Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Marcus's master serves him food, invites him to sit at the table "as an equal," and gives him a gift—reversing normal master–servant roles.

2. He enjoys the temporary equality ("strange and wonderful") but also doubts it can last, showing both the appeal of role reversal and the expectation that normal hierarchy will return.

Multiple Choice

1. A

2. C

3. B

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) solstice, 2) Saturnalia, 3) diffusion

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Common themes include feasting, gift-giving, honoring gods or ancestors, celebrating light in darkness, and marking renewal. These helped people cope with fear, hunger, and uncertainty during the hardest part of the year.

Q2: By timing festivals with the solstice and linking them to gods like Saturn or Sol Invictus, leaders presented their rule as part of a larger cosmic order, using rituals and calendars to legitimize their authority.

Q3: Students might compare Saturnalia to Christmas, Yalda Night to a family New Year's celebration, or Lunar New Year to modern New Year's Eve, noting similarities in family gatherings or hope for renewal and differences in religion, timing, or specific customs.