

TEACHER WRITING EXEMPLAR: COMPARATIVE ESSAY

It might seem like “The Three Little Pigs” and “Raymond’s Run” are very different kinds of stories. One is a fairy tale from a long time ago and one is a short story about kids from the present time. But if you look a little closer, you will see that both stories actually share a common theme. In both stories, the authors teach us that sometimes you have to change how you approach a problem if you want to solve it.

In “The Three Little Pigs,” the author shows us that it takes a lot of hard work and clever tricks to solve the problem. In the beginning and in the middle of the story, the first and second little pigs have to run away because their houses were too weak and the big, bad wolf blows their houses down. At the end of the story, all three pigs are together in the third little pig’s house. But the third little pig built his house out of bricks so it was strong enough to keep the wolf from blowing it down. The wolf tries to come down the chimney, so then, the pigs try something else to protect themselves. The third pig puts a boiling pot of water in the fireplace—and the wolf falls in. Instead of running away from the wolf, the third little pig comes up with a new idea to outsmart the wolf and solve the problem. The lesson is clear: work hard and try something new and you will succeed.

In “Raymond’s Run” the author also shows us that it is sometimes necessary to change your approach to a problem to succeed. In the beginning of the story, Squeaky brags about how tough she is, especially when people try to mess with her brother, Raymond. In the middle of the story, she still acts tough around her classmates and her running coach. She puts people off, just like she wants, but she ends up alone, and unhappy. At the end of the story, Squeaky changes her attitude toward others and smiles at Gretchen and makes a friend. She stops being so overprotective of Raymond so he can shine on his own. The lesson in this story is clear, too: sometimes it takes a new approach to people to life to make you truly happy.

Both of these stories teach us that sometimes you have to change how you deal with a problem, in order to solve it. “The Three Little Pigs” is for little kids, so it teaches you in a simple way. The author shows us how it’s possible to approach a problem differently in a physical way because the first and second pig run away from the wolf and the third little pig builds a stronger house and boils the wolf in the pot. “Raymond’s Run” teaches us how to change in a harder way—it teaches us how to change our attitude and the way we treat people. Squeaky has to change her outlook on people and how she treats them in order to solve her problem. This is harder to do than building a house out of bricks. Changing how we treat people in the world is the hardest thing to do. This is a lesson we could all learn.