Two Small Solutions

Compare two stories about solving problems together.

3.LF.22.d "Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots from two texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each story, underline a clue about the setting, circle the problem, and number the steps that solve it so you can compare the stories.

Stories on the Bus

1. On the way home from a family visit, cousins Eva and Leo took turns telling stories. The bus rolled past shops and tall trees. Eva told her story first and named it "The Thirsty Garden." Leo went next with "The Paper Stars." They spoke softly so the other riders could rest. Here are the stories they told.

2. The Thirsty Garden: On a hot morning, Tia went to the school garden. The new bean plants drooped in the sun. Tia filled a big watering can, but it was too heavy to carry without spilling. Her friend Jo brought two small cups. They made many trips from the tap to the garden. By lunchtime, the soil was wet, and both friends were smiling.

3. The Paper Stars: On a rainy afternoon, Malik was getting the library ready for a school play. A box of paper stars fell open, scattering stars across the floor. Malik tried to gather them before the guests arrived. His friend Ada came in and helped sort them by color. Together they hung the stars over the reading corner. When the guests entered, the corner was ready.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How are the settings of Eva's and Leo's stories different?

2. What lesson do both stories teach? Give one detail from each story that supports your answer.

3. How are Tia's and Malik's problems alike, and how are they different?

4. How do Jo and Ada each help solve a problem? What is alike about their help?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence story set at a beach in which two people solve a problem together. Then write three sentences comparing your story with "The Paper Stars": one about setting, one about plot, and one about theme.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each story, underline a clue about the setting, circle the problem, and number the steps that solve it so you can compare the stories. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are the settings of Eva's and Leo's stories different?	**Eva's story takes place in a school garden on a hot morning. Leo's takes place in a library on a rainy afternoon.**
2	What lesson do both stories teach? Give one detail from each story that supports your answer.	**Working together helps people solve problems. Jo helps Tia water the plants with small cups, and Ada helps Malik sort and hang the stars.**
3	How are Tia's and Malik's problems alike, and how are they different?	**Both have a job they cannot easily finish alone. Tia's watering can is too heavy to carry without spilling, while Malik's box of stars spills across the floor.**
4	How do Jo and Ada each help solve a problem? What is alike about their help?	**Jo brings small cups and helps carry water. Ada helps sort and hang stars. Both friends work with the main character to finish a job.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the beach, Imani's sand castle wall fell when a wave splashed it. Her brother helped her build a new wall farther from the water. My story takes place at a beach, but "The Paper Stars" happens in a library. Imani rebuilds a wall after a wave knocks it down, while Malik and Ada hang paper stars after a box spills. Both stories show that working together can solve a problem.

Accept other lessons supported by details from both stories, such as helping a friend makes a hard job easier. In Part 3, look for a complete two-sentence beach story and three accurate comparisons.