

## The Silver Penny by Shelby A., seventh grade writer

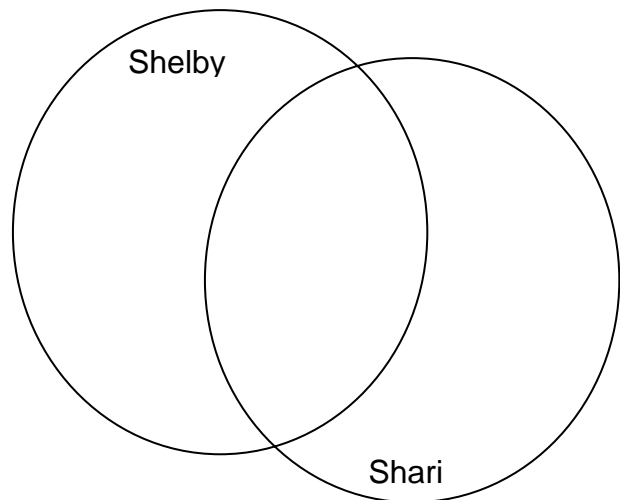


Karl was the kind of artist who never painted the ocean. He hated the water with a passion. He always got sick on a boat, and he almost drowned whenever he went swimming. So Karl was really nervous about going on the boat that took him--and his friend Joe--to Joe's studio. Like Karl Joe was an artist. The trip would take 3 or 4 days. The moment Karl's foot hit the dark, shiny wood of the ship's deck, Karl felt his stomach turn. He quickly ran to the rail and grasped it as if he were falling into a black hole. He saw something shiny out of the corner of his eye, and he jerked his head in that direction. His left hand let go of the rail and grabbed the coin. He gazed at it, completely forgetting where he was. Joe was calling to him, but Karl heard nothing. "Are you okay?" Joe asked putting his hand on Karl's shoulder. This startled Karl, and he dropped the coin. The coin, hitting the hard wood, made a small noise, like the sound of a pin dropping; then, it rolled over the edge of the boat. Karl panicked and threw himself into the ocean after it.

What's **idea development** in writing?

- Using strong setting details
- Using great character details
- Using memorable object details
- Using a unique approach when writing
- Knowing your topic

**Talk with a writing partner.** Compare and contrast the **idea development** techniques used by Shelby and Shari in their two different opening paragraphs. Use this Venn diagram to record your ideas about how Shelby and Shari used similar and different techniques.



## Alexander's Quest by Shari S., seventh grade writer

The sun beat down on Athens, having no change on the nothing new. Alexander Apolche, a poor boy, was at the market to buy some bread. Walking back along the crowded streets in the market, he headed home. He had long blonde hair, deep blue eyes, and a face that looked like the gods had made it. He was a very fast runner, but he had never left the city. He went back to his house that hadn't changed in Zeus knows how long. He lived on the outskirts of town and was just in time for dinner. They had the wine and bread he had just bought home a few hours ago. Alexander was an only child who lived with his father because his mother died in a fire a year ago. Alexander wanted to know what lay beyond the rivers and beyond the mountains. Soon his chance would come.

