

4th Grade

Compare & Contrast

DIGITAL Mini lessons

MagiCORE

Let's Read!

Read the adapted Aesop's fable "The Ants and the Grasshopper." Think about how this fable relates to the story "The Three Little Pigs."



One bright day in September, the Ant family was busy working, drying out the grain they had stored up during the summer. Suddenly, a starving Grasshopper came up. He was carrying a fiddle and humbly begged for a bite to eat.

"What!" cried the Ants in surprise, "haven't you stored anything away for the winter? What in the world were you doing all last summer?"

"I didn't have time to store up any food," whined the Grasshopper. "I was so busy making music that before I knew it the summer was gone."

The ants were shocked. They could not believe the Grasshopper was unprepared.

"Making music, were you?" they cried. "Very well; now dance!" And they turned their backs on the Grasshopper and went on with their work.

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Let's Practice!

Compare & contrast the characters, setting, plot, and theme in the two short stories.

Story Element	What is similar?	What is different?
CHARACTERS		
SETTING		
PLOT EVENTS		
THEME		

COMPARE & CONTRAST

themes and topics

Stories often have similar themes, or lessons.

Good readers compare and contrast topics, events, and themes in traditional literature. Stories with similar themes may have similar characters and events, as well. Different authors may approach the themes or topics in their own ways.

Comparing and contrasting similar stories can help you learn about the genre or cultures the stories belong to.

Common themes include:

- Good vs. Evil
- Courage
- Acceptance
- Honesty
- Kindness
- Loyalty
- Perseverance
- Quest



Ask Yourself:

1. What is the topic or subject of each story?
2. How is the pattern of events similar and different in both stories?
3. How are the characters similar and different in both stories?
4. What lesson does the main character learn in each story?
5. What does this teach me about the culture or country the story originated in?

Let's Watch!

Watch the animated Aesop's fable "The Tortoise and the Hare."

characters

setting

plot events

theme