

Compare and Contrast Handout - AAPI Women Voices: Untold Stories Through Poetry

Poem of the Day: "Evening Prayer" by Vandana Khanna

1. Purpose of Compare and Contrast
 - Comparing and contrasting will help identifying the unique aspects and culture in your lives that you can write poetry on.
 - Poetry is connected to real life experiences and that it is a vehicle to understand experiences that are different from yours.
2. Terms used in the poem.
 - Hinduism = a religion, or a way of life, found most notably in India and Nepal
 - Hindu = a follower of Hinduism
 - Mandir = A Hindu temple
 - Ganesh (also spelled Ganesa or Ganesha) = a Hindu god, the Lord of Good Fortune
 - Krishna = a major Hindu deity (god or goddess)
 - Arti = a Hindu religious ritual of worship
3. Vandana Khanna describes her struggle with the religion at home and the one at school.
"Two Gods: the one in the closet
and the one from school days
and both are not mine"
4. What are the struggles Vandana Khanna has at home and at school? Write them down here:
5. Next set of terms used in the poem.
 - Mantra = a sound, word, or phrase that is repeated by someone who is praying
 - Ram Ram = a chant
 - Christianity = a religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ
 - Alleluia or Hallelujah = In Christianity, translates to "praise the Lord"
 - Bhagavān is generally translated as Lord or God
 - Om Shanti means peace for humankind, other living beings, non-living beings, the universe, and every other manifestation of the cosmos.
6. Discussion Points:
 - Vandana Khanna describes her struggle with two cultures: the culture of her family and the American culture on names, appearance, and food. Write down her struggles.

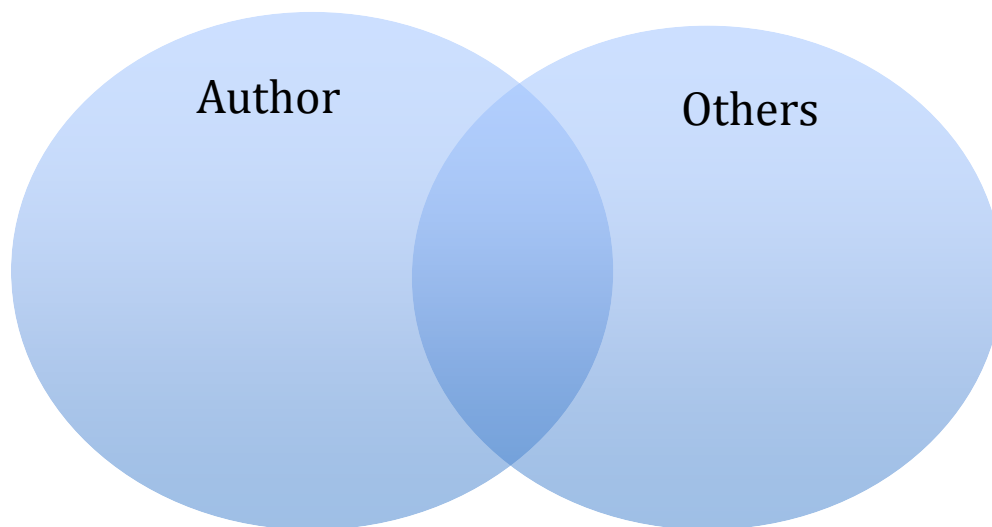
 - Discuss the cultural struggles you have.

Compare and Contrast Homework- AAPI Women Voices: Untold Stories Through Poetry

1. Read Vandana Khanna's biography in the "AAPI Women Voices" story.
2. Read the "Evening Prayer" poem. Highlight/annotate the lines that compare and contrast the author's experience with the experience of others.
3. Refer to points #4 and 6 in the previous page. Write down your own struggles which could be different kinds of struggles than what Vandana Khanna has.

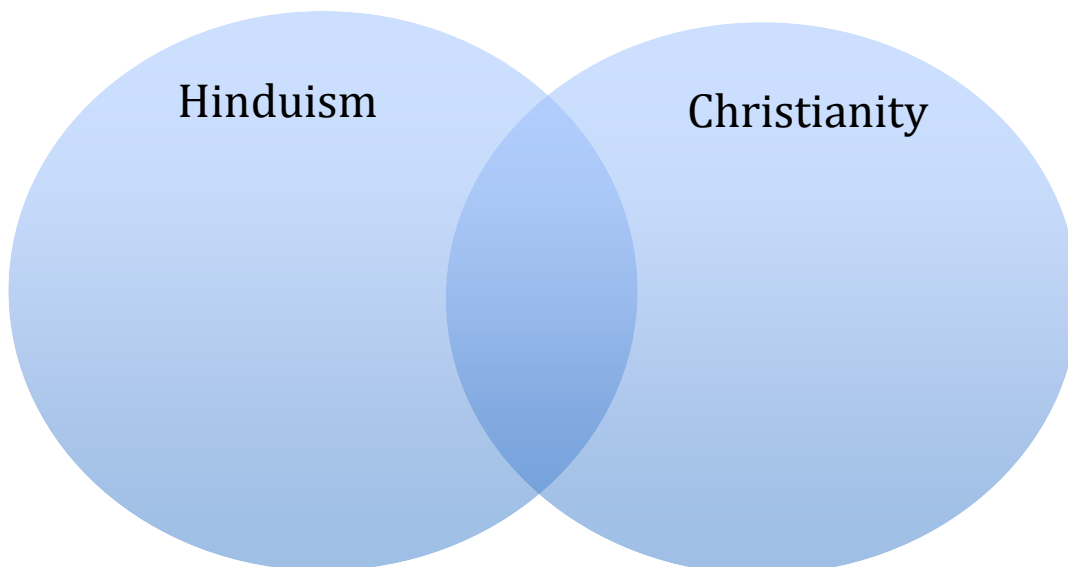
Compare and Contrast Homework 2 - AAPI Women Voices: Untold Stories Through Poetry

1. Read the “Blue Madonna” poem by Vandana Khanna.
2. Fill in Venn diagram below: In Vandana Khanna’s “Blue Madonna” and “Evening Prayer” she makes notices the differences between herself and the world around her on religions and cultures. Complete these two Venn diagrams after reading the poems to find what the two sets of categories have in common and how they are different. After filling out the Venn diagrams, complete the discussion questions on the next page and be ready to discuss them in class.



“Blue Madonna”

“I wondered why there were always holy men but so few holy women.”
“Half a world away, girls my age came as close to God as anyone could be”
“And all I could think about were those girls, widows at fifteen.
What did burning flowers smell like? Something terrible, something holy?”



Discussion Questions

1. What does this chart reveal about these religions – particularly, about the role of girls and women?
2. How does the experience of the author mirror or differ from yours? You may talk about religion, cultural, family, gender, immigration or any other topic.