An **on target** comparison journal response includes:

Determining whether or not the characters, plots or texts display more similarities or differences. Use a Venn diagram, to find evidence of similarities and differences.

**Compare** = similarities = what do the characters, plots or texts have in common?

* The first sentence makes it clear you are **comparing** two characters, plots or texts. (informational-fiction-poems)
* The word **similar** is found in this sentence.
* The first sentence is indented
* Identify two ways in which the characters, plots or texts are similar with page numbers
* Transition words as needed
* Is written in complete sentences with correct capitalization and punctuation and right there spelling
* Has a wrap up sentence at the end
* Qualifiers may be needed to make your evidence stronger. Qualifiers helps someone who has not read the book to better understand your thinking.

In the book Front Desk, there are several **similarities** between Mia’s life and our own. Mia experiences racism for the first time when it is assumed that Hank stole a car out of the motel’s parking lot because of the color of his skin. Mia is mortified by the fact, and then Hank says, “I guess I’m just used to it. This kind of thing happens to me all the time.” He goes on to say, “it happens to all black people in this country. In some way or the other.” (pg. 100) Through our own conversations around this book and some of our class activities, we have also come to believe that racism is awful and something we do not feel it is okay in any situation. Secondly, we find Mia and our class feel strongly that acts of kindness go a long way. Mia and her family are kind to other immigrants. Mia writes letters to help improve their lives. One example of this is when Mia helps Uncle Zhang get his passport back. She writes a letter, impersonating a lawyer (pg. 205) and the employer ended up giving all of his employees their paperwork back. Like Mia, we value kindness. Each day we sing inspirational songs, read inspirational quotes and thank our classmates for their daily acts of kindness. All in all, we find that we share many similarities with Mia.

An **on target** contrasting journal response includes:

Determining whether or not the characters, plots or texts display more similarities or differences. Use a Venn diagram, to find evidence of similarities and differences.

**Contrast** = differences = how are the characters, plots or texts different from each other?

* The first sentence makes it clear you are **contrasting** two characters, plots or texts. (informational, fiction, poem)
* The word **different** is found in this sentence.
* The first sentence is indented
* Identify two ways in which the characters, plots texts are different with page numbers.
* Transition words as needed
* Is written in complete sentences with correct capitalization and punctuation and right there spelling
* Has a wrap up sentence at the end
* Qualifiers may be needed to make your evidence stronger. Qualifiers helps someone who has not read the book to better understand your thinking.

In the book Front Desk there are several **differences** between Mia’s life and our own. First, Mia is an immigrant who moved from China to the United States (pg.2). Her parents hoped the move would lead to a better life for their family. In contrast, most of our class has lived in the United States for our entire lives. Secondly, Mia lives in the Calivista Motel with her mom and dad. Her parents run the motel and clean the rooms while Mia runs the front desk for them (pg. 11). Each of us either live in a house or an apartment and while we may have chores at home, none of us have an actual job with the same kind of responsibility it takes to run the front desk of a motel. For the most part, we found that there were several differences between our lives and Mia’s.