

# Mid-Unit 3 Assessment: Analyze Structure, Language, and Theme: “The Sculptor”

*(For Teacher Reference)*

## Part I

**Directions:** Read “The Sculptor” by Nikki Grimes in *One Last Word*. Then answer the following questions.

1. Read the following excerpt and answer the question below.

“No accident of **birth or race or place** determines the / scope of hope or dreams I have a right / to.”

What idea does the phrase **birth or race or place** communicate? (RL.7.4)

- a. that the speaker wishes she could be someone different
  - b. that the speaker won’t let others tell her what her identity is
  - c. that circumstances won’t stop the speaker from achieving her dreams
  - d. that the speaker needs to learn more about herself before achieving her dreams
2. Reread the following lines from “The Sculptor,” and answer the question that follows.

“I **inventory** my head and heart to weigh and measure what talents I might use to make my own tomorrow.”

What does **inventory** mean as it is used in this sentence? (L.7.4a)

- a. take count of
  - b. find fault with
  - c. ask others about
  - d. change the nature of
3. How does the title of the poem help convey the meaning of the poem? (RL.7.4)
- a. by suggesting that the poem is not finished
  - b. by suggesting the name of the speaker of the poem
  - c. by showing how others shape the speaker like a sculptor
  - d. by showing how the speaker compares herself to a sculptor

4. How does the line Grimes borrows from “Calling Dreams” relate to the ideas in the poem? (RL.7.4)
- by explaining why some people give up on their dreams
  - by showing how the speaker first discovered her dreams
  - by explaining why the speaker is doubtful about her dreams
  - by showing how everyone deserves the chance to realize their dreams

5. Reread the following lines and answer the question below:

“My father says hard work is the clay dreams are molded from. Yes. Molded.”

How does the structure of the poem contribute to its meaning? (RL.7.4, RL.7.5)

- The repeated words in the lines emphasize a point the speaker is making.
  - The short lines emphasize the feelings of anxiety the speaker has.
  - The narrative elements show how the speaker has changed.
  - The imagery shows how the speaker and the clay are hard.
6. What does the speaker mean that “dreams do not come”? (RL.7.4)
- She has stopped dreaming.
  - Dreams are not given to people.
  - She is waiting for her dreams to arrive.
  - Dreams are not important for everyone.

7. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

#### Part A

What is a theme of the poem? (RL.7.2)

- Dreams don’t always come true.
- It takes work to achieve dreams.
- Art is the best way to achieve dreams.
- You can’t only rely on yourself to achieve dreams.

#### Part B

How does the author develop the theme of the poem? (RL.7.2)

- by recalling a time when her dreams came true
- by listing all the dreams she wishes to accomplish
- by showing that sculptures and dreams are often misunderstood
- by comparing the process of realizing dreams to making a sculpture

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**Part II**

**Directions:** Reread “Calling Dreams” by Georgia Douglas Johnson in *One Last Word*. Then write a paragraph to answer the following question.

8. How does “The Sculptor” expand upon the themes in “Calling Dreams?” How does the line that Grimes chose for the Golden Shovel help demonstrate this connection? (RL.7.2, RL.7.4, RL.7.5)

Answers will vary, but may include: The poem “The Sculptor” develops a similar theme of being determined to achieve one’s dreams as in the poem “Calling Dreams.” In both poems, the speaker says she has a “right” to her “dreams.” The sentence that Grimes uses in the Golden Shovel develops this connection. Grimes uses the line “the right to make my dreams come true” (1). In this line, Johnson is saying that everyone, regardless of race, should be given the opportunity to achieve their dreams. Grimes develops this theme by comparing the work that goes into making dreams come true to the work a sculptor does by shaping clay into a sculpture. Also, the speaker of “The Sculptor” says “dreams do not come” (7). Both poets know that dreams take hard work and determination to realize.