

# SMART™ Lesson

## Literature: Comparing and Contrasting Texts

### Introduction

When we compare and contrast two texts, we look at the similarities and differences between them. This helps us to better understand the themes and ideas presented in each text, as well as the different ways in which the authors have chosen to explore these themes and ideas.

### Comparing Texts

When we compare two texts, we look at the similarities between them. This might include similarities in themes or subject matter, similarities in character development or plot structure, or similarities in the author's writing style.

For example, we might compare two novels that both explore the theme of friendship. We could look at how the two authors approach this theme, and how they develop their characters and their relationships with each other. We might also look at the different settings or time periods in which the novels are set, and how this impacts on the portrayal of friendship in each book.

### Contrasting Texts

When we contrast two texts, we look at the differences between them. This might include differences in themes or subject matter, differences in character development or plot structure, or differences in the author's writing style.

For example, we might contrast a novel and a movie adaptation of the same story. We could look at how the two versions differ in terms of how they tell the story, how they develop the characters, and how they use different visual and auditory techniques to bring the story to life. We might also examine how different audiences – readers versus viewers – might interpret the story differently.

### Question time!

1. What is the difference between comparing and contrasting two texts?
2. What are some of the things we might look at when comparing two texts?
3. What are some of the things we might look at when contrasting two texts?
4. Why might two different texts explore the same theme or subject matter in different ways?

5. What might be some of the challenges in comparing or contrasting two texts?

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Comparing and Contrasting Texts

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