Cousins in the Wind

Compare choices, interactions, and shared solutions.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.9a "Apply grade 5 Reading standards to literature (e.g., "Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or a drama, drawing on specific details in the text [e.g., how characters interact]")."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about Maya's ideas or actions, circle details about Leo's ideas or actions, and number three places where they interact. These details will help you compare how the cousins respond to the problem.

The Lighthouse Lanterns

1. On the morning of the Harbor Festival, Maya carried a box of paper lanterns to the old lighthouse. She had planned the display for weeks and wanted every lantern to hang in a perfect circle. Her cousin Leo arrived late, holding a coil of rope and a pocket full of sea glass. "The wind is getting stronger," he said.

2. Maya frowned when Leo suggested tying the lanterns to the railing instead of hanging them from the tower. "The railing will make the pattern crooked," she replied. Leo did not argue. He tested the wind by lifting one lantern and watching it tug against its string. Then he pointed to a fishing boat rocking hard beyond the harbor. "We need a safer plan," he said.

3. Maya looked at the boat and then at her neat drawing. She still cared about the circle, but she asked Leo to show her how sailors secured ropes. Together, they fastened the lanterns along the railing in two even lines. When the wind rose, the lanterns stayed lit. Maya smiled at Leo. "Your plan protected them," she said. Leo added his sea glass below each lantern, and the colors shimmered on the water.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How are Maya's and Leo's main goals different at the beginning of the story? Use one detail about each character.

2. Compare how Maya and Leo respond when Leo suggests using the railing. What does each character do or say?

3. How does the cousins' interaction change the lantern plan? Use details from the last paragraph.

4. At the end, how does each cousin help make the display successful? Compare their contributions.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence comparison of Maya and Leo. Explain one difference between them at the beginning, describe how their interaction changes their plan, and tell what they accomplish together.

ANSWER KEY

Cousins in the Wind

GRADE 5 · W.5.9a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details about Maya's ideas or actions, circle details about Leo's ideas or actions, and number three places where they interact. These details will help you compare how the cousins respond to the problem. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are Maya's and Leo's main goals different at the beginning of the story? Use one detail about each character.	**Maya wants the lanterns in a perfect circle, while Leo is concerned that the stronger wind could make the display unsafe.**
2	Compare how Maya and Leo respond when Leo suggests using the railing. What does each character do or say?	**Maya frowns and says the railing will make the pattern crooked. Leo tests the wind and points to the rocking fishing boat to support his idea.**
3	How does the cousins' interaction change the lantern plan? Use details from the last paragraph.	**Maya asks Leo how sailors secure ropes, and they fasten the lanterns along the railing in two even lines. The lanterns stay lit when the wind rises.**
4	At the end, how does each cousin help make the display successful? Compare their contributions.	**Maya accepts a safer way to hang the lanterns and works with Leo. Leo provides the rope idea and adds sea glass so the display is secure and colorful.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the beginning, Maya focuses on making a perfect lantern pattern, while Leo focuses on danger from the wind. Their different ideas cause Maya to reject the railing plan, but Leo uses the rocking boat to show why safety matters. By the end, Maya listens to Leo, and together they create a display that is both secure and beautiful.

Accept comparisons that use accurate details about both characters, especially their different priorities and their changing interaction. For the open response, accept reasonable wording if it includes a beginning difference, an interaction, and a shared result.