

**David Emanuel Academy**  
*Summer Reading Information Middle/High School English*  
 Upcoming 6th - 12th Graders

Summer is here! So it's time to prepare for our summer reading with DEA's middle and high school students. Students will be required to read 1 book, watch 1 movie, and then complete a writing assignment. Students may choose a book (and its corresponding movie) from the list below.

<u>6th - 8th Grade Books:</u>	<u>9th - 12th Grade Books:</u>
<i>Artemis Fowl</i> by Eoin Colfer	<i>Beautiful Creatures</i> by Kami Garcia
<i>Bridge to Terabithia</i> by Katherine Peterson	<i>Death on the Nile</i> by Agatha Christie <b>(Beta "Book Battle" Book)</b>
<i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> by Roald Dahl	<i>Divergent</i> by Veronica Roth
<i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i> by C.S. Lewis	<i>Enola Holmes</i> by Nancy Springer
<i>The City of Ember</i> by Jeanne DuPrau	<i>Harry Potter</i> by J.K. Rowling
<i>Ella Enchanted</i> by Gail Carson Levine	<i>The Hunger Games</i> by Suzanne Collins
<i>Flipped</i> by Wendelin Van Draanen	<i>The Last Song</i> by Nicholas Sparks
<i>Holes</i> by Louis Sachar	<i>The Lord of the Rings</i> by J.R.R. Tolkien
<i>Little Women</i> by Louisa May Alcott	<i>My Sister's Keeper</i> by Jodi Picoult
<i>Out of My Mind</i> by Sharon M. Draper <b>(Beta "Book Battle" Book)</b>	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> by Jane Austen
<i>Percy Jackson and the Olympians</i> by Rick Riordan	<i>The Princess Bride</i> by William Goldman <b>(Beta "Book Battle" Book)</b>
<i>Pictures of Hollis Woods</i> by Patricia Reilly Giff <b>(Beta "Book Battle" Book)</b>	<i>True Grit</i> by Charles Portis
<i>The Spiderwick Chronicles</i> by Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black	<i>Twilight</i> by Stephenie Meyer
<i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i> by Wilson Rawls	<i>Unbroken</i> by Laura Hillenbrand
<i>Wonder</i> by R.J. Palacio	<i>Wuthering Heights</i> by Emily Bronte <b>(Beta "Book Battle" Book)</b>

*\*Middle School students are welcome to pick from the High School list, but High School **cannot** pick from the Middle School list.*

**Compare/Contrast Paragraph Instructions: Book vs. Movie**

**Objective:**

Write a well-organized paragraph comparing and contrasting a book you have read with the movie adaptation based on it.

**Instructions:**

1. **Choose Your Focus:**

Select 2–3 key elements to compare and contrast. These might include:

- Characters
- Plot events
- Setting
- Themes or messages
- Ending
- Mood or tone
- Point of view or narration

2. **Topic Sentence:**

Start your paragraph with a clear topic sentence that introduces both the book and the movie, and explains that you will be comparing and contrasting them.

*Example:*

*Although the movie version of *The Giver* captures some of the book's main ideas, it changes several important characters and events.*

3. **Use Evidence:**

Provide specific examples from both the book and the movie. Be sure to explain *how* they are similar or different and *why* these differences or similarities matter.

4. **Use Compare/Contrast Words:**

Use words and phrases that show comparison (similarly, both, also) and contrast (however, on the other hand, unlike, in contrast).

5. **Concluding Sentence:**

End with a sentence that sums up your main point or reflects on whether you prefer the book or the movie—and why.

**Tips:**

- Stay focused on your chosen points of comparison.
- Don't just list similarities and differences—explain them.
- Make sure your paragraph is at least 8–10 sentences long.

### Compare / Contrast Paragraph Rubric

<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b>Excellent (4)</b>	<b>Good (3)</b>	<b>Developing (2)</b>	<b>Needs Improvement (1)</b>
<i>Clear Comparison</i>	Clearly compares and contrasts the book and movie with strong, relevant points.	Compares and contrasts with mostly clear, relevant points.	Some comparisons made but are unclear or lack detail.	Little or no comparison or contrast present.
<i>Use of Examples</i>	Uses <b>specific and accurate</b> examples from both the book and the movie.	Uses examples from both, though one may be less detailed.	Uses vague or unclear examples; may rely heavily on one version.	Few or no specific examples are used.
<i>Organization &amp; Focus</i>	Paragraph is well-organized, focused, and easy to follow.	Mostly organized and stays on topic.	Somewhat organized but may jump between ideas or stray off-topic.	Lacks clear organization or focus.
<i>Analysis/Insight</i>	Offers thoughtful insights about the similarities / differences and their effects.	Some insight is shown; attempts to explain significance of comparisons.	Minimal insight; mostly summary without deeper analysis.	No analysis or thought about <i>why</i> differences/similarities matter.
<i>Conventions</i>	Grammar, spelling, and punctuation are nearly error-free.	A few errors, but they don't distract from meaning.	Some errors that make understanding harder.	Many errors that make the paragraph hard to read or understand.

Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

20 pts = 100

17 pts = 85

14 pts = 70

19 pts = 95

16 pts = 80

13 pts = 65

18 pts = 90

15 pts = 75

12 pts = 60

***Assignment Due No Later Than Thursday, August 14, 2025***

***This will be a quiz grade.***

**Compare/Contrast Essay Instructions: Book vs. Movie**

**Objective:**

Write an essay that compares and contrasts a book and its movie adaptation. Analyze the similarities and differences in elements such as plot, characters, setting, themes, and tone. Explain how the changes in the film affect the story or audience's understanding.

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**1. Choose Your Book and Movie:**

Pick a book from the list provided. Make sure you've both read the book and watched the movie before starting your essay.

**2. Take Notes While Reading and Watching:**

As you read and watch, take notes on the following:

- **Plot** – What happens in the story? Are any events changed, added, or removed in the movie?
- **Characters** – Are the characters portrayed the same way? Are any left out or changed?
- **Setting** – Are the time and place consistent between the book and movie?
- **Themes** – Do the book and movie share the same message or moral?
- **Tone/Mood** – How does each version make you feel? Is the tone similar or different?
- **Key Scenes** – Identify a few scenes that are especially important or different between the versions.

**3. Create a Venn Diagram or Chart:**

Use a Venn diagram or T-chart to organize the similarities and differences between the book and the movie. This will help you plan your essay.

**4. Write a Clear Thesis Statement:**

Your thesis should state whether the changes in the movie helped or hurt the story, or whether the movie was a good adaptation overall. Example:

"While the movie version of *The Giver* changes several key scenes, it still captures the main themes and emotional tone of the book."

## 5. Structure Your Essay:

### Introduction

- Introduce the title and author of the book and the title and director of the movie.
- Briefly summarize both versions.
- End with your thesis statement.

### Body Paragraphs

Use either of these structures:

- **Block Method:** Discuss all the book's key points in one paragraph, then all the movie's points in another.
- **Point-by-Point Method:** Discuss one aspect (e.g., plot, character, setting) at a time, comparing the book and movie side by side.

Each paragraph should:

- Begin with a topic sentence.
- Give specific examples.
- Explain how the differences or similarities affect the story or its impact.

### Conclusion

- Restate your thesis in new words.
- Summarize your main points.
- Reflect on whether you preferred the book or the movie—and why.

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### Tips for Success:

- Use transition words like *similarly*, *however*, *in contrast*, *on the other hand*, *both*, *while*, *unlike*, *although*.
- Support your points with specific examples.
- Avoid just saying “the book was better”—explain why.
- Proofread your essay for clarity, grammar, and spelling.
- If you choose to research and cite outside sources, make sure to include a Works Cited page at the end of your essay.

### Compare / Contrast Essay Rubric

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