Same Friends, New Adventure

Teacher		**Class**	Grade 3
Subject	ELA	**Topic**	Comparing stories by the same author
Date		**Room**	
Lesson length	60 minutes	**Country**	United States

Students learn to compare same-author stories. They make a mini book to sort same and different.

Curriculum links

- Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters [2]

Learning objectives

- Students will compare themes, settings, and plots in two same-author stories.
- Students will contrast same characters facing different settings and plot events.
- Students will use key details to show what is same and different.

Success criteria

- I can name theme, setting, and plot for both stories.
- I can sort details into same and different with proof.
- I can explain one same and one different using details.

What students already know

Ask: Who can tell me where and when a story happens? Listen for setting. Ask: Who remembers a book pair with the same main character?

Key words

theme	the big lesson the story teaches [4]
setting	where and when the story happens [4]
plot	what happens first, next, last [4]
compare	find what is the same between stories [4]
contrast	find what is different between stories [4]

Materials

- Slides 1, 3-5, 7, 9-12
- one sheet of paper per student
- pencils
- two short stories by the same author - Worksheet Passage Two Squirrel Tales paragraphs 1-3
- Worksheet Task A and Task C copies
- pre-folded books with picture starters
- crayons

Before the lesson

- Print Worksheet Passage Two Squirrel Tales and Task A and Task C for each student
- Pre-fold one-paper books labeled Theme, Setting, Plot, Same and Different and make support copies with picture starters
- Load Slides 1, 3-5, 7, 9-12 and check Slide 9 kite stories and Slide 10 Helper Cards are readable
- Set out paper, pencils, and crayons for folding

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Lesson outline

0–5 min **Starter** 5 min · Whole class

Hook interest and recall what setting and characters mean for comparing stories.

YOU DO

1. Show Slide 1 Same Author, New Adventure! and read the title.
2. Say the hook and hold up a finished folded mini book as a model.
3. Show Slide 5 What Would You Pick? and take a vote on which pair sounds most fun to compare.
4. Link votes to goal: we will compare themes, settings, and plots in stories by the same author about the same or similar characters [2].

STUDENTS DO

1. Look at the mini book model and listen.
2. Vote for a pair and tell a neighbor why in one sentence.

Say: No screens, just folding. We are making a tiny book that holds two whole stories. Same main character, two different adventures! Let's sort out what stayed the same and what changed.

Ask: What do we look at when we compare two stories by one author? (Theme, setting, and plot, and if characters are same or similar.) · What does setting tell us? (Where and when the story happens.)

Check understanding: Thumbs up if you can name one pair we could compare; if many thumbs are down, give one example of same kid in two adventures and vote again.

Support: Let students point to the vote choice instead of explaining. **Stretch:** Ask students to predict one thing an author might keep the same and one thing they might change.

Use: Slides 1, 5

5–15 min **Teaching** 10 min · Whole class

Teach theme, setting, and plot words students will use to compare.

YOU DO

1. Show Slide 3 Key words and teach each meaning with gestures for where + when and first, next, last.
2. Show Slide 4 Big idea: Same friends, new adventure: spot what stays same and what changes.
3. Show Slide 7 What Do We Compare? mindmap and explain to compare is to find what is the same and to contrast is to find what is different [4].
4. Explain that theme is the big idea or important lesson you learn from a story [4], setting is when and where a story takes place [4], and plot events are the important actions that move it along [4].

STUDENTS DO

1. Repeat each word and meaning with gestures.
2. Tell a partner in own words what theme means.

Say: Theme is the lesson the story teaches. Setting is where and when it happens. Plot is what happens first, next, and last. We compare to find the same, and we contrast to find the different.

Worked example: Take the squirrel tales: Story 1 is called The Lost Acorns. The little squirrel lives in an old oak tree at the edge of a green forest. One windy fall day, the wind blows all the stored acorns away. That tells setting = oak tree, fall day, and plot start = wind blows acorns away.

Ask: If I ask for the lesson about helping and sharing, am I asking for theme, setting, or plot? (Theme, the big lesson the story teaches.) · If I ask where the squirrel lives and when it happens, am I asking for what? (Setting, where and when.)

Check understanding: Cold-call with mini whiteboards: write T for theme, S for setting, P for plot for three prompts; reteach any word below 80% correct.

Support: Keep Slide 3 words up and point to pictures for where, when, and lesson. **Stretch:** Ask students to give another example of a helping theme in one sentence.

Use: Slides 3-4, 7

15–25 min **Model together** 10 min · Whole class

Model how to sort same and different for theme, setting, and plot.

YOU DO

1. Show Slide 9 Your task with Story A: Morning park, kite stuck in tree, kid asks for help and Story B: Evening beach, kite torn by wind, kid asks for help.
2. Think aloud to sort: same kid and same lesson, different where + when and different fix.
3. Show Slide 10 Helper Cards and read Theme: Both teach asking for help is brave, Setting: Same kid, park morning or beach evening, Plot: Kite trouble, then fix in a new way.
4. Model pointing to key details to prove same and different for stories by the same author about the same or similar characters [2].

STUDENTS DO

1. Follow along on Slide 9 and hold up one finger for same, two fingers for different for each card.
2. Copy the three Helper Card sentences into talk with a partner.

Say: Watch how I prove it. I point to the words park morning and beach evening, so the setting is different. I point to asks for help in both, so the theme and part of the plot are the same.

Worked example: Theme: same - Both teach asking for help is brave. Setting: different - Story A morning park, Story B evening beach. Plot: same problem kind - kite trouble, different fix - stuck in tree and pulled down versus torn by wind and mended.

Ask: Park morning or beach evening - same or different setting? (Different setting, different where and when.) · Both teach asking for help is brave - same or different theme? (Same theme, same lesson.) · Kite stuck in tree versus kite torn by wind - what part is same and what is different? (Same kind of kite trouble, different fix.)

Check understanding: Show green for same and red for different on three quick cards; if split, reread the exact Slide 9 phrases and vote again.

Support: Read each Slide 9 phrase twice and let students point to the place words before they vote. **Stretch:** Have students make up one new same-or-different statement for the kite pair to judge.

Use: Slides 9-10

25–45 min **Main activity** 20 min · On their own

Record same and different themes, settings, and plots in a folded mini book.

YOU DO

1. Hand out one sheet of paper and pencils and model folding into a four-page book labeled Theme, Setting, Plot, Same and Different.
2. Read aloud Worksheet Passage Two Squirrel Tales paragraph 1 The Lost Acorns and paragraph 2 Snowy Day Share and paragraph 3 that both teach helping and sharing with friends brings joy.
3. Guide pages: Theme page draws helping and writes the lesson, Setting page draws oak tree then fall wind and winter snow, Plot page draws acorns blown away and soup shared.
4. Have students read their mini book to a partner, pointing to one same and one different on each page.

STUDENTS DO

1. Fold, label, sketch, and write one short phrase on Theme, Setting, and Plot pages using passage details.
2. Tick Worksheet Task C steps when done and read mini book to a partner showing one same and one different per page.

Say: Fold with me, then draw and write one short phrase on each page. Use the squirrel words to prove it. You will record same and different themes, settings, and plots. When done, read your tiny book to a partner.

Worked example: Theme page: sketch two friends eating together and write Same lesson - sharing brings joy. Setting page: sketch oak tree twice and write Same place - oak tree, Different time - fall windy day and winter snowy morning. Plot page: sketch acorns blowing and soup bowl and write Different events, same helpful ending.

Ask: In the squirrel tales, what stayed the same in setting and what changed? (Same place, old oak tree at edge of green forest; different time and weather, windy fall day versus cold winter morning with snow.) · What is same about theme and different about plot? (Same lesson, helping and sharing brings joy; different events, acorns blown away and neighbors share nuts versus squirrel shares soup with rabbit.)

Check understanding: Teacher walks with checklist for glued labels, one same and one different per page; pull small group to finish Setting page together if behind.

Support: Provide pre-folded books with picture starters and word choices for setting like home, school, day, night. **Stretch:** Students write one sentence on the back about which story lesson they liked more and why.

Use: Slide 10, Worksheet Task C

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45–60 min **Plenary** 15 min · Whole class

Share findings and check students can compare themes, settings, and plots.

YOU DO

1. Show Slide 11 Think, pair, share: Why keep the same kid but change the setting? Collect pattern ideas that an author pattern is something happening again and again [4].
2. Show Slide 12 Quick quiz: What is theme? The lesson the story teaches. And park then beach: Same or different? Different setting.
3. Give Worksheet Task A multiple choice to tick best answers using passage paragraphs to check; review answers with page proof.
4. Return to success lines and have students show their mini book Same and Different page.

STUDENTS DO

1. Think, pair, share why the author kept the same squirrel but changed fall to winter.
2. Complete Worksheet Task A, then answer Slide 12 quiz with proof.

Say: Turn and talk, then we quiz. Tell how you know with a detail from the story. Show me you can name theme, setting, and plot and sort same and different.

Ask: Why might an author keep the same squirrel but change the setting from fall to winter? (To keep a loved character but make a new problem and show the same sharing lesson in a new way.) · Two stories have one author and same kid. Setting is park, then beach. Same or different? (Different setting, different where.)

Check understanding: Exit with Worksheet Task A plus thumbs on I can lines; reteach theme versus plot tomorrow if theme answers are weak.

Support: Give sentence frame: One same is ___ and I know because ___. **Stretch:** Ask partners to discuss why the author kept one thing the same and changed another.

Use: Slides 11-12, Worksheet Task A

Common mistakes

Mistake	How to spot it	How to fix it
Mixing setting with plot - saying acorns blowing away is where and when.	Setting page lists actions instead of place and time.	Point to when and where words like oak tree, fall day, winter morning and ask where + when versus what happened [4].
Thinking same character means same plot and theme must also be same.	Student marks everything as same because the squirrel is the same.	Reread paragraph 1 wind blows acorns away and paragraph 2 shares soup and chart same squirrel, different problem and fix [2].
Naming topic like squirrels instead of theme lesson.	Theme page says squirrels or winter instead of lesson.	Ask what lesson was learned and model Both teach helping and sharing brings joy as the big idea [4].

Support

- Use pre-folded books, picture starters, and word banks for day, night, park, beach, fall, winter.
- Pair readers so one reads paragraph 1 and the other reads paragraph 2 before comparing.

Stretch

- Add bottom strip comparing lessons and explain how different plots can teach the same lesson.
- Write which squirrel story ending is stronger and prove with two details.

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For the LSE or teaching assistant

Sit with target pair during folding and reading; prompt pointing to oak tree, fall, winter words and to I know because proof.

Check for understanding

Question	Answer
What is theme?	The lesson the story teaches.
The squirrel lives in the same oak tree in fall and winter. What is same and what is different in setting?	Same place, different time and weather.
Story 1 has wind blowing acorns away, Story 2 has sharing soup. Plots same or different, themes same or different?	Different plots, same theme of helping and sharing.

Homework

Tell a family member one same and one different from the two squirrel tales.

Sources

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