

Vertical Progression:

6th Grade	<p>RL 6.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.</p>
7th Grade	<p>RL 7.2 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.</p>
8th Grade	<p>RL 8.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.</p>
9th-10th Grade	<p>RL 9-10.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.</p>

Students will demonstrate command of the Standard by:

- Describing or graphically representing the relationship between central ideas and character, setting, and plot
- Determining a theme or central idea of a text
- Analyzing how character, setting, and plot develop to reveal a theme or convey the central idea
- Summarizing a text capturing the most important parts of the original piece
- Creating an objective summary (excluding personal opinions)

Vocabulary:

- Analyze
- Central idea
- Character
- Development
- Objective
- Plot
- Relationship
- Setting
- Summarize
- Summary
- Supporting detail
- Text
- Theme

Question Stems:

- What is the theme of _____ (text title)? How does the author develop this theme over the course of the text? Use examples from the text in your answer.
- What is the central idea of _____ (text title)? How does the author develop this idea over the course of the

text? Use examples from the text in your answer.

- How does the author use the main character to develop the theme of the drama? Use information from the drama to support your analysis.
- How does the author use the plot to develop the theme of the story? Use information from the story to support your analysis.
- How does the author use the setting to develop the theme of the poem? Use information from the poem to support your analysis.
- What is the theme or central idea?
- How does the theme develop/recur in the text?
- How can you objectively summarize the text?
- How does the development of character, setting, and/ or plot contribute to the central theme or idea?

PARCC Evidence Statement:

- Provides a statement of a theme or central idea of a text, based on textual evidence.
- Provides an analysis of the development of the theme or central idea over the course of the text.
- Provides an analysis of how the theme or central idea relates to the characters, setting, and/or plot.
- Provides an objective summary of a text.

Sample Instructional/Assessment Tasks:

1. PARCC – 8th Grade Practice Test Items

◆ Question 4 - Part A ([link](#)) Passage ([link](#))

Which statement provides an objective summary of the passage?

- A. A mother chooses to neglect her daughter's interests in favor of completing her degree. She informs her daughter of this decision, and the daughter rightly points out the mother's selfishness.
- B. A mother decides it would be best for her daughter if they both moved to another country. The daughter complains that this will disrupt her life, but the mother holds firm to her decision.
- C. A girl learns that she and her mother are moving in with their grandmother. The girl believes her mother is trying to take the easy way out. In response, the girl states that her father is a better parent.
- D. A girl finds out her mother is going to leave her for the summer. She believes her mother is being selfish. In response, she becomes negative and withdrawn.

Correct Answer: D

◆ Question 27 - Part A ([link](#)) Passage ([link](#))

Which sentence states a central idea of the passage?

- A. Bahauddin Shah is lost in a vast underground cave, and he is frightened.
- B. Bahauddin Shah is the guardian of an important secret that will allow the people of his city to survive after a destructive attack.

- C. The Salt Caverns are a secret underground hiding place for the citizens of the city, and Bahauddin Shah is the only one who can open the caverns.
- D. Outsiders who come to conquer Bahauddin Shah's city soon realize they are in very hostile territory.

Correct Answer: B

◆ **Question 30 - Part A** ([link](#)) **Passage** ([link](#))

Which inference can the reader make about Bahauddin Shah from the information in paragraph 2?

- A. Bahauddin Shah was too weak to carry the key chain farther.
- B. Bahauddin Shah felt a great responsibility to his fellow citizens for keeping the keys safe.
- C. Bahauddin Shah was worried that the key chain would keep him from accomplishing his task.
- D. Bahauddin Shah felt that the keys were a symbol of his authority over others.

Correct Answer: B

2. **Achieve the Core – [Grade 8 Literature Mini-Assessment](#)**

◆ **Question 1** ([link](#)) **Passage** ([link](#))

Which excerpt from Text 1, "I Hear America Singing," best conveys its overall theme?

- A. "The carpenter singing his as he measures his plank or beam,"
- B. "The mason singing his as he makes ready for work, or leaves off work,"
- C. "Each singing what belongs to him or her and to no one else,"
- D. "The day what belongs to the day—at night the party of young fellows, robust, friendly"

Correct Answer: C

◆ **Question 5** ([link](#)) **Passage** ([link](#))

Which theme is conveyed in Text 2, Hughes's poem?

- A. America must celebrate all of its members, not just a select group.
- B. All people in America share similar experiences and lead similar lives.
- C. Americans must make the effort to spend more time with their loved ones.
- D. To Americans, health and happiness should be of greatest importance.

Correct Answer: A