Character Balloons: Venn Diagram

Skills Objectives
Recognize character traits.
Distinguish between similarities and differences.

> **Materials**
> Character Balloons
> reproducible

A **Venn Diagram** helps students visualize similarities and differences, and is a useful tool for making comparisons. In this activity, students use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast two fictional characters.

1. Ask students to name the characters in a book they're reading. List the characters on the board. Together, choose two characters to compare and contrast. For example, if students are reading *Miss Nelson Is Missing!* by James Marshall, let them compare the teachers *Miss Nelson* and *Miss Swamp*.

2. Draw two large, overlapping circles on the board to make a Venn diagram. Write a character's name at the top of each circle, and have students tell one way the characters are different. Write the traits in the outer parts of the circles. For example, write *blond hair* under Miss Nelson and *black hair* under Miss Swamp.

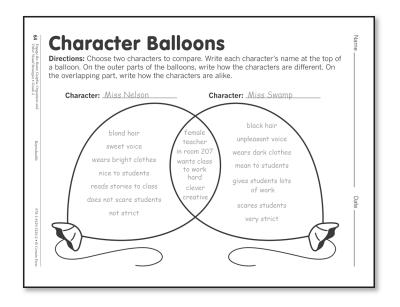3. Have students tell one way the characters are alike. Write that trait in the overlapping section of the diagram.

4. Give students a copy of the **Character Balloons reproducible (page 64)**. They can create a Venn diagram for two characters, referring to the diagram on the board. When comparing, they should think of personality, circumstances, and physical traits. Remind students to list differences in the outer parts of the balloons and similarities in the overlapping part.

5. Check students' ideas as they work. If students have difficulty thinking of words or phrases, ask leading questions such as: *Would you like that character for a friend? Why or why not?* Afterward, allow students to compare their diagrams.

Character Balloons

Directions: Choose two characters to compare. Write each character's name at the top of a balloon. On the outer parts of the balloons, write how the characters are different. On the overlapping part, write how the characters are alike.

Character: _Miss Nelson_   Character: _Miss Swamp_

blond hair
sweet voice
wears bright clothes
nice to students
reads stories to class
does not scare students
not strict

female teacher in room 207
wants class to work hard
clever
creative

black hair
unpleasant voice
wears dark clothes
mean to students
gives students lots of work
scares students
very strict

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Reproducible

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Name

Date

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Character: _____

Character: _____