

Milkweed Matters

Compare a story and an informational text.

5.RL.3.C "Compare and contrast details in paired literary and informational nonfiction texts including their treatment of similar themes, topics, and patterns of events."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In Story A, underline ONE mention of each stage Maya observes: caterpillar, chrysalis and butterfly. Label those marks 1, 2 and 3 in life-cycle order. In Article B, circle one mention of the earlier stage Maya does not observe.

Read and Use the Texts

Story A: Maya's garden watch

Maya bent beside a milkweed plant. A striped caterpillar nibbled a leaf. "That is a monarch caterpillar," Mr. Chen said. Maya began visiting the plant each afternoon, sketchbook in hand. Over the following days, it grew larger. One afternoon she watched it crawl to a sheltered stem nearby. Later, a green chrysalis hung there. She drew its shape and wrote, "A quiet mystery."

Story A, continued

Maya kept checking the chrysalis. Days later, she arrived in time to see a butterfly emerge. Its orange-and-black wings slowly unfolded. Her sketchbook nearly slipped from her hands. When the butterfly eventually flew away, she felt proud and a little lonely. "Can you help me plant more milkweed?" she asked Mr. Chen. She wanted other monarch caterpillars to find food there.

Article B: Monarchs and milkweed

A monarch begins as an egg laid on milkweed. It hatches into a caterpillar that feeds on the plant. After growing, the caterpillar becomes a pupa, also called a chrysalis. An adult butterfly later emerges. These four stages form the monarch's life cycle. Milkweed is essential for monarch caterpillars' food. Adults also need flowering plants for nectar. A habitat with milkweed and nectar flowers supports different stages of the life cycle.

Paraphrased classroom adaptation of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service information about monarchs. Story A is original fiction.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** What topic connects A and B? Give one detail from each that establishes the connection.

- 2** Compare the order of life stages in the texts. What does B include that Maya does not observe in A?

- 3** How does A's treatment differ from B's? Support your answer with a feature or detail from each.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Make a supported comparison, then check a claim.

Compare the pair

Explain how the story and article develop the shared topic differently. Use evidence from both and describe how reading them together helps you understand the topic.

Check the evidence

A reader writes, "Maya plants milkweed, which proves that she cares about monarchs." Correct the part that overstates A, then give supported evidence about what Maya cares about.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In Story A, underline ONE mention of each stage Maya observes: caterpillar, chrysalis and butterfly. Label those marks 1, 2 and 3 in life-cycle order. In Article B, circle one mention of the earlier stage Maya does not observe. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What topic connects A and B? Give one detail from each that establishes the connection.	Both concern monarch development and milkweed. A identifies the caterpillar as a monarch feeding on milkweed; B describes monarch life stages and the plant's importance.
2	Compare the order of life stages in the texts. What does B include that Maya does not observe in A?	A follows caterpillar, chrysalis and butterfly. B gives the same sequence but begins earlier, with an egg. A does not show Maya observing an egg.
3	How does A's treatment differ from B's? Support your answer with a feature or detail from each.	A follows a character over time and includes feelings, dialogue and imagery such as a quiet mystery. B explains a general life cycle and habitat needs with factual statements.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**Possible comparison**

A shows Maya's curiosity and feelings as she watches a monarch develop. B explains the same sequence as a general life cycle and adds the egg stage. Together, the texts connect one imagined observer's experience with information about monarch needs.

Possible correction

A says Maya asks for help planting more milkweed; it does not say she plants it. Her wish to provide food supports the inference that she cares about monarchs.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Source for Article B and biological checks: <https://www.fws.gov/species/monarch-danaus-plexippus> (Food, Physical Characteristics and Life Cycle). A explicitly identifies the monarch; do not infer species from stripes alone. Annotation targets three named observed stages, not every story event. Accept chrysalis as the visible pupa stage. The earlier egg appears in B only. Maya's request is not a completed planting action. Compare literary treatment, factual explanation and event patterns, rather than claiming fiction cannot contain accurate facts. Both original fiction and article adaptation are labeled. Accept equivalent supported comparisons without an exact sentence count.