Compare Stories

Grade 3 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Two Stories About Being Brave

Story 1: Kenji's First Jump

Every summer, Kenji's family visited a lake in the mountains of Japan. A wooden dock stuck out over the deep, clear water. The big kids jumped off the end and came up laughing. For two summers, Kenji had only watched from the shore.

This year, Kenji wanted to jump too. He walked to the end of the dock and looked down. The water seemed very far away. His knees shook, and he backed up. "Maybe next year," he whispered.

His older sister, Aiko, stood beside him. "I was scared my first time too," she said. "Let's count together. On three, we jump."

Kenji took a deep breath. "One, two, three!" They jumped side by side. The cold water splashed over his head. When he came up, Aiko was grinning. Kenji was grinning too. The jump had been fast and fun.

"Again!" Kenji shouted. He climbed the ladder and ran back to the end of the dock.

Story 2: Ama's Poem

Ama loved writing poems in her notebook. She lived with her grandmother in a town in Ghana. One day, her teacher chose Ama to read a poem at the school assembly.

Ama's stomach flipped. Hundreds of students would be watching. "What if my voice shakes?" she asked her grandmother.

"Then let it shake," Grandmother said. "Your words will still be strong." Every evening, Ama practiced reading to her grandmother under the mango tree. Sometimes the neighbor's goats wandered over to listen too.

On the day of the assembly, Ama walked to the front. Her hands trembled, and her voice was quiet at first. But she kept reading. By the last line, her voice was clear and loud. The students clapped and cheered. Her teacher gave her a thumbs-up from the side of the stage.

Afterward, Ama wrote a new poem. She called it "Let It Shake."

1. What theme do both stories share?
   - You can be brave even when you feel scared.
   - Swimming is more fun than writing poems.
   - Only some people are born brave.
   - Older sisters are better helpers than grandmothers.

2. How is Kenji's challenge different from Ama's?
   - Kenji must jump into a lake; Ama must read in front of people.
   - Kenji must climb a mountain; Ama must sing a song.
   - Kenji must swim across a lake; Ama must write a poem.
   - Both must speak in front of a big crowd.

3. Who helps the main character in each story?
   - Kenji's grandmother and Ama's sister
   - Kenji's father and Ama's best friend
   - Kenji's sister and Ama's grandmother
   - Kenji's teacher and Ama's teacher

4. How is the help in the two stories different?
Grandmother stands next to Ama at the assembly.
Both helpers do the scary thing for them.
Aiko helps Kenji practice for many evenings.
Aiko jumps with Kenji; Grandmother helps Ama get ready ahead of time.

5. Which story shows the main character's body reacting to fear?
neither story both stories only Story 2 only Story 1

6. How are the endings of the two stories alike?
Both are too tired to try again.
Both characters want to keep going.
Both are still too scared to try.
Both wish they had stayed home.

7. Her hands trembled. What does trembled mean?
held on tight waved hello shook a little clapped loudly

8. What does Grandmother mean when she says, 'Then let it shake'?
Ama does not have to read the poem at all.
Ama's voice will never shake again.
Ama can still be brave if she feels nervous.
Ama should shake her notebook before she reads.

9. How are the settings of the two stories different?
Both stories happen at a lake.
Story 1 is at a school in Japan; Story 2 is at a lake in Ghana.
Story 1 is at a lake in Japan; Story 2 is in a town in Ghana.
Both stories happen in a town in Ghana.

10. Which story ends with the character making something new about the scary day?
Story 1 both stories Story 2 neither story

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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