

FICTION

8TH GRADE

RL. 8.5



Compare & Contrast Text Structure
Name: _____ Date: _____

Desperately

Abigail pulled yet another diseased carrot from the ground on her farm. It was shriveled and brown, not at all the vibrant colors of a fresh squash, beans, and peppers had not fared nearly as well. She did not look forward to returning to the house to find her parents' and siblings' disappointed faces. Everything at Roanoke Island was different during the long summer, and with a fury that snapped branches, tore lianas, and dried up the water, their steps prematurely. Then after that fateful day of hot, dry weather would deprive the people of the island.

POEM

Grieving at Roanoke

Our future is fading
with our growing fear,
hoping
we endure
until help arrives.
The dream is dying
with each grave we dig,
grieving
the fatal fall
at Roanoke

Compare & Contrast Text Structure
Name: _____ Date: _____

Saving Serena

Mylfor's wings flapped with a steady beat as he carried Finneas across the sky. Arrows hummed by them, but the winged horse evaded their sharp points with ease and then nosedived into the treetops. The Pegasus's hooves hit the leafy ground and his powerful legs launched directly into a gallop.

Take us to Valen, Finneas commanded through his telepathic connection to his Pegasus.

POEM

Compare & Contrast Text Structure
Name: _____ Date: _____

The Promise

any harm to come to thee,
for you are my sister,
my kin, my blood.

and without you here
I would surely perish
in an endless tear flood.

Compare & Contrast Text Structure
Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer the following questions. Underline or highlight the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. While "In Hope" and "Desperately" are both historical fiction, how do the authors vary the particular structures of each?

a. "In Hope" is a letter to the queen, while "Desperately" is a narrative.
b. "In Hope" is a diary entry, while "Desperately" is a historical drama.
c. "In Hope" is a diary entry, while "Desperately" is a narrative.
d. "In Hope" is a letter to the queen, while "Desperately" is a historical drama.


2. Which statement below best describes the structure of "Grieving at Roanoke"?

a. a free verse poem with 30 lines
b. a non-rhyming poem with 7 stanzas
c. an ode to the Queen of England
d. a sonnet with an ABAB rhyme scheme

3. What common structural elements do all three passages share? How do they affect the passages' meaning and style?

The central idea shared by all three passages is the harsh and unforgiving nature of the weather. However, the population, forming an idea of weather, however, the presentation of the weather is different for each of the characters.

All three passages share common structural elements in terms of their format and tone. They are all written in the form of diary entries or personal reflections, which gives them an intimate and personal tone, allowing the reader to connect with the thoughts of the characters.



COMPARE & CONTRAST TEXT STRUCTURES



WHAT'S INSIDE?

COMPARE & CONTRAST TEXT STRUCTURE

8th grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 9 sets of Lexile® leveled stories in the 8th Grade Common Core Text Complexity Band (the range for 8th grade is 925-1185).

1. Compare & Contrast Text Structure Anchor Chart
2. Compare & Contrast Text Structure Practice Work
3. Spared (970L)/Unbound (POEM)
4. Rushing for Gold (980L)/The Right Character (1040L)
5. The Pack (1120L)/Harvest Colors (1070L)
6. Wild Space (1120L)/Onslaught (1110L)
7. The Future Isn't Bright (1010L)/The Innovator (1110L)
8. Meridia of the Forest (960L)/No Sleeping on the Streets (920L)/Brotherly Love (1020L)
9. Second Chance Summer (DRAMA)/A Perfect July Morning (960L)/Summer Love (POEM)
10. Test
 - Saving Serena (1000L)/The Promise (POEM)
 - In Hope (1120L)/Desperately (1110L)/Grieving at Roanoke (POEM)



PRINTABLE PDFs covering the 8th grade text complexity band with Certified Lexile Levels.

- Anchor chart and question sets
- Color coding to encourage students to use text evidence
- AND two assessments on fiction reading passages

Printable Slides Included



QUESTIONS

- Skill-focused, scaffolded questions
- Multiple choice and short answer
- Preps students for state testing
- Rigorous and research-based approach to questioning



970L Compare & Contrast Text Structure
Name: _____ Date: _____

Spared
Emma crouched under the farm table in her family's cabin while Redcoats stamped through the property. Her father and two brothers were off fighting with the Continental Army, following the orders of General Washington and hopefully bringing the colonies closer to freedom. Her mother, thank the heavens, had gone to a neighboring town to tend to her sick aunt, leaving Emma to oversee the farm, the animals, and their home.
Am I about to lose all of those to these British soldiers?
She hated to think that her mother would return to nothing but a smoldering pile of logs after the Redcoats were done with their raid. *How even hope to accomplish here?*

Compare & Contrast Text Structure Name: _____ Date: _____

4. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A: Which passage has a structure that feels more personal to the reader?

a. "Spared"
b. "Unbound"
c. both passages
d. neither passage

Part B: What about the structure of the passage(s) you chose contributes to the more personal tone?

a. The fact that "Unbound" talks about the American Revolution is more personal than "Spared."
b. The fact that "Spared" includes a specific main character makes it more personal than "Unbound."
c. The fact that "Spared" starts in the middle of the action makes it more personal than "Unbound."
d. The fact that "Unbound" is written in rhyme makes it more personal than "Spared."

5. How do the structural differences in these two passages affect the meaning of the text?

The structural differences in these two passages affect the meaning of the text. The fact that "Spared" is written in first person narrative structure, makes the reader feel more personal to the passage. "Unbound," as a sonnet, emphasizes key themes and broader ideas.

POEM Compare & Contrast Text Structure Name: _____ Date: _____

Unbound
When the reign of a monarch puts reins on the people across the sea, the people must choose to take up the fight or to go quietly into the night.
They must decide how they wish to live, at parts of themselves 're willing to give up the rights, and the rights, their rule e. army

Compare & Contrast Text Structure Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer the following questions. Underline or highlight the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. What is the structure of "Spared"?

a. realistic fiction told in first person
b. historical fiction told in third person
c. science fiction told in first person
d. fantasy told in third person

2. What is the structure of "Unbound"?

a. sonnet
b. limerick
c. a poem with an ABCB rhyme scheme
d. a poem with an ABAB rhyme scheme

3. What common structural elements do the two passages have? How do those structures affect the meaning of the text?

Both passages share a historical context related to the American Revolutionary War, conveying the challenges faced by colonists. In "Spared" tension builds as Redcoats raid a family's cabin, but the structure resolves with a surprising act of mercy, suggesting not all Redcoats are enemies. "Unbound" uses poetic versus to create a theme of hope and resilience. Both passages, through their structure, highlight the significance of the historical events and the bravery of the colonists in their quest for independence.

Magi CORE

ANCHOR CHART

- Anchor chart breaking down how to compare and contrast text structures
- Practice passage and warmup activity sheet
- Use to introduce the skill
- Students reference throughout the unit
- Use in student journal as a reference

The image displays a collage of educational worksheets on a confetti-patterned background. A purple arrow points from the text on the left towards the worksheets. The worksheets include:

- Compare & Contrast Text Structure** (Top): A worksheet with three boxes labeled TEXT #1, TEXT #2, and TEXT #3, and a central box labeled ALL TEXTS. It includes a passage titled "That Spot is Mine" and a graphic organizer.
- Compare & Contrast Text Structure** (Middle): A worksheet with two boxes labeled TEXT #1 and TEXT #2, and a central box labeled BOTH TEXTS. It includes a passage titled "That Spot is Mine" and a graphic organizer.
- Compare & Contrast Text Structure** (Bottom): A worksheet with a central box labeled MEANING and a box labeled STYLE. It includes a passage titled "That Spot is Mine" and a graphic organizer.

MEANING
Meaning refers to the message conveyed by the text. It includes:

- Surface meaning (basic and obvious meanings)
- Deeper meaning (richer, hidden meanings)

STYLE
Style refers to the way an author writes. It includes:

- Word choice
- Sentence structure
- Tone
- Voice
- Point of view
- Pacing
- Dialogue

STRUCTURE
Structure refers to how a story is told. It includes:

- Genre (fantasy, realistic fiction, historical fiction, poetry, etc.)
- Story elements (characters, setting, plot, conflict, resolution, theme)
- Point of view (1st person, 2nd person, 3rd person)
- Order of events (chronological, linear, non-linear, flashback, foreshadowing, circular, in medias res [in the midst of the action], etc.)
- Use of chapters, scene breaks, paragraphs, stanzas, lines.

Compare & Contrast Text Structure
Readers compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts. They analyze how the structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.

Compare & Contrast Text Structure
Fill in the graphic organizer to compare and contrast the structure of **three** texts and analyze how structure contributes to meaning and style.

Compare & Contrast Text Structure
Fill in the graphic organizer to compare and contrast the structure of **two** texts and analyze how structure contributes to meaning and style.

That Spot is Mine
Let's Try! Read the passages "That Spot is Mine" and "Tryout Trauma" below, then answer the questions on the graphic organizer.

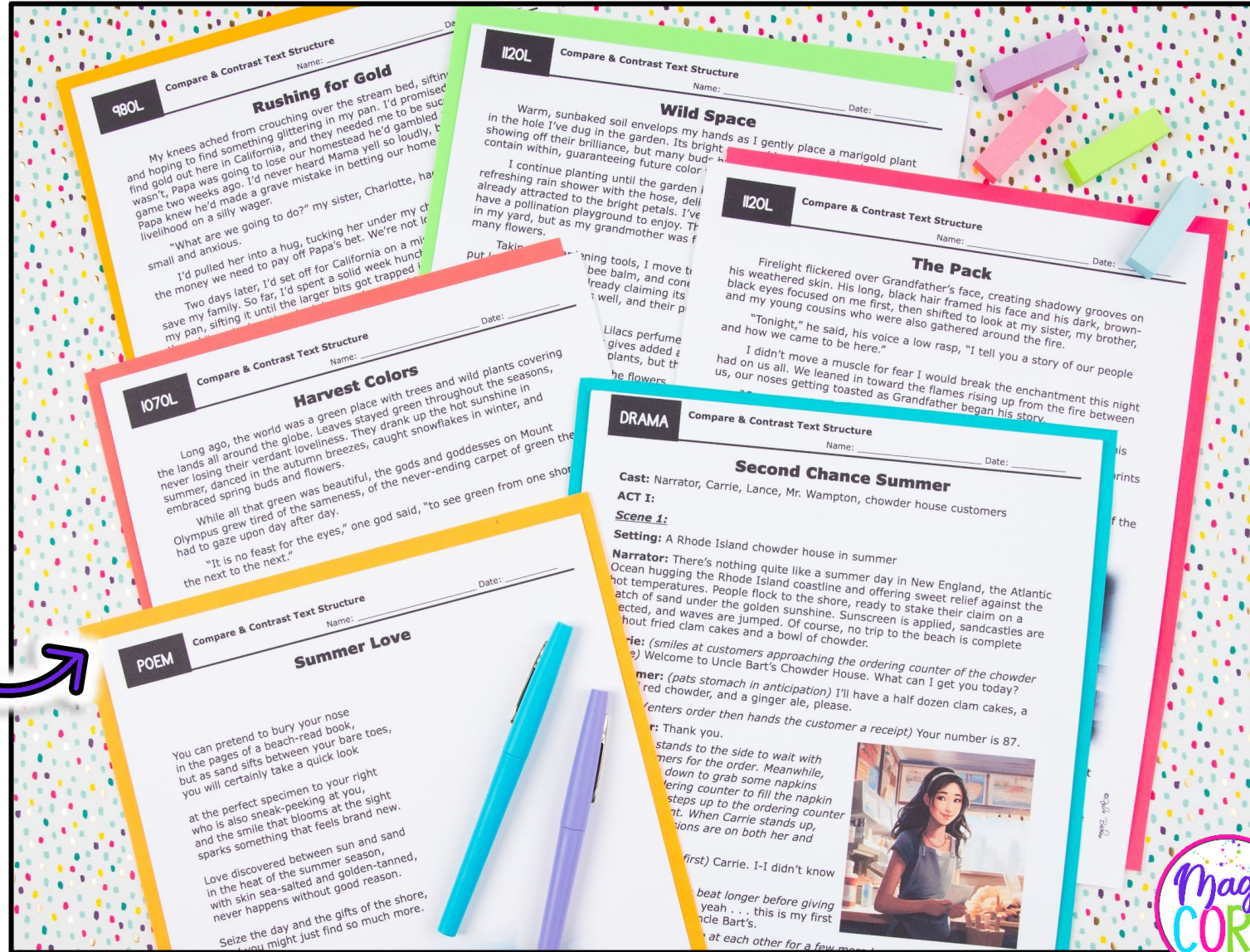
Rhonda stepped onto the designated spot on the gym floor and nodded to the cheerleading captain that she was ready. Of course, she was ready, because she'd been practicing this routine for weeks now. She'd run through the steps over and over again until they'd become instinctual. She'd even dreamed of the routine over the last three nights leading up to cheerleading tryouts, so there was no way she was going to mess this up.

The music started, and Rhonda let the beat sync with her own heartbeat. Her body slid into autopilot, moving without her even thinking about it. She rallied every step right in time with the music, and her cheering voice was loud and clear, echoing throughout the gym with both power and pep.

Ever since she was a little girl and her dad took her to her first football game, Rhonda had wanted to be a cheerleader, and she'd taken the steps to learn the right skills. She'd taken dance classes as a toddler and still too young to be a cheerleader because it conflicted with her competitive dance activities.

ASSESSMENTS

- Same format as practice
- Two tests with different Lexile levels
- Color-coding
- Follows best practices for standardized assessments



WHY IT WORKS

- Certified Lexile measures
- High - interest texts to motivate readers
- Cross - curricular topics
- Scaffold approach will help your students meet grade level expectations
- Classroom tested! Trusted by over 1,000 teachers... and counting!... To help students grow their reading skills

The image displays a collection of educational worksheets and reading materials, including:

- Harvest Colors (1070L):** A text excerpt about a green place with trees and wild plants, followed by a multiple-choice question about its structure.
- Second Chance Summer (DRAMA):** A text excerpt about a summer day in New England, followed by a multiple-choice question about its structure.
- The Promise (POEM):** A text excerpt about a promise, followed by a multiple-choice question about its structure.
- Saving Serena (1000L):** A text excerpt about a winged horse, followed by a multiple-choice question about its structure.
- Unbound (POEM):** A text excerpt about a poem, followed by a multiple-choice question about its structure.

The worksheets include sections for **Compare & Contrast Text Structure**, **STRUCTURE**, **MEANING**, and **STYLE**. Handwritten notes and highlights are visible on several pages, such as:

- Both passages are American fiction by authors of a family of slaves at the time of the American Revolution.**
- The structural differences between narrative structure and expository structure.**
- Both passages are American fiction by authors of a family of slaves at the time of the American Revolution.**
- Both passages are American fiction by authors of a family of slaves at the time of the American Revolution.**

ALIGNS TO SCIENCE OF READING

Research shows that wide reading has the biggest impact on student reading progress.

Our passages provide that essential variety of fiction structures and topics.

Students need scaffolded instruction to access grade level texts. Without it, students are not exposed to linguistic and textural features, putting them further behind.

Our texts help students grow full-steam ahead. With certified Lexile levels in the Common Core text complexity band, students will 100% engage with appropriate text and sentence structures, vocabulary, and more. Plus, every passage provides teachers with opportunities to scaffold instruction.

Fun fact! From 2nd grade on, students make greater reading gains when taught from texts that are as much as two grade levels above their "instructional" reading level.

Lead the way! Our texts are leveled to master grade-level expectations and set students up for success.

CERTIFIED LEXILE PARTNER

ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS


MagCore is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

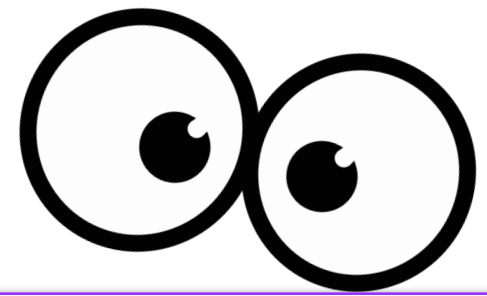
Common Core State Standards uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure that students are college and career ready by the end of 12th grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction, as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Common Core Expectations
K-1	
2-3	N/A
4-5	420L-820L
6-8	740L-1010L
	925L-185L

Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with appropriate. It is important to recognize that the standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations are built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding independence both within and across the text complexity band.



TAKE A PEEK



Compare & Contrast Text Structure

Readers compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts. They analyze how the structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.

STRUCTURE

Structure refers to how a story is told. It includes:

- Genre (fantasy, realistic fiction, historical fiction, poetry, etc.)
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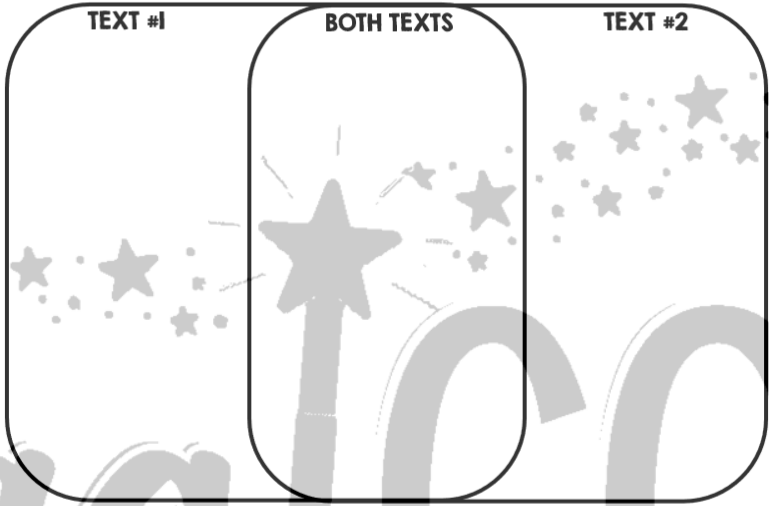
To compare/contrast structure and analyze how it contributes to meaning and style:

1. Carefully read all the texts, noting details about their structures such as genre and point of view.
2. Consider the similarities and differences in the structures of each text.
3. Ask:
 - What are the structures of the texts?
 - How are the structures of the texts similar/different?
 - What is the meaning of each text?
 - What is the author's style in each text?
 - How does the structure contribute to each text's meaning and style?
4. Summarize your thoughts about how text structure contributes to meaning and style.

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Compare & Contrast Text Structure

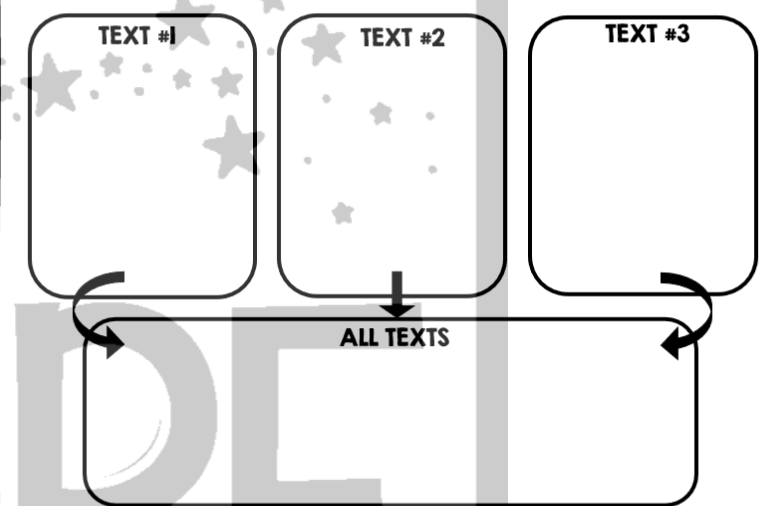
Fill in the graphic organizer to compare and contrast the structure of **two** texts and analyze how structure contributes to meaning and style.



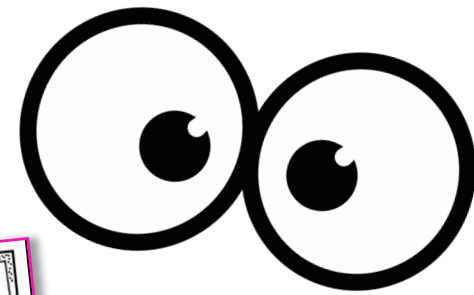
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Compare & Contrast Text Structure

Fill in the graphic organizer to compare and contrast the structure of **three** texts and analyze how structure contributes to meaning and style.



AND ANOTHER PEEK



980L Compare & Contrast Text Structure
Name: _____

Rushing for Gold

My knees ached from crouching over the stream and hoping to find something glittering in my pan. I'd find gold out here in California, and they needed me to wasn't, Papa was going to lose our homestead he'd game two weeks ago. I'd never heard Mama yell so Papa knew he'd made a grave mistake in betting our livelihood on a silly wager.

"What are we going to do?" my sister, Charlotte small and anxious.

I'd pulled her into a hug, tucking her under the money we need to pay off Papa's bet. We're not Two days later, I'd set off for California on a save my family. So far, I'd spent a solid week in my pan, sifting it until the larger bits got trapped those bits out when they hadn't turned up anything miners working their own stretches of the stream pan kept disappointing me time and time again.

The sun beat down on my back, and I swiped my hand across my sweaty forehead. My stomach grumbled loudly because I hadn't eaten much over the past forty-eight hours, wanting to keep mining. I hadn't been sleeping well either because my camp was nothing more than a couple of stacked blankets on ground, and my entire body was sore.

Focusing on the streambed in front of me now, I blinked rapidly as everything swirled. Closing my eyes didn't make the spinning stop, so I scooted back to the river's bank and on the edge.

A jug appeared in front of my face. I looked up to find a young man smiling at me. "You're overheated," he said. "Happy?"

I took the jug with shaky hands and swigged heartily. It was a little gritty, but I felt better after drinking it.

"Thank you." I held the jug back out to him, and he took it.

1040L Compare & Contrast Text Structure
Name: _____ Date: _____

The Right Character

When my local bookstore put a *Help Wanted* sign in its window, my first thought was to apply for the position was instant. I loved being in the company of books, touching their beautiful covers, smelling their pages, meeting the characters if I were making new friends.

After buying an iced tea from the café section of the bookstore, I approached the information desk and asked for an application. I filled it out and the employee working the desk told me the manager was doing interviews right now if I wanted to be added to the schedule.

"Yes, please!" The thought that the job could be mine immediately made my entire body buzz.

I sat where she told me to, sipping my iced tea and thinking of ways to impress the manager with my copious amounts of literary knowledge. When my name was finally called, I popped up from my seat and nearly skipped to the manager's office. The manager waited in the doorway, and in my excitement and haste, I tripped.

My still-three-fourths-full iced tea gushed out of the cup and washed down the manager's front side, splattering all over her face and her glasses. And her pretty, white dress.


And of course, I'd gotten the raspberry iced tea, so she basically looked like a bloody crime scene.

"Sorry!" I squeaked, but her scowl remained, letting me know that there was no way she'd hire a klutz who would endanger the books with her clumsiness.

I swiveled on my heel and marched away from her, but I wasn't ready to give up my dream of working at the bookstore. I ducked into the clothing shop adjacent to the bookstore and quickly purchased a pair of cargo pants, a T-shirt, and a button-down shirt. In the back of my SUV—which fortunately had tinted windows—I transformed myself from Christina Harris to Chris Harris.

I strode back into the bookstore, happy when I fooled the woman at the information desk into giving me another application. When I got called to the manager's office again, I tamped down my enthusiasm—and also didn't have a nearly-full iced tea in my hand—and greeted her smile with one of my own.


"Chris?" she asked, smoothing her hand down the front of a different, stain-free dress.



Compare & Contrast Text Structure Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer the following questions. Underline or highlight the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. What structure does the author use to tell the story in "Rushing for Gold?"
a. realistic fiction
b. fantasy
c. historical fiction
d. science fiction
2. What structure does the author use to tell the story in "The Right Character?"
a. realistic fiction
b. fantasy
c. historical fiction
d. science fiction
3. What theme do "Rushing for Gold" and "The Right Character" share?
a. The importance of hard work.
b. The importance of family.
c. The importance of education.
d. The importance of friendship.



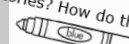

Compare & Contrast Text Structure Name: _____ Date: _____

4. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

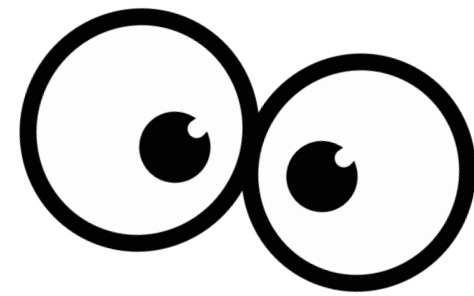
Part A: From which point of view are both stories told?
a. first
b. second
c. third omniscient
d. third limited

Part B: How does the point of view choice from Part A affect the style of the text?
a. It keeps the reader at a distance and gives both stories a more formal tone.
b. It creates a more personal tone that allows the reader to be in the main characters' shoes more effectively in both stories.
c. It makes the pace of both stories feel quick and the events seem less serious.
d. It allows the reader to track the feelings and emotions of all the characters in both stories.

5. Aside from genre, what other differences exist between these two stories? How do those differences affect meaning?



CHECK THIS OUT TOO!



DRAMA Compare & Contrast Text Structure Name: _____ Date: _____

Second Chance Summer

Cast: Narrator, Carrie, Lance, Mr. Wampton, chowder house customers

ACT I:

Scene 1:

Setting: A Rhode Island chowder house

Narrator: The ocean hugging hot temperature patch of sand erected, and without friends

Carrie: (sitting at the chowder house) We have a bowl of chowder

Customer: (Customer) I had so many questions I wanted to ask her. Where had she run off to? Why hadn't she texted, emailed, or called me? What had I done wrong after we'd spent a glorious summer year on this very beach?

"Why are you here?" was the question that finally came.

"Nice to see you too," She grinned up at me as she shaded her eyes with her hand to her brow.

It was definitely nice to see her, but what was she doing here on my beach?

"Sit." She pointed to the blanket I had stretched out in front of the beach chair.

I stuck my board in the sand to dry off and lowered to the blanket, grabbing a towel and running it through my hair a few times before leveling my gaze on Melissa. I didn't say anything, but I didn't have to.

POEM Compare & Contrast Text Structure Name: _____ Date: _____

Summer Love

You can pretend to bury your nose in the pages of a beach-read book, but as sand sifts between your bare toes, you will certainly take a quick look at the perfect specimen to your right who is also sneak-peeking at you, and the smile that blooms at the sight sparks something that feels brand new.

Love discovered between sun and sand in the heat of the summer season, with skin sea-salted and golden-tanned, never happens without good reason.

Seize the day and the gifts of the shore, and you might just find so much more.

Compare & Contrast Text Structure Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer the following questions. Underline or highlight the text evidence in the color indicated.

- What poetic structure is used in "Summer Love?"
 - ode
 - ballad
 - sonnet
 - limerick
- How are "Second Chance Summer" and "Summer Love" different genres?
 - They both are told in third person point of view.
 - They both have characters.
 - They both have melancholy tones.
 - They both have stage directions.
- Discuss how the structural elements of the passages affect the overall meaning of the passages. How does setting affect the overall meaning of the passages?

Compare & Contrast Text Structure Name: _____ Date: _____

4. This question has two parts. First, answer *Part A*. Then, answer *Part B*.

Part A: What is true of "Summer Love" that is **not** true of the other two passages?

- "Summer Love" describes the beach at night.
- "Summer Love" is told in first person point of view.
- "Summer Love" includes dialogue.
- "Summer Love" isn't about a specific couple.

Part B: What is true of "A Perfect July Morning" **and** "Summer Love" that is **not** true of "Second Chance Summer?"

- "A Perfect July Morning" and "Summer Love" both involve the characters bonding again over seafood.
- "A Perfect July Morning" and "Summer Love" both are told in third person point of view.
- "A Perfect July Morning" and "Summer Love" both are organized into stanzas.
- "A Perfect July Morning" and "Summer Love" both take place on the actual beach.

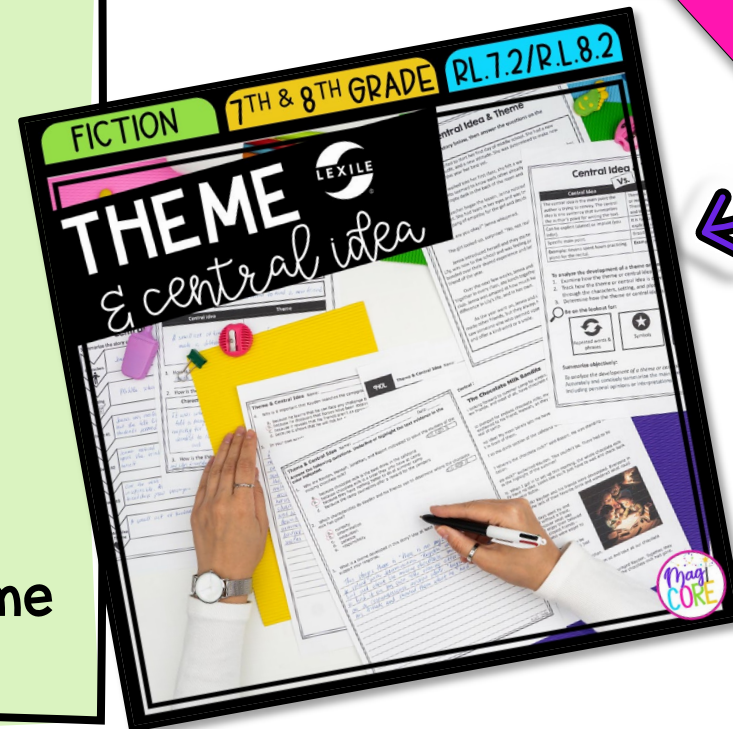
5. These three passages are essentially about the same idea. What is that idea? How do differences in the structural elements of the passages affect the presentation of that idea?



UPGRADE THEIR SKILLS!

The THEME AND CENTRAL IDEA Unit
Contains:

- 12 Printable Lexile Leveled Reading Comprehension Passages
- Anchor Charts
- Rigorous comprehension questions for each passage
- Assessment Passages and Question
- Prepares students to determine a theme or central idea of a text



Love this unit but
want to more
literary practice?
Try the **THEME &
CENTRAL IDEA** unit!

