Storm-Tested Patterns

Trace ancient patterns in a contemporary theater story.

11.RL.3.B "Relate themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works to contemporary stories, poems, or drama."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that connects the theater events to myths, traditional stories, or religious stories. Write M beside a myth connection, P beside a repeated event pattern, and C beside a character type.

Blue Tape at Harbor Street

1. During the final rehearsal at Harbor Street Theater, a storm cut the power. Lena, the student stage manager, found the building's old flashlight and a roll of blue tape. The audience would arrive in an hour, and the backstage corridors twisted behind painted walls and storage rooms. Remembering the Greek story of Ariadne, who gave Theseus a thread to guide him out of the Labyrinth, Lena pressed tape arrows along the floor. She told the actors to follow the arrows if the lights failed again. Her plan did not defeat a monster, but it turned a confusing maze into a path home.

2. Later, Lena learned that Mateo, the lead actor, had left his medical inhaler in the locked prop loft. Rather than rush alone through the dark, he asked two crew members to come with him and carried the taped route in his mind. On the stairs, he wanted to abandon the search when thunder shook the windows. Instead, he paused, listened to his friends, and continued. The trip resembles a traditional quest: a traveler enters danger, meets obstacles, receives help, and returns changed. Mateo came back with the inhaler and a new respect for accepting guidance.

3. When the power returned, the director suggested canceling the rehearsal, but Lena argued that the cast could finish safely. The actors walked the blue route once, then performed the final scene under work lights. Their choice makes the theater crew a contemporary version of helpers found in many myths and religious stories, where people survive trials by trusting wisdom, community, or a guiding sign. The storm remains ordinary, not supernatural, yet the pattern gives it larger meaning. The passage suggests that courage is not solitary daring. It is the decision to use help responsibly and then help others.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Lena's blue-tape route parallel Ariadne's thread? What important difference does the passage point out?

2. Match Mateo's trip to the traditional quest pattern. Name the four stages of the pattern that appear in his experience.

3. Why does the passage describe the theater crew as a contemporary version of helpers in myths and religious stories?

4. What shared idea about courage connects Lena's Ariadne-like plan and Mateo's quest? Use one detail about each character.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In exactly four sentences, compare one myth, traditional story, or religious work with a contemporary story, poem, or drama. Name both works, explain one shared event pattern or character type, and state a shared theme using a specific detail from each work.

ANSWER KEY

Storm-Tested Patterns

GRADE 11 · 11.RL.3.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that connects the theater events to myths, traditional stories, or religious stories. Write M beside a myth connection, P beside a repeated event pattern, and C beside a character type. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Lena's blue-tape route parallel Ariadne's thread? What important difference does the passage point out?	**Both guide people out of a confusing maze-like space. Ariadne's thread helps Theseus escape the Labyrinth, while Lena's tape helps actors navigate the dark theater, and Lena faces no monster.**
2	Match Mateo's trip to the traditional quest pattern. Name the four stages of the pattern that appear in his experience.	**He enters danger by going into the dark theater, meets obstacles on the stairs during the storm, receives help from two crew members, and returns changed with the inhaler and greater respect for guidance.**
3	Why does the passage describe the theater crew as a contemporary version of helpers in myths and religious stories?	**Like traditional helpers, the crew uses wisdom, community, and a guiding sign to help people survive a trial safely.**
4	What shared idea about courage connects Lena's Ariadne-like plan and Mateo's quest? Use one detail about each character.	**Courage means using help responsibly rather than acting alone. Lena creates a route others can follow, and Mateo listens to his friends and accepts their help.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the Greek myth, Theseus enters the Labyrinth to kill the Minotaur and end Athens's forced tribute to Crete. In Suzanne Collins's The Hunger Games, Katniss enters a controlled arena after volunteering to take her sister's place among the tributes. Both protagonists face a deadly enclosed space created by an unjust power, which makes each a hero who protects others. Together, the stories suggest that courage can challenge a system that treats human lives as offerings.

Accept accurate comparisons that identify both works, a specific shared pattern or character type, and a defensible theme supported by details. For the open task, require exactly four sentences and evidence from both works.