

Skill

- * Comparing Story Attributes
- * Analyzing Story Elements
- * Making Connections

Literature Link

There Goes Lowell's Party by Esther Hershernhorn (Holiday House, 1998).

Lowell is convinced that not even a brewing storm will spoil his birthday celebration.

Gullywasher Gulch by Marianne Mitchell (Boyd's Mills Press, 2002).

All of Eb's junk-collecting "for a rainy day" pays off when flash floods hit Dry Gulch.

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.

Name Kevin Date March 8

Comparing Stories

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| Title: There Goes Lowell's Party | Title: Gullywasher Gulch |
| How these stories are similar: Fun language Signs of rain Flooding and muddy waters Celebrating in the end | |
| Takes place in the Ozark Mountains | Takes place in the desert |
| Setting | Setting |
| Lowell was afraid rain would wreck his birthday plans. | Ebenezer hoped it would rain more than a spit. |
| Character | Character |
| Rain did not ruin Lowell's party! | The town was ruined by the rain and has to be rebuilt. |
| Plot | Plot |

Reading Response for Fiction: Graphic Organizers & Mini-Lessons © 2008 by Jennifer Jacobson, Scholastic Teaching Resources, page 11

Comparing Stories

Title:

Title:

How these stories are similar:

