READING COMPREHENSION

Comparing Story Elements in Two Fictional Texts

When you compare two fiction texts, pay attention to the details about the STORY ELEMENTS: CHARACTERS, SETTING, PROBLEM, KEY EVENTS, and SOLUTION. How are they similar? How are they different?

DIRECTIONS: Read the passages below, and complete the graphic organizer with text details.

Text 1

"Ready for practice today?" Kellen asked Ryan. The boys were on the school football team together. The Mustangs practiced every day after school. The teammates had spent their day learning in class. Then they went outside to the school's football field for two hours of practice.

It was hot that day. The boys immediately began sweating when they stepped out of the building. They slowly walked over to the rest of the team. There, they waited for instructions from the coach.

Kellen and Ryan played the same position, so they knew they would be in the same group. For their first exercise, they had to run three laps around the neighborhood that was next to the school. The players groaned just thinking about this task.

The eight football players started their long run. At first they stayed together and chatted quietly. Some of the boys ran faster and pulled ahead. Kellen and Ryan slowed down. They fell behind the rest of the pack. Then, they stopped completely.

"What if we just stop here?" Ryan said. "We could hide behind those trees and wait for the other guys to run past us again. Then we'll join them. We can just rest while we wait for them to come back. This run is just too hard today."

Ryan's plan worked. They returned to the football field and went to the next exercise.

Three days later, the Mustangs had their first game of the season. The boys were so excited because they had been practicing hard. With all the running and other drills, the Mustangs were confident that they could win.

Halfway through the first quarter of the game, the coach noticed that Kellen and Ryan looked tired. The boys were unable to stop the other team as they ran down the field. They looked more exhausted than the rest of the teammates. He called them over and told them to take a seat on the bench.

"It looks like you boys need a break again," coach explained. "You can sit here for the rest of the game." Kellen and Ryan looked at each other with wide eyes. The coach must have realized what the boys had done during practice this week. Their plan had backfired, and now they were in trouble.

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Text 2

Liam's math teacher announced that their test would be given on Thursday. As she walked around the class, she handed out a study guide. "You will complete this study guide at home tonight. It is due tomorrow. I want to go over it together as a class, so you have enough time to study through the week," Mrs. Beckett explained. "Do your best. This study guide looks a lot like the test."

Math was difficult for Liam, so he was nervous about the test on Thursday. With the right answers on his study guide, Liam went to his room every night that week and studied.

He looked at the problems over and over. It didn't seem to be helping, though. Liam was still very nervous, and he felt unprepared. What would the problems look like on the real test? How would they be different than the study guide?

On Thursday, Liam took his seat in class. He sat next to the smartest girl in the grade. He glanced over at her paper at the very beginning. Then it became a habit. After each question he finished, he looked at the girl's paper. He wanted to make sure he got them right. When his answer did not match the girl's, he changed his answer. He decided that she probably had the correct answer since she was so smart.

The paper came back with a 100. However, Liam's guilt felt heavy in his chest. He didn't earn that grade, so he couldn't be proud of himself for that.

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Text 1   Text 2

DIFFERENCES	SIMILARITIES	DIFFERENCES
Characters	Characters	Characters
Setting	Setting	Setting
Key Events	Key Events	Key Events