



How to Teach Children in Key Stage 2 to Make Comparisons Within & Across Books

"In Key stage 2, pupils should maintain positive attitudes to reading and an understanding of what they read by making comparisons within and across books."

National curriculum statement



Example Questions to Develop Understanding

- Compare one character to another. How are they different or similar?
- Who has the author written this text for? Why?
- How has this character changed during the text?
- How are the settings within the story similar or different?
- Compare how the characters react to this situation. Who deals with it best?
- What is the most thought-provoking moment of the story?

Teaching and Learning Points

- Allow opportunities for children to read a variety of books by the same author and compare similarities and differences.
- Analyse books of the same genre, on a similar theme or that share a point of view, and compare them.
- Complete character arcs to show how a character changes or progresses within a story. You could even look at different books that contain the same character and discuss how the character has changed.
- Use different versions of the same story for comparisons. For example, there are often numerous versions of classic fairy tales that are a good place to start when encouraging children to compare books.



— In upper key stage 2, it is important that children can identify and explain how information and narrative content are related to or contribute to meaning. They should also make comparisons within and across texts.

Children should be able to explain how certain parts of a text build or change an overall message or meaning. They should also be able to say how characters are similar or different to other characters within and across books and compare other elements such as themes, settings and ideas.

Key Vocabulary

information, narrative, meaning, comparison, themes, characters, settings, ideas

Common Misconceptions and Errors

Children who do not read regularly may find it difficult to make comparisons as they will not have the reading experiences to draw upon during discussion.

Bringing English to Life

Use books that will engage your children, encouraging the use of requested texts when comparing to maintain interest.

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