

Messages on the Bridge

Use evidence to infer more than one message in a literary text.

6.7.A "infer multiple themes within and across texts using text evidence;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that suggest an important message in the story. Number the details 1 or 2 to group evidence for two different possible themes.

The Lantern Bridge

- ① On the morning of the river festival, Mara found the footbridge blocked by driftwood. The bridge connected her neighborhood to the town square, where her grandmother planned to sell woven baskets. "The festival will start without us," Mara said. Her grandmother set down the baskets and studied the tangled branches. "A river leaves work for people," she replied. Mara wanted to hurry away, but she noticed Mr. Chen carrying lanterns on the far bank. He could not cross either.
- ② Mara climbed onto a low stone wall and called to Mr. Chen. Soon, he tied a rope around the largest branch while Mara and her grandmother pulled from their side. A baker brought gloves, and two children gathered smaller sticks. The work was slow. Twice, the rope slipped, and Mara scraped her knee. Each time, her grandmother asked, "What can we try now?" Mara suggested moving the branch instead of pulling it straight. At last, the driftwood rolled aside, and the bridge cleared.
- ③ At the square, the mayor asked why the lanterns were late. Mr. Chen pointed to Mara, but she shook her head and named every person who had helped. Her grandmother placed one basket on the bridge rail, not to sell, but to hold a lantern after sunset. When the lights reflected on the river, Mara saw neighbors from both banks stopping to look. The bridge was more than a path to the festival. It was a place where people could meet, share work, and remember they belonged to one town.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Infer one theme of "The Lantern Bridge." Use two details from the story to support your answer.

2 Infer a second theme that is different from the first. Use two details from the story to support your answer.

3 How does Mara's response when Mr. Chen points to her help develop a theme? State the theme and explain.

4 The bridge is more than a path in this story. What idea does the bridge represent, and which details support your inference?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose another story you know. In 3 or 4 sentences, state one theme shared by both stories and one theme that is different, using one detail from this passage and one detail from the other story as evidence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that suggest an important message in the story. Number the details 1 or 2 to group evidence for two different possible themes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Infer one theme of "The Lantern Bridge." Use two details from the story to support your answer.	One theme is that cooperation helps people solve problems. Mara, Mr. Chen, her grandmother, the baker, and the children work together to clear the driftwood, and the bridge is cleared at last.
2	Infer a second theme that is different from the first. Use two details from the story to support your answer.	One theme is that persistence and flexible thinking can overcome obstacles. Mara keeps working after the rope slips and she scrapes her knee, then she suggests moving the branch instead of pulling it straight.
3	How does Mara's response when Mr. Chen points to her help develop a theme? State the theme and explain.	It develops the theme that every helper matters in a community. Mara names every person who helped instead of accepting all the credit herself.
4	The bridge is more than a path in this story. What idea does the bridge represent, and which details support your inference?	The bridge represents connection and belonging in a community. It links the two neighborhoods, and people from both banks meet, share work, and remember they belong to one town.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both "The Lantern Bridge" and "The Lion and the Mouse" share the theme that helping others builds strong relationships. In "The Lantern Bridge," neighbors from both banks work together to clear the driftwood. In "The Lion and the Mouse," the mouse frees the lion from a hunter's net after the lion spared him. A different theme in "The Lantern Bridge" is that a community becomes stronger when people recognize every helper, while the fable focuses on kindness being returned.

Accept other clearly stated themes when they are supported by accurate details from the passage. For Part 3, accept any appropriate second text and compare themes only when the student includes relevant evidence from both texts.