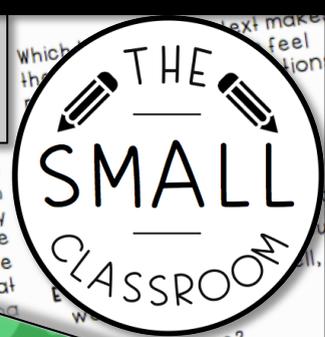


LAFS Aligned Middle School

TASK CARDS



eme

cerpt from *Matilda*
Roald Dahl

the time she was three, Matilda had taught herself to read by studying newspapers and magazines that lay around the house. At the age of four, she could read fast and well and she naturally began hankering after books. The only book in the whole of this enlightened household belonged to her mother, a copy of *Peter Rabbit*. She had read it all the time she wanted to read. She had read it so many times that she could read it with her eyes closed. She had read it so many times that she could read it with her eyes closed. She had read it so many times that she could read it with her eyes closed.

2
What does the author want the reader to learn about Matilda in the text? Select **two** options.

- A Matilda is different from her family.
- B Matilda wants to be a cook.
- C Matilda likes to read.
- D Matilda's father wants her to watch TV.
- E Matilda has a special gift.

3
What is the theme?

- A It is important to enjoy simple things in life.
- B It is a special part of life.
- C It is important to try and see the good.
- D It is important to try and see the good.

Theme

Excerpt from *The Outsiders*
By S. E. Hinton

When I stepped out into the bright sunlight from the darkness of the movie house, I had only two things on my mind: Paul Newman and a ride home. I was wishing I looked like Paul Newman--- he looks tough and I don't--- but I guess my own looks aren't so bad. I have light-brown, almost-red hair and greenish-gray eyes. I wish they were more gray, because I hate most guys that have green eyes, but I have to be content with what I have. My hair is longer than a lot of boys wear theirs, squared off in back and long at the front and sides, but I am a greaser and most of my neighborhood rarely bothers to get a haircut. Besides, I look better with long hair.

1
Part A: What is the theme?

- A Having long hair is better.
- B A person's appearance is important.
- C You should worry about your looks.
- D It is important to try and see the good.

Part B: Which sentence from the text best supports your answer in Part A?

- A Paul Newman and a ride home.
- B I was wishing I looked like Paul Newman.
- C My hair is longer than a lot of boys wear theirs.
- D I look better with long hair.

Open Response: What is the most important key details from the text to support your answer?

FLORIDA
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Assessment

Theme

Theme

The message or lesson the author wants you to take away from the story.

The underlying meaning that may be stated directly or indirectly.

Common Themes:

Appearance

Injustice

Death

Love

Freedom

Responsibility

Friendship

War

Theme

Excerpt from *The Outsiders*
By S. E. Hinton

When I stepped out into the bright sunlight from the darkness of the movie house, I had only two things on my mind: Paul Newman and a ride home. I was wishing I looked like Paul Newman--- he looks tough and I don't--- but I guess my own looks aren't so bad. I have light-brown, almost-red hair and greenish-gray eyes. I wish they were more gray, because I hate most guys that have green eyes, but I have to be content with what I have. My hair is longer than a lot of boys wear theirs, squared off in back and long at the front and sides, but I am a greaser and most of my neighborhood rarely bothers to get a haircut. Besides, I look better with long hair.

Part A: What is the theme?

- A Having long hair is better.
- B A person's appearance is important.
- C You should worry about your looks.
- D It is important to try and see the good.

Part B: Which sentence from the text **best** supports your answer in Part A?

- A Paul Newman and a ride home.
- B I was wishing I looked like Paul Newman.
- C My hair is longer than a lot of boys wear theirs.
- D I look better with long hair.

Open Response: What is the main idea? Use key details from the text to support your answer.

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Theme

Excerpt from *Matilda*
By Roald Dahl

By the time she was three, Matilda had taught herself to read by studying newspapers and magazines that lay around the house. At the age of four, she could read fast and well and she naturally began hankering after books. The only book in the whole of this enlightened household was something called Easy Cooking belonging to her mother, and when she had read this from cover to cover and had learnt all the recipes by heart, she decided she wanted something more interesting. "Daddy," she said, "do you think you could buy me a book?" "A book," he said. "What d'you want a flaming book for?" "To read, Daddy." "What's wrong with the telly, for heaven's sake? We've got a lovely telly with a twelve-inch screen and now you come asking for a book! You're getting spoiled, my girl!"

What does the author want the reader to learn about Matilda in the text? Select **two** options.

- A Matilda is different from her family.
- B Matilda wants to be a cook.
- C Matilda likes to read.
- D Matilda's father wants her to watch TV.
- E Matilda has a special gift.

What is the theme?

- A Books lead to empowerment.
- B Problems come with ignorance.
- C Poverty is difficult for families.
- D A child's desire to escape.

Open Response: What text evidence supports your answer choice for the theme?

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Theme

Excerpt from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* By Roald Dahl

Charlie Bucket stared around the gigantic room in which he now found himself. The place was like a witch's kitchen! All about him black metal pots were boiling and bubbling on huge stoves, and kettles were hissing and pans were sizzling, and strange iron machines were clanking and spluttering, and there were pipes running all over the ceiling and walls, and the whole place was filled with smoke and steam and delicious rich smells. Mr. Wonka himself had suddenly become even more excited than usual, and anyone could see that this was the room he loved best of all. He was hopping about among the saucepans and the machines like a child among his Christmas presents, not knowing which thing to look at first. He lifted the lid from a huge pot and took a sniff; then he rushed over and dipped a finger into a barrel of sticky yellow stuff and had a taste; then he skipped across to one of the machines and turned half a dozen knobs this way and that; then he peered anxiously through the glass door of a gigantic oven, rubbing his hands and cackling with delight at what he saw inside. Then he ran over to another machine, a small shiny affair that kept going phut-phut-phut-phut-phut, and every time it went phut, a large green marble dropped out of it into a basket on the floor.

Part A: What is the theme?

- A It is important to enjoy the simple things in life.
- B Childhood is a special time in your life.
- C Wealth and poverty go against one another.
- D It is important to not be overindulgent.

Part B: Which sentence from the text **best** supports your answer in Part A?

- A The place was like a witch's kitchen!
- B Mr. Wonka himself had suddenly become even more excited than usual.
- C He rushed over and dipped a finger into a barrel of sticky yellow stuff.
- D Then he ran over to another machine, a small shiny affair that kept going phut-phut-phut-phut.

Open Response: What is the author's purpose in the text? Use key details from the text to support your answer.

3

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Theme

Excerpt from *The Gathering Blue* By Lois Lowry

"Mother?"

There was no reply. She hadn't expected one. Her mother had been dead now for four days, and Kira could tell that the last of the spirit was drifting away.

"Mother." She said it again, quietly, to whatever was leaving. She thought that she could feel its leave-taking, the way one could feel a small whisper of breeze at night. Now she was all alone. Kira felt the aloneness, the uncertainty, and a great sadness.

This had been her mother, the warm and vital woman whose name had been Katrina. Then after the brief and unexpected sickness, it had become the body of Katrina, still containing the lingering spirit. After four sunsets and sunrises, the spirit too was gone. It was simply a body. Diggers would come and sprinkle a layer of soil over the flesh, but even so it would be eaten by the clawing, hungry creatures that came at night. Then the bones would scatter, rot, and crumble to become part of the earth.

Kira wiped briefly at her eyes, which had filled suddenly with tears. She had loved her mother, and would miss her terribly. But it was time for her to go. She wedged her walking stick in the soft ground, leaned on it, and pulled herself up.

Which idea is supported throughout the text? Select **two** options.

- A Moving on after a loss.
- B Sadness taking over.
- C A lingering spirit.
- D The feeling of loss.
- E Handling unexpected sickness.

What is the theme?

- A The love felt for family.
- B Love of a parent and a child.
- C Sadness after experiencing death.
- D There is great beauty in life.

Open Response: What text evidence supports your answer choice for the theme?

4

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Theme

Excerpt from *Sister Hood of the Traveling Pants*
By Ann Brashares

Once there were four girls who shared a pair of pants. The girls were all different sizes and shapes, and yet the pants fit each of them. You may think this is a suburban myth. But I know it's true, because I am one of them – one of the sisters of the Traveling Pants.

We discovered their magic last summer, purely by accident. The four of us were splitting up for the first time in our lives. Carmen had gotten them from a secondhand place without even bothering to try them on. She was going to throw them away, but by chance, Tibby spotted them. First Tibby tried them; then me, Lena; then Bridget; then Carmen.

By the time Carmen pulled them on, we knew something extraordinary was happening. If the same pants fit – and I mean really fit – the four of us, they aren't ordinary. They don't belong completely to the world of things you can see and touch. My sister, Effie, claims I don't believe in magic, and maybe I didn't then. But after the first summer of the Traveling Pants, I do.

Part A: What is the theme?

5

- A Each person has their own uniqueness.
- B Friendship brings you closer together.
- C There is magic if you really believe.
- D Traveling pants are important.

Part B: Which sentence from the text **best** supports your answer in Part A?

- A The girls were all different sizes and shapes.
- B The four of us were splitting up for the first time in our lives.
- C Carmen had gotten them from a secondhand place without even bothering to try them on.
- D By the time Carmen pulled them on, we knew something extraordinary was happening.

Open Response: Why do you think the author included this backstory about the pants?

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Theme

Excerpt from *Pretty Little Liars*
By Sara Shepard

Imagine it's a couple of years ago, the summer between seventh and eighth grade. You're tan from lying out next to your rock-lined pool, you've got on your new Juicy sweats (remember when everybody wore those?), and your mind's on your crush, the boy who goes to that other prep school whose name we won't mention and who folds jeans at Abercrombie in the mall. You're eating your Cocoa Krispies just how you like 'em --- doused in skim milk --- and you see this girl's face on the side of the milk carton. missing. She's cute --- probably cuter than you --- and has a feisty look in her eyes. You think, *Hmm, maybe she likes soggy Cocoa Krispies too.* And you bet she'd think Abercrombie boy was a hottie as well. You wonder how someone so . . . well, so much like you went missing. You thought only girls who entered beauty pageants ended up on the sides of milk cartons. Well, think again.

Which lines from the text makes the missing girl situation feel more real? Select **two** options.

6

- A the summer between seventh and eighth grade
- B probably cuter than you
- C maybe she likes soggy Cocoa Krispies too
- D you've got on your new Juicy sweats
- E how someone so . . . well, so much like you went missing.

What is the theme?

- A Facing a sudden identity crisis.
- B Dealing with the forces of good vs. bad.
- C The sadness in the destruction of beauty.
- D How scary it can be to face reality.

Open Response: What text evidence supports your answer choice for the theme?

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Theme

Excerpt from *The Isle of the Lost* By Melissa de la Cruz

Once upon a time, during a time after all the happily-ever-afters, and perhaps even after the ever-afters after that, all the evil villains of the world were banished from the United Kingdom of Auradon and imprisoned on the Isle of the Lost. There, underneath a protective dome that kept all manner of enchantment out of their clutches, the terrible, the treacherous, the truly awful, and the severely sinister were cursed to live without the power of magic. King Beast declared the villains exiled forever. Forever, as it turns out, is quite a long time. Longer than an enchanted princess can sleep. Longer, even, than an imprisoned maiden's tower of golden hair. Longer than a week of being turned into a frog, and certainly much longer than waiting for a prince to finally get around to placing that glass slipper on your foot already. Yes, forever is a long, long, long time. Ten years, to be specific. Ten years that these legendary villains have been trapped on a floating prison of rock and rubble. Okay, so you might say ten years isn't such a long time, considering; but for these conjurers and witches, viziers and sorcerers, evil queens and dark fairies, to live without magic was a sentence worse than death. (And some of them were brought back from death, only to be placed on this island—so, um, they should know.) Without their awesome powers to dominate and hypnotize, terrorize and threaten, create thunderclouds and lightning storms, transform and disguise their features or lie and manipulate their way into getting exactly what they wanted, they were reduced to hardscrabble lives, eking a living selling and eating slop, scaring no one but their own minions, and stealing from each other. It was hard even for them to imagine they once had been great and powerful, these poisoners of forest apples and thieves of undersea voices, these usurpers of royal powers and owners of petulant mirrors. Now their lives were anything but powerful. Now they were ordinary. Everyday.

Part A: What is the theme?

- A It is hard to be in the working class.
- B In a tough situation it may feel like an eternity.
- C Good will always win over evil.
- D Don't dwell on your unhappiness.

Part B: Which sentence from the text **best** supports your answer in Part A?

- A To live without magic was a sentence worse than death.
- B Forever, as it turns out, is quite a long time.
- C The treacherous, the truly awful, and the severely sinister were cursed to live without the power of magic.
- D Without their awesome powers to dominate and hypnotize, terrorize and threaten, create thunderclouds and lightning storms.

Open Response: What lesson will the villains most likely learn through this experience? Use key details from the text to support your answer.

7

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Theme

Excerpt from *The Host* By Stephenie Meyer

"This soul was specially picked for the assignment," Darren said soothingly. "She is exceptional among our kind—braver than most. Her lives speak for themselves. I think she would volunteer, if it were possible to ask her." "Who among us would not volunteer if we were asked to do something for the greater good? But is that really the case here? Is the greater good served by this? The question is not her willingness, but what it is right to ask any soul to bear." The Healing students were discussing the hibernating soul as well. Fords could hear the whispers clearly; their voices were rising now, getting louder with their excitement.

"She's lived on six planets."

"I heard seven."

"I heard she's never lived two terms as the same host species."

"Is that possible?"

"She's been almost everything. A Flower, a Bear, a Spider—"

"A See Weed, a Bat—"

"Even a Dragon!"

"I don't believe it—not seven planets."

"At least seven. She started on the Origin."

"Really? The Origin?"

"Quiet please!" Fords interrupted. "If you cannot observe professionally and silently, then I will have to ask you to remove yourselves."

Abashed, the six students fell silent and edged away from one another.

What is the central idea?

- A Class is understated by the assignment choice.
- B When the teacher gets upset.
- C The students' excitement in their studies.
- D The soul is uniquely qualified.

Select **two** themes that best match the text.

- A The greatness in doing a selfless act.
- B The difficulty of facing darkness.
- C The wonder in something special.
- D It is important to overcome your excitement.
- E There is a hierarchy in nature.

Open Response: What text evidence supports your answer choices for the theme?

8

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Theme

Excerpt from *The Heir*
By Kiera Cass

I could not hold my breath for seven minutes. I couldn't even make it to one. I once tried to run a mile in seven minutes after hearing some athletes could do it in four but failed spectacularly when a side stitch crippled me about halfway in. However, there was one thing I managed to do in seven minutes that most would say is quite impressive: I became queen. By seven tiny minutes I beat my brother, Ahren, into the world, so the throne that ought to have been his was mine. Had I been born a generation earlier, it wouldn't have mattered. Ahren was the male, so Ahren would have been the heir. Alas, Mom and Dad couldn't stand to watch their firstborn be stripped of a title by an unfortunate but rather lovely set of breasts. So they changed the law, and the people rejoiced, and I was trained day by day to become the next ruler of Illéa. What they didn't understand was that their attempts to make my life fair seemed rather *unfair* to me.

Part A: What is the theme?

- A A child resisting his or her parents.
- B Your family should always come first.
- C The burden of family responsibility.
- D There is a great injustice in the world.

Part B: Which sentence from the text **best** supports your answer in Part A?

- A However, there was one thing I managed to do in seven minutes that most would say is quite impressive.
- B By seven tiny minutes I beat my brother, Ahren, into the world.
- C Mom and Dad couldn't stand to watch their firstborn be stripped of a title
- D What they didn't understand was that their attempts to make my life fair seemed rather *unfair* to me.

Open Response: What central message is the narrator trying to get across? Use key details from the text to support your answer.

9

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Theme

Excerpt from *Sea of Monsters: Percy & the Olympians*
By Rick Riordan

My nightmare started like this. I was standing on a deserted street in some little beach town. It was the middle of the night. A storm was blowing. Wind and rain ripped at the palm trees along the sidewalk. Pink and yellow stucco buildings lined the street, their windows boarded up. A block away, past a line of hibiscus bushes, the ocean churned. *Florida*, I thought. Though I wasn't sure how I knew that. I'd never been to Florida. Then I heard hooves clattering against the pavement. I turned and saw my friend Grover running for his life. Yeah, I said *hooves*. Grover is a satyr. From the waist up, he looks like a typical gangly teenager with a peach-fuzz goatee and a bad case of acne. He walks with a strange limp, but unless you happen to catch him without his pants on (which I don't recommend), you'd never know there was anything unhuman about him. Baggy jeans and fake feet hide the fact that he's got furry hindquarters and hooves. Grover had been my best friend in sixth grade. He'd gone on this adventure with me and a girl named Annabeth to save the world, but I hadn't seen him since last July, when he set off alone on a dangerous quest—a quest no satyr had ever returned from.

Select **two** feelings expressed in the text.

- A restlessness
- B trepidation
- C unconsciousness
- D vulnerability
- E apprehension

What is the theme?

- A The terror of facing darkness.
- B The sadness in lost friendship.
- C The worry of fading beauty.
- D The frustration in a change of power.

Open Response: What text evidence supports your answer choice for the theme?

10

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Theme

Excerpt from *Allegiant* By Veronica Roth

I pace in our cell in Erudite headquarters, her words echoing in my mind: My name will be Edith Prior, and there is much I am happy to forget. "So you've never seen her before? Not even in pictures?" Christina says, her wounded leg propped up on a pillow. She was shot during our desperate attempt to reveal the Edith Prior video to our city. At the time we had no idea what it would say, or that it would shatter the foundation we stand on, the factions, our identities. "Is she a grandmother or an aunt or something?" "I told you, no," I say, turning when I reach the wall. "Prior is—was—my father's name, so it would have to be on his side of the family. But Edith is an Abnegation name, and my father's relatives must have been Erudite, so . . ." "So she must be older," Cara says, leaning her head against the wall. From this angle she looks just like her brother, Will, my friend, the one I shot. Then she straightens, and the ghost of him is gone. "A few generations back. An ancestor." "Ancestor." The word feels old inside me, like crumbling brick. I touch one wall of the cell as I turnaround. The panel is cold and white. My ancestor, and this is the inheritance she passed to me: freedom from the factions, and the knowledge that my Divergent identity is more important than I could have known. My existence is a signal that we need to leave this city and offer our help to whoever is outside it. "I want to know," Cara says, running her hand over her face. "I need to know how long we've been here."

Part A: What is the theme?

- A Love and sacrifice are critical parts of life.
- B There is power in silence.
- C Curiosity to learn more about the world you live in.
- D Self-preservation is the only way to survive.

Part B: Which sentence from the text **best** supports your answer in Part A?

- A I pace in our cell in Erudite headquarters, her words echoing in my mind.
- B "Is she a grandmother or an aunt or something?"
- C My ancestor, and this is the inheritance she passed to me.
- D "I need to know how long we've been here."

Open Response: What is another underlying idea present in the text? Use key details from the text to support your answer.

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Theme

Excerpt from *Obsidian*
By Jennifer L. Armentout

I stared at the pile of boxes in my new bedroom, wishing the Internet had been hooked up. Not being able to do anything with my review blog since moving here was like missing an arm or a leg. According to my mom, "Katy's Krazy Obsession" was my whole life. Not entirely, but it was important to me. She didn't get books the way I did. I sighed. We'd been here two days, and there was still so much left to unpack. I hated the idea of boxes sitting around. Even more than I hated being here. At least I'd finally stopped jumping at every little creaking sound since moving to West Virginia and this house that looked like something straight out of a horror movie. It even had a turret—a freaking turret. What was I supposed to do with that? Ketterman was unincorporated, meaning it wasn't a real town.

The closest place was Petersburg—a two or three stoplight town near a few other towns that probably didn't have a Starbucks. We wouldn't get mail at our house. We would have to drive into Petersburg to get our mail. Barbaric.

Like a kick in the face, it hit me. Florida was gone—eaten by the miles we'd traveled in Mom's mad dash to start over. It wasn't that I missed Gainesville, the weather, my old school, or even our apartment. Leaning against the wall, I rubbed the palm of my hand over my forehead. I missed Dad.

What is the narrator focused on?
Select **two** options.

- A The small town she moved to.
- B The importance of books.
- C The changes in her life.
- D The new house.
- E The loss of her father.

What is the theme?

- A Difficulty in starting over in a new place.
- B Hard times after losing a parent.
- C Troubles with going to a new school.
- D Struggle of moving to a new city.

Open Response: What text evidence supports your answer choice for the theme?

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Theme

Excerpt from *A Series of Unfortunate Events #1: The Bad Beginning*

By Lemony Snicket

If you are interested in stories with happy endings, you would be better off reading some other book. In this book, not only is there no happy ending, there is no happy beginning and very few happy things in the middle. This is because not very many happy things happened in the lives of the three Baudelaire youngsters. Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire were intelligent children, and they were charming, and resourceful, and had pleasant facial features, but they were extremely unlucky, and most everything that happened to them was rife with misfortune, misery, and despair. I'm sorry to tell you this, but that is how the story goes.

Part A: What is the theme?

- A There is adversity in life.
- B Pride is found in family.
- C There is injustice in books.
- D It is common to face failure at a young age.

Part B: Which sentence from the text **best** supports your answer in Part A?

- A If you are interested in stories with happy endings, you would be better off reading some other book.
- B This is because not very many happy things happened in the lives of the three Baudelaire youngsters.
- C Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire were intelligent children, and they were charming.
- D I'm sorry to tell you this, but that is how the story goes.

Open Response: What is the author's intended purpose? Use key details from the text to support your answer.

13

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Theme

Excerpt from *The Iron Fey*

By Julie Kagawa

MY NAME IS MEGHAN CHASE. In less than twenty-four hours, I'll be sixteen years old. Sweet sixteen. It has a magical ring to it. Sixteen is supposed to be the age when girls become princesses and fall in love and go to dances and proms and such. Countless stories, songs, and poems have been written about this wonderful age, when a girl finds true love and the stars shine for her and the handsome prince carries her off into the sunset. I didn't think it would be that way for me. The morning before my birthday, I woke up, showered, and rummaged through my dresser for something to wear. Normally, I'd just grab whatever clean-ish thing is on the floor, but today was special. Today was the day Scott Waldron would finally notice me. I wanted to look perfect. Of course, my wardrobe is sadly lacking in the popular-attire department. While other girls spend hours in front of their closets crying, "What should I wear?" my drawers basically hold three things: clothes from Goodwill, hand-me-downs, and overalls. I wish we weren't so poor. I know pig farming isn't the most glamorous of jobs, but you'd think Mom could afford to buy me at least one pair of nice jeans. I glared at my scanty wardrobe in disgust. Oh, well, I guess Scott will have to be wowed with my natural grace and charm, if I don't make an idiot of myself in front of him.

What is the key idea?

- A Meghan taking charge of her life.
- B Meghan's high school crush.
- C It's Meghan's birthday.
- D Meghan wanting a perfect day.

Select **two** themes that best match the text.

- A Troubles when you live in poverty.
- B Wishing for a different life.
- C Finding your true love in high school.
- D The magical time for your sweet sixteen.
- E Finding acceptance in what life brings.

Open Response: What text evidence supports your answer choices for the theme?

14

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Theme

Excerpt from *Life of Pi*
By Yann Martel

I was alone and orphaned, in the middle of the Pacific, hanging on to an oar, an adult tiger in front of me, sharks beneath me, a storm raging about me. Had I considered my prospects in the light of reason, I surely would have given up and let go of the oar, hoping that I might drown before being eaten. But I don't recall that I had a single thought during those first minutes of relative safety. I didn't even notice daybreak. I held on to the oar, I just held on, God only knows why. The elements allowed me to go on living. The lifeboat did not sink. Richard Parker kept out of sight. The sharks prowled but did not lunge. The waves splashed me but did not pull me off. I watched the ship as it disappeared with much burbling and belching. Lights flickered and went out. I looked about for my family, for survivors, for another lifeboat, for anything that might bring me hope. There was nothing. Only rain, marauding waves of black ocean and the flotsam of tragedy. The darkness melted away from the sky. The rain stopped.

Part A: What is the theme?

- A Destruction of family.
- B It's okay to feel scared when in danger.
- C There is strength in overcoming adversity.
- D Sadness in death and the ones you love.

Part B: Which sentence from the text **best** supports your answer in Part A?

- A I was alone and orphaned, in the middle of the Pacific.
- B I held on to the oar, I just held on, God only knows why.
- C The waves splashed me but did not pull me off.
- D Only rain, marauding waves of black ocean and the flotsam of tragedy.

Open Response: How would you describe the narrator? Use key details from the text to support your answer.

15

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Theme

Excerpt from *The Scorch Trials*
By James Dashner

She spoke to him before the world fell apart.
Hey, are you still asleep?
Thomas shifted in his bed, felt a darkness around him like air turned solid, pressing in. At first he panicked; his eyes snapped open as he imagined himself back in the Box--that horrible cube of cold metal that had delivered him to the Glade and the Maze. But there was a faint light, and lumps of dim shadow gradually emerged throughout the huge room. Bunk beds. Dressers. The soft breaths and gurgly snores of boys deep in slumber. Relief filled him. He was safe now, rescued and delivered to this dormitory. No more worries. No more Grievors. No more death.

Tom?

A voice in his head. A girl's. Not audible, not visible. But he heard it all the same, though never could he have explained to anyone how it worked. Exhaling a deep breath, he relaxed into his pillow, his razor-edged nerves settling down from that fleeting moment of terror. He spoke back, forming the words with his thoughts.

Teresa?

Select **two** key ideas that best match the text.

- A Thomas describing the room.
- B Thomas' relief from the Grievors.
- C Thomas speaking with his mind.
- D Thomas' moment of safety.
- E Thomas' fear of the box.

Which word best fits with the theme?

- A love
- B fear
- C darkness
- D safety

Open Response: What text evidence supports your answer choice for the theme?

16

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Theme

Excerpt from *If I Stay*
By Gayle Forman

I edge closer and now I know that it's not Teddy lying there. It's me. The blood from my chest has seeped through my shirt, skirt, and sweater, and is now pooling like paint drops on the snow. One of my legs is askew, the skin and muscle peeled away so that I can see white streaks of bone. My eyes are closed and my dark brown hair is wet and rusty with blood. I spin away. This isn't right. This cannot be happening. We are a family, going on a drive. This isn't real. I must have fallen asleep in the car. No! Stop. Please stop. Please wake up! I scream into the chilly air. It's cold. My breath should smoke. It doesn't. I stare down at my wrist, the one that looks fine, untouched by blood and gore, and I pinch as hard as I can. I don't feel a thing. I have had nightmares before—falling nightmares, playing-a-cello-recital-without-knowing-the-music nightmares, breakup-up-with-Adam-~~nightmares-but~~ I have always been able to command myself to open my eyes, to lift my head from the pillow, to halt the horror movie playing behind my closed lids. I try again. Wake up! I scream. Wake up! Wakeupwakeupwakeup! But I can't. I don't.

Part A: What is the theme?

- A The belief in an afterlife.
- B The tragedy when an accident causes bodily harm.
- C Having an out of body experience.
- D When you are in a never-ending dream.

Part B: Which sentence from the text **best** supports your answer in Part A?

- A I edge closer and now I know that it's not Teddy lying there. It's me.
- B My eyes are closed and my dark brown hair is wet and rusty with blood.
- C I stare down at my wrist, the one that looks fine, untouched by blood and gore.
- D I have always been able to command myself to open my eyes, to lift my head from the pillow.

Open Response: Describe how the narrator feels. Use key details from the text to support your answer.

17

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Theme

Excerpt from *Throne of Glass* By Sarah Maas

After a year of slavery in the Salt Mines of Endovier, Celaena Sardothien was accustomed to being escorted everywhere in shackles and at sword-point. Most of the thousands of slaves in Endovier received similar treatment—though an extra half-dozen guards always walked Celaena to and from the mines. That was expected by Adarlan's most notorious assassin. What she did not usually expect, however, was a hooded man in black at her side—as there was now.

He gripped her arm as he led her through the shining building in which most of Endovier's officials and overseers were housed. They strode down corridors, up flights of stairs, and around and around until she hadn't the slightest chance of finding her way out again.

At least, that was her escort's intention, because she hadn't failed to notice when they went up and down the same staircase within a matter of minutes. Nor had she missed when they zigzagged between levels, even though the building was a standard grid of hallways and stairwells. As if she'd lose her bearings that easily. She might have been insulted, if he wasn't trying so hard.

They entered a particularly long hallway, silent save for their footsteps. Though the man grasping her arm was tall and fit, she could see nothing of the features concealed beneath his hood. Another tactic meant to confuse and intimidate her. The black clothes were probably a part of it, too. His head shifted in her direction, and Celaena flashed him a grin. He looked forward again, his iron grip tightening.

It was flattering, she supposed, even if she *didn't* know what was happening, or why he'd been waiting for her outside the mine shaft.

Which word best fits with the theme?

- A power
- B truth
- C freedom
- D resistance

What is the main character feeling throughout the text? Select **two** options.

- A confident
- B terrified
- C confused
- D exhausted
- E unhappy

Open Response: What text evidence supports your answer choice for the theme?

18

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Theme

Excerpt from *Sister Hood of the Traveling Pants*
By Ann Brashares

The Traveling Pants are not only the most beautiful pair of jeans that ever existed, they are kind, comforting, and wise. And also they make you look really good. We, the members of the Sisterhood, were friends before the Traveling Pants. We've known each other since before we were born. Our mothers were all in the same pregnancy aerobics class. I feel this explains something about us. We all have in common that we got bounced on our fetal heads too much. We were all born within seventeen days of each other. You know how people make a big deal about which twin was born three minutes before the other one? Like it matters? Well, we're like that. We draw great significance from the fact that I'm the oldest—the most mature, the most maternal—and Carmen is the baby. Our mothers started out being close. We had a group play date running at least three days a week until we started kindergarten. Our mothers would gab in whoever's yard it was, drinking iced tea and eating cherry tomatoes. We would play and play and play and occasionally fight. Honestly, I remember my friends' mothers almost as well as my own from that time.

Part A: What is the theme?

- A The magical feeling of motherhood.
- B Children bring happiness into the world.
- C There is peace in finding your group.
- D Close friends are like family.

Part B: Which sentence from the text **best** supports your answer in Part A?

- A The Traveling Pants are not only the most beautiful pair of jeans that ever existed.
- B We've known each other since before we were born.
- C We draw great significance from the fact that I'm the oldest.
- D Our mothers would gab in whoever's yard it was, drinking iced tea and eating cherry tomatoes.

Open Response: What is the central message? Use key details from the text to support your answer.

19

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Theme

Excerpt from *Pretty Little Liars*
By Sara Shepard

Alison, Aria, Spencer, Emily, and Hanna bonded last year when their parents volunteered them to work Saturday afternoons at Rosewood Day School's charity drive --- well, all except for Spencer, who volunteered herself. Whether or not Alison knew about the other four, the four knew about Alison. She was perfect. Beautiful, witty, smart. Popular. Boys wanted to kiss Alison, and girls --- even older ones --- wanted to be her. So the first time Ali laughed at one of Aria's jokes, asked Emily a question about swimming, told Hanna her shirt was adorable, or commented that Spencer's penmanship was way neater than her own, they couldn't help but be, well . . . dazzled. Before Ali, the girls had felt like pleated, high-waisted mom jeans --- awkward and noticeable for all the wrong reasons --- but then Ali made them feel like the most perfect-fitting Stella McCartneys that no one could afford.

What message can you take away from the text?

- A volunteer work is important
- B it's critical to bond with friends
- C words can be powerful
- D popularity is essential

Which **two** words best fit with the theme?

- A employment
- B volunteering
- C kindness
- D acceptance
- E beauty

Open Response: What text evidence supports your answer choices for the theme?

20

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Name:

Date:

Class:

Read the text on each task card and record your answer to each question on the recording sheet below.

Card Number	Multiple Choice Answers	Short Answer Responses
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

Read the text on each task card and record your answer to each question on the recording sheet below.

Card Number	Multiple Choice Answers	Short Answer Responses
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		

Theme Task Cards Answer Key

1. D D

11. C D

2. A&E B

12. C&E B

3. A B

13. A B

4. A&D C

14. D B&E

5. B B

15. C B

6. C&E D

16. C&D B

7. B A

17. C A

8. D A&C

18. C A&C

9. C D

19. D B

10. B&E A

20. C C&D

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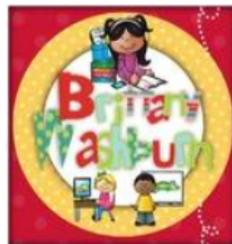
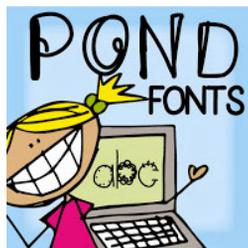
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