

Tip: When reading the story, consider the characters and how they grow throughout the story. This is called **characterization** or **character development** and is essential to the plot.

In both stories, the princesses are initially very trusting and innocent. Through a series of trials, which in each case ultimately lead to their enchantments, they learn to become more wary of strangers and the world around them.

The conflicts directly cause the growth and development of the characters.



To **compare** two things is to describe their similarities. You will be expected to make comparisons between two passages.

To **contrast** two things is to describe their differences. You will also be expected to be able to contrast the two passages.

A Night on the Ohio River

1. One evening, as the Boy Scout troop finally landed on the muddy bank of the Ohio River, after a full day of paddling, Richard leapt off his canoe onto the ground. This was the last night of a week-long trip, and Richard was eager to set up camp and get some much deserved sleep. He enjoyed camping quite a bit; in fact, he was the first in his troop to earn his merit badge on the subject, but he was tired and ready to return home to the city.

2. Scout Master Summers had already landed and was breathlessly ordering the other boys about. “Hey, Ricky!” He called, “Why don’t you help set up the tents while the other patrol gathers fire wood?”

3. Richard sighed. He hated being called “Ricky.” He had denounced the nickname the previous year after the school bully had spent a month calling him “Little Icky Ricky,” but adults never understood these things.

4. “Right away, sir,” he answered, grabbing some collapsible tent poles. He carried them over to a patch of relatively dry ground where his best friend, Tony, was spreading a drop cloth. The two boys were old hands when it came to camping, so they had the tents up and ready for the night in short order. Some

Practice 1: What character trait best describes Richard?

- A. anxious
- B. silly
- C. unhelpful
- D. responsible

Practice 2:
Part A:

2A: What skill does Tony possess that Richard does not?

- A. tent building
- B. fire building
- C. teaching
- D. canoeing

Part B:

2B: Which quote from the text best supports the answer to the previous question?

- A. “Richard envied his friend’s ability to clearly explain details...”
- B. “...Tony, was spreading a drop cloth.”
- C. “No chance, slow poke, I’ll be back in Columbus before you get off the river.”
- D. “...adults never understood these things.”

of the younger boys helped as Tony patiently provided advice and direction. Richard envied his friend’s ability to clearly explain details without getting frustrated.

5. Just as Richard drove the last stake into the ground, he heard the high voices of the wood gatherers returning.

6. Scout Master Summers asked Richard to dig a fire pit while Tony led the other boys through the final steps of setting out their sleeping gear. Richard piled the wood competently into a log cabin shape in his ditch and struck a match. The delicious smell of sulfur rose to greet his nostrils. Soon, Richard had a roaring fire, and the boys gathered around it to admire its beautiful leaping flames.

7. The scouts sang songs and joked until finally the fire was perfect for cooking. Scout Master Summers plopped a gigantic cast-iron pot onto the coals, and in no time at all the woods were filled with the savory aroma of stew.

8. After a delicious dinner, and a delectable dessert of dump cake, Richard climbed wearily into his sleeping bag. “Good night, Tony. Bet I’ll beat you to the landing tomorrow,” he said.

9. Tony’s response was no more than a mutter. “No chance, slow poke. I’ll be back in Columbus before you get off the river.”

10. With that, both boys fell into a deep sleep, dreaming of their adventures on the river.

Practice 3: Even though Richard’s experiences before the canoeing trip are not discussed in detail, how does his memory of the school bully affect his response to the scout master?

Practice 4-5: Identify the conflict in the story. How is it resolved?



Strategy: For the PCR this week, you will be asked to compare and contrast literary element(s) in the two stories. You will be expected to take evidence (quotes or information) from each story to support your argument. Below is the second story.

Camping in the Rockies

1. “Why do we have to be here?” Lester whined, “I hate camping. There are all these bugs and no television. It’s like the end of the world!” Lester Jones flopped down onto a rock to sulk. His family had once again dragged him away from his comfortable living room to stare at a heap of stones. His feet hurt from hiking up the trail to the mountain campsite, and he was hungry. Why couldn’t he just stay home and play video games? Couldn’t his parents enjoy “the great outdoors” without him for once?

2. “Stop complaining, and help your father set up the tent,” his mother answered, exasperation clear in her voice. Reluctantly, Lester wandered over to the one almost level patch of ground in the entire mountain range where his father stood over a pile of tent poles and canvas.

3. “Hey, there, Sport!” his father called, “Ready for a whole night of roughing it?”

4. “I thought we were already roughing it,” Lester mumbled as he grabbed a corner of the tent canvas toward himself. “What am I supposed to do with this thing?”

5. Lester’s father laughed, “That’s your home tonight, Sonny! We’ve got to set it up before it gets dark, so we’ll be nice and cozy.” He showed Lester how to put the poles into the pockets of the tent. It was hard work, but finally, they finished setting up the tent. Lester was not impressed with the bulging bubble of canvas.

6. “Do I really have to sleep in there? There’s no bed, and I’ll have to share a room with you guys,” he whined.

Practice 6: How does Lester’s attitude affect his development as a character?

Practice 7: How does this affect the resolution of the story? (Hint: The resolution is at the end.)

7. Lester's mother was fed up with his bad attitude. "Of course not," she replied, "You're perfectly welcome to sleep outside on the ground."

8. Lester trudged into the tent, still muttering under his breath, and climbed into his smelly sleeping bag. "I hate camping," he said once more, but his parents were still outside admiring the sunset over the mountain peaks. He lay awake until the darkness closed over him, and then he sank into a listless, uncomfortable sleep.

Tip: After you have finished reading the two stories, you will be expected to write a PCR comparing and contrasting them. Your PCR will include an introduction, supporting details (evidence), and a conclusion. Pay close attention to the prompt to see what is actually being asked.

Tip: Using an outline can help you arrange your thoughts in a logical order. It is one of many types of prewriting. When writing an outline, follow the same format for the entire outline. This will help you to visually plan your PCR. The format for this outline is as follows: Each story title is a topic, denoted by a Roman numeral. For each story, your main ideas will be labeled with a capital letter, and your support and analysis for each idea will be labeled with a number.

Practice 8:

Part A:

8A: Which character appears to enjoy the camping trip the most?

- A. Lester
- B. Lester's mother
- C. Lester's father
- D. None of the characters enjoyed the trip.

Part B:

8B: Which quote from the text best supports the answer to the previous question?

- A. "His family had once again dragged him away from his comfortable living room to stare at a heap of stones."
- B. "Lester's father laughed, 'That's your home tonight, Sonny! We've got to set it up before it gets dark, so we'll be nice and cozy.'"
- C. "Lester's mother was fed up with his bad attitude."
- D. "He lay awake until the darkness closed over him..."

Practice 9-24: The next questions will focus on the following prompt:

"A Night on the Ohio River" and "Camping in the Rockies" have very similar themes, but there are distinct differences between the conflicts and resolutions. Write an essay that explains the differences between Richard and Lester's attitudes and how they affect the resolutions of their stories. Use evidence from the passages to support your essay.

Refer back to this prompt as you outline your response.



The **analysis** is your interpretation of the information proven by the support.

Tip: Remember to use a strong introduction and conclusion when writing your response. Your **introduction** or **thesis statement** should present your main argument in a clear and concise manner without yet going into details. The **conclusion** is a restatement of your argument.

Tip: Be sure to use strong **supporting details** to defend your views. These should come directly from the passage, either as a quote or an original sentence describing a specific point from the text. Your **analysis** should explain how the supporting detail supports your argument.

Practice 9-12: Use this space to make an outline as if you were prewriting for your response to the prompt. The format is begun for you. Use it to finish the outline. Remember to include support from the passages to defend your ideas.

I. "A Night on the Ohio River"

A.

1. Support:

2. Analysis:

B.

1. Support:

2. Analysis:

II. "Camping in the Rockies"

A.

1. Support:

2. Analysis:

B.

1. Support:

2. Analysis:

Tip: If you have time in class, write your essay using the outline. If not, finish it at home, as it is good practice.