



Ready Reference Form

Goal: Comprehension Strategy: Compare and Contrast Within and Between Text	
Definition	Readers understand new ideas in text by thinking about how things are alike or different, thus deepening their comprehension.
Why Children Need This Strategy	Comparing and contrasting text assists the reader by engaging them in thinking critically. Readers go beyond descriptions, summaries, or retells and gain a deeper understanding of what they are comparing or contrasting.
Secret to Success	Remember that comparing involves articulating likenesses and differences, whereas contrasting focuses only on differences.
How We Teach It	<p>We begin by defining and giving examples of how to compare, by telling likenesses and differences of what we might be comparing. We may use two students and point out their similarities and differences. Then we compare characters in a story or settings.</p> <p>We always use a Venn diagram when teaching our students the idea of comparing and contrasting information. It is a great visual device that clearly shows this abstract concept.</p> <p>Teaching points to remember: Compare—tell how two or more things are alike and different clue words: <i>like, as</i> Simile—<i>than, as</i> Metaphor—no clue words Analogies—point out words with same relationship</p> <p>Contrast—tell how two or more things are different clue words: <i>but, unlike</i></p> <p>Language we use: “How are these stories the same? How are they different?” “Compare the characters in each story.” “How might you compare these stories?”</p>
Troubleshooting	Help students understand the skill by relating it to classifying. When we are grouping things together, we classify them by likes and/or differences.