

Lion and Mouse, Twice

Compare two versions of the same fable.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.9 "Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story (e.g., Cinderella stories) by different authors or from different cultures."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read versions A and B. Underline one event they share. Circle a detail that changes from one version to the other.

The Lion and the Mouse

- ① A fable is a short story that can teach a lesson. Aesop's fables have been retold for many years. These two shortened versions keep details from George Fyler Townsend's translation and Joseph Jacobs's retelling. Read both before you compare them.
- ② Version A - adapted from George Fyler Townsend: A mouse ran over a sleeping lion's face. The angry lion caught the mouse. The mouse begged to go free and promised to repay his kindness. The lion laughed but let the mouse go. Later, hunters tied the lion to the ground with strong ropes. The mouse heard the lion's roar and came to him. It chewed through a rope and set the lion free. Even a little mouse could help a lion!
- ③ Version B - adapted from Joseph Jacobs: A mouse ran up and down on a sleeping lion. The lion woke and trapped it under his paw. The mouse begged for another chance and said it might help him someday. The lion was amused and let it go. Later, hunters tied the lion to a tree while they looked for a wagon. The mouse happened to pass by. It chewed through the ropes and freed the lion. Little friends could be great friends.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What important event happens near the end of BOTH versions? Tell how the mouse helps.

2 How does the mouse find the trapped lion in version A? How does it find him in version B?

3 Compare where the hunters tie the lion. Name the place in each version.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Which version would you rather hear again? Write two sentences. Name A or B, then compare a detail from each version to explain your choice.

My comparison

Use both versions to explain your choice. A different preference is fine when the details are accurate.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Read versions A and B. Underline one event they share. Circle a detail that changes from one version to the other. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What important event happens near the end of BOTH versions? Tell how the mouse helps.	In both versions, the mouse chews through the ropes to free the lion.
2	How does the mouse find the trapped lion in version A? How does it find him in version B?	In A, the mouse hears the lion roar and comes to him. In B, the mouse happens to pass by.
3	Compare where the hunters tie the lion. Name the place in each version.	In A, they tie him to the ground. In B, they tie him to a tree.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would rather hear version A again. I like that the mouse hears the lion's roar in A, while in B the mouse finds him by chance.

Accept accurate comparisons, including the lion freeing the mouse and the mouse later freeing the lion. Either preference is valid; the model has two sentences and compares an exact detail from each version. Sources: George Fyler Townsend, *Three Hundred Aesop's Fables*, and Joseph Jacobs, *The Fables of Aesop*, each titled *The Lion and the Mouse* (Project Gutenberg ebooks 21 and 28). The texts here are shortened adaptations, not verbatim originals.