**Compare and Contrast Fables**

Read the two fables and answer the questions below.

**The Ant and the Butterfly**

A tiny ant passed a butterfly in a cocoon, about to finish its final stage of metamorphosis. The humble butterfly moved its tail, catching the ant’s immediate attention. The ant saw the butterfly all wrapped up in its cocoon. The ant boasted, “Look at you, stuck there. You are not able to move while I can run and play.” The butterfly did not reply.

A few days later, the ant passed the spot again. The butterfly was gone. Only the cocoon remained. The ant wondered what happened to the creature inside when, above him, a beautiful butterfly spread its wings gracefully.

“Boast now that you can run and play,” said the butterfly. He flapped his colorful wings and flew high in the sky.

**The Hare and the Tortoise**

One day a hare passed a tortoise plodding along on her way. The hare made fun of the tortoise’s short legs and slow pace.

“I am twice as fast as you,” the hare boasted.

The tortoise said, “I may have short legs. I may not be as fast as you. Yet, I bet I can beat you in a race.”

The hare laughed at such a silly idea. He quickly agreed to the race.

During the competition, the confident hare knew he would win. He was sleepy, so he decided to rest on the side of the dirt road. He took a nap. When he woke up, he hurried to finish the race. The tortoise had already crossed the finish line.

“Slow and steady wins the race,” the tortoise said.

1. How are the characters in both fables similar?

2. How are the characters in both fables different?

3. What theme is present in both fables?
For #s 1 and 2, put a slash between the subject and predicate. Underline all verbs (helping, action, and linking). Circle any adjectives.

1. During the competition, the confident hare knew he would win.

2. The tortoise had already crossed the finish line.

3. Find and copy dialogue that uses the speech tag said. Change said to a more precise word that clearly shows how the character might be speaking.

4. Combine the following two short sentences into one.
   
   A few days later, the ant passed the spot again. The butterfly was gone.

5. Use context clues to determine the meaning of the underlined word. Which specific clues in the sentence helped you to figure out the meaning?

   One day a hare passed a tortoise plodding along on her way. The hare made fun of the tortoise’s short legs and slow pace.

   Meaning:

   Clues that helped you:

6. Find and copy an example of a possessive noun from one of the stories.
WEDNESDAY

For #s 1 and 2, put a slash between the subject and predicate. Underline all verbs (helping, action, and linking). Circle any adjectives.

1. The hare laughed at such a silly idea.

2. The hare made fun of the tortoise’s short legs and slow pace.

3. Write a simile about one of the characters.

4. Expand the following sentence by adding more details and by using FANBOYS.

   The butterfly was gone.

5. Which resource would you use if you wanted to find out about more animals that went through the process of metamorphosis?

6. Find and copy a sentence that uses an adverb.
THURSDAY

For #s 1 and 2, put a slash between the subject and predicate.  
Underline all verbs (helping, action, and linking).  
Circle any adjectives.

1. A tiny ant passed a butterfly in a cocoon, about to finish its final stage of metamorphosis.

2. He flapped his colorful wings and flew high in the sky.

3. Combine the following sentences to form a compound sentence.

   The hare laughed at such a silly idea. He quickly agreed to the race.

4. Write a hyperbole that could be included in one of the fables.

5. Change the following to possessive nouns.

   the wings of a butterfly
   all of the wings of the butterflies
   the hard shell of the tortoise
   the race of the animals

6. Write a synonym for the underlined word that uses more precise language.

   The ant saw the butterfly all wrapped up in its cocoon.
For #s 1 and 2, put a slash between the subject and predicate. Underline all verbs (helping, action, and linking). Circle any adjectives.

1. The humble butterfly moved its tail, catching the ant’s immediate attention.

2. He was sleepy, so he decided to rest on the side of the dirt road.

3. Correctly write the title of each fable.

4. Expand the following sentence by adding more details and by using FANBOYS.

   He took a nap.

5. Write a metaphor that could be included in one of the stories.

6. Add the suffixes –ing and –ed to the following words from the story.

   wrap
   move
   flap
   decide
   hurry