Compare Stories in the Same Genre

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Two Fantasy Stories About Magic Objects

Story 1: The Silver Brush

Lin Mei found an old paintbrush in the mud by the river. Its bristles shone like silver. That evening, she painted a small bird on a scrap of paper. Suddenly the bird fluttered its wings and flew out the window.

Lin Mei gasped. The brush was magic! Whatever she painted became real.

At first, she thought about painting things for herself. A new dress. A big house. A table full of sweet cakes. But then she looked out at her village. The old well had dried up, and people walked miles for water. The bridge over the river had washed away in spring.

So Lin Mei painted a deep new well in the village square. Cool water bubbled up. Next, she painted a strong stone bridge. Farmers carried their baskets across it the very next morning.

Some people asked Lin Mei to paint gold for them. She shook her head kindly. "I will paint what we all need," she said. "Not what only one person wants." Year after year, she used the brush to help her neighbors.

Story 2: The Pocket Clock

Oscar found a brass pocket clock in his grandmother's attic. When he pressed its button, everything around him froze. Birds hung still in the sky. His sister stopped in the middle of a sneeze.

Oscar laughed. Now he had all the time in the world!

He froze time to finish his homework. He froze it to sleep late and still catch the bus. He even froze it to practice basketball for hours before a game.

But after a few weeks, Oscar felt strange. His friends talked about jokes he had missed. He was always tired and a little lonely. Time had passed for him, but no one had shared it with him.

One afternoon, Oscar watched his grandmother laugh at a story his sister told. He realized he had frozen many moments like that one instead of living them.

Oscar climbed back into the attic. He placed the clock in its box and closed the lid. "Some things are better shared," he whispered. Then he went downstairs to hear the rest of the story.

1. What makes both stories fantasy?
   - Each story takes place in a real city long ago.
   - Each story explains why something in nature happens.
   - Each character finds an object with magic powers.
   - Each character solves a crime by using clues.

2. After Lin Mei thinks about her village, what does she paint first?
   - a new well in the village square
   - a new dress for herself
   - a strong stone bridge
   - a pile of gold for a neighbor

3. How does Oscar use the clock at first?
   to stop his sister from sneezing
   to fix things in his grandmother's attic
   to get extra time for himself
   to help his neighbors with chores

4. How do the two characters learn to use their gifts differently?
   Lin Mei chooses wisely from the start, but Oscar learns from his mistakes.
   Oscar chooses wisely from the start, but Lin Mei learns from her mistakes.
   Both characters waste their gifts and never learn.
   Both characters give their gifts away right away.

5. Which theme do both stories share?
   Working alone is better than working together.
   Old things should be left in the attic.
   Magic objects always cause trouble.
   A special gift matters most when it connects us to others.

6. Why does Oscar start to feel strange?
   He has missed time with friends and family.
   His grandmother finds out about the clock.
   He loses the big basketball game.
   The clock begins to run backward.

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Answer Key - Grade 5 Reading Worksheet

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