**Compare and Contrast – Sounder Characters**

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| The author has chosen not to name his human characters; instead, they are referred to by their position, such as Boy, Mother, Father, Son, Schoolteacher or Sheriff. The only character to bear a name is the family dog, Sounder.  |
| **Assignment**: Read the description of the characters from the book. After watching the movie, tell of the similarities and differences of the character from the book and the movie. Type your answers and save this document. |
| BOOK | MOVIE |
| **Boy** | **David Lee** |
| The protagonist of the novel is a sensitive child. He must endure loneliness, lack of education, poverty, and discrimination The boy is forced by circumstances to grow up quickly. When his father is taken away to jail, he must shoulder the responsibilities of his family. He is given hope towards the end of the novel by the schoolteacher.  |       |
| **Father** | **Nathan Lee** |
| The black sharecropper strives hard to earn a decent living for his family. Poverty compels him to steal. When he is caught, he is imprisoned. He returns at the close of the novel a changed man.  |       |
| **Sounder** | **Sounder** |
| Sounder is a ferocious coonhound dog, fiercely devoted to the black sharecropper and his family. The sheriff’s deputy shoots him when he is chasing the wagon that is carrying the father away to jail. He disappears in the woods to nurse his wounds and returns home in the middle of the novel; just like his master who comes home later, he is debilitated and maimed.  |       |
| **Mother** | **Rebecca Lee** |
| The mother is a kind, timid, and patient woman, who faces hardships stoically. Although not very strong, she fights in her own way for her family’s survival. She has a great deal of faith in God and teaches her children Bible stories.  |       |
| **Schoolteacher** | **Mrs. Camille Boatwright** |
| The teacher is a kind, learned soul who is moved by the boy’s plight and makes provisions for the boy to attend school. **He** is the agent of change in the boy’s life. |       |
| **Sheriff** | **Sheriff Young** |
| The sheriff is a jeering, ruthless, prejudiced white officer, who is corrupted by power. When he arrests Father, he treats him badly. |       |