Dinner Comes Around

Compare life lessons in tales from two cultures.

4.LF.19 "Compare and contrast the treatment of similar themes in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures. a. Determine and state an implied theme, explicit theme, or life lesson from a myth, story..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in each tale that shows a guest being treated unfairly. Circle one detail in each tale that shows the first host facing a similar problem later.

Two Dinners, Two Tales

1. In an old Greek fable, a fox invites a stork to dinner. The fox pours soup onto flat plates. The stork's long beak cannot scoop it up, but the fox laps it easily. Later, the stork invites the fox over and serves dinner in a tall, narrow jar. The stork reaches inside with her beak. The fox's wide mouth cannot reach the food.

2. In a West African tale, Anansi the spider invites Turtle to dinner. Turtle arrives with muddy hands. Anansi says guests must wash before they eat. Turtle washes at the river, but his hands get muddy again on the walk back. Anansi sends him away once more. While Turtle keeps washing, Anansi eats the whole meal. Turtle leaves hungry but does not argue.

3. Days later, Turtle invites Anansi to eat at the bottom of a river. Anansi fills his coat pockets with stones, and their weight pulls him down to Turtle's table. Turtle says guests must take off their coats before eating. Anansi slips out of his coat, and the stones fall away with it. He floats up before he can taste a bite. Turtle eats his dinner below.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What life lesson might the fox learn after dinner at the stork's home? Use one detail from the fable.

2. What life lesson might Anansi learn after visiting Turtle? Use one detail from the tale.

3. What life lesson do both tales share? Give one example from each tale.

4. How do the stork and Turtle show the shared lesson in different ways?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences about two new animals at a game. Show one animal treating the other unfairly, then facing a similar problem later. End with a life lesson that fits your story and both tales.

ANSWER KEY # Dinner Comes Around

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in each tale that shows a guest being treated unfairly. Circle one detail in each tale that shows the first host facing a similar problem later. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What life lesson might the fox learn after dinner at the stork's home? Use one detail from the fable.	**The fox might learn to treat guests fairly. He served food the stork could not eat, and later she served food he could not reach.**
2	What life lesson might Anansi learn after visiting Turtle? Use one detail from the tale.	**Anansi might learn not to use rules to keep a guest from eating. Turtle's rule about coats keeps Anansi from eating, just as Anansi's hand-washing rule kept Turtle from eating.**
3	What life lesson do both tales share? Give one example from each tale.	**Treat others fairly, or they may treat you unfairly in return. The fox cannot eat from the stork's jar after serving her food on a flat plate. Anansi cannot eat at Turtle's table after sending Turtle away to wash.**
4	How do the stork and Turtle show the shared lesson in different ways?	**The stork uses a tall jar that the fox cannot eat from. Turtle tells Anansi to remove the coat whose stones let him stay underwater.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rabbit hid the ball so Hedgehog could not take a turn. The next day, Hedgehog started a race before Rabbit reached the starting line. Rabbit felt left out, just as Hedgehog had. Treat others fairly, or they may treat you unfairly in return.

Accept other supported lessons about fairness or how people respond to unfair treatment. For the open task, look for new animals, an unfair act, a similar problem faced later, and a fitting final lesson.