

In both "The Cave" and "The Climb" they are a person or people vs. nature conflict. The characters in both stories get in dangerous situations, they get stuck in a cave or out in the mountains somewhere. They find a way out. I think the theme is being able to think fast and clearly in the face of danger. Both of these short stories have similarities and differences. For example both of them include the problem of getting lost.

There is more than one similarity in the two stories. In both stories the characters have accidents because from the beginning the trips are not fully planned out. This is seen when Mr. Sawyer never checked the rope that Maria was securing. And it got them here, "Ms. Chen gave the rope a sharp yank, expecting it to pull taut, but it hung loose in her hands. Evidently, Maria's quick movements had loosened the rope from the tree" this text is from the cave. Maria had tripped and fallen in the cave and broke the rope that would have helped them get out. In the climb this is seen when Mikela leaves alone and tries to find an owl nest. Instead she gets lost. "Where am I?" Mikela asked herself. She knew that the area where her family had set up camp was near the base of two hills." If you leave your camp it is common sense to take someone with you.

In the cave they are smart enough to tie a rope to a tree but not tight enough. They at least tried to make a safety precaution, "Make sure the rope is tight Maria," cautioned Mr. Sawyer." In the climb Mikela is a idiot she leaves alone a few minutes before nightfall. "the sun was beginning to settle behind the trees, it would soon be getting dark; Mikela started to worry." Before she left her parents should have made her bring her brother or a phone. If she left without telling then that is a whole other story.

You can see how in "The Cave" they work up to getting stuck. They add hints and foreshadowing to the conflict of the rope being broken and them not knowing where they were. This is seen when Mr. Sawyer is telling Maria that she needs to make sure the rope is tight, "Make sure the rope is tight Maria," in the Climb it starts with Mikela being lost and since it is in first person we can hear her thoughts and how she had gotten there, "where am I?"

In conclusion you can see that both the cave and the climb are a person vs. nature situation where the characters are stuck in bad situations that are dangerous. While one is stuck in a cave with a broken rope the other is lost somewhere in the mountains. The girl in the mountains has to think logically about a way to find home, the kids and adults in "The Cave" have to use common sense. I believe that the theme is to think clearly in the face of danger.