

Between Worlds Answer Key

1. Main Conflict

Elena struggles to balance her family's culture with the pressure to fit into her school's culture.

2. Theme

The theme is the challenge of navigating dual identities and the question of whether one can belong to two cultures at once.

3. Broader Issues

Elena's struggle mirrors the challenges many immigrants face—pressure to assimilate while also preserving their heritage.

4. Modern Debate Connection

The passage connects to debates on multiculturalism, where society asks whether immigrants should blend into a dominant culture or proudly maintain their own.

Teacher Note: Accept a range of answers - students may bring up topics like representation in media, bilingual education, or cultural pride movements.

5. Reflection (Sample Response)

Elena's story reminds me of how some celebrities speak openly about balancing two cultures, like actor Simu Liu discussing both Chinese heritage and Canadian upbringing. It also connects to debates in the U.S. about whether schools should encourage bilingual programs. I think Elena's struggle shows how identity is complex and evolving. Many people today still feel pressure to "choose" one culture over another. This passage suggests that true belonging might mean embracing both, even when it feels difficult.

Teacher Notes

- This activity pushes students toward **text-to-world connections**, a higher-level comprehension skill appropriate for Grade 11.
- Encourage students to use **current debates** (immigration, bilingual education, multiculturalism, cultural representation) to ground their answers.