

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Compare and Contrast

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Whisper Pot

In the heart of the bustling market, a boy named Kai carried water pots for his mother. One day, a clay vendor offered him a cracked, dusty pot for free. "This one whispers," the vendor winked. "Only to those who listen." Kai didn't know what that meant, but he accepted the pot and took it home. That night, while the wind rustled the tents, the pot whispered a riddle: *"The truth weighs more than gold. Find what cannot be stolen."* The next day, while others in the market bragged and bargained, Kai sat beside the pot and observed. He saw a wealthy merchant try to trick a traveler, and a young girl quietly give her last coin to someone in need. When he returned to the vendor, he answered: "What cannot be stolen is wisdom—earned only by watching and listening." The vendor smiled. "Now the pot is yours to keep."



Feathers for the Fool

Lena lived in a village known for its colorful birds. When the king's messenger arrived, demanding the rarest feather in the land, the villagers panicked. The Feather of Truth had not been seen for years. The mayor, greedy for the king's favor, offered a painted hawk feather, hoping to fool the court. Lena, suspicious, followed a quiet trail into the forest, guided by the songs of the birds. At the top of a stone ridge, she found a nest with a single glowing feather—and beside it, a scroll that read: *"To lie for gain is to lose what matters most."* Lena returned to the village just as the mayor prepared to send the false feather away. She stepped forward and revealed the real one. The king's court later honored her for her honesty. The painted feather, once bright, had dulled to gray. The truth, it seemed, could not be imitated.



Name: _____

The Whisper Pot & Feathers for the Fool

1. What is a shared theme in both stories?

- A. Money always leads to happiness
- B. The truth is more powerful than appearances
- C. Everyone gets rewarded in the end
- D. You should always take the easy path

2. What do Kai and Lena both do that shows their true character?

- A. They both hide their discoveries to stay safe
- B. They both lie to someone in charge
- C. They both take time to observe and find what is honest and true
- D. They both let others speak for them

3. Fill in the blank:

Both stories show that _____ is something that must be earned, not bought or faked.

4. How are the messages in *The Whisper Pot* and *Feathers for the Fool* similar, even though the settings are very different?

5. Which character do you relate to more—Kai or Lena—and why?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: R

Lexile Level: 790L-940L

Grade Level: 4th Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre: Folktale with magical Realism, Historical Fantasy

Introducing the Text

“We’re going to read two stories that explore the value of truth and wisdom. One is set in a desert market, the other in a forested kingdom. As we read, we’ll compare how the characters face choices between honesty and trickery, and how their actions shape the outcome. Look for patterns and themes that connect the stories.”

Vocabulary: riddle, merchant, wisdom, scroll, imitate

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be wise?
 2. Have you ever read a story where someone pretended to be something they’re not?
 3. How might truth look different depending on where or when a story takes place?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does the pot teach Kai about listening and observing?
 2. Why does Lena choose to search for the real Feather of Truth?
 3. What happens when the greedy character tries to fool others?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How are the two stories alike in the way they show truth winning over trickery?
 2. What role does setting play in how each story’s message is told?
 3. Why do you think these types of lessons are common in stories from many cultures?
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Activity Idea

Have students create a two-column chart comparing Kai and Lena’s journeys, choices, and outcomes. Then invite them to write a short folktale of their own that includes a test of honesty and a magical object. Encourage use of symbolic elements and a cultural twist.

