One Fable, Two Versions

Compare versions retold by George Fyler Townsend and Joseph Jacobs.

2.T.T.1.d "Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story by different authors or from diverse cultures. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that are the same in both versions. Circle details that are different, so you can compare the stories.

The Lion and the Mouse

1. Two retellers wrote versions of the same Aesop fable. Read these shortened adaptations. Compare what happens in each story.
2. Version 1 : Adapted from George Fyler Townsend's 1867 translation of Aesop: A mouse ran across a sleeping lion's face. The angry lion caught him. The mouse begged to go free and promised to repay the kindness. The lion laughed and let him go. Later, hunters tied the lion to the ground with ropes. The mouse heard his roar. He chewed through a rope and freed the lion. Even a mouse could help a lion!
3. Version 2 : Adapted from Joseph Jacobs's 1894 retelling of Aesop: A mouse ran up and down on a sleeping lion. The lion caught him under a huge paw. The mouse asked for pardon and said he might help someday. The lion laughed and let him go. Later, hunters tied the lion to a tree. They went to find a wagon to carry him to the king. The mouse passed by, saw the lion, and chewed the ropes. Little friends can be great friends.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem and solution do both versions share?

2. How does the mouse find the trapped lion in each version?

3. Where do hunters tie the lion in each version? What extra plan do the hunters have in Version 2?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Make up two short versions of one simple story. Describe each version, then name one similarity and one difference. Label your stories as your own versions.

ANSWER KEY

One Fable, Two Versions

GRADE 2 · 2.T.T.1.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that are the same in both versions. Circle details that are different, so you can compare the stories. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem and solution do both versions share?	**Hunters tie up the lion; the mouse chews the ropes to free him.**
2	How does the mouse find the trapped lion in each version?	**In Townsend's version, he hears the roar. In Jacobs's version, he happens to pass by and sees the lion.**
3	Where do hunters tie the lion in each version? What extra plan do the hunters have in Version 2?	**Townsend: to the ground. Jacobs: to a tree; the hunters plan to take him alive to the king in a wagon.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Version 1, Nia finds a map in a city park and follows it to her aunt's house. In Version 2, Nia finds a shell on a beach and follows tide pools to her aunt's house. Both versions show Nia using a clue to find her aunt. The places and clues are different.

Read aloud as needed. Require details from both versions for comparisons; do not infer that a detail missing from one is impossible there. These shortened classroom adaptations preserve the source differences, not their exact wording. Sources: George Fyler Townsend, Three Hundred Aesop's Fables (1867), gutenberg.org/ebooks/21; Joseph Jacobs, The Fables of Aesop (1894), gutenberg.org/ebooks/28. Both source texts are public domain.