

Grade 6—Targeted Standards Review—Week 2

Cisneros, Sandra. “Eleven.” *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories*. New York: Random House, 1991.

What they don't understand about birthdays and what they never tell you is that when you're eleven, you're also ten, and nine, and eight, and seven, and six, and five, and four, and three, and two, and one. And when you wake up on your eleventh birthday you expect to feel eleven, but you don't. You open your eyes and everything's just like yesterday, only it's today. And you don't feel eleven at all. You feel like you're still ten. And you are — underneath the year that makes you eleven.

Like some days you might say something stupid, and that's the part of you that's still ten. Or maybe some days you might need to sit on your mama's lap because you're scared, and that's the part of you that's five.

And maybe one day when you're all grown up maybe you will need to cry like if you're three, and that's okay. That's what I tell Mama when she's sad and needs to cry. Maybe she's feeling three.

Because the way you grow old is kind of like an onion or like the rings inside a tree trunk or like my little wooden dolls that fit one inside the other, each year inside the next one. That's how being eleven years old is.

You don't feel eleven. Not right away. It takes a few days, weeks even, sometimes even months before you say Eleven when they ask you. And you don't feel smart eleven, not until you're almost twelve. That's the way it is.

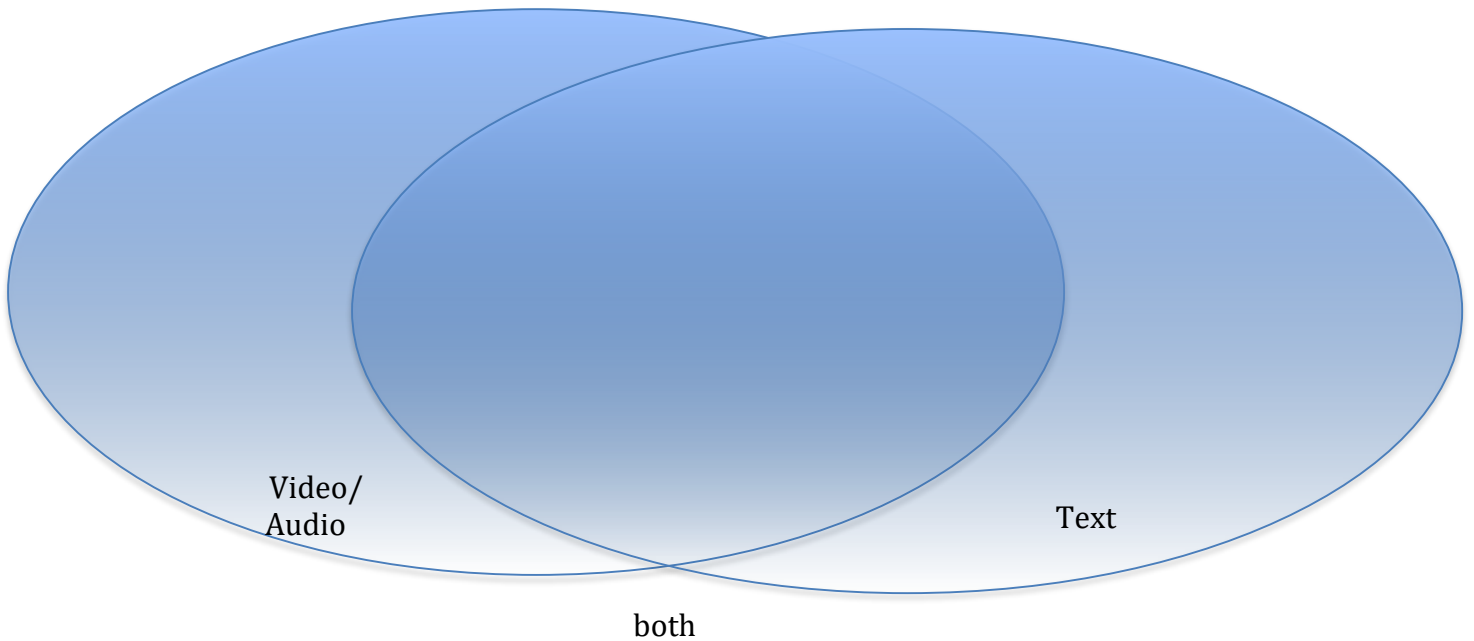
1. This excerpt from “Eleven” describes growing old in many different ways. Using evidence from the text, elaborate on at least two comparisons Sandra Cisneros makes in her musings about aging.

“What they don’t understand about birthdays and what they never tell you is that when you’re eleven, you’re also ten, and nine, and eight, and seven, and six, and five, and four, and three, and two, and one.”

2. In the first sentence of the excerpt reprinted above, why does the author count backwards from eleven rather than utilizing a more economical word choice?
 - a) The author is speaking in the voice of an eleven year old, and these word choices reflect the language of pre-teens.
 - b) The author needed to hit a particular word count in order to get her story published.
 - c) This word choice puts emphasis on all the different ages the narrator has already passed in order to foreshadow the central idea.
 - d) These words are part of a song.
3. To complete question three, show the first one minute, seven seconds of the following You Tube video (Sandra Cisneros’s reading “Eleven”):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FszzXG6e45E>

Use the Venn Diagram below to place the following words and phrases where they are most evident in either the text, the video, or both text and video.

- Central message
- Point of view
- Quotation marks
- Run on sentences indicate character is upset
- Setting
- Speaking faster indicates frustration
- Verbal cues help reader identify points author wishes to emphasize
- Voice changes such as in tone, inflection, or volume
- Word choice and figurative language give clues to important ideas



4. Birthdays are often thought of as joyous occasions, yet the tone of the narrator of “Eleven” is solemn; she seems disappointed with how being eleven is shaping up. Give evidence from the text to support this assertion. Choose all answers that apply.
- a) “You expect to feel eleven, but you don’t.”
 - b) “You don’t feel smart eleven . . . until you’re almost twelve.”
 - c) “The way you grow old is kind of like an onion...”
 - d) “What they never tell you...”
5. Which of the following provides the most objective summary of the text?

<p>“Eleven” is a story told by a spoiled little girl who is disappointed her birthday is not going as expected. For example, she expected to feel both older and smarter the day she turned eleven, but she reports the day “feels just like yesterday.”</p>	<p>“Eleven” is a narrative told by the point of view of an eleven-year-old. Upon realizing she doesn’t feel any different now that she’s a year older, the narrator reflects on the meaning of aging. She decides it can be compared to an onion, Russian nesting dolls, or the rings of a tree. People are always the age they currently have achieved and all the ages they’ve ever been, too.</p>
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6. **TEXT 2:** *Taylor Swift* by Taylor Swift

“I’ve apparently been the victim of growing up, which apparently happens to all of us at one point or another. It’s been going on for quite some time now, without me knowing it. I’ve found that growing up can mean a lot of things. For me, it doesn’t mean I should become somebody completely new and stop loving the things I used to love. It means I’ve just added more things to my list. Like for example, I’m still beyond obsessed with the winter season and I still start putting up strings of lights in September. I still love sparkles and grocery shopping and really old cats that are only nice to you half the time. I still love writing in my journal and wearing dresses all the time and staring at chandeliers. But some new things I’ve fallen in love with -- mismatched everything. Mismatched chairs, mismatched colors, mismatched personalities. I love spraying perfumes I used to wear when I was in high school. It brings me back to the days of trying to get a close parking spot at school, trying to get noticed by soccer players, and trying to figure out how to avoid doing or saying anything uncool, and wishing every minute of every day that one day maybe I’d get a chance to win a Grammy. Or something crazy and out of reach like that. ;) I love old buildings with the paint chipping off the walls and my dad’s stories about college. I love the freedom of living alone, but I also love things that make me feel seven again. Back then naivety was the norm and skepticism was a foreign language, and I just think every once in a while you need fries and a chocolate milkshake and your mom. I love picking up a cookbook and closing my eyes and opening it to a random page, then attempting to make that recipe. I’ve loved my fans from the very first day, but they’ve said things and done things recently that make me feel like they’re my friends -- more now than ever before. I’ll never go a day without thinking about our memories together.”

How are Text 1 and Text 2 similar in their approaches to theme? (Choose two.)

- a) Both authors believe that you need to act your age.
- b) Both authors see age as not simply defined by years passing.
- c) Both authors are reluctant to grow up.
- d) Both authors believe that “age” is a state of mind.