

Defining Courage Answer Key

Analysis Questions: Sample Responses

1. **Different definitions:** Roosevelt views courage as acting despite fear, while Angelou defines courage as the root that makes other virtues possible.
2. **Similarities:** Both see courage as essential to living with strength and integrity.
3. **Practical vs. Philosophical:** Roosevelt is more practical since he ties courage to action and leadership; Angelou is more philosophical since she ties courage to inner virtues and consistency.
4. **Background influence:** Roosevelt, as a political leader, emphasizes action and service to society. Angelou, as a poet and thinker, emphasizes the inner foundation of moral life.

Teacher Notes

- This task highlights **authorial approach**, not just content.
- Prompt students to notice **tone, word choice, and focus** in each passage.
- Differentiation:
 - Struggling readers can be given highlighted sentences that capture each author's central idea.
 - Advanced readers can extend by comparing to a third author's approach to courage (e.g., a modern figure or novel character).