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Designed to be used *seamlessly* alongside your regular classroom materials, *Every Teacher's Toolkit* will help you boost your students' academic performance and English proficiency.

Critical Thinking Skills Analyze information and ideas

Challenges

- When my ELL students read, they need help identifying viewpoints, causes, and possible results.
- Some students have trouble seeing similarities and differences between objects, ideas, events, or characters.
- Sometimes my students need help analyzing and solving math word problems.

Solutions

- Teach students how to compare and contrast ideas, characters, and elements of a reading.
- Instruct students on how to break down problems into smaller parts.
- Help students understand causes and effects, as well as processes.

What students will learn

Language Objective: analyze information and ideas

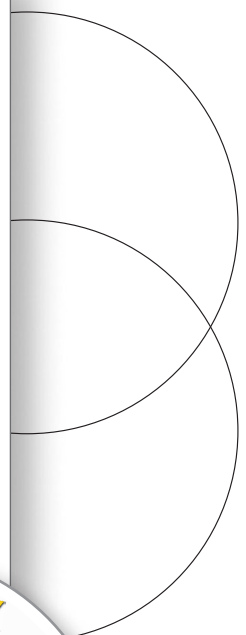
Content-area Objectives	Learning Strategies
Language Arts: compare and contrast two characters in a story	Use a Venn diagram
Mathematics: analyze a math word problem and figure out how to solve it	Break it down
Science: analyze causes and effects	Use a cause and effect diagram
Social Studies: debate pros and cons of a social studies topic	Use a T-chart

ELL INSIGHTS
Practice Analyzing and Evaluating
Reinforce student learning by having them analyze and evaluate information. When students analyze and evaluate information, they think critically and in depth. They can critique ideas, make judgments, and give recommendations, and give evidence. The students will also engage in their own experiences. Begin with a subject when they analyze what they read.

Name _____ Date _____

Compare and Contrast: Venn Diagram

Read the text your teacher gives you. Fill in the Venn diagram. Write the name of each character in one of the circles. Then list how the characters are different and how they are similar.



Mini-lesson: Compare and Contrast: Venn Diagram

Language objective: analyze information and ideas

Content-area objective
Language Arts: compare and contrast two characters in a story

Learning strategy: use a Venn diagram to figure out differences and similarities


Explain
Tell students that to *compare* and *contrast* means to figure out how two or more people, events, ideas, or things are similar and different.

- Draw a Venn diagram on the board. Choose two familiar objects, such as *an apple and an orange*. Label each circle with the object. Show the actual objects or photos of the objects.
- Ask students for ideas as you fill in the diagram with similarities (shared area of circles) and differences (outer circles). Think of sensory details, function, benefits, sources, and other attributes.
- Using the Venn diagram, call on volunteers to compare and contrast the two objects.
- Then provide students with copies of the worksheet and a short story or a passage from a longer reading that presents two characters.

Scaffold for Differentiated Instruction
Newcomer/Beginning: Read the text aloud with students, helping them understand the content and characters. Point out visuals or photos as you read. Draw a Venn diagram on the board. As you discuss two characters with students, fill in the Venn diagram. Have them follow along and fill in their own Venn diagrams. For Beginning students, guide small groups to discuss similarities and differences between the two characters. Newcomers should actively listen to the discussion.
Intermediate: Assign pairs to take turns reading the text aloud to each other. Check comprehension by asking questions about the story and characters. Have students work in small groups to choose two characters, discuss them, and fill in the Venn diagrams. Then ask groups to share character comparisons with the class.
Advanced: Have students silently read the text. Ask them to think about two characters and complete the Venn diagram. Have student pairs share ideas about the characters. Then have each pair present their character comparisons to the class.
Advanced High: Have students silently read the text. Ask them to choose two characters and independently fill in the Venn diagram. Have student pairs exchange ideas about the characters. Then have each student work independently to write a three-paragraph essay comparing and contrasting the selected characters.

Check for Understanding
Ask: How does comparing and contrasting characters help you analyze and understand them?

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Each flexible, customizable lesson includes:

- A clear explanation of English language proficiency goals, focusing on areas in which English learners in content-area classes typically have difficulties.
- Methods for clarifying skills and strategies, with definitions and examples.
- Step-by-step mini-lessons tailored to meet the needs of **Math**, **Science**, **Social Studies** and **Language Arts** classrooms.
- Blackline masters that support instruction and provide additional practice.
- Scaffolded and differentiated instruction that accommodates learners from Newcomers to Advanced.

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