

## Outcome Connections Answer Key

### Reflection Questions: Sample Responses

1. **Similar causes:** In both passages, a difficult challenge is presented, and the smaller or weaker character must step up.
2. **Different effects:** In *Little Engine*, the cause leads to children getting their toys and food; in *Tortoise & Hare*, the cause leads to the tortoise winning the race.
3. **Messages/lessons:** *Little Engine* teaches perseverance and optimism ("I think I can"), while *Tortoise & Hare* teaches that steady effort beats overconfidence.
4. **Admired character:** (Varies; sample: "I admire the little engine because it helped others, not just itself.")

### Teacher Notes

- This activity emphasizes **comparing patterns of cause and effect** across texts.
- Students may struggle to separate the cause from the effect; remind them that the cause is the "push" and the effect is the "result."
- For differentiation:
  - Struggling students can be given a word bank of possible causes/effects.
  - Advanced students can extend the activity by writing their own short fable where the same cause leads to yet another outcome.