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QA Sheet 1

1. Manyuooshu is a collection of poems. The themes vary from poem to poem, but they are all somewhat similar in terms of that they describe. Most of them are about nature and how the person who wrote it is dealing with emotions in their life. Like other poems these also touch on what season it is and they describe the setting, so the reader can get a good idea of the setting, time and place. The descriptions of the people that they describe are also pretty descriptive so we also get an idea of the people in the story.
2. Having a diary made it easy to keep track of everything that was happening. So, this is partly in why other authors also made diary style literature. The Tosa diary is about how one governor is replaced and the rituals that happen. This was written by a man in kana to make it seem like it was written by a woman. This was done so that they did not need to hire a Chinese person who would have normally done this sort of thing. I think that this is a very interesting story because it shows how everybody of different class can do just about anything when it comes to interacting with higher officials. I think that the main theme here would be how a community deals with loss in their community.
3. Tale of Ise was a really good read because it is a story about a playboy and about his attempts to woo woman. I think that comparing it to know it is really different since he uses poems with deep meanings in order to seduce them, and it works! We also see that having an affair is pretty well known and not that big of a scandal as one would think that it might be. Since these are all affairs the universal theme would be that of forbidden love.
4. These styles of literature have a good description about nature and its surroundings as well as the people. The authors also connected these with human emotion and thoughts. This made it something really good to read.