Two Ways Forward

Compare two adventure stories with a shared topic.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.9 "Compare and contrast stories in the same genre (e.g., mysteries and adventure stories) on their approaches to similar themes and topics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the danger and choice in each story, then circle the detail that shows how the problem is solved. Use your marks to compare how both adventure stories show characters handling danger.

Adventure Choices

1. Story One, "The River Signal": Maya and her uncle paddled past cedar trees when a sudden rainstorm swelled the river. A snapped branch blocked their path, and their canoe tipped toward the rocks. Maya wanted to paddle away quickly. Then she saw two younger campers stranded on a muddy bank, waving a red jacket above their heads.

2. Maya tied the canoe rope around a thick tree root while her uncle held the boat steady. Together, they tossed a spare paddle across the shallow water. The campers used it for balance and reached the canoe. Maya was still frightened, but she chose to help before continuing downstream. Afterward, the four paddled slowly to the ranger station.

3. Story Two, "The Canyon Map": Luis explored a desert canyon with his older cousin when wind blew their map into a narrow crack. Without the map, they could not find the trail before sunset. Luis wanted to squeeze into the crack alone. Instead, he and his cousin piled flat stones to make a safe step. Luis reached the map, and both hikers followed the marked trail home.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What theme is developed in both adventure stories?

2. Compare the main danger in “The River Signal” with the main danger in “The Canyon Map.”

3. How do Maya’s and Luis’s choices differ after they see the problem?

4. How does each story end, and what is similar about the authors’ approaches to adventure?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences. Compare how the two authors use a needed object to show that careful choices keep adventurers safe. Include one detail from each story and explain one similarity or difference.

ANSWER KEY

Two Ways Forward

GRADE 5 · RL.5.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the danger and choice in each story, then circle the detail that shows how the problem is solved. Use your marks to compare how both adventure stories show characters handling danger. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What theme is developed in both adventure stories?	**Facing danger carefully and cooperating with others can lead to a safe solution.**
2	Compare the main danger in "The River Signal" with the main danger in "The Canyon Map."	**Maya faces a storm, rocks, and stranded campers on a river. Luis faces a lost map in a canyon and the risk of not finding the trail before sunset.**
3	How do Maya's and Luis's choices differ after they see the problem?	**Maya chooses to help the stranded campers before leaving. Luis chooses not to enter the crack alone and works with his cousin to make a safe step.**
4	How does each story end, and what is similar about the authors' approaches to adventure?	**Maya and the campers reach the ranger station, while Luis and his cousin follow the trail home. Both stories end safely after characters make careful choices and work with another person.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In "The River Signal," the canoe rope and spare paddle help Maya rescue the campers safely. In "The Canyon Map," flat stones help Luis reach the map without entering the crack alone. Both authors use useful objects to show that adventurers can solve dangerous problems by acting carefully with another person.

Accept equivalent theme statements about careful action, courage, safety, or cooperation when supported by details from both stories. For the open response, look for exactly three sentences, an object from each story, and a clear comparison.