

Lesson 22

Comparing and Contrasting Stories in the Same Genre



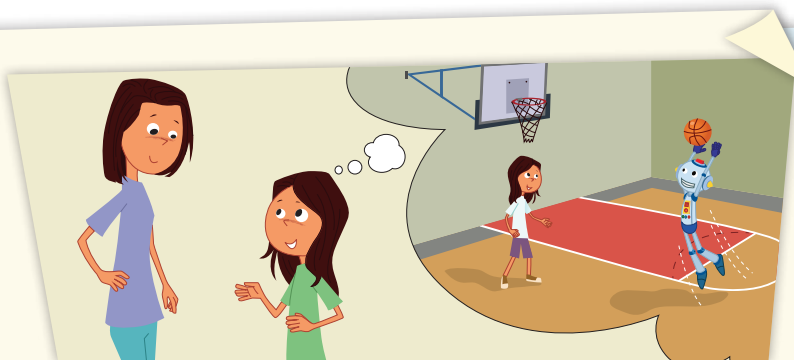
Learning Target



Comparing and contrasting how stories in the same genre approach similar themes and topics will deepen your understanding and enjoyment of each story.

- **Read** Stories are grouped by **genre**, such as mystery, adventure, or science fiction. Stories in the same genre often have similar themes and topics. The **theme** is the message of a story, such as “friends are always there for you.” The **topic** is the subject of the story, such as horses or time travel. **Comparing** and **contrasting** stories in the same genre can help you see their themes and topics more clearly.

Read the stories below. Compare and contrast their themes and topics.



GOODBYE, DXL-597

“Mom, where’s DXL-597? I need that pile of bolts to help me with my homework.”

“Narbla, you’re always complaining about DXL-597, so I traded it in for a DXL-600. It knows 900 languages and has a faster processor!”

“Will the new robot shoot hoops or go skyboarding with me, just like DXL-597 did?”

“I’m afraid none of the new ones do that. They’re for education only.”

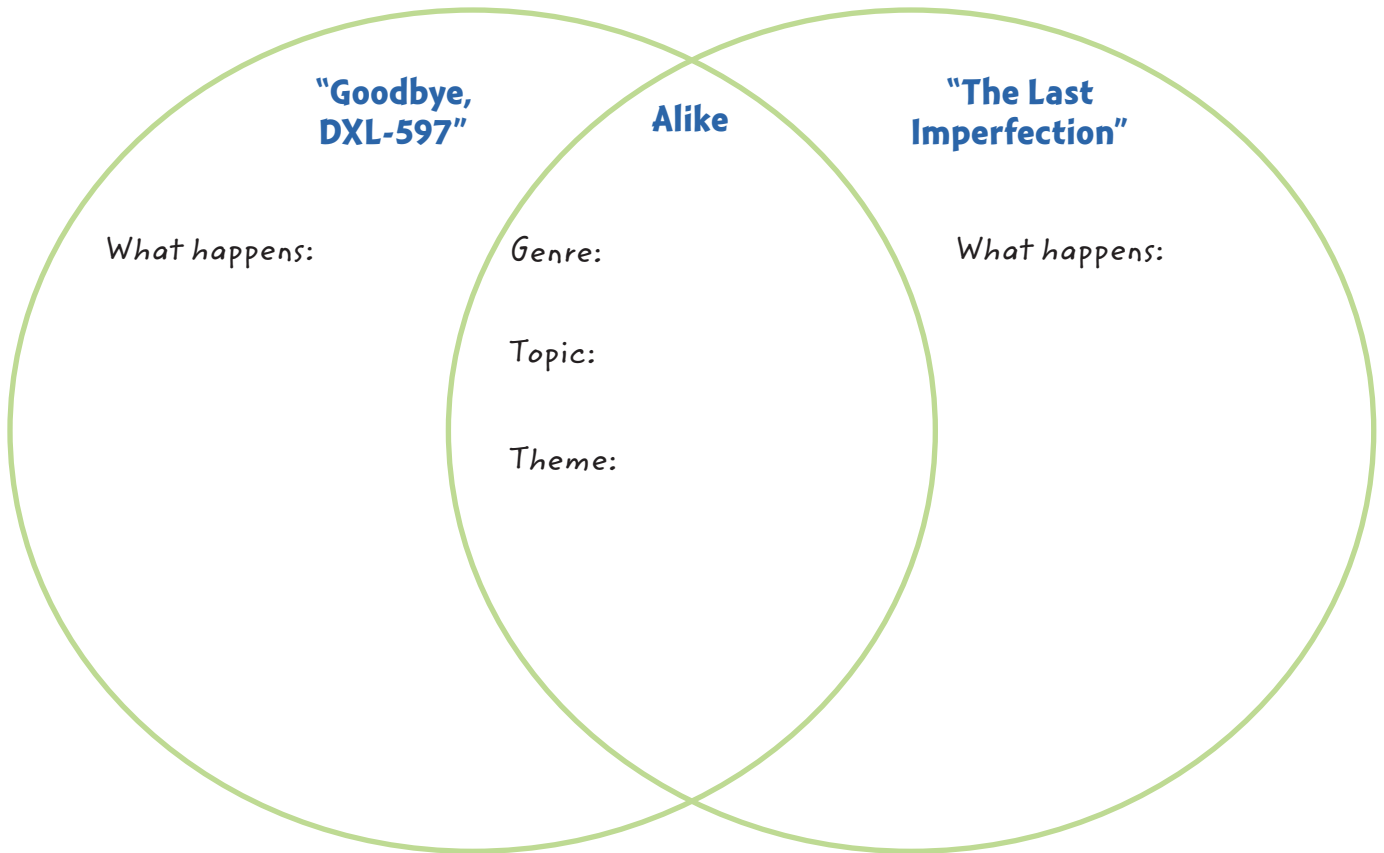
THE LAST IMPERFECTION

EF2020 stood between two other Zaxons in a line that stretched to the horizon on both sides. Their screens faced the sky, watching the last ship leave Earth. The humans had created the Zaxons, but the Zaxons had driven the humans out.

EF2020 looked down the line of robots to his right, perfect and straight. There were no more imperfections on Earth, he thought. There would be no mistakes or accidents. Then he had another thought: There would be no more music or laughter, either.

EF2020 moved ahead of the Zaxons beside him by an inch. It was a start.

► **Think** Consider what you’ve learned so far about comparing and contrasting stories in the same genre. What happens in each story? Do they share topics or themes? Use the *Venn diagram* below to organize your thinking about the stories.



► **Talk** Share your Venn diagram with a partner.

- What is the genre of each story?
- Did you both identify the same similarities and differences?
- How did comparing and contrasting the stories help you better understand each of them?



Academic Talk

Use these words to talk about the text.

- compare
- contrast
- genre
- topic
- theme

The Dog and His Reflection

by Aesop

- 1 A dog, to whom the butcher had thrown a bone, was hurrying home with his prize as fast as he could go. As he crossed a narrow footbridge, he happened to look down and saw himself reflected in the quiet water as if in a mirror. But the greedy dog thought he saw a real dog. And not just a real dog—a dog carrying a bone much bigger than his own.
- 2 If he had stopped to think, the dog would have known better. But instead of thinking, he dropped his bone and sprang at the dog he saw in the river. To his great surprise, he found himself swimming for dear life to reach the shore. At last he managed to scramble out. As he stood sadly thinking about the good bone he had lost, he realized what a stupid dog he had been.

THE SWOLLEN FOX

by Aesop

- 1 A hungry fox found in a hollow tree a quantity of bread and meat, which some shepherds had hidden there for later use. Delighted with his find, the fox slipped in through the narrow aperture and greedily devoured it all. But when he tried to get out again, he found himself so swollen after his big meal that he could not squeeze through the hole. Distraught, he fell to whining and groaning over his misfortune.
- 2 Another fox, happening to pass that way, came and asked him what the matter was. On learning what had happened, the second fox said, “Well, my friend, I see nothing for it but for you to stay where you are. Soon you’ll shrink to your former size, and then you’ll get out then easily enough.”

Close Reader Habits

When you reread the fables, **underline** sentences that give key details about each character’s greed.

Explore

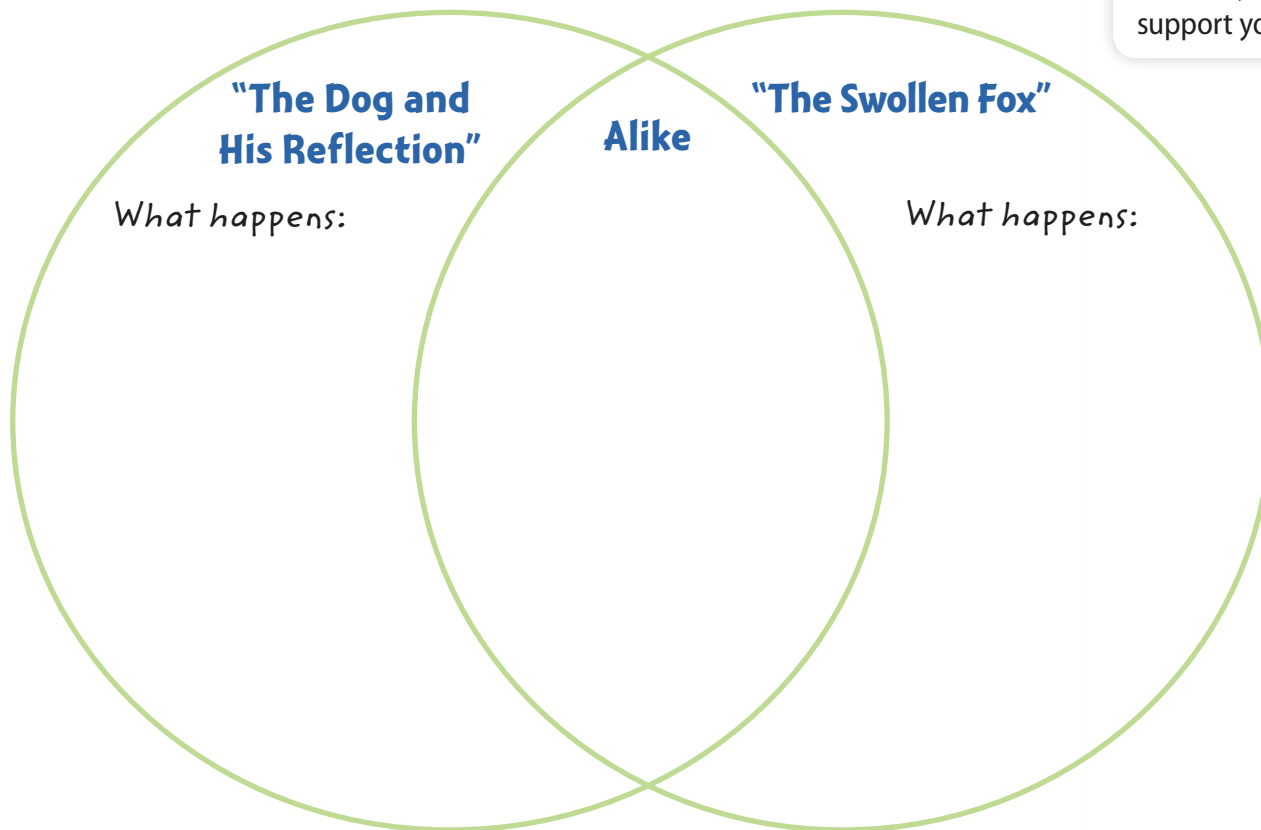
How does each story approach the topic of greed?



In each story, identify key details about characters, events, and so on. You'll use these key details to support your ideas.

Think

- 1 Complete the Venn diagram below. It will help you identify the similarities and differences between the stories.



Talk

- 2 Consider how the stories deal with the topic of greed. What happens to the animals as a result of their greed? If necessary, add or change the details in your Venn diagram.



Write

- 3 **Short Response** How does each fable develop the topic of greed? Use key details from each story in your response. Use the space provided on page 406 to write your answer.

HINT Start by telling what the fables have in common. Then describe their differences.



Mystery of the Old Sea Chest

by Allison DePaul

- 1 *This old attic is one creepy place*, Gloria thought as she swatted away a mass of cobwebs hanging between the wall and an old sea chest made of oak and iron. She was hunting for facts about her ancestors for a school project, and her mother had suggested looking in the chest, which had belonged to Gloria's grandmother.
- 2 Inside the chest, Gloria found old photographs, a thimble, and a tin box. After flipping through the blurry black-and-white photos, Gloria opened the box. What she saw made her eyes bulge, so she slammed the box shut. When she opened the box again, she was still shocked at the contents: money, and lots of it. Her grandmother hadn't been a wealthy person, so where did all this money come from? Gloria was determined to find out.
- 3 Gloria asked her mother what she knew about the chest. She said that Uncle Roger had the chest before they did, so Gloria decided to call him. Roger said he'd been storing it for Gloria's grandmother for years, but he'd never bothered to open the tin box. "I just figured it was sewing supplies," he said.
- 4 Gloria was frustrated, but she didn't give up. She kept thinking: Who else might know about the money? Suddenly she had an idea. She asked her mother if they could visit Great-aunt Jean, her grandmother's sister. When Gloria opened the tin box for her great-aunt, the woman's face grew sad. "Oh, that's right," she said. "My sister never got to take any of her trips." Great-aunt Jean explained that whenever her sister had extra money, she saved it so she could travel—but then she never had the chance.
- 5 With the mystery behind her, Gloria felt proud of herself for working hard to solve it. And later on, Great-aunt Jean had an inspiration—the family would use the money to take a vacation together. Gloria knew that her grandmother would have liked that.

Close Reader Habits

What key details are important to the theme of the mystery? Reread the mystery. **Underline** any key details that are important to its theme.



MILE-HIGH MYSTERY

by Joanna Banks

- 1 It was a bitterly cold and snowy Tuesday afternoon in my town of Fairbanks, Alaska. My sister Missy and I sat at the kitchen table doing our homework when we heard an eerie wail coming from outside. “Whatever it is, it’s on the porch,” Missy whispered, and she lifted the curtain to look out.
- 2 On our porch sat the shaggiest, saddest dog we had ever seen, his face and paws encrusted with ice. We brought the poor creature inside to show our parents, and I rubbed down his back and head with a towel. “He seems healthy,” I said, “so he must belong to someone.”
- 3 I was determined to get him back to his owner—but how could I find that person? Just then I heard a muffled jingle of metal from under all that fur. “Hey, he’s wearing a collar with a tag! Maybe we can find his owner through this . . . oh. It just says ‘Mile High’ on the tag. Nothing else.”
- 4 “So maybe it’s an animal clinic?” said Mom. “But I’ve never heard of that one before.” In response, I dug a phone book out of a kitchen drawer, but it didn’t have a listing for a “Mile High” animal clinic.
- 5 “Maybe it’s a new clinic and isn’t listed yet,” I said. “I’ll call the operator.” But the operator told me that Fairbanks didn’t have any business, including an animal clinic, with that name.
- 6 I sighed, but I just couldn’t give up. “This is a job for the Internet,” I said. A Web search revealed that Denver, Colorado, is nicknamed the “Mile High City.” Next I searched for animal clinics in Denver, and bingo! There was a “Mile High Animal Clinic” in Denver, along with a phone number that I called immediately.
- 7 After getting off the phone, I explained that a family who took their dog to the Mile High Animal Clinic had recently moved to Fairbanks. Their house wasn’t far from ours, but the heavy snow and unfamiliar neighborhood must have kept the dog from finding his way back to them. The mystery was solved, and now this lost dog—his name was Rowling—was really found!

Close Reader Habits

What is the problem? How does the narrator solve it? Reread the mystery.

Underline key details that tell how the narrator solves the problem.



In a mystery, the main character or characters set out to solve a problem. How characters respond to a problem can tell you a lot about the theme.

Think Use what you learned from reading the mysteries to respond to the following questions.

1 This question has two parts. Answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

Which of the following statements is true about **both** mysteries?

- A** Each mystery has to do with homework assignments.
- B** Something unexpected is discovered in an unlikely place.
- C** Weather makes the main character’s problem worse.
- D** Talking to a distant family member finally solves the mystery.

Part B

Choose **two** pieces of evidence, one from **each** story, that support the answer in Part A.

- A** “When she opened the box again, she was still shocked at the contents: money, and lots of it.” (“Mystery of the Old Sea Chest”)
- B** “Gloria asked her mother what she knew about the chest.” (“Mystery of the Old Sea Chest”)
- C** “‘Oh, that’s right,’ she said. ‘My sister never got to take any of her trips.’” (“Mystery of the Old Sea Chest”)
- D** “On our porch sat the shaggiest, saddest dog we had ever seen, his face and paws encrusted with ice.” (“Mile-High Mystery”)
- E** “Just then I heard a muffled jingle of metal from under all that fur.” (“Mile-High Mystery”)
- F** “A Web search revealed that Denver, Colorado, is nicknamed the ‘Mile High City.’” (“Mile-High Mystery”)

2 Which statement about both mysteries is **true**?

- A** Both mysteries are about things that are stolen.
- B** Both mysteries involve families working together.
- C** Both mysteries lead to further adventures.
- D** Both mysteries lead to family secrets being discovered.

- 3** The main characters in each story turn to others for help in solving their mysteries. Choose **two** pieces of evidence, one from each story, that **best** support this statement.
- A** “What she saw made her eyes bulge, so she slammed the box shut.” (“Mystery of the Old Sea Chest”)
 - B** “Gloria asked her mother what she knew about the chest.” (“Mystery of the Old Sea Chest”)
 - C** “Gloria was frustrated, but she didn’t give up.” (“Mystery of the Old Sea Chest”)
 - D** “In response, I dug a phone book out of a kitchen drawer, but it didn’t have a listing for a ‘Mile High’ animal clinic.” (“Mile-High Mystery”)
 - E** “I sighed, but I just couldn’t give up. ‘This is a job for the Internet,’ I said.” (“Mile-High Mystery”)
 - F** “There was a ‘Mile High Animal Clinic’ in Denver, along with a phone number that I called immediately.” (“Mile-High Mystery”)

Talk

- 4** The stories “Mystery of the Old Sea Chest” and “Mile-High Mystery” share a theme: *Determination is key to solving problems*. Use the Venn diagram on page 407 to organize key details from each story that develop this theme.

Write

- 5 Short Response** Use the information from your Venn diagram to compare and contrast how each story approaches the theme of determination being key to solving problems. Use **two** details from **each** story in your response. Use the space provided on page 407 to write your answer.

HINT Great words to use in a compare–contrast response include *both, similar to, like, but, different than, and unlike*.



Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 401.

The Dog and His Reflection

and

THE SWOLLEN FOX

HINT Start by telling what the fables have in common. Then describe their differences.

3 Short Response How does each fable develop the topic of greed? Use key details from each story in your response.



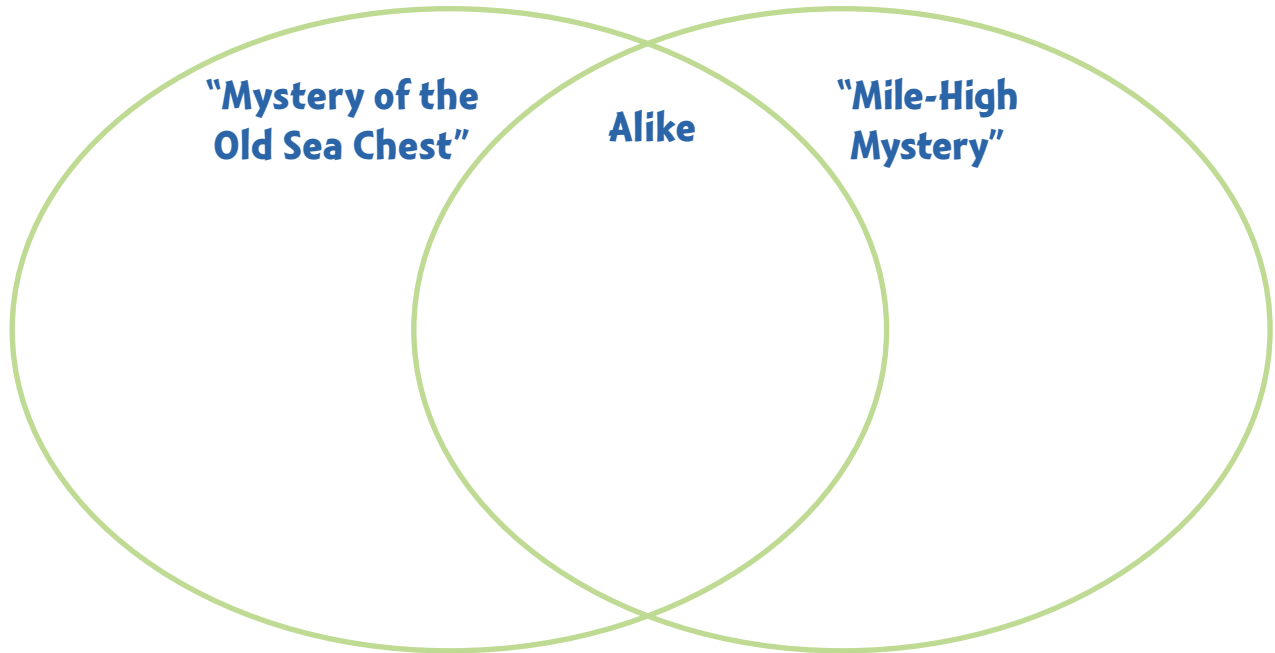
Don't forget to check your writing.

Check Your Writing

- Did you read the prompt carefully?
- Did you put the prompt in your own words?
- Did you use the best evidence from the text to support your ideas?
- Are your ideas clearly organized?
- Did you write in clear and complete sentences?
- Did you check your spelling and punctuation?

Mystery of the Old Sea Chest and **MILE-HIGH MYSTERY**

4 Use the Venn diagram below to organize your ideas and evidence from the stories.



Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 405.

5 Short Response Use the information from your Venn diagram to compare and contrast how each story approaches the theme of determination being key to solving problems. Use **two** details from **each** story in your response.

HINT Great words to use in a compare-contrast response include *both, similar to, like, but, different than, and unlike*.

WORDS TO KNOW

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- **ecology**
- **complex**

A Rapid Challenge

by Danielle Lawrence

- 1 Frankie was beside herself with excitement. For the past year, she had been begging her parents to take her white-water rafting, and they finally said yes. Frankie had heard that white-water rafting was a lot like riding a roller coaster, and she loved roller coasters. She couldn't stop smiling as she climbed into the raft with her family and the guide, whose name was Emily. As she strapped on her life jacket and listened to the guide explain how to paddle, Frankie grew more and more eager. Finally, Emily launched the raft out into a calm section of water and everyone began to paddle.
- 2 "On your left, you'll see a family of otters building a den," Emily said. But Frankie just looked straight ahead and paddled, wanting to get to the first rapids as quickly as possible. Her excitement grew as the sounds of rushing water got closer and closer. "Everybody brace yourself," Emily said as they approached the rapids. "This one is a monster!" Frankie's heart pounded with excitement and she put a little extra effort into her paddling. When they hit the rapids, the swift current tossed them around. The water was so strong that it made the raft bump into boulders and piles of brush again and again. The impact seemed stronger every time. A few times, Frankie was sure the whole raft was going to turn upside down and dump them all into the rushing water. It was a little scary, but it really did feel like a roller coaster!

3 Finally, the raft slid out of the rushing water and into a calm pool. Everyone was smiling. “That was fun!” Frankie yelled. “Where are the next rapids?”

4 “Not for a while,” Emily answered. “The next couple of miles are pretty calm. We have a perfect chance to do some nature watching!”

5 Frankie sighed. The rapids were all she was really interested in. But as long as she had to wait, she thought she might as well enjoy the sights. Frankie took a break from paddling to listen to Emily, who was explaining how the river creatures lived and worked together. “River ecology is very complex,” said Emily. “All of the animals—wait!” Emily lowered her voice. “Be very quiet, pick up your paddles, and look at what’s behind that tree on the right bank of the river.”

6 Frankie squinted as her eyes followed the line formed by Emily’s pointing finger. When she finally saw what Emily was showing her, she gasped. It was a mother wolf and two tiny wolf pups. The mother was peering out from behind a tree as the pups batted at each other’s faces under the mother’s legs. “She has probably been teaching her pups to hunt here by the river,” whispered Emily. “Maybe even showing them how to catch fish!” Frankie smiled to herself, imagining those wolf pups splashing around in the water, pawing at fish. Just then, her eyes met the mother wolf’s. For at least a minute, they just looked at each other. Frankie wished the whole raft could become invisible so they could just watch the wolf family all day.

7 The mother wolf looked away from Frankie and nudged her pups to run away from the riverbank. In an instant, they were gone. “We were very lucky,” Emily said. “Not many people get to see wolves in the wild. They’re very good at hiding.”

8 Frankie sighed as the sound of approaching rapids began to get closer and closer. They all put their paddles back in the water. “Here we go again!” said Emily. But Frankie’s paddling was much slower than it had been before. She was still thinking about those tiny wolf pups, and the long look she had shared with a mother wolf.



WORDS TO KNOW

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- **altitudes**
- **suspicious**
- **advise**

From Those Three Bears

by Ruskin Bond, *Highlights*

- 1 In winter, when snow covers the higher ranges, the Himalayan bears come to lower altitudes in search of food. Sometimes they forage in fields. And because they are shortsighted and suspicious of anything that moves, they can be dangerous. But, like most wild animals, they avoid humans as much as possible.
- 2 Village folk always advise me to run downhill if chased by a bear. They say bears find it easier to run uphill than down. I have yet to be chased by a bear, and will happily skip the experience. But I have seen a few of these mountain bears in India, and they are always fascinating to watch. Himalayan bears enjoy corn, pumpkins, plums, and apricots.
- 3 Once, while I was sitting in an oak tree hoping to see a pair of pine martens¹ that lived nearby, I heard the whining grumble of a bear, and presently a small bear ambled into the clearing beneath the tree.
- 4 He was little more than a cub, and I was not alarmed. I sat very still, waiting to see what the bear would do.

1 **Pine marten:** a small furry mammal that belongs to the weasel family



- 5 He put his nose to the ground and sniffed his way along until he came to a large anthill. Here he began huffing and puffing, blowing rapidly in and out of his nostrils so that the dust from the anthill flew in all directions. But the anthill had been deserted, and so, grumbling, the bear made his way up a nearby plum tree. Soon he was perched high in the branches. It was then that he saw me.
- 6 The bear at once scrambled several feet higher up the tree and lay flat on a branch. Since it wasn't a very big branch, there was a lot of bear showing on either side. He tucked his head behind another branch. He could no longer see me, so he apparently was satisfied that he was hidden, although he couldn't help grumbling.
- 7 Like all bears, this one was full of curiosity. So, slowly, inch-by-inch, his black snout appeared over the edge of the branch. As soon as he saw me, he drew his head back and hid his face. He did this several times. I waited until he wasn't looking, then moved some way down my tree. When the bear looked over and saw that I was missing, he was so pleased that he stretched right across to another branch and helped himself to a plum. At that, I couldn't help bursting into laughter.
- 8 The startled young bear tumbled out of the tree, dropped through the branches some fifteen feet, and landed with a thump in a pile of dried leaves. He was unhurt, but fled from the clearing, grunting and squealing all the way.



Think Use what you learned from reading the stories to respond to the following questions.

1 This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

Read the sentence from paragraph 1 of “Those Three Bears.”

Sometimes they forage in fields.

What does the word forage mean as it is used in the sentence?

- A** search for food
- B** look for water
- C** chase each other
- D** hide from each other

Part B

Which detail from the story provides the **best** clue for the meaning of the word forage?

- A** “. . . like most wild animals, they avoid humans as much as possible.”
- B** “. . . folk always advise me to run downhill if chased by a bear.”
- C** “. . . they are shortsighted and suspicious of anything that moves, . . .”
- D** “. . . the Himalayan bears come to lower altitudes in search of food.”

2 Select **one** excerpt from **each** story showing that being in nature brings risks.

- A** “Her excitement grew as the sounds of rushing water got closer. . . .” (“A Rapid Challenge”)
- B** “Frankie’s heart pounded with excitement. . . .” (“A Rapid Challenge”)
- C** “. . . Frankie was sure the whole raft was going to turn upside down. . . .” (“A Rapid Challenge”)
- D** “. . . the Himalayan bears come to lower altitudes in search of food.” (“Those Three Bears”)
- E** “. . . they avoid humans as much as possible.” (“Those Three Bears”)
- F** “. . . because they are shortsighted and suspicious of anything that moves, they can be dangerous.” (“Those Three Bears”)

- 3** “A Rapid Challenge” and “Those Three Bears” develop this theme: *The natural world is a source of surprises*. Underline **one** sentence from **each** passage that shows the source of each surprise.

from “A Rapid Challenge”	from “Those Three Bears”
<p>Frankie squinted as her eyes followed the line formed by Emily’s pointing finger. When she finally saw what Emily was showing her, she gasped. It was a mother wolf and two tiny wolf pups. The mother was peering out from behind a tree as the pups batted at each other’s faces under the mother’s legs. “She has probably been teaching her pups to hunt here by the river,” whispered Emily. “Maybe even showing them how to catch fish!” Frankie smiled to herself, imagining those wolf pups splashing around in the water, pawing at fish. Just then, her eyes met the mother wolf’s.</p>	<p>Once, while I was sitting in an oak tree hoping to see a pair of pine martens that lived nearby, I heard the whining grumble of a bear, and presently a small bear ambled into the clearing beneath the tree.</p> <p>He was little more than a cub, and I was not alarmed. I sat very still, waiting to see what the bear would do.</p> <p>He put his nose to the ground and sniffed his way along until he came to a large anthill. Here he began huffing and puffing, blowing rapidly in and out of his nostrils so that the dust from the anthill flew in all directions.</p>

- 4** Read these sentences from “A Rapid Challenge” by Danielle Lawrence.

Frankie sighed. The rapids were all she was really interested in. But as long as she had to wait, she thought she might as well enjoy the sights.

These sentences show Frankie is more interested in the river than in watching wildlife. Which sentence from “Those Three Bears” shows that the narrator’s interests are different than Frankie’s?

- A** “And because they are shortsighted and suspicious of anything that moves, they can be dangerous.”
- B** “But I have seen a few of these mountain bears in India, and they are always fascinating to watch.”
- C** “Here he began huffing and puffing, blowing rapidly in and out of his nostrils so that the dust from the anthill flew in all directions.”
- D** “When the bear looked over and saw that I was missing, he was so pleased that he stretched right across to another branch and helped himself to a plum.”

