



English 8: Reading: Module 2: Lesson 1: Section 4

Compare/Contrast Themes and Genres in Literary Texts

Responding to “A Man to Send Rain Clouds”

Instructions: This graphic organizer is intended to help you analyze how historical and cultural settings in the Silko story interact with characters in the story. Use the boxes provided to record your responses. When you are finished, click on the “Sample Responses” button to see possible responses to the questions.

Guiding Questions for Historical Settings	Responses/Inferences/Conclusions
When does the story take place?	
What elements of this time period might affect the characters’s beliefs or values?	
How is the historical setting reflected in the characters’ reactions?	
Guiding Questions for Cultural Settings	Responses/Inferences/Conclusions
Name some details that reflect the culture of the society.	
What are the characters’s reactions to the cultural setting?	
What are some of the characters’s conflicts and resolutions?	
How are the values and beliefs of Teofilo’s family influenced by the historical and cultural settings?	

Sample Responses



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Guiding Questions for Historical Settings	Responses/Inferences/Conclusions
When does the story take place?	The story takes place in modern times.
What elements of this time period might affect the characters’s beliefs or values?	The characters cling to the ancient traditional beliefs as they prepare the body for burial.
How is the historical setting reflected in the characters’ reactions?	The old man’s family doesn’t tell the Catholic priest initially, choosing instead to use traditional methods of burial preparation. It’s not until they have finished the traditional rites that they ask the priest to come and sprinkle holy water. The family is combining traditional ways with the modern ways.
Guiding Questions for Cultural Settings	Responses/Inferences/Conclusions
Name some details that reflect the culture of the society.	The description of the burial preparation reflects that American Indians still believe that old, traditional ways are important.
What are the characters’s reactions to the cultural setting?	The man’s family seems to think that what they are doing is the normal way. The priest feels that they aren’t doing things the right way.
What are some of the characters’s conflicts and resolutions?	The priest seems to reach some sort of resolution by going to the cemetery, and the family finds a resolution of their conflict with nature by sending the old man on his way in a manner that will ensure rain for them.
How are the values and beliefs of Teofilo’s family influenced by the historical and cultural settings?	The influence of the historical and cultural setting on the values of Teofilo’s family are apparent as they prepare the old man’s body for burial believing that his burial and the ancient traditional rites associated with it will bring rain to their pueblo.