

Compare & Contrast Worksheets

Read the following passage. Compare and contrast the two characters. Plan an explanatory essay that tells how the two characters are alike, and how they are different. Then, write an essay using details from the text to support your statements.

The Peterson Family Road Trip

Here we go again, Cori thought to herself. She was sitting in the back seat of her parents' car with her brother, trying to ignore their discussion. As usual, her parents had differing opinions, and were trying to come together to make a decision. The family was heading to the Black Hills in South Dakota to visit Mount Rushmore before heading to Wyoming to visit Yellowstone National Park. This time, they were disagreeing about whether they should take a detour and visit the Badlands (her dad's idea), or stick with the itinerary and continue toward the Black Hills (her mom's idea).

"Ben, I spent a lot of time on the computer planning this vacation. I'd like to stick with the plan," said Mrs. Peterson.

"But, Nora, I've heard the Badlands are spectacular- that there's nothing else quite like it on Earth! Isn't that why we decided to take such a long road trip this summer? You said that you wanted the kids to see more of our great nation, and I completely agree. Let's just get rid of that itinerary and enjoy ourselves," said Mr. Peterson.

"I couldn't possibly do that! I love to travel, but traveling without a plan would drive me crazy!" Mrs. Peterson responded. "Let's compromise. We'll stick to the plan today, but we'll stick to our schedule tomorrow."

"It's a deal!" Cori's dad exclaimed.

Thirty minutes later, they pulled into a parking spot along the side of a road. "Isn't it beautiful?" asked Mr. Peterson. "I love visiting new places."

"It's breathtaking!" replied Mrs. Peterson. "I'm so glad you're here."

"Hey, check out this sign!" Cori said, pointing to a yellow triangular sign with a black border and a black snake on it, along with the words CAUTION! RATTLE SNAKE!

"Ben! We can't hike along this trail! We'd be risking our lives!" Mrs. Peterson said.

"Oh, Nora, it will be fine. Look! The sign says 'RATTLE SNAKE' in the area. Plus, it says here that they are actually usually seek shady places during the heat of the day. It's one of the things that makes them so dangerous."

"Well, okay. But you kids stay close by us. I don't want you getting lost. Stay right with us," Mrs. Peterson ordered. "And don't go off on your own, just in case we have an emergency."

"Nora, you know that there will be a lot more wildlife when we're out here," Mrs. Peterson said.

"Yes... that's why I told you to order that bear spray," replied Mr. Peterson to his lip.

"You did remember to order and pack the bear spray, didn't you?" Mrs. Peterson said.

"Well, I may have forgotten to do that," said Mr. Peterson. Cori glanced over at her brother, who rolled his eyes. Cori breathed, "You know, most families worry about bickering kids. Bickering adults you have to worry about!"

Using a Venn diagram, plan your essay. Then, write your essay.

← Compare & contrast the 2 CHARACTERS.

Read the following passage. Compare and contrast the settings presented in the story. Plan an explanatory essay that tells how the two settings are alike, and how they are different. Then, write an essay using details from the text to support your statements.

Summer at the Lake

"Hey, Jordan! Are you going to be able to land a flip when I take you wakeboarding today?" Jordan's grandpa asked him as he stepped onto the dock. Jordan's grandpa was already standing in the boat, fiddling with its motor.

"I sure am going to try!" answered Jordan. The large shade trees did not hang over the dock. Jordan instantly felt much warmer as the sun's rays beat down on him. He shielded his eyes from the sunlight as he watched his grandfather work for a few minutes.

Jordan was at his favorite place in the entire world- his grandparents' lake house. He had spent every summer of his life here. He had learned to swim in the lake when he was two years old, and he learned to waterski when he was five years old. When he was eight, he had decided waterskiing was becoming a bit mundane, and he convinced his parents to buy him a wakeboard for his birthday. Ever since then, wakeboarding was his passion.

"I think I'm done. Are you ready to go for a spin now?" asked Grandpa.

"You know me, Grandpa... I'm always ready to go wakeboarding!"

"I'll get life jackets ready while you go find a spotter. Since I'll be driving, I'll need someone to tell me when you wipe out, and guide me to where I need to pick you up," said Grandpa.

Jordan heard laughter coming from the area near the house. "It sounds like Mike might be outside. I'll go have him ask his mom if he can come with us."

"Okay. Why don't you grab some bottles of water, too? We'll want to stay well-hydrated. It's supposed to be a scorcher out here today. I heard the temperature will pass 100 degrees by two o'clock."

"No wonder there are so many people here today," Jordan thought. "I heard the temperature will pass 100 degrees by two o'clock."

Using a Venn diagram, plan your essay. Then, write your essay.

Read the following passage. Compare and contrast the two events. Plan an explanatory essay that tells how the two events are alike, and how they are different. Then, write an essay using details from the text to support your statements.

Who Will Walk Pepper?

Ashley was giddy with excitement. She glanced over at her brother, Erik, who was grinning from ear to ear. As their dad pulled into the driveway in front of their house, the puppy sitting on their mom's lap in the front seat barked.

"Welcome to your new home, Pepper!" said Mom.

Ashley could hardly believe this was happening. She and Erik had been begging for a dog for years, but their parents had always refused. A week ago, though, her mom's coworker had shown her mom photos of her new litter of puppies, and offered one to Ashley's mom. Surprisingly, Ashley's mom had fallen in love with the black and white puppy, and had told her children that if they promised to take turns walking the dog, they could have it. Ashley and Erik had happily agreed, of course.

"You know that owning a dog involves responsibility, right? Will you be willing to take it for walks and clean up after it goes to the bathroom... without complaining?" Mom had asked.

"Yes! Yes!" Ashley and Erik had responded.

Everyone climbed out of the car. "Is Pepper ready to go for a walk now?" asked Erik, jumping up and down.

"But, I wanted to take him for his first walk," whined Ashley.

"It's a beautiful spring day. Let's all go for a walk together, and you two can take turns holding the leash," said Mom. "Erik, would you go get that new leash I bought? I think it's on the counter. Grab a doggie doo bag, too."

"Okay, but I get to hold the leash first," Erik stated.

"No fair!" pouted Ashley, mounting her arms across her chest.

Mom sighed. "Erik, you can hold the leash first, during this walk, and Ashley, you can be the first to take him for a walk all by yourself later this evening."

"Dad, will you take us to the swimming pool?" Erik asked, three months later. "I feel like I'm going to melt- it's so hot outside."

"Swimming on a humid summer day like today sounds like a good idea to me. Before we go, though, either you or your sister has to take Pepper for a walk," Dad explained.

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→ Compare & contrast the 2 SETTINGS.

→ Compare & contrast the 2 EVENTS.