

Venn Diagram

Wisconsin State Standards

Reading: Literature
– Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Grade Level

K-5

Purpose

Use with students to support comprehension: identify similarities and differences between ideas

When to Use

After Reading

Grouping

Whole Group
Small Group
Partners
Individuals

ABOUT THE STRATEGY

A VENN DIAGRAM is a graphic organizer that compares and contrasts two (or more) ideas. Overlapping circles represent how ideas are similar (the inner circle) and different (the outer circles). It is used after reading a text(s) where two (or more) ideas are being compared and contrasted. This strategy helps students identify similarities and differences between ideas.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

- Establish the purpose of the Venn Diagram.
- Discuss two (or more) ideas / texts, brainstorming characteristics of each of the ideas / texts.
- Provide students with a Venn diagram and model how to use it, using two (or more) ideas / class texts and a think aloud to illustrate your thinking; scaffold as needed.
- After students have examined two (or more) ideas or read two (or more) texts, have them complete the Venn diagram. Ask students leading questions for each idea: What two (or more) ideas are we comparing and contrasting? How are the ideas similar? How are the ideas different?
- Have students synthesize their analysis of the two (or more) ideas / texts, summarizing the differences and similarities.

MEASURING PROGRESS

- Teacher observation
- Conferring
- Student journaling
- Graphic organizer post-reading as assessment

RESEARCH

Dexter, D. D., & Hughes, C. (2011). Graphic organizers and students with learning disabilities: A meta-analysis. *Learning Disability Quarterly*, 34(2), 51-72.

Kim, A., Vaughn, S., Wanzek, J., & Wei, S. (2008). Graphic organizers and their effects on the reading comprehension of students with LD: A synthesis of research. *Journal of Learning Disabilities*, 37(2), 105-118.

Little, D. C., & Box, J. A. (2011). The use of a specific schema theory strategy-semantic mapping to facilitate vocabulary development and comprehension for at-risk reader. *Reading Improvement*, 48(1), 24-31.

Name: _____

Venn Diagram



Compare and contrast two (or more) ideas. Label the ideas in each circle. In the outer circles, write things about them that are different. In the center circle, write things that are alike. Summarize the differences and similarities on the lines below.


