



TEACHER PAGE

TWO LIVES COLLIDE

STANLEY AND ZERO

GRADE LEVEL: 5–8 **SUBJECT:** Language Arts **DURATION:** One 40-minute class period
NATIONAL STANDARDS: Language Arts, Standard 3: Evaluation strategies, Standard 4: Communication skills
MATERIALS: Chalkboard/overhead projector, writing journals
Use this lesson to have students write an essay comparing and contrasting the characters of Stanley and Zero using a Venn diagram as a guide.

DESCRIPTION

In *Holes*, Stanley and Zero are two heroic figures drawn together by shared motivations – to escape alive from the torture and misery of Camp Green Lake. Each character has unique qualities, yet they are also alike in many ways.

OBJECTIVES

- To use a Venn diagram to compare the two main characters, Stanley and Zero
- To write a compare and contrast essay

ADAPTATIONS

For younger students, complete the Venn diagram as a class. Instruct students to write a single, well-written paragraph about one of the three categories, A, B, or C.

ASSESSMENT

Design a five-point rubric to assess students on quality of class contribution, completion of their own Venn diagram, and demonstrated use and understanding of the Venn diagram as a prewriting tool. The final essay should be used as the final assessment tool.

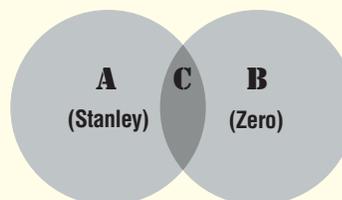
EXTENSIONS

Define the qualities of a heroic character. What makes Stanley a literary hero? What makes Zero a literary hero? Write a paragraph explaining why. Use the web site www.forbetterlife.org to find a good list of heroic qualities.



PROCEDURES

1. Discuss with students the ideas of comparing and contrasting one thing to another. Music groups, clothing, and even classes are things that are often compared. Discuss the meaning of “unique” and “shared” qualities.
2. Draw a sample Venn diagram on the board or overhead projector as follows:



3. Ask students to draw the same diagram.
4. Ask students to list unique qualities to describe Stanley. Write these qualities in the Venn diagram in section A. Give students the opportunity to look back at their character study from Lesson 1 to help provide evidence.
5. Next, ask students to list unique qualities for Zero. Have students write these details down in section B. Write them in the Venn diagram on the board or overhead projector.
6. In section C, have students write characteristics shared by the two characters.
7. Review students’ answers aloud in class. Encourage students to add to their lists.
8. Instruct students to write a compare and contrast essay from their diagram. The first paragraph should discuss characteristics about Stanley, drawn from the first section. The second paragraph should describe Zero. In the third paragraph, write about the characteristics shared by both characters.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Information on using a Venn diagram: www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/score/actbank/tvenn.htm