

Name: _____

Reading Test

RL.3.9: Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters (e.g., in books from a series).

Passage A: Dolphins at Daybreak

She and Jack looked out the window. The tree house wasn't in a tree. It was on the ground.

"Why is the ground pink?" said Jack.

"I don't know," said Annie. "But I'm going out there."

"I'm going to do a little research first," said Jack.

Annie climbed out of the tree house.

Jack picked up the ocean book and flipped through it.

He found a picture of a pink island surrounded by water. He read:

This is a coral reef. Corals are tiny sea animals. After they die, their skeletons remain. Over time, the reef builds up from stacks of coral skeletons.

"Oh man, tiny skeletons," said Jack. He pulled out his notebook and wrote:

Millions of coral skeletons.

Passage B: Midnight on the Moon

Jack opened his eyes.

He looked out the window. The tree house had landed inside a large white room.

"What kind of training place is this?" asked Annie.

The room was round. It had no windows. It had white floors and a curved wall lit by bright lights.

Where were all the astronauts and space scientists? Jack wondered.

"There's nobody here," said Annie.

"We'd better find out where we are," said Jack.

He looked at the page in the moon book. He read the words below the picture of the dome.

A moon base was built on the moon in the year 2031. The top of the dome slides open to let spacecrafts enter and leave.

“Oh, man—” Jack whispered.

“What’s wrong?” said Annie.

Jack’s heart pounded with excitement. He could hardly speak. “We’ve landed inside a moon base,” he said.

“So...?” said Annie.

“So the moon base is on the moon!” said Jack.

1. How are both passages alike?

- ☐ Both passages discuss the process Jack uses to do research and write important notes in his notebook.
- ☐ Both passages describe how Annie and Jack feel when the tree house lands in an unknown place and how they figure out where they are.
- ☐ Both passages talk about how the tree house was built.
- ☐ Both passages are about Annie always having all the answers to Jack’s questions.

2. How are the settings of both stories different?

- ☐ Passage A takes place on the moon; passage B takes place in a treehouse.
- ☐ Passage A takes place on a coral reef; passage B takes place on the moon.
- ☐ Passage A takes place at the bottom of the ocean, passage B takes place at the ocean’s surface.
- ☐ Passage A takes place in outer space; passage B takes place on the moon.

3. How are the settings of both passages alike?

- ☐ Both passages take place in a treehouse.
- ☐ Both passages take place in the ocean.
- ☐ Both passages take place on the moon.
- ☐ Both passages take place on a coral reef.

4. How are the plots of both stories alike?

- ☐ In both passages, the children get lost.
- ☐ In both passages, the children explore outer space.
- ☐ In both passages, the children go to a new place, and look up information in their book.
- ☐ In both passages, the children learn about coral reefs.

Passage A: The Truth About Bats

Halfway up a mountain ridge we came upon a large, dark hole.

“Cool!” said Tim. “Let’s see what’s inside.”

“I’ll wait out here,” Phoebe announced. “There’s no way I’m going in there.”

“I’m with you,” Arnold and Wanda said at the same time.

“Come on, you guys,” said Keesha. “We have our flashlights, and we’ll be together. There’s nothing to be afraid of.”

“Except man-eating bats!” Phoebe said.

“Yeah,” Arnold told Keesha. “Why don’t you go in and then tell us about it? If you come back alive.”

Passage B: The Wild Whale Watch

In a short while, the Magic School Bus pulled up at a harbor on the coast of New England.

“Where’s the ocean?” Phoebe asked. “It smells fishy, but I can’t see a thing in this fog.”

The fog was getting thicker as we drove closer to the ocean. Ms. Frizzle didn’t seem worried. “As my great-great-great-aunt Missy used to say, ‘Never fear, the fog is bound to clear.’”

We were just about to get off the bus when I saw a huge dark shape coming out of the fog. “Don’t open the door, Ms. Frizzle!” Wanda called. “There’s some kind of giant out there.”

“Just a giant at heart,” the Friz said as she pulled the lever to open the door. The “giant” stepped right up the stairs onto the bus. It wasn’t a giant after all- just a very large man dressed in a dark blue jacket. He had a bushy white beard and wore a cap with an anchor on it.

5. What is similar about the plots of both passages?

- ☐ The students are happy to be going on another adventure.
- ☐ The students feel curious about the things they see outside and they want to investigate.
- ☐ The students feel nervous and afraid about the unknown things waiting for them outside.
- ☐ The students are upset with Ms. Frizzle because she speaks in riddles.

6. How are the settings different in passage A and passage B?

- ☐ Passage A takes place on a mountain ridge; passage B takes place in the ocean
- ☐ Passage A takes place in the ocean; passage B takes place in a foggy forest
- ☐ Passage A takes place in a dark cave; passage B takes place in a harbor on the New England coast
- ☐ Passage A takes place on a mountain ridge; passage B takes place in a harbor on the New England coast

7. Which of the following could be a theme of both stories?

- ☐ Always be afraid of things that you don't know.
- ☐ Being prepared is not important.
- ☐ Never go on a school bus that breaks down.
- ☐ Don't be scared of something before you know more about it.