

The Help—Comparing Points of View

4th-5th Grade
Language Arts

Common Core Standard:

5.RL.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).

Objective: By the end of this lesson students will analyze the various points of views of the characters by comparing and contrasting their “typical” Monday morning.

Motivation (Hook): Hand out three sticky notes to each student. On the white board make three columns. At the top of the first column write “How I feel Monday Morning.” At the top of the second column write “What I do Monday Morning.” At the top of the third column write “What I Wear Monday Morning.” Then ask students to write 1-3 words on their first sticky note that specifically describe how they feel on a Monday Morning. (1 minute) When they are finished writing on their first sticky have them come place it in the first column on the board. Randomly select three to read aloud. Then share what you, as the teacher would write. (“Eager, Worn-out, Caffeinated”) Discuss similarities and differences. Next ask students to write 1-3 words to specifically describe what they do on Monday Morning. This time when they are finished have them find two friends to share with before placing it on the board in the second column. (2 minutes) Read three stickies aloud and then share yours as the teacher (Prepare, Copy, Settle in) Again discuss similarities and differences. Finally ask students what they wear on a Monday morning. This time they don’t need a word limitation. When they are finished writing have them place their stickies on the board. Compare and contrast three of the sticky notes. Then, again share yours (Dress, Sweater, Scarf, Leggings and Boots).

Transition: Just as students and teachers have different perspectives on Mondays, so do the characters in The Help. Our points of view affect how we do life. A character’s point of view affects how they view a storyline too.

Procedures:

1. Open up reading notebooks or pull out a blank sheet of paper.
2. Title it Monday Morning.
3. Create a chart with four columns and four rows.
4. At the top of the first column write “Character.”
5. At the top of the second column write “How I Feel.”
6. At the top of the third column write “What I do”
7. At the top of the fourth column write “What I Wear.”
8. Then in the first column fill in rows 2-4 by picking three different characters in The Help. (Ex: Skeeter, Hilly, Minny)
9. Now that you have prepared your chart, fill in the chart in the same way we filled out our chart on the board. Choose 1-3 words to specifically answer the question in each column.
10. Students may work together or individually.

11. When they have completed their chart, they are to find three other people or groups to share and discuss their charts with. (20 minutes)

Assessment:

Written on the board to students "Choose two of your characters and describe one thing they have in common and two ways they are different." They are to write these on a separate sheet of paper and turn them in when they are done.

Closure: Today we learned we all have different points of view just like our characters. Within those points of view, we have similarities and differences.

This lesson provides plenty of room for adapting and adjusting. You could use butcher paper and rotate groups through to answer one of the questions per butcher paper. You could have them just focus on one character for the first day and then compare their characters with someone else's character at the end of the lesson.