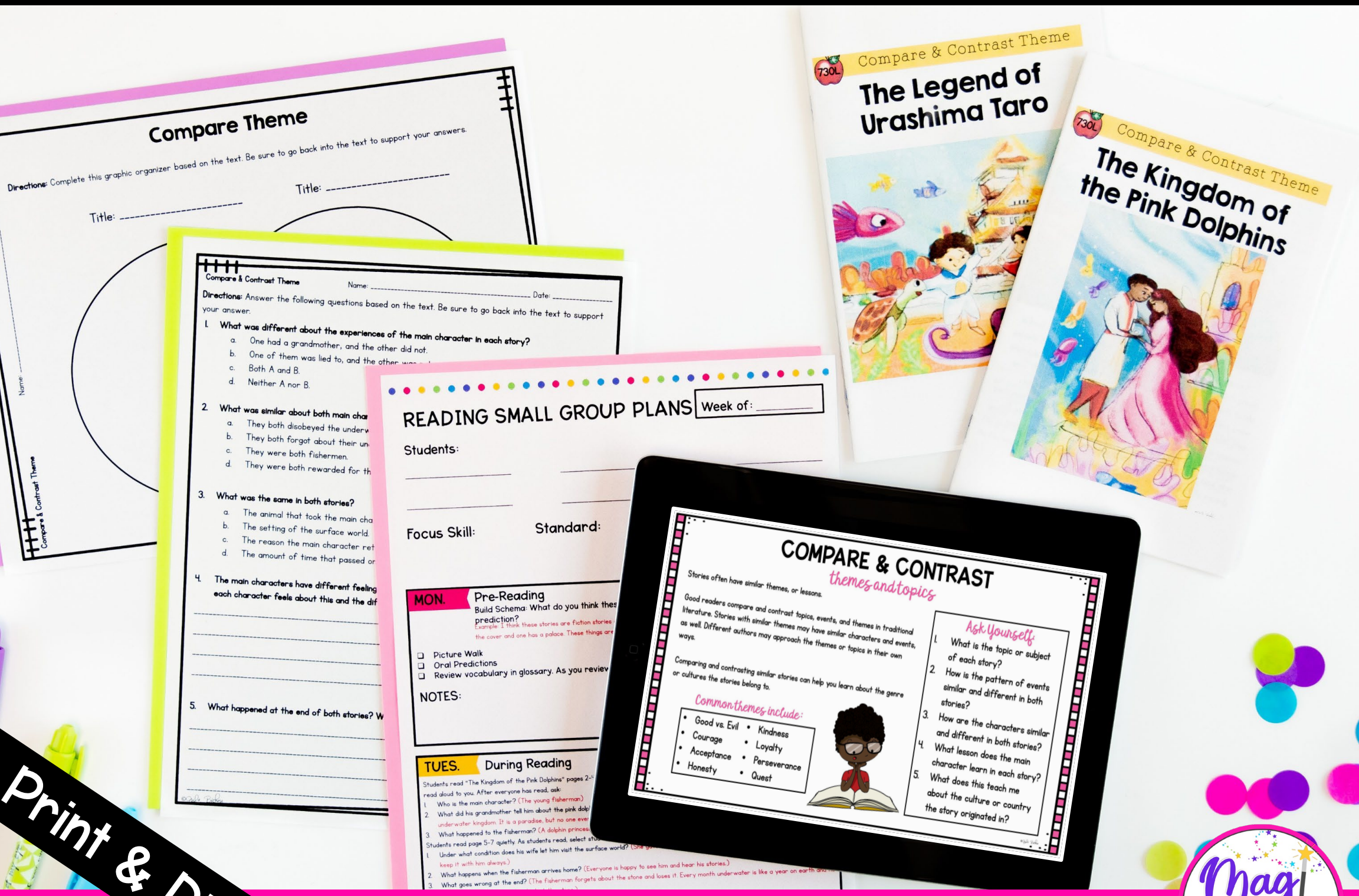
COMPARE THEMES

~ Skill Pack ~



Print & Digital

4th Grade

LEXILE

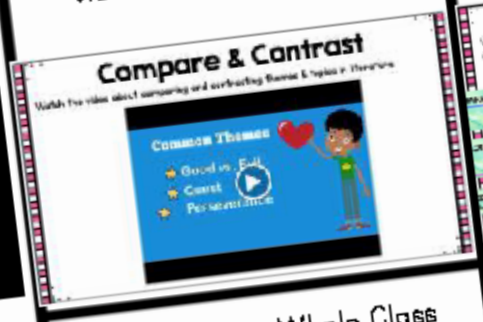
MagiCORE

LESSON PLANS

4th GRADE

COMPREHENSION SKILL: Compare & Contrast Theme

Week 1

	LESSON	PRACTICE	GUIDED READING	CENTERS
MONDAY	• Introduce compare & contrast by watching the video. 	Model comparing and contrasting themes and topics. 	"The Kingdom of the Pink Dolphins" and "The Legend of Urashima Taro" leveled guided readers. Meet with two groups and complete "pre-reading" activities."	**Task Cards** • Compare Stories
TUESDAY	Guided Practice Whole Class • Read mentor texts and practice comparing and contrasting themes and topics.	**Independent Reading** • Choice text to read independently and practice comparing and contrasting themes and topics.	Read "The Kingdom of the Pink Dolphins" leveled guided readers. Complete "During Reading" discussions. 	
WEDNESDAY	Guided Practice Whole Class • Read mentor texts and practice comparing and contrasting themes and topics.	**Independent Reading** • Choice text to read independently and practice comparing and contrasting themes and topics.	Read "The Legend of Urashima Taro" leveled guided readers. Complete "During Reading" discussions. 	
			Reread the stories "The	

4th Grade

Compare & Contrast

DIGITAL Mini lessons

MagiCORE

Let's Read!

Read the adapted Aesop's fable "The Ants and the Grasshopper." Think about how this fable relates to the story "The Three Little Pigs."

One bright day in September, the Ant family was busy working, drying out the grain they had stored up during the summer. Suddenly, a starving Grasshopper came up. He was carrying a fiddle and humbly begged for a bite to eat.

"What!" cried the Ants in surprise, "haven't you stored anything away for the winter? What in the world were you doing all last summer?"

"I didn't have time to store up any food," whined the Grasshopper. "I was so busy making music that before I knew it the summer was gone."

The ants were shocked. They could not believe the Grasshopper was unprepared.

"Making music, were you?" they cried. "Very well; now dance!" And they turned their backs on the Grasshopper and went on with their work.

Let's Practice!

Compare & contrast the characters, setting, plot, and theme in the two short stories.

Story Element	What is similar?	What is different?
CHARACTERS		
SETTING		
PLOT EVENTS		
THEME		

COMPARE & CONTRAST

themes and topics

Stories often have similar themes, or lessons.

Good readers compare and contrast topics, events, and themes in traditional literature. Stories with similar themes may have similar characters and events, as well. Different authors may approach the themes or topics in their own ways.

Comparing and contrasting similar stories can help you learn about the genre or cultures the stories belong to.

Common themes include:

- Good vs. Evil
- Courage
- Acceptance
- Honesty
- Kindness
- Loyalty
- Perseverance
- Quest

Ask Yourself:

1. What is the topic or subject of each story?
2. How is the pattern of events similar and different in both stories?
3. How are the characters similar and different in both stories?
4. What lesson does the main character learn in each story?
5. What does this teach me about the culture or country the story originated in?

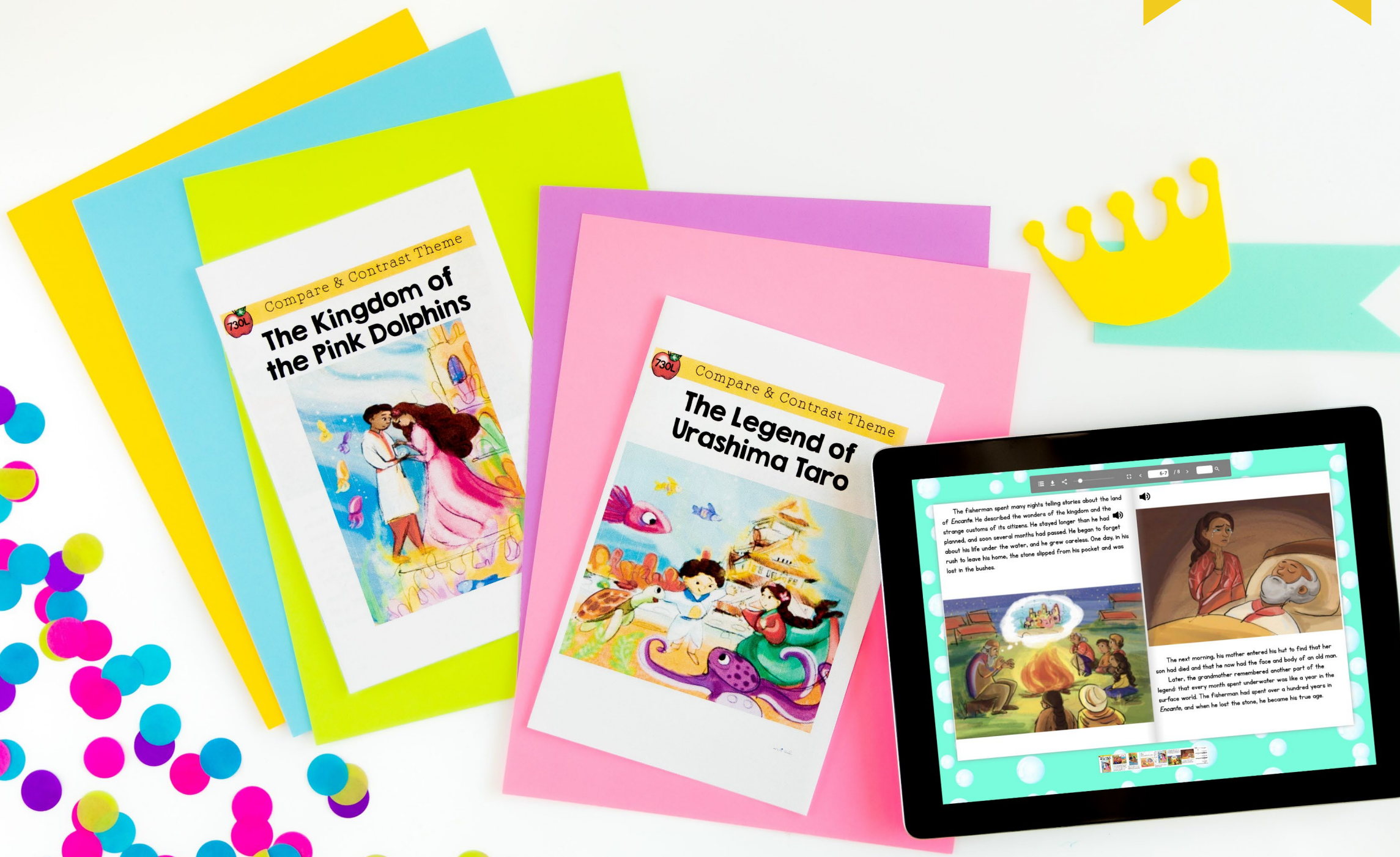
Let's Watch!
Watch the animated Aesop's fable "The Tortoise and the Hare."
characters
setting
plot events
theme

GUIDED READERS

Printable & Digital

LEXILE®

4th – 5th Grade



MagiCORE

compare & contrast theme

Compare Theme

Directions: Complete this graphic organizer based on the text. Be sure to go back into the text to support your answers.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Compare & Contrast Theme

Compare & Contrast Theme

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the text. Be sure to go back into the text to support your answer.

1. **What was different about the experiences of the main character in each story?**
   a. One had a grandmother, and the other did not.
   b. One of them was lied to, and the other was
   c. Both A and B.
   d. Neither A nor B.

2. **What was similar about both main char**
   a. They both disobeyed the underw
   b. They both forgot about their un
   c. They were both fishermen.
   d. They were both rewarded for th

3. **What was the same in both stories?**
   a. The animal that took the main cha
   b. The setting of the surface world.
   c. The reason the main character ret
   d. The amount of time that passed or

4. **The main characters have different feeling each character feels about this and the dif**

5. **What happened at the end of both stories? W**

©Julie Brooks

READING SMALL GROUP PLANS

Week of: _____

Students:

_____ _____

_____ _____

Focus Skill: Standard:

MON. Pre-Reading

Build Schema: What do you think thes
prediction?
Example: I think these stories are fiction stories
the cover and one has a palace. These things are

- ❑ Picture Walk
- ❑ Oral Predictions
- ❑ Review vocabulary in glossary. As you reviev

NOTES:

TUES. During Reading

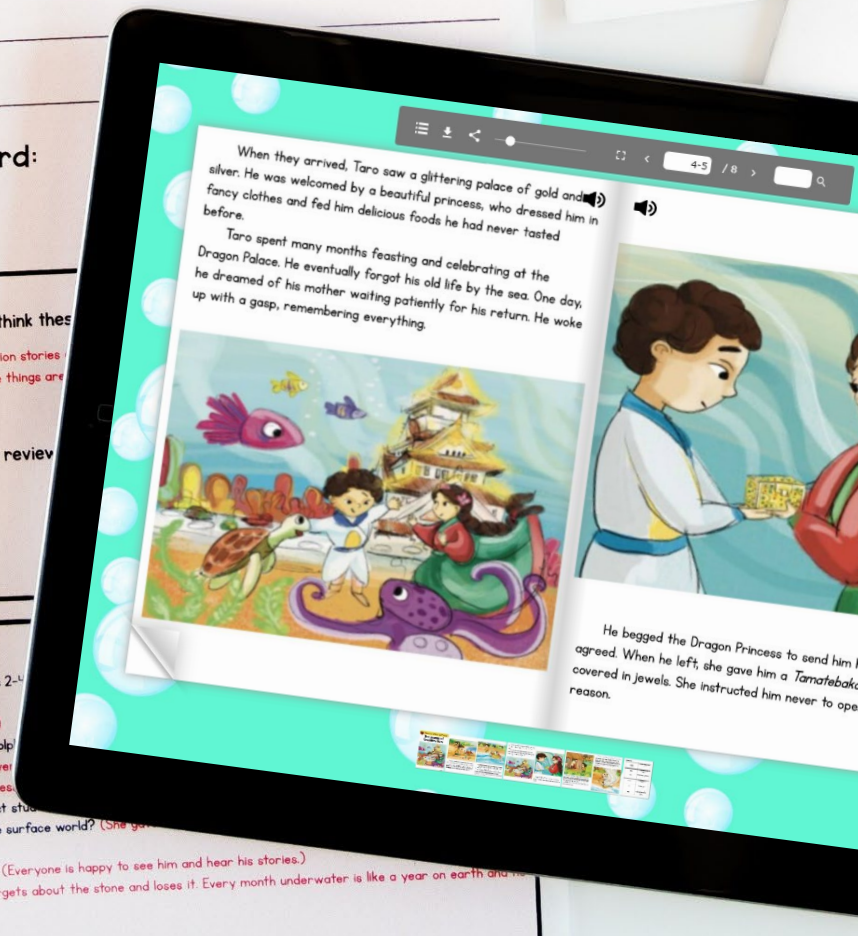
Students read "The Kingdom of the Pink Dolphins" pages 2-
read aloud to you. After everyone has read, ask:
1. Who is the main character? (The young fisherman.)
2. What did his grandmother tell him about the pink dolp
underwater kingdom. It is a paradise, but no one ever
3. What happened to the fisherman? (A dolphin princess
Students read page 5-7 quietly. As students read, select stu
1. Under what condition does his wife let him visit the surface world? (She ga
keep it with him always.)
2. What happens when the fisherman arrives home? (Everyone is happy to see him and hear his stories.)
3. What goes wrong at the end? (The fisherman forgets about the stone and loses it. Every month underwater is like a year on earth and he
turned into his true age when he lost the stone.)

NOTES:

Compare & Contra

730L

The Legen
Urashima



Compare & Contrast Theme

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the text.
your answer.

1. What was dif
   a. One
   b. One
   c. Both
   d. Neit

2. What was
   a. Th
   b. Th
   c. Th
   d. T

3. What w
   a.
   b.
   c.
   d.

4. The
   each

5. W

READING SMALL GROUP PLANS

Week of: _____

Students:

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

Focus Skill: Standard: Book:

MON. Pre-Readin

- ❑ Picture
- ❑ Oral Pr
- ❑ Review

NOTES:

TUES.

Students read "The Ki
read aloud to you. Afte
1. Who is the main ch
2. What did his grand
   underwater kingdom
3. What happened to t

Students read page 5-7
1. Under what condition
   keep it with him alway
2. What happens when th
3. What goes wrong at t
   turned into his true age

NOTES:

1. **Compare Two Stories**

Country Mouse eyed the delicious spread of pastries and cakes on the table. Even though the family had finished dining, there was plenty left over to satisfy his cousin Town Mouse had promised. Just family's cat came pouncing

Aladdin sighed and set down the magic lamp. He couldn't fault the genie, who had truly turned him into a prince with riches beyond imagination. However, riches and titles hadn't impressed the princess at all. Even if they had, she would've been in love with "Prince Ali," a person who didn't exist, not Aladdin.

2.

his son
wax a
island
highe
sudd

Compare & Contrast Theme

Name: _____

Date: _____

Compare Theme

Directions: Complete this graphic organizer based on the text. Be sure to go back into the text to support your answers.

Title: _____ Title: _____

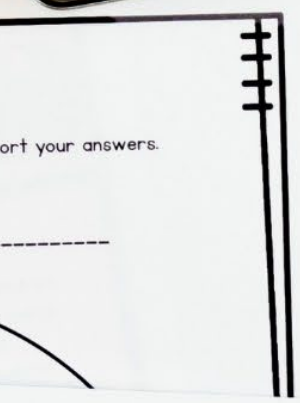
Long ago, on the banks of the Napo Rive
young fisherman. He grew up listening to his
about the magical pink dolphins that lived in
were called the *bufeo colorado* by the peo
said that they could change their shape. T
appear in front of a villager as a beautif
would take the villager to the underwate
was said that this kingdom was a parad
dream of. However, no human had ever

730L Compare & Contrast Theme

The Kingdom of the Pink Dolphins

730L Compare & Contrast Theme

The Legend of Urashima Taro



ort your answers.

pare & Contrast Theme

e Legend of
shima Taro

Compare Themes

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Lion and the Mouse

Origin: Greece

Once when a lion was asleep a li
soon wakened the lio
him

and down upon him; this
d his big jaws to swallow

I shall never forget it.
ays."
lp him that he lifted up
ap, and the hunters
vent in search of a

t in which the lion
ing of the beasts.

Compare Themes

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. How are the tiger in "The Ungrateful Tiger" and the lion in "The Lion and the Mouse" similar?

red

nd the Mouse"

orange

se" similar?

yellow

Tiger."

tors

Compare Themes

870L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Ungrateful Tiger

Origin: Korea

Long ago, there lived a ferocious tiger that stalked a small Korean village. The people of the village were so scared that they didn't leave their houses. Something had to be done, so the village elders met to devise a plan.

The village elders discussed the situation in great lengths until they finally had a plan. They would set a trap for the tiger by digging deep holes around the village, and then they would fill each hole with meat for bait and cover the hole with branches.

Everyone in the village helped build the traps, and every family spared a little meat to place inside the traps. Finally, everyone went to their houses to await the troublesome tiger.

The following morning, the village chief's son journeyed to the village from the city. As he approached the village, he heard the frightening roar of the tiger, so he carefully investigated the hole that the sound was coming from. There was the tiger, roaring miserably.

"Please help me out of here, or I'll die of starvation! I will forever be in your debt," said the tiger.

The young man replied, "You would surely eat me if you were free!"

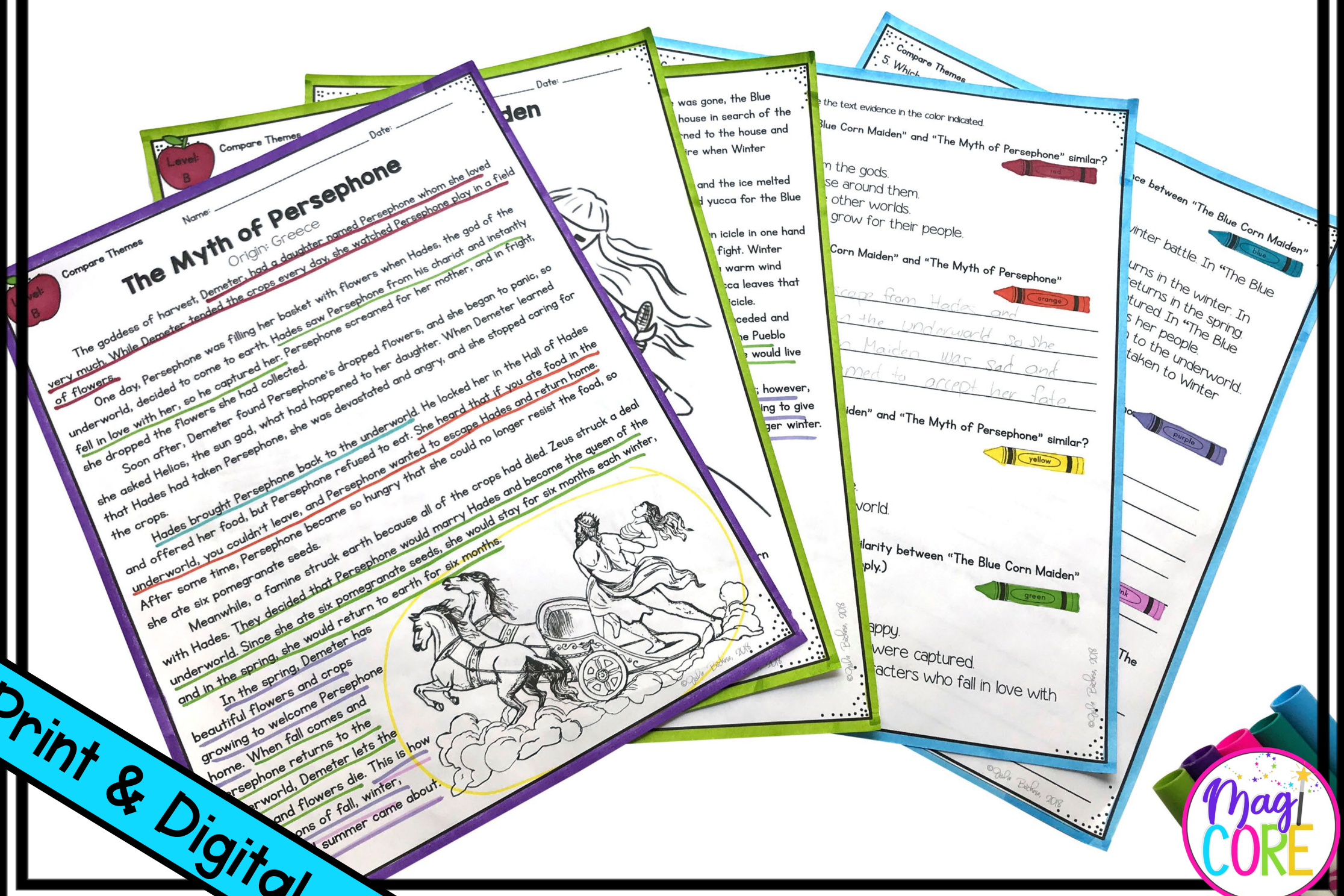
"I promise that I will not eat you," replied the cunning tiger.

The young man was convinced, so he found a long

FICTION | 4TH GRADE | RL.4.9

COMPARE & CONTRAST
themes & topics

LEXILE



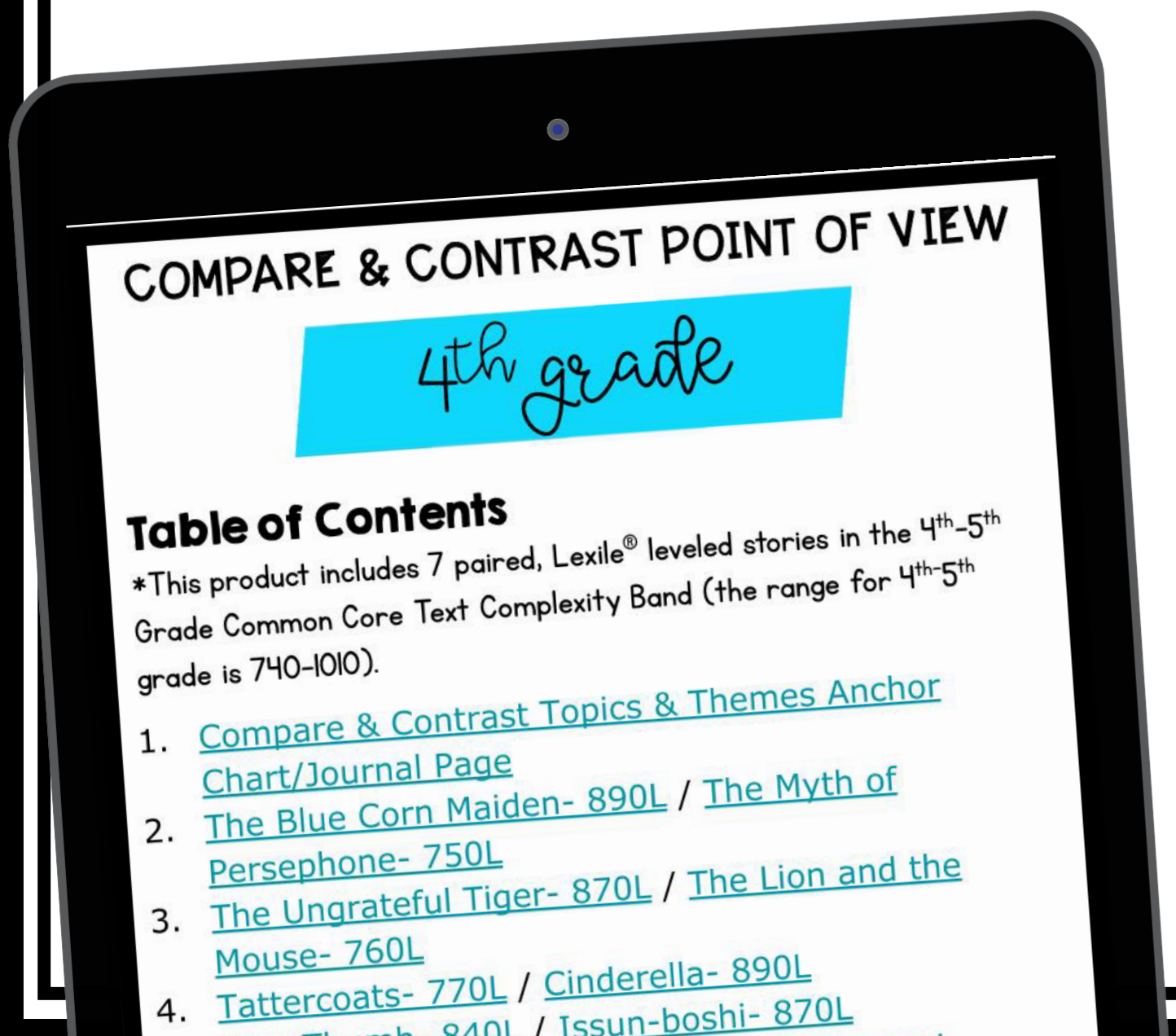
Print & Digital

MagiCORE

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

TWELVE 4th Grade DIGITAL and PRINTABLE PDF fiction passages & ONE assessment!

- Aligned with 4th Grade Lexile Levels
- Includes a Compare & Contrast Topics & Themes Anchor Chart and Journal Page
- Students can highlight the text for easy comprehension



Created with GOOGLE SLIDES

LEXILE®

NONFICTION PASSAGES

Color-coded highlighting supports student comprehension. In Google Slides, students can highlight as they read!

760L Compare Themes Name: _____ Date: _____

Hansel and Gretel

Origin: Germany

Long ago, a woodcutter and his two children, a boy named Hansel and a girl named Gretel, lived in a great forest. After Hansel and Gretel's mother died, the woodcutter fell in love with another woman and remarried. The children's new stepmother was jealous because the woodcutter gave his children a lot of attention, and she grew resentful of them.

The family was very poor and had no food to eat. One evening when they were out of food, the callous stepmother argued that they must take the children into the forest and abandon them. The woodcutter refused because he loved his children, but his wife argued with him until he finally agreed.

The next morning, the stepmother gave each of the children a little piece of bread, and they all set out for the forest.

When they reached the middle of the forest, the stepmother said, "Just sit here, and when you are tired, you may sleep. We are going into the forest to cut wood. When we are done, we will come fetch you."

Hansel and Gretel followed the instructions as they ate their bread and fell asleep. When they awoke, no one had come for them, so they walked the whole night and all of the next day, too. They were very hungry and tired, and they decided to sleep beneath a tree.

Days later, the children came across a little house that was built of bread and covered with cakes. The entire house was made of food. The windows were even made of clear sugar.

When the children began to feast on the delicious house, they heard a soft voice cry from the house, "Nibble, nibble, gnaw, who is nibbling at my little house?"

The children answered, "the wind, the wind, the heaven-born wind," and went on eating.

Suddenly, as the door opened, a wrinkled face belonging to an old woman emerged.

The old woman crackled, "Oh, you dear children. Do come in, and stay with me so that no harm shall come to you.

The children followed the old woman into her little house, and she fed them milk and pancakes with sugar. Afterward, Hansel and Gretel went to sleep in two warm beds, thinking that they were in heaven.

©Jake Bachman, 2018

After reading, students type their answers in the text boxes using text evidence.

Compare Themes

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. How are the characters in "Hansel and Gretel" and "The Baba Yaga" similar? red

Students type their answers right in the text box.

2. How are the characters in "Hansel and Gretel" and "The Baba Yaga" different? orange

a. Gretel is in both stories. Hansel is not in both stories.
b. There is a helpful grandmother in "The Baba Yaga". Hansel and Gretel help themselves.
c. The animals help Hansel and Gretel. The little girl saves herself in "The Baba Yaga".
d. There is an evil stepmother in "Hansel and Gretel". The father is evil in "The Baba Yaga".

3. How are the settings of "Hansel and Gretel" and "The Baba Yaga" similar? yellow

a. Both stories take place in Russia.
b. Both stories take place in Germany.
c. Both stories take place in the woods.
d. Both stories take place in small houses.

4. Which of the following correctly describes a similarity between "Hansel and Gretel" and "The Baba Yaga"? (Choose all that apply.) green

a. Both stories have candy houses.
b. Both stories have elements of fantasy.
c. In both stories, the children escape and are reunited with their fathers.
d. Both stories are about good children who are mistreated by evil stepmothers.

©Jake Bachman, 2018

ASSESSMENTS

990L Compare Themes Name: _____ Date: _____

TEST: Snaring the Sun

790L Compare Themes Name: _____ Date: _____

TEST: Ra the Egyptian Sun God

Origin: Egypt

Before there was land, there was one body of water called Nun. Nun was powerful and magical. One day, a glittering egg emerged from the sea. The egg hatched, and Ra was born. Sun spread across his body and gave him power. Ra created all other living things by speaking their secret names. The sight of the beauty that Ra witnessed brought him to tears. His tears fell to the earth, and humans were born.

Ra is the most important Egyptian God. Ra formed the world and is the ruler of all created. He rules the earth, sky, and underworld.

Ra is born each day in the east, and then he sails across the sky in a boat for twelve hours. Many other gods accompany Ra through his journey, including Horus, god of the sky, who is his captain. At the end of each day, Ra dies in the west. Therefore, the west bank of the Nile, where the pyramids are, is the side of the dead. As Ra dies, the sun sets below the horizon.

At night, Ra goes to the underworld and leaves the moon in his place to give light to the world. Khonsu is the moon god. In Ra's absence, Khonsu travels across the world to guide people.

At night, Ra travels through the underworld and fights Apep, the snake demon. By sunrise, Ra has defeated Apep and once more goes on his journey across the sky.

For Egyptians, the sun is a source of life that gives them energy, light, and warmth. Without the sun, crops could not grow. This is why the god Ra holds such a significance to the people.

©Julie Bodrose, 2018

Color coded highlighting can also be done on the assessments!

Compare Themes

5. Which of the following correctly describes a difference between "Ra the Egyptian Sun God" and "Snaring the Sun"? blue

a. Maui threatens the sun, while Ra is the sun.
b. Maui is impatient with the sun, while Ra is patient with the sun.
c. Maui is trying to make the days longer, while Ra is making the days shorter.
d. The sun is alive in "Snaring the Sun", while the sun is not alive in "Ra the Egyptian Sun God".

6. Both "Ra the Egyptian Sun God" and "Snaring the Sun" explain how day and night came to be. Summarize how the Egyptians and Polynesians explain day and night. purple

The Egyptians explain day and night

Students type their answers right in the text box.

The Polynesians explain day and night

7. What is the theme of "Ra the Egyptian Sun God"? How is this different from the theme of "Snaring the Sun"? pink

©Julie Bodrose, 2018

This resource also includes ONE test with different Lexile Levels for student assessment.

COMPARE STORIES

task cards

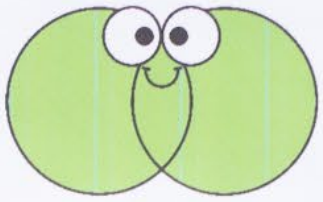
4th GRADE

Compare & Contrast

Themes and Topics

Compare & Contrast

Themes and Topics



Compare Two Stories

Compare Two Stories

Compare Two Stories

Compare Two Stories

Compare Two Stories

Compare Two Stories

Compare Two Stories

Compare Two Stories

Compare Two Stories

Compare Two Stories

Compare Two Stories

Compare Two Stories

Compare Two Stories

Compare Two Stories

Compare Two Stories

Compare Two Stories

17. Compare Two Stories

18. Compare Two Stories

19. Compare Two Stories

20. Compare Two Stories

21. Compare Two Stories

22. Compare Two Stories

23. Compare Two Stories

24. Compare Two Stories

25. Compare Two Stories

26. Compare Two Stories

27. Compare Two Stories

28. Compare Two Stories

29. Compare Two Stories

30. Compare Two Stories

Compare Two Stories

Most people at school never realized how expensive it could be to
a baby, but they all wanted to help Mrs. Lamb, their beloved
ian. The parents organized a big festival with a basket raffle. Each
contributed to make a prize basket to donate. Parents, teachers, and
elped decorate, bake treats, and spread the word. In the end, the
raised more than five thousand dollars.

"The only way I'm going to get that gaming system is to buy it myself," Mario thought.

He wasn't the type to give up easily, so the three-hundred-dollar price tag didn't deter him. He got busy printing up flyers advertising his services. In summer he mowed lawns, in fall he raked leaves, and in winter he shoveled snow. It took months, but by the end of January he had almost enough to buy the gaming system.

What topic do both of these passages have in common?

a. Appreciation
b. Community
c. Help others
d. Work hard to earn money

The rain stopped just as the Fall Festival was beginning. Amelia

While standing in line to leave the playground, Em

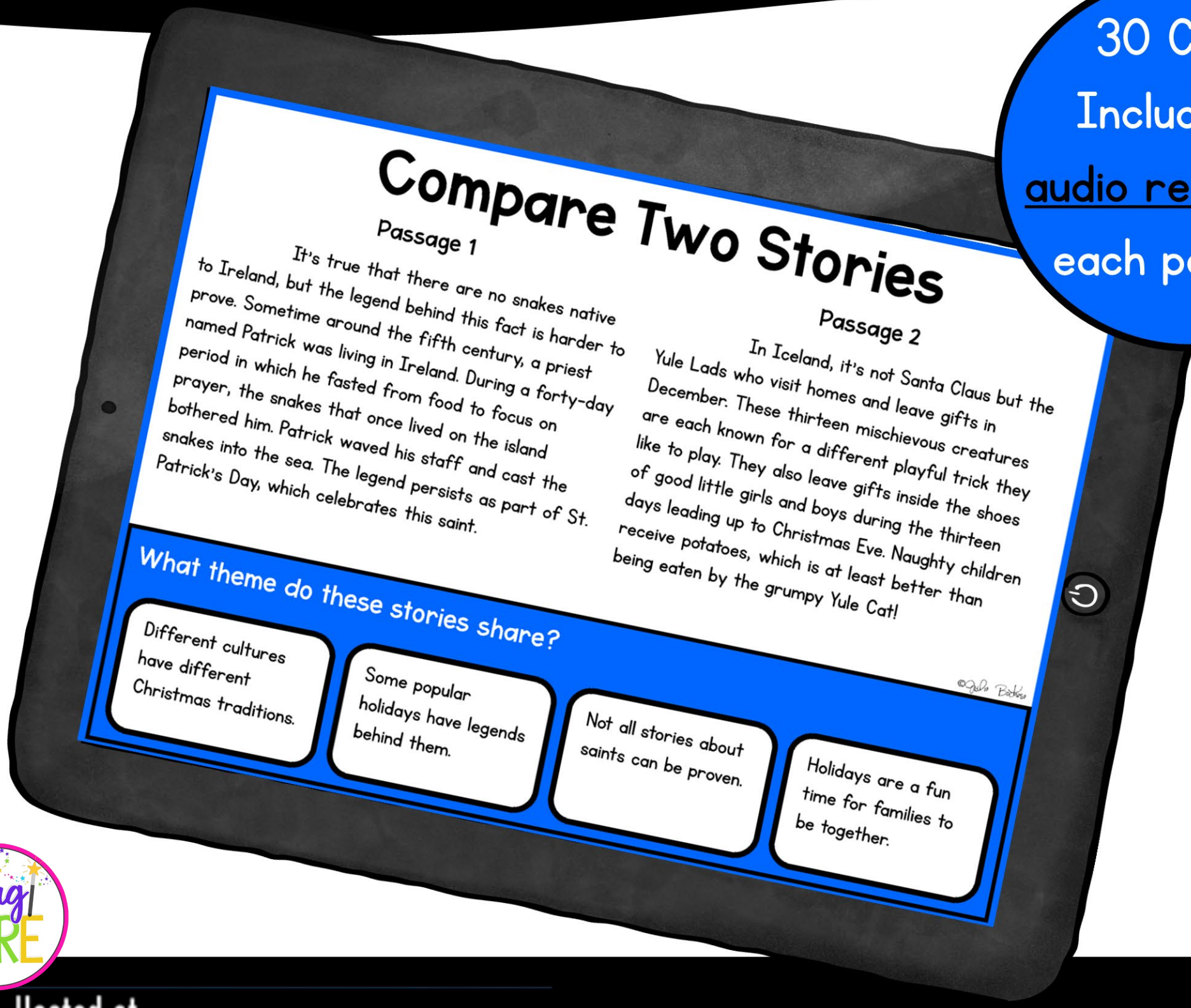
Compare Two Stories Challenge

Write or summarize two short stories that share a con
theme.

COMPARE TWO STORIES

Digital Task Cards

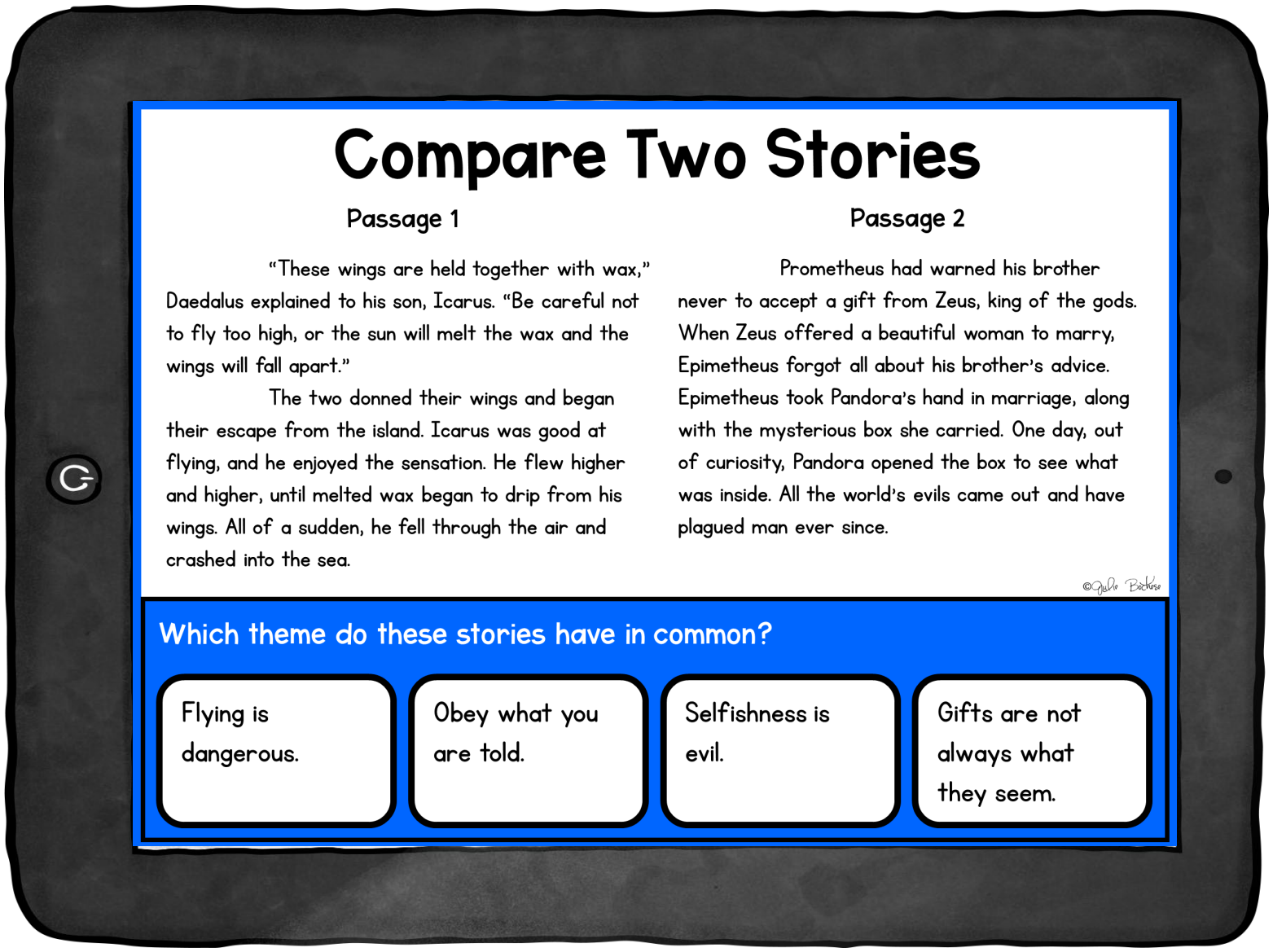
30 Cards
Includes an audio reading of each passage.



Hosted at boomlearning

Boom Cards

COMPARE TWO STORIES BOOM CARDS



Click Here for a Playable Preview!

- Digital & Interactive
- Self Grading Multiple-Choice Questions
- Includes Audio

You may be eligible for a free trial from Boom Learning. Read here for details: http://bit.ly/BoomTrial. If you choose not to stay on a premium account after your free trial, you will still be able to assign all your Boom Cards to as many students as you see fit using Fast Play pins (which give instant feedback for decks that are self-grading).

COMPARE TWO STORIES BOOM CARDS

Compare Two Stories

Passage 1

Gleefully, King Midas touched everything in sight, turning chairs and rugs to solid gold with the flick of a finger. The trouble began when the wealthy king sat down for dinner. He grasped a chicken leg, which turned to gold in his hand. He brought a potato to his mouth using a fork, but it turned to gold when it touched his teeth.

"How will I be able to eat?" he wailed. "If I can't eat, I'll starve and die!"

Passage 2

The greedy king insisted on having this rare and expensive cloth for his robe. Day after day, the swindlers pretended to weave cloth. Everyone, including the king, pretended to see the cloth because they didn't want to be seen as unintelligent.

At last, the day came for the king to don his new robe. He stripped down to his underwear and pretended to slip into the robe. Then he marched out before the entire kingdom.

©Julie Bochorse

What is the biggest difference between Passage 1 and Passage 2?

- We have to face the difficulties in life bravely.
- The things we wish for don't always turn out the way we expect.
- The most important thing is to be who you are on the inside.
- Before you move to a new place, you should learn all about it.