Blue Bird Choice

Find a theme by tracing a character's choices.

6.RL.1.A "Summarize texts, including determining the central theme of stories, plays, or poems, and how they are conveyed through specific details."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show Mina choosing to help someone. Circle one detail near the ending that shows the result of her choice.

The Blue Kite

1 On Saturday morning, Mina carried her sketchbook to the old train station, hoping to draw the clock tower before the rain arrived. The station was now a small market, busy with shoppers and music. Near the entrance, Mr. Alvarez sat beside a table of handmade kites. His hands moved slowly as he tied string around a blue paper bird. Mina paused. She had promised her cousin she would help paint a mural at noon, but the kite maker looked worried whenever the wind bent his display.

2 "Could you hold this?" Mr. Alvarez asked when a gust lifted three kites from their hooks. Mina gripped the table while he chased the fluttering paper. She noticed that one kite had torn along its wing. Mr. Alvarez sighed and set it aside. Mina opened her sketchbook. Instead of drawing the tower, she copied the kite's pattern onto a clean page and showed him how a folded paper patch could cover the tear. Together, they repaired it with glue and string.

3 At noon, rain tapped the station roof, and the market crowd hurried indoors. Mr. Alvarez handed Mina the repaired blue kite. "You saved my best one," he said. Mina remembered the mural and ran to the community wall. Her cousin had already mixed the paints, but he smiled when Mina arrived. They finished a bright blue bird near the center. Later, Mina saw Mr. Alvarez flying his kite outside. The bird on the mural seemed to lift in the same wind.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write a two-sentence summary of the story. Include Mina's problem, her choice, and what happens afterward.

2. What is one central theme of the story?

3. Which two details best show how Mina's actions convey the theme? Explain how each detail supports the theme.

4. How does the repeated image of the blue bird help convey the story's theme?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence mini-story about a character making a difficult choice. Then add two sentences that state a central theme and explain how two details from your story convey that theme.

ANSWER KEY

Blue Bird Choice

GRADE 6 · 6.RL.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show Mina choosing to help someone. Circle one detail near the ending that shows the result of her choice. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write a two-sentence summary of the story. Include Mina's problem, her choice, and what happens afterward.	**At the market, Mina pauses her drawing plans to help Mr. Alvarez repair a torn kite. She later joins her cousin at the mural, where the blue bird connects her helpful act to the community.**
2	What is one central theme of the story?	**Using your skills to help someone can strengthen a community.**
3	Which two details best show how Mina's actions convey the theme? Explain how each detail supports the theme.	**Mina uses her sketchbook to design a patch for the torn kite, showing that she uses her own skill to help. She leaves for the mural afterward and helps paint a blue bird, showing that her helpful choice connects her with others.**
4	How does the repeated image of the blue bird help convey the story's theme?	**The blue kite and the blue mural bird connect Mina's help for Mr. Alvarez with her work with her cousin. The image shows that one helpful choice can spread into a larger community connection.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jordan planned to spend Saturday building a model bridge for a contest. His coach had warned him that every minute mattered. At the library, Jordan saw a younger student staring at a broken cardboard bridge for a school project. Jordan used some of his own supplies and showed her how to make strong folded supports. He arrived at the contest with a simpler model, but he smiled when the student proudly carried her finished bridge home. The central theme is that helping another person can matter more than personal recognition. Jordan gives up time and supplies, and the student's pride shows the value of his choice.

Accept summaries that include Mina helping repair the kite and the later mural scene. Accept closely supported themes about helping others, using personal skills, or building connections, as long as students explain details from the passage.