

Courage in Two Forms

Compare a story and poem about courage during a flood.

7.RL.3.B “Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in the story and one line in the poem that shows Nia acts even though she is afraid. In the margin, write S beside the story detail and P beside the poem line so you can compare how the forms show the same idea.

Two Texts, One Storm

- ① STORY, “The Rope Basket” Rain hammered the roof of the community center as Nia watched the creek cover the park path. Her grandfather had stored food boxes there for neighbors who could not leave their homes. Nia wanted to stay indoors, where the lights were bright and dry. Then she saw Mr. Alvarez on the porch across the street, waving a flashlight. The water had reached his steps, and his phone battery was dead. A rescue truck would not arrive until morning, the radio had said.
- ② Nia tied a laundry rope around her waist and handed the other end to her grandfather. Together, they waded to the porch, keeping one hand on the fence. Mr. Alvarez gripped the rope while Nia carried two food boxes in a plastic tub. Back at the center, Nia shook with cold, but she laughed when he opened a box and found tea. “I was scared,” she admitted. Her grandfather nodded. “Brave people can be scared. They still choose what helps.” Nia tucked that sentence into her memory.
- ③ POEM, “Rope in Rain” The creek wears a roaring coat. I wear my red boots, and fear splashes inside them. Grandpa knots the rope, a thin road across the brown water. I carry soup, not thunder. At Mr. Alvarez’s door, his small wave becomes a lantern. My knees knock their warning, but my hands keep moving. When we return, the rain is still loud. Inside the food box, tea leaves whisper: warmth can travel from one shaking hand to another.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Both texts show Nia feeling afraid. Compare the way the story and the poem reveal her fear.

2 Compare how the story and the poem show Nia helping Mr. Alvarez.

3 What shared theme do both texts develop? Use one detail from each form to support your answer.

4 Grandfather states a lesson directly in the story, while the poem ends with the image of warmth traveling between shaking hands. How do these choices approach the same theme differently?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a theme about responding to a challenge. Write a 4-6-sentence prose scene and a 6-8-line poem about the same situation, then write exactly two sentences that compare how the two forms approach the theme similarly and differently.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in the story and one line in the poem that shows Nia acts even though she is afraid. In the margin, write S beside the story detail and P beside the poem line so you can compare how the forms show the same idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Both texts show Nia feeling afraid. Compare the way the story and the poem reveal her fear.	The story directly states that Nia was scared and shows her shaking with cold. The poem uses images, such as fear splashing inside her boots and her knees knocking, to reveal her fear.
2	Compare how the story and the poem show Nia helping Mr. Alvarez.	The story explains the events in order, including Nia carrying food boxes to the porch. The poem focuses on selected images, such as carrying soup and Mr. Alvarez's wave becoming a lantern.
3	What shared theme do both texts develop? Use one detail from each form to support your answer.	Both texts show that courage means helping others even when you are afraid. In the story, Nia crosses the water with food boxes. In the poem, her hands keep moving even while her knees knock.
4	Grandfather states a lesson directly in the story, while the poem ends with the image of warmth traveling between shaking hands. How do these choices approach the same theme differently?	The story states the theme directly through Grandfather's dialogue. The poem suggests the theme through an image of shared warmth and help.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Prose Scene: During rehearsal, Malik missed the same violin shift three times. He wanted to lower his bow, but he asked the conductor to play the measure slowly. After school, he practiced the shift in short sections until his fingers found the note. At the concert, he still felt nervous, yet he played through the measure. Poem: One note hides above my reaching hand. I climb the strings again. The bow trembles, then finds a narrow path. Applause opens like a door. Both texts show persistence by having Malik continue after mistakes. The prose scene explains his practice steps, while the poem uses images of climbing and a narrow path to show the struggle.

Accept comparisons that identify a shared theme and explain a meaningful difference in form or approach. For Part 3, accept varied situations and themes if the prose scene, poem, and two comparison sentences meet the stated length and comparison requirements.