

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Compare Story Elements

Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Divide

In the fractured country of Virelia, everything north of the Divide was steel and silence—machines ruled. South of it, nature thrived under the guidance of the Earthkeepers. The two sides hadn't spoken in decades.

Twelve-year-old Corin, a rule-follower from the north, was chosen for a mission: cross the Divide and collect plant samples. But when a storm damaged his transport, he was found by Lira, a curious and quick-thinking Earthkeeper apprentice.

Corin panicked. "We're not supposed to talk."

Lira shrugged. "We're not supposed to ignore people who need help."

Stranded for days, the two learned from each other. Corin taught Lira how machines recycle water. Lira showed Corin how trees communicate underground.

When a patrol from the north arrived, Corin had a choice: report Lira or protect her. He hesitated. Then he turned and said, "I found nothing useful."

Later, Lira pressed a small seed into his hand. "Something useful after all."

Corin crossed back over the Divide—different than when he left.



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

## The Divide

**1. How are Corin and Lira different in how they view rules and connection?**

- A. Corin believes in following rules strictly, while Lira believes in helping others first.
- B. Corin enjoys nature, but Lira prefers machines and technology.
- C. Corin is loud and impulsive, while Lira is shy and nervous.
- D. Corin avoids people, while Lira wants to join the patrol.

**2. What does Corin decide to do when the patrol arrives?**

- A. He runs away from both sides and hides in the forest.
- B. He tells the patrol everything about Lira and her home.
- C. He lies to protect Lira, choosing connection over duty.
- D. He fixes the transport and asks Lira to come with him.

**3. Fill in the blank:**

The country of Virelia was divided between machines in the north and \_\_\_\_\_ in the south.

**4. How does Corin change throughout the story, and what causes that change?**

---

---

---

**5. What message does the author seem to be sharing about understanding others?**

---

---

---



# Parent and Teacher Guide

---

**Guide Reading Level:** V

**Lexile Level:** 950L–1100L

**Grade Level:** 5th Grade, End of the Year

**Genre:** Dystopian Adventure

---

## Introducing the Text

*“Today’s story takes place in a divided world where nature and machines live separately. As you read, focus on how two characters from different sides learn from each other—and how their differences help them grow.”*

**Vocabulary:** fractured, apprentice, patrol, silence, recycle

---

## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you think life would be like in a world ruled by machines?
  2. Why might two groups stop communicating for a long time?
  3. What might happen if someone from one side met someone from the other?
- 

## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why is Corin afraid of being discovered?
  2. What do Corin and Lira teach each other?
  3. How do their actions show their values?
- 

## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Corin protected Lira at the end?
  2. What do the two characters learn about the other side of the Divide?
  3. How does the author use setting to show the differences between characters?
- 

## Activity Idea

Invite students to design two sides of a fictional world map: one high-tech and rule-driven, the other natural and free-spirited. Then, write or present how someone from each side might solve a problem differently—just like Corin and Lira.

