*The Mark of Zorro*

Character Comparison--Chapters 1 & 2

Throughout *The Mark of Zorro*, McCulley uses the contrasting characters of Sergeant Gonzales and Don Diego to create a comic mood. In this assignment, you will explore the differences in their characters and explain their “peculiar friendship.”

You are to write two paragraphs in the following format:

Paragraph 1:

* State the title and author of the book and introduce the idea of the “peculiar friendship.”
* Describe the character of Sergeant Pedro Gonzales.

Paragraph 2:

* Begin with a topic sentence that transitions from Gonzales to Don Diego Vega.
* Describe the character of Don Diego.
* End with a concluding sentence or two that explains why these two men maintain a friendship despite their vastly different personalities. (What is their “agreement”?)

Focus: Throughout both paragraphs, remember . . .

* To transition between ideas.
* To use textual evidence to support your ideas (both quotes and explanations).
* To use precise adjectives (diction) to describe each character.
* To focus on the characters’ personalities, NOT their appearances.
* To blend and cite any quotes you use with a page number (minimum one quote per character).
* That a paragraph is 7-10 sentences.

Rubric: 10 points per paragraph. Final grade **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20.**

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|  | **0-1** | **2-3** | **4-5** |
| **Content** | Missing several requirements. Ideas are not clearly explained. Evidence is missing or inappropriate. | Includes *most* requirements and/or explains ideas *somewhat* effectively, but may be too general or need stronger evidence. | Includes and *effectively* explains *all* requirements with *strong*, appropriate evidence. |
| **Writing/Mechanics** | Many mechanical errors, missing or ineffective transitions and/or imprecise diction. | All mechanics correct, but needs improvement on transitions and/or diction. | All mechanics correct, strong transitions, precise diction. |