

Comparing and Contrasting Story Elements

Objective:

To compare and contrast story elements, including characters, setting, and plot.

Vocabulary:

Contrast – to determine how two or more objects are different

Characters – people or animals important to the story

Setting – time and place the events happen

Events – actions that occur in the story

Materials:

- Focus Prompt Wheel 4
- Model Text Easel, page 4
- Student Annotation Kits
- Student provided materials: pencil and journal/notebook paper
- One Last Batch reproducible, page 13
- Compare and Contrast blackline master, page 14

First Read

Read the Focus Prompt: *How do the settings of the story differ? How are they similar?*

Annotate: Have students record details about the two settings with the pink colored pencils.

Reflect: Discuss students' responses to the Focus Prompt and record answers on the Model Text Easel.

Optional: Have students journal responses in a journal or on notebook paper.

 **Sample Response:** *The two settings differ as one is a place of enjoyment and pleasure (the ocean) and one is a place of employment (the copy shop). The settings are similar in location as the ocean is across the street from the shop.*

Remediate: Guide students by asking, "What evidence from the story lets you know where the main characters are in the beginning and the end of the story?" As students respond, underline the evidence in the story using the Model Text Easel.

Second Read

Read the Focus Prompt: *Compare and contrast the two main characters.*

Annotate: Have students record notes about each character with the green colored pencils.

Reflect: Discuss students' responses to the Focus Prompt and record answers on the Model Text Easel.

Optional: Have students journal responses in a journal or on notebook paper.

 **Sample Response:** *Rocky and Tumi are both employed by the same copy shop. Rocky is described as a large man, while Tumi is described as being tiny in stature. Rocky is positive and does his job without complaining. Tumi, on the other hand, openly complains about the task. Even at the end of the story, Rocky is peaceful while Tumi doesn't appear to be fully satisfied.*

Remediate: Review ways to describe characters prior to the read (e.g. physical descriptions, character traits, feelings).

Third Read

Read the Focus Prompt: *Choose two events from the story to compare and contrast.*

Annotate: Have students record a brief description of the two main events in the story with the blue colored pencils.

Reflect: Discuss students' responses to the Focus Prompt and record answers on the Model Text Easel.

Optional: Have students journal responses in a journal or on notebook paper.

 **Sample Response:** *The story consists of two main events: the two employees working on a copy job and the two employees relaxing in the ocean. The first event is work-related and not relaxing or enjoyable. The second event, on the other hand, is relaxing and enjoyable as well as a leisure activity that is not work-related. Both events involve the two main characters, Rocky and Tumi.*

Remediate: Have students use the Compare and Contrast blackline master to compare and contrast details of the two events.

Enrichment: Challenge students to write a new story with the same characters but at a different setting and with different events taking place. Remind students to have the characters be consistent with descriptions provided in the original story.

One Last Batch

Name: _____ Date: _____

Rocky and Tumi had a last batch of reports to put together before they could close up. This meant making about 1,000 more copies, stapling everything, and putting the packets in fancy folders. Rocky's huge frame hunched over the copier as it cranked away, filling the small shop with noise. Meanwhile, Tiny Tumi sat perched at the table arranging and stapling the pages. His fingers were completely covered with paper cuts. Occasionally, a sheet of paper would slice under a fingernail or into the skin between his thumb and forefinger. He yelped after one such slice and turned to look out the front window of the shop. Tumi gazed across the street at the white sandy beach and the sun sparkling on the water.

"This has been one of worst days of my life. I never would have accepted this order if I had known how long it would take," said Tumi. Rocky couldn't hear him over the copier. He knew that Tumi was complaining though, as usual. Rocky just smiled and gave a thumbs up.

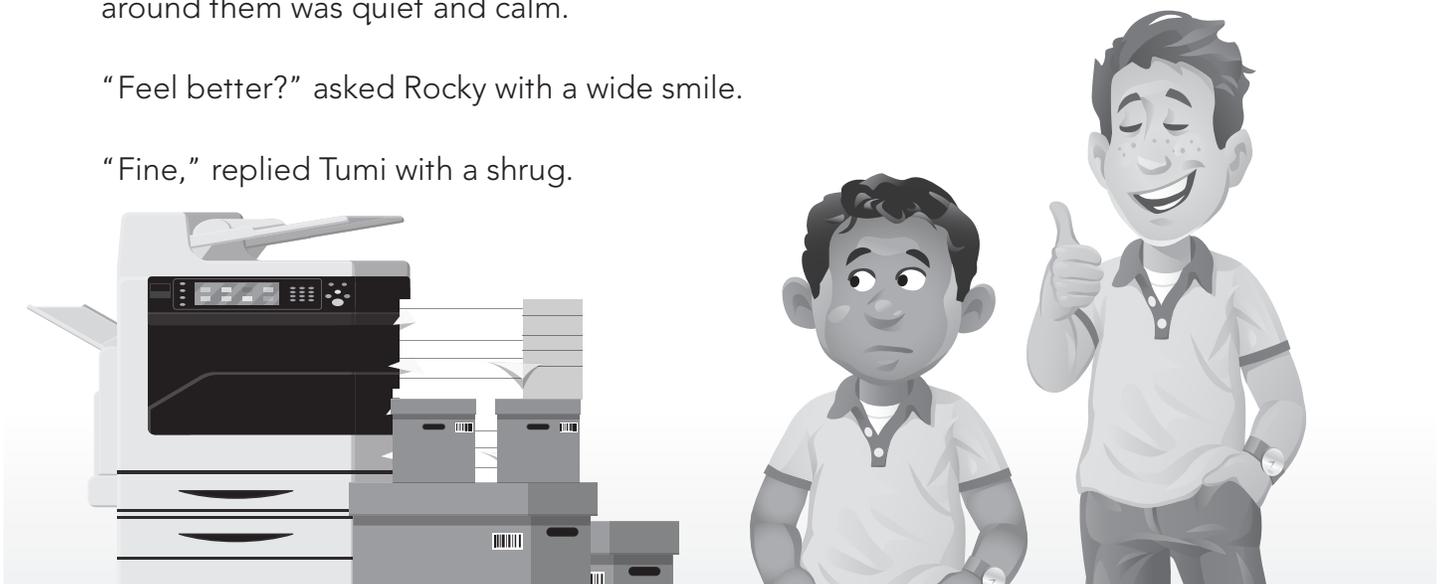
"We'll be done before you know it," he offered with his booming voice. Finally, the last of the reports was complete. Rocky grabbed two towels and headed toward the door.

"I'm sure the salt water will feel great on my paper cuts," grumbled Tumi. Rocky just smiled and held open the door for Tumi. Tumi slumped through the door and Rocky locked the shop behind them.

After the stale air of the shop, the ocean breeze touched them lightly like a dream. Tumi and Rocky crossed the street and immediately removed their shoes and socks. They wanted to feel the warm sand on their feet. They tossed down their towels, pulled off their "Copy Land" polos, and splashed into the Pacific. They floated and drifted. All around them was quiet and calm.

"Feel better?" asked Rocky with a wide smile.

"Fine," replied Tumi with a shrug.



Compare and Contrast

Name: _____ Date: _____

