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LESSON

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Analyzing Literary Elements in Modern Fiction



Introduction

THEME: >>> Explorations

Authors of modern works of fiction often draw on the **themes, patterns of events,** and **character types** of traditional stories. For instance, a modern writer might use a traditional tale about sibling rivalry as inspiration for a contemporary story about sisters who fight. The modern writer would make the material new by applying the cultural norms and sensibilities of today. For example, instead of being set in a village where siblings fetch water from a well, the modern story might be set in a city in which the sisters do chores around their apartment. Issues of competition and favoritism might appear in both stories. By using literary elements of classic tales in modern stories, today's writers demonstrate how certain themes, patterns of events, and character types endure across time and culture. By drawing upon these stories for a modern audience, modern writers bring out a new understanding of the human condition.

Read two passages.

The Boy Who Cried Wolf

by Aesop

There was once a young shepherd boy who tended his sheep at the foot of a mountain near a dark forest. It was rather lonely for him all day, so he thought up a plan by which he could get a little company and some excitement. He rushed down toward the village calling out, "Wolf, Wolf," and the villagers came out to meet him, and some of them stopped with him for a considerable time. This pleased the boy so much that a few days afterward he tried the same trick, and again the villagers came to his help. But shortly after this, a wolf actually did come out from the forest, and began to worry the sheep, and the boy of course cried out, "Wolf, Wolf," still louder than before. But this time the villagers, who had been fooled twice before, thought the boy was again deceiving them, and nobody stirred to come to his help. So the wolf made a good meal of the boy's flock, and when the boy complained, the wise man of the village said:

"A liar will not be believed, even when he speaks the truth."

Little Sister, Little Lies

I was reading a book in my room when suddenly, my door was thrown open and my sister ran inside.

“Max, you have to help me!” wailed Annie. “I can’t find my volleyball, and I have practice in 15 minutes.”

“Fine, Annie,” I grumbled. “I’ll help you find your volleyball.” I followed behind Annie downstairs and searched for the missing ball in all of the usual places. I stopped when I heard a suspicious giggle.

“What?” I asked.

“I have my ball right here!” laughed Annie.

I rolled my eyes at Annie and stalked back to my room. This continued throughout the day with Annie claiming she couldn’t find her phone, a book, or the remote control.

Then I heard a shriek, and Annie ran into my room. “Max help! I can’t find my hamster!”

I didn’t move. “Annie, I don’t believe you. You have played this game all day,” I said.

“I know I lied before, but I am telling the truth now. Please help me,” she cried.

“No, Annie. You have lied too many times,” I said walking out the door.

Annie ran downstairs yelling for Mom. Huh, maybe the hamster really is out of his cage. I still wasn’t helping her.

SAMPLE

Use the table below to analyze how the modern author used the traditional story to create a new story by drawing on the theme, characters, and events.

	Characters	Events	Theme
<i>The Boy Who Cried Wolf</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a boy • villagers • a wise man 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the boy thinks of ways to create excitement • the boy cried wolf twice, and the villagers came • the boy cried wolf a third time, and they didn't believe him • a wise man tells him that no one will believe him even if he is telling the truth because he lied 	No one will believe you are telling the truth if you have lied before.
<i>Little Sister, Little Lies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • 	

Read the first parts of the passages. Then answer the questions.

adapted from The Odyssey of Homer

by S. H. Butcher and A. Lang

The *Odyssey* is the Greek story of the warrior Odysseus and his 20-year journey home. He goes through great trials while making his way back to his family. Here, you pick up the story as Odysseus ends his long imprisonment by the goddess Calypso. Calypso has been persuaded to release Odysseus; however, the god Poseidon has different plans for him when he sees him sailing toward home.

1 As early Dawn shone forth, Calypso considered the sending of Odysseus, the great-hearted. She gave him a great axe, fitted to his grasp, an axe of bronze double-edged, and with a goodly handle of olive wood fastened well. Next, she gave him a polished axe, and she led the way to the border of the isle where tall trees grew. Now after she had shown him where the tall trees grew, Calypso, the fair goddess, departed homeward. And he set to cutting timber, and his work went busily. Twenty trees in all he cut, and then trimmed them with the axe of bronze, and smoothed them, and over them made straight the line. Meanwhile Calypso, the fair goddess, brought him drills, so he bored each piece and jointed them together. And he set up the deckings, and finished them off with long gunwales, and there he set a mast, and moreover he made him a rudder to guide the craft. Meanwhile Calypso, the fair goddess, brought him cloth to make sails; and these too he fashioned very skillfully. At last, he pushed the raft with levers down to the fair salt sea.

excerpt from The Incredible Journey

by Sheila Burnford

Three pets—a Siamese cat, an elderly bull terrier, and their leader, a young Labrador—embark on a difficult journey through the wilds of Canada in their search for home. Just as in the ancient story of Odysseus, the animals face many life-threatening challenges before they reach safety. They also become immortal after visiting a friendly Ojibway tribe. For the Lab, though, nothing will stop him. “It seemed as though he were never able to forget his ultimate purpose and goal—he was going home; home to his own master, home where he belonged, and nothing else mattered.” In this scene, the trio face a wide and deep river that they must cross. The Lab and the terrier make it safely to the other side. The cat, however...

1 The poor cat now showed the first signs of fear since leaving on his journey; he was alone, and the only way to rejoin his friends lay in swimming across the terrible stretch of water. He ran up and down the bank, all the time keeping up his unearthly Siamese wailing. The

young dog went through the same tiring performance that he had used before, swimming to and fro, trying to entice him into the water; but the cat was beside himself with terror and it was a long, long time before he finally made up his mind. When he did, it was with a sudden blind desperate rush at the water, completely uncatlike. His expression of horror and distaste was almost comical as he started swimming toward the young dog who waited for him a few yards out. He proved to be a surprisingly good swimmer, and was making steady progress across, the dog swimming alongside, when tragedy struck.

Think About It

What themes, patterns of events, or character types are evident in both passages? Analyze how the modern tale draws on the themes, patterns of events, and characters from the traditional tale.

What are the themes, events, and characters in the traditional tale?

What are the themes, events, and characters in the modern tale?

How are the two stories similar in theme, events, and characters?

A CLOSER LOOK

Underline the first sentence in paragraph 6 of *The Odyssey*.
Underline the sixth sentence in paragraph 2 of *The Incredible Journey*.
How are the events similar?

Continue reading the passages. Then answer the question.

excerpt from The Odyssey, continued

2 It was the fourth day when he had accomplished all. And, on the fifth, the fair Calypso sent him on his way from the island, after she had bathed him and clad him in fragrant attire. Moreover, the goddess placed on board the ship two skins, one of dark drink, and another, a great one, of water, and corn, too, in a wallet, and sent forth a warm and gentle wind to blow. And goodly Odysseus rejoiced as he set his sails to the breeze. So he sat and cunningly guided the craft with the helm. Sleep did not fall upon his eyelids, and he kept watch upon Orion. This star, Calypso, the fair goddess, bade him to keep ever on the left as he traversed the deep. Ten days and seven he sailed, and on the 18th day appeared the shadowy hills of the land of the Phaeacians; and it showed like a shield in the misty deep.

3 Now the lord Poseidon, the shaker of the earth, spied him far off from the mountains of the Solymi. He saw Odysseus as he sailed over the deep; and he was mightily angered in spirit, and shaking his head he communed with his own heart.

4 With that he gathered the clouds and troubled the waters of the deep, grasping his trident in his hands; and he roused all storms of all manner of winds, and shrouded in clouds the land and sea: and down sped night from heaven. The East Wind and the South Wind clashed, and the stormy West, and the North, creating a great wave. Then Odysseus spoke to his own great spirit:

5 “Oh, wretched man that I am! What is to befall me now? Now is utter doom assured me.”

6 Even as he spoke, the great wave came down upon him, and the raft reeled again. And from there he fell, and lost the helm from his hand; and the fierce blast of the jostling winds came and broke his mast, and sail and yard-arm fell into the deep. Long time the water kept him under, nor could he rise from beneath the rush of the mighty wave. But at length he came up, and spit out the bitter salt water, which ran down in streams from his head. He made a leap after his raft in the waves, and clutched it to him, avoiding; and the great wave swept it hither and thither along the stream.

excerpt from The Incredible Journey, continued

2 Many years before, a colony of beavers had dammed a small creek which had tumbled into the river about two miles upstream. Since the beavers had left, the dam had been

crumbling and loosening gradually, until it had become just a question of time before it would give way altogether, and drain the flooded land behind. Now, by a twist of fate, a rotting log gave way and a large section bulged forward under the added strain. Almost as the two animals reached midstream the dam broke altogether. The pent-up force of the unleashed creek leaped through the gap in an ever-widening torrent, carrying everything before it and surging into the river, where it became a swift mountainous wave—carrying small trees, torn-away branches, pieces of riverbank and beaver dam before it on the crest. The young dog saw the onrushing wave several moments before it reached them, and frantically tried to swim into a position upstream of the cat, instinctively trying to protect him; but he was too late, and the curling, crested wave surged over, submerging them in a whirling chaos of debris. The end of a log struck the cat full on the head; he was swept under and over and over until his body was carried along on the impetus of the wave as it tore down the river bed...

3 The dog, strong swimmer though he was, made his way to the bank only with the greatest difficulty. Even then he was carried almost half a mile downstream before his feet were on firm ground. Immediately he set off, in pursuit....

4 Gradually the dog fell farther and farther behind. At last, he was brought to a complete halt when the river entered a rocky gorge. He was forced to climb inland, and by the time he rejoined the riverbank there was no sign of the cat.

What are the characters in both passages attempting to do?

What two choices does the author of passage 2 draw on from the traditional tale in passage 1?

- A Odysseus is trying to get home.
- B Odysseus is swept into the water.
- C Odysseus did not sleep on his journey.
- D Odysseus sees land after 18 days.
- E Odysseus talks about the doom he is facing.

DISCUSS IT

With a partner, discuss how the author of passage 2 drew on the themes of passage 1 to create the modern story. Talk about the ways the literary elements from the myth are made new.

Read the stories. Then answer the questions.

Passage 1

excerpt from Beauty and the Beast

by Anonymous

Beauty and the Beast is the story of a young girl sent to live with a frightening beast to repay a debt. Beauty goes willingly, but unhappily, to help her father. While living with the Beast, she learns to love her new life in the castle and care for the Beast despite his outwardly daunting appearance. Here, Beauty has just returned from a visit with her family. She had promised the Beast she would return in two months time, but was delayed longer. The Beast had warned her that he would die of grief if Beauty broke her promise.

1 Then she fell asleep instantly, and only woke up to hear the clock saying, “Beauty, Beauty,” 12 times in its musical voice, which told her at once that she was really in the palace once more. Everything was just as before..., but Beauty thought she had never known such a long day, for she was so anxious to see the Beast again that she felt as if supper-time would never come.

2 But when it did come and no Beast appeared she was really frightened; so, after listening and waiting for a long time, she ran down into the garden to search for him. Up and down the paths and avenues ran poor Beauty, calling him in vain, for no one answered, and not a trace of him could she find; until at last, quite tired, she stopped for a minute’s rest, and saw that she was standing opposite the shady path she had seen in her dream. She rushed down it, and, sure enough, there was the cave, and in it lay the Beast—asleep, as Beauty thought. Quite glad to have found him, she ran up and stroked his head, but to her horror he did not move or open his eyes.

3 “Oh! he is dead, and it is all my fault,” said Beauty, crying bitterly.

4 But then, looking at him again, she fancied he still breathed, and, hastily fetching some water from the nearest fountain, she sprinkled it over his face, and to her great delight he began to revive.

5 “Oh! Beast, how you frightened me!” she cried. “I never knew how much I loved you until just now, when I feared I was too late to save your life.”

6 “Can you really love such an ugly creature as I am?” said the Beast faintly. “Ah! Beauty, you only came just in time. I was dying because I thought you had forgotten your promise. But go back now and rest, I shall see you again by-and-by.”

7 Beauty, who had half expected that he would be angry with her, was reassured by his gentle voice, and went back to the palace, where supper was awaiting her; and afterwards the Beast came in as usual, and talked about the time she had spent with her father, asking if she had enjoyed herself, and if they had all been very glad to see her.

8 Beauty answered politely, and quite enjoyed telling him all that had happened to her. And when at last the time came for him to go, and he asked, as he had so often asked before:

9 “Beauty, will you marry me?” she answered softly:

10 “Yes, dear Beast.”

11 As she spoke a blaze of light sprang up before the windows of the palace; fireworks crackled and banged, and across the avenue of orange trees, in letters all made of fire-flies, was written: “Long live the Prince and his Bride.”

12 Turning to ask the Beast what it could all mean, Beauty found that he had disappeared, and in his place stood her long-loved Prince! At the same moment, the wheels of a chariot were heard upon the terrace, and two ladies entered the room. One of them Beauty recognized as the stately lady she had seen in her dreams; the other was also so grand and queenly that Beauty hardly knew which to greet first.

13 But the one she already knew said to her companion:

14 “Well, Queen, this is Beauty, who has had the courage to rescue your son from the terrible enchantment. They love one another, and only your consent to their marriage is wanting to make them perfectly happy.”

15 “I consent with all my heart,” cried the Queen. “How can I ever thank you enough, charming girl, for having restored my dear son to his natural form?”

16 And then she tenderly embraced Beauty and the Prince, who had meanwhile been greeting the Fairy and receiving her congratulations.

17 “Now,” said the Fairy to Beauty, “I suppose you would like me to send for all your brothers and sisters to dance at your wedding?”

18 And so she did, and the marriage was celebrated the very next day with the utmost splendor, and Beauty and the Prince lived happily ever after.

Passage 2

Unlikely Friends

- 1 Alyssa rushed through the crowded halls in an attempt to get to her math class on time. She really should not have stopped to help the little sixth grader gather the papers she dropped, but she couldn't walk away without helping. Suddenly, a boy in front of Alyssa stopped, and she plowed into his back, knocking him down.
- 2 "Hey! What did you do that for?" yelled Evan.
- 3 "I am so sorry, Evan," Alyssa said. "I didn't realize you were stopping. Here, let me help you get your bag."
- 4 "I don't need your help," growled Evan as he jerked his bag off the ground and stomped away.
- 5 Alyssa shook her head and walked through the door of her math class. After the bell rang, Mrs. Singer announced, "Today, we will work with assigned partners to complete today's problems. Alyssa, you will be paired with Evan."
- 6 Alyssa looked around and saw relief on her classmate's faces that they hadn't been paired with Evan. She walked to his table and said brightly as she sat down, "Hi again, Evan."
- 7 "Look, I don't really do partner work, so let's just pretend to work together and solve the problems on our own," said Evan.
- 8 "Well, okay, but if you get stuck, I would be happy to help," replied Alyssa.
- 9 "Are you saying I don't know how to do this?" asked Evan angrily.
- 10 Alyssa cringed and said, "No, I didn't mean it like that."
- 11 Evan frowned but didn't reply and then ignored Alyssa for the rest of the class.
- 12 After school, Alyssa walked home thinking about what made Evan so disagreeable. She wondered if there was a nice guy hidden under all the meanness. As she turned down her street, she saw Evan on the ground beside his skateboard clutching his knee.
- 13 Alyssa ran up to Evan, knelt down, and asked, "Can I help you?"
- 14 "I'm fine, just leave me alone!" Evan yelled.

A CLOSER LOOK

Read paragraph 5 of passage 1 and paragraphs 12 and 13 of passage 2. Underline how Beauty's and Alyssa's actions are similar.

15 “That’s it, Evan Nuñez!” shouted Alyssa. “You may not like me or most people, but you are hurt. So be quiet while I call my mom to drive you home.”

16 Evan stared at Alyssa in shock as she called her mom. When she finished the call, he asked, “Why are you always so nice to me when I am always mean to you?”

17 “I just think there is something good in everyone and sometimes you just have to dig a little deeper to find it,” Alyssa answered.

18 Evan sat quietly for a moment and then said in almost a whisper, “We move around a lot because of my mom’s job. I have a hard time making friends because I am so much bigger than everyone else. People have made fun of me, so I am mean first so they won’t bother me.”

19 “I’m so sorry, Evan. I don’t understand how kids can be so mean. But not everyone is like that. My friends and I don’t choose our friends for how they look, but by their actions,” said Alyssa.

20 “It’s just a habit I have gotten into that I don’t know how to change,” Evan said sadly.

21 “Well, you just have to take small steps. Let’s start right now by your thanking me for helping you and agreeing to help me with that math assignment,” Alyssa said with a grin.

22 Evan laughed and said, “You never give up do you, Miss Sunshine?”

23 “I won’t stop until you smile at people,” Alyssa said.

24 It didn’t happen overnight, but because of Alyssa’s kindness, Evan started smiling and actually making friends. No one cringed when they were partnered with him. No one made fun of him for being the tallest kid in the class. There was goodness inside of him, just like Alyssa knew all along.

How are Beast and Evan similar?

- 1 How does the author of passage 2 draw on the characters from passage 1?
- A Beast and Evan are unkind to people.
 - B Beast and Evan are both considered intimidating.
 - C Beauty and Alyssa are frightened by events in the story.
 - D Beauty and Alyssa help other characters change their attitudes.

How does Beauty feel about spending time in the castle after she gets to know the Beast?

2 Part A

What theme did the author of passage 2 draw on from passage 1?

- A** Kindness is true beauty.
- B** All people have some goodness.
- C** Don't judge people by appearances.
- D** Treat others as you would like to be treated.

Part B

Which sentence from passage 2 *best* supports the answer to Part A?

- A** "My friends and I don't choose our friends for how they look, but by their actions," said Alyssa."
- B** "I have a hard time making friends because I am so much bigger than everyone else."
- C** "It's just a habit I have gotten into that I don't know how to change," Evan said sadly."
- D** "After school, Alyssa walked home thinking about what made Evan so disagreeable."

How are Beauty's actions similar to Alyssa's?

3 How does the author draw on events from passage 1 to create events in passage 2? How might readers respond in comparison to the original text?

Read the stories. Then answer the questions.

excerpt from *Rip Van Winkle*

by Washington Irving

Rip Van Winkle is the story of a man who avoids work at home on his farm, wanders into the nearby Catskill Mountains, and falls asleep for 20 years. He awakens thinking that only a night has passed, but soon he discovers everything has changed. His village has new buildings and new people, his home is deserted, his wife is gone, a war has taken place, and friends have died and gone. In this scene, Rip has wandered back to the village and is confronted with all that he has missed while asleep.

1 As he approached the village he met a number of people, but none whom he knew, which somewhat surprised him, for he had thought himself acquainted with everyone in the country round. Their dress, too, was of a different fashion from that to which he was accustomed. They all stared at him with equal marks of surprise, and whenever they cast their eyes upon him, invariably stroked their chins. The constant recurrence of this gesture induced Rip, involuntarily, to do the same, when, to his astonishment, he found his beard had grown a foot long!

2 He had now entered the skirts of the village. A troop of strange children ran at his heels, hooting after him, and pointing at his gray beard. The dogs, too, not one of which he recognized for an old acquaintance, barked at him as he passed. The very village was altered; it was larger and more populous. There were rows of houses which he had never seen before, and those which had been his familiar haunts had disappeared. Strange names were over the doors—strange faces at the windows—everything was strange.

3 It was with some difficulty that he found the way to his own house. He found the house gone to decay—the roof fallen in, the windows shattered, and the doors off the hinges. A half-starved dog that looked like Wolf was skulking about it. Rip called him by name, but the cur snarled, showed his teeth,



and passed on. “My very dog,” sighed poor Rip, “has forgotten me!”

4 He entered the house, which, to tell the truth, Dame Van Winkle had always kept in neat order. It was empty, forlorn, and apparently abandoned. He called loudly for his wife and children—the lonely chambers rang for a moment with his voice, and then again all was silence.

5 He now hurried forth, and hastened to his old resort, the village inn—but it, too, was gone. A large, rickety wooden building stood in its place, with great gaping windows, some of them broken and mended with old hats and petticoats, and over the door was painted, “The Union Hotel, by Jonathan Doolittle.”

6 There was, as usual, a crowd of folk about the door, but none that Rip recollected. The very character of the people seemed changed. He looked in vain for the sage Nicholas Vedder.

7 The appearance of Rip, with his long grizzled beard and his uncouth dress soon attracted the attention of the tavern. They crowded round him, eying him from head to foot with great curiosity.

8 Rip bethought himself a moment, and inquired, "Where's Nicholas Vedder?"

9 There was a silence for a little while, when an old man replied, in a thin, piping voice: "Nicholas Vedder! Why, he is dead and gone these 18 years!"

10 "Where's Brom Butcher?"

11 "Oh, he went off to the army in the beginning of the war; some say he was killed at the storming of Stony Point—others say he was drowned at the foot of Antony's Nose. I don't know—he never came back."

12 "Where's Van Bummel, the school-master?"

13 "He went off to the wars, too, was a great militia general, and is now in Congress."

14 Rip's heart died away at hearing of these sad changes in his home and friends, and finding himself thus alone in the world. Every answer puzzled him too, by treating of such enormous lapses of time, and of matters which he could not understand: war—Congress—Stony Point; he had no courage to ask after any more friends, but cried out in despair, "Does nobody here know Rip Van Winkle?"

15 At this critical moment a woman pressed through the throng to get a peep at the gray-bearded man. She had a chubby child in her arms, which, frightened at his looks, began to cry. "Hush, Rip," cried she, "hush, you little fool; the old man won't hurt you." The name of the child, the air of the mother, the tone of her voice, all awakened a train of recollections in his mind. "What is your name, my good woman?" asked he.

16 "Judith Gardenier."

17 "And your father's name?"

18 "Ah, poor man, Rip Van Winkle was his name, but it's 20 years since he went away from home and never has been heard of since—his dog came home without him; I was then but a little girl."

The Lost Colony

1 Rip walked around the city square with smug satisfaction. The clean white stones of the sidewalks sparkled in the sunshine while the fountain reflected the endless blue sky. It was because of his vision and leadership skills that the once small and backward colony was now a city other colonies on the red dusty planet envied.

2 The statue in the center of the fountain caught Rip's attention, and he walked over for a closer look. Perfection, he thought, as he admired the face that was exactly like his own. The good people of Sertoma had

erected the statue of him last week to honor him for his many contributions to the colony.

3 Although Rip reveled in the admiration of his citizens and his accomplishments in the colony, some days he just wanted to be free from all responsibility. He felt a little selfish for his thoughts, but as he looked around at all the people sitting and enjoying the success he had brought to them, he wondered why he couldn't be lazy for a moment, too.

4 An idea came to Rip as he strode back to his office. He had read about a trip to explore another solar system that was leaving that day.

He could go on a relaxing journey and leave the day-to-day hassles of running a successful colony to someone else for a few days. Not much could happen or change in two days. With a happy heart, Rip booked the trip and was soon snoozing his way through the atmosphere without a care in the world.

5 Rip opened his heavy eyes and gazed out the window of the ship. He felt relaxed and carefree. This is what my citizens must feel like every day he thought. When the ship touched down, Rip exited the ship and stood on the landing platform. He gasped, blinked his eyes, and then opened them wide. Where was he? He saw a large sign with the words “Sertoma—First Mars Colony.” He was definitely in Sertoma, but nothing looked the same.

6 In the courtyard where Rip’s statue once stood, was now an enormous metal sculpture. As he approached for a closer look, he noticed something strange. A crowd of what he thought was children was staring and pointing at him. With a closer look, he realized that they weren’t human children. In a panic, he turned to run away from them and then skidded to a stop when he was confronted by larger versions of the creatures. They looked like humans, but they were over seven feet tall and yellow with long pointy noses.

7 One of the creatures approached Rip with what looked like a smile. He spoke, but the noises were unfamiliar to Rip. The confusion must have shown on his face, because another creature stepped forward.

8 “Hello human, my name is Rupert,” he said in English.

9 “Where am I?” asked Rip in a shaky voice.

10 “You are in Sertoma,” replied Rupert.

11 “What happened to my city and my people?” Rip asked.

12 Rupert looked at him strangely and said, “The last humans left here 50 years ago. They could no longer survive on this planet because their leader had left them. They all went back to Earth.”

13 Shocked, Rip stared at Rupert in confusion. “50 years,” he whispered.

14 “Captain Rip left on a pleasure expedition and never returned. The humans waited many years for him, but finally gave up when they started to run out of clean water. Captain Rip was the only one who knew where the water source was. The people thought that he had abandoned the city, so they returned to Earth,” Rupert reported.

15 Rip hung his head and wept at all he had lost.

1 How does the author of passage 2 draw on characters from passage 1?

- A Rip is an important man in the colony of Sertoma.
- B Rip wants to take a break from his responsibilities.
- C Rip comes back to Sertoma and sees members of his family.
- D Rip learns that people have moved away or died in his absence.

2 Part A

What theme did the author of passage 2 draw on from the traditional tale in passage 1?

- A Pride leads to misfortune.
- B Laziness can be life altering.
- C Change can happen quickly.
- D Self-reliance is the key to success.

Part B

Which sentence from the text *best* supports the answer in Part A?

- A "*Rip Van Winkle* is the story of a man who avoids work at home on his farm, wanders into the nearby Catskill Mountains, and falls asleep for 20 years."
- B "The constant recurrence of this gesture induced Rip, involuntarily, to do the same, when, to his astonishment, he found his beard had grown a foot long!"
- C "'Ah, poor man, Rip Van Winkle was his name, but it's 20 years since he went away from home ..., and never has been heard of since.'"
- D "He found the house gone to decay—the roof fallen in, the windows shattered, and the doors off the hinges."

3 What events does the author of passage 2 draw on from passage 1?

4 Describe the ways in which the author of passage 2 created a new story with similar literary elements as passage 1. How do these changes provide the reader with a new understanding?
