

A MUSHER'S NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Developed by:

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Discipline / Subject:

Language Arts

Topic:

Compare and contrast

Grade Level:

1st – 5th grades

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

1. Musher's Night Before Christmas by Tricia Brown
2. 'Twas the Night Before Christmas by Clement C. Moore
3. Optional: Texas Night Before Christmas by James Rice
4. Black butcher paper and chalk
5. Venn diagram PDF

Lesson Summary:

Students will use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast Musher's Night Before Christmas by Tricia Brown to another version of the poem.

Standards Addressed:

Common Core State Standards – CCSS - Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.9

Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.9

Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story (e.g., Cinderella stories) by different authors or from different cultures.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.9

Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters (e.g., in books from a series)

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.9

Compare and contrast the treatment of similar themes and topics (e.g., opposition of good and evil) and patterns of events (e.g., the quest) in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.9

Compare and contrast stories in the same genre (e.g., mysteries and adventure stories) on their approaches to similar themes and topics.

Texas State Standards – TEKS

Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Theme and Genre. Students analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about theme and genre in different cultural, historical, and contemporary contexts and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding. Students are expected to:

(B) Compare different versions of the same story in traditional and contemporary folktales with respect to their characters, settings, and plot.

Alaska State Standards – Language Arts - Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

Kindergarten – 1st grade:

With prompting and support, compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories.

2nd grade:

Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story/text (e.g., Cinderella stories) by different authors or from different cultures.

3rd grade – 5th grade:

3. Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact, how conflicts are resolved).

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will use comparing and contrasting skills to analyze two versions of the Christmas classic, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.

Assessment:

1. Venn diagram PDF for each student to fill in and compare and contrast the two stories

Procedural Activities

1. The teacher should assess prior knowledge and ask the class if they have heard of the poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. The teacher can read the classic version to the class and discuss the details.
2. The teacher will read the Alaskan version, Musher's Night Before Christmas by Tricia Brown and discuss the similarities and differences of the two poems.
3. As an option, the teacher can find and read another unusual version of the Christmas story, such as Texas Night Before Christmas by James Rice to the class.
4. The teacher will tape down butcher paper on class tables or desks for group work.
5. The teacher will use chalk to draw Venn diagram circles on the paper.
6. The students will be put into groups to analyze the two poems. They can use chalk to write on the paper and fill in the Venn diagram together.
7. When complete, the students should compare their group answers together as a class.
8. For an assessment, the teacher will give each student a Venn diagram PDF to fill in independently.

Materials Students Need:

1. Colored chalk for Venn diagram group work
2. Venn diagram PDF for independent assessment

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

To learn more about the mushing terms and mushers mentioned in the story, students can research the www.iditarod.com site for more information.

Other Information:

There are many versions of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. Teachers can compare Musher's Night Before Christmas to any other version of the poem or the original Clement C. Moore classic.

Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:

To modify the lesson, teachers should first brainstorm the unique features of each story with the student or class. The teacher can put students into groups to collaborate together on the Venn Diagram instead of working alone.

Enrichment:

To enrich the lesson, students can research the mushing terms used in Musher's Night before Christmas and report to the class about their meaning. The author uses the names of champion mushers for the dog team, so students can research each musher and create a biography report about each one using the www.iditarod.com site.