

Comparing and Contrasting Stories

Read (or listen to) both stories and discuss the guided reading questions with your partner. Then, work together to complete the **Theme Diagram: Compare and Contrast**.

Joseph's Brothers Hate Him

Jacob liked Joseph [his son] very much. He showed him favor by having a beautiful coat made for him. When his 10 older brothers saw how much Jacob loved Joseph, they began to be jealous of Joseph. But there was also another reason why they hated him. Joseph had two dreams. In both of Joseph's dreams, his brothers bowed down to him. When Joseph told his brothers about these dreams, their anger grew even more.

Now, one day, when Joseph's older brothers are taking care of their father's sheep, Jacob asks Joseph to go and see how they are getting along. When Joseph's brothers see him coming, some of them say: 'Let's kill him!' But Reu'ben, the oldest brother, says: 'No, don't you do that!' Instead, they grab Joseph and throw him into a dried-up water hole. Then they sit down to decide what to do with him.

About this time, some Ish'ma-el-ite men come along. Judah says to his half-brothers: 'Let's sell him to them!' And that's what they do. They sold Joseph for 20 pieces of silver. How mean and unkind that was!

From Anger to Murder

After Adam and Eve left the garden of Eden, they had many children. Their first son, Cain, became a farmer, and their second son, Abel, became a shepherd.

One day Cain and Abel made offerings to Jehovah. Do you know what an offering is? It is a special kind of gift. Jehovah was happy with Abel's offering, but he was not happy with Cain's. That made Cain very angry. Jehovah warned Cain that his anger could make him do something bad. But Cain did not listen.

Instead, Cain said to Abel: 'Come over to the field with me.' While they were alone in the field, Cain attacked his brother and killed him. What would Jehovah do about this? Jehovah punished Cain by sending him far away from his family. Cain would never be allowed to come back.

Guided Reading Questions

- What emotions caused problems in both stories?
- How did those emotions affect the characters?
- How did Joseph's brothers respond to their emotions?
- How did Cain respond to his emotions?
- What were the consequences of their actions?

THEME DIAGRAM: COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Compare the two stories using the diagram. Write each story theme and evidence (story details) in the outer circles, and what they share in the overlap.

