**Comparison and Contrast**

Writers often rely on *comparison and contrast* to organize their material and create a text structure. In a comparison, the similarities of two or more things are examined. When two or more things are contrasted, however, it is the differences that are explored.

In these essays, each writer compares and contrasts life in two places. In the chart on the left, record the similarities and differences that Margaret Atwood uses to develop and organize her essay. In the chart on the right, record the similarities and differences that Pat Mora uses to develop her essay.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life in U. S.</th>
<th>Life in Canada</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life in El Paso</th>
<th>Life in Ohio</th>
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Literary Analysis SkillBuilder

**Theme in Nonfiction**
Sometimes the **theme**, or message, of a nonfiction selection is directly stated. Other times it is implied, or stated indirectly. Readers of nonfiction can gain insight into the theme of a work by looking for passages that reveal or hint at the writer’s opinion. Review Atwood’s essay, then list on the chart below clues that suggest her perceptions of Canadian and American cultural differences. Using the information on this list, write a sentence stating Atwood’s theme. Next, review Mora’s essay. List examples of what she misses from her border culture; using this information, write a sentence stating Mora’s theme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Atwood’s Perceptions</th>
<th>What Mora Misses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Canadians are in “the neat little bungalow”;&lt;br&gt;Americans are in “the sprawly mansion.”</td>
<td>• Speaking and hearing Spanish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Theme: | Theme: |
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Words to Know SkillBuilder

Words to Know

analyze
astutely
constue
impenetrable
impudent
myopia
prevalent
proximity
raucous
versatility

A. Circle the word that is the antonym, or means the opposite of, the boldfaced word.

1. **prevalent** increase uncommon necessary certain
2. **impudence** courtesy flattery rudeness imagination
3. **astutely** cautiously rapidly unwisely preferably
4. **proximity** distance desire location annoyance
5. **versatility** adaptability understanding single-mindedness unity
6. **myopia** knack farsightedness comprehension vision
7. **raucous** noisy remarkable dignified melodious
8. **impenetrable** impassable clear threatening delightful
9. **constue** mislead create misinterpret understand

B. Fill in each blank with the correct Word to Know.

1. Our quiet community is definitely not a ________________, lively, or noisy place.

2. Its _________________ to the surrounding farms and orchards gives it a wholesome atmosphere.

3. We have to drive an hour or more to get to see a movie, since theaters are not _________________ in our area.

4. Many experts have tried to _________________ the reasons behind the exodus of young people from the area.

5. Some young people have complained about the lack of career _________________; everyone seems to be involved in the same type of work.

6. Others, however, have _________________ considered the beauty and value of the land and then made a decision to remain in the area.

C. An anecdote is a short, amusing, interesting account of an incident. Write an anecdote about a neighborhood or community that borders your own. Use at least four Words to Know in your anecdote.

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Through the One-Way Mirror/
The Border: A Glare of Truth (page 170)

Selection Quiz

Recall the points described in the selection. Then answer each question in sentences or phrases.

1. How is the border between the United States and Canada like a backyard fence?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. How are the two nations different in the way they see themselves in relation to the rest of the world?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3. Why does Margaret Atwood compare the United States to the cartoon character, Mr. Magoo?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

4. Why does Pat Mora enjoy moving back and forth between speaking English and Spanish?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

5. How does the border between Mexico and the United States illustrate what Renato Rosaldo states is a world "saturated with inequality, power, and domination"?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Through the One-Way Mirror/
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Selection Test

A. Think about the theme, or central idea, in each of these two essays. In the boxes below, use your own words to state the theme of each essay. Then, under each theme statement, list two examples of comparison and contrast the author uses to support her central idea. (15 points each)

1. "Through the One-Way Mirror"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme Statement:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Example:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2. "The Border: A Glare of Truth"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Write the letter of the best answer. This exercise is continued on the next page. (4 points each)

1. Atwood's tone toward Americans in "Through a One-Way Mirror" can best be described as
   a. sympathetic.
   b. understanding.
   c. sarcastic.
   d. patient.

2. Atwood says that Canadians have "Porky Pig" noses because they
   a. have their noses pressed up to the U.S. border.
   b. are jealous of the wealth and prosperity in the United States.
   c. never look up from the ground and into the world.
   d. produce so much waste in their country.
3. Atwood compares Americans, with their fuzzy view of the world, to
   a. Porky Pig.
   b. Mr. Magoo.
   c. Bugs Bunny.
   d. Daffy Duck.

4. Mora's tone toward her subject can best be described as
   a. contemptuous.
   b. impatient.
   c. bitter.
   d. reflective.

5. The "glare of truth" is what Mora misses about
   a. the Heartland.
   b. Cincinnati.
   c. the Mexican border.

**C. Words to Know.** Write the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)

1. When you construe the meaning of a phrase, you
   a. distort it.
   b. forget it.
   c. interpret it.

2. Which event would most likely have a raucous crowd?
   a. a rock concert
   b. a play
   c. a golf tournament

3. People who suffer from myopia are
   a. very ill.
   b. short-sighted.
   c. insecure.

4. A person who makes an impudent remark is showing
   a. consideration.
   b. kindness.
   c. contempt.

5. An impenetrable book is difficult to
   a. ignore.
   b. lift.
   c. understand.

**D. Answer one of the following questions based on your understanding of these essays.**
Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (15 points)

1. What is Atwood saying about the United States when she compares it to the Romans, the British, and the French? Use details from the essay to support your ideas.

2. In your own words, explain what Mora means when she says, "Because language shapes as well as reflects our reality, exploring it allows us to see and to explore our world anew, much as experiencing the world with a young child causes us to pause, savor." Use examples from your life or experiences in your explanation.

**E. Linking Literature to Life.** Answer the following question based on your own experience and knowledge. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (15 points)

Why do you think the Mexican border is so strictly patrolled and the Canadian border has so few checkpoints? Does that seem fair? Explain your answer.