

Reading For Deeper Meaning

Directions: Read the following excerpt from *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* and answer the questions that follow.

“You were born blessed, boy, with land of your own. If you hadn’t been, you’d cry out for it while you try to survive... like Mr. Lanier and Mr. Avery. Maybe even do what they doing now. It’s hard on a man to give up, but sometimes it seems there just ain’t nothing else he can do.”

“I... I’m sorry, Papa,” Stacey muttered.

After a moment, Papa reached out and draped his arm over Stacey’s shoulder.

“Papa,” I said, standing to join them, “we giving up too?”

Papa looked down at me and brought me closer, then waved his hand toward the drive. “You see that fig tree over yonder, Cassie? Them other trees all around... that oak and walnut, they’re a lot bigger and they take up more room and give so much shade they almost overshadow that little ole fig. But that fig tree’s got roots that run deep, and it belongs in that yard as much as that oak and walnut. It keeps blooming, bearing fruit year after year, knowing all the time it’ll never get as big as them other trees. Just keeps on growing and doing what it gotta do. It don’t give up. It give up, it’ll die. There’s a lesson to be learned from that little tree, Cassie girl, ‘cause we’re like it. We keep doing what we gotta do, and we don’t give up. We can’t.”

After reading this text, what can you infer about Papa’s character? Create a list of six character traits that describe this man.

What is Papa trying to teach his children in this passage?



I can analyze how particular portions of a text reveal aspects of a character and affect a story.

Analogies are often used to teach a lesson.

Consider the analogy of the fig tree that Papa used. Choose one of the following topics and explain how that same analogy might be applied to that topic. You will need to explain the situation, which will require you to add details to the topic.

Topics:

- Homeless 8th grader competes for academic scholarship
- Mentally impaired freshman works hard and earns a C+ in general Biology
- Local hardware store stays in business for 50 years
- Handicapped student on basketball team
- Student with Down Syndrome awarded the MVP on the football team
- 8th grader continues to do what's right, despite losing special privileges due to classmates' poor behavior

Remember, you must explicitly state what each element of the analogy represents (ex: the fig tree represents _____ because _____).

Use additional pages if necessary.



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