

Breaking Down Barriers: From a psychoanalytic perspective, compare and contrast the ways in which two characters (or speakers) from different works overcome (or strive to overcome) an internal barrier such as trauma, grief, immaturity, or a suppressed or previously unrealized aspect of their identity. What roles do secondary characters, the setting, and/or social expectations play in the characters' journeys? Which conscious and/or unconscious decisions help and/or hinder the characters as they work toward a freer way of life? Which symbols reveal the characters' struggles, successes, and/or motivation to change?

Use characters from these reading materials (don't use all of them, just use a couple to compare)

- Simone St. Pierre Nelson's "Quarantine from the closet: A love story told through missed calls"
- Jules Chung's "The Hawk"
- Marta Balcewicz's "The Summer of BSSZ"
- Alison Wisdom's "The Mothers in the Woods"
- Winona León's "A Dog Is Not the Answer"
- Franny Choi's "Catastrophe Is Next to Godliness"
- Saeed Jones's "A Spell to Banish Grief"
- Kiley Reid's "Playing Kerri Strug"
- Delia Cai's "Big Fan"
- Lilliam Rivera's "Ghosted"
- Jemaine Clement's "Return of the Baron": What We Do in the Shadows
- Anita Felicelli's "The Encroachment of Waking Life"
- Naomi Shihab Nye's "Famous"
- Quinta Brunson's "Pilot": Harrity Elementary
- Trevor Wheeler's "Bring Your Lover to Work Day"
- Kate Baer's "Mixup"
- Franny Choi's "What a Cyborg Wants"
- Beyoncé Knowles's "Break My Soul"
- Gary Soto's "Self-Inquiry before the Job Interview"

Minimum Requirements Checklist

Be sure to follow all of these requirements for maximum success:

Submit a final draft of minimally 1800 words; your Works Cited page does not count toward the 1800-word minimum.

Include a properly constructed Works Cited page at the end of your essay (MLA 9th edition).

At least three additional scholarly sources.

Conform to MLA citation and formatting guidelines.

Have a clear, well-developed, thought-provoking thesis that you maintain and support consistently throughout the paper.

Offer your own original ideas; do not simply summarize.

Write in an appropriate, college-level tone (third person, no colloquial language, etcetera).

Utilize at least three scholarly sources to support your argument.

Provide textual evidence and direct examples from all of the texts you are analyzing.

Remember that these texts must all be listed on your Works Cited page and cited

parenthetically.

Clearly introduce and analyze all quoted or paraphrased material; show readers how your sources support and prove your points, so they do not have to forge connections.