

Two Paths, One Community

Study how a writer compares texts with evidence and reflection.

9.W.1 "Modes and Purposes for Writing Write extended pieces that: Introduce a topic clearly by providing context, presenting well-defined theses, and previewing what follows..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the thesis in paragraph 1, circle each quotation or concrete detail used as evidence, and write I, E, or C beside each paragraph to label its job: introduction, evidence, or conclusion.

A Reflective Comparison

- ① After reading "The Empty Lot" and "Windows Above," I noticed that both narrators turn an unused city space into a source of connection. In "The Empty Lot," Malik organizes neighbors to clear trash from a vacant parcel. In "Windows Above," Elena begins by watching her block from an apartment. Although each speaker wants change, Malik acts with a group while Elena first learns to see her neighbors differently. This response compares their choices and explains why Elena's quieter change is still meaningful to her community.
- ② Malik's approach is public and immediate. He says, "Bring gloves, not complaints," before the Saturday cleanup, and the line invites others to share responsibility. Later, he lists who brought water, tools, and seedlings, showing that the project succeeds through cooperation. Elena's approach is less visible but equally observant. From her window, she notices Mrs. Ortiz carrying groceries for an injured neighbor and children saving rainwater for plants. When Elena finally joins them, she understands that a neighborhood is already built from small acts of care rather than one leader's plan.
- ③ Together, the stories suggest that community improvement can begin with either a bold invitation or careful attention. I was first drawn to Malik because his cleanup has an obvious result: the lot changes in one day. However, Elena's shift matters more to me because it changes how she interprets the people around her. Her decision to participate comes after listening and watching, not after giving orders. Both narrators move beyond isolation, but their different paths show that action can be loud or quiet, and both choices can invite others in.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the writer's thesis? Include the two ways the writer plans to compare the narrators.

2 How does the second paragraph organize the comparison between Malik and Elena?

3 Choose one detail about Malik and one detail about Elena. Explain how the details support the idea that both characters build community differently.

4 How does the final paragraph follow from the evidence in the response? Use one idea from the conclusion.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 90 to 110 word reflective comparison of two texts you have read. Introduce both texts, state a thesis about one similarity or difference, use one quoted or specific detail from each text, and end with a conclusion that explains your view.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the thesis in paragraph 1, circle each quotation or concrete detail used as evidence, and write I, E, or C beside each paragraph to label its job: introduction, evidence, or conclusion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's thesis? Include the two ways the writer plans to compare the narrators.	The writer will compare Malik's and Elena's choices and explain why Elena's quieter change is meaningful to her community.
2	How does the second paragraph organize the comparison between Malik and Elena?	It explains Malik's public, group-based action first, then Elena's quieter observations and participation.
3	Choose one detail about Malik and one detail about Elena. Explain how the details support the idea that both characters build community differently.	Malik invites people to bring gloves to the cleanup, which builds cooperation through public action. Elena notices neighbors helping each other and later joins them, which builds community through attention and participation.
4	How does the final paragraph follow from the evidence in the response? Use one idea from the conclusion.	It follows from the examples of Malik's cleanup and Elena's observations by concluding that community action can be bold or quiet.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After reading "River of Glass" and "The Quiet Repair," I saw that both texts show young people caring for damaged places, but they define responsibility differently. In the first text, Nia collects bottles from the riverbank and tells her brother, "One bag is a start," which shows her belief in visible action. In the second, Tomas repairs library books after school, and his careful work protects stories that other students may need. Nia changes her neighborhood by gathering people outside, while Tomas serves it patiently indoors. I admire both characters, yet Tomas's steady effort reminds me that useful work is not always noticed.

Accept equivalent statements that accurately identify the thesis, organization, evidence, and conclusion. For the open response, look for a clear comparison, relevant evidence from both texts, reflection, and a conclusion that follows from the evidence.