

In *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, firemen are called twice to put out fires. In this activity, students will summarize the two events and then compare them using a T-Chart.

Instructions:

- Print out the two pages . A blackline and color version are provided.
- Have the students cut out the firetrucks being sure to keep the top tab.
- Staple the four firetruck shapes together on the top tab.
- Have students summarize the two fire events and then contrast them using the T-Chart.

Answer Key

Summarize the events of the first fire.

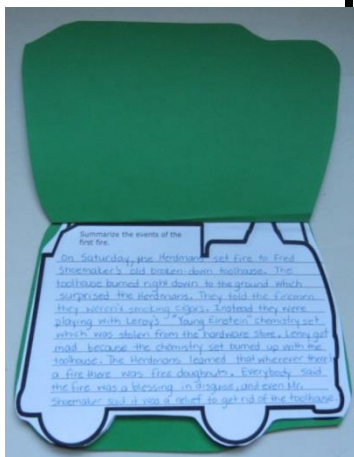
On Saturday, the Herdmans set fire to Fred Shoemaker’s old broken-down toolhouse. The toolhouse burned right down to the ground which surprised the Herdmans. They told the firemen they weren’t smoking cigars. Instead they were playing with Leroy’s “Young Einstein” chemistry set which was stolen from the hardware store. Leroy got mad because the chemistry set burned up with the toolhouse. The Herdmans learned that wherever there’s a fire there was free doughnuts. Everybody said the fire was a blessing in disguise, and even Mr. Shoemaker said it was a relief to get rid of the old toolhouse.

Summarize the events of the second fire.

Imogene was smoking cigars in the ladies room. Mrs. Homer McCarthy smelled the smoke and called the fire department. The firemen made everyone go outside of the church. The shepherds were climbing all over the fire truck. The Herdmans left because they didn’t want to get blamed for a fire. While everyone was outside, the pot-luck committee let their applesauce cake burn up. Church members were in an uproar over the incident.

Contrast the two fires. How are they different?

First Fire	Second Fire
The Herdmans set the fire.	There was no fire, only smoke.
The firemen came too late to save the toolhouse.	The firemen came; only they couldn’t find a fire.
The toolhouse burned completely down.	The applesauce cake burned.
The Herdmans stayed and ate the firemen’s doughnuts.	The Herdmans left because they didn’t want to be blamed for the fire.
The community was glad to get rid of the old toolhouse.	The church members were upset because they worried about what the Herdmans would do next.





Contrast the two fires. How are they different?

First Fire

Second Fire

