Comparing Stories

Purpose
Students compare two examples of literature based on selected attributes, such as setting, character, and plot.

Introducing the Activity
Read two stories aloud, either in tandem or on separate days. The stories may be similar in theme, setting, characterization, or plot. Picture books work well when introducing how to use this graphic organizer to the class.

Using the Graphic Organizer
1. Write each book title in a cloud at the top of the graphic organizer.
2. To model how to complete the organizer, ask: In what ways are these two stories similar? Write a few student responses on the large cloud.
3. Choose three attributes that you’d like students to compare in the two stories. You might include attributes such as beginning, ending, setting, characters, plot, theme, tone or style, voice, point of view, or specific events. Write a different attribute on each puddle.
4. Ask students to compare the stories according to the attributes you recorded. Write a response on the umbrella for each story next to each attribute puddle.
5. Distribute copies of the organizer for students to complete independently, comparing two stories they have read.

Taking It Further
Rather than assigning attributes for students to compare, have them leave the puddles blank. Encourage them to record ways in which the two stories are different and then fill in the attributes they used to make their comparisons.
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How these stories are similar: