



Goal: Reading – Comprehension

(I can understand what I read)

Skill: Compare/Contrast

Strategy: Top Hat

Top Hat Strategy Sheet

What is it?

A compare-contrast organizer that gives students enough space to record similarities and allows them to record parallel differences directly across from each other.

How do I use it? Top Hat Organizer

A top hat organizer has three main sections. There is one section for each of the two things being compared; this is where parallel differences can be recorded across from each other. The last section is at the bottom and it is for the similarities between the two things being compared.

Example: Here is a top hat organizer comparing and contrasting the stories *Little Red Riding Hood* and *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*.

Little Red Riding Hood	The Boy Who Cried Wolf
The main character is a girl	The main character is a boy
The wolf eats both Red's grandmother and Red	The wolf eats the boy's flock of sheep
The wolf causes a problem because he is hungry and wants to eat the people	The boy causes a problem because he is bored watching the sheep
The hunter comes to help Red	No one comes to help the boy
The wolf is killed by the hunter in the end	The wolf lives at the end
Red learns to not trust strangers	The boy learns to not tell lies
Similarities	
Both main characters are warned about how dangerous the wolf is.	
A wolf is the enemy and eats something the main character cares about.	
Both stories are tales that teach a lesson.	



What does the final product look like?

The final product looks like a top hat, with two columns in the upper part where the differences between the two things are recorded. In the bottom part is where the similarities between the two things are recorded.