

Compare the Fairytales

Read the two fairy tales below. Each is from a different culture. What are the similarities between the two tales? What are the differences? Use the Venn diagram on the next page to list these similarities and three things that are different about each tale.

Fairy Tale #1:



Fairy tales in the land now known as Canada, there lived two young children, a sister and brother. They were orphaned and had to care for themselves. This was especially difficult since the boy never grew bigger than a baby, no matter how old he got.

The sister loved her brother very much, and she made a bow and arrow especially for him to shoot. He learned to hunt and grow large for food, and sometimes had enough food left to make himself a meal. It was a fine life and the two were it with pride.

One day, the boy asked his sister, "Are there other people in the world? Mother told stories of people just like us, but I've never seen them." For as long as they had lived on their own, the girl and boy had never met another soul. "Mother told me the same," said the girl. "She was born to foreign people, who cared for us when she was a girl like me." The boy decided to seek his mother's words.

He set off for his journey wearing his beloved coat of best skin. But the sun was high and hot, and the boy's coat began to shrivel. Soon, it was so tight that when the boy moved, the coat tore his joints.

"Oh give us for this, sun!" said the boy, the sun heaved a groan out of a hole of her long angry face, and the boy stuck out before dawn to trap the sun. He placed his arms at the point on the horizon where the sun would rise and sat down to wait. Sure enough, as the sun began to rise, it was caught in the boy's trap.

"Who will free me from my bondage?" the sun inquired the world's animals. First, Woodpecker tried but its head grew red from the heat. To this day, woodpeckers have red heads. Finally the task fell to the mouse, who was the biggest and strongest creature of them all. The mouse began to gnaw at the sides and slowly, hair by hair, the mouse began to cut through it. Though its back was aching to rest, the mouse kept at its task. Finally, the mouse freed the sun from its bondage, but not

before the heat struck it to a fraction of its former size. When it began to walk, the mouse was the largest of all animals. By the time it finished, it was the smallest. To this day, the mouse remains one of the most animals, and its coat is not the color of cotton.



Fairy Tale #2:

Once upon a time, before the continent of Europe was given that name, there lived a couple who had no children. They prayed every day for a child, even if he were no bigger than a breadcrumb. At last, their wish was granted, and they had a child who was the