

“The World on the Turtle’s Back” Reading Response

Objective: CCSS 10.RL.1 – Analyze what a text says explicitly and by inference

Develop your answers fully in paragraph format. You should be able to check each of the following:

- You answer ALL parts of the question as precisely as possible.
- Your responses have a central theme (topic sentence).
- You provide examples from the text (or, if appropriate, your own life or the world at large) to illustrate what you say.
- You explain the meaning or importance of your comments and examples as these relate to the question.

This is the level of analysis and writing I’m looking for.

SAMPLE QUESTION: *From this story, what did you learn about the Iroquois’ attitude towards nature?*

Given that the sea creatures come to the aid of the wife who fell from the sky, I believe the folktale of the Iroquois is trying to illustrate that nature is very nurturing, especially because it is an expecting mother who they help. When the same woman inadvertently started creating the world by casting dirt on the back of the turtle, she was directed by the sun, showing that even as a person creates and grows he or she is being directed by nature to find balance (like creating a spherical world instead of an abstract shape). These details, when considered together, suggest that the Iroquois, by paying attention to nature, found harmony and respected it and felt that they were lead and nurtured by the natural elements of the world.

1. An **objective summary** is a focused writing retelling only the central ideas from a text. It only reports on what is said in the story and does not include subjective opinion on meaning or interpretation. Write a paragraph objectively summarizing the main happenings of this story.

Write your answer here

2. The story ends with a description of what the two twins preside over in the world. **WHY** do you think the Iroquois might have written their creation story to include these realms? You’ll probably have to describe what the two realms are in your paragraph then infer what that means about the Iroquois beliefs.

Write your answer here