

Themes Across Cultures

Identify universal ideas in art, music, and literature.

6.16.C “identify examples of art, music, and literature that convey universal themes such as religion, justice, and the passage of time.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the title of each work named in the passage. Beside each title, write J for justice, R for religion, and/or T for the passage of time, using every label supported by the passage.

Works That Speak Across Time

- ① Art can speak about justice without showing a courtroom. In 1937, Spanish painter Pablo Picasso made Guernica after German and Italian aircraft bombed the Basque town of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War. The large painting uses fractured human and animal figures, a crying mother, and a fallen soldier. Picasso did not paint a realistic battle scene. Instead, the pain and fear of civilians ask viewers to consider whether people are being treated fairly. This makes the work an example of art that conveys justice.
- ② Music can carry religious ideas through words and sound. “Amazing Grace” is a Christian hymn whose words were written by John Newton and first published in 1779. The speaker marvels at receiving grace despite having been lost, then found. Singers often perform the hymn at worship services and memorials. Its message of forgiveness, rescue, and trust in God can connect with listeners from different places and times. For this reason, the hymn is an example of music that conveys religion.
- ③ Literature can explore the passage of time by following changes in a person’s life. The Tale of Genji, written in Japan by Murasaki Shikibu around the early eleventh century, follows Prince Genji through love, loss, and changing relationships. Later chapters show younger characters facing problems like those of earlier generations. The novel also describes seasons, aging, and memories. These changes remind readers that people, families, and societies do not stay the same. The book is an example of literature that conveys the passage of time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which artwork in the passage conveys justice? What event led Picasso to make it?

2 Which details in "Amazing Grace" show that it conveys religion?

3 What universal theme does The Tale of Genji convey?

4 Give two details from The Tale of Genji that show the passage of time.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Name an artwork, song, or book that is not in the passage. In 2 or 3 sentences, identify one universal theme it conveys and explain two details that support your idea.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the title of each work named in the passage. Beside each title, write J for justice, R for religion, and/or T for the passage of time, using every label supported by the passage. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which artwork in the passage conveys justice? What event led Picasso to make it?	Guernica conveys justice. Picasso made it after German and Italian aircraft bombed the town of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War.
2	Which details in “Amazing Grace” show that it conveys religion?	The hymn speaks about grace, forgiveness, rescue, and trust in God. It is also performed at worship services.
3	What universal theme does The Tale of Genji convey?	The Tale of Genji conveys the passage of time.
4	Give two details from The Tale of Genji that show the passage of time.	Later chapters show younger characters facing problems like earlier generations. The novel also describes seasons, aging, and memories.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The novel Hatchet conveys the passage of time. Brian’s hair grows long, and he learns new survival skills as days and weeks pass.

Accept another accurately named work and a reasonable universal theme, such as religion, justice, or the passage of time. The response should include two details that clearly support the named theme.