Think Like a Test Maker Constructed Response Pratice

**STATION 7**: **Using the constructed responses below, order them in levels of 1, 2, and 3. Explain your ranking for each response. Make editing marks on the paper. Have some fun with that, because I always do!**

**Constructed Response with a Song**Directions: Using the song “Never Again” by the Wu Tang Clan (lyrics found below) and the modeled example, answer the following questions.

* **Sample Prompt**: How does the shifting use of personal pronouns serve to develop a theme?

SAMPLE RESPONSE: The poem changes point of view from first person to third person to first person plural in order to show that different people have different experiences but they can all come together in times of trouble. “My own blood, dragged through the mud.” The speaker is saying that his blood has suffered, being brought into dirt and suffering. This is first person point of view and it shows that he is focused on his own experience. “Yo a man shot dead in his back.” This quote shows that other people are suffering besides him and that he needs to focus on them, too. Then he goes on to include other people with himself by quoting, “we still bleeding” meaning that they are all bleeding and suffering together. When the chorus starts, the song only uses we which is first person but plural and shows that they have all come together because they are angry and want to fight evil in the world by uniting against it. He states, “Never again shall we march like sheep to the slaughter” because he knows they never want to endure that kind of suffering again. They will never “sit and take orders” that will hurt them. They can only do this if they are united, so the writer says “we” over and over. This reinforces the theme of unity.

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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SAMPLE RESPONSE: The shifts between individual first-person, collective first-person, and third-person point-of-view, reflected in the use of personal pronouns, serve to develop the theme that the suffering of individuals should bring humanity together to fight against oppression. In the first verse, the speaker describes his own suffering while also including the suffering of others around him. He laments, “my own blood, dragged through the mud,” but then connects his private grief to that of his people, “stripped of our pride.” In third-person, he observes “a man shot dead in his back / Helpless women and children under constant attack” and unites those events to the larger whole, “we still bleeding.” He concludes the verse with the impact of all this on himself (“I’m shaken”) before launching into a chorus that maintains a purely collective point-of-view. Once the speaker is firmly entrenched in the collective first-person, the language becomes stronger, dropping the mantle of grief in favor of a relentless intent “never again” to “sit and take orders,” thus passively accepting suffering. These shifts are repeated through the second verse and the repeated chorus, reinforcing the power of unity to combat evil.

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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SAMPLE RESPONSE: The shifting pronouns help to develop a theme of not suffering anymore. The singer is a holocaust victim who doesn’t like remembering what happened but he has to or it will happen again. His point of view is that he suffered a lot and doesn’t want other people to go through what he did. “My own blood, dragged through the mud”. He sees other people who suffered. “A man shot dead in his back, helpless women and children under constant attack.” This quote is saying that people are getting shot and being attacked all the time, and he doesn’t want that to keep happening. But he is going to fight back next time because he quotes, “Never again shall we march like sheep to the slaughter”. This is why the shifting pronouns help develop a theme of not suffering anymore.

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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* **Your** **Prompt:** How does the author use imagery and other literary devices to develop a theme?

**"Never Again"**

**(performed by Remedy)**

*[man praying in Hebrew during intro]*

Feel this,

To all those races, colors, and creeds, every man bleeds for the

countless victims and all their families of

the murdered, tortured and slaved, raped, robbed and persecuted

Never Again, To the men, women, and children.

Who died in their struggle to survive, never to be forgotten.

Reuven Ben Menachum, yo..

Yo my own blood, dragged through the mud

Perished in my heart still cherished and loved

Stripped of our pride, everything we lived for

Families cried, there's nowhere to run to, nowhere to hide

Tossed to the side, Access denied

6 million died for what? Yo a man shot dead in his back

Helpless women and children under constant attack

For no reason, till the next season, and we still bleeding

Yo it's freezing, And men burn in hell, some for squeezing

No hope for a remedy, nothing to believe

Moving targets who walk with the star in their sleeve

Forever marked wit a number, tattooed to your body

Late night, eyes closed, clutched to my shotty

Having visions, flashes of death camps and prisons, no provisions

Deceived by the devils decisions, forced into a slave

Death before dishonour for those men who were brave

Shot and sent to their grave, can't awaken, it's too late

Everything's been taken, I'm shaken, family, history, the making

*[Chorus]*

Never again shall we march like sheep to the slaughter

Never again shall we sit and take orders

Stripped of our culture, robbed of our name

Raped of our freedom and thrown into the flames

Forced from our families, taken from our homes

Moved from our God then burned of our bones

Never again, never again, shall we march like sheep to the slaughter

Leave our sons and daughters, stripped of our culture

Robbed of our name

Raped of our freedom and thrown into the flames

Forced from our families, taken from our homes

Moved from our God and everything we own

Some fled through the rumors of wars

But most left were dead, few escaped to the shores

With just one loaf of bread, banished, hold in for questioning

And vanished, Never to be seen again, I can't express the pain

That was felt in the train to Auschwitz, tears poured down like rain

Naked face to face, with the master race, Hatred blood and David

My heart belongs to God and stay sacred

Rabbis and priests, Disabled individuals

The poor, the scholars all labeled common criminals

Mass extermination, total annihilation

Shipped into the ghetto and prepared for liquidation

Tortured and starved, innocent experiments

Stripped down and carved up or gassed to death

The last hour, I smelled the flowers

Flashbacks of family then sent to the showers

Powerless undressed, women with babies clumped tight to their chest

Crying, who would've guessed -- dying, another life lost

Count the cost, another body gas burned and tossed in the holocaust

*[Chorus]*

*[Outro: Remedy]*

Never Again, Never Again

The final solution is now retribution

Remedy, Wu-Tang..