

Name _____

misunderstanding contradicted complimenting congratulate
critical blurted appreciation cultural

Finish each sentence using the vocabulary word provided.

1. **(congratulate)** If she wins the election, _____

2. **(appreciation)** I received this gift _____

3. **(complimenting)** He spends too much time _____

4. **(cultural)** The holiday we celebrate is _____

5. **(misunderstanding)** The two friends were unhappy because _____

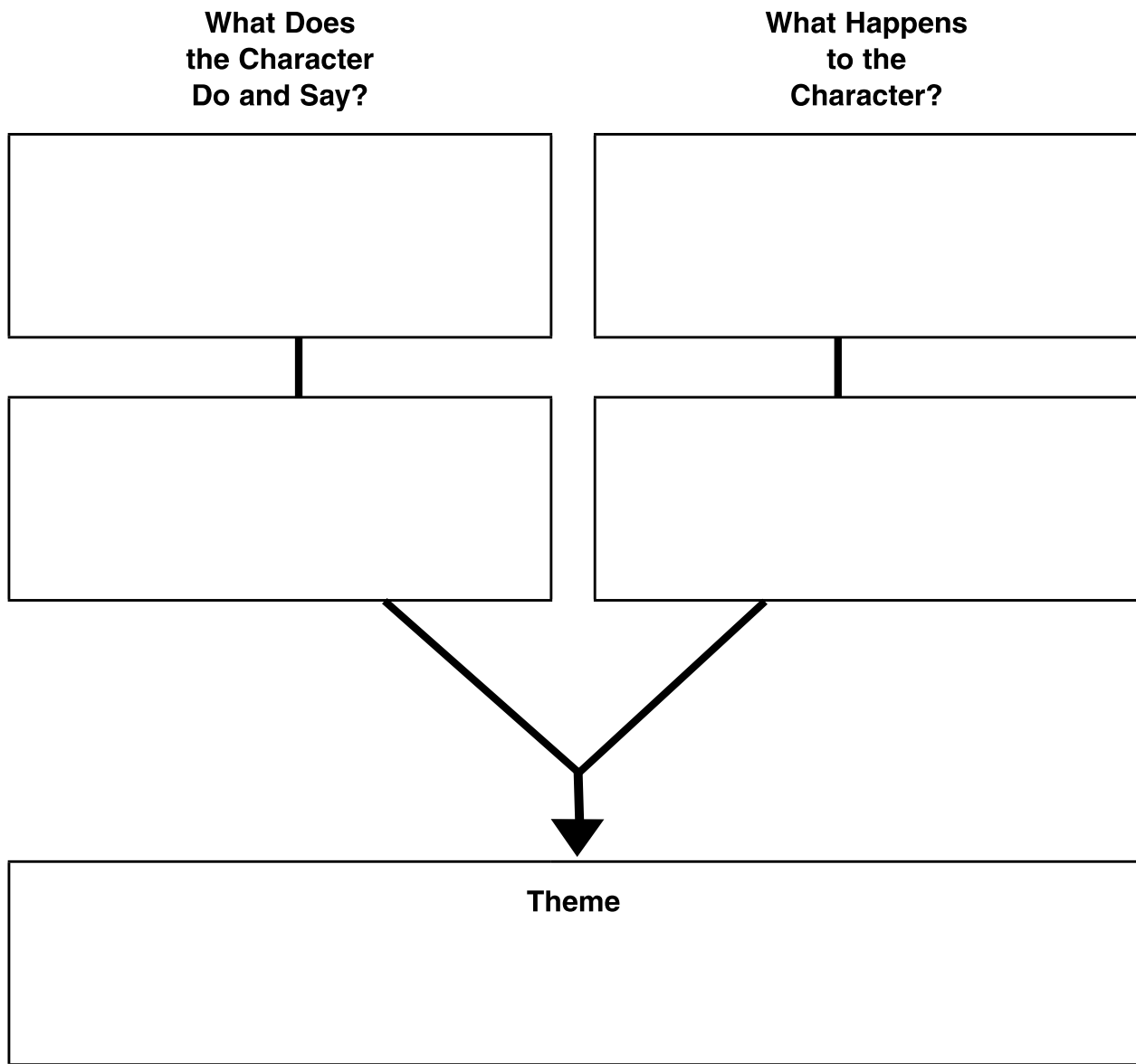
6. **(critical)** Some people are _____

7. **(blurted)** Before he realized what he was saying, _____

8. **(contradicted)** What she said _____

Name _____

Read the selection. Complete the theme graphic organizer.



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Name _____

Read the passage. Use the summarizing strategy to make sure you understand what you have read.

Potluck or Potlatch?

14 Alex wasn't ready to go into the house. "Are you sure that I'm supposed
27 to bring something to eat?" he asked his mother, eyeing the plate of
40 brownies in his lap. "Yuma told me I didn't have to bring anything."
53 Mrs. Martin nodded. "The purpose of a potluck is for everyone to come
66 together and share food," she reassured him, patting his leg. "Have a good
68 time, sweetie."
80 Alex exited the car and waved good-bye to his mother. Two weeks
95 ago at the bus stop, Yuma had given Alex a bundle of sticks wrapped in
106 colorful ribbons strung with beads. Yuma explained that his family was
121 hosting a potluck in honor of his new baby sister, and the sticks were a
131 traditional Native American invitation. Alex was flattered that he had
145 been invited, but he was also nervous because he had never been to a
147 potluck before.
161 Yuma greeted Alex at the door and Alex gave him the plate of brownies.
174 "What are these for?" Yuma asked, looking puzzled. He glanced up at his
182 mother, who had come over to say hello.
192 Alex looked down at his feet, embarrassed. "They're, um, for
205 the potluck," he said hesitantly. He had never felt so mortified in his
207 entire life.
219 Mrs. Wright placed a warm hand on Alex's shoulder, which made him
233 feel a little less nervous. He looked into her smiling face; she was short,
247 just about his height. "What a lovely thought," she said. "I think there may
258 have been a miscommunication, though. We're having a potlatch today, not
260 a potluck."
Alex didn't know what to say.

Name _____

Mrs. Wright laughed gently. “It’s a common mistake,” she said. “*Potluck* and *potlatch* sound a lot alike, don’t they? A potlatch is a traditional celebration of our people, the Kwakiutl. The difference is that the hosts share food and gifts with the guests, not the other way around.”

Alex looked around; there had to be at least a hundred people inside the house. “You’re going to give gifts to all of these people?”

Yuma’s face lit up. “We’ve been working on gifts for months! Come see them!” He grabbed Alex’s sleeve and dragged him across the room to a large table overflowing with packages. “My mother and aunts have been weaving blankets and beading jewelry since before the baby was born. I made bracelets.” Yuma held out his wrist to show Alex soft strips of finely braided leather.

Alex still looked confused, so Yuma explained that the Kwakiutl people believe that wealth should be shared. Potlatches are held to honor important events, like births or marriages. A potlatch starts with a huge feast, which is followed by storytelling and traditional dances. A family works for years to save money for a potlatch, all so they can give it to friends. “To us,” Yuma finished, “true wealth comes from giving, not having.”

Alex considered this. “I think that’s pretty cool,” he said, a smile spreading across his face.

Yuma grinned back. “I do, too.”

The feast was delicious, and Alex was having so much fun that he lost track of time. He was startled to see his mother at the front door because he felt as if she had just dropped him off. Alex wasn’t ready to go home; the dancing and storytelling were about to start. He was relieved to see Mrs. Wright take his mother’s coat. Mrs. Martin stood in the entryway, looking nervous. Alex could tell that she felt out of place, so he went over and took her hand. “Can we stay?” he asked. She nodded, a smile playing on her lips. Grinning, he eagerly led his mother to the table. He couldn’t wait to tell her all about the potlatch.



Alex learns that a potlatch is very different from a potluck.

Name _____

A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.**1. How does Alex feel when he arrives at Yuma's house?**

2. Why does he feel that way?

3. What does Alex learn from his experience? What might be the theme, or message, of this story?

B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to intonation. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.

	Words Read	–	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		–		=	
Second Read		–		=	

Name _____

The Wedding

Cindy's oldest sister, Becca, went to a wedding last weekend. Becca is telling Cindy about her friend's wedding traditions.

"The ceremony took place beneath a chuppa."

"What is a chuppa?" Cindy asked.

"A chuppa is an open tent, which stands for a new home. Then the groom gave the bride a solid gold ring, which stands for the hope that they will be together always," Becca said. "Finally, they had a party and danced a special dance called the Hora."

"That sounds like a great wedding!" exclaimed Cindy.

Answer the questions about the text.

1. How do you know this text is realistic fiction?

2. Write one example of realistic dialogue found in the text. Explain why it is realistic.

3. How does Becca describe the chuppa and what it stands for?

4. Write another descriptive detail from the text. How does this detail help you experience the text as realistic?

Name _____

Read each passage. **Underline the context clues that help you figure out the meaning of each word in bold. Then tell what the word means.**

1. Mrs. Wright placed a warm hand on Alex's shoulder, which made him feel a little less **nervous**.

2. Alex still looked **confused**, so Yuma explained that the Kwakiutl people believe that wealth should be shared.

3. He was **startled** to see his mother at the front door because he felt as if she had just dropped him off.

Name _____

A. Read each word. Use a slanted line (/) to divide each word into syllables. Then circle the open syllables.

	Syllables
1. local	_____
2. comet	_____
3. decent	_____
4. panic	_____
5. humor	_____
6. linen	_____
7. shiver	_____
8. vacant	_____
9. profile	_____
10. closet	_____
11. punish	_____
12. smoky	_____

B. Write a sentence using at least two of the words above with a V/CV syllable pattern.

Name _____

Evidence is details and examples from a text that support a writer’s opinion. The student who wrote the paragraph below cited evidence that supports his or her opinion about the author’s use of theme.

Topic sentence	→	In “Potluck or Potlatch?,” the author writes about a topic that is very well-suited to the theme. Alex’s friend Yuma invites him to a potlatch, a traditional Native American celebration. Alex is uncomfortable at first and does not know how to act. After Mrs. Wright and Yuma explain what a potlatch is, and help Alex feel welcome, Alex enjoys the experience. These events help me understand the theme that new experiences can be fun.
Evidence	→	
Concluding statement	→	

Write a paragraph about the two texts you have chosen. Show how the authors developed the themes. Remember to use transition words to link your ideas and to use action verbs correctly.

Write a topic sentence: _____

Cite evidence from the texts: _____

End with a concluding statement: _____

Name _____

A. Read the draft model. Use the questions that follow the draft to help you think about how to revise the draft to make the voice more informal.

Draft Model

My relatives and I celebrate Thanksgiving as if it were a family reunion. Every member of my family attends. We all cook, eat, and spend time together.

1. How could sentences be shortened or rearranged to make them less formal?
2. What formal vocabulary could be removed? What everyday vocabulary could be added?
3. What contractions could be added?

B. Now revise the draft by adding or changing details to make the voice more informal.
