

Uncovering Universal Truths Answer Key

Sample Responses

1. **Theme:** *Courage isn't the absence of fear, it's choosing to act even when you're afraid.*
2. **Evidence:** Sasha admits she's scared but keeps walking across the dangerous bridge to save her brother.
3. **Real-Life Connection:** People show courage when they face fears like speaking in public, confronting injustice, or protecting others.
4. **Sample Reflection Paragraph:**

Sasha's experience shows that bravery doesn't mean being fearless. It means moving forward despite fear. Everyone encounters moments when fear tries to stop them, whether it's standing up for a friend, trying something new, or taking responsibility in a difficult moment. Her courage teaches that fear is part of being human, but strength comes from acting anyway. This truth can help anyone face challenges with determination, reminding us that real courage lives within those who keep going even when they're scared.

Teacher Notes / Guide

Objective: Students will identify a story's **theme** and evaluate whether it represents a **universal truth**: a message that transcends time, place, and culture. This builds **critical thinking** and **literary analysis** by connecting fiction to real-world human experiences.

Teaching Tips:

- Begin by discussing: *What makes a truth universal?* Brainstorm examples like "honesty builds trust" or "courage grows through fear."
- Have students justify their theme choice using **text evidence** from Sasha's words or actions.
- Emphasize that a theme becomes universal when it applies to **many people and contexts**, not just the story's specific situation.
- Encourage deeper responses by asking, *Would this truth still matter 100 years from now? Why or why not?*