

## Lesson- Literary Response

"The Test"

**Focus:** Define and exemplify the quote

**( Write to Learn/Questioning)**

*"It is your moments of decision that your destiny is shaped."*

-Tony Robbins

Students will write the quote and give their interpretation on paper and a possible application to real life.

Teacher asks: What does this quote mean and how can we apply to something in the world?

Think – Pair –share **(Classroom Talk)**

Class will share out in a 3 minute discussion.

**Lesson beginning:** Teacher will give a personal example to begin the lesson.

" A time when she went to buy a TV-the store assistant was very rude with the purchase- two were loaded in the car instead of one-and once she finds out at home - she must decide what to do.

**(Classroom Talk –whole group/Questioning/Scaffolding)**

Teacher will drive the conversation with questions like?

What should I do?

Take it back –Why??? Keep it??? Why? Can I justify keeping it?

What might be the consequences if I keep it ????

What might be the consequences if I return it?

How does this situation affect a wide range of people???

(store owners, consumer, our conscience, worker who made the mistake???)

Is there a difference between keeping the TV and keeping 10 cents you get back in accident from a cashier by mistake?

*A lot of questions can develop around honesty, ethics, and decision making.*

Middle Lesson – Read the short Story-“The TEST”

( A story about a shy studious girl who has a popular boyfriend and must make a decision when he asks her to cheat.

Stop in the middle of the story before she makes the decision to ask the students what they think Mercedes will do.

Ask for the evidence to back up their prediction. **(Questioning)**

Next – Use the Venn diagram, character chart, or question page to compare and contrast Mercedes and Carlos.

**(Scaffold)(Write to Learn) (Literacy Groups)(Collaborative Groups)**

Model an example, but assign the students to do this in a small group.

NEXT day go over the responses in the whole group with students presenting or teacher can meet with the small groups and do a check for understanding.

Day 2

Give students a list of quotes. Ask them to do the following task.

Each student chooses a quote to do.**(Write to Learn)**

After they complete the task they share their ideas with the others in the group.

**(Classroom Talk)(Collaborative Groups)(Scaffolding)**

The group chooses their two best examples and puts them on butcher paper.

The groups share out to the whole group. The whole group may offer their comments. **(Classroom Talk)**

**Use an organizer to make sure all parts are covered.**

Define the quote

Interpret the quote

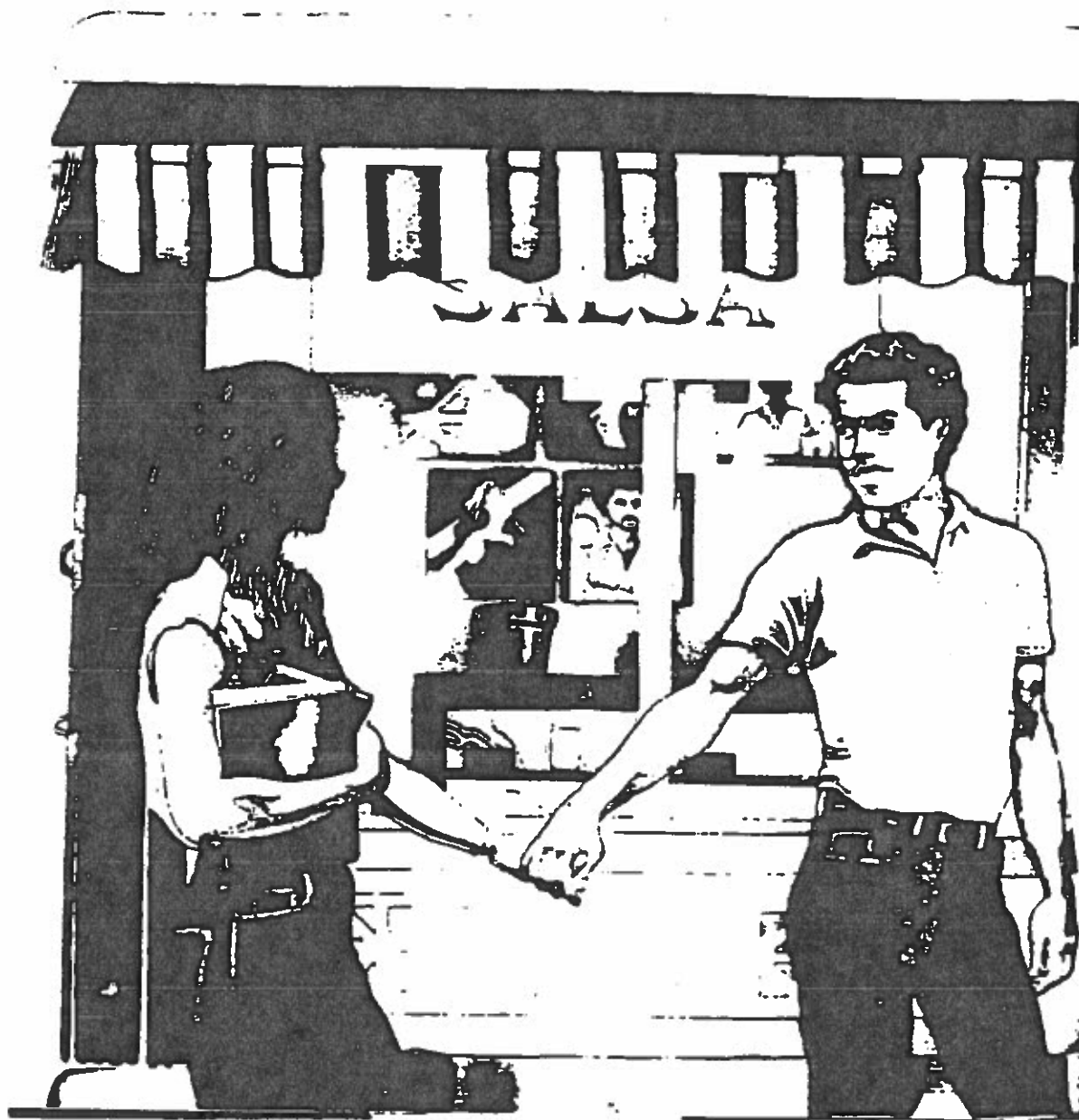
Give the application to the text.

State a real-life application.

# The Test

by Ina Claire Gabler

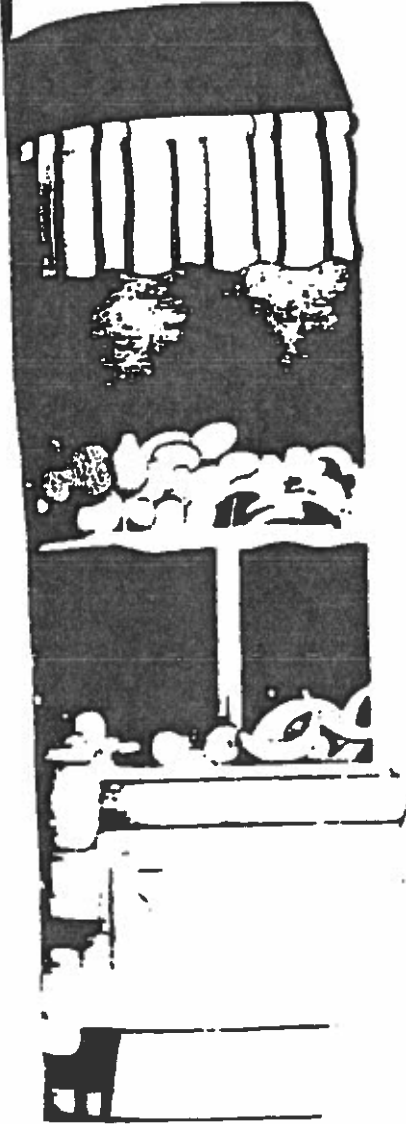
*For Mercedes, life was serious business. It meant obeying rules and working hard. For Carlos, it meant fun, games, and getting by on charm. What happens when people who are so different fall in love?*



Carlos and Mercedes met after school as usual and began walking home together. When they reached the main street of the neighborhood, they heard Latin music coming from a record shop.

Carlos dropped his books on the sidewalk. Then he started moving his feet, hips, and hands in time to the music. His eyes shone, and he smiled playfully at Mercedes.

"Carlos," Mercedes said, laughing. "People are looking."



"Let them look, baby. Carlos Rosario will show them some *real* dancing!"

Soon a small crowd formed around him, urging him on.

"Join him, Mercedes!" a friend called out.

Mercedes shook her head, blushing. She was proud of Carlos, but she was shy.

Carlos danced until the record ended. Then he picked up his books and put them under one arm. He put his other arm around Mercedes' shoulders.

"Come on," he said, as he led her away from the crowd. "Let's go for a Coke."

"Okay," she said. "But not for long."

"What's the hang-up?" he asked. "It's a beautiful spring day!"

"I know, Carlos," she said. "But you know I have to help my mother before supper. Also, we have a history exam tomorrow."

"Look, I have to take the stupid exam, too. But do you see me worrying about it?"

"No. But I don't see you passing it, either," she said quietly.

He stopped and stared at her. "I don't need my girl hassling me. See?"

Mercedes held her books close to her. "I'm not hassling you. It's true what I said, and you know it. I'm not telling you what to do, but I want a good mark on tomorrow's test. It's the last one before the final."

"Man, the teachers and my parents are bad enough," he said, taking his hand away from her shoulder. "Now you!"

He paused. Then he touched her long black hair and smiled. "It's crazy. Of all the girls in school to choose from—I end up with a brain for a girl friend."

Before she could move, he kissed her quickly and softly. "Come on," he said, taking her hand.

They went for a Coke.

Mercedes got home at 5:00.

"Where have you been?" her mother asked in Spanish.

"I had a Coke with Carlos, Mami," Mercedes answered.

"He's no good, that boy. He's a bum!"

"He's *not* a bum. He just likes to have fun, that's all."

"It's late," her mother said. "Here's a list of things we need for supper. Your father will be home soon. I must stay here to look after Miguel."

After supper, Mercedes helped Miguel, her little brother, with his homework. Her parents would have helped him if they knew English better. Later, Mercedes did her own homework.

After the history test the next day, Mercedes spoke to Carlos. "Did you study?" she asked.

"I played basketball with some of the guys," he said with a smile.

"Do you think you passed the test?"

"Well, funny thing. Mrs. Langdon didn't ask any questions about basketball." He laughed. Mercedes found herself laughing, too.

After school, they met at their usual place. "How's the brain?" Carlos asked her.

"Still ticking," she said softly.

"Let's go to the park," he said. "Some of the kids will be there."

"I'd like to, but I've got to go home."

"What's the rush?" he asked.

"My mother gets upset when I'm late from school. She needs me to help with supper and Miguel. Then I'm so tired, I can hardly study."

Carlos frowned. "Okay, you go home and work like a slave. I'm going to play basketball. Life is for living—not slaving for someone else."

He turned and walked away. Mercedes held back her tears as she walked home.

For the next two weeks, she and Carlos did not meet after school. Mercedes said she had to study. Carlos said he had to "live."

The night before the final history exam, Carlos called Mercedes on the phone. "Hi, baby," he said.

"Hi, Carlos. What's up?"

"Nothing much." He paused. "Look, I called to ask a favor. I just can't cram all that history stuff into my head. I need your help."

"Sure," she said. "Why don't you come over? We can study together." Mercedes was pleased. She'd show her mother that she could be a good influence on her fun-loving boyfriend.

"Well, that's not what I had in mind. I thought you could help me during the test."

"You mean cheat?"

"Come on, honey. It's not murder. When two people love each other, they should help each other."

"Well . . ." She felt torn in two directions. If she cheated, she might get caught and lose her self-respect. If she didn't help Carlos, he'd fail and be left back a year. And she'd lose him forever.

"What do you say?" Carlos asked.

"I'm not sure, Carlos."

"If I can't depend on my girl, what's the point of going together?" he said—and hung up.

Mercedes felt awful. Carlos brought fun into her life. She was so quiet and shy that some of the kids thought she was stuck-up. But with Carlos, she was accepted and part of the action. She loved his spirit, and she loved him. "When two people love each other," he had said.

The next day in history class, Carlos sat next to Mercedes. When he gave her his heart-melting smile, Mercedes looked down at her desk. She had decided what she would do, and she was scared.

Mrs. Langdon began putting the exams, face down, on each student's desk. "There will be no talking from now on," she said. "Any talking will be considered cheating. So will the passing of notes."

Carlos leaned slightly toward Mercedes and whispered, "Be cool, honey."

Mercedes' face felt hot, and her hands felt cold. Something was pounding inside her head.

"All right," Mrs. Langdon said. "You may turn over your exams and begin. You have 50 minutes."

Mercedes turned over her exam. She put her elbows on the desk and pressed

the sides of her head with her fingers. She stared at the first question on the exam. But she couldn't concentrate on the words.

Carlos coughed quietly and dropped his arm to his side. His hand was turned sideways, ready to receive a sheet of answers.

Mercedes noticed this from the corner of her eye. She took a piece of scrap paper and wrote on it for a while. Then she folded it up into a small size. She waited until Mrs. Langdon opened her desk drawer to look for something. Then Mercedes passed the folded paper to Carlos.

As Carlos took the paper, he gave her hand a squeeze. Then he carefully opened up the paper and read it in his lap:

"Dear Carlos, Last night I didn't know what to do. Now I know that I won't cheat. I hope you understand. Mercedes."

She felt his anger rush at her across the space between them. She did not look at him. She filled in the answers to the exam and turned it in to Mrs. Langdon. Then she left the room—and Carlos. But she cried all the way home.

Later that day, she saw Carlos dancing in front of the Latin record shop. His arm was around Carmen, one of Mercedes' classmates.

Mercedes went home and helped her mother with supper. Then she helped her brother with his homework.

When she washed up for the night, she saw an unhappy face in the mirror. But she could look straight into the eyes of that face. And, in a way, she felt relieved.

## The Test

Prove each statement from the story with evidence. I need at least 3 points to justify your answer for each person.

1. The main characters in this story are Hispanic.

PROOF:

2. Carlos doesn't value respect while Mercedes does value respect.

PROOF:

3. Mercedes is responsible while Carlos is irresponsible.

PROOF:

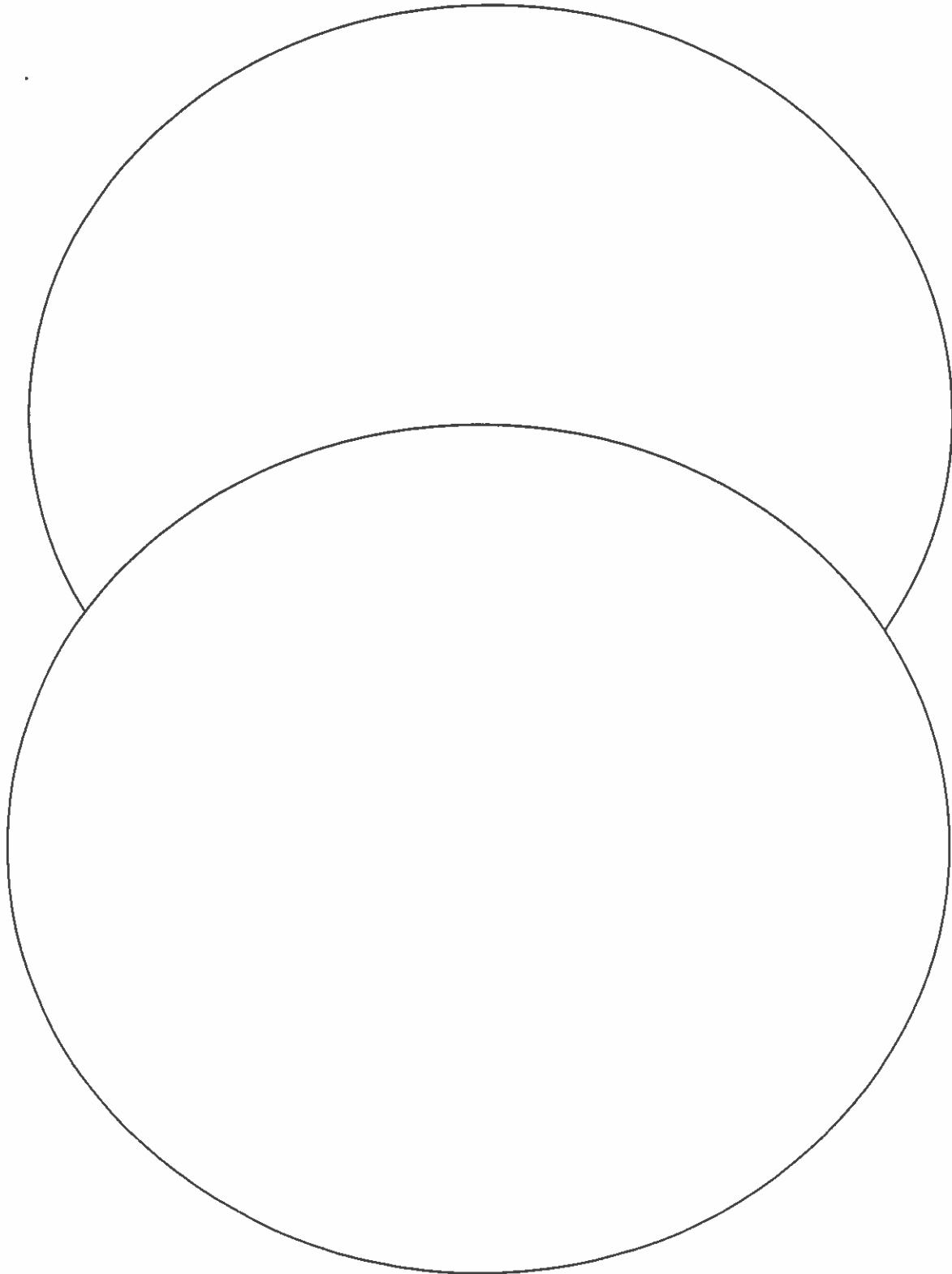
4. Mercedes has strong values while Carlos does not have strong values.

PROOF:



Extension: Research your own quote, define, apply to the text, and relate to a real-life situation.

Compare and contrast Mercedes and Carlos. Fill out the VENN DIAGRAM.



**Quote:**

**Interpretation:**

**Text Application:**

**Real-life Application:**

## Quotes

Interpret the quote, and define it in your own words. Apply the quote to the story, and write your explanation. Apply the quote to a real-life situation, and write your real-life connection.

1. "Honor wears different coats to different eyes." - Anon
2. "If your vision doesn't cost you something, it's a daydream." - Anon
3. "Your friends will stretch your dream or choke your vision." -Anon
4. "Never take shortcuts.....They don't pay-off in the long run." - Anon
5. "Pay now, play later." "Play now, pay later." Anon
6. "Courage is being afraid but going on anyhow." - Rather
7. "Put your future in good hands-your own." – Anon
8. "Wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age. Sometimes age just shows up by itself." – Wilson
9. "Cherish the friend who tells you a harsh truth, wanting ten times more to tell you a loving lie." -\_Brault
10. "Better keep yourself clean and bright; you are the window through which you must see the world." – Shaw
11. "You do not need to be the designated driver of someone's intoxicated ego." -Dodinsky
12. "The man who starts out going nowhere, generally gets there." - Anon

# Examining the of

Characterization

Parts

Attributes

Evidence

Traits

Conflicts

Motivations

Points of View