

Name: _____

Date: _____

6B- _____

Writing: *Schooled* Character Trait ¶: Sample ¶'s

Directions: Read both of the following character trait paragraphs. Then use the organizer below to compare and contrast the *organization* of the paragraphs. Make a bulleted list of the differences on the sides and the similarities in the middle.

Paragraph #1

In *Schooled* by Gordon Korman, Rain demonstrates that she is an ethical character. Cap says to Hugh Winkleman, “Rain says you always know what you’re doing when you’re doing the right thing.” Ultimately, Rain’s ethical advice suggests that sometimes in life our ability to recognize right from wrong can simplify even life’s most complicated moments because generally what’s right... is right!

Paragraph #2

In *Schooled* by Gordon Korman, Rain demonstrates that she is an ethical character, especially through her advice to Capricorn Anderson, or Cap, her grandson. Rain and Cap live alone together on a commune until Rain hurts herself, forcing Cap to go to public school, where kids want popularity at any cost. When Cap’s bus driver has a heart attack, Cap immediately leaps to the rescue past his stunned classmates, hopping into the driver’s seat and driving to the hospital. Explaining his heroic response, Cap says to Hugh Winkleman, his nerdy classmate awed by this dose of hippie bravery, “Rain says you always know what you’re doing when you’re doing the right thing.” Essentially, Cap’s noble rescue is a product of Rain’s teaching; she has taught him to listen to his conscience. In this dramatic situation, her advice motivates Cap to drive the bus, even though legally he is too young to do so. In effect, Rain enables Cap to distinguish himself morally from his classmates, who are either too shocked or too scared to do the right thing; they either don’t know right from wrong, or they do but they allow other concerns — like peer pressure, fear, or the law — to paralyze their decision-making process during this emergency. Cap’s confidence, on the contrary, stems from Rain’s simple life lesson, which suggests that, if Cap is pure, upright, and wholesome, then he can trust his instincts. Ultimately, Rain’s ethical advice suggests that sometimes in life our ability to recognize right from wrong can simplify even life’s most complicated moments because generally what’s right... is right!

Differences in Organization	Similarities in Organization	Differences in Organization
Unique elements in ¶ #1	Common elements in ¶'s 1 & 2	Unique elements in ¶ #2

Directions: Read the following character trait paragraph, which is based on a different book called *The Outsiders*. Then use the organizer below to compare the *organization* of Paragraph #2 and Paragraph #3. Specifically, try to name or explain the purpose of the five main parts of each paragraph.

Paragraph #3

Ponyboy, from *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, reveals that he is a sensitive character, even in the face of life-altering danger. Pony lives on the “wrong side of town,” where he and his gang, a group of derelict, damaged, and discarded kids called the Greasers, struggle to survive against the Socs, a rival group of wealthy kids who, according to Pony, get all the breaks. When Pony and Johnny, his best friend, try to break the endless cycle of stereotypes that divide the two groups, they end up with blood on their hands. Desperate and doomed, the boys flee to a church in the country. Removed from the violence of Tulsa, their hometown, Pony appreciates the natural beauty of a sunrise, reciting to Johnny Robert Frost’s poem called “Nothing Gold Can Stay”: “Nature’s first green is gold / her hardest hue to hold. / Her early leaf’s a flower; / But only so an hour. / Then leaf subsides to leaf. / So Eden sank to grief, / So dawn goes down to day. / Nothing gold can stay.” Even though Pony claims he doesn’t understand the poem, he applies it to the perfect situation, the stunning but momentary brilliance of a rising sun in a valley of mist. In fact, not only does Pony understand the poem; he risks becoming an example of the poem’s hopeless point that good things don’t last forever. Arguably, Pony is still “gold,” or pure, barely holding on to his sensitivity, which he demonstrates through his willingness to befriend the Socs, through his awed respect for nature, and through his appeal to poetry. However, as a murder suspect, Pony is also a fugitive on the run from the law and, in a larger sense, from the dark fate that threatens all Greasers, a future as a hardened outsider of society, cold and emotionless, who must learn to see warmth as a weakness. So is Pony a golden sunrise, passionate and pure, or is he, as the poem would suggest, merely “an early leaf” destined to “[sink] to grief”? Ultimately, when Pony recites Robert Frost’s poem, he illustrates that, with sensitivity, people have the power to shine at least a ray of sunlight through the darkness of violence and stereotypes and poverty.

Similarities in Organization of ¶’s 2 and 3 Try to name (or explain) the 5 main parts of a paragraph.

