Three Fable Paths

Compare how fables teach a shared lesson.

5.LF.26.b "Compare and contrast the approaches to theme in several stories within a genre."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the three fables. Underline one choice each main character makes about sharing, then circle a result of that choice in each fable so you can compare how the stories teach their lesson.

Sharing, Three Ways

1. In the fable *The Mouse and the Rabbit*, a mouse found a patch of ripe berries. She invited a hungry rabbit to eat with her instead of hiding the patch. The next morning, a fallen branch blocked the mouse's burrow. The rabbit lifted it while the mouse cleared the leaves. By sharing her discovery first, the mouse gained a friend who was ready to help her.

2. In *The Fox and the Well*, a fox found a bucket full of water beside a well. When a thirsty goat arrived, he hid the bucket and drank alone. Later, the bucket was empty. The fox dropped it into the well, but he could not pull it back up by himself. The goat was gone. The fox sat in the heat, wishing he had welcomed company.

3. In *The Otter and the Pond*, a drought left one muddy pool beside a stream. An otter could have guarded it for her family, but she invited birds and deer to drink, too. As the pool shrank, the birds gathered leaves, and the deer placed leafy branches over the water for shade. The pool lasted until rain came. Many neighbors had helped protect what they all needed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What lesson about sharing do all three fables teach? Give one way the mouse's fable and the fox's fable teach it differently.

2. How does the help in the otter's fable differ from the help in the mouse's fable?

3. Compare the fox's choice when the goat needs water with the otter's choice when other animals need water. How do the endings differ?

4. Which two fables show a benefit of sharing? How does each fable show a different kind of benefit?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences describing a new animal fable that teaches a lesson about sharing. Then write two sentences explaining how your fable teaches that lesson differently from two of the fables above.

ANSWER KEY

Three Fable Paths

GRADE 5 · 5.LF.26.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the three fables. Underline one choice each main character makes about sharing, then circle a result of that choice in each fable so you can compare how the stories teach their lesson. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What lesson about sharing do all three fables teach? Give one way the mouse's fable and the fox's fable teach it differently.	**Sharing can help others and build support. The mouse shares and receives help later, while the fox refuses to share and is left without help.**
2	How does the help in the otter's fable differ from the help in the mouse's fable?	**The rabbit helps the mouse with her burrow. In the otter's fable, several animals work to protect a pool they all use.**
3	Compare the fox's choice when the goat needs water with the otter's choice when other animals need water. How do the endings differ?	**The fox hides water and ends up alone when he needs help. The otter shares water, and the other animals help protect the pool.**
4	Which two fables show a benefit of sharing? How does each fable show a different kind of benefit?	**The mouse's and otter's fables do. The mouse gains a friend who helps her, while the otter and her neighbors keep a shared water source safe.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A beaver discovers a safe path across a stream and shows it to the other animals. When the water rises, they use the path to reach high ground. Sharing what he knows helps the beaver protect his neighbors. Unlike the mouse's fable, mine does not end with one friend returning a favor. Unlike the fox's fable, mine shows the benefit of sharing instead of the cost of refusing.

Accept a shared lesson that connects sharing with helping others or building support. For the open task, look for a new animal-fable idea and two accurate comparisons to different fables in the passage.