Challenges- Pressures to Conform

**“Non-Conformist”** by Angela Shelf Medearis

**BEFORE READING: Activating Prior Knowledge**

1. What does it mean to conform? Look up the definition and explain it in your own words. (1)
2. In your opinion, is conforming good or bad? Explain. (1)
3. Do you feel pressure to conform? Who pressures you? (1)

**AFTER READING**

**Summarizing**

1. The author’s message is (2)

**Critical Reflection**

1. Why is “identity” a difficult concept during adolescence/high school? (2)

**Connecting**

**Listening to “I Don’t Want to Be” by Gavin DeGraw**

1. Note similarities (compare) and differences (contrast) between the song “I Don’t Want to Be” and the poem “Non-Conformist” (2)

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| Similarities | Differences |
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1. What is the theme or message of the song? Do you agree with it? Explain. (2)
2. In journal format, explain your opinion on conforming and the type of person you want to be. (5) Minimum 5 sentences.

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