

Suggested Answers

Activity 1: Plot Diagram

Stage	Event
Exposition	Richard purposely misfires while hunting the deer. He writes a poem about it.
Rising Action	Richard is inspired by the poem <i>Trees</i> by Joyce Kilmer. He writes to Kilmer and develops a relationship. The Schermers also provide support to Richard's love for poetry.
Climax	Mr. Kilmer is killed in the war. Richard is in shock.
Falling Action	With Kilmer's death, Richard writes a poem about his hero. The Schermers suggested that he submits the poem to <i>The Turtle Lake Weekly</i> .
Resolution	Pa tells Richard about the loss of Uncle Ronald. From then on, the father and son grow closer.

Accept any relevant answers.

Activity 2: Describing Characters

Character	Trait	Evidence
Richard Knight	Poetic	He composes poems about nature from his imagination.
	Sensitive	He holds back his tears when his grandfather kills a deer.
Hannah Schermer	Intelligent	She helps Richard with his poetry and wins the essay competition.
	Well-travelled	She has been to many cities around the world including London, Paris and Berlin.
Pa	Understanding	He gives Richard the option to not go hunting after his son purposely missed shooting the buck.
	Practical/Caring	He makes sure that Gus completes his studies for a better future.

Character	Trait	Evidence
Joyce Kilmer	Patriotic	He enlists in the army to be a soldier.
	Encouraging	He supports and encourages Richard to write poetry.
Angie Knight	Responsible	She tends to the family and the farm after the death of her mother.
	Perceptive	She knows that her father is troubled because he has lost his wife and brother.

Accept any relevant answers.

Activity 3: Themes

Theme	Evidence
The challenges of growing up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Richard has problems fitting into society and has difficulty communicating with Pa. b) Hannah has problems settling into the new environment because she has to endure the pain of being snubbed and rejected by her classmates.
Love among family members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Pa loves his children but seldom shows his affection for them as he is quiet most of the time. b) Angie is the 'bonding' factor in the family. She understands Pa is still in pain over the loss of his wife and brother. c) Richard is able to find some solace in Angie when he needs someone to listen to him.
Friendship and humanity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Richard confronts his peers when he finds out that Hannah is upset by the words 'Dirty Hun' which were written on her book. b) When Hannah turns down the role of Lady Liberty, Richard supports her by doing the same with his role as Doughboy.
Patriotism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Mrs. Hansen organises many programmes by selling the Liberty Bond to finance the war. b) The Schermers ration their food by eating small pieces of meat as a symbol of sympathy for allied soldiers fighting in the war.

Accept any relevant answers.

Activity 4: Lessons Learnt

Lesson Learnt	Evidence
Family relationship	Pa opposes Gus going to war because he worries about his safety.
The gift of friendship	Richard shows his support for Hannah she was rejected by their classmates.
Courage and resilience	Richard has the courage to sign the card to express sympathy for the Schermers even though he is the only one to do so and will have to face the class bullies later.
Love for the country	Mr. Kilmer volunteers to join the army to fight for his country despite being aware of the danger and hardship he will have to endure.

Accept any relevant answers.

Activity 5: SPM Practice 1

Outline:

1. Name the novel and the author you have chosen.
2. Name the character you admire.
3. Provide reasons for your choice. (personal)
4. Provide evidence from the novel to support your comments.

Suggested Points:

- *Dear Mr. Kilmer* by Anne Schraff
- Mrs. Hansen, a strict but dedicated English teacher
- She makes her lessons interesting and creative
- She supports Richard's love of poetry
- She shows sympathy for the Schermers when their house was vandalised

Accept any relevant answers.

Activity 6: SPM Practice 2

Outline:

1. Name the novel and the author you have chosen.
2. State the theme clearly.
3. Provide explanations/ justifications.
4. Support your answers with evidence from the novel

Suggested Points:

- The novel, *Dear Mr. Kilmer* by Anne Schraff
- The relationship between young farm boy named Richard and his father, Pa
- Richard is a responsible boy and performs his tasks on the farm but dislikes hunting
- Richard prefers to write poetry, but when Richard asks whether his family members want to read his poems, nobody is interested
- Father and son become close when Pa reads Richard's tribute to Mr. Kilmer, the poet. This opens the relationship between Richard and Pa
- Richard continues writing poems about farm life for the local newspaper and gets Pa's help as an experienced farmer
- Pa finally supports Richard's passion for writing poetry

Accept any relevant answers.

Bibliography

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