

Character Regression Answer Key

Answers will vary, but correct responses should show:

1. Rowan slipped back into the fear of speaking in front of others and avoiding participation.
2. It shows that growth is not always steady and that even developed confidence can be challenged. It also indicates that Rowan has still made progress because this moment contrasts with how they normally act now.
3. Characters may regress due to stress, pressure, unexpected triggers, or moments of self-doubt. Regression can be a natural part of long-term growth.

Teacher's Guide

- Explain that **character development is not always linear**, and regression moments can deepen realism and emotional impact in narratives.
- Encourage students to identify contrasts: what the character does now compared to how they reacted months ago.
- For differentiation, provide a list of sample past flaws such as fear of failure, anger, impatience, or self-doubt to help students identify patterns.
- For extension, have students write a short continuation of the scene showing how the character recovers from the regression or create their own scene where a different character slips back into an old behavior.