

Debating Greatness Answer Key

Debate Preparation Chart (Sample Responses)

Amara

- *Strengths/Successes*: Brave in the jungle, mapped new lands, helped others learn.
- *Weaknesses/Challenges*: Faced danger, hunger, and weather.

Jonas

- *Strengths/Successes*: Creative, invented flying machine, inspired dreams of flight.
- *Weaknesses/Challenges*: Faced failure, broken parts, and doubt from others.

Questions (Sample Answers)

1. (Answers may vary.) Example: Amara's struggles were harder because she faced life-threatening dangers in the wild.
2. (Answers may vary.) Example: Jonas had the bigger impact because his invention inspired future technology.
3. (Answers may vary.) Example: I believe Jonas is stronger because even after many failures and doubt, he created something that changed the way people dream about travel.

Teacher Notes/Guide

- This activity promotes **critical thinking** by requiring students to defend their choice with **text evidence**.
- Teachers can run this as a **classroom debate** (students split into two sides) or as an **individual writing prompt**.
- Encourage the use of **signal words** for compare/contrast (e.g., both, however, unlike, in contrast).
- Extension: Have students write a **debate speech** for their chosen side and present it aloud.