

Figure 1. ELA compare and contrast poem

### Thank You, Ma'am, a Poem of Two Characters

Eleven o'clock at night  
We meet  
On the street.

I am Mrs. Luella Bates  
Washington Jones.

I am the victim,  
but I grab Roger.  
I want to teach this teen  
a lesson.  
Prepare him a meal.

In my home.

I want to be there  
For him.

When I was young  
I wanted things  
I could not get.  
And so I snatched  
people's pocketbooks.

In my boarding house.  
I leave my purse near the  
boy as I go to the kitchen.

I want him to see he is  
Trusted.

We share a meal.  
I give him  
\$10 for blue suede shoes.

A lesson was passed on.

Eleven o'clock at night  
We meet  
On the street.

I am Roger.  
I try to grab her purse.

I go with her, there is no one.  
In my home.  
No one is there.

For me.

I want things  
I cannot get.  
And so I snatch  
people's pocketbooks.

I offer to go to the store.

I want to be  
Trusted.

We share a meal.  
She gives me  
\$10 for blue suede shoes.  
All I had to do was ask  
"Thank you, Ma'am."

A lesson was passed on.