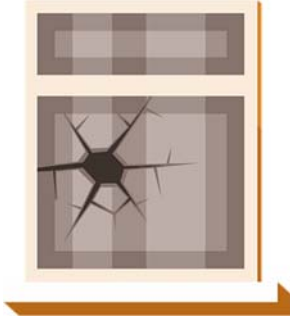


Name _____



Justice And Grace

Directions: Read both short passages carefully. Each story explores the ideas of **justice** and **forgiveness**, but the characters handle conflict in very different ways. Write a brief analysis comparing the two themes and reflecting on which message feels more powerful or meaningful to you.

Story 1: "The Broken Window"

When Ryan saw his little brother throw the baseball through their neighbor's window, anger surged through him. Mrs. Lopez was kind, always baking cookies for the neighborhood kids. Ryan marched over, ready to defend his family's name, and told her the truth.

Mrs. Lopez frowned but thanked him for his honesty. "Your brother should pay for what he broke," she said. Ryan nodded, insisting they would repay her. It took three weekends of mowing lawns and washing cars, but when they handed her the money, she smiled. "That's fair," she said, "and I'm proud you made it right." Ryan walked home, tired but content. Justice, he thought, meant taking responsibility, even when it's hard.

Story 2: "The Forgotten Lunchbox"

Tara had never forgotten her lunch before, but when she reached into her locker, her favorite lunchbox was gone. At the end of the day, she saw Mia, the new student, eating from it. Tara's anger boiled. "That's mine!" she shouted.

Mia's face paled. "I'm sorry," she whispered. "I haven't eaten in two days." Tara froze. The room felt smaller somehow. Slowly, she handed Mia her granola bar. "Keep the lunchbox," she said. "Just ask next time." That night, Tara's mom asked what happened at school. "I forgave someone today," Tara said quietly. "And it felt... lighter."

Response Prompts

1. What lesson or **theme** does each story teach about doing what's right?
2. How are Ryan's and Tara's approaches to conflict different?
3. Which story do you find more powerful or meaningful, and why?
4. Can justice and forgiveness exist together, or does one have to come before the other? Explain your thinking in 3-5 sentences.