

Reading and Responding to Texts: Formative Check

Time: 30 min. 6 questions.

Instructions

Answer each question in complete sentences unless the question asks for a letter, a number, or "true" or "false." You may refer back to any text your class has read this term. Show your thinking for the numeric question.

Questions

1. In a short story, a firefighter is afraid of fire but must rescue someone from a burning building. Which literary technique is at work here?
A) Symbolism
B) Irony
C) Proportion
D) Foreshadowing
([Outcome](#))
2. Two students in your class read the same short story. One grew up in a farming community and the other grew up in a big city. Explain, in two or three sentences, why their interpretations of the story's setting might differ. ([Outcome](#))
3. True or false: Timeless themes, such as the struggle between loyalty and self-interest, can appear across texts from very different time periods and cultures. ([Outcome](#))
4. A student previews a 4,200-word magazine article before reading it closely. She decides to read at a rate of 150 words per minute because the topic is unfamiliar to her. At that rate, how many minutes will it take her to read the whole article? ([Outcome](#))
5. You are comparing the main character from a novel written in the 1950s to the main character in a film released this year. Which of the following would be the most useful basis for comparison?
A) Which actor would play each character in a movie
B) How each character's choices reveal their values and how those choices drive the plot
C) Which text has more pages or a longer running time
D) Which character has a more popular name today
([Outcome](#))
6. A character in a novel lies to protect a friend, even though lying goes against everything she has said she believes. Explain what this choice might reveal about the character, and why a reader needs to decide whether the change in her behaviour is believable. ([Outcome](#))

Curriculum coverage

Question	Outcome alias
1	Outcome
2	Outcome
3	Outcome
4	Outcome

5	Outcome
6	Outcome

Answer key

1. **B) Irony.** A firefighter afraid of fire who must rescue someone is a case of situational irony, where the outcome contradicts what would normally be expected ([Outcome](#)).
2. **Sample answer:** Prior knowledge and personal experience shape how a reader pictures and understands a setting, so a reader familiar with farm life may notice details a city reader would miss, and vice versa ([Outcome](#)).
3. **True.** Timeless themes recur across texts from different eras and cultures, and readers can identify and discuss how each text develops them ([Outcome](#)).
4. **28 minutes.** 4,200 words divided by 150 words per minute equals 28 minutes; choosing a slower rate for unfamiliar material is a strategy readers use when previewing complex texts ([Outcome](#)).
5. **B) How each character's choices reveal their values and how those choices drive the plot.** Comparing main characters across eras, genres or media means examining character development and motivation, not surface details like casting or running time ([Outcome](#)).
6. **Sample answer:** The lie suggests the character values loyalty over honesty, at least in this moment, which gives insight into her priorities. A reader must judge whether this shift is consistent with her earlier behaviour or a plausible change, since believable character development depends on both consistency and plausibility ([Outcome](#)).