

Grade 7 Playlist: Compare Stories in Different Formats

Aligns with *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.7*:

- Compare and contrast a written story, drama, or poem to its audio, filmed, staged, or multimedia version, analyzing the effects of techniques unique to each medium (e.g., lighting, sound, color, or camera focus and angles in a film).

Welcome

A story can exist in multiple forms. The original version could be a novel or a play that is then turned into a movie, TV show, or web series. These new versions are called **adaptations**. Some adaptations stay very close to the original text. They do not change many major plot details or characters. Other adaptations take more creative freedom with the original text. These versions may change the setting, the characters, and/or parts of the plot. Comparing an adaptation with the original text can help the audience gain a better understanding of the story.

Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn and practice how to:

- explain how adaptations add to or change the original story.
- identify special techniques used in different versions of a story.

Review

Pygmalion is a play about a language professor named Henry Higgins who makes a bet that he can teach a lower-class flower girl named Eliza Doolittle to be a proper lady by making her speak with a proper English accent. The play has been performed on stage numerous times and has been adapted into musicals, films, TV shows, and web series.

Major Characters in *Pygmalion*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliza Doolittle: A flower girl from a lower economic class who does not speak what is considered proper English. • Henry Higgins: A professor who studies languages and accents of people in different parts of the world. He teaches people how to speak proper English. • Colonel Pickering: A language scholar who wants to learn more about Higgins' work and persuades him to teach Eliza. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Higgins: Henry Higgins' mother • Freddy Eynsford Hill: Falls in love with Eliza, writes letters to her, and becomes a marriage option for her by the end of the play
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Exploring the Standard

The **medium** of a story—whether it is a book, a film, an audio recording, or something else—determines which techniques can be used to tell the story. For example, a film can use cameras to show the actors from different angles, which gives the audience certain impressions of the characters. A film also may use lighting and sound to create a certain mood. A book, however, cannot use lighting, sound, or camera angles to shape the story.

Hint!

When comparing a text to a film or staged version, pay attention to what was removed, added, or changed. Also pay attention to sound, lighting, and color.

Watch!

Watch this video to understand some basic questions to ask when comparing a text to a film version:

- <https://www.opened.com/video/espark-learning-comparing-and-contrasting-reading-experience/1550337>

Example 1

Read this excerpt from Act I of *Pygmalion*.

A lower-class flower girl has met a gentleman and a note taker under a church while seeking shelter from the rain.

THE FLOWER GIRL. Poor girl! Hard enough for her to live without being worried and chivied.

THE GENTLEMAN [returning to his former place on the note taker's left] How do you do it, if I may ask?

THE NOTE TAKER. Simply phonetics. The science of speech. That's my profession; also my hobby. Happy is the man who can make a living by his hobby! You can spot an Irishman or a Yorkshireman by his brogue¹. I can place any man within six miles. I can place him within two miles in London. Sometimes within two streets.

THE FLOWER GIRL. Ought to be ashamed of himself, unmanly coward!

THE GENTLEMAN. But is there a living in that?

THE NOTE TAKER. Oh yes. Quite a fat one. This is an age of upstarts. Men begin in Kentish Town with 80 pounds a year, and end in Park Lane with a hundred thousand. They want to drop Kentish Town; but they give themselves away every time they open their mouths. Now I can teach them—

THE FLOWER GIRL. Let him mind his own business and leave a poor girl—

THE NOTE TAKER [explosively] Woman: cease this detestable² boo-hooing instantly; or else seek the shelter of some other place of worship.

THE FLOWER GIRL [with feeble³ defiance] I've a right to be here if I like, same as you.



Teacher Notes: Compare Stories in Different Formats

The goal of RL.7.7 is for students to understand and be able to explain how adaptations of a text (film, TV, etc.) are similar to or different from the original text. Students also should understand how techniques unique to each medium affect the story. The following information contains ideas that teachers can incorporate into their classroom instruction.

Writing Prompts

1. Ask students to think about a book or other story they like that has been adapted into a movie. Have them write a paragraph comparing the original version to the adaptation, including an explanation of any interesting camera angles, lighting techniques, sound effects, or music.
2. Ask students to imagine that they are writing a movie review for the local newspaper about the *Pygmalion* film. In the review, they must compare the film to the original play. In their review, have students mention specific techniques the film uses to tell the story.

Additional Resources

Consider these additional resources when teaching RL.7.7:

- Consult this glossary of film terms to help students understand different types of shots or editing techniques. <http://www.filmsite.org/filmterms1.html>
- In this lesson, students analyze a film adaptation of a text and create a DVD cover that reflects the content of the film version. The lesson plan also includes a link to middle school level books that have been made into movies. <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/cover-cover-comparing-books-1098.html?tab=1#tabs>
- Use a Venn diagram, such as the one below, to compare and contrast different versions of a story.

