



Task Shell Example 7—Analyzing Literary Texts —Character Study: Comparing Characters



Name _____

Date _____

Every story character has a personality. We learn about a character's traits by what they say, think, and do, and by how other characters interact with them. Read or view these two short stories:

Then write an analysis that compares the main characters' traits. Determine your focus: Are the main characters **mostly alike** or **mostly different**? Use specific details from the stories to support your opinion. Be sure to elaborate on how those text-based examples support your reasoning (and focus).

Use the notes from your graphic organizers for each story to help you plan and write your response.

Be sure to

1. Have an introduction that sets the context: the story titles and authors and a one- or two-sentence summary of each story.
2. State a focus that compares the main characters' personality traits.
3. Have body paragraphs that have topic sentences and details to support each new trait that you are comparing.
4. Analyze your evidence from each text. Use descriptive words to elaborate on WHY your evidence supports your reasoning.
5. Use transitional words or phrases to connect your ideas.
6. Write a conclusion that connects to or summarizes your focus or opinion.
7. Use correct punctuation and spelling.

Source: Adapted from NYC Schools Performance Assessment Pilot—Grade 4 Opinion Writing (2010).




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After reading each story, analyze how the author develops the main character. What does the author reveal to the reader about this character (actions, interactions, motivations, what the character says, does, thinks, or feels) that supports your interpretations? Complete a table for each story's main character before you begin to compose your text-based opinion: Are the main characters **mostly alike** or **mostly different**?

<p>NAME SEVERAL CHARACTER TRAITS THAT WOULD DESCRIBE THIS CHARACTER:</p> <hr/> <p>(LIST ONE TRAIT IN EACH ROW. NOT ALL ROWS MUST BE FILLED IN.)</p>	<p>WHAT EXAMPLES FROM THE TEXT SUPPORT YOUR REASONS FOR USING EACH TRAIT TO DESCRIBE THIS CHARACTER?</p>	<p>ANALYZE OR EXPLAIN YOUR INTERPRETATION. HOW DO THESE EXAMPLES SHOW THE TRAIT?</p>

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