

Visual Venn Diagram

Showing the likenesses and differences of story characters, settings, and events in a visual way strengthens your child's analytical skills and increases comprehension.

Supplies: Storybook; Yarn; Index cards

Preparation: Take two (2) six-foot strands of yarn and tie the ends of each one to make two circles. Lay the yarn circles on the floor and overlap them to make a Venn diagram.

After reading a story with your learner, pick two separate characters, scenes, or events to discuss. Write the names of the two chosen examples on individual index cards and place each one above a yarn circle. Explain to your learner that the overlap of the two circles will be used to show information that is similar between the two examples. The spaces that don't overlap will be used to show information that is unique to each example.

Choose two characters from the story (for example, "Mary" and "Diana") and begin talking about the traits of each. Maybe Mary was very sports-oriented whereas Diana only liked to dress up and play with dolls. Your discussion may reveal that they both had the same fear of the dark and needed a nightlight when they went to sleep. Write each of these traits or characteristics on separate index cards. Challenge your learners to come up with as many as they can. Place the trait cards within the corresponding character's circle. If both characters have the same characteristic, then place the card in the middle where the circles overlap.

Continue with this exercise until the circles are filled with the characters' likenesses and differences. Discuss your interpretations of the story elements and share with others if in a classroom setting or tutoring group.



Skill Set: Comprehension
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Try some of these other Venn Diagram activities.

- ❑ Have your learner compare and contrast different authors' writing styles.
- ❑ Challenge your learner to write a couple of paragraphs detailing the similarities and differences of the story elements.
- ❑ Glue the yarn to poster board to create the Venn diagram. Then glue or tape the index cards in the appropriate places.
- ❑ Take younger children outside and assist them with arranging their yarn in circles on the ground to form the Venn diagram. One circle can be for green objects and the other circle could be for smooth objects. Help them to find items in nature and classify them in the appropriate circle. Challenge them to find an object in nature that is both smooth AND green.
- ❑ Older children will be able to compare and contrast more than two elements of the story. Encourage these learners to create three overlapping circles for analysis.
- ❑ Have your learner create a Vocabulary Venn Diagram. Label the circles: "spelling," "definition," and "usage" Then have them identify 20 interesting vocabulary words from the story and write each on an index card. Students place the cards in the appropriate circle(s) according to if they can spell, define, and/or properly use the vocabulary.



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