

# Compare and Contrast Esperanza and Mia as Main Characters

Rough draft due via Google Docs by Friday, October 15

**Assignment:** Write an essay that shows the similarities and differences between Esperanza in *Esperanza Rising* and Mia in *A Mango-Shaped Space*. Support your claims with evidence from both books.

For example, both characters experience a major death in the family that significantly impacts their lives. Esperanza lost her father while Mia lost her grandfather and beloved cat. These deaths impacted the girls in different ways. You would need to pull evidence from the books to show how these deaths impacted Esperanza and Mia differently.

## Guidelines

- 600-750 words
- MLA Format (Times New Roman font, 12 pt., double spaced)
- Cited scenes/dialogue in all body paragraphs (not the intro or conclusion)
- Written in the third person
- Follow either a Topic by Topic structure **or** a Character by Character structure

Below is a detailed outline that shows the difference between a Topic by Topic Paragraph Structure and a Character by Character Paragraph Structure. In both examples, the introduction and conclusion will be the same. The differences between the structures are reflected in the body paragraphs.

## Topic by Topic Paragraph Structure

- I. Introduction
  - A. Start with a hook (something that catches my attention)
  - B. Introduce the books with a general sentence about what each one is about
  - C. End the paragraph with a thesis statement that reflects the general similarities and differences between Esperanza and Mia.
    1. Example: While both Esperanza and Mia experience conflicts that push them towards maturity, their specific circumstances present two different lifestyles and challenges.
- II. **Topic 1:** Both Esperanza and Mia experience significant deaths in the family
  - A. Esperanza's experience
  - B. Mia's experiences
  - C. How both circumstances prompted the characters to think/act differently.
- III. **Topic 2:** Both Esperanza and Mia experienced personal conflict with family members and friends
  - A. Esperanza's experience
  - B. Mia's experiences
  - C. How both circumstances prompted the characters to think/act differently.
- IV. **Topic 3:** Both Esperanza and Mia experienced internal conflict
  - A. Esperanza's experience
  - B. Mia's experiences
  - C. How both circumstances prompted the characters to think/act differently.
- V. Conclusion
  - A. Reiterate the general way in which these characters had different experiences but still grew in maturity, changed by the end of the book, or anything else you wish to say.

## Character by Character Paragraph Structure

- I. Introduction (same as above)
- II. Describe Esperanza as a character with all of the details that are pertinent to who she is
  - A. Major conflict (internal and external)
  - B. Big plot points (father dying, moving to California, having to work for a living)
  - C. How she overcame her struggles and matured
- III. Describe Mia as a character with all of the details that are pertinent to who she is
  - A. Major conflicts (internal and external)
  - B. Big plot points (learning about Synesthesia, death of grandfather and Mango, fighting with Jenna, the situation with Adam and Roger)
  - C. How she overcame her struggles and matured
- IV. Spotlight the major similarities both characters have despite their different experiences
- V. Conclusion

\*It is likely you'll have more than five paragraphs. This is completely fine!

**Use transition words to help you** flow from one point to the next. **When comparing two things**, use transitional words such as: also, as well as, in the same way, in the same manner, likewise, etc. **When contrasting two things**, use transitional words such as: although, differ, however, in contrast, nevertheless, on the other hand, while, etc.

Be in touch if you need help!