

Layered Identity Answer Key

Comprehension (Model Answers)

1. At home the narrator spoke Spanish with comfort, but at school they were expected to use English, which felt unfamiliar and difficult.
2. "Translate" means adjusting speech and behavior depending on context, often losing meaning or authenticity in the process.
3. As a child, the narrator felt torn or split, but as an adult, they view identity as **layered** and enriched by multiple cultures.
4. **Invisible walls**: feelings of separation between cultures.

Bridges: later recognition that cultural identity connects rather than divides.

Teacher Notes

- This activity balances **textual analysis** with **metacognitive reflection**, a high-level Grade 12 skill that prepares students for college-level independent reading.
- Extension: Have students write their own **short reflection narrative** about a time when language, culture, or context affected their sense of identity, and then reflect on how they read and wrote about it.