Compare and contrast

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice
A parent or tutor should read along with the student, helping as needed.

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When we **compare** two things, we tell how they are *alike*.

When we **contrast** two things, we tell how they are *different*.

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As you read this story, think about how the two characters are *alike*, and how they are *different*.

Town Mouse and Country Mouse

There once was a Town Mouse who went on a visit to his cousin in the country. Country Mouse led a busy life, keeping up with all his chores. But he loved his town cousin, and gave him a hearty welcome. All he had to offer for a meal were bread and cheese that he had carefully collected from the farmhouse floor, and a jug of water that he brought in each day from the creek down the hill. It was not a feast, but he offered it freely.

Town Mouse rather turned up his long nose at this country food, and said, "I cannot understand, Cousin, how you can put up with such poor food as this. But of course you cannot expect anything better in the country. Come with me, and I will show you how to live. When you have been in town a week, you will wonder how you could ever have stood a country life."

And so the two mice set off for the town and arrived at Town Mouse's home late at night. "You will want something to eat after our long journey," said the polite Town Mouse, and he took his friend into the grand dining-room. There for the taking they found what was left of a fine feast upon the table, and soon the two mice were eating up jellies and cakes and all sorts of other wonderful foods. “It is always like this here,” said Town Mouse. “I don’t have to work for my food at all!”

Suddenly they heard growling and barking. "What is that?" cried Country Mouse.

"It is only the dogs of the house," answered the other.

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"Only!" said Country Mouse. "I do not like that kind of music at my dinner." Just at that moment the door flew open, and in came two huge black dogs, growling and snarling. The two mice had to scamper down and run off. They had no time to take any of the delicious foods with them, and Town Mouse had no food or water nicely stored away in his home. "Good-by, Cousin," said Country Mouse.

"What! going so soon?" said the other.

"Yes," said Country Mouse. "I would much rather have bread and cheese in peace than jellies and cakes in fear!"

Some of these details are true of just one of the two characters. Some are true of both characters. Some are not true of either character. Read each detail, and select the best answer.

1. … takes a trip to the country
   A. Town Mouse
   B. Country Mouse
   C. Both characters
   D. Neither character

2. … arrives in town late at night
   A. Town Mouse
   B. Country Mouse
   C. Both characters
   D. Neither character

3. … stores his food
   A. Town Mouse
   B. Country Mouse
   C. Both characters
   D. Neither character

4. … is not afraid of the dogs
   A. Town Mouse
   B. Country Mouse
   C. Both characters
   D. Neither character

5. … likes where he lives the best
   A. Town Mouse
   B. Country Mouse
   C. Both characters
   D. Neither character

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6. How do the characters' *differences* affect what happens in the story?

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