

Milkweed Matters

Compare a story and an article about monarch butterflies.

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 Underline two details in the story and two details in the article that show why milkweed matters. Number the events in each text that show the caterpillar changing.

A Butterfly's Food Plant

- ① Story: On Saturday, Maya found a striped caterpillar on the milkweed behind the library. She wanted to carry it home, but the librarian, Mr. Chen, pointed to the tiny leaves. “This is its food,” he said. Maya watched the caterpillar chew, then wrote its location in her notebook. She decided the safest help was to leave the plant where it grew.
- ② A week later, Maya returned and saw a green chrysalis hanging beneath a leaf. Her notebook showed how the creature had changed. When an orange-and-black butterfly finally opened its wings, Maya felt proud, yet she did not touch it. She asked Mr. Chen to help plant more milkweed, so other caterpillars could find food near the library.
- ③ Article: Monarch butterflies use milkweed as the only food plant for their caterpillars. A female lays one egg at a time on a milkweed leaf. After hatching, the caterpillar eats, forms a chrysalis, and becomes an adult butterfly. In North America, many monarchs travel long distances to warmer wintering areas. People can support monarchs by planting native milkweed and avoiding pesticides on those plants.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How do both the story and the article show that milkweed is important to monarchs?

2 How is the story's treatment of monarchs different from the article's treatment of monarchs?

3 Compare the patterns of events in the two texts. What happens first and later in each one?

4 What shared idea about helping monarchs appears in both texts? Use one detail from each text.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly three sentences comparing the story and the article. Include one similarity, one difference in how the texts share information, and one detail from each text.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details in the story and two details in the article that show why milkweed matters. Number the events in each text that show the caterpillar changing. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do both the story and the article show that milkweed is important to monarchs?	The story shows that the caterpillar eats milkweed and that Maya plants more of it. The article explains that milkweed is the only food plant for monarch caterpillars and that planting it supports monarchs.
2	How is the story's treatment of monarchs different from the article's treatment of monarchs?	The story uses Maya's observations, actions, and feelings. The article uses facts to explain monarch needs, life stages, travel, and ways people can help.
3	Compare the patterns of events in the two texts. What happens first and later in each one?	In the story, Maya finds a caterpillar, later sees a chrysalis, and then sees a butterfly. In the article, an egg hatches, the caterpillar eats, forms a chrysalis, and becomes an adult butterfly.
4	What shared idea about helping monarchs appears in both texts? Use one detail from each text.	Both texts show that people can help monarchs by protecting or planting milkweed. Maya asks to plant more milkweed, and the article says people can plant native milkweed and avoid pesticides.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both texts show that monarch caterpillars need milkweed. The story follows Maya as she watches one monarch change and chooses to plant more milkweed, while the article explains the life cycle with facts. Together, they suggest that people can help monarchs by caring for their food plants.

Accept comparisons that accurately cite details from both the story and the article. Students may describe the shared idea as protecting monarchs, providing food plants, or helping caterpillars survive.