

Educator Resource:

Character Map

One Crazy Summer: The Graphic Novel

Author: Rita Williams-Garcia

Illustrator: Sharee Miller

Developed by Keely Walsh, Olivia Stephens and Mallorie Solem for CU Boulder's Children Book Festival 2025, Open Education Resource, Creative Commons.
Available at coloradoedu.org/event/bookfest



Grade and Colorado Academic Standard

Content Area	Grade	Standard
Reading, Writing and Communicating	5th	#2: Reading for All Purposes
Grade Level Expectation	Apply strategies to interpret and analyze various types of literary texts.	
Evidence Outcome	Use Activity to... - Compare and contrast two or more characters' points of view, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (for example: how characters interact).	

- Colorado Academic Standard information retrieved from <https://www.cde.state.co.us/apps/standards>.
- View the full standards at <https://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/standards>

Activity Overview

Character Map:

In the Character Map activity, students will pick two main characters from "One Crazy Summer" that they will compare with 3-4 classmates. They will fill out the Character Map (one for each character) together to come up with different ideas and collaborate as a group about the differing points of view. This is beneficial for students to practice writing and communicating ideas to peers when comparing ideas and perspectives. For example, comparing Cecile and Delphine and their separate perspectives that evolve throughout the book. While comparing the different themes the characters face - including their goals, settings, problems, and more - they can also be creative using colors to color and draw little doodles, eventually sharing with other classmates.



Name _____

Character Connections _____

C.003

Title: _____ Author: _____

Character #1: _____ Character #2: _____

Unique Characteristics	Shared Characteristics	Unique Characteristics
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Activity adapted from "Florida Center for Reading Research"
Available via

https://fcrr.org/sites/g/files/upcbnu2836/files/media/PDFs/student_center_activities/45_narrative_text_structure/45_c002_character_connections.pdf



Materials for Activity

- Character Map Worksheet
- Pens, Pencils, Colored Pencils, Markers, Crayons
- *One Crazy Summer* book





Step-By-Step Directions



List of recommended characters:

Cecile and Big Ma

Fern and Crazy
Kelvin

Hirohito and
Delphine

Sister Mukumbu
and Delphine

- Instruct kids to make groups of 4 (5 at the most), and provide the character map comparison handout to each group.
- Provide a list on the board of each character pair that is available to do for the character map, and instruct one child from each group to "sign their group up" under one of the pairs. These are the characters they will research!
- Instruct the kids to work **as a group** to fill out the sheet for the characters they signed up for, and to **look through the book** to see how each of them think, feel, and act...and to create similarities between them.
- Wrap up by having kids share their worksheets with the class!

Suggestions



Another Character Map:

Character Map

Draw features on the figure to illustrate what the character looks like. Write words to describe aspects of the character as revealed in the text. Record the page number.

Title: _____

Author: _____ Illustrator: _____

Thoughts

Speech

Name

Body

Actions

- Students can compare the similarities and differences between each character in the book.
- If a group finishes early, they can compare the similarities and differences of the character and their own lives in their small groups.
- Assess if students used ideas and evidence from the book in their character map.
- If students prefer speaking/writing in a different language, allow and provide them that option.
- Allow students who need a alternative way to complete the assignment to draw or color the characters to show these characteristics
- An easy add on is doing a gallery walk after all the groups complete their character maps.
- Here is another character map option to pair up with our activity.

https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/ela/bank/RI_K12_Character_Map.pdf

The CU Boulder School of Education and Boulder Bookstore present the

2025 Children's Book Festival

Saturday, November 8 | Boulder Public Library



**SALINA
YOON**



**NYASHA
WILLIAMS**



**DENISE
VEGA**



**PAM
MUÑOZ RYAN**



**RITA
WILLIAMS-GARCIA**



**SHAREE
MILLER**



Join us on Saturday, November 8, 2025 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Boulder Public Library (Main Branch) - 1001 Arapahoe Ave.
Free parking available

This **free event** includes author talks, a panel for educators, book sales and signing, children's activities and more. Come for part of the event, or stay for the day!

Free educational resources available on our website. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) available for teachers and librarians.

The CU Children's Book Festival is supported by a grant from the CU Office for Public and Community Engaged Scholarship (PACES)

BOULDER
PUBLIC LIBRARY



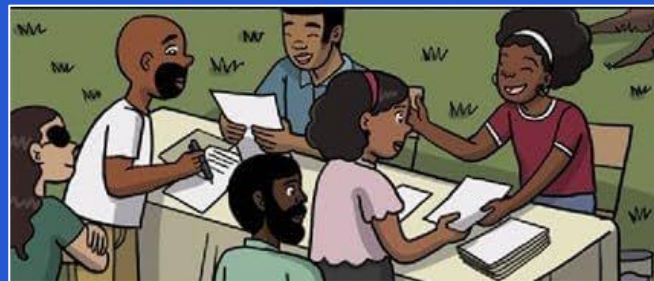
School of Education
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



Boulder
Bookstore



See the schedule & register:
[colorado.edu/event/bookfest](https://www.colorado.edu/event/bookfest)



We hope to see you there!

We also hope you can join us on Saturday, November 8 at the Boulder Public Library to meet Rita Williams-Garcia and Sharee Miller and hear more about *One Crazy Summer: The Graphic Novel* in-person...along with other authors and illustrators! For more information, visit

<https://www.colorado.edu/event/bookfest>