

Pre/Post test for Rotation 2 for Wednesday “Intervention Day”  
(7th grade)

7.RL.2: Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

· Determine theme in literary text

### **Part A**

Money Mark was born rich. He never had to work a day in his life and he got everything handed to him on a silver platter. When he was six, Money Mark wanted to go to a basketball game. His father paid the starting five of the Bulls and Celtics to play a private game of Nerf-ball in Money Mark's bedroom. When Money Mark turned thirteen, he wanted to start a band. His father hired the Rolling Stones to play with him every Saturday at the family's private concert hall, though his family was never there. By the time he was twenty-one, Money Mark was bored with life. He was surrounded by a bunch of possessions that he didn't appreciate and Money Mark could find nothing new or exciting in his life. Despite his vast wealth, Money Mark never found happiness.

Penny Petal was born poor. Her family hardly had anything to eat, but they loved each other. Penny Petal appreciated everything she got. When she was six, her father walked her around the United Center before the Bulls played the Celtics. She was excited by the crazy fans and feeling in the air. She looked forward to the day that she could see a real game. When she was thirteen, she learned to play the buckets. She was an extremely talented musician, a natural percussionist, and everyone on the block loved the rhythms that poured from her palms. By the time she was twenty-one, Penny was a successful businesswoman. Now she had everything that she had ever dreamed of and she truly loved to share her wealth and happiness with her family who supported her through all of the hard times.

- 1) What is the THEME?
  - a. Don't be greedy.
  - b. Material things make people happy.
  - c. Happiness can't be bought.
  - d. Money is everything.

2) What does it mean when a theme is stated?

- a. You say the theme out loud.
- b. Someone else says the theme out loud.
- c. The author tells the reader directly what the theme of the story is.
- d. All of these.
- e. None of these.

3) What does it mean when the theme is implied?

- a. It is a secret.
- b. You can't figure out the theme by reading the story.
- c. The author tells the reader directly what the theme of the story is.
- d. The reader has to make an inference or educated guess about the theme.

## **Part B**

### **Little Things**

by Ebenezer Cobham Brewer

Little drops of water,  
Little grains of sand,  
Make the mighty ocean  
And the pleasant land.

Thus the little minutes,  
Humble though they be,  
Make the mighty ages  
Of eternity.

- 1) "Little Things" shares a message with readers. Which choice best represents that message?
- a. The minutes tick by slowly
  - b. Never underestimate the power of a child
  - c. Drops of water and grains of sand are very small
  - d. The small things are as important as the big things

Mr. Pig and Mr. Dog were hanging out at the food court of the animal shopping mall. Mr. Pig was eating a huge feast of pizza and drinking a large jug of fruit punch and Mr. Dog was watching him eat. "Hey, Mr. Pig. If you give me a slice of your pizza, I'll let you have the next bone I find." Mr. Pig declined, even though it hurt his stomach to eat the last three slices of pizza. "I'm sorry, Mr. Dog," Mr. Pig said, "but I paid for this pizza and it's all mine." Mr. Dog sighed and waited for Mr. Pig to finish, and then they left the animal mall together. On the way out, a hunter spotted them and gave chase. Mr. Pig normally could have escaped the hunter but since he was weighed down by such a large meal, Mr. Pig collapsed and the hunter killed him. Mr. Dog easily escaped. Later that night while returning to the scene, Mr. Dog caught the scent of something delicious and began digging around a trash can. He found a large ham bone with lots of meat and marrow still stuck to the bone. Mr. Dog happily ate.

- 2) What is the theme of the story?
- a. Mr. Dog ate Mr. Pig.
  - b. Mr. Pig paid for the pizza and was entitled to eat it all.
  - c. Mr. Dog was a skillful hunter.
  - d. It is better to share and not be greedy.

- 3) Themes should be stated as:
- a. One word emotions such as revenge
  - b. A series of emotions such as love and hate
  - c. A complete sentence with a universal truth about life
  - d. A complete sentence without an emotional word

4) Which of the following sentences might be the theme of a story?

- a. Pesticides are used less often today than they once were.
- b. Dublin, Ireland, makes an interesting setting for a story.
- c. Honesty is the essential foundation of a relationship.
- d. In 1998, Winnie was in her first year of college.

5) Which of the following would make the best theme for a short story?

- a. Some types of snakes can be poisonous.
- b. It is easy to prepare a quick, healthful meal.
- c. Kindness, in the long run, will be rewarded.
- d. Many tall buildings sway a little in the wind.

6) Themes apply to the "real" world.

- a. True
- b. False

In his sophomore year of high school, Michael Jordan tried out for the varsity basketball team at Laney High School in Wilmington, North Carolina. But at five feet and eleven inches tall, the coach believed that Jordan was too short to play at that level, so Jordan was cut from the team. Jordan didn't let this obstacle defeat him. In fact, it pushed him to work even harder. He trained vigorously and grew another four inches the following summer. When he finally made the varsity squad, Jordan averaged 25 points a game and went on to become one of the greatest basketball players in history.

7) What is the best theme for this passage?

- a) Basketball
- b) Michael Jordan was cut from his sophomore basketball team
- c) Never give up on your dreams or goals
- d) Perseverance