Compare Characters and Settings

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Moving Day: A Play

CHARACTERS: MARISOL, age 12; BEA, her sister, age 9; GRANDPA TEO, their grandfather

SCENE 1

(An apartment in Albuquerque, almost empty. Cardboard boxes are stacked everywhere. BEA bounces on a box labeled KITCHEN. MARISOL sits on the floor, holding a shoebox.)

BEA: Only one more night here! Tomorrow we'll be in Denver. Our new house has stairs, Marisol. Real stairs!

MARISOL: (not looking up) This apartment has stairs too. Fourteen of them, outside our door. I counted them every day after school.

BEA: That's not the same. Ours will be inside. And I get my own room!

MARISOL: You get your own room. I get a room where nobody knows me.

(GRANDPA TEO enters, carrying a roll of packing tape.)

GRANDPA TEO: What's in the shoebox, mija?

MARISOL: Things from here. Notes from Ana. The ticket from our class trip. A rock from the courtyard. (She closes the lid.) Mom says I can't take the whole courtyard, so I took a piece.

BEA: (laughing) You packed a rock? I packed my roller skates. I'm going to skate down the new sidewalk the very first day.

GRANDPA TEO: (sitting on a box between them) Did you know I've moved seven times?

BEA: Seven!

GRANDPA TEO: From a farm in Chihuahua to El Paso, then to Tucson, then to four different apartments here. Each time, I felt a little like both of you.

SCENE 2

(The next morning. The apartment is empty. Sunlight falls on bare walls. The boxes are gone, and every footstep echoes. BEA is already at the door with her skates around her neck.)

BEA: Come on! The truck is leaving!

MARISOL: (standing in the middle of the room) Wait. I want to remember it.

BEA: (pausing) Remember what? It's empty.

MARISOL: That's where the couch was, where we watched movies on Fridays. And that mark on the wall is from your scooter.

BEA: (looking at the mark, more quietly) I forgot about that. (She touches it.) I'll miss Fridays here.

GRANDPA TEO: When I left the farm, I took a handful of dirt in a jar. My mother laughed at me. But I kept that jar on the windowsill in every home. It reminded me where I started. Then, in each new place, I found one new thing to love.

MARISOL: What did you love in El Paso?

GRANDPA TEO: A bakery that played the radio too loud. The owner taught me to play dominoes.

BEA: (to MARISOL) Maybe your rock can sit on your new windowsill.

MARISOL: (smiling a little) And maybe you can help me find one new thing to love.

BEA: The stairs. Obviously.

(MARISOL laughs. She picks up her shoebox. The three walk out together. The lights fade.)

1. How do Marisol's and Bea's feelings about the move compare in Scene 1?
   Both sisters are sad and do not want to go.
   Both sisters are excited and cannot wait to go.
   Marisol is excited, while Bea is sad to leave.
   Bea is excited, while Marisol is sad to leave.

2. What do the things each sister packed reveal about her?
   Marisol plans to skate; Bea collects rocks.
   Marisol holds onto memories; Bea looks ahead to new fun.
   Bea saves memories; Marisol cares most about toys.
   Both sisters packed gifts for their friends.

3. How does the talk about stairs in Scene 1 show the sisters' differences?
   Both sisters are thrilled that the new house has stairs inside.
   Marisol wants stairs inside, and Bea prefers the stairs outside.
   Bea pictures the new stairs; Marisol remembers the old ones she counted.
   Neither sister talks about stairs until the second scene.

4. How is Grandpa Teo's jar of dirt like Marisol's rock?
   Both are small pieces of a place they had to leave.
   Both were gifts from a friend at school.
   Both came from a bakery in El Paso.
   Both were packed by Bea as a joke.

5. What does Grandpa Teo mean by "Each time, I felt a little like both of you"?
   He moved with two sisters who looked like them.
   He felt both sad to leave and excited about the new place.
   He always felt unsure about where he lived.
   He wished he had stayed on the farm forever.

6. How does Bea change in Scene 2?
   She becomes angry that Marisol is so slow.
   She notices the scooter mark and admits she will miss home.
   She gives her roller skates to Marisol.
   She decides she does not want to move at all.

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Answer Key - Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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