Creek Care Compare

Compare how a story and a poem develop a shared theme.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.9a "Apply grade 6 Reading standards to literature (e.g., "Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres [e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories] in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics")."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details in the story that show people caring for the creek. Circle details in the poem that show care for the creek, then use your marks to compare the two forms.

The Creek's Call

1 On Saturday, Lena followed the narrow creek behind the library, carrying a sketchbook for her science club. Near the footbridge, she found plastic wrappers caught in reeds and a turtle struggling to move through a loop of fishing line. Lena called the park office, then drew a map showing the worst spots. At home, she posted the map on the library bulletin board with a note asking neighbors to bring gloves and reusable bags to a cleanup.

2 By noon, eight neighbors met Lena at the creek. Mr. Ortiz brought buckets, and two younger children used tongs to lift bottle caps from the mud. Lena showed everyone her map, so the group could begin where trash had piled up. They filled six bags, but Lena noticed new litter blowing across the path from a nearby parking lot. She wrote a second sign that asked visitors to use the trash cans and keep the creek safe for animals.

3 After the Rain The creek wears a silver coat, and raindrops tap the stones. A heron lifts from the bank when the water clears its throat. Past the bridge, a candy wrapper spins once, then catches on a branch. The creek does not call for help, but its small waves reach toward shore. I pick up the wrapper. My friend finds two more. Soon the current carries leaves, not plastic, around the bend under a clear sky.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem affects the creek in both the story and the poem? Use one detail from each form.

2. How do people respond to the creek problem in the story? How do they respond in the poem?

3. What shared theme about caring for nature do the story and poem develop? Explain how each form supports that theme.

4. How does the story's approach differ from the poem's approach to the topic of creek cleanup?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence comparison of the story and poem. State their shared theme, explain one way each form develops it, and describe one difference in the feeling or approach of the two forms.

ANSWER KEY

Creek Care Compare

GRADE 6 · W.6.9a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details in the story that show people caring for the creek. Circle details in the poem that show care for the creek, then use your marks to compare the two forms. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem affects the creek in both the story and the poem? Use one detail from each form.	**Both forms show litter harming or spoiling the creek. The story mentions wrappers, bottle caps, and fishing line, while the poem describes a candy wrapper caught on a branch.**
2	How do people respond to the creek problem in the story? How do they respond in the poem?	**In the story, Lena organizes neighbors for a cleanup and posts signs. In the poem, the speaker and a friend pick up wrappers.**
3	What shared theme about caring for nature do the story and poem develop? Explain how each form supports that theme.	**Both develop the theme that people should care for shared natural places. The story shows organized community action, while the poem shows two people quietly removing litter.**
4	How does the story's approach differ from the poem's approach to the topic of creek cleanup?	**The story uses a sequence of events and practical actions, such as making a map and organizing a cleanup. The poem uses imagery and personification, such as the creek wearing a silver coat and clearing its throat.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both texts show that people can protect a shared creek. The story develops this idea through Lena's organized plan, including a map and a sign for visitors. The poem develops it through vivid images of a wrapper caught on a branch and the speaker's quiet cleanup. The story feels practical and community-focused, while the poem feels reflective and uses the creek's movements to create a mood.

Accept responses that identify a shared theme of caring for a natural place and support it with accurate details from both forms. For the form comparison, accept references to the story's events and actions and the poem's imagery, line structure, personification, or reflective mood.