

Facing Change Answer Key

Sample Strong Student Response:

"I connect to Sofia's story because I remember when I moved up to middle school. I was nervous that I wouldn't know anyone, but then a classmate invited me to join a group project. Just like Sofia, I realized that being open to new experiences helped me find friends. This reminds me that even when change feels uncomfortable, it can lead to growth and happiness."

Teacher Notes:

- Look for **specific personal experiences** tied to the text.
- Strong answers will include both a **connection** (student's own story) and a **reflection** (what they learned).
- Encourage students to go beyond "This happened to me too" and explain **why the experience mattered**.
- Accept a variety of connections (sports, moving, new activities, meeting new people, etc.) as long as they are clearly tied to the passage.