

Animal dreams character comparison essay



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In the book *Animal Dreams*, by Barbara Kingsolver Codi and Hallie are sisters who are very much alike physically. They differ greatly when it comes to personality. They both grew up with the same parent situation, raised the same, and yet they are two completely different people. Most of the similarities between them are physical, which is obvious because they are sisters. The way Codi and Hallie were raised, greatly affected who they became. What separated the two sisters is how each of them viewed their childhood, and how it built their character.

The biggest difference between Codi and Hallie is their personality. Codi says, " I am the sister who didn't go to war. I can only tell you my side of the story. Hallie is the one who went south, with her pickup truck and her crop-disease books and her heart dead set on a new world.

" (page 7). With this, the reader learns that Codi is more on the conservative side. She doesn't like taking big risk. Codi is not someone who would just take a leap of faith and go for it. Hallie however is the complete opposite. Hallie is a risk taker who lives off of adventure.

She is going to a 3rd world country to help people she doesn't know. Going to Nicaragua shows exactly what kind of person Hallie is. When growing up, Doc Homer wasn't the greatest father.

He loved his daughter to death, but didn't really show it because he was never there for them. This played a huge role on Codi and Hallie's adulthood. When Codi starts teaching she thinks to herself I had to keep remind myself:" None of them knows you as Doc Homer's misfit child" (page 81)

This hints at the kind of relationship Codi had with her father as a child. As an adult Codi feels that she needs a man in her life to satisfy her loneliness.

She looks to men to give her a sense of belonging, and help guide her through her life. The two characters in the book that play this role were Carlo and Loyd. Not having a father figure affected Hallie in a different way. She is very independent when it comes to having a man in her life. Although it is probable she will fall in love if she got the chance, she would never depend on a man. Hallie acts, thinks, and does whatever she pleases on her own terms and prefers it that way.

Although there are many differences between Codi and Hallie, there are similarities as well. Physically, they both are unusually tall for females. Both of them seem to be attractive, even though Hallie appears to be the more attractive of the two. Codi and Hallie were born in the same place. “ I was bound for Grace, Arizona, where Hallie and I were born and raised, and where our father still lived and was said to be losing his mind.

” (page 8) The final and most important similarity is the relationship with Doc Homer. Both of them had the same relationship, the difference was the way the two sisters saw it and carried it with them to their adult life. Codi and Hallie seem to have more differences than similarities. Most of their similarities come from them just being sisters. Similarities such as height and appearance.

Another one is being born in Grace. Barbara Kingsolver wanted the two to be different on purpose. She wanted the story to be told from Codi’s perspective because she is the more conservative one who tells how it is.

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The only exception of when she doesn't tell the events how they are is when she describes Doc Homer.

The reason for that is because they have a weak relationship.