



Compare and contrast

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

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 the story, think about how the characters are *alike* and how they are *different*.

In a small village, there lived an old woman who had slowly lost her sight until she was completely blind. She had very little money, but she had a few nice pots and trinkets that she had collected for many years and treasured dearly. She knew she could pay for a doctor by selling her treasures, so she decided to call for a doctor. If she could have her sight back, she would gladly live without her trinkets and treasures.

The doctor came to the old woman's little hut, and they came to an agreement. If his treatment cured her blindness, she would give him a certain amount of money. If she was not cured, she would give him nothing. For many weeks, the doctor came daily to apply lotion and bandages to the old woman's eyes. He didn't have much money himself, and he took one of the woman's small treasures every time he visited. Each thing he took was so small that he did not think she would miss it.

When the last bandages were removed, the woman had recovered her sight. She looked around her house and saw that all of her treasures were gone. She declared that she would give the doctor nothing. The doctor insisted, but the old woman still refused. In the end, he brought her to the town judge. The old woman stood before the judge and said, "This man speaks the truth. I did promise to pay him if his treatment cured my blindness, but if I continued to be blind, I was to give him nothing. Now he says that I am healed. I, however, assure you that I am still blind. Before I became blind, I saw all of my small treasures in my house. Even though he swears that I am cured, I cannot see a single one of my treasures now."

The judge ruled that the old woman owed the doctor not a penny.





Some of the details below are true about just one of the characters. Some details are true about both characters. Some are not true about either story. Read each detail, and select the best answer.

1. Made an agreement in the beginning of the story
 - a. The old woman only
 - b. The doctor only
 - c. Both characters
 - d. Neither character
2. Did not have much money
 - a. The old woman only
 - b. The doctor only
 - c. Both characters
 - d. Neither character
3. Thought the doctor's treatments might cure the woman's blindness
 - a. The old woman only
 - b. The doctor only
 - c. Both characters
 - d. Neither character
4. Was an honest person
 - a. The old woman only
 - b. The doctor only
 - c. Both characters
 - d. Neither character
5. Went on a journey
 - a. The old woman only
 - b. The doctor only
 - c. Both characters
 - d. Neither character



6. Argued about something
 - a. The old woman only
 - b. The doctor only
 - c. Both characters
 - d. Neither character

7. Thought the doctor should be paid
 - a. The old woman only
 - b. The doctor only
 - c. Both characters
 - d. Neither character

8. Was probably happy with the judge's decision
 - a. The old woman only
 - b. The doctor only
 - c. Both characters
 - d. Neither character

9. What is one other detail about the two characters that is *alike* in the two stories?

10. What is one other detail about the two characters that is *different* in the two stories?



Answers

1. Made an agreement in the beginning of the story
c. Both characters
2. Did not have much money
c. Both characters
3. Thought the doctor's treatments might cure the woman's blindness
c. Both characters
4. Was an honest person
a. The old woman only
5. Went on a journey
d. Neither character
6. Argued about something
c. Both characters
7. Thought the doctor should be paid
b. The doctor only
8. Was probably happy with the judge's decision
a. The old woman only
9. What is one other detail about the two characters that is *alike* in the two stories?
Answers will vary but must be taken from the stories.
10. What is one other detail about the two characters that is *different* in the two stories?
Answers will vary but must be taken from the stories.