Comprehension

1. **Recall**  Describe how Pyramus and Thisbe communicate with each other at the beginning of the myth. Why can’t they just talk face to face?

2. **Summarize**  What secret plan do Pyramus and Thisbe make?

3. **Clarify**  What happens to ruin the lovers’ plan?

Literary Analysis

4. **Make Judgments**  As she decides to take her own life, Thisbe says, “I can / claim love, and it will give me strength enough / to strike myself.” Both Pyramus and Thisbe seem to think that taking their own life is a strong or brave thing to do. If you had been with them that night, how could you have talked them into making a different decision? Explain.

5. **Analyze Sequence**  Review the sequence chain you created as you read. How might the myth’s ending have been different if Pyramus had left for the rendezvous at the same time Thisbe did? Cite evidence to support your answer.

6. **Analyze Myth**  Use a chart like the following to explain how each characteristic of myth appears in “Pyramus and Thisbe.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic of Myth</th>
<th>In “Pyramus and Thisbe”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explains how something connected to humans or nature came to be</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tells about supernatural beings or events</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presents a lesson or moral</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. **Evaluate Theme**  “Pyramus and Thisbe” is an ancient myth, passed down orally and in writing for generations before Ovid recorded it some 2,000 years ago. Explain whether you think the theme, or message, of this classic story is still relevant to contemporary audiences.

Reading-Writing Connection

**Writing Prompt**

Extended Response: Compare and Contrast

Many great writers have looked to myths for inspiration. “Pyramus and Thisbe” was retold by Ovid long before Shakespeare wrote *Romeo and Juliet*, and Ovid was one of Shakespeare’s favorite authors. Compare and contrast *Romeo and Juliet* with “Pyramus and Thisbe” in terms of plot, conflict, characters, and theme.

**Self-Check**

*A strong comparison will . . .

- clearly present the selections’ similarities and differences
- cite evidence from both myth and play
- state whether the selections are more alike or more different*