Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Two Sides, Same Story

Compare how two authors present the same event

About 60 minutes Level ★★★☆☆

Two Authors, One Event

A **memoir** is written by the person who lived the event, using I and me. A **biography** is written by another author about that person, using he, she, or they. To **compare** accounts, look at what each author includes, leaves out, and emphasizes.

- Point of view: first person in a memoir, third person in a biography
- Focus: feelings and memories vs. facts and results
- Word choice: strong feeling words vs. measured, factual words
- Ask: Which details are the **same** and which are **different**, and why?

TASK A

/3

Circle the odd one out in each row. Explain your choice.

1. autobiography | dictionary | memoir | biography

Why?

2. I grabbed fast | I felt scared | the team lost about four seconds | my heart pounded

Why?

3. lists exact times | remembers sounds | includes feelings | uses I and me

Why?

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Steps to Compare

Learn key words and steps for comparing accounts.

Key words

memoir: story of part of your life written by you

biography: story of someone's life written by another author

point of view: who is telling the story

presentation: how an author shows events and details

emphasize: to give special importance to something

evidence: words from the text that prove your idea

TASK B

Follow these steps to compare two accounts.

- [ ] Read Account 1 and list events
- [ ] Read Account 2 and list events
- [ ]  Circle the facts in both accounts
- [ ]  List what each author leaves out
- [ ]   Note feeling words and fact words
- [ ] Decide how viewpoint changes story

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Write to Explain

Explain memoir and biography in your own words.

TASK C

Imagine a friend missed our lesson on two views. Write a letter that explains the idea.

Date: _____

Dear Friend,

Say what a memoir and a biography are

Explain how two authors can present the same event differently

Give one example from school life, like a game or assembly

Close with why comparing helps readers understand better

Best wishes, _____

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Whose Story Is It?

Read two accounts of one relay race and compare them.

Two Accounts of the Dropped Baton

1. Account 1 - Memoir. I stood at the last turn with the **baton** shaking in my hand. Our team was ahead, and my heart was pounding so loud I thought everyone could hear it. When my teammate reached me, I grabbed too fast and felt the metal tube slip. This was my first time running anchor, and I was scared to let everyone down.
2. I chased it, picked it up, and ran as fast as I could. My legs burned, and the crowd sounded blurry. I finished third, and I wanted to cry. What I remember most is my teammate telling me it was okay and our team still cheering. To me, that race was about **fear**, a mistake, and learning to keep going.
3. Account 2 - Biography. In the final relay, the anchor runner for the leading team dropped the baton at the last exchange. The runner lost about four **seconds**, fell from first to third place, and finished three seconds behind the winner. The coach recorded the split time and noted the crowd of about 200 people watching from the bleachers.
4. According to interviews after the race, the runner recovered quickly and completed the lap without further error. The account describes the team as showing strong teamwork, with teammates encouraging the runner at the finish line. It presents the event as a close, exciting contest decided by one exchange, not as a personal failure.

TASK D

Read both accounts on this page. Make a claim, support it, and ask a question.

The biography gives a calmer, more factual view of the race than the memoir.

My claim

Claim: I agree. Support: The memoir says my heart was pounding and I wanted to cry, while the biography gives times like four seconds and three seconds behind the winner. Question: Why did the biography author choose to leave out the runner's fear?

Support: what I see or know

A question I still have

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Two Sides, Same Story

TASK E Example done for you /3

Tick the correct answer using evidence from paragraphs.

1. **According to paragraphs 1 and 2, how is Account 1 written?**
   - [x] In first person with feelings and memories
   - [ ] In third person with only times and scores
   - [ ] As a list of rules for runners
2. **Which fact is the same in paragraphs 2 and 3?**
   - [ ] The team finished third after dropping the baton
   - [ ] The team won first place easily
   - [ ] The race was canceled because of rain
3. **What does Account 2 in paragraph 3 include that Account 1 does not?**
   - [ ] Exact numbers like four seconds and 200 people
   - [ ] The words I and my
   - [ ] How scared the runner felt
4. **How does the author's presentation differ in paragraph 4?**
   - [ ] It shows teamwork and a close contest, not personal failure
   - [ ] It says the runner quit and went home
   - [ ] It blames the teammate for the loss

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Show Your Thinking

Draw and write to show how viewpoint changes a story.

TASK F

Show two viewpoints of one event. Use your own idea.

Draw the same cafeteria spill from two viewpoints: panel 1 as the student who spilled it (I felt…), panel 2 as an observer writing about that student (The student…). Write two sentences under each panel explaining the differences.

Draw here

Write here

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Two Sides, Same Story

TASK G /4

Write a PEEL paragraph that compares the two relay accounts on page 4.

How does each author's presentation of the dropped baton differ?

P **Point**
I think the memoir and biography present the race differently because...

E **Evidence**
For example, in paragraph 2 the memoir says ___ while in paragraph 3 the biography says ___

E **Explain**
This shows that...

L **Link**
Therefore, readers should compare both to...

How did I do?

Circle a face for each line.

I can explain memoir and biography	☹	😐	☺
I can compare two presentations of one event	☹	😐	☺
I can use evidence to support my comparison	☹	😐	☺

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Answer sheet: Two Sides, Same Story

Task A

1. dictionary (The first three are life stories about a person. A dictionary gives word meanings.)
2. the team lost about four seconds (The other three use first-person words like I and my. This one is a factual, third-person report.)
3. lists exact times (The others are typical of a memoir. Exact times are typical of a biography.)

Task B

Answers will vary.

Task C

Answers will vary.

Task D

Answers will vary, e.g. Claim: I agree. Support: The memoir says my heart was pounding and I wanted to cry, while the biography gives times like four seconds and three seconds behind the winner. Question: Why did the biography author choose to leave out the runner's fear?

Task E

1. a) In first person with feelings and memories
2. a) The team finished third after dropping the baton
3. a) Exact numbers like four seconds and 200 people
4. a) It shows teamwork and a close contest, not personal failure

Task F

Answers will vary.

Task G

Example: I think the memoir and biography present the race differently because the memoir focuses on feelings while the biography focuses on facts. For example, in paragraph 2 the memoir says I wanted to cry while in paragraph 3 the biography says finished three seconds behind the winner. This shows that the memoir author emphasizes fear and learning to keep going, while the biography author emphasizes times and teamwork. Therefore, readers should compare both to get both the personal experience and the factual result.

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