



ELA Virtual Learning

English III

May 20th, 2020



Grade/Course
Lesson: May 20th, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

- Determine a theme in text and relate the themes to human nature and the world
- Evaluate how an author's work reflects his or her cultural and historical perspective

Bell Ringer



Describe a time you were in a new or unfamiliar place by yourself. This could be moving to a new school, a new house, with a different group of friends, a new job, etc.

How did you feel? Were you nervous? Anxious? A little scared? Did you feel like an outsider or like you didn't belong? Be detailed.

Learn

America has often been described as “the melting pot”. Meaning, our society is filled with hundreds of different cultures, backgrounds, races and heritages. American Literature is beginning to broaden allowing new voices and cultures to be recognized through their writing and story-telling. Literature from immigrants is becoming incredibly popular and forces the reader to view America through the perspective of a “newcomer”. Often they feel scared, excited and sad to be leaving the roots grown in their homeland and mix their writing with emotions exploring how they feel in a new country. One of these groups are Arab-Americans.

Learn

Naomi Shihab Nye is an Arab-American woman and famous for her poetry.

Although she was born in St. Louis, Missouri, her father was a Palestinian Refugee who moved to the United States. Naomi Shihab Nye spent her childhood and teenage years in San Antonio, Texas and Jerusalem.

Read [“A Palestinian Might Say”](#). What lesson or message is she wanting her reader to learn?

Practice

Some themes:

A home is a place we decide to belong,
regardless of where we live.

It is easy for people to destroy or take our
homes.

Everyone has a desire to grow roots in one
place.

How has Naomi Shihab Nye's cultural and
historical perspective influenced this
poem?



Practice Answer Key

(Answers will vary)

Check your answer to make sure it meets the following criteria:

- The response is written in complete sentences free of major spelling and grammatical errors.
- The response uses textual evidence to support your claims.
- The response includes a theme from the poem

See an example of a proficient answer on the next slide.

Sample Proficient Answer

“A Palestinian Might Say” by Naomi Shihab Nye explores the idea of homes and the emotions connected to the homes. A reader learns that a home is a place we decide to belong, regardless of where we live. This connects directly to Nye’s personal experience and perspective because she spent the majority of her childhood and adolescents traveling from San Antonio to Jerusalem. Nye has experienced the emotions connected to having two homes in two completely different continents. Nye writes, “You don’t feel at home in your country, almost overnight?” (New York Times, 2019). She wants others to understand the sadness and desperation that comes with having your home taken away.

Additional Resources

You can read more of Nye's poetry from the [Poetry Foundation](#).

Compare the themes from "A Palestinian Might Say" to the themes in other poems you explored.

You can also watch her perform her own poems on Youtube.

