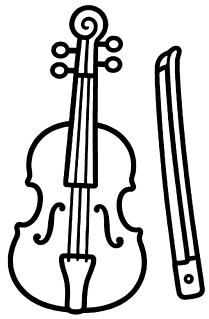
Name _____ Date _____

Theme and Quoting the Text

Read the story. The questions are on the next page.

Second Chair



For two years, Aiyana had sat in the first chair of the school orchestra's violin section. The first chair played the solos, tuned the orchestra before every concert and stood to take a bow at the end. Aiyana practiced an hour every evening, and she had come to think of that chair as hers.

Then, in October, a new girl named Hannah arrived from another state. At her first rehearsal, Hannah played a passage so smoothly that the room went silent. A week later, Mr. Ortiz moved Hannah to first chair. Aiyana slid one seat to the right, her cheeks burning. “Second chair,” she muttered to herself. “Second place.”

For days, Aiyana barely spoke to Hannah. She noticed every note Hannah missed and secretly hoped she would miss more. But one afternoon, Aiyana found Hannah alone in the practice room, crying. Hannah admitted that she was terrified of the winter solo. “At my old school I never played alone,” she said. “Everyone here keeps staring at me.”

Aiyana stood in the doorway for a long moment. She remembered how frightened she had been before her own first solo, two years earlier. Then she pulled up a chair. “Play it for me,” she said. “Just for me. Then it won't be the first time.”

They practiced together every afternoon for three weeks. At the winter concert, Hannah's solo soared, and the audience leaped to its feet. Hannah turned and pointed her bow straight at the second chair. Aiyana felt her face grow warm again, but this time it was not from embarrassment.

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Name _____ Date _____

Theme and Quoting the Text

Second Chair: quote the story where a question asks you to.

1. How does Aiyana feel when she is moved to second chair? Quote the words that show it.

2. Which sentence shows that Aiyana was jealous of Hannah at first?

She noticed every note Hannah missed and secretly hoped she would miss more.

Aiyana practiced an hour every evening.

They practiced together every afternoon for three weeks.

3. What makes Aiyana decide to help Hannah? Quote the sentence that explains it.

4. At the end, Hannah points her bow at the second chair. What does this show without saying it?

5. What is the theme of the story? Explain how Aiyana's choice shows it.

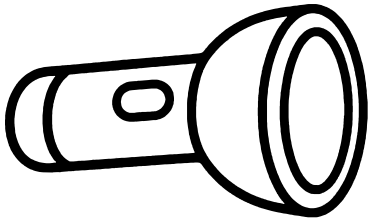
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Name _____ Date _____

Theme and Quoting the Text

Read the story. The questions are on the next page.

The Night the Lights Went Out



Theo had always been afraid of the dark, though at eleven he would never have admitted it to anyone. He slept with a night-light, and he hurried past the basement stairs as though something might reach out and grab him.

On the night of the ice storm, his mother had to drive to the hospital, where she worked as a nurse. “Grandpa's here, and you'll both be fine,” she promised, kissing the top of his head. An hour later, with a crack and a hiss outside, every light in the house went out.

In the sudden blackness, Theo heard Grandpa's slow, careful steps, then a thump and a groan. “Theo,” Grandpa called, trying to sound calm, “I've twisted my ankle. The flashlights are in the basement, on the shelf by the furnace.”

Theo's stomach dropped. The basement was the darkest place in the whole house. For a moment he could not move at all. Then he pictured Grandpa sitting on the cold floor, waiting, and he made himself feel his way to the stairs. He counted each step out loud, one hand sliding along the rail, his heart hammering so hard it seemed to fill the stairwell.

His fingers found the shelf, then the smooth plastic of a flashlight. He clicked it on, and a circle of light spilled across the floor. The basement was just a basement: boxes, a furnace and an old bicycle. When Theo brought the flashlight to Grandpa, the old man squeezed his hand. “Being brave doesn't mean you aren't scared,” Grandpa said. “It means you go anyway.”

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Name _____ Date _____

Theme and Quoting the Text

The Night the Lights Went Out: quote the story where a question asks you to.

1. Quote one detail from the beginning that shows Theo is afraid of the dark.

2. Why is the basement the worst place for Theo to go?

Grandpa told him never to go there.

It is the darkest place in the house, and he is afraid of the dark.

It is cold there because of the storm.

3. What helps Theo get moving toward the stairs? Quote the text.

4. "The basement was just a basement." What does this sentence show about how Theo has changed?

5. Grandpa states the theme in his last words. Quote them, then explain them in your own words.

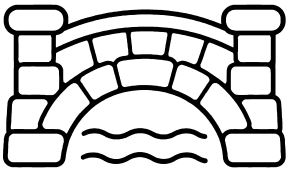
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Name _____ Date _____

Theme and Quoting the Text

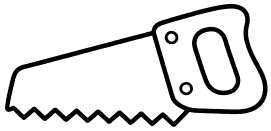
Read the story. The questions are on the next page.

The Footbridge



For as long as anyone in the village could remember, a wooden footbridge had crossed Miller's Creek, joining the houses on one side to the school and the store on the other. Then the spring floods came, and the creek swelled into a brown, roaring river that tore at its banks for three days, until one morning the footbridge was simply gone.

The town council said a new bridge would take two years and cost more money than the town had. Until then, children would ride a bus the long way around, a trip of forty minutes each way.



Twelve-year-old Priya was not willing to wait two years. She found the old bridge plans in the library, copied them neatly and drew a smaller, simpler bridge beside them. Then she knocked on doors. Most of the people who answered smiled politely, listened for a minute and then shook their heads. One neighbor laughed out loud. “A kid building a bridge? Good luck with that.”

Priya kept knocking. Mr. Bell, a retired carpenter, agreed to look at her drawing. He found three mistakes, which Priya fixed that same night. The hardware store donated two boxes of nails, and a family down the road offered the boards left over from building their new fence. Week by week, the pile of wood beside the creek grew, and so did the number of people who came to help on Saturdays.

By the end of summer, a narrow new footbridge stretched across Miller's Creek. On the first day of school, Priya walked across it with forty other children. The neighbor who had laughed was standing at the far end, holding the gate open.

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Name _____ Date _____

Theme and Quoting the Text

The Footbridge: quote the story where a question asks you to.

1. What challenge does Priya face, and how does she respond at first?

2. Quote the sentence that shows Priya did not give up when people said no.

3. Why does the author include the detail that Priya fixed Mr. Bell's three mistakes "that same night"?

It shows that her drawing was bad.

It shows how determined and hardworking she is.

It shows that Mr. Bell was unkind.

4. The neighbor who laughed holds the gate open at the end. What does this show without saying it?

5. Write a summary of the story in three sentences.

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Name _____ Date _____

Quoting the Text

When you quote, you copy the author's exact words inside quotation marks.

1. Which of these quotes the text from “Second Chair” accurately?

The story says Hannah's “solo soared really high.”

The story says Hannah's solo “soared.”

The story says, “Hannah's solo was amazing.”

2. Why should you put an author's exact words in quotation marks?

to make your answer longer

to show which words are the author's and not your own

to show the words are spoken aloud

3. A student wrote: Theo was brave. Add a quote from “The Night the Lights Went Out” that supports this claim.

_____

_____

4. A quote alone is not enough. Explain how this quote shows Priya's determination: “Priya kept knocking.”

_____

_____

5. All three stories share a pattern. How does each main character meet a challenge? What theme do the stories share?

_____

_____

_____

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Name _____ Date _____

Claim, Quote, Explain

Use this page with any story. Back up what you think with the author's words.

Title

Main character

Challenge what the character faces

Claim what you think about the character or theme

Quote the author's exact words, in quotation marks, with the page

Explain how the quote shows your claim

Theme what the story teaches about meeting a challenge

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Theme and Quoting the Text

Second Chair: quote the story where a question asks you to.

1. How does Aiyana feel when she is moved to second chair? Quote the words that show it.

Embarrassed and upset. “her cheeks burning,” and “Second chair,” she muttered to herself. “Second place.”

2. Which sentence shows that Aiyana was jealous of Hannah at first?

She noticed every note Hannah missed and secretly hoped she would miss more.

Aiyana practiced an hour every evening.

They practiced together every afternoon for three weeks.

3. What makes Aiyana decide to help Hannah? Quote the sentence that explains it.

“She remembered how frightened she had been before her own first solo, two years earlier.”

4. At the end, Hannah points her bow at the second chair. What does this show without saying it?

She is thanking Aiyana in front of everyone and giving her credit for the solo.

5. What is the theme of the story? Explain how Aiyana's choice shows it.

Someone else's success is not your failure. Aiyana stops seeing Hannah as a rival and helps her, and they both succeed.

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Theme and Quoting the Text

The Night the Lights Went Out: quote the story where a question asks you to.

1. Quote one detail from the beginning that shows Theo is afraid of the dark.

"He hurried past the basement stairs as though something might reach out and grab him."

2. Why is the basement the worst place for Theo to go?

Grandpa told him never to go there.

It is the darkest place in the house, and he is afraid of the dark.

It is cold there because of the storm.

3. What helps Theo get moving toward the stairs? Quote the text.

"Then he pictured Grandpa sitting on the cold floor, waiting, and he made himself feel his way to the stairs."

4. "The basement was just a basement." What does this sentence show about how Theo has changed?

He sees that the dark place he feared was ordinary. His fear has shrunk now that he faced it.

5. Grandpa states the theme in his last words. Quote them, then explain them in your own words.

"Being brave doesn't mean you aren't scared. It means you go anyway."
Courage is doing something even when you are afraid.

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Theme and Quoting the Text

The Footbridge: quote the story where a question asks you to.

1. What challenge does Priya face, and how does she respond at first?

The bridge washed away and a new one would take two years. She finds the old plans and draws a simpler bridge.

2. Quote the sentence that shows Priya did not give up when people said no.

"Priya kept knocking."

3. Why does the author include the detail that Priya fixed Mr. Bell's three mistakes "that same night"?

It shows that her drawing was bad.

It shows how determined and hardworking she is.

It shows that Mr. Bell was unkind.

4. The neighbor who laughed holds the gate open at the end. What does this show without saying it?

He has changed his mind about Priya and now supports what she did.

5. Write a summary of the story in three sentences.

A flood washes away the footbridge, and the town says a new one will take two years. Priya draws plans and keeps asking until neighbors help with skills and supplies. By the end of summer they build a new bridge together.

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Quoting the Text

When you quote, you copy the author's exact words inside quotation marks.

1. Which of these quotes the text from "Second Chair" accurately?

The story says Hannah's "solo soared really high."

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The story says, "Hannah's solo was amazing."

2. Why should you put an author's exact words in quotation marks?

to make your answer longer

to show which words are the author's and not your own

to show the words are spoken aloud

3. A student wrote: Theo was brave. Add a quote from "The Night the Lights Went Out" that supports this claim.

Theo was brave. He "made himself feel his way to the stairs," even though the basement was the darkest place in the house.

4. A quote alone is not enough. Explain how this quote shows Priya's determination: "Priya kept knocking."

Even after people said no and one neighbor laughed, she went on asking for help. She would not give up.

5. All three stories share a pattern. How does each main character meet a challenge? What theme do the stories share?

Aiyana helps her rival, Theo goes into the dark, and Priya keeps asking for help. Each faces something hard instead of giving up, and it makes things better for others too.

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