

Name _____

Life in the Shadows: A Glimpse into Persian Empire's Ordinary Citizens

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Cyrus likely had mixed feelings about living in the shadows of the empire's grandeur. While he may have been in awe of the empire's power, he also found fulfillment in his simple life and the love of his family. Evidence from the story includes his contentment with family gatherings and sharing stories with customers.
2. The power and might of the Persian Empire impacted ordinary citizens like Cyrus by imposing heavy taxes and creating a constant fear of the empire's army. These factors influenced their daily lives and sense of security.
3. Traditions and customs played a significant role in maintaining a sense of identity and belonging among Cyrus and his fellow citizens. They provided a cultural foundation that connected people and offered a sense of continuity in the face of external pressures.
4. Family and community were central to Cyrus's life, shaping his perspective on his role in the empire. They provided him with a strong support system and a source of happiness amidst the challenges of the time. This sense of belonging and love from his family influenced how he perceived the true wealth of his life.

