

Comparing Passages

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When you read more than one passage, you can make connections between them. For instance, if you read a passage about soldiers waiting to go to battle, you might be able to connect it with the excerpt from *The Red Badge of Courage*. A passage like that might tell you how people feel before going to war. You could connect that to understand how the soldiers feel in the excerpt.

Look Look for ways that passages are alike. Look for ways they are different. Are their themes similar? What about their characters and settings?

Read this poem about the American Civil War. Look for connections to *The Red Badge of Courage*.

Bivouac On A Mountain Side

By Walt Whitman

I see before me now a traveling army halting,
 Below a fertile valley spread, with barns and the orchards of summer,
 Behind, the terraced sides of a mountain, abrupt, in places rising high,
 Broken, with rocks, with clinging cedars, with tall shapes dingily seen,
 The numerous camp-fires scatter'd near and far, some away up on the mountain,
 The shadowy forms of men and horses, looming, large-sized, flickering,
 And all over the sky—the sky! far, far out of reach, studded, breaking out, the eternal stars.

Example

The excerpt from *The Red Badge of Courage* and the poem “Bivouac On A Mountain Side” are alike because they both

- (A) are about soldiers hearing rumors.
- (B) have a strong sense of the setting.
- (C) have stanzas.
- (D) talk about the eternal stars.

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- (A) This isn't correct. The poem doesn't talk about anyone hearing rumors.
- (B) This is true. Both the story and the poem have strong descriptions of the setting.
- (C) The poem has stanzas, but the excerpt from *The Red Badge of Courage* doesn't. It uses paragraphs.
- (D) The poem talks about eternal stars, but the excerpt doesn't.