

Grade 5 Silent Reading Assessment

Spring

Readers, today you will read an excerpt called, “Homemade Taffy” from the book, *Love, Amalia* by Alma Flor Ada. Then you will read another excerpt called, “Losing Livie” from *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse. After you read the two excerpts, you will be asked to stop and answer a few questions. Write your answers on the student response sheet.

1. Reread lines 10-17 from “Homemade Taffy”. How is this part of the story important to the whole story?

Going to her grandmother’s home on Friday afternoon was something Amalia had been doing since she was little. For the last two years, since they started fourth grade, her friend Martha accompanied her most Fridays. Every week Amalia looked forward to the time she spent at her grandmother’s house. But today was different.

Amalia paused before answering, “She is not coming back anymore, Abuelita. ¡Nunca más!”¹ Despite Amalia’s efforts to control her feelings, her voice cracked and her brown eyes watered.

Analyzing Parts of a Story in Relation to the Whole

2. The author of “Homemade Taffy” wrote lines 1-6 the way that she did, but she could have just written that the grandmother noticed that Amalia was upset.

Why do you think the author might have decided to write this part in the way that she did? Think about what you know about author’s craft techniques and goals to support your response.

Analyzing Author’s Craft

3. What themes are especially important so far in “Homemade Taffy”? Provide evidence to support your ideas.

Determining Themes/Cohesion

4. “Homemade Taffy” from *Love, Amalia* and “Losing Livie” from *Out of the Dust* explore some similar themes/life lessons. Compare and contrast a theme or lesson that is developed in both stories.

Comparing and Contrasting Story Elements and Themes

¹ *Nunca más*: Spanish phrase meaning “never again”