Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Seward's draft named the year's gifts of harvest, commerce, and law and order, then asked citizens to remember widows, orphans, mourners, and sufferers in the same breath. The result read as a civic prayer rather than a victory song, which is why newspapers could run it beside casualty lists without the tone breaking.

2. Sarah Josepha Hale was an editor who had petitioned earlier presidents without success and kept making the case anyway. Her campaign supplied the idea and the argument, and a wartime administration adopted it when a common observance looked useful for steadying the public mood.

Multiple Choice

1. C

2. A

3. C

Matching

1-D, 2-A, 3-E, 4-B, 5-C

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) recurring (accept: standardized/annual), 2) Franksgiving, 3) media advocacy (accept: press/print culture/journalism)

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: A shared date created national solidarity across divided regions and gave a moral focus (gratitude, charity) that supported wartime endurance; it also signaled federal authority to coordinate civic ritual.

Q2: Thanksgiving functions as a public ritual linking moral values (gratitude, charity) to national identity; recurring observance, symbols, and service projects sustain cohesion across diverse groups.

Q3: Communities blended traditional foods and languages with the Thanksgiving meal, organized charity events, and used parades or school programs to affirm both heritage and American civic belonging.