Captivate students with a sweet lesson on comparing stories. This cookie-themed lesson will keep students interested and leave them hungry for more reading.

**Learning Objectives**

Students will be able to compare and contrast two versions of the same story.

**Materials and Preparation**

- *The Gingerbread Man* by Jim Aylesworth
- *The Gingerbread Girl* by Lisa Campbell Ernst
- Paper
- Pencils

**Key Terms**

- compare
- contrast

**Introduction (10 minutes)**

- Invite two students up to the front of the room. Have the other students tell you what is the same about the two students and what is different.
- Tell the students that when we talk about what is alike, we are **comparing**, and when we talk about differences, we are **contrasting**.
- Explain to the students that they are going to work on comparing and contrasting two different stories with similar characters.

**Explicit Instruction/Teacher Modeling (30 minutes)**

- Read the stories *The Gingerbread Man* and *The Gingerbread Girl*.
- As you read the second story, stop frequently to ask what similarities and differences the students are noticing. Point out any that the students may not have picked up on.

**Guided Practice/Interactive Modeling (15 minutes)**

- Place students in pairs and give one piece of paper to each group. Make sure they have a pencil as well.
- Draw a Venn diagram on the board (with labels for both stories) and explain that this is a way to organize the things that were the same and different in the stories.
- Have a volunteer give an example of something that was the same in the story. Show the students how the similarities go in the center of the Venn diagram.
- Have a volunteer give an example of something that was different in the 2 stories. Demonstrate to the students that the differences go on either side beneath the correct label.
- Have students copy the partial Venn diagram onto their paper.

**Independent Working Time (20 minutes)**

- Have students work together to add similarities and differences to their individual Venn diagrams.
- Circulate the room to ensure that answers are correct and that there are no questions.

**Differentiation**

- **Enrichment**: Have advanced students write a short journal entry writing about their favorite
"gingerbread" story. Make sure they include an explanation for why it's their favorite.

- **Support:** Learners that need additional support can be allowed to draw their similarities and differences in the Venn diagram

**Assessment (10 minutes)**

- Collect the completed Venn diagrams and check for correctness.

**Review and Closing (10 minutes)**

- In closing, name some similarities and differences from the stories and see if the students can tell you where they would be placed on the Venn diagram. Here are some things you can use: *The old man and old woman are characters, The gingerbread person runs away, The gingerbread person gets eaten, The gingerbread outsmarts the fox.*