

Kindness Comes Back

Compare event patterns and lessons in two folktales.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.9 “Compare and contrast the treatment of 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 different cultures.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each retelling, circle the first helpful act and underline the later act that returns the kindness. Put a star beside each ending. Use these marks to compare the event patterns.

A Lion, a Crane: Two Brief Retellings

- ① In the Greek fable “The Lion and the Mouse,” a mouse runs across a sleeping lion’s nose. The angry lion catches her under his paw. She begs him to spare her and says she may help him one day. The lion finds this unlikely, but lets her escape. Later, the lion becomes tangled in a hunter’s net. The mouse recognizes his cries and comes to him. With her sharp teeth, she cuts through a rope until he can escape. The small animal has helped the powerful one who once showed her mercy.
- ② In the Japanese folktale “The Crane Wife,” a young man removes an arrow from a crane’s wing and cares for its wound. After the bird flies away, a woman arrives and becomes his wife. She offers to weave valuable cloth, but makes him promise not to look inside her weaving room. He sells the cloth she makes. Later, curiosity leads him to peek. He sees a crane using its own feathers to weave. She explains that she is the bird he saved and wanted to repay him. Because he has seen her true form, she cannot stay. She gives him the last cloth and flies away.
- ③ These traditional tales have many versions. Both begin with help given and later returned, but the helpers, kinds of help, and endings differ. Compare what happens in these retellings before deciding what each suggests about kindness and trust.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What idea about kindness appears in both retellings? Use a detail from each.

2 How are the first helpful acts alike and different? Name who helps whom.

3 Compare the event patterns after kindness is first shown. What is shared, and where do the patterns separate?

4 How do the different endings shape the lessons? Support each interpretation with an event.

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write 4 or 5 connected sentences comparing these two supplied retellings. Name their different cultural traditions, explain a shared theme, and show how a difference in the event patterns leads to different endings and lessons. Use one specific event from each story.

Compare the tales

Use your marks and the two retellings to connect the shared theme, events and different endings.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In each retelling, circle the first helpful act and underline the later act that returns the kindness. Put a star beside each ending. Use these marks to compare the event patterns. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What idea about kindness appears in both retellings? Use a detail from each.	Kindness can be returned. The mouse frees the lion after he spares her, and the crane weaves valuable cloth for the man who treated her wound.
2	How are the first helpful acts alike and different? Name who helps whom.	Both free or care for an animal. The lion, also an animal, spares the mouse he caught. The human man treats the injured crane.
3	Compare the event patterns after kindness is first shown. What is shared, and where do the patterns separate?	Both helped characters return the kindness. The mouse rescues the lion and the story ends with help repaid. The crane weaves cloth, but the man then breaks his promise and she leaves.
4	How do the different endings shape the lessons? Support each interpretation with an event.	The lion's rescue suggests that even someone small can repay kindness. The crane's departure after the broken promise suggests that kindness does not remove the need for trust and respect.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Greek fable "The Lion and the Mouse" and the Japanese folktale "The Crane Wife" both show kindness being returned. The mouse repays the lion's mercy by freeing him, so their pattern ends with a rescue. The crane helps the man by weaving cloth, but his later broken promise makes her leave. The first ending shows that a small creature can help a powerful one, while the second adds a lesson about respecting trust.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Accept other interpretations supported by these retellings; do not make claims about everyone in either culture. Circle the lion sparing the mouse and the man treating the crane; underline the mouse freeing the lion and the crane weaving cloth. The passages are brief adaptations by Lesson Maker Pro, not direct quotations. Story details checked against *The Lion & the Mouse*, Library of Congress (read.gov/aesop/007.html), and *Tsuru no Ongaeshi*, Kids Web Japan, parts 1-5 (web-japan.org/kidsweb/folk/tsuru/). No other story or internet access is required.