

Sample Compare/Contrast Story

Nora and I

In the story *The Report Card* by Andrew Clements, Nora is the main character. Nora and I are similar, but we have many differences too. First, Nora does not like to have attention focused on her. Nora is very intelligent for someone her age. When she is little she puts a puzzle together that is difficult for her older sister Ann. Ann shows their mother what Nora can do and suddenly everyone is watching Nora and making a big deal out of the fact that she can put the puzzle together. Nora realized right away that she does not like the extra attention.

I do not like to have attention on me either, but I usually only feel that way when I have to get in front of a big crowd. I get very nervous and self-conscious. When I was in school I had to give a report to my class and I was so nervous that I could not talk loud enough.

Nora and I are alike because we both don't like taking big tests. We are different because in the story, Nora is able to determine exactly how many questions she needs to miss so that it won't look like she is really smart. She also knows how many questions she needs in order to pass the test so no one will think she has a learning problem. I would never have thought to try something like that. We are also different because I just don't like tests because they are stressful. Nora doesn't like tests because she doesn't like how other people get test anxiety.

Though Nora and I have a couple of similarities, we are very different. Nora thinks about school in a different way than I do.