

Poetry

A **Cinquain** is a five-line stanza poem. The first line has two syllables. The next lines have four, six, eight, and two syllables respectively.



Literary Elements

Consonance is the repetition of identical end consonant sounds in a series of words.

Symbolism is the use of concrete objects to represent or express abstract concepts, qualities, or ideas.



Navajo Code Talkers

Five Cinquains

by Mary Willie

Uncle
Remembers how
He and fellow fearless
Navajo Code Talkers saved lives
And hope.

Try to
Imagine this:
Dangerous night with stars
Cold stars different from the ones
Back home.

Secrets
We sent kept safe
In this ancient language.
No enemies could understand
Secrets.

The repetition of the end sound "t" in *sent* and *kept* is an example of consonance.

This code
 Bold invention,
 Created for wartime
 By brave soldiers, who marched in lines
 Like ants.

Soldiers
 Guarded the Flag.
 The word *America*
 Whispered in code as “our mother”
 Kept safe.

The words “our mother”
 symbolize the soldiers’
 feelings about America.



Connect and Compare

1. Find another example of consonance in one of the cinquains.
Consonance
2. How does the poet feel about the Code Talkers? **Analyze**
3. Compare these cinquains to *The Unbreakable Code*. What details from both texts give you clues about how the Navajo felt about fighting in World War II? **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Find out more about cinquains at www.macmillanmh.com

Writer's Craft

Transitions

Good writers use **transitions** between paragraphs to connect their ideas. Transition words and phrases also help your writing flow more smoothly.

Write to Compare and Contrast

A Comparison of Two Story Characters

by Pearl N.

I found three similarities between the characters in *Weslandia* and *The Unbreakable Code*.

I used the transitions "as a result" and "finally" between paragraphs.

Wesley, the main character in *Weslandia*, is similar to the grandfather in *The Unbreakable Code*. Wesley is a creative person who doesn't feel like he fits in with kids his own age.

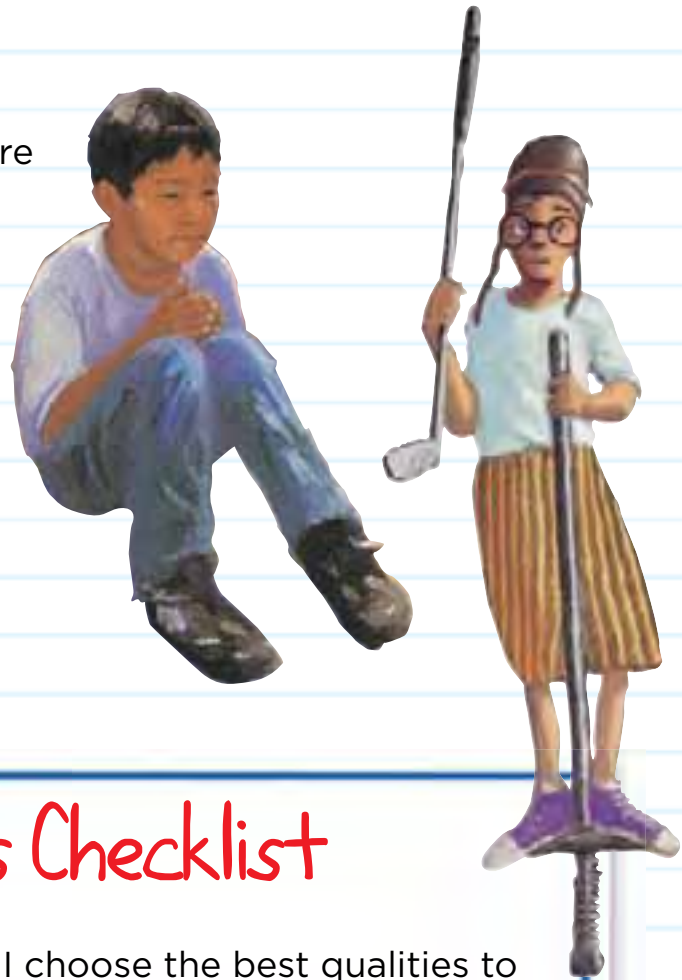
Similarly, as a young boy, the grandfather felt that he did not fit in at boarding school. Both Wesley and the grandfather seem most happy when they are pursuing their own goals.

As a result, Wesley changes his life by creating his own civilization. The grandfather changes his life by joining the Marines.

Finally, language is important to both Wesley and the grandfather. Wesley creates a new alphabet and the grandfather uses the Navajo language to affect history.

Your Turn

Choose two characters to compare and contrast. They can be from the same story or from two different stories. Write a compare and contrast essay. Be careful to organize it so that the points are easy to follow. Include transitions between paragraphs. Use the writer's checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Did I choose the best qualities to compare and contrast?
- Organization:** Can the reader easily follow the traits I am comparing and contrasting?
- Voice:** Does my personality show through where I want it to?
- Word Choice:** Did I use words that signal **transitions** between paragraphs?
- Sentence Fluency:** Did I rewrite any sentences that sounded awkward? Does my writing flow smoothly?
- Conventions:** Did I use *more* and *most* correctly? Did I check my spelling?