

“Who Can Replace a Man?” by Brian Aldiss
Reading: Ask Questions to Compare and Contrast

A **comparison** tells how two or more things are alike. A **contrast** tells how two or more things are different. **Asking questions to compare and contrast** helps you notice any similarities and differences in characters, settings, moods, and ideas. When you consider the similarities and differences in a work, you enrich your understanding of it.

Readers of “Who Can Replace a Man?” can tell right away that the character working in the field is not human. When the author refers to the character as “it,” readers begin to look for clues as to what this character is, asking questions such as these:

- What does it look like?
- How does it move?
- How does it think?
- Are there any others like it?

As you read and discover more about the machines in the story, you can compare and contrast them with humans.

DIRECTIONS: *Answer the questions by using details given about the machines in the story and facts you know about humans.*

1. What do the machines look like? _____

A. How are they similar to humans in appearance? _____

B. How are they different? _____

2. How do the machines communicate with one another? _____

A. How is their communication similar to that of humans? _____

B. How is it different? _____

3. What kind of work do the machines do? _____

A. How is their work similar to the work of humans? _____

B. How is it different? _____