

ELA/Literacy
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Grade 6
Literary Analysis
Sword of Damocles and Eighteenth Camel
VH101097

Today you will read the stories “The Sword of Damocles” and “The Eighteenth Camel.” As you read these stories, you will gather information and answer questions about the central idea or lesson learned so that you can create a written response.

Read “The Sword of Damocles.” Then answer the questions.

The Sword of Damocles

retold by Connie Nordhielm Wooldridge

- 1 “Would you care to share your thoughts with the rest of us at the table?”
- 2 King Dionysius’s question startled Damocles out of his reverie and sent a cold chill up his spine. His thoughts were the same ones that had occupied his mind ever since he had become a courtier. They were envious, bitter thoughts toward this ruler who, as king of the wealthy city of Syracuse, had everything his heart desired while he, Damocles, had to be content with what the king chose for him to have.
- 3 “I was thinking that you must be the happiest man alive, Sire,” stammered Damocles. “You eat only the finest food, you have riches beyond measure, your subjects wait to do your bidding—”
- 4 “Happy?” interrupted Dionysius. For a brief moment, Damocles thought he saw a flicker of emotion on the king’s stern face. But even as he looked, Dionysius’s eyes became cold and impenetrable again. “You shall have a chance this very day to be happy, as I am happy, Damocles,” Dionysius continued. “At this evening’s feast, you shall occupy my place and wear my crown. And I will order all in attendance to treat you as they would me.”
- 5 The courtiers in the great hall caught their breath in a collective gasp. But for Damocles, surprise quickly gave way to delight. For a few hours, this very evening, he would eat what he pleased, do what he pleased, and expect everyone to obey his slightest wish. For a few hours, he would be the happiest man alive.
- 6 That evening Dionysius, true to his word, removed his golden crown, set it upon Damocles’s head, and escorted him to the royal seat at the head of the table. Then the king moved to the seat usually occupied by his courtier.

- 7 Damocles was giddy with his new power. He gorged himself on the delicacies that were set before him and ordered his cushions rearranged each time he shifted position. He gazed at the splendid statues and ornaments that adorned the banquet hall and which, for the time being, were his.
- 8 Looking up at the ceiling in search of more finery to which he could temporarily claim ownership, Damocles's eyes suddenly fixed on a terrifying sight. Suspended just inches above his head was a sharp, gleaming double-edged sword. It hung by a single horsehair thread that Damocles feared would break if he so much as moved.
- 9 "I see you have finally noticed the sword," observed King Dionysius from his place at the foot of the table. "I do hope it won't spoil your happiness. But, you see, such a sword hangs over the head of anyone who wields great power."
- 10 Damocles was unable to move or speak, so the king continued. "The ruler of a neighboring kingdom, a disgruntled subject, or"—the king's eyes narrowed—"a jealous courtier, any one of these might sever the thread and cause the sword to come plunging down."
- 11 Still, Damocles sat with eyes transfixed on the menacing sword above his head. King Dionysius strode to the head of the table and took Damocles by the arm. "Until you learn that power carries with it not only privilege but responsibility," said the king, "you had better remain in your usual seat." He escorted Damocles to the foot of the table, placed the crown back on his own head, and resumed his rightful place without so much as a glance at the sword, which still dangled from the ceiling.
- 12 As for Damocles, he felt greatly relieved to be back in his accustomed place. In fact, he felt as though he were the happiest man alive!

Glossary Definition

reverie = daydreaming

"The Sword of Damocles" retold by Connie Nordhielm Wooldridge. Copyright © Connie Nordhielm Wooldridge. Used by permission of the author.

Read the story “The Eighteenth Camel.” Then answer the questions.

The Eighteenth Camel

A retelling by Thelma Schmidhauser of an old Bedouin folktale

- 1** Before the invention of mechanical vehicles, camels furnished transportation for many peoples of the Arabian deserts and were valued for their milk, meat, and skins. So important were they to the desert economy that a Bedouin would measure his wealth by the number of camels he owned.
- 2** A tale is told of a certain wealthy Bedouin who, upon his death, left seventeen camels to be divided among three heirs. The first heir was to get half of the camels, the second a third, and the third heir . . . one-ninth of the lot.
- 3** By such a division, the first heir would get eight and a half camels, while the second heir received five and two-thirds, and the third heir would inherit only one and eight-ninths of a camel. The situation seemed impossible to resolve. None of the heirs would sell his share to the others, and certainly none of them wanted to kill any of the camels, for the beasts were much more valuable alive than dead. Tempers flared. Angry words were spoken.
- 4** Now, in the area lived a wealthy Arabian woman. Distressed by the quarreling, she offered the heirs one of her own camels in hopes of resolving the dispute.
- 5** They now had eighteen camels to mete. The first heir received his half, nine camels. The second heir received six camels—his one-third share. And the last heir received two camels, one-ninth of the eighteen.
- 6** To their surprise, they found that there was one camel remaining. For, when added together, nine plus six plus two equals only seventeen. So they returned her camel to the woman with their thanks.
- 7** Without her camel, the inheritance would not have been peacefully resolved. Though it would seem that she had done nothing—for she had neither lost nor gained an animal—she was what is sometimes needed to bring about an

action . . . a catalyst. Her action was worth more than any wealth she could have given to the heirs.

Glossary Definition

mete = divide

“The Eighteenth Camel” retold by Thelma Schmidhauser from CRICKET MAGAZINE, Carus Publishing Co. © 2002.

Anchor Set

A1 – A10

Annotations Included

The themes of stories can teach us valuable lessons that we will remember forever. In "The Sword of Damocles" and "The Eighteenth Camel" we learn an important lesson that comes from the themes of these two stories. The theme in each story is developed in different ways but they still tell stories that can help people realize who they really are.

First of all, the theme in "The Sword of Damocles" is that having power is not easy and that you should cherish your own happiness instead of seeking another's. The author develops this theme by putting Damocles through a series of events that will make him regret being king. In paragraph 8 it states, "Looking up at the ceiling in search of more finery to which he could temporarily claim ownership, Damocles' eyes suddenly fixed on a terrifying sight. Suspended just inches above his head was a sharp, gleaming double-edged sword. It hung by a single horsehair thread that Damocles feared it would break if he so much as moved." This quote is significant because it shows that Damocles is terrified by the consequences of being a king. He now realizes that he is happier being a courtier instead of a famous king. Damocles as a courtier is better than Damocles as a king because he is happier as courtier. And if you're not happy with what you're doing, then what's the point of even trying to do it?

Moving on, the theme in "The Eighteenth Camel" is to be generous and kind in every chance you get. The author develops this theme by having a conflict in the beginning but then resolving it throughout the story when the wealthy Arabian woman offers the 3 heirs her camel. In paragraph 4 it says, "Distressed by the quarreling, she offered the heirs one of her own camels in hopes of resolving the dispute." It also states, "Without her camel, the inheritance would not have been peacefully resolved. ...Her action as worth more than any wealth she could have given to the heirs." These quotes illuminate that just a little generosity goes a long way. She didn't lose a camel nor did she gain one. At first, each heir would get some camels and then a fraction of a camel. But then she offered them one of her camels, which worked out perfectly. Each heir would get an even amount of camels. How did she do it, you ask? The answer to that question is simple: by being generous.

In conclusion, the theme of "The Sword of Damocles" is that having power isn't easy and that you should be thankful for who you are instead of trying to be someone else. The theme of "The Eighteenth Camel" is to be generous in every

situation and event that comes your way. These themes are both developed in their stories in different ways but they still share important lessons. The only question there is left to ask is, are you going to make a change today?

Score

Anchor Paper 1

Reading Comprehension and Written Expression

Score Point 4

The response demonstrates full comprehension of ideas by providing an accurate analysis of how the theme in each story is developed (*First of all, the theme in "The Sword of Damocles" is that having power is not easy and that you should cherish your own happiness instead of seeking another's. . . . the theme in "The Eighteenth Camel" is to be generous and kind in every chance you get*). Clear reasoning is supported by relevant, text-based material (*The author develops this theme by putting Damocles through a series of events that will make him regret being king. In paragraph 8 it states, "Looking up at the ceiling in search of more finery "Without her camel, the inheritance would not have been peacefully resolved. ...Her action as worth more than any wealth she could have given to the heirs"*). Effective transitional words and phrases between and within paragraphs clarify the relationships among logically grouped ideas, leading to an organized, clear and coherent response (*First of all, He now realizes, Moving on, In conclusion*). Well-chosen vocabulary words and a variety of sentence structures help establish an effective style that is maintained throughout the response (*The author develops this theme by putting Damocles through a series of events that will make him regret being king. . . . These quotes illuminate that just a little generosity goes a long way*).

Almost everything that is done in life will teach you an important lesson. This is also the case with the stories "The Sword of Damocles" and "The Eighteenth Camel." Each story displays an important message, or theme, that is developed throughout the story.

To begin, "The "Sword of Damocles" has a theme that is learned at the end of the story, but is developed throughout the whole story. That theme was that having power is not easy. It started being developed in paragraph five when the story says, "For a few hours, this very evening, he would eat what he pleased, do what he pleased, and expect everyone to obey his slightest wish. For a few hours, he would be the happiest man alive." At first Damocles thinks that the king just does what ever he wants, and people follow his orders, but he is wrong. He is first learning the theme. Later on in the story he realizes what power really is. He realizes this in paragraph eleven when the King tells him, "Until you learn that power carries with it not only privilege but responsibility," said the king, "You had better remain in your usual seat." The theme has now fully developed and Damocles realizes that having power isn't easy after all. The theme of this story starts developing at the beginning and is learned at the end.

Second, "The Eighteenth Camel" displays the theme that being generous can improve situations. This is learned towards the end of the story, around paragraphs five and six, and is really taken more in depth at the end. The theme is first developed in paragraph five when the text states, "They now had eighteen camels to mete. The first heir received his half, nine camels. The second heir received six camels-his one-third share. And the last heir received two camels, one-ninth of eighteen." Once the woman gave them a camel they all got what they wanted, and didn't even need the women's camel. It was a win-win-win-win! The theme is being introduced into the story. The theme is displayed once again in paragraph 7 when it says, "Without her camel the inheritance would not have been peacefully resolved." The theme is once again being shown at the end of the story to leave a lasting impact. This theme is focused on mostly at the end of the story.

To conclude, each story displays a theme in the story in different ways. Every single story has a theme, but sometimes it is not in plain sight, it is in between the lines. Everything in life also secretly displays a theme, no matter what it is. Themes are always there, people just chose not to listen to them.

Score

Anchor Paper 2

Reading Comprehension and Written Expression

Score Point 4

This response addresses the prompt and demonstrates full comprehension of ideas, providing an accurate analysis of how the theme is developed (*Later on in the story he realizes what power really is. . . . Damocles realizes that having power isn't easy after all*). Analysis of the development of themes is supported by the inclusion of relevant, text-based evidence (*. . . "Until you learn that power carries with it not only privilege but responsibility," said the king, "You had better remain in your usual seat."* [and] *"They now had eighteen camels to mete. . . . Once the woman gave them a camel they all got what they wanted, and didn't even need the women's camel*). The response is effectively organized with clear and coherent writing, including an introductory and concluding paragraph that frame the response with the idea that themes are messages to be drawn out from a story (*Every single story has a theme, but sometimes it is not in plain sight, it is in between the lines*). The response is also organized around a clear grouping of ideas from each passage of how the theme is developed. Transitions connect ideas between and within paragraphs (*To begin, Later on, The theme is once again*). Sentence variety (*Each story displays an important message, or theme, that is developed throughout the story*) and precise word choice (*significant, valuable, terrified*) maintain an effective style.

In "The Sword of Damocles," the author does a great way of describing the theme of the story. He builds up little moments that create the theme in a perfect way. He starts out by introducing the characters thoughts. Damocles thinks that the king has the dream life because he gets whatever he wants. The king made him share his thoughts with everyone at the table. The king decides to let him see what its like to be king for an hour. The first couple minuets of being king were nice. He had everyone waiting on him hand and foot, adjusting his pillows and what-not. That relaxation ended pretty quickly. When he looked above him, he saw a needle sharp sword dangling above his head by what seemed like a horse hair. This had shocked him. He knew if he had moved even an inch, the sword would fall. Suddenly, the king apeared and gave Damocles a stern talking to. He got to give him a long lecture because he basically had him trapped. He explained that its not that easy to be king, at any given moment the sword could fall because of something little. In the end, Damocles learned to be thankful of what he has, and not be jealous of what he doesn't.

In "The Eighteenth Camel," the author took their time when leading up to the theme. The author talked about how a weathy man gave his seventeen camels to three heirs. He gave them an interesting riddle to firkue out how many camels each of them got. Before he died he quoted, "The first heir was to get half the camels, the second a third, and the third heir... one-ninth of the lot." That would mean that the first heir would get eight and half camels, the second would get five and two thirds, and the third one would only get one and eight-ninths camels. People were very confused by this. One of the heirs suggested that we kill some of them to make it even. She thought it was the only way. People all around town got very angry. Untill one day a lady came and offererd one of her camels to the heirs. Her camel made the total eighteen, an easier numer to divide by. They were finally able to figue out how many camels each person got. The heirs were overjoyed with the lady. When they were done, there was still one camel left. This supprised everyone. The lady didn't recive, of lose anymore then she had come with. In the end, people learned that sometimes you just need a little something extra to figue out what needs to be done.

Score

Anchor Paper 3

Reading Comprehension and Written Expression

Score Point 3

The response demonstrates comprehension of how themes are developed in each of the passages by providing a mostly accurate analysis (*In the end, people learned that sometimes you just need a little something extra to figure out what needs to be done*), using mostly clear reasoning and text-based evidence in the development of the topic (*The first couple minuets of being king were nice. . . . He knew if he had moved even an inch, the sword would fall [and] Untill one day a lady came and offererd one of her camels to the heirs*). The response is organized with mostly clear and coherent writing that paraphrases action in the passages and explains how that action led to the development of the theme in each story. Transitions between ideas and paragraphs contribute to the organization of the response, along with some sentence variety and precise word choice (*give him a long lecture, He gave them an interesting riddle, overjoyed*), creating a mostly effective style.

The themes from both "The Sword of Damocles" and "The Eighteenth Camel" are approached differently and are approached in the same way. The story "The Sword of Damocles" is about a jealous courtier who gets the chance in becoming the king of the palace but then awaits the challenges of being the ruler and the understanding of what power he has in his hands. The passage "The Eighteenth Camel" is about a wealthy woman who gives her camel to three heirs arguing about how many camels they traded. At the end, both characters in the passage gave something away, got lesson taught, and got back what they gave.

Both passages share the common theme of being happy with what you have. The themes was also approached in similar ways. Both passages show wealthy people who decide to give away something that is very expensive or important. According to the text "The Sword of Damocles", " 'At this feast, you shall occupy my place and wear my crown.'" (The Sword of Damocles 4) It can be inferred that the king is giving away a very important position to the courtier. As stated in the text, "... she offered the heirs one of her own camels in hopes of resolving the dispute." (The Eighteenth Camel 4) In both passages people have given up something for someone else. Both the heirs and the courtier gave back what they received.

Even though both passages share the common theme of being happy with what you have, the are still approached differently. As stated in the text, " Still, Damocles sat with eyes transfixed on the menacing sword above his head." (The Sword of Damocles 11) In the story the man is jealous of the king, and when he finds out that if he were to misuse the power given, a sword would come plunging into his head. In the other text it states, "To their surprise, they found out that there was one camel remaining. So they returned her camel to the woman with their thanks." (The Eighteenth Camel 6) In this story they were arguing over camels until a wealthy lady spared one. After she gave it the three heirs, they realized that they did not need it so they gave it back.

Both characters in the passages gave something away, got a lesson taught, and got back what they gave away. In the passage "The Sword of Damocles" the ruler of a palace gives his powers to a courtier who does not know how to handle it. In the passage "The Eighteenth Camel" a wealthy woman gives away a free camel to people who can not split their camels evenly. At the end, both passages share a common theme that unfolds throughout both passages.

Score

Anchor Paper 4

Reading Comprehension and Written Expression

Score Point 3

The response demonstrates comprehension of how themes in each passage are developed by using mostly clear reasoning and by providing a mostly accurate analysis (*At the end, both characters in the passage gave something away, got lesson taught, and got back what they gave* *Both passages share the common theme of being happy with what you have*). Support is provided by relevant text-based evidence in the development of the topic (*you shall occupy my place and wear my crown. . . . she offered the heirs one of her own camels in hopes of resolving the dispute*). Mostly clear and coherent writing, along with transitional elements between and among paragraphs, contribute to maintaining a mostly organized response. A mostly effective style is maintained by providing some variety in sentence construction, although the attempt to equate characters, action, and theme between the two passages sometimes makes for some repetitiveness in word choice (*The themes from both, At the end, both characters, Even though both passages*).

The theme in each story is developed by both stories having a problem or dispute. For example, in "The Sword of the Damocles", Damocles is envious of the king, he thinks that if he had power, he would be about to have everything he every wanted. He thought that if he had power, he didn't have to worry about anything. In "The Eighteenth Camel", there are three heirs who are having a dispute about splitting camels that a wealthy Bedouin owned, between the three of them. This is where both stories take a different turn, where something happens that puts them on the right track to learning a lesson. In "The Sword of the Damocles" Damocles was given the gift of beginning about to have everything he wanted for a certain period of time. "The Eighteenth Camel" has a woman that was kind enough to give the heirs one extra camel so they will be able to split it equally. Finally both of the stories characters learned a valuable, in "The Sword of the Damocles" Damocles learns from the king that great power comes great responsibility. In "The Eighteenth Camel" the three heirs figure out how to split the camels themselves and from a bit of kindness, they were able to resolve the dispute, learning that giving a bit of kindness can help.

Score

Anchor Paper 5

Reading Comprehension and Written Expression

Score Point 2

The response demonstrates basic comprehension by providing a generally accurate analysis of how the theme of each passage is developed. Although there is some development of the topic and some reasoning of how each theme is developed, the text-based evidence is mostly summarized rather than supported with relevant examples (*Damocles is envious if the king, he thinks that if he had power, he would be about to have everything he every wanted. He thought that if he had power, he didn't have to worry about anything*). The response demonstrates some organization and coherence. An introductory sentence is followed by ideas grouped around each story, with a concluding sentence that summarizes themes in a comparative manner (*Finally both of the stories characters learned a valuable Damocles learns from the king that great power comes great responsibility. In "The Eighteenth Camel", the three heirs figure out how to split the camels themselves . . . learning that giving a bit of kindness can help*). The response has a style that is somewhat effective and includes ideas and phrases that help to clarify meaning (*The theme in each story is developed by both stories having a problem or dispute. . . . Damocles is envious if the king, he thinks that if he had power, he would be about to have everything he every wanted*).

Generosity Can Become A Lesson That Is Learned

The story, "The Sword of Damocles", is very powerful towards readers due to the message that is being explained! The theme of "The Sword of Damocles", is don't take power for granted. I believe this because Damocles which is the man who thought power meant happiness and everything in that nature. Although when King Dionysius put his gold crown on Damocles, Damocles felt powerful and happy it states, "That evening Dionysius, true to his word, removed his golden crown, set it upon Damocles' head, and escorted him to the royal seat at the head table". It states again in the text, "Damocles was giddy to his new power. He gorged himself on the delicacies that were set before him and ordered his cushions rearranged each time he shifted." as you can see Damocles was so excited about his new power.

In Conclusion, in the text when it prints how Damocles saw the sword hanging upon a string he was scared to even move an inch! King Dionysius explains that the sword hanging just above him wields among who has great power. In the text it states, "King Dionysius strode to the end of the table and took Damocles by the arm. "Until you learn that power carries with it not only privilege but responsibility," said the king, "you had better remain in your usual seat." He escorted Damocles to the foot of the table, place the crown back on his own head, and resumed his rightful place without so much as a glance at the sword, which still dangled from the ceiling." As you can see, after Damocles found out the true meaning of power he understood he in the happiest man alive even in the place that he's in.

The folktale "The Eighteenth Camel" is a story that shows a lesson in the place of its theme. The theme of this story is being generous can improve situations. I think this because when the heirs couldn't figure out how many camels to have. Therefore in the text it states, "Now, in the area lived a wealthy Arabian woman. Distressed by

the quarreling, she offered the heirs one of her own camels in hopes of resolving the dispute." as the text went on her generosity helped the heirs mete the camels. it states, "Without her camel, the inheritance would not have been peacefully resolved. Though it would seem that she had done nothing-for she had neither lost nor gained an animal-she was what is sometimes needed to bring about an action . . . a catalyst. In conclusion you can tell generosity can improve situations.

Score

Anchor Paper 6

Reading Comprehension and Written Expression

Score Point 2

The response addresses the prompt and provides some development of the topic that is somewhat appropriate to the task. One story is analyzed more thoroughly than the other. The response also provides a generally accurate analysis of how the themes are developed (. . . *after Damocles found out the true meaning of power he understood he in the happiest man alive even in the place that hes in [and] . . . generosity can improve situations*), demonstrating basic comprehension. Generally relevant text-based evidence is present (. . . *in the text when it prints how Damocles saw the sword hanging upon a string he was scared to even move an inch! King Dionysius explains that the sword hanging just above him wields among who has great power*). Though transitions are often used successfully, the second paragraph begins with what is normally used to conclude an entire response (*In conclusion*). In this case, it is used to conclude thoughts about the first story rather than the entire essay. There are some imprecise word choices and some sentence variety (*The story, "The Sword of Damocles", is very powerful towards readers due to the message that is being explained! [and] King Dionysius explains that the sword hanging just above him wields among who has great power*), demonstrating a style that is somewhat effective.

In "The Sword of Damocles" Damocles was thinking about the King. He thought the King was so lucky to get whatever he wanted. That the king was wealthy and the happiest person in the world. The King asked Damocles to share what he was thinking about to the table. Damocles did that and the king decided to make Damocles King for the day. He would get all the special attention. When he sat down to get his crown he looked up and saw a sword. Then the king said that a jealous courtier may cause the sword to fall. Then the king said "Until you learn that power carries with it not only privilege but responsibility."

In "The Eighteenth Camel" it's about wealthiness too. The amount of camels you have shows how wealthy you are. The heirs had one camel remaining. They had to split it between 3 people. They started to get angry. One lady saw them fighting and offered one of her camels. They found there was one camel remaining so they returned it to the women.

Both stories show you have to appreciate what you have. That you shouldn't be jealous because of what others have you don't.

Score

Anchor Paper 7

Reading Comprehension and Written Expression

Score Point 1

The response demonstrates limited comprehension by providing a minimal analysis of how a theme is developed in each of the stories (*you have to appreciate what you have. That you shouldn't be jealous because of what others have you don't*). Development and reasoning are limited because of few supporting details (*. . . the king decided to make Damocles King for the day. He would get all the special attention. When he sat down to get his crown he looked up and saw a sword*). Limited vocabulary and sentence variety result in a style that is minimally effective (*That you shouldn't be jealous because of what others have you don't*).

In the short story "The Sword of Damocles" the theme is introduced in paragraph 8 when Damocles finds the sword over his head. He learns that the the king isn't the happiest man in the world because he has many responsibilities. Damocles then learns that he is the happiest man in the world because he doesn't have the responsibilities of the king.

In the short story "The Eighteenth Camel" the theme is introduced in paragraph 4 when the wealthy generous lady gave the 3 men a camel so they could stop fighting.

Score

Anchor Paper 8

Reading Comprehension and Written Expression

Score Point 1

The response demonstrates limited comprehension of how a theme is developed in each passage by offering a minimally developed analysis (*he learns that the king isn't the happiest man in the world because he has many responsibilities [and] . . . the wealthy generous lady gave the 3 men a camel so they could stop fighting*). Development and reasoning are limited because of minimal supporting details (*. . . the theme is introduced in paragraph 8 when Damocles finds the sword over his head*). Organization and coherence are limited. Limited word choice (*learns, happiest, responsibilities*) and repetitive sentence variety result in a style that is minimally effective (*In the short story*).

in the 2 passages that i just read i noticed that the theme is pretty much the same in each story. In "The Sword of Damocles" the king lets Damocles be king for a short period of time, only to show him that you should never only want good fortune and wealth. he says that there will always be a sword over the heads of those who are greedy. And in "The Eighteenth Camel" the heirs are fighting to see who gets the camel so a woman gives them her camel when they find that they did not need the extra camel. the woman was not greedy.

Score

Anchor Paper 9

Reading Comprehension and Written Expression

Score Point 0

The response does not demonstrate comprehension of how the themes are developed in each story. An attempt is made to address the prompt, but the textual references either support a misunderstanding of the theme (*he says that there will always be a sword over the heads of those who are greedy*), or do not contribute to the synthesis of the story events to identify the theme (*the woman was not greedy*). The fundamental misunderstandings here render this response inappropriate to the task.

One theme we all could learn from both stories is that both have generosity involved in the stories. One theme they both have is being kind can lead to success.

Score
Anchor Paper 10
Reading Comprehension and Written Expression
Score Point 0
This response does not demonstrate comprehension of the ideas. There is an attempt to address the prompt (<i>One theme we could all learn from the stories is that both have generosity envolved</i>), but no analysis or text-based evidence is provided. Therefore, the response lacks coherence and appropriate style.

Practice Set

P101 - P105

No Annotations Included

In The Sword of Damocles, Damocles wants to be the king. He does not realize that being king is not fun. In The Eighteenth Camel the three heirs that are greedy and don't want to share their camels because they are prized possessions. Both stories are about underestimating

Damocles from The Sword of Damocles thinks that since the king gets what ever he wants that he is happy. He then tells the king that he must be happy and the king tells him that he gets to be the king for the night. Damocles looked at what was his for the night, then he looks up and sees a sword hanging by a thread and it is above his head that could fall at any moment. He realizes that the king is not happy and that he should be glad that he is not the king every day.

In The Eighteenth Camel The king gives his three heirs his camels which are prized possessions. The first heir gets half of the camels, the second heir gets one third of the camels and the third heir gets one ninth. The heirs only get seventeen camels to split up evenly. The heirs get another camel and then have one left over and realize that they did not need to fight because they ended up with one extra camel.

The articles both have a very good meaning to them both. In the first story, it shows a lesson on how you need to appreciate the things and people you have in life. In the second story, it teaches that something that is so little can end up in a spectacular way.

The two passages, "The Sword of Damocles," and, "The Eighteenth Camel," both develop a theme. The theme of "The Sword of Damocles," is with power come responsibilities. This central idea is developed from the beginning of the story and is evident between the middle and the end. On the other hand, the theme of "The Eighteenth Camel" is being generous can improve situations. This theme is also developed from the beginning of the story, however, only evident in the end of the story.

The story, "The Sword of Damocles," has a protagonist who learns that with power come responsibilities. At first, Damocles thought that being the king and being wealthy was easy, because the king could do whatever he desired. Alternatively, the main character learns that being the king has its privileges, however, it requires grand responsibility. He learns this theme between the middle and the end of the passage. This significant idea is developed from the beginning of the story, when Damocles is daydreaming. The text inquires, "'I was thinking that you must be the happiest man alive, Sire,' stammered Damocles. 'You eat only the finest food, you have riches beyond measure, your subjects wait to do your bidding-'" . This is in the very beginning of the story, where the theme begins to develop. In the end of the story, the text states, "'Until you learn that power carries with it not only privilege but responsibility,' said the king, 'you had better remain in your usual seat.'" This is when the protagonist, Damocles finally learns his lesson. Therefore, the theme is developed throughout the whole story, and evident between the middle and the end.

The passage, "The Eighteenth Camel," teaches the reader a very significant theme of being generous can solve disputes. Described in the story, three heirs are having a dispute about how they cannot evenly divide the number of camels so that no one has to take part of a camel. A very kind woman offers to add a camel to the seventeen so that there are eighteen camels to be divided. This solves the three heirs' issue. This is when they realize that being generous, like the woman, can solve issues. The three heirs learn this theme in the end of the story. This central idea is developed from the beginning of the story, similar to "The Sword of Damocles." The text clarifies, "A tale is told of a certain wealthy Bedouin who, upon his death, left seventeen camels to be divided among three heirs. The first heir was to get half of the camels, the second a third, and the third heir...one-ninth of the lot." Clearly,

seventeen cannot be divided by half, a third, and one-ninth without killing several camels so that the heirs receive whole camels and part of one.

At the end of the story, a very generous woman offers to add one camel to the seventeen, which solves their problem. The text explains, "Now, in the area lived a wealthy Arabian woman. Distressed by the quarreling, she offered the heirs one of her own camels in hopes of resolving the dispute." This shows that the kind woman resolved their issue because they could evenly divide up eighteen camels without having a problem. In the end, the three heirs finally learned that being generous can solve problems. This central idea was developed throughout the story, starting at the beginning, and it was evident at the end of the story.

The theme of "The Sword of Damocles," is that with being royal, come many responsibilities. On the other hand, the central idea of "The Eighteenth Camel" is that being generous can solve issues. The themes of both passages are developed throughout the story, starting at the beginning; however, the themes of both stories are evident to the reader towards the end.

in the sword of damocles the theme is developed by the king slowly but surely teaching him a lesson because at first he tells him that he can have everything that he has for a few hours then when the time was up he showed him that when having responsibility there is fun that comes with it but one wrong move and that sword falls.

and in the story the eighteen camel the theme is developed at the very end when it is all up to her to make a choice and that just goes to show you that it not just going off and doing something that can change your whole life its also the decision you make.

There were big themes and lessons in both The Sword of Damocles and in The Eighteenth Camel. Both themes and lessons were very important and meant a lot. Well in my opinion they meant a lot and a lot of people could learn from them.

The first story im going to start with is The Sword of Damocles. The main idea mainly is saying how Damocles is either jealous or dislikes Dionysius because of his power and wealth. So Damocles wants that power and wants to know what it feels like being wealthy and powerful. Thats when Dionysius lets Damocles have the throne and power for a day. Just so he would know what it feels like. Thats when the theme and lesson come in. Because while Damocles has his power he notices a sword above his head. So Dionysius tells him what it means and it means, "a jealous courtier, any one of these might sever the thread and cause the sword to come plunging down." So that of course scared Damocles. And just from that sword hanging over his head, he didnt want the power or wealth anymore. So just from that he learned that you have to earn power and with power comes great responsibility and power and wealth isnt easy. Thats the lesson and theme of The Sword of Damocles.

The second story is, The Eighteenth Camel. The main idea mainly is that there were 17 camels left to split upon 3 heirs. But everyone would get like half of one or something like that, so there was much cayos. But then a lady who wasnt poor nor rich offered one of her camels. So that one camel changed everything. Thats how the theme and lesson is developed in this story. By a lady offering her camel so there wouldnt be cayos. And that one camel brought great peace and all 3 heirs were fare then. But then it turned out there was an extra camel. So they gave the lady her camle back with great thanks, so she didnt lose or gain anything. But she did gain respect because of her true kindness. So the theme and lesson for that story was that being generous and kind can improve situations.

Those are the lessons and themes for both storys, ones that can teach you a lot.

Practice Set

(Order of Scores: Reading Comprehension and Written Expression, Conventions)

Paper	Score
P101	2,2
P102	0,1
P103	4,3
P104	1,0
P105	3,2