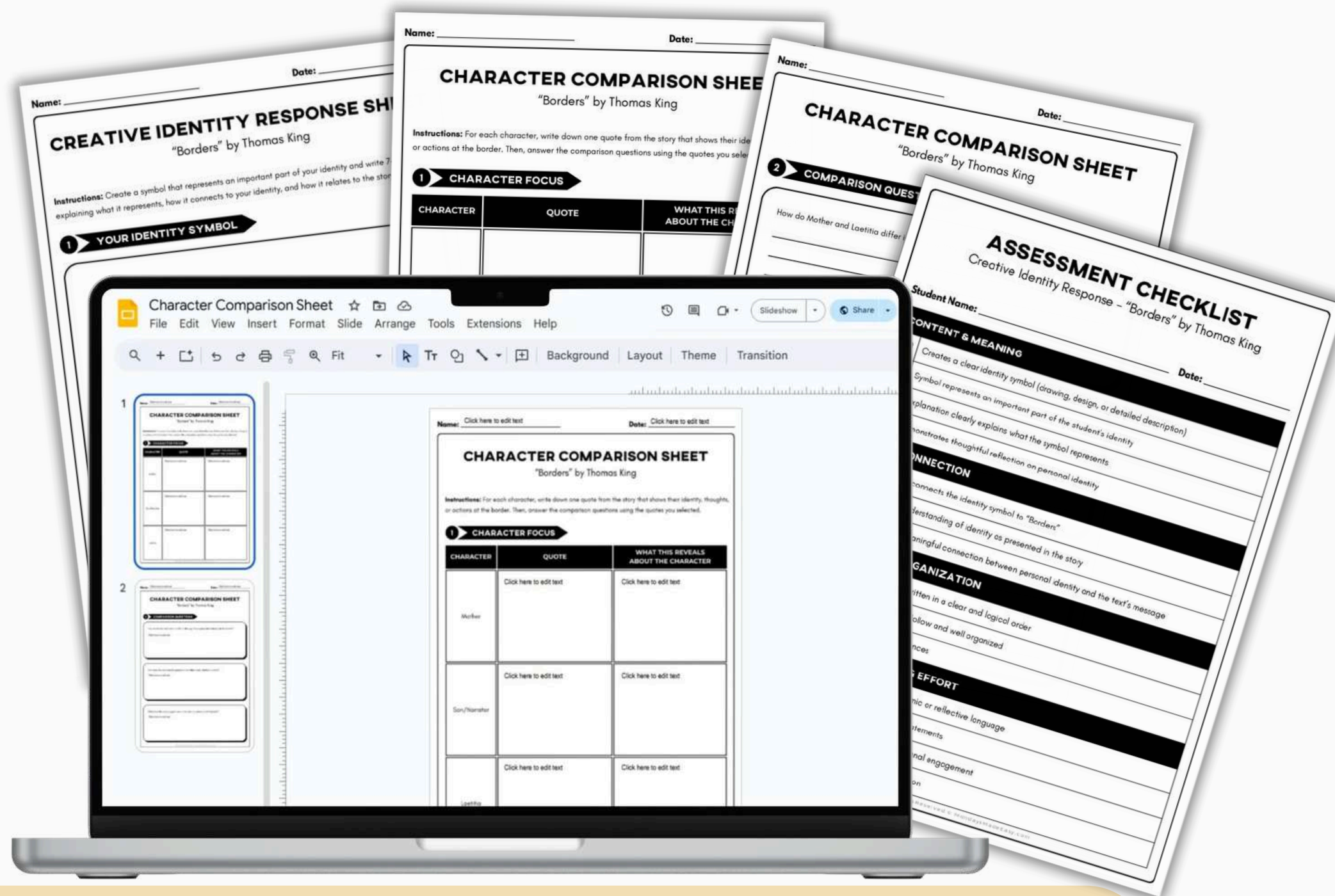


“Borders” Character Comparison & Identity Reflection Activity

Students will compare characters, reflect on personal identity, and create a symbolic visual to represent their reflections!



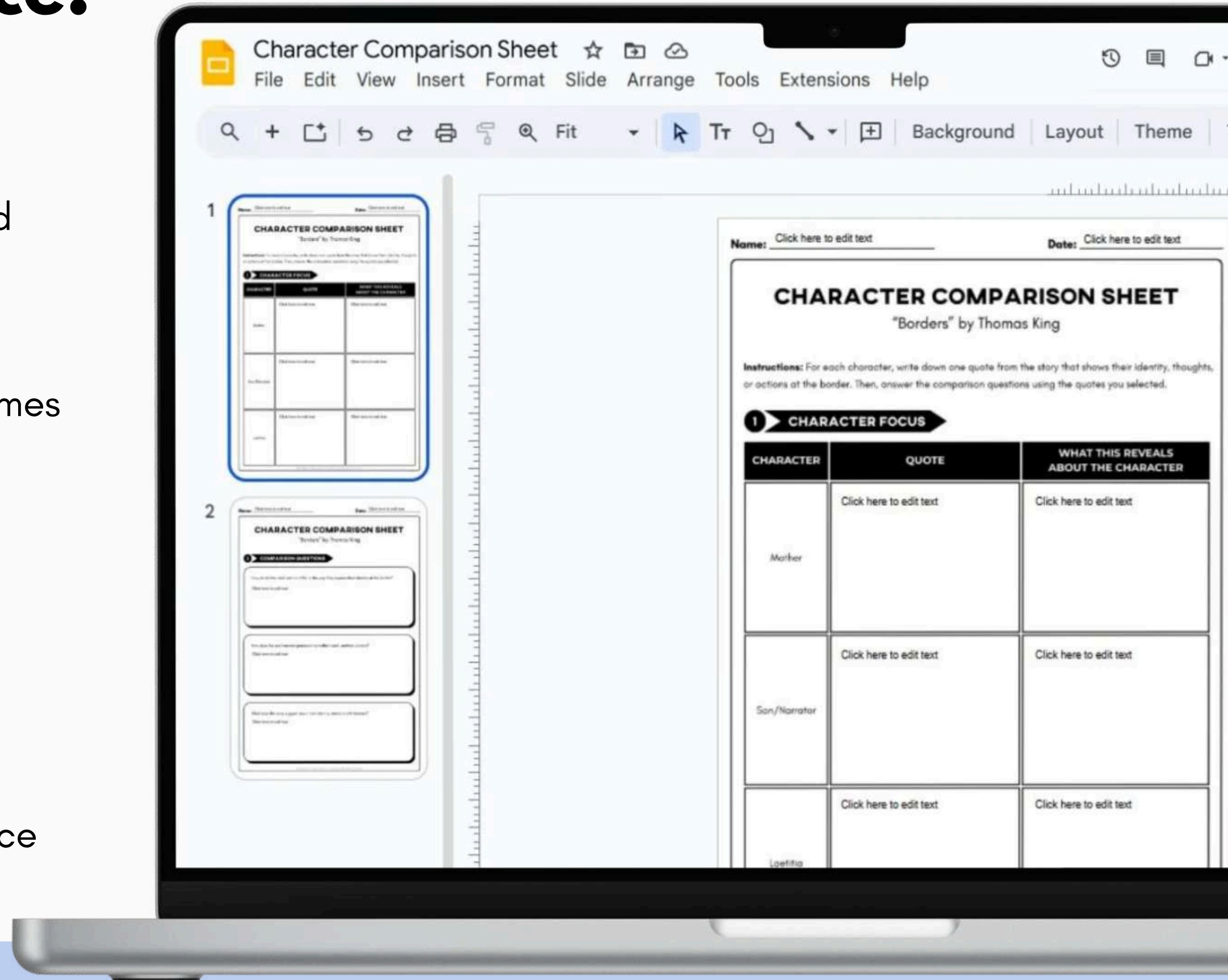
- **Analyze contrasting characters** with a guided organizer that helps students examine traits, motivations, and identity through clear textual evidence.
- **Encourage meaningful self-reflection** using structured journaling prompts that connect students' lived experiences to themes of culture and belonging.
- **Engage creative thinking** through a symbolic response task supported by assessment checklists and mentor examples for clear expectations.

Deepen your students' understanding of identity in “Borders”

PURCHASE HERE

Included with this resource:

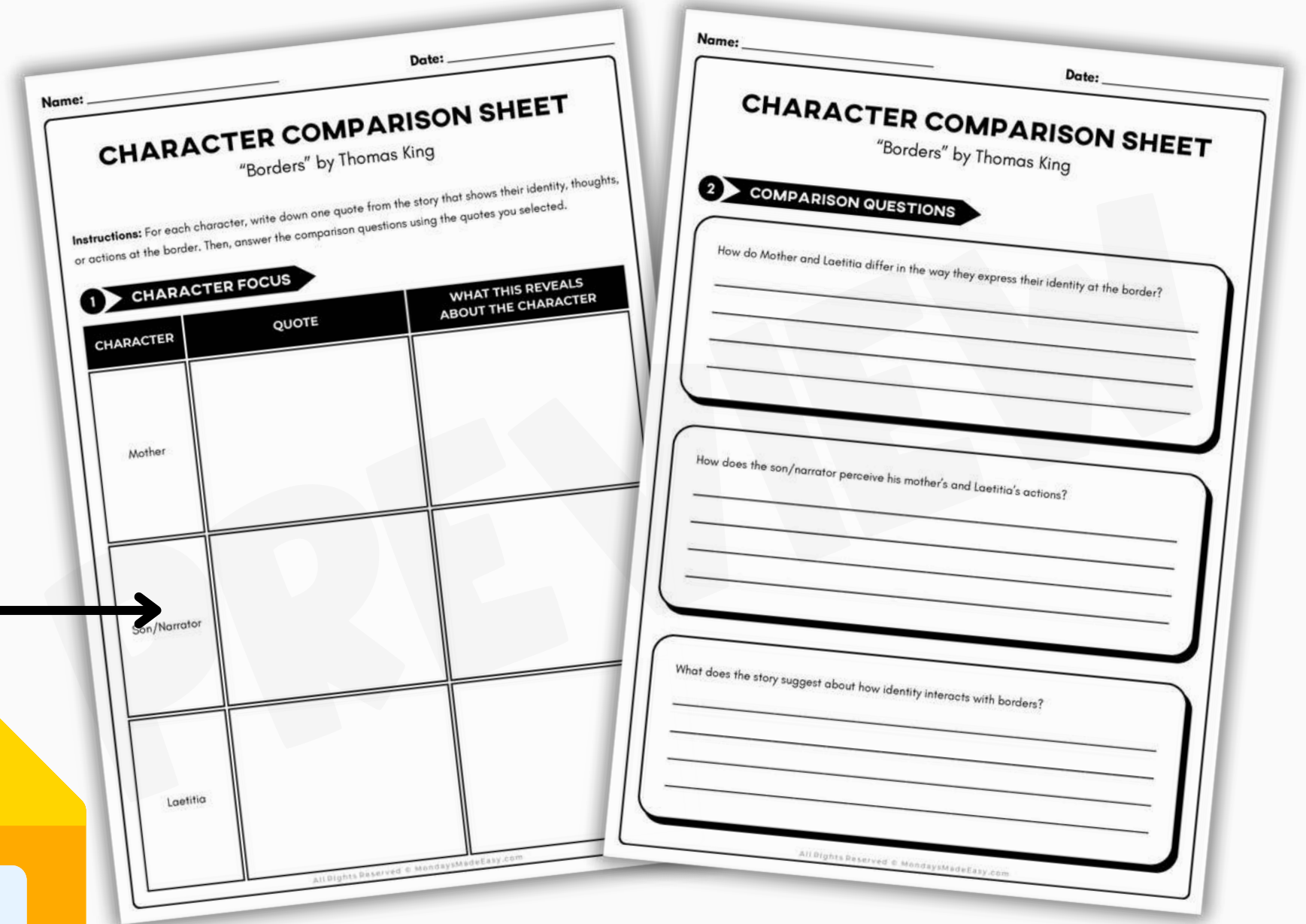
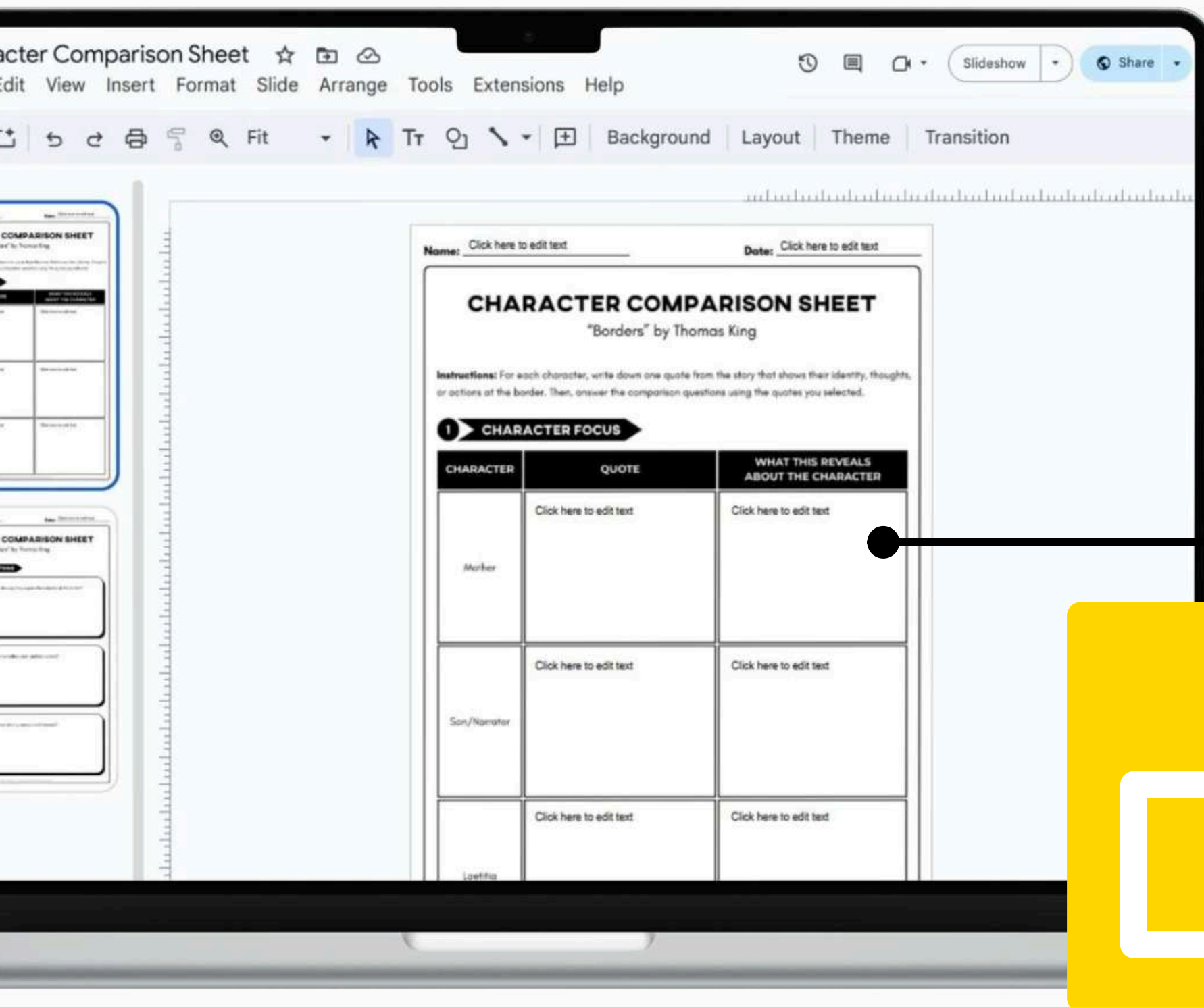
- ✓ **Character Comparison Graphic Organizer**
 - Help students analyze the contrasting traits, motivations, and identities of the mother and narrator in "Borders"
- ✓ **Text-to-Self Reflection Journal**
 - Connect their own experiences with the themes of the story
- ✓ **Creative Identity Response Worksheet**
- ✓ **Assessment Checklist**
- ✓ **Student Example** Mentor Texts
- ✓ **Teacher Instructions** for how to use this resource



Includes Digital Version for Google Drive®

Character Comparison Activity

Help students analyze the contrasting traits, motivations, and identities of the mother and narrator in "Borders"



Locate text evidence and examine how each character responds to the story's **central conflict**

Text-to-Self Reflection Journal

This journal invites students to explore their personal identities and consider how cultural, familial, or social influences shape who they are

Name: _____ Date: _____

TEXT-TO-SELF REFLECTION JOURNAL
"Borders" by Thomas King

3 What does the border in the story represent beyond geography?

4 How does the story challenge common ideas about nationality or identity?

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Name: _____ Date: _____

TEXT-TO-SELF REFLECTION JOURNAL
"Borders" by Thomas King

Instructions: Answer the prompts below and explain how the story connects to your own experiences, thoughts, or beliefs about identity.

1 Have you ever felt pressured to explain or defend who you are? How does this connect to the story?

2 Which character do you relate to more: the mother or the narrator? Why?

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Name: _____ Date: _____

TEXT-TO-SELF REFLECTION JOURNAL
"Borders" by Thomas King

5 Describe a moment when someone misunderstood your identity. How did it make you feel?

6 What message about self-respect or pride stands out most to you in the text?

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