**Both stories show a character trying to decide what to wish for. How are the ways the characters make decisions similar and different? Use specific examples from both stories to support your answer.**

**Be sure to:**

* **Describe how Mantharaka makes decisions in “The Two-Headed Weaver”**
* **Describe how the woodcutter makes decisions in “The Ridiculous Wishes”**
* **Compare and Contrast the ways the characters make decisions**
* **Include details from both stories to support your answer**

In “The Two-Headed Weaver” and “The Ridiculous Wishes,” two characters must decide what to wish for. They both want to be careful about their wishes, but only one character stays true to this idea.

In the first story, a tree spirit grants the weaver Mantharaka one wish. Mantharaka knows he has an important decision to make. Before he makes his wish, he says, “I will go home and ask my friend and my wife, and when I return, you must give me what I ask for.” He then goes and gets advice from his friend the barber and his wife. To his wife he says, “Tell me, what should I ask for?” In both cases, he listens carefully to what the characters say, and he follows his wife’s advice. Throughout, the weaver shows that he is careful and thoughtful about his decision.

In the second story, a woodcutter is granted three wishes. Like Mantharaka in the first story, the weaver also wants to be careful. He says, “I certainly must have my wife’s advice.” However, once he is home, he carelessly wishes for a sausage. When his wife scolds him for being careless, he makes a second wish in anger saying “A curse on this and all sausages. I wish that it was hanging from the end of your nose!” He then spends his last wish fixing the second wish. Throughout the story, the woodcutter wastes wishes rather than making careful, wise decisions.

Both the weaver and the woodcutter want to be careful in making their wishes and ask others’ advice. Only the weaver stays true to this idea. After listening to his wife, he does not make another wish. However, the woodcutter carelessly wishes for a sausage. Then he angrily wishes for the sausage to attach itself to his wife’s nose when she gets made at him. In the end, the woodcutter must use up his final wish to correct his error. This again shows how careless he has been in contrast to Mantharaka.

In conclusion, in both stories the weaver and the woodcutter must decide what to wish for, but only the weaver is careful about making his wish. Even though he was careful, he died in the end. Maybe if he was able to think for himself he would not have died. It goes to show you that sometimes it’s better to be a leader than a follower.

**Reasons that this essay is a 4**

* The introduction gives a hint about how each character makes wishes. It also gives an idea of how the characters are alike and different.
* The writer uses a quotations.
* Uses transitions that show compare and contrast like “Like Mantharaka in the first story...”, ”Both the weaver and the woodcutter…”
* The writer focuses more on how the characters make their wishes than on what they actually wish for. This is what the prompt asks the students to do.
* The 4th paragraph sums up what has come before, and it makes clear the ways the characters are similar and the ways that they differ.
* The conclusions summarizes the thesis and leaves a final thought.