New England Common Assessment Program

Student Work Samples
2008

Grade 11

Reading

7

This poem touches the meaning of this theme many times. Even the title, "Women who carre before us" infers honor to previous generations. The author first talks of her mother, the closest generation, and the importance of her mother in saying "Speak up. Say what you mean" giving her strength and courage. Next she spoke of grand mothers, citing thier hardship and lifelong experience, and how it bred compassion. The author also explains why this theme is important to her, as her connections guided her through rough times "Women always gripped my hand ... led me through the city crowds" Finally, the author speaks on how her connections influenced her life, and therefore influenced her writing, "Poems would take me past my borders. Back to the women who wear my name"

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This poem has lots of themes throughout it but one of them is her connection with previous generations. In this poem she talks mostly about her mom and grandmother and how those two women lead her through life and made sure that she wasn't set a sway. Also and what life was like a long time ago for her mother and grandmother, and by them suffering they made her life better over time. "our mothers stirred potatoes and herbs in a pot on the stove." "Our grandmothers hurt in their knees and their necks. The world was not easy for them." She just pretty much saying that if it wasn't for her grandmother, and mothers courage and discipline that she wouldn't be here today, or be half the person she is today.

7

This Poem explores Connection when She wrote "women always gripped my hand. They led me through the City Crowds." That message means that She is looking to women to help her became a women. Another message that shows Connection is when the Grandma said " You want that doll?, You'll get that doll." I think that message means that the Grandma wants her to be happy and enjoy life.

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In this poem she connects the past with the present. she talks about her grandmother and mother who guided her through life.

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The poem explores this theme because the author intended it to.

12

Many ancient civilizations were not discovered until the 20th century. Machu Picchu is one of these. One of the reasons that Machu Picchu remained "lost" for so long was because the way to arrive at this area was very dangerous. Hiram Bingham, the explorer who helped discover Machu Picchu, had to cross a "precarious, slippery bridge" that he "crawled across on his hands and knees." He also had to "climb up a steep, wet, snake-infested trail." These challenges were numerous and difficult. Also, other explorers may not had been as motivated as Hiram Bingham when many people would have halted their journey, Bingham continued on with the help of a 10-year-old boy. The fact that he took his motto from Rudyard Kipling's poem that starts "Something hidden. Go and find it." proves that Bingham was determined to discover Machu Picchu. Machu Picchu may have been "lost" for so many years because of the dangerous path leading to it and the lack of determination of other explorers.

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Machu Picchu remained lost for centuries. This is because of two main reasons. One reason is that everyone who lived there died, therefore nobody was around to know it existed at all. The other reason for Machu Picchu remaining lost is simple; the terrain was extremely dangerous. This excerpt from the passage explains the one danger, "The first challenge was crossing the Urubamba on a precarious, slippery bridge made of a few logs lashed together." The harsh terrain coupled with the fact that these ruins were so far away in the forest kept the Machu Picchu lost for so long.

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The Reasons why Machu Picchu remained lost for a long time is because it is a dangerous place between two rivers and the bridge had a few logs lashed together and it was slippery. There was also a steep, wet, snake-infested trail. This is why Machu Picchu remained lost.

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Machu Picchu remained lost
for so long because no
one had the ambition to find
the capital like Hiram Bingham
had and wanted to do.

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His remains were not lost, he burried them to keep them safe through out all the battles and when he lost the empire. Then his people could return secretly and dig them up so they would be wealthy once again.

17

Birmingham possessed many qualities that made him a successful explorer. He possessed stamina and dedication. To be able to travel "to the places where history had been made" and to not just sit home and read books is an amazing quality. It got him interested in the subject more so than many other things. Birmingham also possessed determination. After he had gotten the assistence of the tavernkeeper, the rest of his group did not want to go. He insisted, however, on going even though his group did not have "much faith in the Tavernkeeper's story". On the trip as well, they had to cross a very dangerous and delicate bridge. He may have "crawled across on his hands and knees," but he did it just the same, and in the end, the reward was wonderful.

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Bingham was a successful explorer because he would travel great lengths to find something. When he was interested in something he went for it. He climbed huge moutains, snakefilled trails, unstable bridges, just to get to that one place he wanted to get to. He loved to travel and had a passion about every place he visited. He loved what he did. When he reached the place he was looking for he was in awe. He didn't care that it was in ruins. It was still beautiful to him. You need all these thing to be an Explorer, a great one at that! Passion leads you to the places you want to go.

17

One of the qualities that makes him a sucessful explorer is that he goes for what he wants. He doesn't hold back because other people think that it is a bad idea. Like when the other people on the expedition didn't think that the place he was going would be anything. But they were wrong and he made a huge discovery. He's willing to look for something until he finds it not just until he get tired of looking for it.

17

Bingham was a successful explorer because of his bravery, curiosity, and motivation. Bingham did not fear the tall peaks or snake infested trails, he continued onward and unward on his journey unphased. He was curious and motivated by his interest in history to explore and discover the ruins.

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Bingham was a successful explorer because he stuck to a goal. He also made several trips throughout his life.

⑰ the Bingham was big & had big places to live.