Two Hero Journeys

Compare quest patterns in a Greek myth and a Japanese folktale.

4.T.T.1.d "Compare and contrast the approach to similar themes and topics (e.g., opposition of good and evil) and patterns of events (e.g., the quest) in stories, myths, and traditional literature from diverse cultures. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each hero's goal, circle each helper or obstacle, and number the events that move each quest forward. Use your marks to compare how the two stories build their journeys.

Perseus and Momotaro

1. In a Greek myth, Perseus sets out to stop Medusa, a monster whose gaze turns people to stone. His mother is in danger from a cruel king, so Perseus accepts the risky task. Athena gives him a shining shield, and Hermes gives him a curved sword. He uses the shield like a mirror, avoids Medusa's gaze, and brings back her head.

2. In a Japanese folktale, Momotaro leaves his elderly parents to travel to an island ruled by oni, fierce ogres who steal from villagers. On the road, he shares millet dumplings with a dog, a monkey, and a pheasant. The animals join his journey. At the island, they work together to defeat the oni and return the villagers' treasures.

3. Stories like these were shared aloud long before many people could read them. Listeners could picture the bright shield, the small dumplings, and the faraway islands. Repeated telling can change small details, yet important actions stay memorable. As you read, pay attention to what a character wants, who offers aid, and what stands in the way.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Compare what each hero is trying to help or protect. What does Perseus want to help, and what does Momotaro want to help?

2. How does each hero get help for the quest? Explain one difference between the helpers.

3. Compare the obstacles the heroes face. How is Medusa's danger different from the oni's danger?

4. What quest pattern appears in both stories? Name two similar events in order, then name one event that happens only in Momotaro's journey.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly 3 sentences comparing how the two tales show people standing up to harm. Use one detail from the Perseus tale and one detail from the Momotaro tale to explain how the heroes' approaches differ.

ANSWER KEY

Two Hero Journeys

GRADE 4 · 4.T.T.1.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each hero's goal, circle each helper or obstacle, and number the events that move each quest forward. Use your marks to compare how the two stories build their journeys. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare what each hero is trying to help or protect. What does Perseus want to help, and what does Momotaro want to help?	**Perseus acts because his mother is in danger from a cruel king. Momotaro helps villagers by defeating the oni and returning their treasures.**
2	How does each hero get help for the quest? Explain one difference between the helpers.	**Perseus receives tools from Athena and Hermes. Momotaro gains animal companions after sharing dumplings with them.**
3	Compare the obstacles the heroes face. How is Medusa's danger different from the oni's danger?	**Medusa is one monster whose gaze turns people to stone, so Perseus must avoid looking at her. The oni are a group of ogres who steal from villagers, and Momotaro faces them with his animal companions.**
4	What quest pattern appears in both stories? Name two similar events in order, then name one event that happens only in Momotaro's journey.	**Both heroes begin a dangerous mission, get help, and face an enemy. Only Momotaro shares dumplings and gains animal companions for his journey.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both tales show people standing up to harmful enemies. In the Greek myth, Perseus uses Athena's shield to defeat Medusa, so courage depends on careful thinking. In the Japanese folktale, Momotaro and his animal friends defeat the oni, so courage grows through teamwork.

Accept equivalent comparisons supported by details from both paragraphs. For the open response, accept a reasonable shared theme and a clear difference in the heroes' actions, helpers, or challenges.