# One Landing, Three Lenses

Compare how writers present the same historic event

**RI.6.9** "Compare and contrast how two or more authors present similar events."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline a fact about the landing that appears in all three accounts, then circle one detail in each account that gives the event a different focus.

### Three Views of Eagle's Landing

1. **News writer Tessa Reed:** On July 20, 1969, the lunar module Eagle descended toward the moon. Back on Earth, people followed the radio messages from space as the crew searched for a safe place to land. Then Neil Armstrong reported, "The Eagle has landed." In Mission Control, the team burst into applause. Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin had reached the lunar surface, though their first steps outside would come later. For a few minutes, a distant stretch of gray ground held the attention of people across the planet.

2. **Science writer Mateo Singh:** The Eagle did not glide straight to an empty, level spot. During its approach on July 20, 1969, warning alarms sounded in the lunar module. Mission Control decided the crew could continue. Armstrong then guided the craft past a rocky area while fuel ran low. The module touched down in the Sea of Tranquility, and Armstrong radioed that the Eagle had landed. Every second mattered: the team had to judge the alarms, and Armstrong had to choose a safer patch of ground.

3. **History writer Amira Cole:** The Eagle's landing on July 20, 1969, marked a turning point in a long effort. In 1961, President Kennedy asked the United States to land a person on the moon and return safely before the decade ended. Apollo 11 eventually met that goal with help from thousands of people who designed, built, tested, and operated the spacecraft. The landing also came during a period of competition between the United States and the Soviet Union in space. One brief radio message carried years of work and national ambition.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Reed and Singh both describe Eagle's landing. What does each writer emphasize about the moments before or just after it?

2. How does Singh's account of the people behind the landing differ from Cole's?

3. Reed and Cole both mention a radio message. How does each use it to present the landing?

4. How does the span of time each writer covers change your view of the same landing?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two new opening sentences for a museum display about Eagle's landing, one in Reed's style and one in Cole's style. Then write two sentences comparing how your openings present the event; include one fact both writers would use.

# One Landing, Three Lenses



## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a fact about the landing that appears in all three accounts, then circle one detail in each account that gives the event a different focus. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Reed and Singh both describe Eagle's landing. What does each writer emphasize about the moments before or just after it? | **Reed emphasizes people following the messages and Mission Control's relief. Singh emphasizes the alarms, low fuel, and Armstrong's choice of a safer landing spot.** |
| 2 | How does Singh's account of the people behind the landing differ from Cole's? | **Singh focuses on decisions by Armstrong and Mission Control during the approach. Cole focuses on the thousands of people who worked on Apollo 11 over time.** |
| 3 | Reed and Cole both mention a radio message. How does each use it to present the landing? | **Reed uses Armstrong's message to show immediate relief. Cole uses a brief message to represent years of work and national ambition.** |
| 4 | How does the span of time each writer covers change your view of the same landing? | **Reed concentrates on the minutes around touchdown, Singh on the difficult approach, and Cole on the years of effort leading to the landing.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Reed: Listeners on Earth waited for word as Eagle neared the moon on July 20, 1969. Cole: Eagle's landing on July 20, 1969, followed years of planning and work. Both openings give the landing date, but Reed draws attention to the suspense people felt that day. Cole asks visitors to consider the long effort behind the event.

Accept other supported comparisons that distinguish each writer's focus. For Your Turn, look for two original opening sentences, two comparison sentences, and a shared accurate fact.