Compare Characters and Settings

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Two Train Rides to Jaipur

The first time Anjali rode the train to visit her aunt in Jaipur, she was eight years old. Her mother walked her to her seat at the Delhi station and spoke to the conductor. "Please watch her," Mother said. "Her aunt will meet her at the other end." Then the doors closed, and Anjali was alone.

For the first hour, she did not move. She held her backpack on her lap with both arms wrapped around it. Every time the train stopped, she worried that she had missed her station. When a tea seller called out in the aisle, she jumped. She did not look out the window at all. She stared at the ticket in her hand and read it again and again.

Halfway there, an older woman across the aisle offered her a handful of roasted peanuts. Anjali shook her head politely. She was too nervous to be hungry. When the train finally reached Jaipur five hours later, Auntie Meera was waiting on the platform. Anjali ran into her arms and did not let go for a long time.

Three years later, Anjali made the same trip again. This time, she packed her own bag with a book, a sketching notebook and a bottle of water. At the station, she found her coach and her seat without help. She waved to her mother through the window and settled in.

This time, Anjali watched everything. She sketched the yellow mustard fields rushing past. She counted camels walking beside the tracks. She knew the order of the stations from her earlier trips, so the stops no longer frightened her.

Across the aisle sat a small boy clutching a ticket, his eyes wide. A conductor had walked him to his seat, just as one had once walked Anjali to hers. When the train jerked forward, the boy's lip trembled.

Anjali leaned across the aisle. "Is this your first time on the train alone?" she asked. The boy nodded. "Mine was too, once," she said. "Do you want to help me count camels? I'll tell you when your station is coming."

For the rest of the ride, the boy pressed his nose to the window beside her. When the train slowed at his station, Anjali reminded him to pick up his bag. He waved to her from the platform.

When Auntie Meera met Anjali in Jaipur, she asked, "Was the trip long?" Anjali smiled. "It went by fast," she said.

1. How did Anjali spend the first ride compared with the second?
   - She slept the first time and read her book the second time.
   - She stared at her ticket the first time and watched the scenery the second time.
   - She sketched fields the first time and stared at her ticket the second time.
   - She looked out the window during both rides.

2. Why did the train stops frighten Anjali on her first ride?
   - She thought the train was breaking down.
   - She worried she had missed her station.
   - She was afraid of the tea seller.
   - She wanted to get off and go home.

3. How is the boy on the second ride similar to Anjali on her first ride?
   - He is riding alone for the first time and is nervous.
   - He is visiting his aunt in Jaipur.
   - He knows the order of the stations by heart.
   - He brought a notebook to sketch the fields.

4. How is the woman with the peanuts like Anjali on the second ride?
   Both offer kindness to a nervous young traveler.
   Both are visiting relatives in Jaipur.
   Both work as conductors on the train.
   Both count camels outside the window.

5. Which detail shows Anjali was more independent on the second trip?
   She held her backpack with both arms.
   Her mother spoke to the conductor.
   Auntie Meera waited on the platform.
   She found her coach and seat without help.

6. Why did the stops no longer frighten Anjali on the second ride?
   Her mother rode with her this time.
   The second train made no stops at all.
   She knew the order of the stations.
   The conductor announced each stop loudly.

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Answer Key - Grade 5 Reading Worksheet

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