

Lesson 22

Comparing and Contrasting Stories



Learning Target

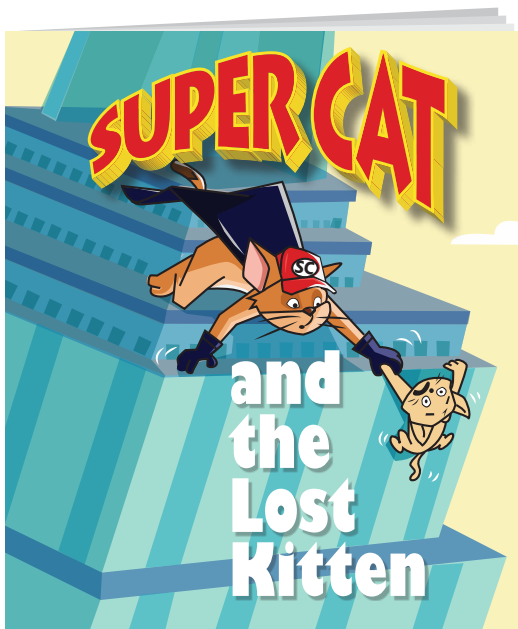


When you read several stories that an author has written about the same characters, you can compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots.

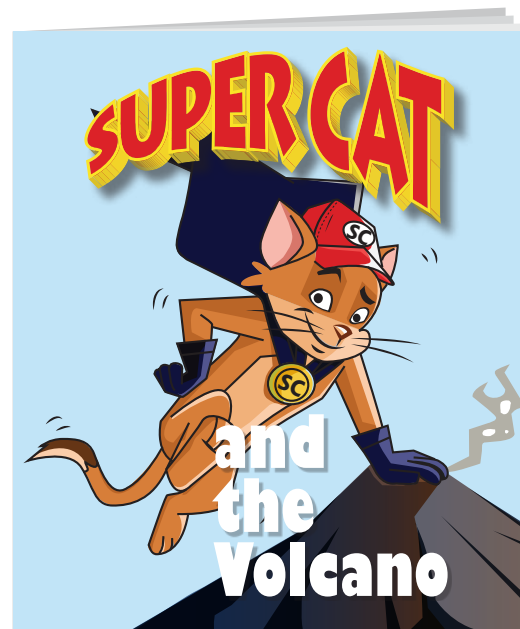
- ▶ **Read** Sometimes an author will write about the same characters in different books. The **characters** might be the same, but when you **compare** and **contrast** the stories, you'll find many differences.

Each story by the same author will have its own **plot**, or set of events. The stories may also have different **settings**, where the action takes place. You can also compare the **themes**, which are messages or lessons the stories offer.

Look at the two book covers from a series called *The Adventures of Super Cat!* Think about what is similar and what is different in the covers.



Book 1



Book 2

► **Think** Finish this chart to compare and contrast the two books.

	Book 1	Book 2
Characters	Super Cat kitten	
Setting		a volcano
Plot	Super Cat rescues a lost kitten.	
Theme		Use your powers to help others.

► **Talk** Which details from the chart would you expect to be the same for another book in the Super Cat series?



Academic Talk

Use these words to talk about the text.

- **characters** • **plot** • **settings**
- **compare** • **contrast** • **themes**

The **Fox** and the **Goat**

Adapted from *The Aesop for Children*

- 1 A Fox fell into a well and could not get out again. After a long time, a thirsty Goat came by. The Goat thought the Fox had gone down to drink, so he asked if the water was good.
- 2 “The finest in the country,” said the Fox, “jump in and try it.”
- 3 The Goat jumped in and began to drink. The Fox quickly jumped on the Goat’s back and leaped out of the well.
- 4 The Goat now saw what trouble he had gotten into and begged the Fox to help him out. But the Fox was already on his way to the woods.
- 5 “If you had as much sense as you have beard,” he said as he ran, “you would have been more cautious about finding a way to get out again before you jumped in.”
- 6 *Moral: Look before you leap.*

The **Wolf** and the **Crane**

Adapted from *The Aesop for Children*

- 1 A Wolf had been feasting, and a bone had stuck in his throat. He could get it neither up nor down, and of course he could not eat.
- 2 So away he hurried to the Crane. He was sure that she, with her long neck and bill, would be able to reach the bone and pull it out. “I will reward you,” said the Wolf, “if you pull that bone out for me.”
- 3 The Crane was very uneasy about putting her head in a Wolf’s throat. But she did what the Wolf asked her to do. When the Wolf felt that the bone was gone, he started to walk away.
- 4 “But what about my reward!” called the Crane.
- 5 “What!” snarled the Wolf, whirling around. “Isn’t it enough that I let you take your head out of my mouth without snapping it off?”
- 6 *Moral: Expect no reward for serving the wicked.*

Close Reader Habits

Circle the main characters in each fable.
Underline the moral, or lesson, that is stated at the end of each story.

Explore

How are the two fables by the storyteller Aesop alike and different?



To find the theme of a story, ask what lesson or message the author wants to share.

Think

1 Complete the chart to show how the two fables are alike and different.

	"The Fox and the Goat"	"The Wolf and the Crane"
Characters		
Plot		
Theme		

Talk

2 What are three ways that the two stories are alike?

Write

3 Short Response Describe how the two fables are alike and different. Be sure to use details about characters, setting, and theme from each story. Use the space provided on page 374 to write your answer.

HINT Think about how you can organize your writing to show how things are the same and how they are different.



from
The Home of the Winds

retold from
 Homer's *The Odyssey* by Alfred J. Church

- 1 The next day Ulysses and his companions set sail. After a while they came to the floating island where the King of the Winds had his home. For a whole month the king made him welcome.
- 2 When Ulysses wished to go home, the king did what he could to help him. He took the hide of an ox, very thick and strong. He put in it all the winds that would keep Ulysses from getting to his home, and he fastened it to the deck of his ship. Then he made a gentle wind blow from the west. For nine days it blew, till the ships were very near to the island of Ithaca.
- 3 But just before dawn on the tenth day, Ulysses, who had stayed awake all the time, fell asleep. The crew of his ship said to each other: "See that great bag of ox hide. It must have something very precious inside it—silver and gold and jewels. Why should the chief have all these good things to himself?"
- 4 So they cut the bag open, and all the winds rushed out and blew the ship away from Ithaca. Ulysses woke up at the noise, and at first thought that he would throw himself into the sea and die. Then he said to himself, "No! It is better to live," and he covered his face and lay still, without saying a word to his men. And the ships were driven back to the island of the King of the Winds.

Close Reader Habits

What are the key elements, or parts, of this story? **Circle** the main characters. **Underline** the two settings where the story takes place.

FROM

ULYSSES AND THE SIRENS



RETOLD FROM HOMER'S *THE ODYSSEY* BY ALFRED J. CHURCH

- 1 The first place they came to was the Island of the Sirens. The Sirens were mermaids who sang so sweetly that no sailor who heard them could pass on his way, but was forced to go to them. But when he came near, the Sirens flew upon him and tore him to pieces.
- 2 Now Circe had warned Ulysses about these dreadful creatures, and told him what he ought to do. So he closed the ears of his companions with wax so tightly that they could hear nothing. As for himself, he made his men tie him with ropes to the mast of the ship. "And see," he said, "that you don't loose me, however much I may beg and pray."
- 3 As soon as the ship came near to the island, the wind ceased to blow. The men took down the sails and began to row.
- 4 Then the Sirens saw the ship and began to sing. Ulysses, where he stood bound to the mast, heard them. And when he understood what they said, he forgot all his caution. They promised just the thing that he wanted. For he was a man who thought he could never know enough about other countries and the people who dwelt in them. And the Sirens said that they could tell him all this.
- 5 Then he made signs with his head to his men that they should loose him. But they remembered what he had told them and rowed on. So they got safely past the Island of the Sirens.

Close Reader Habits

How is this story similar to and different from the one you just read? **Circle** the main characters. **Underline** the two places that are mentioned.



An *epic* is a series of adventures that a hero has over a long period of time. To get the most out of an epic, compare those adventures and how the hero acts in each one.

Think

1 Complete this chart to show how key elements of the stories are the same and different.

	"The Home of the Winds"	"Ulysses and the Sirens"
The two settings in each story		
Magical parts		
The actions of the crew		
The result of the crew's actions		

2 In what **two** ways are the settings of the stories alike?

- A** Both stories take place on or near unusual islands.
- B** Both stories take place in the home of a king.
- C** Both stories take place on land far from the sea.
- D** Both stories take place near Ulysses's home of Ithaca.
- E** Both stories take place in part on Ulysses's ship.

3 Which of these **best** explains how the actions of Ulysses's crew in "The Home of the Winds" are different from their actions in "Ulysses and the Sirens"?

- A** In "The Home of the Winds," the crew obeys Ulysses.
- B** In "The Home of the Winds," the crew is not loyal to Ulysses.
- C** In "The Home of the Winds," the crew saves Ulysses from disaster.
- D** In "The Home of the Winds," the crew leaves Ulysses.

- 4** This question has two parts. Answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

Based on the two stories, which sentence **best** describes the kind of man Ulysses is?

- A** He is a poor leader but a good and thoughtful man.
- B** He is a strong leader who watches out for his crew.
- C** He is a weak man who depends on others to help him.
- D** He is a good man who is learning how to be brave.

Part B

Choose **one** detail from **each** story that supports your answer to Part A.

- A** "When Ulysses wished to go home, the king did what he could to help him." ("Winds")
- B** "Ulysses woke up at the noise, and at first thought that he would throw himself into the sea and die." ("Winds")
- C** "Then he said to himself, 'No! It is better to live,' and he covered his face and lay still, without saying a word to his men." ("Winds")
- D** "So he closed the ears of his companions with wax so tightly that they could hear nothing." ("Sirens")
- E** "And when he understood what they said, he forgot all his caution." ("Sirens")
- F** "Then he made signs with his head to his men that they should loose him." ("Sirens")

Talk

- 5** What themes, or lessons, could you draw from each story? How similar or different are those themes?

Write

- 6 Short Response** One theme from *The Odyssey* could be that a leader like Ulysses has to be able to depend on his men. Use details from **both** stories to compare and contrast how they teach that lesson. Use the space provided on page 375 to write your answer.

HINT Review the chart on page 372, especially the part that shows the crew's actions and the result of those actions.



Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 369.

The **Fox** and the **Goat**

The **Wolf** and the **Crane**

3 Short Response Describe how the two fables are alike and different. Be sure to use details about characters, setting, and theme from each story.

HINT Think about how you can organize your writing to show how things are the same and how they are different.



Don't forget to check your writing.



Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 373.

The Home of the Winds

ULYSSES AND THE SIRENS

6 Short Response One theme from *The Odyssey* could be that a leader like Ulysses has to be able to depend on his men. Use details from both stories to compare and contrast how they teach that lesson.

HINT Review the chart on page 372, especially the part that shows the crew's actions and the result of those actions.

Check Your Writing

- Did you read the prompt carefully?
- Did you put the prompt in your own words?
- Did you use the best evidence from the text to support your ideas?
- Are your ideas clearly organized?
- Did you write in clear and complete sentences?
- Did you check your spelling and punctuation?



Read

from *The*
CYCLOPS

retold from Homer's The Odyssey by Alfred J. Church

WORDS TO KNOW

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- pens
- shepherd

- 1 One of Ulysses's many adventures was in the country of the Cyclops or Round-eyed People. While exploring the country, he and his men came to a cave. Inside there were pens for sheep and baskets full of cheeses. Ulysses's men said to him: "Let us go away before the master comes back." But Ulysses would not listen to them. He wanted to see what kind of man this shepherd might be.
- 2 In the evening the Cyclops came home. He was a great giant, with one big eye in the middle of his forehead. He drove his flocks inside and then closed up the mouth of the cave with a rock so big that twenty wagons could not carry it.
- 3 When the giant saw the men, he grabbed up two of them and swallowed them. Then he lay down among his sheep and slept.
- 4 Ulysses thought: "Shall I slay this monster as he sleeps? But no; if I do this, we will be trapped. Who shall be able to roll away the great rock that is against the mouth of the cave?"



5 The giant left early the next morning, but kept the sheep and the men in the cave by rolling the rock back in place. All day, Ulysses and his men worked on a plan to escape the cave. In the evening, the giant came back. He grabbed two more men and swallowed them. When he had finished, Ulysses came to him with a special drink in his hand and said, “Drink, Cyclops, now that you have eaten.”

6 The Cyclops took the glass and drank. “Give me more,” he said, “and tell me your name.”

7 Then Ulysses said: “My name is No Man.”

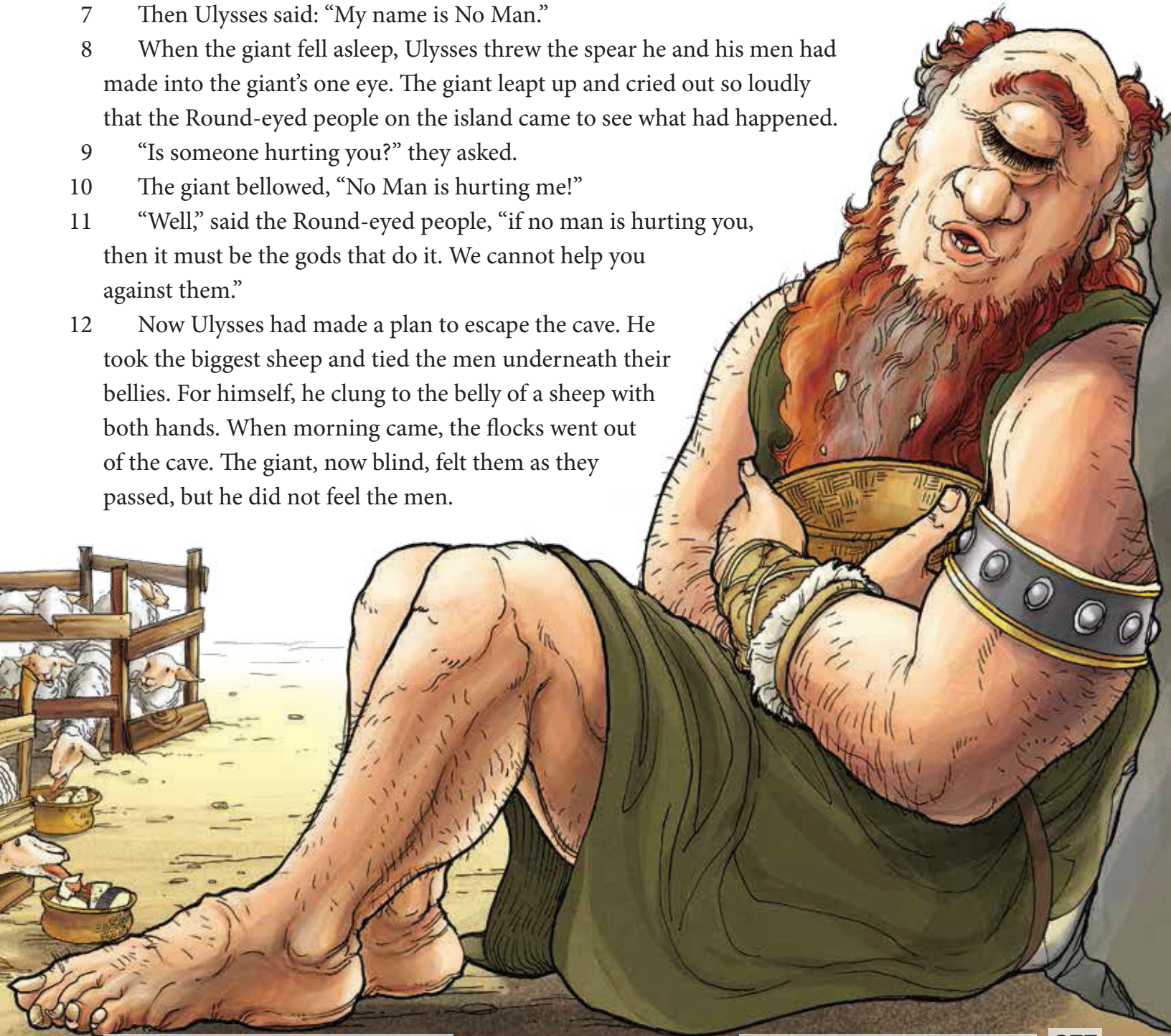
8 When the giant fell asleep, Ulysses threw the spear he and his men had made into the giant’s one eye. The giant leapt up and cried out so loudly that the Round-eyed people on the island came to see what had happened.

9 “Is someone hurting you?” they asked.

10 The giant bellowed, “No Man is hurting me!”

11 “Well,” said the Round-eyed people, “if no man is hurting you, then it must be the gods that do it. We cannot help you against them.”

12 Now Ulysses had made a plan to escape the cave. He took the biggest sheep and tied the men underneath their bellies. For himself, he clung to the belly of a sheep with both hands. When morning came, the flocks went out of the cave. The giant, now blind, felt them as they passed, but he did not feel the men.



WORDS TO KNOW

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- **whirlpool**
- **linger**

from
 THE
DANGEROUS
 WAY

RETOLD FROM HOMER'S *THE ODYSSEY* BY ALFRED J. CHURCH

- 1 There was a narrow place between the mainland and an island. On the one side there was a cave, in which there lived a terrible monster named Scylla. On the other side, there was a dreadful whirlpool called Charybdis. If a ship ever got into that, it was sucked down to the bottom of the sea and never came up again.
- 2 Circe had told Ulysses what he should do. "It will be better," she had said, "to go near Scylla than to go near Charybdis. Scylla will pounce down upon your ship when it comes within her reach. She will take six men, one for each of the six heads that she has. But if you go too near to Charybdis, your whole ship will be swallowed up. It is better to lose six men than have all of them drown."
- 3 When Ulysses had said, "May I not take shield and spear and fight with this monster?" Circe had answered, "You are wonderfully bold. You would fight with the gods themselves. But be sure that you cannot fight with Scylla. She is too strong for any man. And while you linger she will take six more men. No. Fly from the place as fast as you can."
- 4 So now he told the steersman to steer the ship as near as he could to the side of the strait near Scylla's cave. Nevertheless, they went very close to the whirlpool. It was a wonderful sight. At one time, you could see to the very bottom of the sea. And at another time, the water seemed to boil up almost to the top of the cliffs.
- 5 Now, Ulysses had said nothing to his men about the monster on the other side. He was afraid that if they knew about her they would not go on with their voyage. So they all stood and watched the whirlpool. Then, suddenly, there came down upon the ship Scylla's dreadful heads. She caught up six of the crew, the bravest and strongest of them all. Ulysses heard them cry to him to help them, but he could do nothing. And this, he said afterwards, was the very saddest thing that happened to him in all his troubles.



Think Use what you learned from reading each selection to respond to these questions.

1 This question has two parts. First, complete Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

Put an **X** to show which statements are **true** in each story.

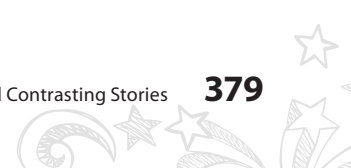
	"The Cyclops"	"The Dangerous Way"
Ulysses and his crew face a monster.		
Ulysses makes a poor choice that puts his crew in danger.		
Ulysses gets advice on how to deal with the monster.		
Ulysses saves most of his crew with a clever trick.		
Ulysses saves most of his crew by making a difficult decision.		

Part B

What are the biggest differences between the two stories? Summarize them here.

2 Which words **best** describe Ulysses in both stories?

- A** selfish and moody
- B** brave and clever
- C** adventurous but foolish
- D** sad but determined



- 3** Below, underline **one** sentence in **each** excerpt that helps show the difference in how Ulysses responds to a threat to his crew.

While exploring the country, he and his men came to a cave. Inside there were pens for sheep and baskets full of cheeses. Ulysses’s men said to him: “Let us go away before the master comes back.” But Ulysses would not listen to them. (“The Cyclops”)

When Ulysses had said, “May I not take shield and spear and fight with this monster?” Circe had answered, “You are wonderfully bold. You would fight with the gods themselves.” (“The Dangerous Way”)

- 4** Read the following sentence from “The Dangerous Way.”

Then, suddenly, there came down upon the ship Scylla’s dreadful heads.

If the word *dread* means “to think about with great fear,” what does the word *dreadful* mean in this context?

- A** frightened
- B** ugly
- C** terrifying
- D** dangerous



Write You have read the stories “The Cyclops” and “The Dangerous Way” about Ulysses. Think about how they are the same and how they are different.

- 5 Plan Your Response** For each story that you read, list whom Ulysses meets, what problem he faces, and how he solves the problem.
- 6 Write an Extended Response** Describe what is the same and different in “The Cyclops” and “The Dangerous Way.” Use details about the characters, setting, and plot from each story in your answer.
