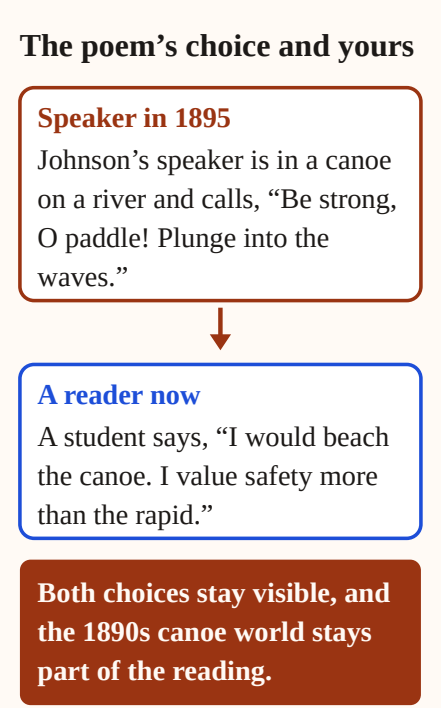
English Language Arts 10-1

Unit 2: Comprehend and respond to texts

Self and culture

A character's choice

- Speaker in 1895. In E. Pauline Johnson's poem "The Song My Paddle Sings," the speaker is in a canoe on a river and calls, "Be strong, O paddle! Plunge into the waves."
- A reader now. A student in this class says, "I would beach the canoe. I value safety more than the rapid."
- Both choices stay visible, and the 1890s canoe world stays part of the reading.



Stance and context

- Perspective is the stance you bring, including what you think is brave or reckless.
- A comparison needs both choices: the paddler's plunge, and the choice you would make.
- Milieu is the world around the text: 1890s canoe travel, or a wartime field of crosses, or a school bus.

Key terms

perspective

The stance you read from, shaped by your experiences, your values, and the culture you know.

milieu

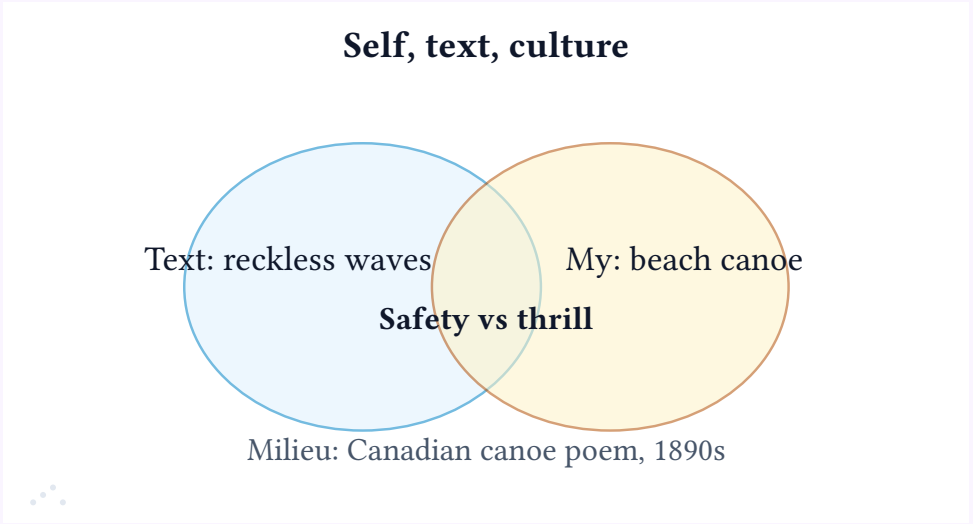
The social and historical world around a text, such as canoe travel in the 1890s or a school bus today.

Canadian text

A text by a Canadian writer or deeply set in Canadian places and history, such as Johnson's paddle poem or McCrae's Flanders poem.

Comparing choices

- Text choice: the speaker sends the canoe into the reckless waves.
- My choice: I would beach a canoe in waves that size, because I put safety ahead of the thrill.
- Milieu: a Canadian poem of canoe travel, with prairie wind earlier in the same poem, published in the 1890s.



Example

- John McCrae, a Canadian doctor and poet, opens “In Flanders Fields” on poppies blowing between crosses, row on row. One student would read those lines at a Remembrance assembly because the objects ask for quiet respect.
- Another student would choose a different public poem because the crosses feel heavier than the assembly they were given.
- Both choices can be spoken, and the wartime field stays part of the reading.



Comparison practice

- Mina rides a city bus in January, sees the spare key in the blue bowl through a wiped circle, and keeps her hand on the bell. She could ring and go home, or she could stay on the bus.
- Write the scene's choice, the choice you would make in her place, and one detail of this scene's world.

Review

- Amira stays under one floodlight at a community rink in a Canadian town to finish a drill she promised her coach. The other skaters have gone home.
- Write her choice, your choice with a value, and the milieu detail that is already in the scene.

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