



Reading Toolkit: Grade 8 Objective 3.A.6.a

Student Handout: Reading: Grade 8 Objective 3.A.6.a

Standard 3.0 Comprehension of Literary Text

Topic A. Comprehension of Literary Text

Indicator 6. Analyze and interpret important ideas and messages in literary texts

Objective a. Analyze main ideas and universal themes

Assessment Limits:

Of the text or a portion of the text

Experiences, emotions, issues, and ideas in a text that give rise to universal themes

Selected Response (SR) Item

Question

Read the poem '[Grandmother](#)'. Then answer the following.

Which sentence best states an important theme in this poem?

- A. Intelligence is a gift.
- B. Respect for nature is necessary.
- C. Caring for a family is admirable.
- D. Living for a long time is difficult.

Correct Answer

C. Caring for a family is admirable.

Question

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Grandmother

By Shonto Begay

Grandmother was strong, like a distant mesa.
From her sprang many stories of days long ago.
From her gentle manners
lessons were learned
not easily forgotten.
She told us time and again
that the earth is our mother,
our holy mother.

"Always greet the coming day
by greeting your grandparents,
Ya' at' eeh Shi cheii (Hello, My Grandfather)
to the young juniper tree
Ya' at' eeh Shi masani (Hello, My Grandmother)
to the young pinon tree."

The lines in her face were marks of honor,
countless winters gazing into the blizzard,
many summers in the hot cornfield.
Her strong brown hands, once smooth,
carried many generations,
gestured many stories,
wiped away many tears.
The whiteness of her windblown hair,
a halo against the setting sun.

My grandmother was called Asdzan Alts' iisi,
Small Woman, Wife of Little Hat,
mother of generations of Bitter Water Clan,
she lived 113 years.