

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Compare and Contrast Mysteries

### Practice

Read the two mysteries and answer the questions below. Write your answers on the lines and then print this page.

#### **Mystery Meal**

by Sam Umeki

“Oh, no!” I cried. “I know I left it here. Now where did it go?” I scratched my head and looked around the garage in disbelief. Lily came running outside and asked me what was wrong. I told her that I had been collecting canned goods and boxes of food for the food drive. The local fire station had asked everyone to donate food for those less fortunate. When Lily scanned the garage and pointed to a dog bone on the floor, I laughed. “Do you really think Buster took a whole bag full of food?” I asked.

We walked outside and saw four footprints on the path leading around to the back door. “Look,” shouted Lily. “I bet those footprints belong to the thief!” As we scrutinized them, I noticed two were suspiciously the size of my sneakers. The other two matched Lily’s sneakers.

We looked for clues in the bushes and in the yard; however, nothing turned up. Finally we went inside and saw Grandma stirring a large pot on the stove. The aroma of her “Everything Stew” made me hungry. Then it struck me. “Grandma, where did you get the ingredients for that stew?” I asked.

She smiled and said, “In a bag in the garage.” I groaned; I had to think fast. “I know! We’ll can the stew and donate that instead,” I said. Case closed!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Maple Sap Mystery**

by Sun Park

Jonah Brannigan awoke at midnight with a feeling of uneasiness. He stumbled out of bed, quickly donned his favorite flannel shirt and worn-out jeans, and whistled for his dog, Meena. Sugaring season had just begun, and it dawned on Jonah that the tubing that brought all the sap from the maple trees to the sugarhouse might be in jeopardy. Sometimes animals wandered through the trees and got caught in the tubing, interrupting the sap flow.

As he and Meena loped out the door, Jonah saw a flash of gray near the sugarhouse, then blackness. He turned on his flashlight and searched the ground, but the only footprints he could see were those of his cat, Noodle. Meena also saw nothing out of the ordinary, so she and Jonah raced back into the house, shivering and annoyed.

The next morning, Jonah found tiny bite marks in the tubing near the sugarhouse. *Could it be?* he wondered. He hid behind a group of trees and waited. Sure enough, moments later, Noodle slunk to the tubing, chomped it with his tiny fangs, and lapped at the sweet sap that oozed out. Jonah smiled. He had found the midnight marauder!

**Part 1 READING:  
LITERATURE**

**1.3 Integration of Knowledge and Ideas**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. How are the topics of the mysteries similar and/or different?

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2. How are the patterns of events in the mysteries similar and/or different?

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3. How are the themes of the mysteries similar and/or different?

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