Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) essay

SHARED THEME FROM BOTH TEXTS: “protect those who are not able to protect themselves”

PARAGRAPH 1

On an icy, cold, windy night, an innocent puppy shivers with fear. Left alone with no food or shelter, the puppy would not have survived the harsh temperature had it not been for an act of kindness. A group of concerned friends decided to take the puppy to the shelter to receive care and protection. To protect someone or something is to keep it/them safe and away from danger. In addition, it also means to take care of someone or something in need. Both “Treehouse Guests” and “Spring Discovery” share a common theme.

PARAGRAPH 2

One quote from the text to prove the theme, protect those who are not able to protect themselves is evident in Source 1, “Treehouse Guests”. According to the text, the mom says, “Boys … try not to go too close to the nest. Your new responsibility is to protect the mama bird and her eggs by finding a new place to play” (Source 1, 79). This proves that Jake and Tommy took on the responsibility of protecting the mama bird and her eggs by sacrificing their “treehouse” in order to keep the birds safe. By doing so, Jake and Tommy gave the birds a safe space to survive. Additionally, the boys were very careful around the mama bird and her eggs in order to prevent frightening them. This shows that the boys took on a responsibility to protect the young birds who were not able to protect themselves.

PARAGRAPH 3

Furthermore, another quote to support the theme of protection can be found in Source #2. The poem, “Spring Discovery”, states “Then he told us to watch and wait, but to do so carefully. If we came up too close, the mother would be scared away. But if we could endure the wait, she probably would stay and we might see, from those frail eggs, three baby birds, one day” (Source 2, 82). This shows that the kids were protecting the doves by staying away from them so they won’t be afraid and fly away. This proves that the children cared about protecting the three frail eggs. Therefore, the children patiently guarded the doves from harm which demonstrated their responsibility and act of kindness. This reveals that the children are model examples of those who protect others who may not be able to protect themselves.

PARAGRAPH 4

Correspondingly, the third detail that proves the theme of protection is evident once again in Source #1, “Treehouse Guests”. In paragraph 10, the text states, “We’ll leave some out in a bowl … Then the mother bird won’t need to search everywhere for food, and she can spend more time with the eggs” (Source 1, 80). This is clearly seen when the boys decide to use their grass cutting money to provide the mama bird with store bought food. Now the mama bird can ensure the safety of her eggs by spending more time with them. The boys’ time and effort in protecting the mama bird and her eggs proved that they helped care for an innocent family of birds that needed support. The reader can see from this that the helpful actions of the boys led to a safe hatching of the chicks.

PARAGRAPH 5

To summarize, to protect someone or something is to keep it from danger. In addition, it is one’s responsibility to protect others in need. Clearly, the shared theme in both sources is “protect those who are not able to protect themselves”. Both “Treehouse Guests” and “Spring Discovery” strongly teach this important life lesson.