

MATster Mind

This activity is recommended for use after the presentation of the short story "The Mats" by Francisco Arcellana.

Directions: Analyze each item and complete the missing information using textual evidence from *The Mats*. If an item contains an excerpt, identify what it is about and explain its significance to the story. If an item contains an analysis, find the excerpt from the story that best supports the analysis. Use evidence from the text to justify your answers.

Excerpt

1 "I said I would bring home a sleeping mat for every one of the family. And so I did," Papa said. Then his eyes fell on each of us. "Do you think I'd forgotten them? Do you think I had forgotten them? Do you think I could forget them?"

Analysis

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2

Excerpt

Analysis

The excerpt shows Papa reminding the family to always remember their loved ones who have passed away, emphasizing that although they are dead, they remain present in memory and in the heart. This affects the story by reinforcing the theme of remembrance and strengthening the emotional meaning behind their actions, while also creating a more solemn and reflective tone.

3

Excerpt

I had always thought my name was too long. Now I was glad to see that my whole name was spelled out on the mat, even if the letters were small. Beneath my name was a lyre, done in three colors. Papa knew I loved music and played the piano. I was delighted with my new mat.

Analysis