***How* can we synthesize information from different sources to write a comparative essay? We will take new info learned and show that we can synthesize by writing a comparative essay.**

**COMPARATIVE ESSAY TASK: WRITE A COMPARATIVE ESSAY IN WHICH YOU EXPLORE AN IMPORTANT THEME (OR AN IMPORTANT IDEA) THAT IS APPARENT IN TWO TEXTS FROM OUR SOCIAL ISSUES UNIT. YOU CAN CHOOSE FROM ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

* **Thanks, Mr. Falker**
* **Bully**
* **Junkyard Wonders**
* **Please follow the comparative essay format:**
1. **Begin by introducing the topic or main idea.** **A quick summary or reiteration of the essay question—which will be the main idea-theme-thesis that you will be exploring. You may include a quote from brainyquote or quotegarden to support your thesis statement (but make sure it relates to the body of your essay). For example, if your question is asking you to compare the similarities between*text 1* and *text 2*, you need to make sure your last sentence in first paragraph states that this is what you are going to do.**
2. **Second paragraph includes a transitional phrase. For example, *In the first text, Rachel Carson: Pioneer of Ecology, an* important theme is….I know this because the text teaches us that (paraphrase info). Give at least two other examples from the text that supports this theme. Show insight. Something like, *Therefore this text teaches us that…*** ***Now, make sure you use examples of quotes and techniques which explore this idea in this text.***
3. **Third paragraph includes a transitional phrase like *similarly in Rain Forests*, a similar theme is….I know this because the text teaches us that (paraphrase info). Give at least two other examples from the text that supports this theme. Show insight. Something like, *Therefore this text teaches us that…*Both these texts teach us that (state theme-big idea). Therefore, I can conclude (infer) that….(state new knowledge that shows insight based on your new learning).** **Now, make sure you use examples of quotes and techniques which explore this idea in this text.**
4. **Lastly, you finish off your essay with a concluding paragraph. This should reiterate the essay question and summarize the ideas you have explored in the essay in relation to your two texts. It may help to think of this like your introduction rewritten but in a conclusive way, instead of an introductory way. Show insight. Draw conclusions. Based on these two texts, we can infer that…re-state main idea.**

**SAMPLE COMPARATIVE ESSAY: *IN THE YEAR OF THE BOAR AND JACKIE ROBINSON & BASEBALL SAVED US: LESSONS IN RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF INTOLERANCE***

**As former president John F. Kennedy once noted, “Tolerance implies no lack of commitment to one's own beliefs. Rather it condemns the oppression or persecution of others.” Sadly, throughout history, people have been persecuted or discriminated against simply based on the color of their skin or their religious or cultural heritage. There have been so many instances of intolerance and lack of respect towards others. Yet amazingly, there is nothing as resound or strong as the human spirit. Despite dealing with adversity, so many heroic folks have been able to take a stand for what they believe in and accomplish amazing goals when they persevere despite facing prejudice and lack of respect from others. Like poet ee cummings remarked, “Once we believe in ourselves, we can risk curiosity, wonder, spontaneous delight, or any experience that reveals the human spirit.” This essay will explore the theme of resilience, having the courage to forge ahead despite facing obstacles, discrimination and adversity. It is an important theme in literature and in life since. I will show how resilience is evident in the two stories, “In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson” and “Baseball Saved Us.”. Both of the main characters share a special affection and affinity for baseball and use the sport as a way of coping and dealing with adversity and prejudice in their lives. This essay will show how both of the main characters had a strong human spirit in the face of intolerance.**

**In the story, “In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson,” the main character, Shirley Temple Wong arrives with her family from China in 1947, the year in which Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier by becoming the first African American major league baseball player. Jackie became rookie of the year for the Brooklyn Dodgers, despite facing taunting of opposing players, teammates and fans. He took the challenge of former Dodger owner Branch Ricky who told him, “I want a man with enough courage not to fight back.” Similarly, Shirley faced a lot of teasing and bullying from other kids in her class since she was the only Chinese American. She was also not used to American customs and got made fun of because of that. In one funny scene, she pledges allegiance to the “frog of United States of America” and in another, she thinks the wooden window pole will be used as a disciplinary tool on disobedient children. She gets called derogatory racial names in the school yard but soon earns the respect of the other kids when she becomes a great little baseball player. She shows resilience while wrestling with her conscience over retaining her Chinese heritage while battling to become a proud new American. In a telling dream, she came to a fork in the road and didn’t know where to turn—on one side was her grandma back in China and on the other were her parents and new friends in Brooklyn. She ultimately decided, she can be both—a little girl who can be loyal to her old traditions while embracing her new life as a proud American. One of the most touching moments is when Shirley and her classmates get an important lesson in the importance of being strong and resilient in the face of adversity. This occurs when her teacher, Mrs. Rappaport is addressing the class about why we should admire Jackie Robinson. The kids call Shirley “Jackie” because she is a good ball player. But they all learn that “Jackie stands for himself, for Americans of every hue for an American that honors fair play…He is making a difference. Jackie Robinson is making a difference…has changed what has been and is making a better America, And so can you, she reported. This was very inspirational to Shirley who at that moment felt very proud of herself, her heritage and new life—despite the difficulties she faced in assimilating. “Suddenly Shirley understood why her father had brought her ten thousand miles to live amongst strangers…Here Shirley Temple Wong was somebody…She felt as if she had grown as tall as the Statue of Liberty.”**

**Similarly in the book, “Baseball Saved Us,” the main character faced prejudice yet became strong and resilient through his love of baseball. This story takes place during World War Two. In it, a young Japanese-American boy and his family are sent to an internment camp after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Despondent in their desolate surroundings, father and son pull the camp together to build a baseball diamond and form a league. The story is told from the point of view of the boy, dubbed "Shorty" because of his size, who describes the camp's desolate environs, explaining what motivated father and son to pull the camp together to build a baseball diamond, improvise uniforms, and equipment, and finally, form a league. "People needed something to do," his father said. Furthermore, during a game, Shorty catches a glimpse of one of the ever-present guards and finds himself channeling his anger towards the man and his humiliation, from being a both prisoner and a mediocre player, into anger, giving him the strength to hit a game-winning home run. After the war and his return home, he continues to play baseball, while being subjected to racial taunts. Just as he did as a boy, Shorty is able to refocus his anger and produce positive results on the field.**

**To conclude we see how not only do both the main characters’ hopes and dreams come forth through the game of baseball. We also witness the strength of the human spirit. We meet two young people who persevere despite intolerance and discrimination. These stories are a special tribute to the power of resilience! As psychologist, Albert Bandura noted, In order to succeed, people need a sense of self-efficacy, to struggle together with resilience to meet the inevitable obstacles and inequities of life.” Bravo to Shirley, Shorty and all of those proud people who stand tall in the face of adversity.**

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