept reasonable theme statements that are supported by at least two accurate details. For the open response, accept varied settings and events if all plot parts are clear and the characters' interaction leads to a change or important action.