



Comparison/Contrast Graphic Organizer for Jane Eyre

Purpose of the Strategy:

This pattern guide for *Jane Eyre* will help students recognize predominant patterns in the text. The comparison/contrast activity will allow students to visualize relationships between characters and clarify their thinking about those characters, helping them to better draw conclusions about the novel.

Directions:

This comparison/contrast pattern guide may be used at any point in the novel, depending on which characters you think it would be helpful for the students to analyze and at what point of the novel you think they should be analyzed. After the desired passage(s) has/have been read, have the students fill out the graphic organizer. You may use the comparison/contrast form provided or a Venn diagram, as both create a space for the same information to be recorded. After the students have completed the diagram, discuss the terms they have chosen to include and how they fit into the diagram. Discuss what this activity reveals about certain characters, requiring the students to relate new concepts to their prior knowledge. Throughout her novel, Charlotte Brontë provides foils for her characters, usually agreeing with the feelings and/or views of one of the pair of characters. Through careful analysis of the character pairs, students will then write a comparison/contrast essay, delineating the redeeming and not-so-redeeming qualities of each character and arguing which they think Brontë was more sympathetic to.

Some examples of character comparisons may be:

Aunt Reed/Miss Temple; Jane/Helen; Mr. Rochester/Rev. St. John; Blanche/Jane; Bertha/Jane, etc.

Assessment:

The use of pattern guides allows a teacher to analyze students' understanding of concepts. This particular activity would be very useful as a prewrite for a comparison/contrast essay or as a study guide for the novel, helping the students to examine relationships and concepts from the novel.

EXAMPLE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Planning for compare/contrast

I am going to compare/contrast **Aunt Reed** and **Miss Temple** .

Things that are alike:

 Both in positions of authority over Jane. Both older women. Both guardians of Jane. Both very strong personalities.

Things that are different:

Aunt Reed	Miss Temple
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**Selfish
Cruel
Blind to Jane's goodness
Related to Jane
Widow with three children
Strict
Jane hates her
Depressing influence
Abusive
Jealous
Upper middle class family**

**Selfless
Kind
Sees Jane's value
Not related to Jane
 Younger and unmarried
More lenient
Jane adores her
Inspiring influence
Comforting
True Christian
 Well-educated**