

Grade Eight

Show Me What You Know

Directions: Read the excerpt from *Eleven* by Sandra Cisneros. Then, answer the questions that follow. Tap the top of your head.

Cisneros, Sandra. "Eleven." *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories*. New York: Random House, 1991. (1991)

What they don't understand about birthdays and what they never tell you is that when you're eleven, you're also ten, and nine, and eight, and seven, and six, and five, and four, and three, and two, and one. And when you wake up on your eleventh birthday you expect to feel eleven, but you don't. You open your eyes and everything's just like yesterday, only it's today. And you don't feel eleven at all. You feel like you're still ten. And you are — underneath the year that makes you eleven.

Like some days you might say something stupid, and that's the part of you that's still ten. Or maybe some days you might need to sit on your mama's lap because you're scared, and that's the part of you that's five.

And maybe one day when you're all grown up maybe you will need to cry like if you're three, and that's okay. That's what I tell Mama when she's sad and needs to cry. Maybe she's feeling three.

Because the way you grow old is kind of like an onion or like the rings inside a tree trunk or like my little wooden dolls that fit one inside the other, each year inside the next one. That's how being eleven years old is.

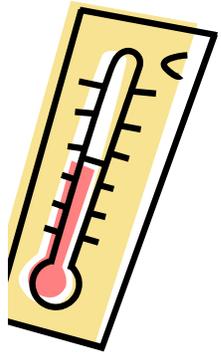
You don't feel eleven. Not right away. It takes a few days, weeks even, sometimes even months before you say Eleven when they ask you. And you don't feel

smart eleven, not until you're almost twelve. That's the way it is.

1. Identify the most likely theme in the above text (Monday's lesson):

- Theme is a universal idea
- There's evidence that the above theme is in the text
- Theme is not text specific (ie "doesn't mention characters, setting, etc.)

/3



2. Which parts of the text support the theme that you chose? Choose two excerpts that you feel best represent the theme and explain why you chose those excerpts. (Tuesday's lesson)

○	

- Used specific details from the text in the answer
- Answer is an accurate depiction of the author's theme
- No excuses grammar or spelling

/3

3. Read the following excerpt:

And maybe one day when you're all grown up maybe you will need to cry like if you're three, and that's okay. That's what I tell Mama when she's sad and needs to cry. Maybe she's feeling three.

Because the way you grow old is kind of like an onion or like the rings inside a tree trunk or like my little wooden dolls that fit one inside the other, each year inside the next one. That's how being eleven years old is.

**Which words or phrases support the theme that you chose? Circle them.
(Wednesday's lesson)**

/—

4. How is the narrator influenced by the theme you chose? (Thursday's lesson)

○	
○	

- Accurately identifies two reasons
- Cites accurately
- No excuses grammar or spelling

_____ /5

May I Have Some More Cake, Please?

Directions: Read the following *poem* “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost. Then answer the questions that follow.

Frost, Robert. “The Road Not Taken.” *The Poetry of Robert Frost: The Collected Poems*. Edited by Edward Connery Lathem. New York: Henry Holt, 1979. (1915)

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;
Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,
And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.
I shall be telling this with a sigh

Somewhere ages and ages hence:

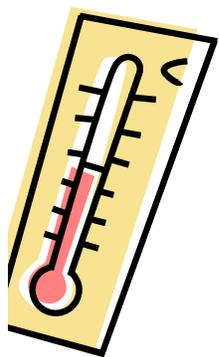
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—

I took the one less traveled by,

And that has made all the difference.



*I'm impressed
with how hard
you are
working.*

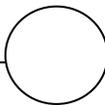


5. Identify the most likely theme in the above text (Monday's lesson):

- Theme is a universal idea
- There's evidence that the above theme is in the text
- Theme is not text specific (ie "doesn't mention characters, setting, etc.)

/3

6. Which parts of the text support the theme that you chose? Choose two lines that you feel best represent the theme and explain why you chose those lines. (Tuesday's lesson)

- Used specific details from the text in the answer
- Answer is an accurate depiction of the author's theme
- No excuses grammar or spelling

/3



Review a Few

8. What is a persuasive technique that you've found effective in a recent advertisement campaign?

○	

Demonstrates understanding of persuasion

/1

9. How is a glossary and index different?

- Demonstrates understanding of glossary
 Demonstrates understanding of index

/2

○	

Take That and Rewind it Back

Read the following speech by Winston Churchill and answer the questions (*from July*) that follow:

Churchill, Winston. "Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat: Address to Parliament on May 13th, 1940." *Lend Me Your Ears: Great Speeches in History*, 3rd Edition. Edited by William Safire. New York: W. W. Norton, 2004. (1940)

From "Winston Churchill Braces Britons to Their Task"

I say to the House as I said to ministers who have joined this government, I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat. We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many months of struggle and suffering.

You ask, what is our policy? I say it is to wage war by land, sea, and air. War with all our might and with all the strength God has given us, and to wage war against a monstrous tyranny never surpassed in the dark and lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy.

You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word. It is victory. Victory at all costs - Victory in spite of all terrors - Victory, however long and hard the road may be, for without victory there is no survival.

I take up my task in buoyancy and hope. I feel sure that our cause will not be suffered to fail among men. I feel entitled at this juncture, at this time, to claim the aid of all and to say, "Come then, let us go forward together with our united strength."

10. What is the above speech most likely about?

11. Underline proof in the passage that supports your claim.

/2

Directions: The following passage on the Chinchorro culture. Then do numbers 12-16.

They were a preliterate society that lived in simple fishing communities along the coast of the Atacama Desert in northern Chile and southern Peru thousands of years ago.

They did not farm. They did not produce pottery, colorful textiles for clothing, or exotic jewelry. Yet, the Chinchorro, a primitive South American culture, practiced a highly complex and sophisticated method of preserving their dead.

Although it may sound gruesome to many, anthropologists are fascinated by the mummification techniques that the Chinchorro used. Apparently, after a person died, the body was completely disassembled and the organs were removed. The bones were dried with direct heat, probably hot ash. Then, using reeds to bind the bones and twigs to provide additional support, the skeleton was put back together. The skeleton was then packed with feathers, clay, and other materials. Next, the skin was put back on the frame and patched, if necessary, with the skin from a sea lion or pelican. Finally, the body was slathered in a paste made from white ash, and the face was adorned with a clay mask, painted black or red.

Some of the Chinchorro mummies that have been examined provide clues that families may have kept deceased loved ones close by for a while after their death honoring and tending to them from time to time as you would anything you treasure dearly. Paint on the masks of some mummies appears to have been touched up several times. The feet of the mummies also show wear. This suggests to anthropologists that

the mummies were kept standing, and may not have been laid to rest in the ground for some time.

The examination of mummies from much later ancient South American cultures reveals that the practice of mummification continued throughout ancient times. Some of the most well-preserved mummies ever found were discovered in the 1950s in the central plains of Peru. The mummies of Chiribaya excited the world of anthropology and forensic science, mainly because the mummies were in such good shape. They were found in the fetal position, shrouded in red and blue woolen cloth and tied with rope, with only their heads showing. Most had been preserved naturally. Those that had been treated with special mummification techniques probably held a high rank in the Chiribayan community. The burial chambers of the Chiribaya revealed a highly sophisticated culture that, unlike the Chinchorro, produced lovely woolen textiles, feathered hats, colorfully decorated pottery, and beautiful gold jewelry.

12. This article would be of most interest to readers looking for information about

- a. Burial customs of primitive cultures
- b. The pottery of ancient South American cultures
- c. Everyday life among the Chinchorro and Chiribaya people
- d. The process of excavating for mummies and precious artifacts

13. Read this sentence from the article

Apparently, after a person died, the body was completely disassembled and the organs were removed.

Which of these words mean about the same as “disassembled”?

- a. Taken away
- b. Washed up
- c. Put together
- d. Taken apart

14. Study the index from a book about mummies

Mummies Beyond Egypt	64-75
Mummies of Asia	64-68
Tarim Mummies	64-66
Mummies of Urumchi	67-68
Mummies of South America	69-75
Ice Mummies of the Inca	69-72
Paloma Mummies	73-75

On which pages would you most likely find information about mummies from the froze landscape?

- a. 64-66
- b. 67-68
- c. 69-72
- d. 73-75

15. The information in the article suggest that the main reason anthropologists study mummies is to

- a. Gain insight into the customs of primitive cultures
- b. Satisfy the curiosity of some people
- c. Help support museum programs
- d. Prove that most primitive cultures stayed in one pace

16. Write an appropriate title for the above passage.

/10

Survey Says

1. What was your favorite moment this week in reading class?

<input type="radio"/>	

2. Do you get enough time to independently read?

<input type="radio"/>	

3. On a scale of 1-5, how did you feel about this week's aims?

<input type="radio"/>	

4. What book are you dying to read next?