

The **LESSON PLAN** Gingerbread Train™

THIRD GRADE: Compare & Contrast

CCS OBJECTIVE: This lesson plan includes CCS learning objectives to help your students compare and contrast the elements, themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author. (CCS: ELA-Literacy.RL.3.9).

Materials:

- ◆ Smartboard/Markers
- ◆ Compare and Contrast Answer Guide
- ◆ Worksheet with caboose and engine
- ◆ Peppermint candy (round)
- ◆ Card stock (brown if available)
- ◆ White glue
- ◆ Red and green sprinkles
- ◆ Skittles (fun-sized bags)
- ◆ Red-hot cinnamon candy
- ◆ Chocolate Kisses
- ◆ M&M's
- ◆ Fruity candy (Mike and Ike)

Instructions:

- ◆ Teacher draws a large Venn Diagram on the Smartboard and labels one side "Caboose" and one side "Engine." The overlapping part can be labeled "Both."
- ◆ Teacher explains the lesson. "We are going to compare and contrast the caboose and the engine in The Gingerbread Train-Santa's Secret Gift."
- ◆ Show the front and back cover of the book (the engine is on the front and the caboose is on the back).
- ◆ Teacher will define Compare as Similarities between 2 things and Contrast as Differences between 2 things.
- ◆ Teacher reads The Gingerbread Train-Santa's Secret Gift to the class while showing the pictures.
- ◆ Teacher will ask students to describe the caboose and what is different about it compared to the engine.
- ◆ Teacher will list the answers the students give under "Caboose" on the Venn Diagram.
- ◆ Teacher will ask students to describe the engine and what is different about it compared to the caboose. Teacher will list the answers the students give under "Engine" on the Venn Diagram.

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Instructions: (continued)

- ◆ Teacher will ask students what the caboose and engine have in common and list the answers under “Both” on the Venn Diagram.
- ◆ Teacher will distribute the worksheet and the candy to the students.
- ◆ The students will decorate their caboose and engine according to what is on the Venn Diagram, so they can see the similarities and differences visually.

Answer Guide:

CABOOSE:

- ◆ Marshmallows
- ◆ Twizzlers
- ◆ Smaller
- ◆ Loudspeakers
- ◆ Cupola (small windowed projection on the roof)

ENGINE:

- ◆ Red Smokestack
- ◆ Cowcatcher (Metal angled frame at the front of the engine for pushing aside cattle or other obstacles.)
- ◆ Santa Claus driving the train
- ◆ Longer and larger
- ◆ Chocolate syrup coming out the smokestack

BOTH:

- ◆ Made of gingerbread
- ◆ Candy-cane rods
- ◆ Peppermint wheels
- ◆ White frosting
- ◆ Red and green sprinkles
- ◆ Skittles
- ◆ Red-hot cinnamon candy
- ◆ Chocolate Kisses
- ◆ Windows
- ◆ M&M's
- ◆ Elves
- ◆ Fruity candy (Mike and Ike)