

Comprehending and Responding to Texts

This worksheet supports work on constructing meaning from text and context and responding to a variety of print and nonprint texts, as outlined in ELA 30-1 ([Topic](#)). Complete each exercise using a literary or nonfiction text you have studied this term, citing specific details from that text where indicated.

Exercises

1. Purpose and audience

Choose a text you have studied this term. Answer the following in complete sentences.

Text title and author: _____

a) State the text creator's purpose. Indicate whether this purpose is explicit or implicit in the text ([Outcome](#)).

b) Was this purpose achieved? Justify your answer with one specific example from the text.

c) Assess whether the text is suitable for its apparent target audience. Explain your reasoning ([Outcome](#)).

2. Literary devices and effect

Match each device on the left to the effect it most commonly produces in a text, then find one example of the device in a text you have studied ([Outcome](#)).

Device	Effect	Example from your text
A. Symbol	1. Compares two unlike things directly	_____
B. Allusion	2. Represents an abstract idea through a concrete object	_____
C. Metaphor	3. References another work, event or figure to add layered meaning	_____
D. Imagery	4. Appeals to the senses to create a vivid impression	_____

A ____ B ____ C ____ D ____

3. Controlling idea and supporting details

Identify the controlling idea of a passage from a text you have studied and list two supporting ideas or details that develop it ([Outcome](#)).

Controlling idea: _____

Supporting idea/detail 1: _____

Supporting idea/detail 2: _____

Explain in two to three sentences how the supporting details reinforce the controlling idea.

4. Character and archetype

Select a major character from a narrative you have studied. Answer the following ([Outcome](#)).

a) Identify one motivation and one attitude or value that drives this character's actions.

Motivation: _____

Attitude/value: _____

b) Does this character reflect a recognizable archetype (for example, the mentor, the outsider, the reluctant hero)? Name the archetype, if applicable, and explain how it contributes to the development of a theme in the text.

5. Personal and cultural response

Respond to the following question about a text you have studied. Write a short paragraph of four to six sentences.

Which choice made by a character or person portrayed in the text would you judge most critically, and why? Compare this choice to a decision you or someone you know has faced, and explain how cultural or societal influences shaped the character's choice and your own judgment of it ([Outcome](#)).

6. Evaluating effectiveness

Which statement best describes a valid criterion for evaluating the effectiveness of a text's theme development ([Outcome](#))?

- A) The theme is effective if the text is long and covers many topics.
- B) The theme is effective if it is stated directly in the first paragraph.
- C) The theme is effective if it is supported by adequate, relevant and clearly connected details, examples or illustrations.
- D) The theme is effective if the reader agrees with the author's opinion.

Answer: _____

In one or two sentences, apply this criterion to a text you have studied. Does the text meet it? Explain briefly.

Answer key

1. Answers will vary; must identify purpose (explicit or implicit), assess whether it was achieved with a specific example, and evaluate audience suitability with reasoning ([Outcome](#)).
2. A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4; examples will vary by text chosen ([Outcome](#)).
3. Answers will vary; controlling idea must be clearly stated and both supporting details must logically connect to it ([Outcome](#)).
4. Answers will vary; motivation and attitude/value must be text-supported; archetype identification (if applicable) must connect to a theme in the text ([Outcome](#)).
5. Answers will vary; response must include a critical judgment of a character's choice, a personal or known comparison, and reference to cultural or societal influence ([Outcome](#)).
6. C; explanation will vary but must apply the criterion of adequate, relevant and connected supporting details to the chosen text ([Outcome](#)).

