

What is the theme or message about scientific advancements?

1. **Student answers will vary. In “Cooking Time,” the author comments on the way that scientific advancement leads to artificial things taking the place of real experiences. In the sectors, people don’t eat real food anymore. Instead, they only eat an artificial food called “Newtri.” Stella, the narrator, describes Newtri as “No mess, no fuss, and, although I’d like to say no hunger, at least people no longer starved to death” (Paragraph 14). This suggests that even though Newtri has saved people, it doesn’t satisfy them like real food. Mandy, Stella’s best friend, can barely stand to eat Newtri and “would have faded away if Marra hadn’t practically injected it into her” (Paragraph 15). This highlights the fact that Newtri is artificial and isn’t appealing to Mandy at all. Mandy is passionate about cooking and gets her chance when she wins a spot on the MasterChef reality show, where contestants travel back in time to cook with real ingredients. As Mandy describes the pleasure of tasting real food, “she’d put her finger to her lips like she was remembering the sweetest kiss, and she’d be lost for words” (Paragraph 25). In the end, Mandy is willing to risk the danger of time traveling without permission in order to live permanently in a place and time with real food. She says, “If I can’t cook real food, I might survive, but I think I’ll die” (Paragraph 56). This means that for her a life without real food is a life without joy or pleasure. Through Mandy’s experiences, the author develops the message that scientific advancements may help us in some ways, but they don’t make us truly happy or satisfied.**

Cooking Time multiple choice answers: 1 b

2.d

3b

4b