

## Character Analysis Compare and Contrast Essay

### **Objective:**

Your task is to write an essay of a character analysis, with a thesis statement, comparing and contrasting any character from your novel to one character in the short story you selected from your on-line textbook (***Batting After Sophie* or *Amigo Brothers***).

### **Process:**

Sometimes two characters are clearly alike while other times it is not as obvious. In order to write a successful character compare/contrast essay, you must examine both characters' individual roles in the different stories. How do they affect the plot development?

Steps to follow:

#### **1.) Choose two characters**

The first step to writing a character comparison is to **select a character from each story (your individual novel and the one from the textbook, HMM)**. Before you start comparing, **revisit parts of the text where each character appears** to become more familiar with the role of each character.

#### **2.) Describe the characters**

**Take note** of the characters: physical descriptions, their dialogue, their actions, and the role they play in the narrative. It may be helpful to **create a two-column chart** where you can list the traits of each character. Remember to always cite direct textual evidence!

Important points to consider:

- Physical descriptions
- Actions
- Speech
- Beliefs / Values
- Descriptions by narrator and other characters
- 

#### **3.) Identify similarities and differences**

Once you have determined the traits of each character, identify the similarities and differences between them.

#### 4.) Formulate a thesis

The thesis statement should reflect your purpose for comparing the two characters and incorporate the effects their similarities and differences will have on your essay. Refer to your list of similarities and differences in order to formulate the main claim you are making in the essay.

#### 5.) Form a conclusion

Your conclusion should re-state the thesis and summarize the importance of both characters' traits to the stories. In addition, the conclusion can analyze how the character traits helped to solve a problem, find a resolution or make a compromise that can be connected to a common theme.

#### **Essay:**

**Introductory paragraph:** This introduces the character and their significance to the story plot. There should be a thesis statement and the reasons why you are making the comparison /contrast statements.

**Body:** These paragraphs develop the character analysis by incorporating two similarities and two differences using the character descriptions to support your reasons. You may also include quotes from either or both selections.

**Conclusion:** This paragraph re-states the thesis statement, state the resolution or compromise, or any other closing strategies.

Your essay should be typed in a word document, double spaced, a minimum of one page, and 12 size font in Times New Roman or Ariel. Submit your essay in TEAMS with the file name as:

First name\_Last name\_character analysis