

Compare and Contrast Essay Pre-Writing Graphic Organizer

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Topic Selection

Choose at least one focus for your essay. You will use these ideas to compare TWO stories.

1. Theme (love, sacrifice, or value)
 2. Character choices
 3. Outcomes of decisions
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Thesis Statement

Write 1–2 sentences that explain what your essay will show about the two stories you are comparing.

Paragraph Plan

Choose one structure and outline your essay:

1. Point-by-point (compare each idea across both stories)
 2. Block method (one story, then the other)
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Similarities (at least 2)

Identify ways the TWO stories are alike. Use specific details from both texts.

1.

1.

Differences (at least 2)

Identify ways the TWO stories are different. Use specific details from both texts.

1.

1.

Venn Diagram

Write the names of both stories at the top, then compare them below.

Story 1: ___ Story 2: ___

Story 1 (Text A ideas)	Both (Similarities)	Story 2 (Text B ideas)

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Explanation Paragraph

Write one paragraph explaining how the two stories are similar and different. Use details from *The Gift of the Magi* and the second story you are analyzing.

Optional Challenge Paragraph

Explain which character (Jim or Della) best represents your comparison idea and why.

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