

Student Name:		Grade:	12
Date		CCSS	RI.11-12.1, RI.11-12.4, RI.11-12.6, W.11-12.1
🎯 Objectives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> identify and explain key ideas from a nonfiction passage using evidence from the text. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Determine and explain word meaning using context clues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> analyze author's purpose and use of structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> express opinions and apply critical thinking.		
National Identity Objective	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identify features of respect value in the school, at home, in the community. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Explain the importance of the respect value in the community and for global understanding.		

Group B

Read the text and answer the questions:

Standing Up to Absolute Power by Ruth Gruber

Rebellions are not always led by the poor or powerless. In 1215, a group of wealthy barons in England rose up against their king. Though they had much to lose, they challenged unfair treatment and helped shape history.

At the time, England followed the feudal system. The king owned all the land and gave portions of it to barons in exchange for loyalty, taxes, and soldiers. Barons, in turn, allowed knights to use some of their land, and at the bottom of the system were peasants, or serfs, who had no power or voice.

This system only worked if the king ruled with strong authority. But King John struggled to gain respect. After his brother King Richard died, John took the throne and punished those who had supported his rivals. He also inherited Richard's large debts and raised taxes heavily on the barons to pay for them.

John lost lands in France and many knights in failed wars, which angered the barons. When he asked for more support to fight France again, many barons refused. In response, John punished them further, but his military efforts failed once more.

Eventually, the barons rebelled. They created their own army and demanded change. To avoid civil war, the king agreed to sign the Magna Carta, or "Great Charter," in June 1215. This document limited the king's power and declared that even the monarch had to follow the law.

This idea—that rulers must rule with the consent of the governed—was revolutionary. It would later influence the American and French revolutions. Like the barons, people with privilege sometimes choose to stand up against injustice to bring about lasting change.

 **A. Multiple-Choice Questions (Choose the best answer):**

1. Why did the barons rebel against King John?

- A. They wanted to help the serfs.
- B. They were jealous of his wealth.
- C. They were angry about heavy taxes and failed wars.
- D. They wanted to take over the throne.

2. What does the word “consent” most likely mean in the phrase “rulers must rule with the consent of the governed”?

- A. Force
- B. Agreement
- C. Confusion
- D. Strength

3. What does the word “revolutionary” most likely mean in the sentence: “This idea... was revolutionary”?

- A. Common
- B. Peaceful
- C. New and groundbreaking
- D. Religious

4. Why does the author begin with the idea that not all rebellions are started by the powerless?

- A. To criticize the barons
- B. To surprise the reader
- C. To show that rebellion is always wrong
- D. To highlight the unique nature of the barons’ revolt

5. What lesson can modern leaders learn from King John’s story?

- A. It’s better to avoid war at all costs.
- B. Power should never be shared.
- C. Leaders must listen to the people they govern.
- D. Only wealthy people can start revolutions.

6. Which group had the least power in the feudal system?

- A. Knights
- B. Barons
- C. Kings
- D. Serfs

 **B. Open-Ended / WH-Questions**

7. What events led the barons to believe King John was a weak ruler?







8. How is the passage structured to help the reader understand the historical events?







9. What is the author's purpose in telling the story of the Magna Carta?







 Critical Thinking Question

10. Do you think the barons were justified in rebelling against King John? Why or why not?







11. What might have happened if King John had refused to sign the Magna Carta?







12. How did the Magna Carta influence future events like the American and French Revolutions?







 **Reading Comprehension Rubric**

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Developing (2)	Needs Improvement (1)	Self-evaluation	Peer-evaluation
Understanding of Key Ideas	Answers show thorough understanding of all major ideas	Most answers reflect understanding with minor gaps	Some correct answers but misunderstandings present	Little or no understanding of key ideas		
Accuracy in Factual Responses	All factual questions answered accurately	1–2 factual errors or missing parts	Several errors or incomplete responses	Many errors or blank responses		
Vocabulary in Context	Vocabulary question answered with clear understanding	Mostly correct but with some hesitation or partial ideas	Confused or guessed meaning	No understanding of the term		
Critical Thinking Question	Thoughtful, well-explained opinion with relevant support	Clear opinion with basic explanation	Opinion given but lacks explanation	No opinion or explanation offered		

Teacher's Feedback:

Strengths	Improvement for next time	Recommendations and Advice
Student's Response:		Date: