

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Compare and Contrast

Read the short story and answer each question.



## Hazel and the River Leaf

Hazel the squirrel spotted something shiny in the stream. It was a golden leaf!

She tiptoed onto a log. The wind blew. The log shook.

Hazel wobbled but didn't fall.

She leapt and landed on the leaf—*splash!* It floated like a boat.

The leaf drifted down the river. Hazel held on tight.

Soon, the water slowed. She hopped to the bank, dripping and smiling.

"What a ride!" she said, shaking off the drops.

## Liam's Lantern

Long ago, Liam lived in a village with no streetlights.

Each night, he carried a lantern to fetch water.

One night, the wind blew hard—*whoosh!* The lantern went out.

Liam stopped. It was very dark.

But he remembered the path. He took small steps, one by one.

At the well, he smiled. "I made it."

He refilled the lantern with oil and walked home in a warm glow.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Hazel and the River Leaf & Liam's Lantern

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**1. What do Hazel and Liam both do?**

- A. They stay calm and solve a problem
- B. They both swim in a lake
- C. They stay indoors all day
- D. They fly kites together

**2. How are their adventures different?**

- A. Hazel rides a leaf on a river, Liam walks through the dark
- B. Liam is a squirrel, Hazel is a boy
- C. Hazel falls in the river, Liam rides a horse
- D. They both get stuck in a tree

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**3. Fill in the blank:**

Liam's \_\_\_\_\_ blew out in the wind.

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**4. What do both characters do when something goes wrong?**

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**5. How is Hazel's setting different from Liam's?**

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** G

**Lexile Level:** 165L-305L

**Grade Level:** 1st Grade, Middle of the Year

**Genre:** Animal Adventure & Historical Fiction

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## Introducing the Text

*"Today we're reading two short stories—one about a brave squirrel named Hazel, and one about a boy named Liam from long ago. As we read, we'll compare how each character handles a challenge and how their settings are alike or different."*

**Vocabulary:** stream, leaf, lantern, well, drip

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever had to stay calm during a challenge?
  2. Do you think animal stories and historical stories can still feel similar?
  3. What helps a character solve a problem?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What challenge does Hazel face? What about Liam?
  2. How do they each stay brave and move forward?
  3. What do you notice about their settings from the pictures?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How are these stories alike?
  2. What makes each story unique?
  3. If you were Hazel or Liam, what would you have done?
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## Activity Idea

Draw a double scene: one side shows Hazel on her river leaf, the other shows Liam holding a lantern on a dark path. Under each picture, students write what challenge the character faced and how they solved it. Then compare aloud.

