Compare and contrast

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

As you read, think about how the stories are alike, and how they are different.

The Kingly Lion

The animals of the field and forest had a Lion as their King. When anyone had a problem, they took it to the Lion King, and he helped to solve it. When anyone had an argument, they took it to the Lion King, and he helped to settle it. The Lion King never made demands that were in his own interest. He wanted only what was best for each and every animal.

Day after day, the Lion King thought about nothing but the animals who were his subjects. Then he sat down and wrote out a Royal Order. He called all the animals to come before him. He stood on a hilltop and watched the animals come together from far and near. He waited for them to settle.

"Hear ye, hear ye!" the Lion began, in his deep and rumbling voice. "I have written out my orders for a new way of doing things that will be better for all. From this day forward, the Wolf and the Lamb shall agree to live in peace. The Panther and the Goat shall live in peace. The Tiger and the Deer, and the Dog and the Rabbit—all shall live together in perfect peace and harmony.

The Rabbit said, "Oh, how I have longed to see this day, in which the weak shall take their place without fear, by the side of the strong." And after the Rabbit said this, he ran for his life.

The Elderly Lion

A very Elderly Lion, weakened by old age and old injuries, could no longer hunt for his food. He lived for a while on grass and berries, but this made him grow still weaker. He decided to use his brain to take what he could not get by force.

The Elderly Lion lay down in his den. He told every animal and bird who

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passed by that he was very sick. The animals all got the news of Elderly Lion's illness, and came one by one to visit him. Squirrel came, bringing fresh grasses and berries. Squirrel was not seen after that. Dove came, bringing more fresh grasses and berries. Dove was not seen after that. More animals went to visit the Elderly Lion, and it became clear that animals were disappearing.

Fox thought about the situation. He decided to go and visit the Elderly Lion. He went to the Elderly Lion's den and stood outside at a respectful distance. "How are you feeling today?" Fox asked.

"Not well, not at all well," said the Elderly Lion. "But why do you stand there outside? Please—come inside and visit with me for a while."

"No thank you," said Fox. "I notice that there are many footprints leading into your den, but I see no trace of any leading out.

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

1. The main character in the story is a lion.
A. "The Kingly Lion" only
B. "The Elderly Lion" only
C. Both stories
D. Neither story

2. The main character in the story is kind.
A. "The Kingly Lion" only
B. "The Elderly Lion" only
C. Both stories
D. Neither story

3. The main character tricks the other characters.
A. "The Kingly Lion" only
B. "The Elderly Lion" only
C. Both stories

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D. Neither story

4. The main character takes advantage of the kindness of others.
A. "The Kingly Lion" only
B. "The Elderly Lion" only
C. Both stories
D. Neither story

5. The main character wants to become the King of the Forest.
A. "The Kingly Lion" only
B. "The Elderly Lion" only
C. Both stories
D. Neither story

6. The main character has a plan that involves the other animals.
A. "The Kingly Lion" only
B. "The Elderly Lion" only
C. Both stories
D. Neither story

7. In the ending, the main character is chased out of the forest.
A. "The Kingly Lion" only
B. "The Elderly Lion" only
C. Both stories
D. Neither story

8. In the ending, one character disagrees with the main character's plan.
A. "The Kingly Lion" only
B. "The Elderly Lion" only
C. Both stories
D. Neither story

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9. What is one other detail that is alike or different in the two stories?

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