

Burrs on the Move

Compare a story and an informational text about hitchhiking burrs.

4.RL.3.B "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 Read A and B. Underline the words First, Next and Finally in each. Compare these marked events; the background sentence in B is not a marked event.

Read and Use the Texts

Text A: Prickly Hitchhikers: fiction, part 1

First, Pepper brushed past a burdock plant on a walk, and prickly burrs caught in her fur. Maya noticed the little brown hitchhikers when Pepper stopped to sniff a fence. "They have hooks!" she told her brother Leo. Next, Pepper carried the burrs along the path and back to their house. Maya wondered whether the burrs would stay on her dog forever.

Text A: part 2

Finally, their mother helped remove the burrs and put them in a bag. Maya was relieved to see Pepper comfortable again. Leo held the closed bag while Maya checked Pepper for any burrs they had missed. "Our hitchhikers have reached their last stop," Maya said. She decided to watch for those hooked plants on their next walk.

Text B: How Burrs Travel: informational nonfiction

Background: Burdock flower heads develop into burrs with tiny hooks. First, a burr catches on the fur of a passing animal or on a person's clothing. Next, the animal or person carries the burr away from the plant. Finally, the burr may detach and land somewhere else. This explains how hooked burrs can travel without moving on their own.

Adapted from Iowa State University, "Common burdock," and University of Minnesota, Strand Memorial Herbarium, "Common Burdock."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Compare the events marked First in A and B. What happens in both?

- 2** Compare the events marked Finally. How does each burr leave its carrier?

- 3** How does A make this topic a character's experience, while B explains a process? Give a detail from each.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Compare how the two texts develop the same topic. Use details from BOTH texts.

Compare the shared pattern

Explain one shared event pattern and one difference. Refer to the marked events in each text.

Compare the treatment

Explain what the story adds that the informational text does not, and what B helps a reader understand about A.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Read A and B. Underline the words First, Next and Finally in each. Compare these marked events; the background sentence in B is not a marked event. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare the events marked First in A and B. What happens in both?	A names Pepper brushing past a burdock plant and getting burrs in her fur. B describes burrs catching on a passing animal or clothing. Both begin with burrs attaching to a carrier.
2	Compare the events marked Finally. How does each burr leave its carrier?	In A, Maya's mother removes the burrs and bags them. In B, a burr may detach and land elsewhere. Human action ends this trip in A; B describes a possible general ending without naming a helper.
3	How does A make this topic a character's experience, while B explains a process? Give a detail from each.	A shows Maya worrying about Pepper, then feeling relieved. B explains attachment, transport and possible detachment in general. A uses characters and feelings; B directly explains how burrs travel.

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

Both texts move from burrs attaching to a carrier to traveling away from a plant. Pepper carries burrs home in A; an animal or person carries them elsewhere in B. The endings differ: a person removes and bags the burrs in A, while B says a burr may detach and land somewhere else.

Possible treatment comparison

A adds Maya's worry and relief about her dog. B explains the general way hooks let burrs travel, which helps me understand how Pepper brought them home.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Compare the explicitly marked events, not the background sentence. Accept other supported similarities and differences across BOTH texts. B describes a possibility, not a claim that every burr falls off naturally. Do not infer that seeds were planted or grew. The story is invented. Botany checked against <https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/encyclopedia/common-burdock> and <https://herbarium.cfans.umn.edu/Detail.aspx?LimitKeyword=&SpCode=177>. A burr is a hooked head, not one dry fruit. No exact sentence count is required.