Answer Key

DIAGNOSTIC TEST

1. B
2. A
3. D
4. A
5. D
6. C
7. C
8. D
9. A
10. B

LITERARY FOCUS

Theme

1. T
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. F
6. F
7. T

Point of View

8. how
9. narrator
10. omniscient; every
11. first-person
12. -limited
13. first-person
14. trust

READING FOCUS

Activity 1: Finding the Theme

1. F
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. T
6. T

Activity 2: Understanding Cause and Effect

7. D
8. F
9. E
10. C
11. A
12. B

LITERARY AND ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Activity 1 Literary Vocabulary

1. point of view
2. theme; recurring
3. omniscient
4. third-person-limited
5. first-person
6. omniscient; first-person

Activity 2 Academic Vocabulary

7. A
8. B
9. B
10. A

HUM NAOMI SHIHAB NYE

Selection Reading Focus Graphic Organizer

Finding the Theme:
Students' responses will vary. A sample response follows:

Notes for Finding the Theme

Comments by Characters: Sami's father tells him to "Let people notice you for how outstanding you are, not just how different."; Hugh tells Sami about everyone's inner eye and says he can "see better than people who aren't blind"; The visually impaired girl in the Dialogue Club says "I only see shades of light and dark. But I can't see any of your faces."; Hugh explains that his wife "was African-American, and her parents never forgave her for marrying someone who was white and blind."

Title: "Hum" refers to the way the dog Tum Tum communicates with Hugh, which is a different way for a dog and not the usual bark, howl, or whine.

Important Words/Ideas: Friendship, respect; debate is about winning and losing but dialogue is like a bridge; fitting in and not fitting in; feeling like an "alien"; there are more kinds of difficulties in the world than we can imagine

Lessons Characters Learn: Sami's parents discover that they were wrong to worry about Sami working for Hugh because when they get to know him they realize he is smart and nice; Hugh learns that he has made a wrong assumption and not all Arabs have black hair because Sami's hair is red; Sami learns that there are many ways to be different and that all differences are not immediately apparent but getting to know people both reveals differences and similarities.

After You Read

Students' responses will vary. A sample response follows:

I think the theme of the story is to appreciate differences and not to be afraid of them, but to use friendship as a way to bridge

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