

Name _____



Defining Courage

Directions: Read both excerpts carefully. Each author writes about **courage** but uses a different style and emphasis. Write your responses to the analysis questions using **complete sentences and text evidence**.

Excerpt A: *Speech Adapted from Theodore Roosevelt (1901)*

"Courage is not the absence of fear, but the determination to act in spite of it. The man who dares to stand firm for what is right, even when alone, shows true bravery. A nation's strength depends not on words, but on the brave deeds of its people."

Excerpt B: *Essay Adapted from Maya Angelou (20th century)*

"Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without it, you cannot practice any other virtue consistently. You may be kind for a moment, or fair for a day, but only courage allows you to keep being kind or fair when it is hard. Courage is the root that nourishes all other good actions."

1. How do both authors define courage differently?

2. What similarities exist in their perspectives?

3. Which author uses a more **practical** approach, and which a more **philosophical** one? Explain.

4. How might each author's background (a political leader vs. a poet) shape the way they discuss courage?
