Compass of Courage

Trace how a character's choices reveal an implied theme.

7.RL.1.A "Describe stated or implied themes of texts and analyze their development throughout the texts using specific details."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four details that show how Mara responds to help. Then number one detail in each paragraph that helps you infer a lesson Mara learns.

The Repair Fair

1. On Saturday, Mara carried her grandfather's cracked compass to the community repair fair. He had used it on every hiking trip, and she had promised to fix it before his birthday. At the first table, a volunteer offered to examine it. Mara pulled it back. "I can handle it," she said, remembering how classmates had laughed when she dropped a tray in science lab. She bought a tiny screwdriver, sat alone near the door, and turned the screws until one rolled beneath a chair.

2. Mara stared at the dark space under the chair. Her hands shook, but she did not call anyone. Then a girl about her age knelt beside her and held out a magnet on a string. "My brother loses screws constantly," the girl said. Together, they found the screw. Mara expected the girl to leave, yet she stayed and asked what the compass meant to Mara. For the first time, Mara explained about the hikes, the birthday, and the promise. The girl listened without smiling at Mara's mistake.

3. At the last table, the volunteer showed both girls how to clean the compass needle and reset its cover. Mara tightened the final screw while the girl checked that the needle moved north. It did. Mara thanked her, then asked for her name, Nia. Before leaving, Mara noticed a younger boy struggling with a bent bicycle reflector. She walked to his table and said, "I have not fixed one of those, but we can ask someone together." Mara slipped the repaired compass into her pocket, no longer treating help as proof that she could not manage.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does Mara's response to the volunteer in paragraph 1 suggest about how she views accepting help? Use one detail from the paragraph.

2. How does Nia's response to Mara's lost screw begin to challenge Mara's belief about help? Use two details from paragraph 2.

3. State an implied theme of the passage. Explain how one detail from the beginning and one detail from the end develop that theme.

4. How does Mara's choice to speak to the younger boy show the final stage of her change?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence scene about a character facing a problem. Show the character's actions or thoughts changing so a reader can infer a lesson, but do not state the lesson directly.

ANSWER KEY # Compass of Courage

GRADE 7 · 7.RL.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four details that show how Mara responds to help. Then number one detail in each paragraph that helps you infer a lesson Mara learns. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does Mara's response to the volunteer in paragraph 1 suggest about how she views accepting help? Use one detail from the paragraph.	**Mara sees accepting help as a sign that she cannot handle a problem herself. She pulls the compass back and says, "I can handle it," after remembering classmates laughing at her mistake.**
2	How does Nia's response to Mara's lost screw begin to challenge Mara's belief about help? Use two details from paragraph 2.	**Nia helps Mara find the screw and stays to ask about the compass. She listens without making fun of Mara, showing that help can be kind rather than embarrassing.**
3	State an implied theme of the passage. Explain how one detail from the beginning and one detail from the end develop that theme.	**An implied theme is that asking for help can make a person stronger, not weaker. At first, Mara refuses the volunteer's help and works alone, but at the end she asks someone to help the younger boy.**
4	How does Mara's choice to speak to the younger boy show the final stage of her change?	**Mara now accepts that people can solve problems together. She admits she has not fixed a reflector, but suggests asking someone together.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Theo groaned when rain soaked the poster he had painted for the festival. He started to throw it away, but his sister spread the wet paper on the table and brought colored scraps. Theo cut the scraps into bright shapes and let her glue beside him. At the festival, he hung the new poster and saved one blue scrap in his pocket.

Accept other reasonable implied themes when students support them with accurate details from the passage. For the open task, look for four sentences, a problem, a clear change in the character, and details that imply rather than directly state a lesson.