Two Views, One Fire

Compare a fictional scene with a historical account of the Triangle fire.

8.RL.3 "Integration of Concepts Compare and contrast the structure of two or more stories, poems, and plays and analyze how the differing structure of each literary text contributes to its meaning and style..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details in Text A that show Rosa's individual experience. Circle details in Text B that give facts, causes, or results, then use your marks to compare how the texts tell about the same event.

The Triangle Fire

1 Text A, Fictional Scene: On March 25, 1911, Rosa heard the factory bell change from its usual call. Smoke rolled across the eighth-floor cutting room of the Triangle Waist Company in New York City. She followed workers toward a door, but it would not open. Rosa turned to a window, where firefighters' ladders stopped far below. When an elevator arrived, she squeezed inside with strangers. On the street, she watched ash fall on the crowd and wondered whether her cousin had escaped.

2 Text B, Historical Account: A fire began late that Saturday afternoon at the Triangle Waist Company, which occupied the eighth, ninth, and tenth floors of the Asch Building. The flames spread quickly through fabric scraps and other materials. Some workers found exits blocked or locked, and the city's fire ladders could not reach the upper floors. Elevators carried some people down before failing. In less than half an hour, 146 people died, most of them young immigrant women.

3 After the fire, public anger and official investigations focused on unsafe working conditions. The disaster helped lead to stronger workplace safety laws in New York. The Factory Investigating Commission examined factories across the state and recommended changes, including safer exits and fire protections. The Triangle fire became a symbol in campaigns for reform. Newspapers reported the death toll, while investigators collected testimony about the building, the exits, and the company's practices. These responses continued after the smoke had cleared.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How is Text A structured differently from Text B?

2. Name one fact both texts include and one element that Text A adds through fiction.

3. How does the structure of Text A affect its style and meaning?

4. Why does Text B include information about investigations and safety laws after describing the fire?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 90 word comparison paragraph. Use at least two details from each text to explain how their different structures shape their portrayals of the Triangle fire, including one way the fictional scene uses or alters history.

ANSWER KEY

Two Views, One Fire

GRADE 8 · 8.RL.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details in Text A that show Rosa's individual experience. Circle details in Text B that give facts, causes, or results, then use your marks to compare how the texts tell about the same event. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How is Text A structured differently from Text B?	**Text A follows Rosa's experience moment by moment during the fire. Text B explains the fire's facts, then moves to its causes, investigations, and results.**
2	Name one fact both texts include and one element that Text A adds through fiction.	**Both texts describe the Triangle fire and ladders that could not reach upper floors. Text A adds the invented character Rosa and her worry about her cousin.**
3	How does the structure of Text A affect its style and meaning?	**Its close, chronological focus creates suspense and makes the danger feel personal through one worker's experience.**
4	Why does Text B include information about investigations and safety laws after describing the fire?	**Those later details show the fire's wider impact and explain why the disaster led to reform.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Text A tells the Triangle fire through Rosa's actions, beginning with the changed bell and ending with her worry about her cousin. This moment-by-moment structure creates suspense and makes the danger personal. Text B uses a historical account that moves from the fire's spread to investigations and safety laws. Its wider structure emphasizes causes and results. Rosa is invented, but her blocked exit and the unreachable ladders are based on dangers described in Text B.

Accept accurate comparisons that identify Text A as a focused fictional scene and Text B as a factual account with broader causes and consequences. For Part 3, accept varied wording if the response is 70 to 90 words, uses details from both texts, and explains both structure and the fictional alteration or addition.