

## Reading Midterm

When we **compare** two things, we tell how they are *alike*.

When we **contrast** two things, we tell how they are *different*.

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Here are two stories. As you read, think about how the stories are *alike*, and how they are *different*.

### Cat and Fox

Cat was sitting in the shade of a tree cleaning her paws when a fox came along. Fox sat down and started bragging to Cat about his many clever ways of escaping from Farmer Brown's big dog. "I have a whole bag of tricks," he said, "which contains a hundred ways of escaping that beast."

"I have only one," said Cat. "But I can usually manage with that." Just at that moment they heard Farmer Brown's big dog barking. It sounded like he was coming their way, and Cat quickly ran up the tree and hid herself in the branches. "This is my plan," said the Cat. "What are you going to do?"

Fox thought first of one plan, then another, and while he was debating the dog came closer and closer. When the dog came in sight, Fox took off running for dear life, while Cat continued to clean her paws in safety.

### Dog and Donkey

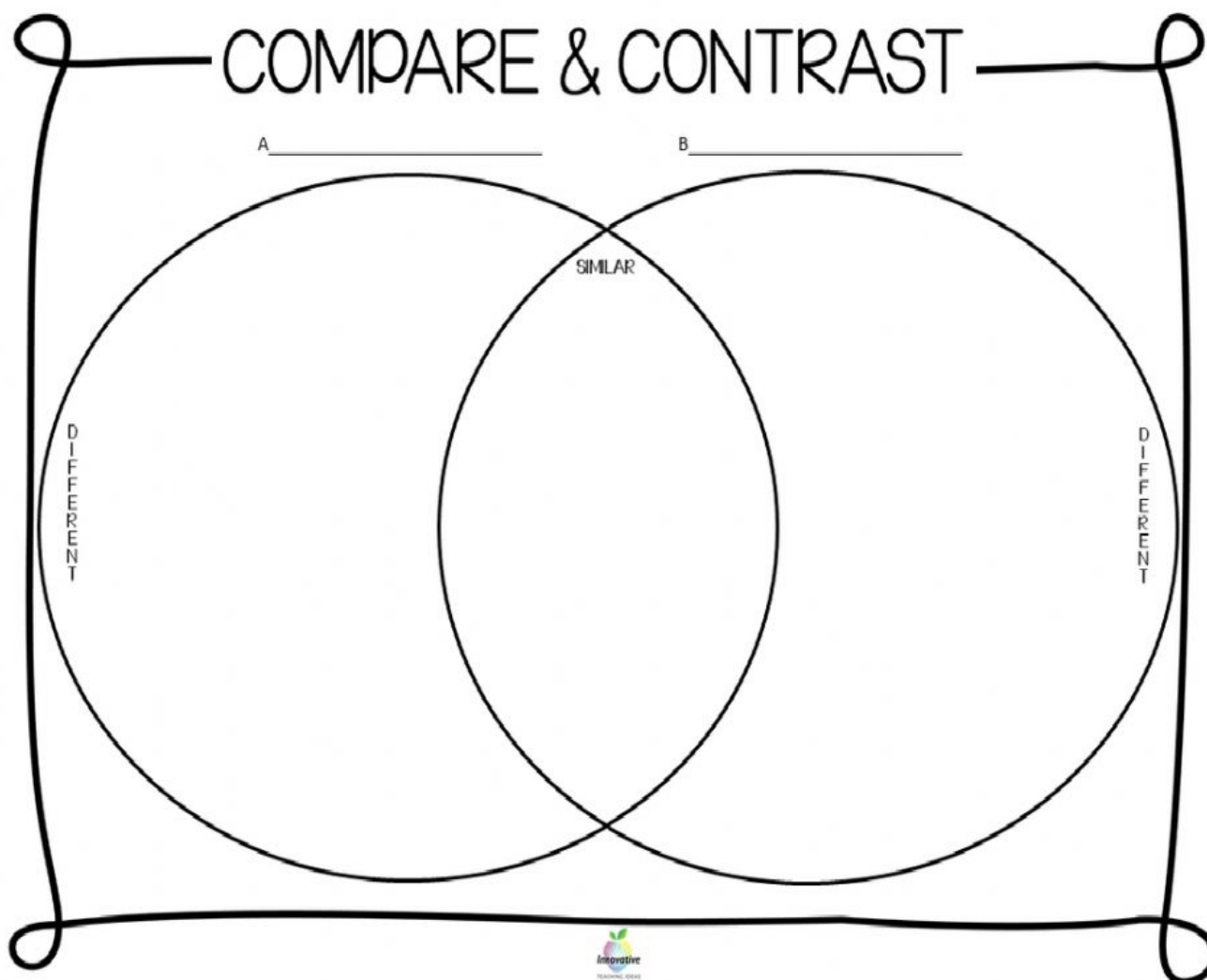
Dog and Donkey sat in the barnyard, enjoying the morning sun. "The Farmer likes me best," said Dog, thinking to start some fun.

"Nay," said Donkey. "You know I am his favorite."

"Well, here he comes now," said Dog. "We will just see about that."

When the Farmer came into the barnyard, Dog began to dance around, and lick the Farmer's hand. The Farmer laughed, and sat down on the bench so Dog could sit on his lap. The Farmer gave Dog a nice biscuit.

Seeing this, Donkey hopped up and started a prancing imitation of Dog. He put his front feet up on the Farmer's shoulders, and tried to get up into his lap. The Farmer pushed Donkey away, and gave him a scolding. And he didn't give Donkey the apple he had brought in his pocket for him.





# The Ant and the Grasshopper

An Aesop Fable

In a field one summer's day a Grasshopper was chirping, singing, and hopping about for fun. An Ant passed by carrying an ear of corn back to his nest.

"Why not come and chat with me," said the Grasshopper, "instead of doing all of that work?" "I am helping to store up food for the winter," said the Ant, "and suggest you do the same." "Why bother about winter?" said the Grasshopper, "We have got plenty of food at the moment." The Ant went on its way and continued its work. When the winter came the Grasshopper had no food and was dying of hunger. The Ant, however, had plenty of food to last all through the winter from his hard work in the summer. Then the Grasshopper knew —

**It is best to be prepared.**

|            |          |
|------------|----------|
| Characters | Setting  |
|            |          |
| Problem    | Solution |
|            |          |

|           |        |     |
|-----------|--------|-----|
| Beginning | Middle | End |
|           |        |     |