

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## The Greater Call

**Directions:** Read the short story passage carefully. As you read, highlight or underline moments where the main character faces tension between personal sacrifice and responsibility to their community. Answer the questions that follow, focusing on how the **central theme** develops throughout the passage. Use evidence from the text to support your answers.

### The Last Rally

Leila tightened her worn backpack straps as she stepped onto the crowded city square. Flyers in her bag called people to the evening rally, urging the mayor to reconsider budget cuts that would close the only community health clinic in their neighborhood. She had been working on this campaign for months, but the weight of her choices pressed heavier each day.

Her mother had asked her to stay home tonight. "Your grades are slipping. College applications won't wait," she had reminded. Leila knew her mother was right. Last week she had skipped a calculus review session to print posters, and the zero on her quiz still stung. But as she looked at the families lining up outside the clinic each morning, she couldn't imagine walking away.

As dusk fell, Leila lifted a megaphone. Her voice trembled at first but grew stronger as she spoke about fairness, access, and justice. She caught sight of her mother standing at the edge of the crowd, her expression unreadable. For a brief second, Leila wished she could return to being "just a student." Instead, she stood taller, believing that her sacrifice meant something larger than herself.

1. What is the **central theme** of this passage?
2. Identify two specific moments where Leila experiences conflict between personal sacrifice and community responsibility.
3. How does the author show the **development of the theme** from beginning to end?
4. In the closing paragraph, what does Leila's choice suggest about her character's values?
5. Imagine the story continues. Predict how Leila's actions tonight might affect her future.