

Sample Content: ELA Passage

General Information

Please highlight in **blue** the Level for this item and the standards associated with this Item.

Author:	A Pass Educational Group
Subject and Grade:	ELA 6
Topic:	Theme (RL)
Level A (title/skills):	Determine the theme, and how it is conveyed. (RL.6.2)
Level B (title/skills):	
Level C (title/skills):	
Standard(s):	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.
DOK (range, item-specific):	2
Allowable Item Types:	Multi-Select
Allowable Tools:	
Notes:	Claim 1, Target 2: Summarize central ideas/key events.
Stumbling Blocks:	
Misconceptions:	

Item

In the space provided on the following page, create a representation of the Item that the student would interact with. If you need a two-column layout, please include a table (see samples). Each item needs to include copy for the student to read, answer mechanism information for how to input their answer, and the correct answer. Read on for further instructions below.

Stem

Be sure to include any directions to students on how to input their answer (e.g., click or tap on the sentence that...); this is called a *Mechanical Prompt*.

Stimulus

When including a stimulus, please include the copy of a stimulus when possible (e.g., include the entire passage or insert the image). If this stimulus cannot be included in this document (e.g., audio file), then include a [file name and location] and consider including a description or notes for the reviewer.

Answer Mechanism(s) and Correct Answer

Be sure to include any information about the student interactivity/functionality of the item (e.g., what is clickable in the highlight item?) and the correct response. For ease-of-use, try to be creative and innovative with Microsoft Word and

screen grabs to fully layout the design that would best represent what it could look like when the student interacts with the Item. Use [bracket notes] to write any necessary information for the reviewer (i.e., media assets not included). Typically, the student is either making one or more selections (e.g., highlight text, multiple choice, multiple select, choice matrix, drag and drop target, etc.) or constructing an answer (e.g., text fields, drag and drop: sorting, ordering, graphing, etc.). Please reflect the correct answer in your representation of the answer mechanism(s).

Item

Stem

Read the sci-fi story below. Then, click or tap the two classic themes that appear in the story.

Stimulus

Uncle Sam Wants You to Settle Mars

A poster of Uncle Sam watched over the recruiting office as the agent welcomed his next prospect. “Fatima Shire,” the agent said, followed by, “Can I call you Fatima? Call me Manny.” He did not wait for an answer, instead launching right into his pitch, saying, “We’ve reviewed your application, and we would like to offer you a position on the first human settlement on Mars. The work will be difficult, but you will have top-of-the-line healthcare, adequate food and housing, and regular recreation activities. There is also the one million dollar signing bonus, as advertised.”

Fatima nodded and smiled. “I appreciate the opportunity,” she said, “as I’ve always wanted to be an astronaut, since I was a little girl. I have some important questions, though, for instance, what will it be like, over there?”

“A little cramped,” Manny admitted, sheepishly. “When the ship lands, you will have to stay inside for the first few years, because, right now, there is not enough air for you to walk around without a spacesuit. We hope to change that by getting you and your fellow workers to set up agricultural areas to create more oxygen. In ten or fifteen years, you will leave your spaceship without suits, breathe the newly-created Martian air, and welcome the next wave of settlers.”

Fatima looked shy and a little worried, saying, “I’ve never been good socially.”

Manny, who had clearly always been *very* good socially, responded, “You’ll make friends, and there will be plenty of privacy as everyone will have their own cabin. You will have plenty to read, and TV and movies streamed directly from Earth, though there will always be sports and activities, if you want to meet new friends.” Manny had always been good at reading people, and he could tell that Fatima wanted to get away not just from Earth, but also from her shy self.

Fatima responded, as Manny knew she would, positively. She talked about how she always wanted to push herself more to try harder to make friends. A few minutes later, she had decided to accept the offer. Nonetheless, she had one last important question.

“Manny,” asked Fatima, “how long are the contracts? I’d like a fifteen-year trip, myself.”

Manny, for the first time, had a serious expression as he explained, “Fatima, the advertisements left out one important detail: Mars is a different environment, where the gravity is much lower. Here, let me show you.” He took a piece of paper from his printer tray and folded it like an accordion. “When you walk around on Earth, the gravity squeezes you down. Your bones get thick and dense and close together.” He stood the accordion-paper up on his desk and squeezed it down a little. “On Mars,” he said letting the paper bounce back almost upright, “the gravity doesn’t squeeze so much. You will be taller, and your bones will be lighter.”

Fatima looked worried, but her sense of adventure was still present. She giggled nervously and said, “I always wanted to be taller, anyway.”

Manny’s face changed from serious to deeply saddened. “I’m afraid you don’t understand,” he stated. “If you came back to Earth after years on Mars...” he trailed off, and then squished the paper down violently, concluding, “Do you see what I mean?”

Fatima nodded. “If I go, I can’t come back.”

Manny shrugged, saying, “I’m sorry. We might have the technology sometime to help you survive Earth’s gravity again, but I wouldn’t count on it. It’s best to go into this knowing it will probably be a one-way trip.”

There was a lengthy awkward silence in which there was little for either person to say. Fatima finally asked, “When do you pay the million dollars?”

Manny, back in his comfort zone, replied immediately, “As soon as you sign.”

Later, outside the office, Fatima could be overheard talking on her phone. “Hi Dad! Great news! I have a new job, and we can pay for Mom’s care in the hospital.” She paused, listening, then said, “Look, Dad, can I come over for a visit? I might be going away for some time. Maybe for a long time.”

Answer Mechanism(s) and Correct Answer

List the response options in one or two columns. Students must select exactly two response options. The only correct answers are “coming of age” and “choosing to sacrifice oneself”

Item

Click or tap the two classic themes that appear in the story.

female roles	choosing to sacrifice oneself
coming of age	discovering the dangers of technology
being manipulated	experiencing disappointment with dreams

Hint

Include the student-facing copy that appears in a progression from First Hint to Last Hint—items have between 3 and 5 Hints. Include images associated with these Hints inline with copy.

Hint 1:	Science fiction writers sometimes try to let readers relate to events that happen in the future. What modern struggles might one find in a one-way trip to Mars?
Hint 2:	Although the story details Manny’s thoughts, Fatima is the character who drives the plot. What are the problems in Fatima’s life, and how does she rise above them?
Hint 3:	When we grow up, can we ever go back to being a child? When we make a choice to do something difficult to help our families, what are we doing to ourselves?
Hint 4:	
Hint 5:	

Feedback

Answer-Specific Feedback (ASF)

Author at least two pieces of ASF, along with the incorrect answer that triggers each one; there is no maximum number of ASF. Include images associated with these ASFs inline with copy. For multiple-choice items, write 3 ASFs—one ASF for each distractor.

	Trigger	Student-Facing ASF Copy (and optional images)
ASF 1	Student selects “Female roles”	While Fatima is female, her gender role is not a major focus.
ASF 2	Student selects “being manipulated”	While Manny is not always honest from the start, Fatima knows all the risks by the end.
ASF 3	Student selects “discovering the dangers of technology”	The story does not suggest that technology has gone too far.
ASF 4	Student selects “experiencing disappointment with dreams”	The trip is not exactly what Fatima wanted. The focus is on her duty to her parents, not her personal dreams.

Generic Incorrect Feedback

Include student-facing copy that appears for any incorrect answer not identified by the ASF listed above (not a trigger from above). Include images associated with this inline with copy.

This is not required for multiple-choice items, but is required for all other item types.

Re-read the end of the story, and think about what is driving Fatima’s choice to go to Mars.

Answer Explanation

Include student-facing copy that shows the answer with roll over text/phrases for short copy of explanation. Indicate a term/phrase that requires roll over copy like **this**, including the copy for the roll over in the table below this field. Include images associated with the AE inline with copy; note that roll overs can overlay an image (consider using the shapes in Word w 

Fatima shows courage in the face of shyness. She accepts the need to take care of her parents. She also eaves her childhood home of Earth. These are all exaggerated parts of the **coming of age** process. Fatima also accepts that fear of leaving Earth forever is less important than her mother’s health problems. This is part of the theme of personal **sacrifice**.

Roll Over Copy

Include student-facing copy that appears when student hovers or rolls over a highlighted term in the table above. Include images associated with these inline with copy.

coming of age	A classic theme that is developed mostly through dialogue, where a character changes from having a childlike, cowardly, and irresponsible to an adult, courageous, and responsible one.
sacrifice	An act where a character gives up something she or he wants in order to benefit others.