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Date: _____

Let's Practice TEXT STRUCTURES

COMPARE & CONTRAST

NEW SCHOOL VS. OLD SCHOOL

How was going to school in a one-room schoolhouse in the 1800s different from attending school today?

In most modern-day schools, students are divided into classrooms based on age and grade. However, schoolhouses from long ago were typically one-room buildings. This meant that students in first through eighth grade were taught together in the same room by a single teacher. Like teachers of today, they could be either male or female. Although, back then, if a female teacher got married, she was expected to quit her job so she could focus on maintaining her household. There were no teacher's aides or paraprofessionals, but sometimes older and more advanced students helped instruct the younger ones.

Similar to many classrooms today, students sat in chairs at desks. The teacher's desk and blackboard were at the front of the classroom. While today's schools are heated by gas and electricity, one-room schoolhouses were heated by a wood-burning stove. Bathrooms were also very different. Back then, students had to go outside to use the outhouse! Of course, during the 1800s, students didn't have tablets or computers, nor did they have notebooks or paper. They wrote with chalk or soapstone pencils on small square slates.



In modern classrooms, the four core subjects are language arts, math, social studies, and science. The typical curriculum in one-room schoolhouses focused on the three R's: Reading, 'Riting (writing), and 'Rithmetic (arithmetic/math). Books were expensive back then, so students shared their reading books. Students had to recite the poems or stories they had read from memory. Writing focused heavily on developing good penmanship (neat cursive handwriting). Similar to today, students were expected to memorize their math facts of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.



While there are many differences between schools of today and long ago, students have always looked forward to lunch and recess.

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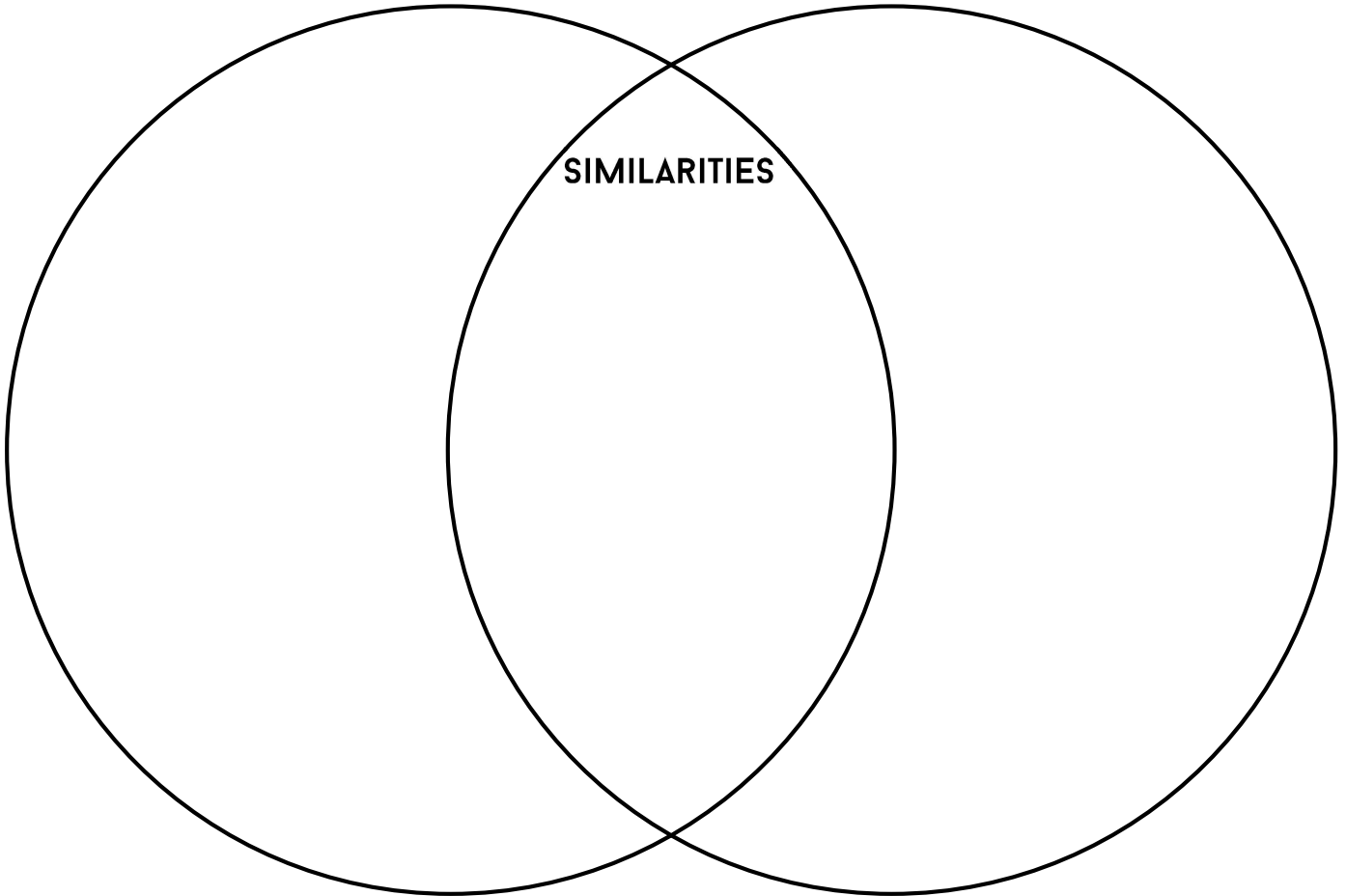
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TEXT STRUCTURE ➔ Compare & Contrast

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage "New School vs. Old School". Write down similarities and differences between modern schools and one-room schoolhouses.

MODERN SCHOOLS

ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE



List key words and phrases from the passage that show the text structure is compare and contrast.

What was the author's main purpose for writing this passage?
