

# Answer Key

## Transparency 12 Compare and Contrast

The chart below has been used to explore ideas about Emily Dickinson's "I Stepped from Plank to Plank" and Theodore Roethke's "Child on Top of a Greenhouse," which appear in the PE on pages 297 and 298.

**Title:** "I Stepped from Plank to Plank" by Emily Dickinson and "Child on Top of a Greenhouse" by Theodore Roethke

	Items Being Compared	
Characteristics	"I Stepped from Plank to Plank"	"Child on Top of a Greenhouse"
Setting	a pier, evening	the roof of a greenhouse, daytime
Subject	the experience of walking out on a pier	the experience of moving across the roof of a greenhouse
Mood	ominous; feeling of potential danger; thoughtful	feeling of excitement and fear

**Conclusion:** In both poems the speaker is in a dangerous and threatening situation, but in "Child on Top of a Greenhouse" the speaker is in more immediate danger. In "I Stepped from Plank to Plank," the mood is more contemplative, as the plank walk becomes a metaphor for the potential dangers and wonders of life.