

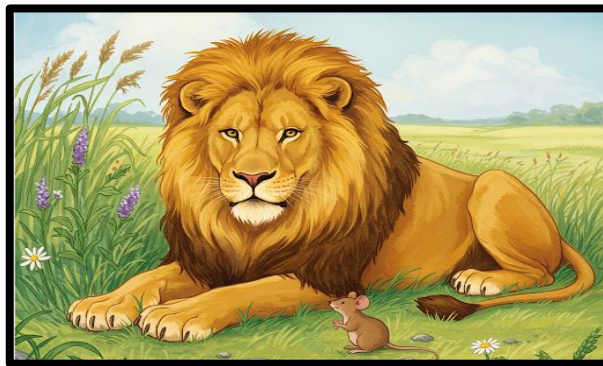
Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Compare and Contrast

Read the short story. Then answer each question.



The Little Squirrel and the Nut

Once upon a time, a little squirrel found a big, shiny nut. The nut was so big that the squirrel couldn't carry it by himself. He asked his friend, the rabbit, to help. The rabbit said, "I am too busy with my garden to help." The squirrel then asked the fox, who said, "I am too busy chasing my tail." So, the squirrel tried to carry the nut all by himself. It was heavy, but he kept going. Finally, the squirrel found a bird who was willing to help. Together, they carried the nut to the squirrel's home, and they both enjoyed eating it. The squirrel learned that sometimes asking for help is the best way to get things done.



The Lion and the Mouse

One day, a lion was sleeping under a tree when a little mouse ran across his paw. The lion woke up and roared, "Who dares to wake me?" The mouse was scared but begged, "Please, let me go. One day I will help you!" The lion laughed, but he let the mouse go. A few days later, the lion was caught in a hunter's net. He roared and roared, but no one came to help. The mouse heard the lion and ran to help him. The mouse chewed through the ropes, setting the lion free. The lion learned that even the smallest friend can be a big help when you need it most.



Name: _____

The Little Squirrel and the Nut & The Lion and the Mouse

1. Why did the squirrel need help with the nut?

- Ⓐ It was too small to carry.
- Ⓑ It was too heavy for the squirrel to carry alone.
- Ⓒ The squirrel didn't want the nut.
- Ⓓ The squirrel was tired from playing.

2. What did the lion do after the mouse helped him?

- Ⓐ He ate the mouse.
- Ⓑ He thanked the mouse.
- Ⓒ He forgot about the mouse.
- Ⓓ He ran away from the mouse.

3. Fill in the blank:

The squirrel learned that sometimes it is best to ask for _____.

4. Why do you think the lion let the mouse go when he was angry?

5. How were these stories similar and how were they different?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: J

Lexile Level: 400-500L

Grade Level: 2nd Grade, Beginning of the Year

Introducing the Text

"Today, we will read two stories about animals that learn important lessons. In the first story, the squirrel learns that asking for help can be the best way to solve a problem. In the second story, the lion discovers that even the smallest friends can be a big help. Pay attention to how the characters react to the problems they face."

Vocabulary: shiny, begged, chewed, caught, ropes

Discussion Questions Before Reading

1. Have you ever needed help carrying something heavy?
 2. Do you think even a small animal can help a big one? Why?
 3. Can you think of a time when you helped a friend?
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Discussion Questions During Reading

1. Why didn't the rabbit or the fox want to help the squirrel?
 2. What did the lion do when he was caught in the net?
 3. Why did the lion let the mouse go even though he was angry?
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Discussion Questions After Reading

1. What did the squirrel learn about asking for help?
 2. How did the lion and the mouse's story teach us about kindness?
 3. What would have happened if the mouse didn't help the lion?
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Activity Idea

Create a "Helping Hand" chart in the classroom. Each student can write or draw one way they can help a friend or family member. This activity encourages kids to think about helping others and how small actions can make a big difference, just like in the stories. Students can also share their ideas with the class, showing how they can help in big or small ways.

