Mei and Pip

Compare two adventures in a character series.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.9 "Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters (e.g., in books from a series)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the setting details in each story. Circle the animal problem and number the actions Mei takes to solve it, so you can compare the two adventures.

Two Mei and Pip Stories

1. In author Lila Moss's story The Lantern in the Loft, Mei and her dog, Pip, hear scratching above their apartment during a rainy evening. Mei wants to ignore it, but Pip paws at the attic door. With a flashlight, Mei climbs the stairs. She finds a trapped swallow behind a box. Mei opens the window, and the bird flies into the wet sky.

2. In Moss's later story, Pip's Picnic Problem, Mei and Pip visit a sunny park for a class picnic. Pip grabs a sandwich and races toward the pond. Mei follows, calling his name. Near the water, Pip stops beside a duckling caught in a plastic ring. Mei uses scissors from the picnic basket to cut the ring. The duckling paddles away.

3. Both books are part of Lila Moss's Mei and Pip series. The cover of each book shows Mei wearing her yellow rain boots, even when the weather is dry. In each book, Mei keeps a small green notebook in her backpack. She likes to write about things she notices. Readers can use the actions and results in each adventure to think about what matters to Mei.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How are the settings different? Tell where and when each story happens.

2. What is alike about the way the plots end? Use details from both stories.

3. What theme fits both stories? Explain with one detail from each story.

4. How does Mei solve the animal problem differently in the two stories?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a third Mei and Pip adventure in exactly 3 sentences. Include a new setting, a problem involving an animal, and a solution, then explain in the third sentence how its theme is like both stories.

ANSWER KEY

Mei and Pip

GRADE 3 · RL.3.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the setting details in each story. Circle the animal problem and number the actions Mei takes to solve it, so you can compare the two adventures. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are the settings different? Tell where and when each story happens.	**The Lantern in the Loft happens in Mei's apartment attic on a rainy evening. Pip's Picnic Problem happens at a sunny park near a pond during a class picnic.**
2	What is alike about the way the plots end? Use details from both stories.	**In both stories, Mei helps an animal get free. The swallow flies away, and the duckling paddles away.**
3	What theme fits both stories? Explain with one detail from each story.	**A theme is that helping animals in trouble matters. Mei frees the trapped swallow and cuts the plastic ring from the duckling.**
4	How does Mei solve the animal problem differently in the two stories?	**Mei opens a window to free the swallow, but she uses scissors to cut the plastic ring from the duckling.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the school garden, Mei and Pip find a puppy with its leash caught on a fence. Mei asks the gardener for help, and together they free the leash. Like both stories, this adventure shows that noticing an animal's trouble and helping can make a difference.

Accept equivalent setting comparisons and plot details supported by the passage. Accept themes about helping, caring for, or noticing animals in trouble when students use evidence from both stories.