

Lesson 23

COMPARE AND CONTRAST STORIES RL.3.9

INTRODUCTION

Real-World Connection

ADVENTURE

Carla loves reading adventure books. She always talks about her favorite series, *Daring Darius to the Rescue*. Her friend Ricardo never knows which book she is talking about. Carla tells him all about the main character, Darius. All the stories sound the same to Ricardo. How can Carla explain to him that the stories have different themes, settings, and plots? We will practice the skills in the **Guided Instruction** and **Independent Practice**. Then, we will come back to Carla, Ricardo, and the Darius books at the end of the lesson.

What I Am Going to Learn

- How a series is a collection of stories written by the same author
- How to compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories by the same author about the same or similar characters

What I May Already Know RL.1.9

- I know how to identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.
- I know that characters can have similar or different experiences.
- I know how to compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story.

WORDS TO KNOW

series
compare
contrast
plot
theme
setting



THINK ABOUT IT

You can compare and contrast by asking *Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?* Use answers that are the same to compare. Use answers that are different to contrast.

Vocabulary in Action

You will see words in this lesson that are used in many ways.

- A **series** is a collection of stories. They are usually all written by the same author. Each story in the series often has the same characters.
- When you **compare**, you tell what is the same about the stories.
- When you **contrast**, you tell what is different about the stories.
- The **plot** is all the main events of the story. The plots of two stories may be alike or may be different. A plot tells what the characters do.
- The **theme** is the story's central message. It answers the question, "What does this story teach us?"
- **Setting** is where and when a story takes place. Each book in a series may have the same setting. The setting can also be different.

TURN AND TALK

Think about stories you like that feature the same character. What else is the same in each story? What is different about the stories? Do you know of any series that does not have the same main character?

GUIDED INSTRUCTION

Read these two stories about Daring Darius. Pay attention to how the two stories are similar and how they are different. Underline two setting details in each story.

Daring Darius, Fixer

Darius loved to fix things, especially if it helped someone else. One afternoon, Darius was climbing the monkey bars at the neighborhood playground. All of a sudden, he heard a loud bang. He turned around. Lola, his five-year-old neighbor, was dangling from the swing set! The seat had fallen off, but Lola didn't want to let go of the chains. She was afraid to fall to the ground. Daring Darius to the rescue! He quickly dove under Lola and let her use his back as a stepping stool. She got down from the swing safely. Then Darius put the seat back onto its chains so no one else would get hurt. What a hero!

TIPS AND TRICKS

Use one color to underline what is the same in two stories. Use another color to underline what is different. Try it when you read books in a series!

Daring Darius, Helper

Darius loved to collect rubber bands. He had a whole ball of them. Every day, he added the rubber band that held his mother's daily newspaper together. He also kept a few rubber bands in his pockets, just in case. He was very proud of his collection. One day when he went out to get the newspaper for his mom, he saw Lola, his next door neighbor. She was slipping around on the icy sidewalk in her sneakers. She was about to fall down! What if she got hurt?

Daring Darius to the rescue! Darius dashed carefully over to Lola and grabbed her hand to steady her. Then, he reached into his pocket and pulled out a handful of rubber bands. He put five of them around each of Lola's sneaker toes. Instant grip power! What a hero!

Part A

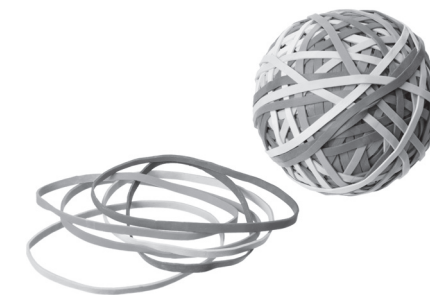
How are the settings of these two stories similar?

- (A) Darius and Lola are in both stories.
- (B) Darius rescues Lola in both stories.
- (C) Darius and Lola are outside in both stories.
- (D) Darius is a hero in both stories.

Part B

Fill in the chart below. List two more key details about the setting in each story.

STORY	SETTING DETAIL
Daring Darius, Fixer	"neighborhood playground"
Daring Darius, Fixer	
Daring Darius, Helper	"he went out to get the newspaper"
Daring Darius, Helper	



TURN AND TALK

This text is another example of the main character's courage and helpfulness. What is similar and what is different about the story's events compared to the first story?

HINT, HINT

You must know what *setting* means to answer this question correctly. There are many ways that a story can be similar. This time, you must focus on how the settings are similar.

SKETCH IT

In the two stories you just read, you learned how they are similar and different. Choose one similarity and one difference, and on a separate sheet of paper draw pictures of both.

How Am I Doing?

What questions do you have?

Explain how you can compare and contrast the setting, plot, and theme of two stories.

Explain what is usually the same and usually different about your favorite series of stories.

Color in the traffic signal that shows how you are doing with the skill.



INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Read the two stories. Then, answer the questions that follow.

Elena and the Scorpion

Genre: Realistic Fiction

- 1 “Come on, Willie,” Elena called. The big shaggy dog ran to her side. After a long day at school, Elena loved to play outside with her dog. Elena’s house was on the edge of town, and her backyard opened up to the wide desert.
- 2 Elena and Willie ran down a small hill and crawled beneath a large bush. The bushes in the desert grew in such a way that there was an empty space in the middle. This was Elena’s favorite place to play pretend. Today, she imagined the space was her super-secret pirate hideout.
- 3 “Arr! Let’s be pirates!” Elena said. Willie barked in response. Then Willie licked Elena’s face and curled up in the corner of their hideout.
- 4 “You stay here and guard the treasure, and I’ll go look for more,” Elena instructed. She pointed to a large purple plastic treasure box.
- 5 The sun was warm on Elena’s cheeks as she searched for new treasures. She could hear a woodpecker in the distance, thumping its beak into a cactus. She collected wildflowers and dried cactus fruit as she walked. Then she saw a flash of light on the ground ahead of her. The sun was making something sparkle. She ran to get a closer look and found it was a small, square of bright copper! Elena picked it up and ran back to the hideout.
- 6 “Look, Willie! Look what I found!” Elena called. “This piece of gold will make us rich,” she said, placing it inside the purple treasure box.
- 7 When she looked up at Willie, she gasped. He was asleep in the corner with a giant scorpion on his back! The yellow scorpion was crawling across Willie’s fur. Its poisonous stinger was ready to strike. Elena wanted to scream, but that would wake up Willie, and the scorpion would sting him for sure. What could she do? She felt sweat dripping down her face. Shaking her head, she thought, “I don’t have time to be afraid.”



READING NOTES

- 8 Elena looked around the hideout and grabbed a branch from the ground. Slowly, she walked over to Willie. When she was close enough, she held out the stick and quickly brushed the scorpion off of Willie's back. Willie woke up and barked at the scorpion, sending it scurrying from the hideout as fast as it could move.
- 9 "Come on, Willie, let's go home," Elena said, her voice full of pride. She felt brave and strong as she led Willie up the hill to their house.

Willie Saves the Day

Genre: Realistic Fiction

- 1 At first, Elena was excited for summer storm season in the desert, but then the storms got boring. After three long days of rain, the sun was finally shining. Elena could not wait to go outside and play.
- 2 "Let's go, Willie. It's pirate time!" Elena said, running outside with her dog, Willie. The two ran into the desert behind Elena's house. They raced down the hill to their favorite hiding spot beneath a bush. As they got closer to their hideout, Elena could not believe her eyes. Their super-secret pirate hideout was completely flooded. Water from the storms was rushing over the bushes and down the hill like a river. Elena sat by the edge of the water and sighed.
- 3 "Looks like it's going to be another boring day," she said. Willie rested his head on her shoulder. Elena began tossing rocks into the water. The water moved so quickly that it was hard to even see a splash.
- 4 A moment later, Elena spotted her plastic treasure box on a rock downstream. The water must have washed it out of her hideout and down into the creek.
- 5 "Come on, Willie, let's save our treasure!" Elena said. She ran alongside the water toward her treasure box. Willie stayed close by her side. She kneeled down and reached out for the box, but it was beyond her reach. She inched closer to the edge, yet it was still too far away. The water roared

below her. Elena stood up and looked around for a stick. She found one that was shaped like a hook. She reached out with the stick, but it only pushed the box further away.

- 6 With one last effort, Elena threw herself forward, but she missed the box and toppled into the water. She tried to stand, but the ground beneath her was too slippery. The water was rushing faster and higher. Elena kicked and pushed, but she could not stand up again. She tried to yell for help, but the water kept splashing her face.
- 7 Willie stood barking at the edge of the water. He barked loudly, as though he were calling for help. Then he dove into the water and paddled toward Elena. Willie grabbed her shirt between his teeth and pulled her free of the mud.
- 8 Safe at last, Elena hugged Willie, and the big shaggy dog licked the water off her smiling face. Then Elena and Willie climbed up the hill and returned home. It had not been a boring day after all!

1. What is the setting for each story? How are the settings different? Use the three best phrases below to fill out the chart.

Hideout behind a bush in the desert

Flooded hideout behind a bush in the desert and a nearby creek

Both settings are behind a bush in the desert

One setting includes the creek while the other does not

ELENA AND THE SCORPION SETTING	
WILLIE SAVES THE DAY SETTING	
HOW SETTINGS ARE DIFFERENT	

READING NOTES

TIPS AND TRICKS

This question is about the plot. Do you remember what *plot* means? If not, go back and review!

2. Part A

How is the beginning of each plot similar?

- (A) Elena saves her dog, Willie.
- (B) Willie saves Elena.
- (C) Elena goes outside to play.
- (D) Elena falls in a creek.

Part B

Underline **one** plot detail from each story that **best** supports the answer to Part A. Use a detail from paragraph 1 of each story.

3. How is the setting in “Elena and the Scorpion” different from the setting in “Willie Saves the Day”?

4. What plot detail is the same in paragraph 4 of each story?

- (A) Elena’s purple plastic treasure box is in the hideout.
- (B) Elena locates her purple plastic treasure box.
- (C) Elena’s purple plastic treasure box is washed out of the hideout.
- (D) Elena hides her purple plastic treasure box.

5. Part A

How is the plot for each story similar?

- (A) In both stories, a character needs to be rescued.
- (B) In both stories, Elena needs to be rescued.
- (C) In both stories, Willie is in terrible danger.
- (D) In both stories, Elena and Willie are in danger.

Part B

How is the plot for each story different?

- (A) In Story 1, Elena is stung by a scorpion. In Story 2 story, she almost drowns.
- (B) In Story 1, Elena rescues Willie from being stung by a scorpion. In Story 2, Willie rescues Elena from the creek.
- (C) In Story 1, Willie rescues Elena from being stung by a scorpion. In Story 2, Elena rescues Willie from the creek.
- (D) In Story 1, Elena and Willie are being chased by a scorpion. In Story 2, they fall into the creek.

6. Match each sentence from the stories with the way it shows that the stories are similar.

“Elena’s house was on the edge of town, and her backyard opened up to the wide desert.” (“Elena and the Scorpion,” paragraph 1)

“She felt brave and strong as she led Willie up the hill to their house.” (“Elena and the Scorpion,” paragraph 9)

“As they got closer to their hideout, Elena could not believe her eyes.” (“Willie Saves the Day,” paragraph 2)

Similarity in Theme

Similarity in Setting

Similarity in Plot

7. Part A

Which theme is only present in **one** of the stories?

- (A) The theme of facing danger even if you are afraid
- (B) The theme of objects being less important than lives
- (C) The theme of saving someone you love
- (D) The theme of sticking together in a crisis

TIPS AND TRICKS

Go back and review the stories. What is the theme of each one?



Part B

Which detail supports this theme?

- A Elena never recovers the purple treasure box.
- B Elena chases after the purple treasure box.
- C Willie chases after the purple treasure box.
- D Willie digs a hole for the purple treasure box.



8. Which **two** sentences from the stories express the same theme of helping those who are important to us?

- A “You stay here and guard the treasure, and I’ll go look for more,” Elena instructed. (“Elena and the Scorpion,” paragraph 4)
- B When she was close enough, she held out the stick and quickly brushed the scorpion off of Willie’s back. (“Elena and the Scorpion,” paragraph 8)
- C “Come on, Willie, let’s save our treasure!” Elena said. (“Willie Saves the Day” paragraph 5)
- D With one last effort, Elena threw herself forward, but she missed the box and toppled into the water. (“Willie Saves the Day,” paragraph 6)
- E She tried to yell for help, but the water kept splashing her face. (“Willie Saves the Day,” paragraph 6)
- F Willie grabbed her shirt between his teeth and pulled her free of the mud. (“Willie Saves the Day,” paragraph 7)

EXIT TICKET

RL.3.9

You have practiced comparing and contrasting books in a series. Let’s revisit the **Real-World Connection**.

Carla was telling Ricardo how much she loved the Daring Darius series. Ricardo was confused. He had trouble understanding the difference between the stories. Imagine that you are in Carla’s class. Help her explain the series to Ricardo more clearly. Write a few sentences to explain how the Daring Darius stories are similar and different. Write about setting, characters, plot, and theme. Which of these things stays the same? Which of these are different in each story?
