Compare and contrast

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

When we compare two things, we tell how they are alike.
When we contrast two things, we tell how they are different.

As you read, think about how the two poems are alike, and how they are different.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foreign Lands</th>
<th>Where Go the Boats?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up into the cherry tree</td>
<td>Dark brown is the river,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who should climb but little me?</td>
<td>Golden is the sand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I held the trunk with both my hands</td>
<td>It flows along forever,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And looked abroad in foreign lands.</td>
<td>With trees on either hand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I saw the next door garden lie,</td>
<td>Green leaves a-floating,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adorned with flowers, before my eye,</td>
<td>Castles of the foam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And many pleasant places more</td>
<td>Boats of mine a-boating—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That I had never seen before.</td>
<td>Where will they come home?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I saw the dimpling river pass</td>
<td>On goes the river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And be the sky’s blue looking-glass;</td>
<td>And out past the mill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The dusty roads go up and down</td>
<td>Away down the valley.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With people tramping in to town.</td>
<td>Away down the hill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If I could find a higher tree</td>
<td>Away down the river,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farther and farther I should see,</td>
<td>A hundred miles or more,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To where the grown-up river slips</td>
<td>Other little children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Into the sea among the ships,</td>
<td>Shall bring my boats ashore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To where the roads on either hand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead onward into fairy land,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where all the children dine at five,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And all the playthings come alive.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Robert Louis Stevenson

Robert Louis Stevenson
Some of these details are true of just one of the two poems. Some are true of both poems. Some are not true of either poem. Read each detail, and select the best answer.

1. The person in the poem is a child.
   A. “Foreign Lands” only  
   B. “Where Go the Boats” only  
   C. Both poems  
   D. Neither poem

2. The person in the poem climbs a tree.
   A. “Foreign Lands” only  
   B. “Where Go the Boats” only  
   C. Both poems  
   D. Neither poem

3. The person in the poem sails toy boats.
   A. “Foreign Lands” only  
   B. “Where Go the Boats” only  
   C. Both poems  
   D. Neither poem

4. The person in the poem imagines more than can really be seen.
   A. “Foreign Lands” only  
   B. “Where Go the Boats” only  
   C. Both stories  
   D. Neither poem

5. The person in the poem imagines a land of make-believe.
   A. “Foreign Lands” only  
   B. “Where Go the Boats” only  
   C. Both poems  
   D. Neither poem

6. The person in the poem imagines children in far-away places.
   A. “Foreign Lands” only  
   B. “Where Go the Boats” only  
   C. Both poems  
   D. Neither poem

7. The person in the poem thinks about what cities look like.
   A. “Foreign Lands” only  
   B. “Where Go the Boats” only  
   C. Both poems  
   D. Neither poem

8. The authors purpose for writing the poem was to provide the reader with factual information.
   A. “Foreign Lands” only  
   B. “Where Go the Boats” only  
   C. Both poems  
   D. Neither poem

9. What is one other detail that is alike or different in the two stories?
Answer Key

1. C
2. A
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. C
7. D
8. D