

SAMPLER



GRADE
3

English Language Arts



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ARIZONA
**Performance
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EPS
LEARNING Coach

GRADE 3
LESSON 4 SAMPLE

Analyze Literature

1 GETTING THE IDEA

When you **analyze** literature, you look more closely at a story, poem, or play you have read. Sometimes you may analyze one text in depth. Other times you may analyze two related texts. When you analyze two texts, look for connections between them. You can compare and contrast the characters, settings, or themes. When you **compare** texts, you look at ways they are alike. When you **contrast** texts, you look at ways they are different.

Recount the Stories

Start by recounting what you remember about each story. When you **recount** stories, you retell what you have read in your own words. Describe story parts such as the setting, characters, plot, and theme. Recounting the two stories helps you review them. Then, you can compare and contrast their parts.

Compare and Contrast Plots

The **plot** is what happens in a story. To compare plots, tell what happens in the beginning, middle, and end of each story. Be sure to tell what problem the characters have in each story. How are the problems alike and different? How do the characters solve them? Use a chart like the one below to help you compare and contrast.

	Story 1	Story 2
Beginning		
Middle		
End		
Problem		
Solution		

Compare and Contrast Characters

Characters from two different stories may be alike in some ways. Sometimes, two stories may even share the same characters. To compare characters, look at what each one says and does. What do these words and actions tell you about how the characters are alike and different?

Compare and Contrast Settings

Two stories may have similar or different settings. The **setting** is the place and time of a story. To compare place, look for details in each story about the location, such as in a town or on a farm. To compare time, look at how characters dress and speak. Do they dress and speak like you, or do they dress and speak in an old-fashioned way?

Compare and Contrast Themes

The **theme** is the story's central message. It often isn't told, but the story's events give clues about it. Two stories may have different themes. Or, two stories may have the same theme, even if they have different plots, settings, and characters.

Read each paragraph below. Each one tells the plot of a story. As you read, figure out the theme of each story.

A lion caught a mouse and was about to eat her. The mouse told the lion that if he let her go, she might be able to help him someday. The lion laughed at the idea that a tiny mouse could help him, but he let her go. Later, the lion got caught in a hunter's net. The mouse chewed through the net to free him.

Jim was playing kickball with his friends when his little brother Ian asked to play. Jim said Ian would just get in the way. Then, Jim accidentally kicked the ball under a fence. Jim and his friends couldn't fit under the fence, but Ian was small enough to fit and get the ball. Ian saved the game.

These two stories have the same theme: Don't be quick to judge people—they may surprise you with what they can do!

Compare and Contrast Points of View

When you compare the **points of view** of two stories, you look at who is telling each one. Is the narrator a character or someone outside the story? To find out, look at whether the person telling the story uses the word *I*. Note whose thoughts and feelings you hear about.

Comparing and Contrasting Checklist

Here are some questions to ask yourself about each story as you begin to compare and contrast them:

- Who are the main characters? What are they like?
- Who is telling the story? Which characters' thoughts and feelings does the narrator tell about?
- What is the setting?
- What is the plot? What happens in the beginning, middle, and end of the story?
- What problem do the characters have? How do they solve it?
- What is the theme or central message?

Language Spotlight • Root Words

When you see a word you don't know, you may be able to figure it out by looking at its root word. A **root word** is the base, or main part, of a word. The same root word can appear in many different words. If you know what it means in one word, you may be able to use it to figure out another.

Look at the examples below. Each underlined word has the same root word: *use*. Using what you know about the word *use*, write down a meaning for each underlined word.

The book had many useful facts.

This broken tool is useless.

You can reuse this lunch bag.

There is no writing in the unused notebook.

Read the passage.

excerpted and adapted from

The Tale of Peter Rabbit

by Beatrix Potter

Once upon a time there were four little Rabbits, and their names were Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail, and Peter.

They lived with their Mother in a sand-bank, underneath the root of a very big fir-tree.

“Now my dears,” said old Mrs. Rabbit one morning, “you may go into the fields or down the lane, but don’t go into Mr. McGregor’s garden. Your Father had an accident there. He was put in a pie by Mrs. McGregor. Now run along, and don’t get into mischief. I am going out.”

Then old Mrs. Rabbit took a basket and her umbrella, and went through the wood to the baker’s. She bought a loaf of brown bread and five currant buns.

Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail, who were good little bunnies, went down the lane to gather blackberries.

But Peter, who was very naughty, ran straight away to Mr. McGregor’s garden, and squeezed under the gate!

First he ate some lettuces and some French beans. And then he ate some radishes.

And then, feeling rather sick, he went to look for some parsley.

But round the end of a cucumber frame, whom should he meet but Mr. McGregor!

Mr. McGregor was on his hands and knees planting out young cabbages. But he jumped up and ran after Peter, waving a rake and calling out, “Stop thief!”

Peter was most dreadfully frightened. He rushed all over the garden, for he had forgotten the way back to the gate.

He lost one of his shoes among the cabbages, and the other shoe amongst the potatoes.

After losing them, he ran on four legs and went faster. I think he might have got away altogether if he had not unfortunately run into a gooseberry net, and got caught by the large buttons on his jacket. It was a blue jacket with brass buttons, quite new.

Peter gave himself up for lost, and shed big tears. . . .

Mr. McGregor came up with a sieve, which he intended to pop upon the top of Peter. But Peter wriggled out just in time, leaving his jacket behind him.

He rushed into the tool-shed, and jumped into a can. It would have been a beautiful thing to hide in, if it had not had so much water in it.

Mr. McGregor was quite sure that Peter was somewhere in the tool-shed, perhaps hidden underneath a flower-pot. He began to turn them over carefully, looking under each.

Presently Peter sneezed—“Kertyschoo!” Mr. McGregor was after him in no time.

He tried to put his foot upon Peter, who jumped out of a window, upsetting three plants. The window was too small for Mr. McGregor, and he was tired of running after Peter. He went back to his work.

Answer the following questions.

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

Part A

What problem does Peter have in this story?

- A.** Peter is being chased by Mr. McGregor.
- B.** Peter has three brothers and sisters.
- C.** Peter escapes from Mr. McGregor.
- D.** Mr. McGregor gives up on looking for Peter.

Part B

Which of Peter's actions causes this problem to happen?

- A.** Peter jumps out a window.
- B.** Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail stay home.
- C.** Peter hides in a flower pot.
- D.** Peter doesn't listen to his mother.

Hint What is bothering Peter in this story? Think about what Peter does that leads to this problem.

- 2** Which of these details from the story **best** shows how Peter Rabbit is different from Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail?

- A.** Peter Rabbit loses his coat and shoes.
- B.** Peter Rabbit sneezes.
- C.** Peter Rabbit goes into Mr. McGregor's garden.
- D.** Peter Rabbit lives in a sand-bank.

Hint What do Peter Rabbit's actions tell you about his character? How is what Peter does different from what the other little rabbits do?

- 3 Read the sentence from the story, and look at the underlined word.

They lived with their Mother in a sand-bank, underneath the root of a very big fir-tree.

How can you use the word *under* to figure out the meaning of the word underneath in the sentence?

Hint Think about the word you know. Then, reread the whole sentence. How does this word's meaning relate to the rest of the sentence?

- 4 Read the paragraph about "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" below.

Peter Rabbit's mother says that Peter's father went into Mr. McGregor's garden and ended up being baked into a pie. Peter goes into Mr. McGregor's garden anyway and almost gets caught, too.

Based on this paragraph, which theme **best** fits the story?

- A. No garden is safe.
- B. Just because something happens once doesn't mean it will happen again.
- C. It's fine to steal vegetables when you're hungry.
- D. It's important to learn from the mistakes of others.

Hint What happens to Peter because he doesn't listen? What message is the author trying to give by showing these events?

3 LESSON PRACTICE

Use the Reading Guide to help you understand the passage.

excerpted and adapted from

The Tale of Benjamin Bunny

by Beatrix Potter

Reading Guide

Which characters in this story have you already met in "The Tale of Peter Rabbit"? Which characters are new in "The Tale of Benjamin Bunny"?

Underline parts of the setting that are the same as the one in "The Tale of Peter Rabbit."

Why is Peter dressed in a handkerchief?

One morning a little rabbit sat on a bank.
He pricked his ears and listened to the trit-trot,
trit-trot of a pony.

A gig¹ was coming along the road. It was driven by Mr. McGregor, and beside him sat Mrs. McGregor in her best bonnet.

As soon as they had passed, little Benjamin Bunny slid down into the road, and set off—with a hop, skip, and a jump—to call upon his relations, who lived in the wood at the back of Mr. McGregor's garden.

That wood was full of rabbit holes. And in the neatest, sandiest hole of all lived Benjamin's aunt and his cousins—Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail, and Peter

Little Benjamin came round the back of the fir-tree, and nearly tumbled upon the top of his cousin Peter.

Peter was sitting by himself. He looked poorly, and was dressed in a red cotton pocket-handkerchief.

"Peter," said little Benjamin, in a whisper. "Who has got your clothes?"

Peter replied, "The scarecrow in Mr. McGregor's garden," and described how he had been chased about the garden, and had dropped his shoes and coat.

Little Benjamin sat down beside his cousin and assured him that Mr. McGregor had gone out in a gig, and Mrs. McGregor also; and certainly for the day, because she was wearing her best bonnet.

Peter said he hoped that it would rain.

¹ **gig:** a carriage pulled by a horse

Reading Guide

What is the scarecrow wearing?

Why do you think Peter keeps hearing noises in the garden?

How is Benjamin's experience different from Peter's?

At this point old Mrs. Rabbit's voice was heard inside the rabbit hole, calling, "Cotton-tail! Cotton-tail! Fetch some more camomile!"²

Peter said he thought he might feel better if he went for a walk.

They went away hand in hand, and got upon the flat top of the wall at the bottom of the wood. From here they looked down into Mr. McGregor's garden. Peter's coat and shoes were plainly to be seen upon the scarecrow, topped with an old tam-o'-shanter of Mr. McGregor's.

Little Benjamin said, "It spoils people's clothes to squeeze under a gate. The proper way to get in is to climb down a pear-tree."

Peter fell down head first. But it was of no consequence, as the bed below was newly raked and quite soft. It had been sown³ with lettuces.

Little Benjamin said that the first thing to be done was to get back Peter's clothes.

They took them off the scarecrow. There had been rain during the night. There was water in the shoes, and the coat was somewhat shrunk.

Benjamin tried on the tam-o'-shanter, but it was too big for him.

Then he suggested that they should fill the pocket-handkerchief with onions, as a little present for his aunt.

Peter did not seem to be enjoying himself. He kept hearing noises. Benjamin, on the contrary, was perfectly at home, and ate a lettuce leaf. He said that he was in the habit of coming to the garden with his father.

² **camomile:** a kind of tea

³ **sown:** planted

Answer the following question.

- 1 Read the sentences from “The Tale of Benjamin Bunny” below.

Peter’s coat and shoes were plainly to be seen upon the scarecrow, topped with an old tam-o’-shanter of Mr. McGregor’s Benjamin tried on the tam-o’-shanter, but it was too big for him.

Based on these sentences, what do you think a tam-o’-shanter is?

- A. a type of clothing
- B. a type of vegetable
- C. a type of rabbit
- D. a type of scarecrow

Answer the following questions about both passages in this lesson.

- 2 Which of these is a true statement about the plots of “The Tale of Peter Rabbit” and “The Tale of Benjamin Bunny”?

- A. The plots are exactly the same.
- B. The plots are different, but the problem is the same.
- C. The plots are different, but the events in the two stories are related.
- D. Both plots include a gardener chasing a rabbit.

- 3 On the lines below, explain how an event from “The Tale of Peter Rabbit” led to the scarecrow wearing Peter’s clothes in “The Tale of Benjamin Bunny.”

4 Which of the following story parts are the same in “The Tale of Peter Rabbit” and “The Tale of Benjamin Bunny”? Circle **all** that apply.

- A. plot
- B. setting
- C. some of the characters
- D. theme
- E. point of view

5 The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

Which of the following **best** describes how Peter Rabbit is different from Benjamin Bunny?

- A. Benjamin Bunny gets chased by the Scarecrow. Peter Rabbit does not.
- B. Benjamin Bunny gets stuck in a rabbit hole. Peter Rabbit does not.
- C. Peter Rabbit likes to be in the garden. Benjamin Bunny does not like the garden.
- D. Peter Rabbit is afraid to be in the garden. Benjamin Bunny is not afraid.

Part B

Which line from the story supports the answer to Part A?

- A. That wood was full of rabbit holes.
- B. Peter replied, “The scarecrow in Mr. McGregor’s garden,”
- C. Peter did not seem to be enjoying himself.
- D. He said that he was in the habit of coming to the garden with his father.

Read the passage.

Raven Gives the World Light

Back a long time ago, animals were much like you and me. They talked and lived in houses and did many other things the way we do. At that time, Raven and Seagull lived by the sea in the far North. They were close friends and had houses near each other.

Raven was a clever fellow. He didn't mind lying to other animals or tricking them to get what he wanted. Seagull was quite different. He was as honest as could be and would never try to trick anyone. Perhaps because of his honesty, he never suspected anyone would try to deceive him.

In those days, the world was dark. The only light was from the stars. That was because Seagull owned all the light in the world. He kept it in a box in his house. He only used a little bit from time to time for himself. Light was helpful when he went from place to place.

As you can guess, the other animals wanted light, but Seagull was stingy and wouldn't share. "No. It is mine," he would say. "I want to keep it for myself."

So one day, Raven decided he would trick Seagull into giving him some light. Raven collected thorns and spread them thickly along the path from Seagull's house. Then he returned to Seagull's house and knocked on the door.

"Come quickly," Raven called. "Our canoes are getting caught by the waves. They will get loose and drift away."

Seagull jumped out of bed, where he had been sound asleep. He ran barefoot out the door and down the path. The sharp thorns lodged in his feet, and he screamed in pain. Seagull turned and hobbled back to his house. "Let the canoes float away," he moaned. "My feet are killing me."

Raven muffled a laugh and pretended to pull the canoes up away from the waves. Then he returned to Seagull's house, where Seagull was trying to remove the thorns.

"Here," Raven said. "Let me help. I have done this many times, and I am a very good doctor." Raven picked up a piece of whalebone and began poking at the thorns. Instead of pulling them out, though, he pushed them in more deeply. Seagull howled in pain. "I'm sorry," Raven said. "I can't see in here. It's so dark. Please just let out a little light so I can see what I'm doing."

Seagull had no choice. He unlocked the box containing the light and raised the cover slightly to let just a sliver of light escape.

"That's a little better," Raven said. "I'll try again to get the thorns out."

Once more, Raven set to work, and again he only pushed the thorns deeper.

Seagull yowled loudly and his eyes filled with tears. "You're hurting me!" he screamed.

"Don't complain to me," Raven said. "It's still too dark in here. Why are you so stingy with your light when it's you in such pain?" Then Raven jumped up, pretending to be upset, and in doing so he stumbled against Seagull, who bumped into the box and tipped it over. Light rushed out of the box and spread throughout the world.

Seagull, seeing the light escape, let out the loudest yowl yet. "Look what's happened!" he cried. He tried as hard as he could to collect the light, but it could never be put back into the box.

Raven finished pulling the thorns from Seagull's feet and then walked home. He laughed with glee and looked around at the bright daylight of the world.

Answer the following questions.

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

Part A

With which statement would the narrator of the story **most likely** agree?

- A.** Raven is honest and fair.
- B.** It is unfair of Seagull to keep the light for himself.
- C.** Raven should be punished for hurting Seagull.
- D.** The other animals do not deserve to have light.

Part B

Which sentence from the story supports the answer from Part A?

- A.** He didn't mind lying to other animals or tricking them to get what he wanted.
- B.** Light was helpful when he went from place to place.
- C.** As you can guess, the other animals wanted light, but Seagull was stingy and wouldn't share.
- D.** Once more, Raven set to work, and again he only pushed the thorns deeper.

2 Read each word in the box. Decide whether the word describes Raven or Seagull. Write the word in the correct column in the chart.

clever	selfish	honest
trusting	crafty	dishonest

Raven	Seagull

- 3 Which of the following is the **best** example of a plot event?
- A. Raven was a clever fellow. He didn't mind lying to other animals or tricking them to get what he wanted.
 - B. In those days, the world was dark.
 - C. So one day, Raven decided he would trick Seagull into giving him some light.
 - D. "Come quickly," Raven called. "Our canoes are getting caught by the waves."

- 4 The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

Which sentence contains a root word with an affix?

- A. He was as honest as could be and would never try to trick anyone.
- B. Light was helpful when he went from place to place.
- C. He ran barefoot out the door and down the path.
- D. "I have done this many times, and I am a very good doctor."

Part B

Which explanation supports the answer for Part A?

- A. *Any* is a root word and *-one* is an affix.
- B. *Help* is a root word and *-ful* is an affix.
- C. *Bare* is a root word and *-foot* is an affix.
- D. *Good* is a root word and *-very* is an affix.

5 Read these sentences from the passage.

Seagull jumped out of bed, where he had been sound asleep. He ran barefoot out the door and down the path. The sharp thorns lodged in his feet, and he screamed in pain.

Describe what Raven does as a result of this event. How does it lead to the light being released? Include details from the text to support your answer.

Read the passage.

Raven Has a Feast

One summer many, many years ago, Raven played all summer long. It should come as no surprise that Raven enjoyed having a good time and didn't like to work. When Squirrel mentioned that Raven should be putting away food for winter, Raven only laughed. "There's still time for that," he said and flew off to have more fun.

"You'll change your tune when winter arrives," Squirrel called after him. And he was right.

One day, the first flurries of snow drifted from the sky. Soon it was snowing harder, and the earth became covered in its winter blanket. The food that Raven had found so easily all summer was buried.

Feeling hungry, Raven flew over to Squirrel's house. Squirrel had food stashed everywhere. "Squirrel," Raven said, "I'm hungry. Why not share some of your nuts with me?" Squirrel only scolded him. Finally, he shut the door in Raven's face.

Raven flew to the top of a tree and sat thinking. Then he hit upon a plan and flew off to see his cousin Crow.

"Hi, Crow," Raven called out. "I'm looking forward to your feast. Are you going to sing?"

Crow looked puzzled. "I'm not having a feast," he said.

"But you must sing at your feast," Raven said. "You have such a wonderful voice. Everyone wants to hear you."

Crow was flattered by the compliments. In fact, back in those times, Crow did have a nice voice. He started to think maybe he *should* have a feast. "Do you really think I should sing?" he asked.

"Of course," Raven said. "I'll invite everyone to your feast."

Raven visited all the animals. “I’m having a feast,” he told each one. “I’m having it at Crow’s house, and he will sing for us. Please join me at my feast. I’ll have lots of food for everyone.”

Then Raven flew back to Crow’s home and said, “Prepare all your food, Crow. Everyone is coming, and they are excited to know that you will be singing.” Crow got started right away.

On the day of the feast, Raven arrived early and found Crow still cooking. “You finish in the kitchen,” Raven said, “and I’ll greet the guests as they arrive.”

So Raven went to the door. “Welcome to my feast,” he said to each guest. “Please eat your fill. It’s my great pleasure to have this feast for you.”

All the animals sat down at the feast table. When Crow came to join them, Raven spoke up. “Oh please sing for us now, Crow. You cannot sing well on a full stomach.” Crow couldn’t resist and broke into song. Each time he paused to join the feast, Raven called, “Oh please, one more song. You are in such great voice today.” So Crow kept singing, and his voice got tired and hoarse.

When everyone got up from the table to leave, Crow had still not had a bite to eat, and all the food was gone. He was very hungry, and there was no food left in his house. He knew that everyone was grateful, though, and he felt that they would each invite him to a feast. He would not go hungry that winter. But as it turned out, Crow was never invited to any meals. All the animals thought that Raven had given the feast, so they invited him to their meals. Raven did not have to provide for his own winter food for many years.

Poor Crow was left to beg for food from humans and eat the scraps they left. You still see him today hopping about in parks and yards, searching for food and squawking a raspy “Caw! Caw! Caw!”

Answer the following questions.

- 6** This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

Which sentence from the story is an example of nonliteral language?

- A.** One day, the first flurries of snow drifted from the sky.
- B.** Soon it was snowing harder, and the earth became covered in its winter blanket.
- C.** The food that Raven had found so easily all summer was buried.
- D.** Feeling hungry, Raven flew over to Squirrel’s house.

Part B

Which explanation of nonliteral language **best** supports your answer to Part A?

- A.** It snowed lightly at first, and then harder.
- B.** Raven could not find food.
- C.** The ground was cold.
- D.** Snow covered the ground.

- 7** These events are from the story, but they are out of order. Write the numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 to put the events in the correct order.

- Raven did not gather food for winter.
- Crow became hoarse from singing.
- All the animals came to Crow’s house for a feast.
- Raven thanked Crow for inviting him to his feast.
- Raven invited the animals to a feast.
- Squirrel refused to give Raven any food.
- Raven was invited to many feasts.

- 8 The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

What problem does Raven have in “Raven Has a Feast”?

- A. Raven doesn’t know how to cook.
- B. No one will invite Raven to a feast.
- C. Raven doesn’t have anything to eat.
- D. Raven cannot sing.

Part B

Which of Raven’s actions causes this problem to happen?

- A. Raven lies about having the feast.
- B. Raven refuses to share his food.
- C. Raven does not store food for winter.
- D. Raven makes his voice hoarse by singing too much.

- 9 Circle **all** the statements below that correctly describe Raven.

- A. He enjoys playing tricks.
- B. He is thoughtful of others.
- C. He is not always truthful.
- D. He is lazy.
- E. He is practical.
- F. He doesn’t have any friends.



Lined writing area consisting of 20 horizontal lines.

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GRADES
3-8

