

CHARACTER COMPARISON/CONTRAST

Rough Draft

Mrs. Wolfe January 10, 2005

My Thoughts

My Writing

To start an essay I know I'll need facts from the book. I started by recording my observations and inferences on a compare/contrast sheet. Then I looked at my sheet to decide which things to use. I made sure to choose some things that were facts from the book and some that were inferences that I could back up with book facts.

To start my essay, I know I need to make sure the reader knows what the topic is and has enough background to understand what I'm telling them. When I consider my reader for this essay, I have to assume that they haven't read the book yet.

Here's my introduction:

In Chasing Vermeer, a realistic fiction novel, author Blue Balliet introduces her readers to two main characters, Petra Andalee and Calder Pillay. In the beginning of the story it seems that these two have more differences than similarities, but as we read, we discover that they share many similarities as well.

As I reread my first paragraph, I stop to ask myself if I've introduced both characters and given a little bit of background without giving lots of details about the specific characteristics. I want my intro to be specific about the book title, author, and character names, but general about their characteristics. I know I'll give details in the body of my essay. Now I'm going to look at my planning sheet and decide which information to start with. I think I'll start by writing a few paragraphs about how they are alike, and finish the body with their differences. I predict that I'll have more similarities.

These two characters have many similarities. These characters live three houses away from each other on Harper Avenue in Chicago. Both are in 6th grade and attend the University School on the University of Chicago campus. They are both in Ms. Hussey's class.

Both characters are very intelligent. One example of this was when they thought up a plot to trick the principal and the secretary into letting them search the basement to find the missing Vermeer painting. They found patterns to try to solve the mystery in Ms. Hussey's earrings. Calder stirred in his pocket to try to find a pentomino to answer questions.

Calder and Petra thought they were strange or unusual. In the beginning before they were friends Calder saw Petra holding a leaf close to her nose and thought she was odd. Petra noticed that Calder fished for pentominoes, sometimes muttered things, and always looked like he just woke up. She thought that he was weird.

They also had some differences. The most obvious was that one was a boy, and one was a girl. Petra wore glasses, and Calder didn't need them. They also had unique interests. Calder always had a set of pentominoes and pulls them out of his pocket so they can tell him things. When they were in the library looking for clues, he pulled out the V and predicted that it was indicating Vermeer. When he pulled out the P he thought it could be pray or prey.

Petra liked to read. She liked to hang out at Powell's books. She picked up a Charles Fort book called Lo! from the Give Away box outside of the book store.

Their family lives were very different. Calder lived with both of his parents in a very neat and orderly house and was an only child, while Petra had 4 younger brothers and sisters and two parents and complained about how the house was always messy and in chaos.

Both main characters in Chasing Vermeer have many things in common and many distinctions. Overall, they had more similarities than differences. It's not surprising that they ended up becoming best friends and working together to solve a mystery.

Remember, this is our ROUGH DRAFT! If I had time, I would go back and add extra details and juicy words. I would also double check the editing.