

Critical Concepts 6.9B Literary Lesson Plans

Skill Focus: CC 6.9B – Comparing and contrasting one author’s presentation of events with that of another author

Vocabulary Focus: plot, setting, characters, theme, mood, tone, language/voice, narrative mode, conflict

May Lesson Objectives

- Students will be able to compare and contrast how different texts—across genres—approach similar **themes** or **topics**, and record their findings using a structured graphic organizer.

Texts:

- *The Red Badge of Courage* (excerpt) – Fiction/Realism
- *The Selfish Giant* by Oscar Wilde – Allegorical Story
- *Nature* by Emily Dickinson – Poem
- *Dogtray* by Robert Browning – Narrative Poem
- *The Dog and the Hare*– Aesop’s Fable
- *Snowflakes* (excerpt) by Nathaniel Hawthorne – Prose/Reflection
- *The Frost Spirit* by John Greenleaf Whittier – Poem

Graphic Organizer: Refer to your Educational Epiphany Critical Concepts Binder: Graphic Organizers Tab: CC 6.9B pages 121-124

I DO (Teacher Model)

Paired Texts: *Nature* by Emily Dickinson

The Frost Spirit by John Greenleaf Whittier

Step 1: Read both texts aloud

Teacher Think-Aloud:

“I’m going to read two poems about nature and winter. While both poems focus on nature, I can already tell the tones are different. Dickinson seems more philosophical, while Whittier’s tone feels more emotional or even a bit eerie. Let me jot that down in my organizer.”

For theme, Dickinson might be exploring the mysterious beauty of nature, while Whittier presents winter as something haunting and powerful. These are similar, but not the same. Now let me consider how poetry affects how these authors express their ideas—it allows for deeper symbolism and emotion. I'll add that in the 'How Genre Affects the Approach' column."

Sample Organizer

Text Title	Genre	Theme	Topic	How the Genre Affects the Approach	Similarities or Differences in Approach
<i>Nature</i>	Poem	Nature is mysterious/beautiful	Nature	Uses metaphor and personification	Similar in topic; tone is calmer than Whittier's
<i>The Frost Spirit</i>	Poem	Winter has haunting power	Winter	Descriptive and eerie poetic imagery	Both poetic, but tone and message differ

WE DO (Guided Practice)

Paired Texts: *Dogtray* by Robert Browning
The Dog in the Manger by Aesop

1. **Read both texts**
2. Pause to ask clarifying questions and check for understanding.
3. Highlight and annotate emotionally charged words or key actions taken by the dogs in each story.

Teacher Think Aloud

"Let's think about the central theme that both texts explore. In *Dogtray*, the dog is loyal to his master until the very end—even when he is mistaken for a thief. In *The Dog and the Hare*, the dog chases his friend after pretending to protect him, showing betrayal. These stories send opposite messages using animals to teach a lesson. Let's write that down."

Sample Entries in the Graphic Organizer

Text Title	Genre	Theme	Author's Approach	Evidence	Effect on Reader
<i>Dogtray</i>	Poem	Loyalty and Injustice	Uses rhyme and rhythm to create emotion; ends tragically to show the cost of blind punishment	"He'd been my best friend, faithful and true— but I beat him down, I never knew."	Reader feels sympathy and regret
<i>The Dog and the Hare</i>	Fable	Betrayal and False Friendship	Uses animals and a short plot to teach a moral; ends with a clear lesson	"You pretend to protect me, but chase me when the hunter comes?"	Reader feels distrust and learns to question false loyalty

Guided Questions to Ask Students

- What message about loyalty or betrayal does each author communicate?
- How does the genre affect the way the message is delivered?
- What emotions are you left with after reading each text?

YOU DO – WITH A PARTNER

Text Pair: *The Red Badge of Courage* (excerpt) and *The Selfish Giant* by Oscar Wilde

Students will work together to complete the graphic organizer using these two texts. Remind them to:

- Identify genre
- Determine theme and topic
- Reflect on how genre affects message
- Note similarities and differences

Sample Teacher Prompt:

"As you read, think about how each character changes and what message the author wants you to take away. Even though these stories are very different—one realistic, one allegorical—both deal with internal conflict and transformation."

YOU DO – INDEPENDENTLY

Text Pair: *Snowflakes* (excerpt) by Nathaniel Hawthorne and *Nature* by Emily Dickinson

Students complete the graphic organizer independently.

Sample Teacher Prompt:

"Now it's your turn to compare two texts on your own. Focus on the tone and theme, and think carefully about how genre changes the delivery of the message."