



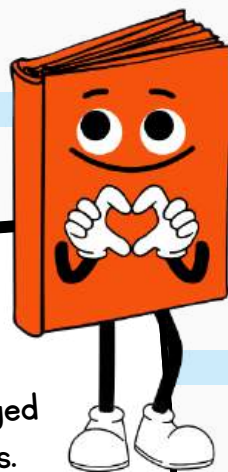
Word Nerd
Collaborative

NOVEMBER

POWER PLAYBOOK

2025

GRATITUDE IN THE MARGINS



Confession: I am a terrible library patron. It's not because I don't believe libraries are amazing spaces (they are!) or that they don't offer a wealth of resources to the world (they absolutely do). But, personally—and yes, I know this is a privileged stance—I just don't like anyone else being the boss of my books.

I want to read them when I want to read them. I don't want a deadline. I want to lend them to friends, read them fearlessly in the bathtub, underline the lines that make me marvel at the author's talent, and scribble little thoughts in the margins. I'm incredibly grateful that I get to do that—that I have the income to buy books, the space to collect them, and the freedom to make them mine.

As we head into November, gratitude is naturally on the radar. But while big, grand gestures often get the spotlight, I believe it's the tiny scribbles—the little moments we underline in our day—that carry the most weight. Gratitude doesn't have to be loud or polished. It can be quiet. Subtle. Personal. Gratitude in the margins.

If you're feeling a little too tired or stretched thin to find those moments right now, that's okay. You're not alone. But here's a small way to help you start noticing them again: try finishing these gratitude "Mad Lib" prompts below.

Gratitude Mad Libs - Try Filling These In:

I'm grateful I laughed at _____ today.

I'm grateful I had a moment of peace when _____

I'm grateful a student surprised me by _____

I'm grateful I didn't have to _____

I'm grateful I remembered _____ just in time.

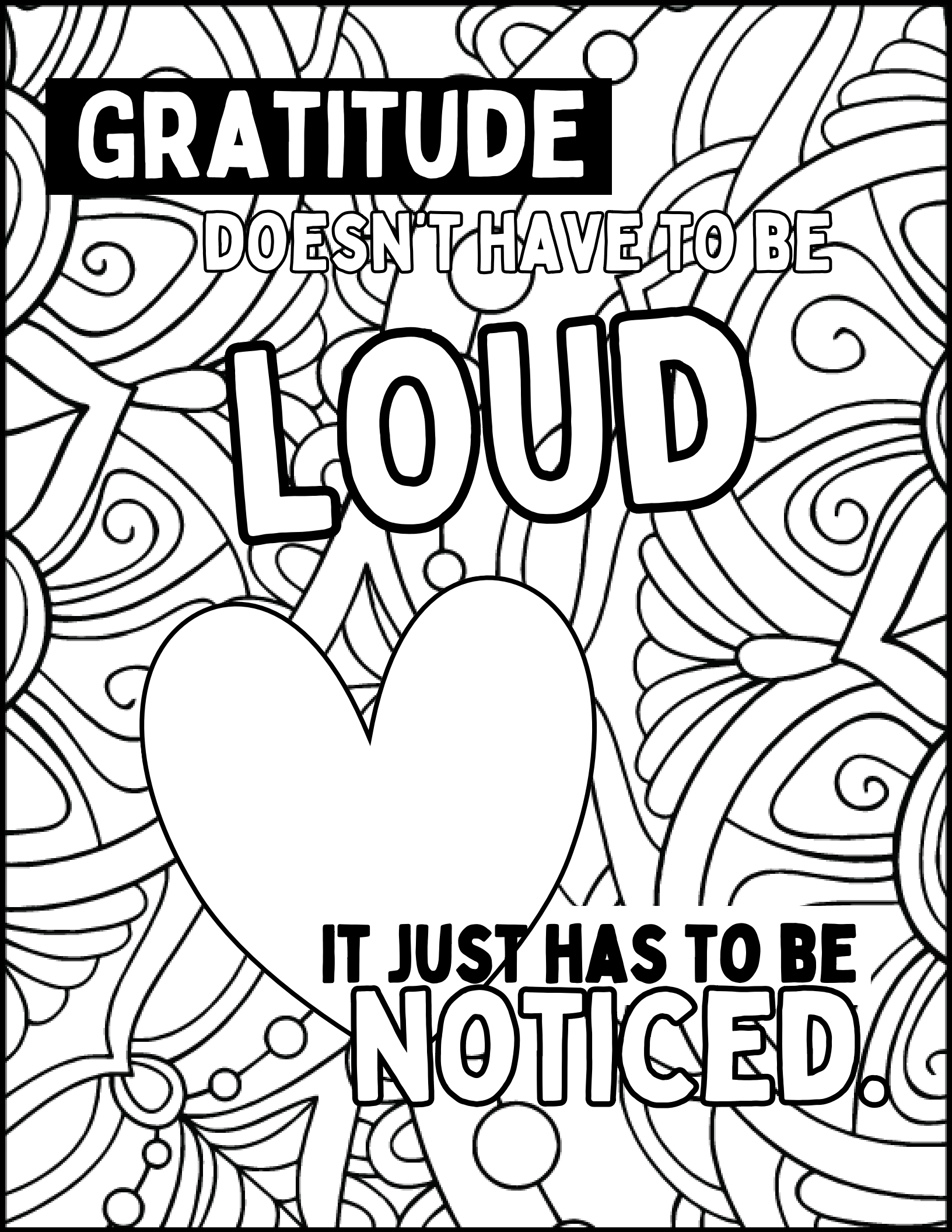
I'm grateful someone said _____ to me today.

I'm grateful I gave myself permission to _____

Once you start filling in a few, you'll notice even more showing up. That's the magic of gratitude—it multiplies when we name it. Keep your eyes peeled, teacher friend. You're surrounded by good things—even if they're scribbled in the margins.

— AMANDA





GRATITUDE

DOESN'T HAVE TO BE

LOUD

**IT JUST HAS TO BE
NOTICED.**

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EDITABLE
CANVA FILE



OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT

December Monthly Planning Session Zoom Link (Nov. 16)
LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82003624150> (8pm CST)

November Lunch Bunch Zoom Link (Nov. 21)
LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84702864396>

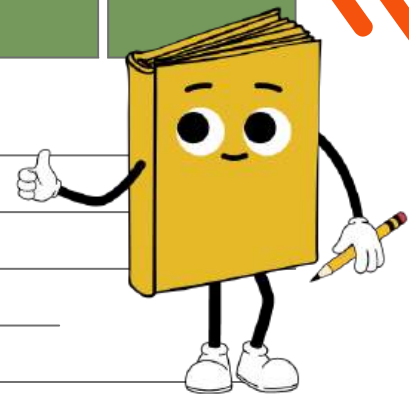
Word Nerd Collaborative Private Facebook Group
LINK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/427913560232081>



November 2025

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wednes.	Thurs.	Friday	Satur.
2	3	4	5	6	7	1/8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 December Planning Zoom 2 pm CST	17	18	19	20	21 Author Lunch Bunch	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Notes:





FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAYS

Friday, August 1st

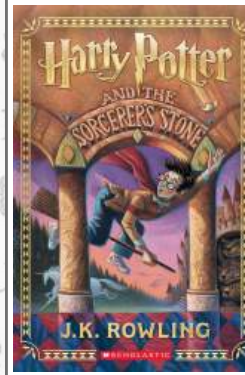


A Rover's Story
by Jasmine
Warga

Science
Fiction/Prose

Includes Author
Interview!

Friday, August 8th

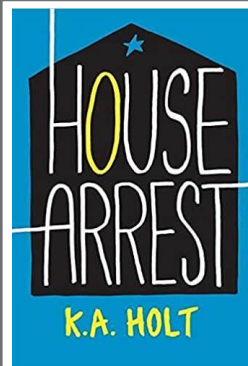


Harry Potter and
the Sorcerer's
Stone

by J.K. Rowling

Fantasy/Prose

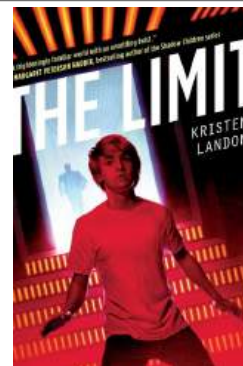
Friday, August 15th



House Arrest
by K.A. Holt

Realistic
Fiction/Novel in
Verse

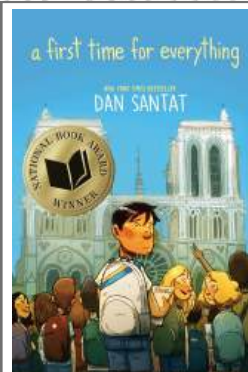
Friday, August 22nd



The Limit
by Kristen
Landon

Dystopian
Thriller/Prose

Friday, August 29th



A First Time for
Everything
by Dan Santat

Travel Memoir/
Graphic Novel

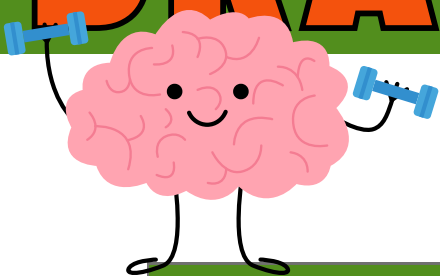
Lunch Bunch Attendees

Jasmine Warga

and

??????

BRAIN BREAKS



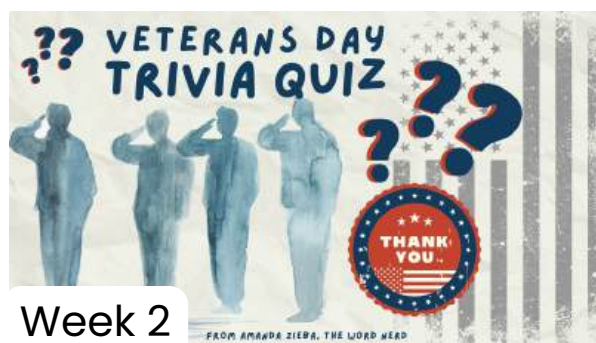
Help your students reset their brains and moods with a little break. Try a fun trivia game! Totally optional, but you can use the LEADERBOARD on page 18 to keep track of student teams and scores throughout the month.

Would You Rather...?



Week 1

Veteran's Day Trivia



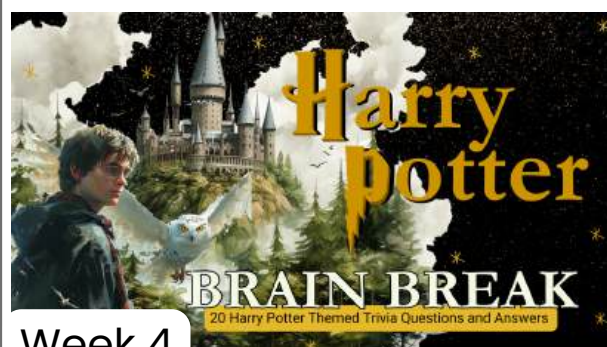
Week 2

Picture Detective (Rd. 2)



Week 3

Harry Potter Trivia



Week 4

Thanksgiving Trivia



Did you know?

"Brain breaks benefit not only students but teachers, too. They help improve the pacing of your lesson while keeping you and your students refreshed, focused, and engaged."

-- [Reading Rockets](#)
[Website](#)



Writing Prompts

Week 1

Monday

Who Would You Pick?

Tuesday

What Would This Robot Do?

Wednesday

Word Choice Word Play

Thursday

Majestic Mutations

Friday

Free Write Friday

Week 2

Monday

An Ocean Sized Forest

Tuesday

Why Do You Shine?

Wednesday

Lost at the Museum

Thursday

Talking with Gramps

Friday

Free Write Friday

Week 3

Monday

A New Discovery

Tuesday

Big Things Start Small...

Wednesday

Family Celebrations

Thursday

Came From Nowhere

Friday

Free Write Friday

Week 4

Monday

Fortune Cookie

Tuesday

Three Things Happened...

Wednesday

Perfect Day

Thursday

Searching for More

Friday

October

You can
project the
prompt using
these SLIDES!





AUGUST 2025

LESSONS

1 THEME LESSON

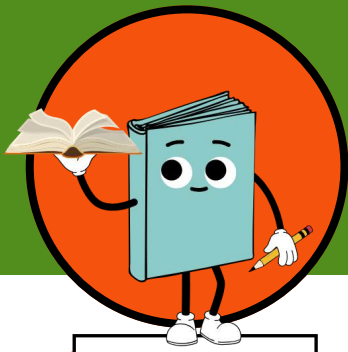
Theme can be a hard lesson to teach, in part because it feels (especially to a middle schooler) so abstract. This lesson is my attempt to make this story element more concrete (and hopefully engaging and fun). BONUS! The literary and film examples come with video links to first chapter read alouds and YouTube short films so students can see, analyze, and understand the theme in each sample.

STANDARDS: CCSS: RL.6.2, RA.R.2, RA.R.9

2 PAGE VS. SCREEN LESSON

There are all sorts of ways to tell a story and all sorts of things we can learn about storytelling by experiencing different versions. This resource will help you and students deconstruct and compare different versions of a story, specifically, books and movies. The goal is to better understand how a story is made and how story elements impact a reader, all while focusing on my favorite part of stories... enjoying them!

STANDARDS: CCSS: RL.6.5, RL.6.7, RL.6.9



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

10

AUGUST 2025

1 PLAY DOH COMPREHENSION STRATEGY

Improve your students' reading comprehension with this fun strategy! In this video, I will teach you how to engage your students by letting them play with play dough while you read aloud - yep, you read that right. You can use this strategy with fiction or nonfiction text, and with students of all ages. After this quick 8 minute tutorial video, you'll be ready to bring a whole new level of understanding (and fun!) to your reading lesson.

2 BOOKS AND MOVIES VIDEOS/PLAYLIST

There are all sorts of ways to tell a story and all sorts of things we can learn about storytelling by experiencing different versions. Sometimes a book leads us to a movie and sometimes a movie leads us to a book. Use this playlist and highlight video to help connect your students to some stories that take on multiple forms.

3 WRITING ADVICE + MINI LESSON VIDEOS

Working on your CCSS Language standards? Want some advice from big name authors on where to find ideas? Not sure how to get your reluctant writers going? The three videos in this writing advice collection are going to help you out with all three of those situations and perhaps even inspire you to pick up a pen and get writing! It is NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) after all!

www.wordnerdcollaborative.com



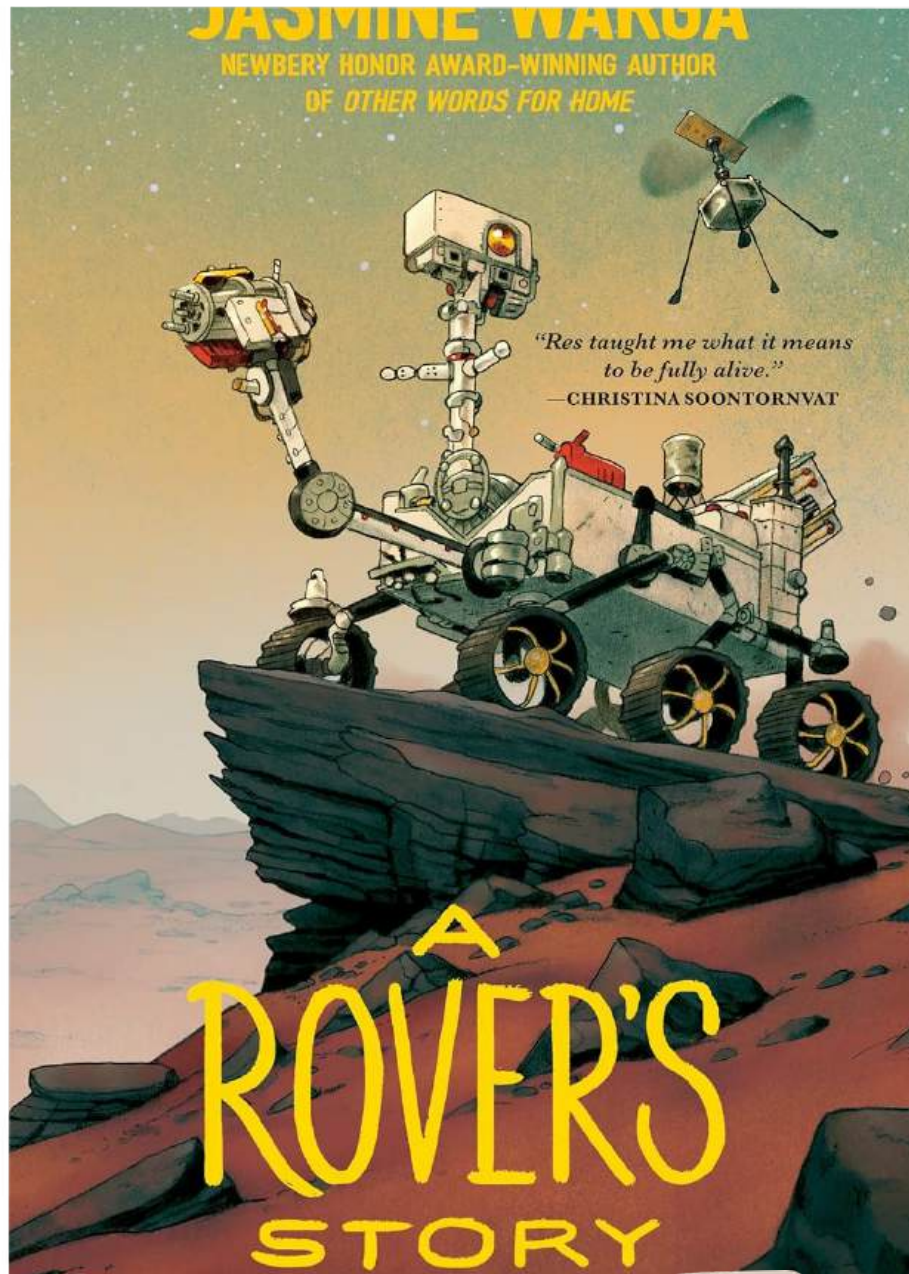


November 2025

FAST CHAPTER FRIDAY SELECTIONS

A ROVER'S STORY

by Jasmine Warga



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY



Name _____

Date _____

A Rover's Story

by Jasmine Warga



Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

Meet Resilience, a Mars rover determined to live up to his name. Res was built to explore Mars. He was not built to have human emotions. But as he learns new things from the NASA scientists who assemble him, he begins to develop humanlike feelings. Maybe there's a problem with his programming.... Human emotions or not, launch day comes, and Res blasts off to Mars, accompanied by a friendly drone helicopter named Fly. But Res quickly discovers that Mars is a dangerous place filled with dust storms and giant cliffs. As he navigates Mars's difficult landscape, Res is tested in ways that go beyond space exploration. As millions of people back on Earth follow his progress, will Res have the determination, courage, and resilience to succeed... and survive?

The One and Only Ivan meets The Wild Robot in this unique and deeply moving middle grade novel about the journey of a fictional Mars rover, from the Newbery Honor-winning author of Other Words for Home, New York Times bestseller!

A Best Book of the Year from The Washington Post and Publishers Weekly

Who Wrote It?

I was born on April 24, 1988 at 11:59 PM in Cincinnati, Ohio. This means that I am a Taurus if you are into astrology and star stuff, which I most definitely am. Also, like all other people from Cincinnati, I am inordinately proud of my little Midwestern city and think that Graeter's black raspberry chip ice cream is the most delicious food in the whole world. (I'm really into a baby hippo named Fiona, too. She makes her home at the Cincinnati Zoo.) I loved to read. I also loved to tell stories. I come from a long-line of storytellers. I only met my paternal grandmother twice—she lived in Jordan—but one of my most distinct childhood



memories is of her telling me a story about the mermaids that live in the Dead Sea. That story has stayed with me for years. Stories are the way I make sense of our messy and complicated world.

AR Reading Level: 4.1

Lexile Level: currently unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO



WHAT I THINK

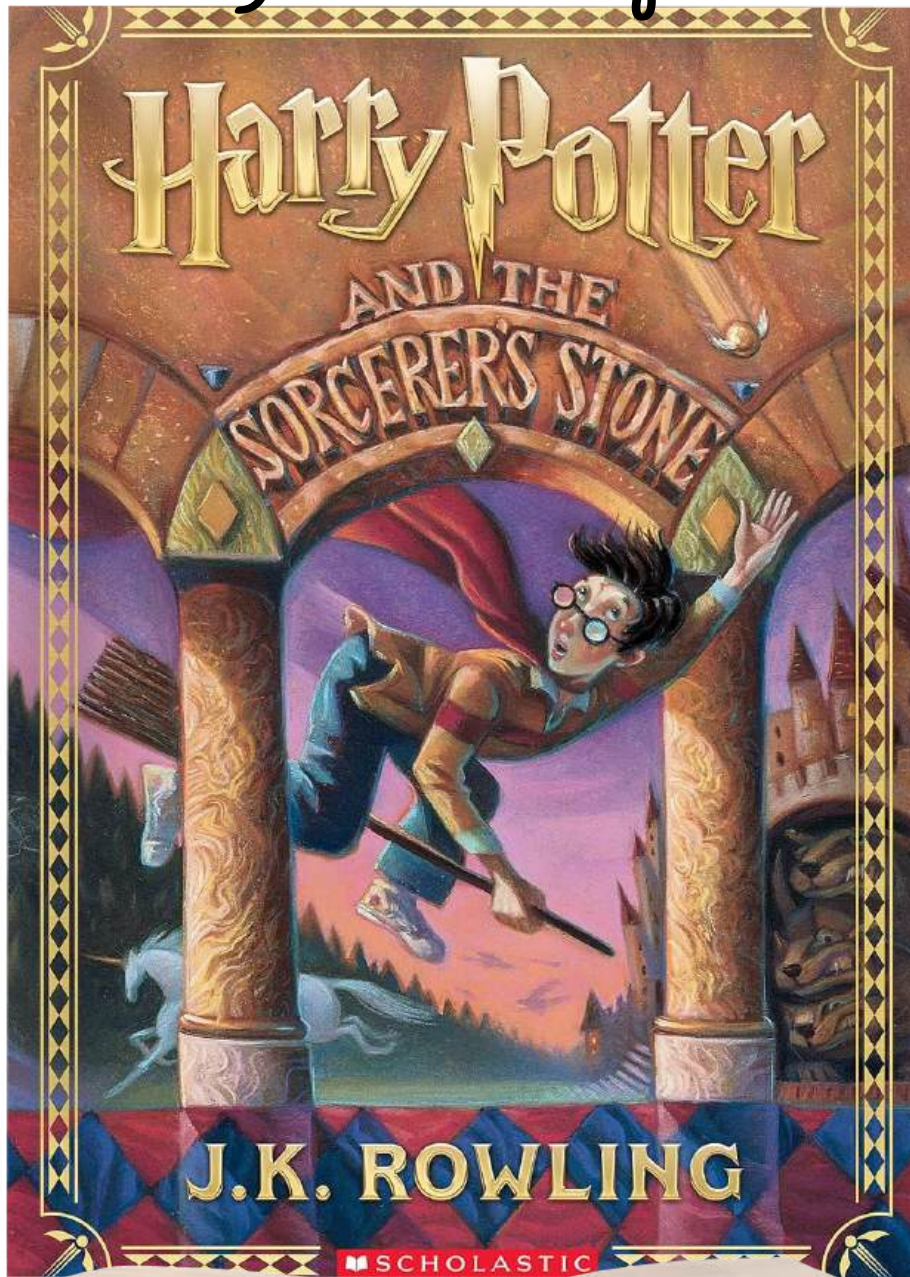




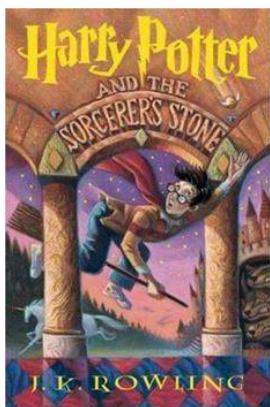
Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE

by J.K. Rowling



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY



Name _____

Date _____

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

by J.K. Rowling

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.



Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

Harry Potter has never been the star of a Quidditch team, scoring points while riding a broom far above the ground. He knows no spells, has never helped to hatch a dragon, and has never worn a cloak of invisibility. All he knows is a miserable life with the Dursleys, his horrible aunt and uncle, and their abominable son, Dudley - a great big swollen spoiled bully. Harry's room is a tiny closet at the foot of the stairs, and he hasn't had a birthday party in eleven years. But all that is about to change when a mysterious letter arrives by owl messenger: a letter with an invitation to an incredible place that Harry - and anyone who reads about him - will find unforgettable.

- This is the first book in the Harry Potter series.
- In England, where the book was first published, the book is called Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.

Who Wrote It?

Joanne Rowling was born on 31st July 1965 in England. The young Jo grew up surrounded by books. 'I lived for books,' she has said. 'I was your basic common-or-garden bookworm, complete with freckles and glasses.' Jo wanted to be a writer from an early age. She wrote her first book at the age of six - a story about a rabbit, called 'Rabbit'. At just eleven, she wrote her first novel - about seven cursed diamonds and the people who owned them. J.K. first had the idea for



Harry Potter while riding on a train. It took her five years to write the first book. She was also a teacher at that time!

AR Reading Level: 5.5

Lexile Level: 880L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

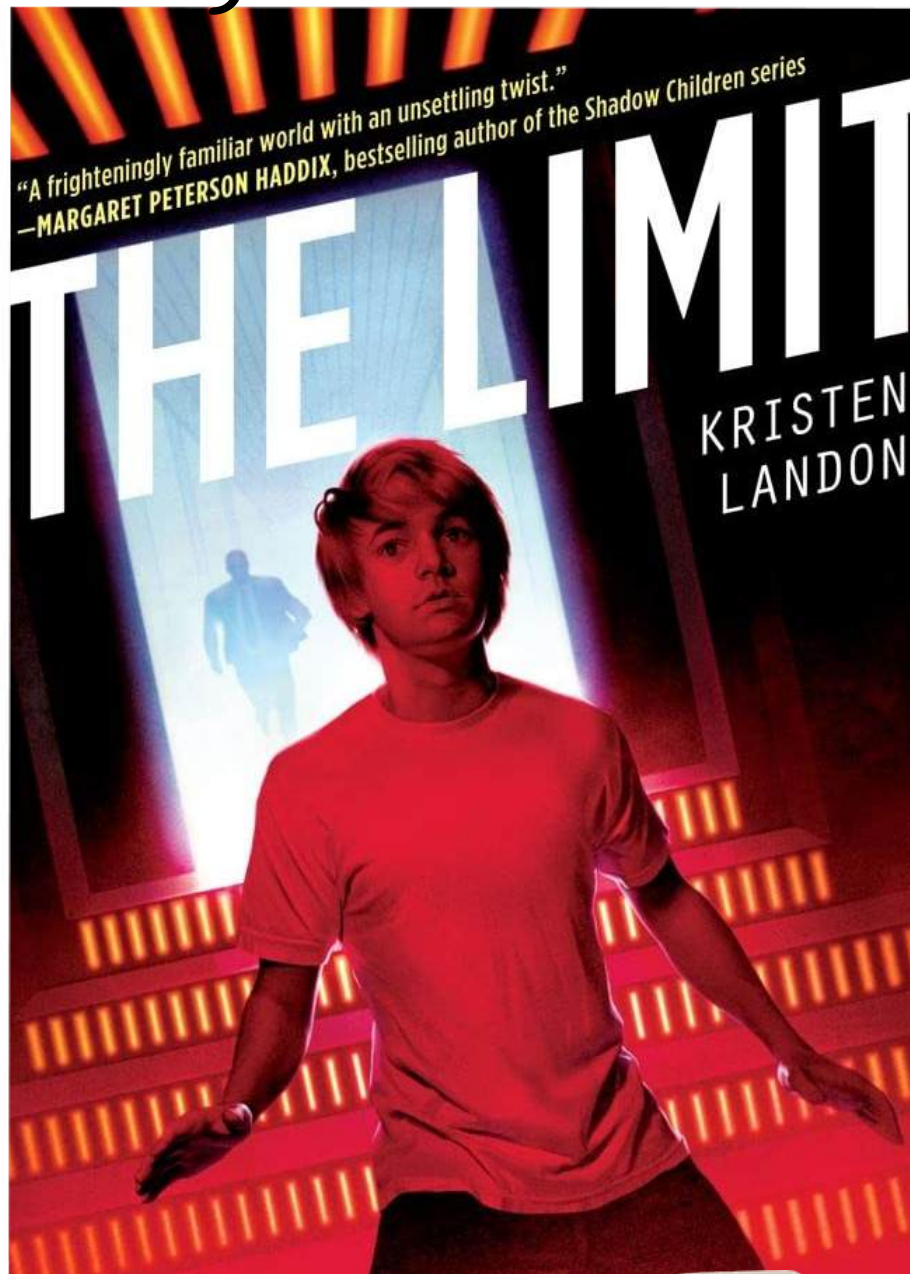
☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

THE LIMIT

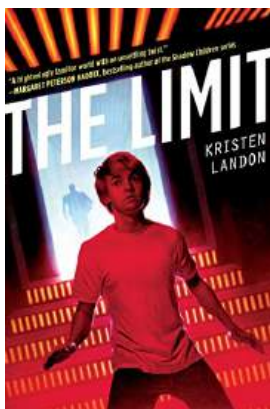
by Kristen Landon



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



The Limit

by Kristen Landon



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

An eighth grade girl was taken today. With this first sentence, readers are immediately thrust into a fast-paced thriller that doesn't let up for a moment. In a world not too far removed from our own, kids are being taken away to special workhouses if their families exceed the debt limit imposed by the government. Thirteen-year-old Matt briefly wonders if he might be next, but quickly dismisses the thought. After all, his parents are financially responsible, unlike the parents of those other kids. As long as his parents remain within their limit, the government will be satisfied and leave them alone. But all it takes is one fatal visit to the store to push Matt's family over their limit—and to change his reality forever.

- 2012 Utah Book Award Finalist
- 2012-2013 Georgia Children's Book Award Nominee
- 2012-2013 Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award Program Nominee
- 2013 Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Nominee

Who Wrote It?

I was born in Midland, Michigan . . . quite a few years ago. The majority of my growing up years were spent in Utah. As an adult I lived in Midland, Michigan for twelve years. A career change brought my family back to Utah. Hmm. Do you see a pattern forming here? In school I played on the basketball team for one year, but mostly I was a band nerd. I've never had an easy time falling asleep at night. From a very young age, I began to make up stories in my head to tell myself until I dozed off. The stories would be so great, though, that I'd want to stay awake to find out how they ended! I have a wonderful husband and four great kids. We like to hike and kayak and go on walks.



AR Reading Level: 4.4

Lexile Level: 690L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

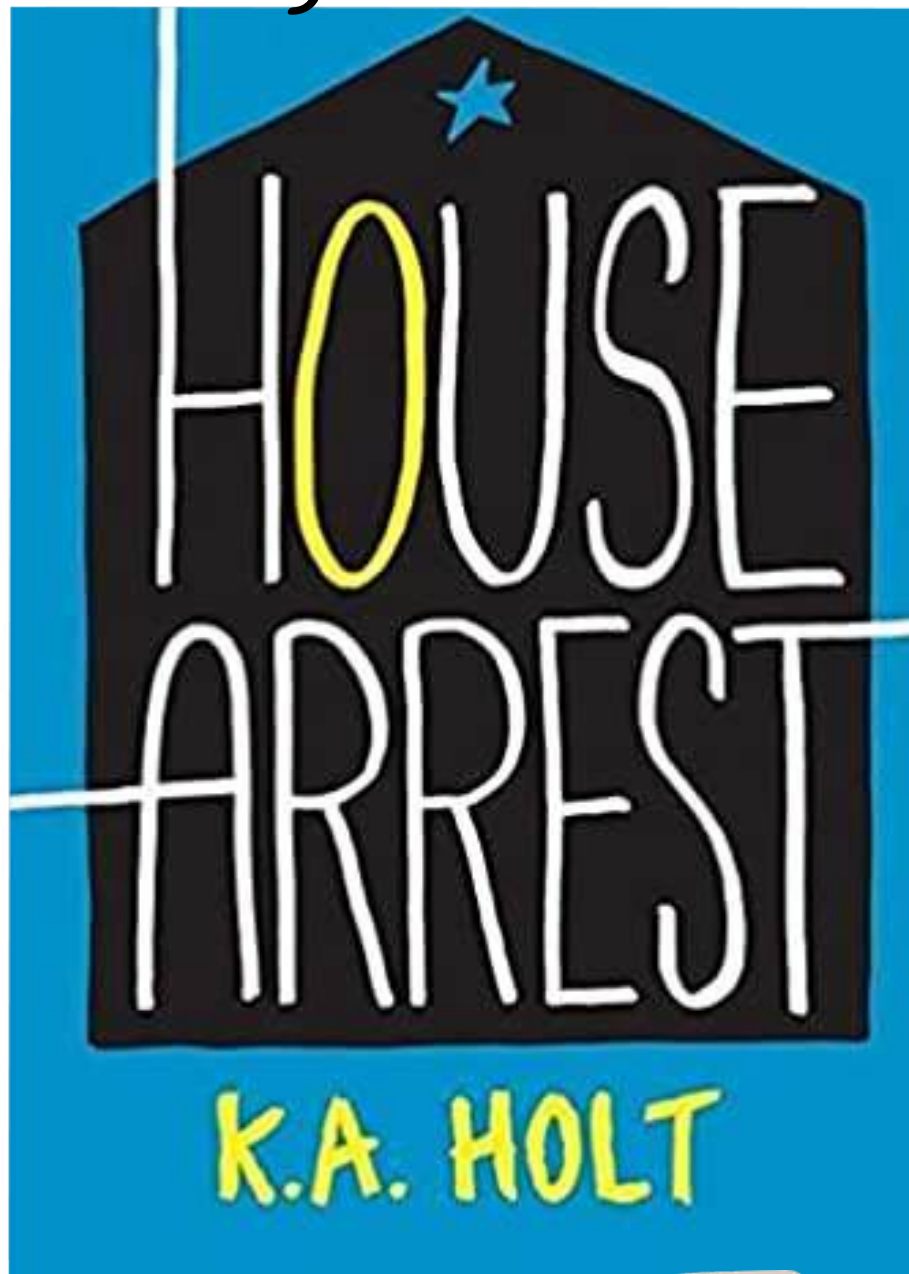
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

HOUSE ARREST

by K.A. Holt



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



House Arrest

by K.A. Holt



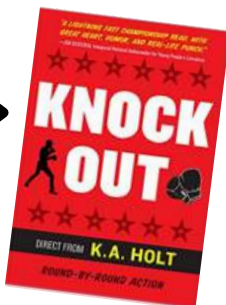
Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Timothy is a good kid who did a bad thing. Now he's under house arrest for a whole year. He has to check in weekly with a probation officer and a therapist, keep a journal, and stay out of trouble. But when he must take drastic measures to help his struggling family, staying out of trouble proves more difficult than Timothy ever thought it would be.

- A Novel in Verse
- This book has a sequel: Knock Out
- 800+ 5 star reviews on Amazon



Who Wrote It?

FIVE FAST FACTS ABOUT KA HOLT

1. Kari Anne was born in Atlanta, Georgia on September 10th, 19somethingsomething.
2. When she was 13, Kari Anne accidentally stomped through a gerbil cage, resulting in five stitches on her calf. You can still see the zigzag scar.
3. When she was young, her favorite author was Paula Danziger, followed closely by Lois Lowry.
4. Kari Anne's favorite food is almost always a taco, but there are times when a cheeseburger wins.
5. She has synesthesia, which means she



sees letters and numbers as colors, and she sometimes mixes up other senses, too. (Examples: the letter C is orange, the number one is icy white) You can learn more about KA on her website or YouTube Channel www.kaholt.com.

AR Reading Level: 4.0

Lexile Level: 610L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

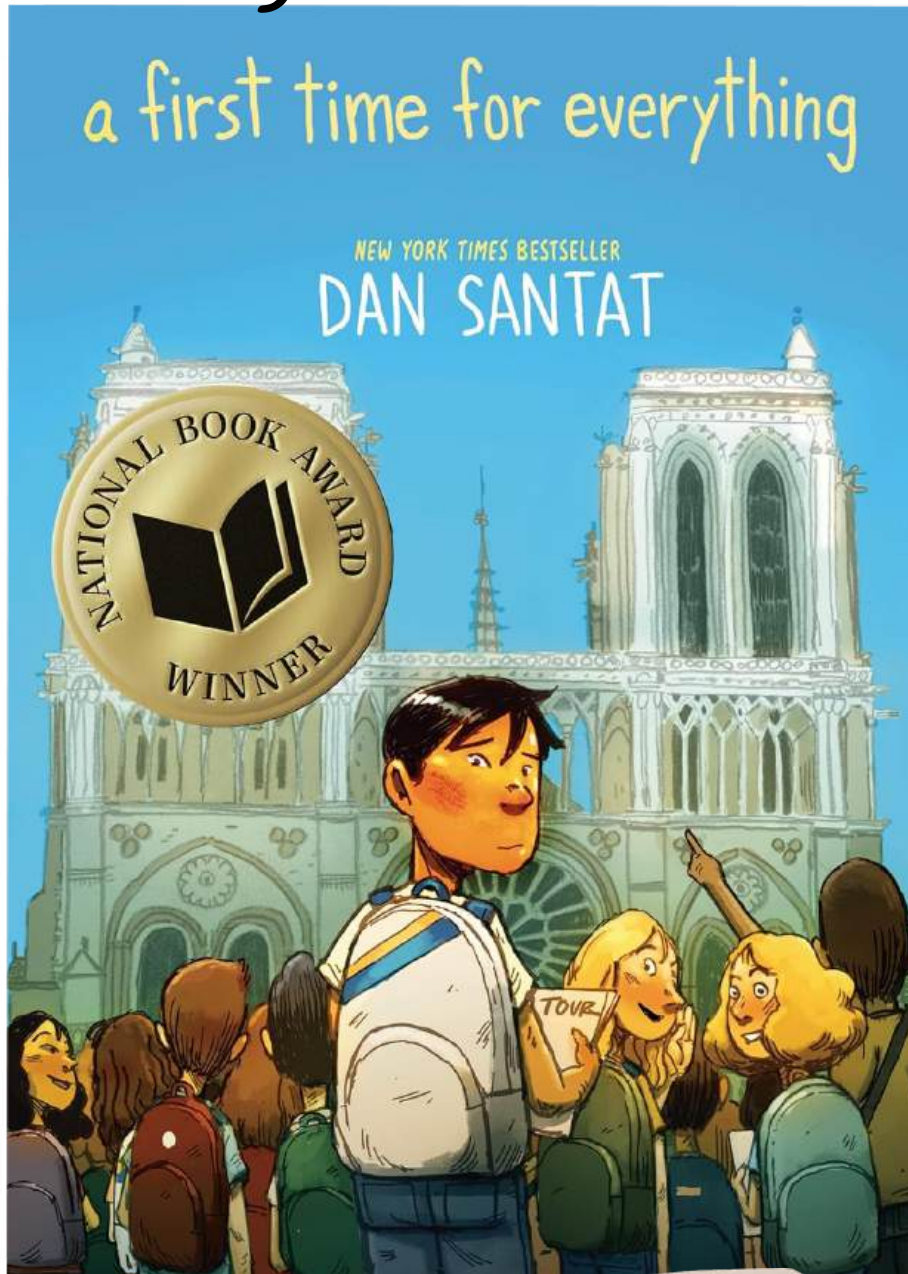
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING

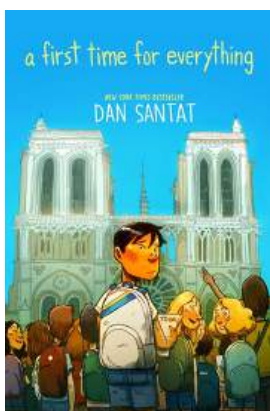
by Dan Santat



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



A First Time for Everything

by Dan Santat

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.



Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

Dan's always been a good kid. The kind of kid who listens to his teachers, helps his mom with grocery shopping, and stays out of trouble. But being a good kid doesn't stop him from being bullied and feeling like he's invisible, which is why Dan has low expectations when his parents send him on a class trip to Europe.

At first, he's right. He's stuck with the same girls from his middle school who love to make fun of him, and he doesn't know why his teacher insisted he come on this trip. But as he travels through France, Germany, Switzerland, and England, a series of first experiences begin to change him—first Fanta, first fondue, first time stealing a bike from German punk rockers... and first love.

Funny, heartwarming, and poignant, *A First Time for Everything* is a feel-good coming-of-age memoir based on New York Times bestselling author and Caldecott Medal winner Dan Santat's awkward middle school years. It celebrates a time that is universally challenging for many of us, but also life-changing as well.

AR Reading Level: N/A

Who Wrote It?

Birthday: October 2, 1975

Birthplace: Brooklyn, NY

Current Location: Los Angeles, CA

College: University of California San Diego

Major: Microbiology

College: Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California

Degree: Illustration

First Book Published: *The Guild of Geniuses* (2004)

Awards: Caldecott Medal for Most Distinguished Picture Book



Dan Santat is a #1 New York Times Best Selling Author author/illustrator of over one hundred titles. Dan Santat's parents moved to the United States from Thailand before he was born. Thailand is on the continent of Asia near Burma, Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos. He likes to incorporate his Thai heritage in the books that he illustrates. He is also the creator of the Disney animated hit, *The Replacements*. Dan lives in Southern California with his wife, two kids, and various pets.

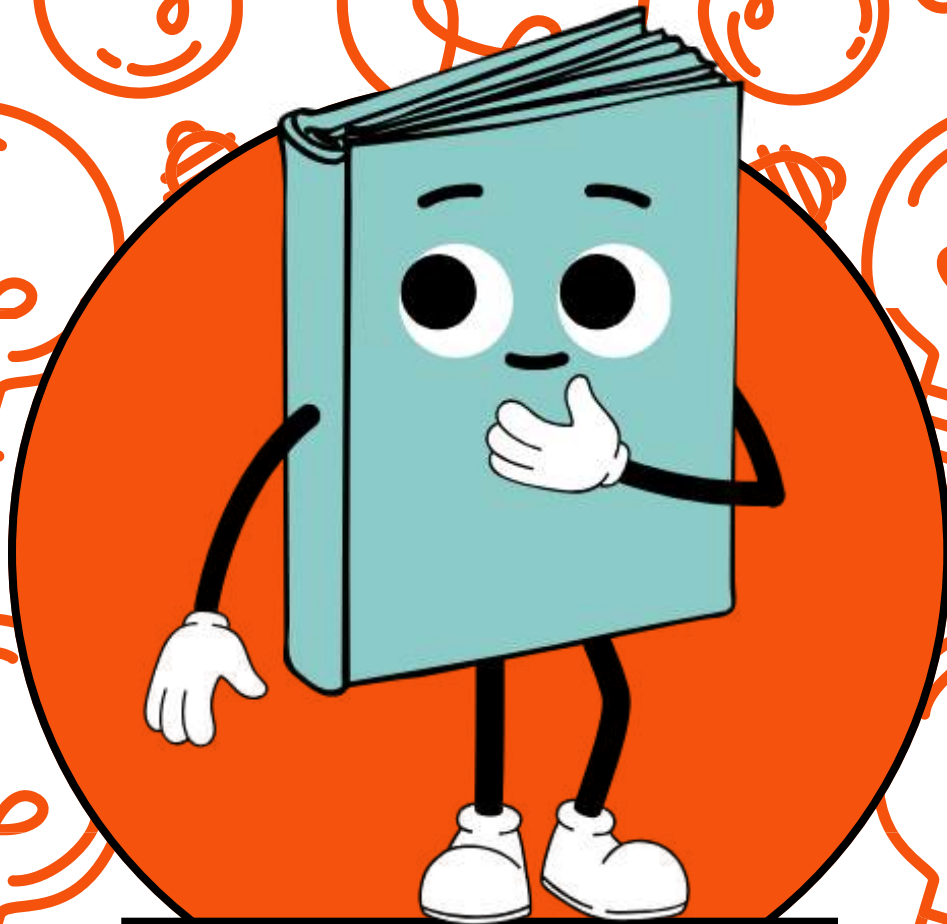
Lexile Level: N/A

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.



November
2025

22

BRAIN BREAKS

LINKS + ANSWER SHEETS/KEYS

WOULD YOU RATHER?

Name: _____



VIDEO

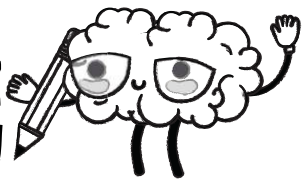


Video Link

Directions: As you watch the video, circle your preferred choice and then follow the physical cue on screen!

1. Would you rather be an athlete or a coach?
2. Would you rather attend a professional sports event or a college sports event?
3. Would you rather be the highest paid player on a team or be on the most successful team?
4. Would you rather be the referee/umpire or the announcer/commentator?
5. Would you rather watch sports in person or on TV?
6. As an athlete would you rather get a brand deal for shoes or a sports drink?
7. Would you rather be the #1 Draft Pick or Rookie of the Year?
8. Would you rather be stronger physically or mentally?
9. Would you rather have an animal mascot or a non-animal mascot?
10. Would you rather compete in an individual sport or team sport?

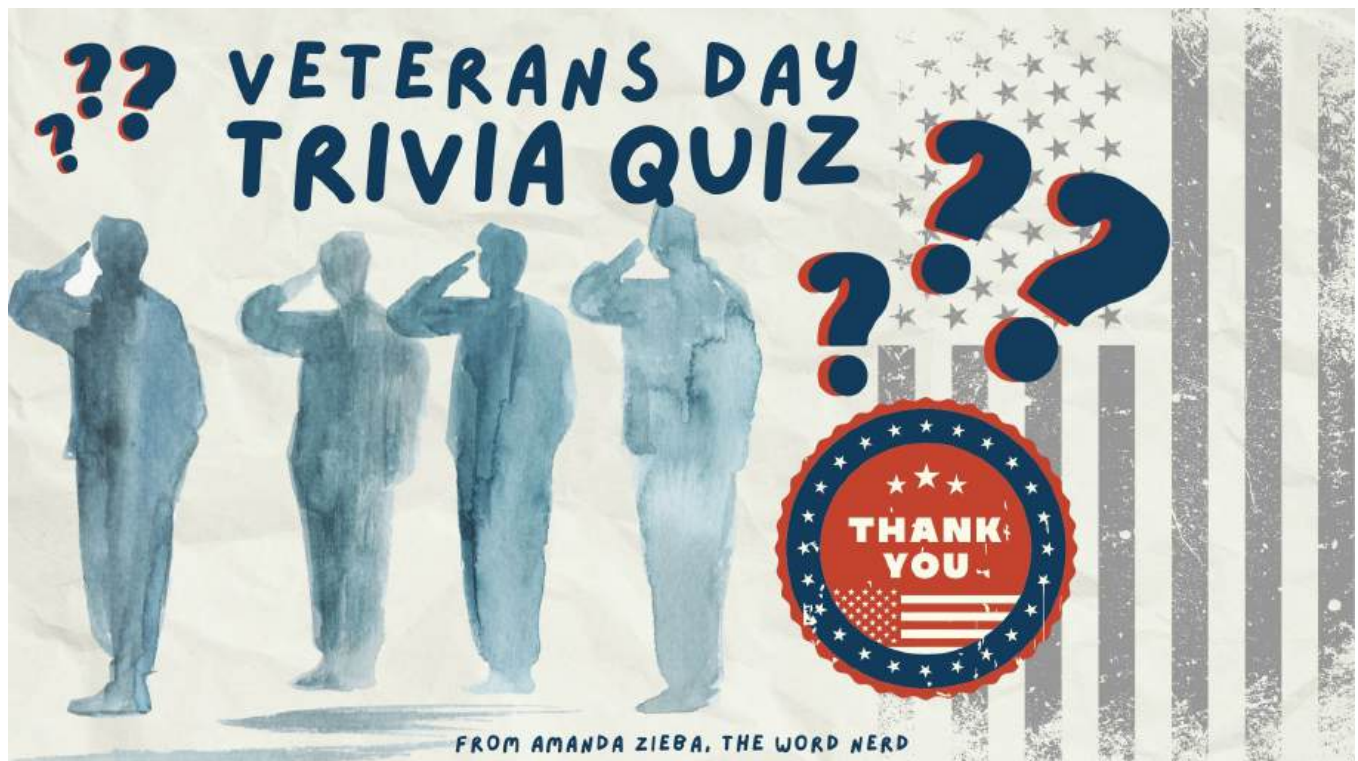
Respond: Which would you rather match up do you have the strongest feelings about? Why?



Trivia Game Video Link

Use the below links to access the video for this activity.
Click the title, image or link to get to the video!

VETERANS DAY TRIVIA VIDEO



This link will take you to
the YouTube Video of
Veterans Day Trivia
questions:

[https://youtu.be/XL70pN
sENNA?
sub_confirmation=1](https://youtu.be/XL70pNsENNA?sub_confirmation=1)



VETERANS DAY - A HISTORY

Veterans Day used to be called Armistice Day. It became a holiday in 1938. This holiday honors all military veterans who served our country.

WHEN DID IT START AND WHY?

It was made to remember the end of World War I. At first, it only celebrated World War I veterans. Now, it honors all veterans, whether they served in war or peace. President Dwight D. Eisenhower changed the name to Veterans Day to honor more heroes.

WHEN IS VETERANS DAY?

Every year, Veterans Day is on November 11th. This date is special because it marks the end of World War I on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. Many countries, like Canada, Great Britain, and Australia, also celebrate this day and call it Remembrance Day. On this day, we thank veterans for their service and sacrifices.

WHO IS CELEBRATED AND HOW?

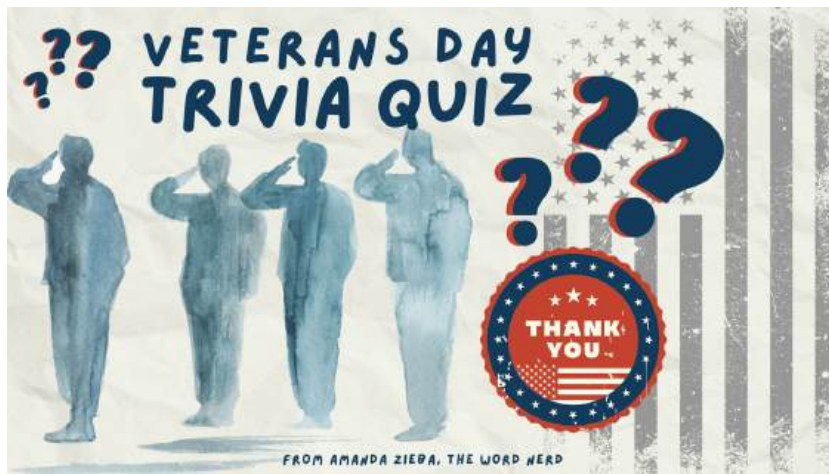
Veterans Day also shows the diverse group of people who served in the military. For example, 11% of veterans are women. About 19 million veterans live in the U.S. now. Veterans are honored in many ways. One special place is Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, where many soldiers and their families are buried. The first Veterans Day celebration was in Alabama. New York City has the biggest and oldest Veterans Day parade, starting in 1919.

IS IT THE SAME AS MEMORIAL DAY?

This day is different from Memorial Day. Veterans Day honors all who have served, while Memorial Day remembers those who died in military service. Both days let us think about the bravery and sacrifices of our armed forces.

**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE
WITH THIS FUN QUIZ!**





Veterans Day Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

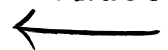
Name/Team Name: _____

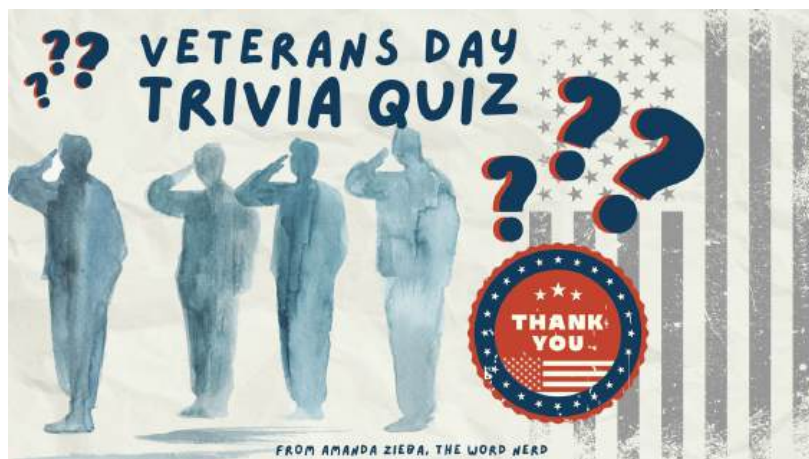
- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ |

Are you a Veterans Day
Trivia Victor?



Trivia
Video





Veterans Day Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for
each question below.

Trivia
Video



Name/Team Name: _____

1. A B C D
2. W_____ W_____
3. A B C D
4. True or False
5. Veterans Day or Veteran's Day
6. A B C D
7. A B C D
8. A B C D
9. A B C D
10. True or False
11. A B C D
12. A B
13. A B C D
14. A B C D
15. A B C D
16. A B C D
17. A B C D
18. A B C D
19. A B C D
20. True of False

Score:
____/20



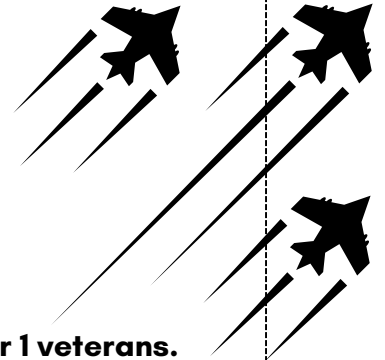
Trivia
Video

Veterans Day Trivia



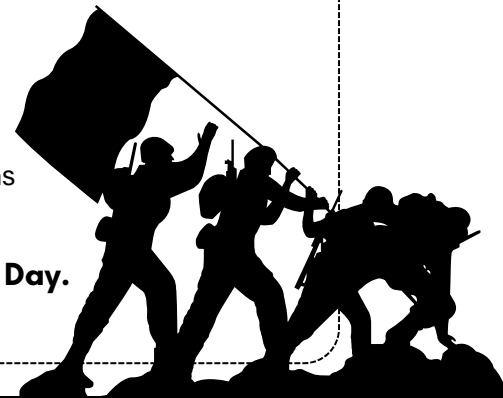
Are you a Veterans Day Trivia Victor? Take this Trivia quiz and see!

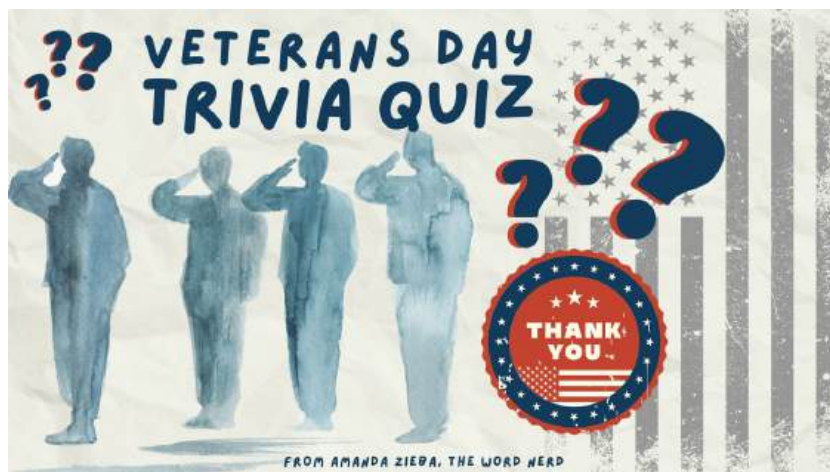
- 1 The original name for Veterans Day was _____.
a) Army Day b) Armed Forces Day c) Armistice Day d) Arm Wrestling Day
- 2 Armistice Day was created to commemorate the end of _____.
W_____ W_____
- 3 In what year did Armistice Day officially become a holiday?
a) 1918 b) 1924 c) 1938 d) 1945
- 4 At first, Veterans Day was only meant to celebrate World war 1 veterans.
a) True b) False
- 5 When it comes to actually spelling out this holiday, which one is officially correct?
a) Veterans Day b) Veteran's Day
- 6 It has changed a few times over the years, but ever since 1975, Veterans Day is now always on...
a) Nov. 11 b) The 1st Tues of Nov. c) The 1st Mon of Oct. d) Oct. 25
- 7 Which President officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day?
a) Jimmy Carter b) Dwight D. Eisenhower
c) Franklin D. Roosevelt d) Gerald Ford
- 8 As of 2022, which 3 states are home to the most veterans?
a) Wisconsin, Texas, Arizona
b) New York, Florida, Connecticut
c) Alaska, Virginia, Montana
d) New Mexico, South Carolina, Alabama
- 9 Which other countries celebrate Veterans Day, but call it "Remembrance Day"?
a) Great Britain b) Canada c) Australia d) All of the Above
- 10 True or False: Veterans day honors all veterans who served honorably regardless of whether during war or peace time.
a) True b) False





- 11 As of today, What percentage of veterans are women?**
a) 5% b) 10% c) 15% d) 20%
- 12 In which war did more veterans serve?**
a) Vietnam War b) Korean War
- 13 How many veterans served in the Gulf War (1990-1991)?**
a) 1 million b) 3 million c) 5 million d) 8 million
- 14 Arlington National Cemetery, where 400,000 service members and their families are buried, is located in which state?**
a) Maryland b) Washington, D.C. c) Virginia d) Connecticut
- 15 Approximately how many veterans are living in the United States today?**
a) 15 million b) 19 million c) 24 million d) 37 million
- 16 Which city has been holding the largest and oldest Veterans Day parade, dating back to 1919?**
a) Arlington, VA b) New York City, NY
c) Washington, D.C. d) Fort Liberty, NC
- 17 The very first celebration referred to as "Veterans Day" was held in which state?**
a) Florida b) California c) Alabama d) Hawaii
- 18 During the 2022 midterm elections, what percentage of candidates for the US Senate, US House of Representatives or state governor claimed military experience?**
a) 1% b) 13% c) 21% d) 26%
- 19 March 13 is an additionally designated Veterans Day for a special kind of veteran. Who?**
a) K-9 Veterans b) Military Spies
c) Missing in Action/Prisoner of War d) Disabled Veterans
- 20 True or False: Veterans Day is different than Memorial Day.**
a) True b) False





Veterans Day Trivia Answer Key

Directions:

If you'd like to check student answers without the video, here is the answer key.

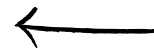
ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. C) Armistice Day | 11. B) 10% |
| 2. World War 2 | 12. A) Vietnam War |
| 3. C) 1938 | 13. D) 8 Million served |
| 4. True | 14. C) Virginia |
| 5. Veterans Day | 15. B) 19 Million |
| 6. A) November 11 | 16. B) New York City, NY |
| 7. B) Dwight D. Eisenhower | 17. C) Alabama |
| 8. C) Alaska, Virginia, Montana | 18. C) 21% |
| 9. D) All of the Above | 19. A) K-9 Veterans |
| 10. True | 20. True |

Thanks for playing!
Check out more Brain Breaks
on YouTube!



Trivia
Video



PICTURE DETECTIVE

BRAIN BREAK



4 Rounds, 1 video + answer sheets and a whole lotta fun!





Picture Detective Round 2

Use the below links to access this activity in a variety of ways.



PICTURE DETECTIVE CANVA SLIDES

This link will take you to a single Canva Slides show that contains all four rounds of the game. Round 2 starts on slide #27.



YOUTUBE VIDEO



Round 2 starts at the 4:00 minute mark!



Round 2 Answer Sheet

Starts at Min Mark 4:00

What everyday item is pictured
in each close up photograph?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



Round 2 Answer Sheet

Starts at Min Mark 4:00

What everyday item is pictured
in each close up photograph?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

MODIFIED ANSWER SHEET



Round 2 Answer Sheet

Starts at Min Mark 4:00

What everyday item is pictured
in each close up photograph?

1. clam shell or oreo cookie
2. cigarette or sea plant
3. mud or chocolate
4. grass or paint brush
5. cactus or watermelon rind
6. blonde beard
or spaghetti noodles
7. honey or candle wax
8. chameleon skin
or pea seed shell
9. human hands
or wrinkled sheets
10. lizard skin or cantaloupe



Round 2 Answer Sheet

Starts at Min Mark 4:00

What everyday item is pictured
in each close up photograph?

1. clam shell or oreo cookie
2. cigarette or sea plant
3. mud or chocolate
4. grass or paint brush
5. cactus or watermelon rind
6. blonde beard
or spaghetti noodles
7. honey or candle wax
8. chameleon skin
or pea seed shell
9. human hands
or wrinkled sheets
10. lizard skin or cantaloupe

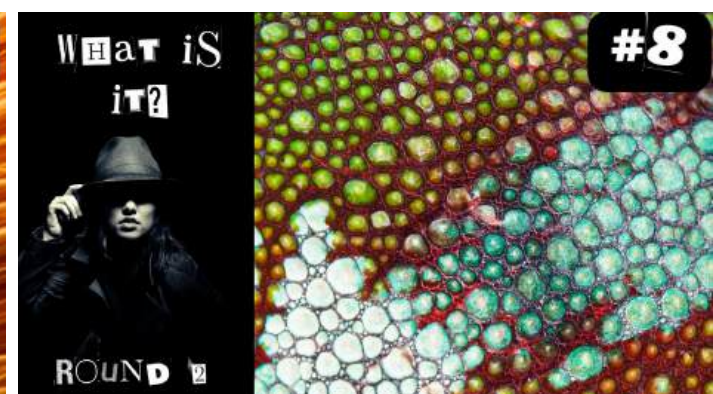


Video



Picture Detective Round #2

Name: _____





Video



Picture Detective Round #2

Name: _____

2



Record Your Answers Here:

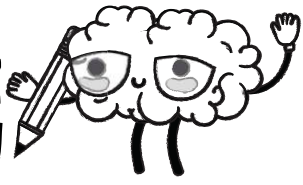
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



Round 2 Answer Sheet

What everyday item is pictured
in each close up photograph?

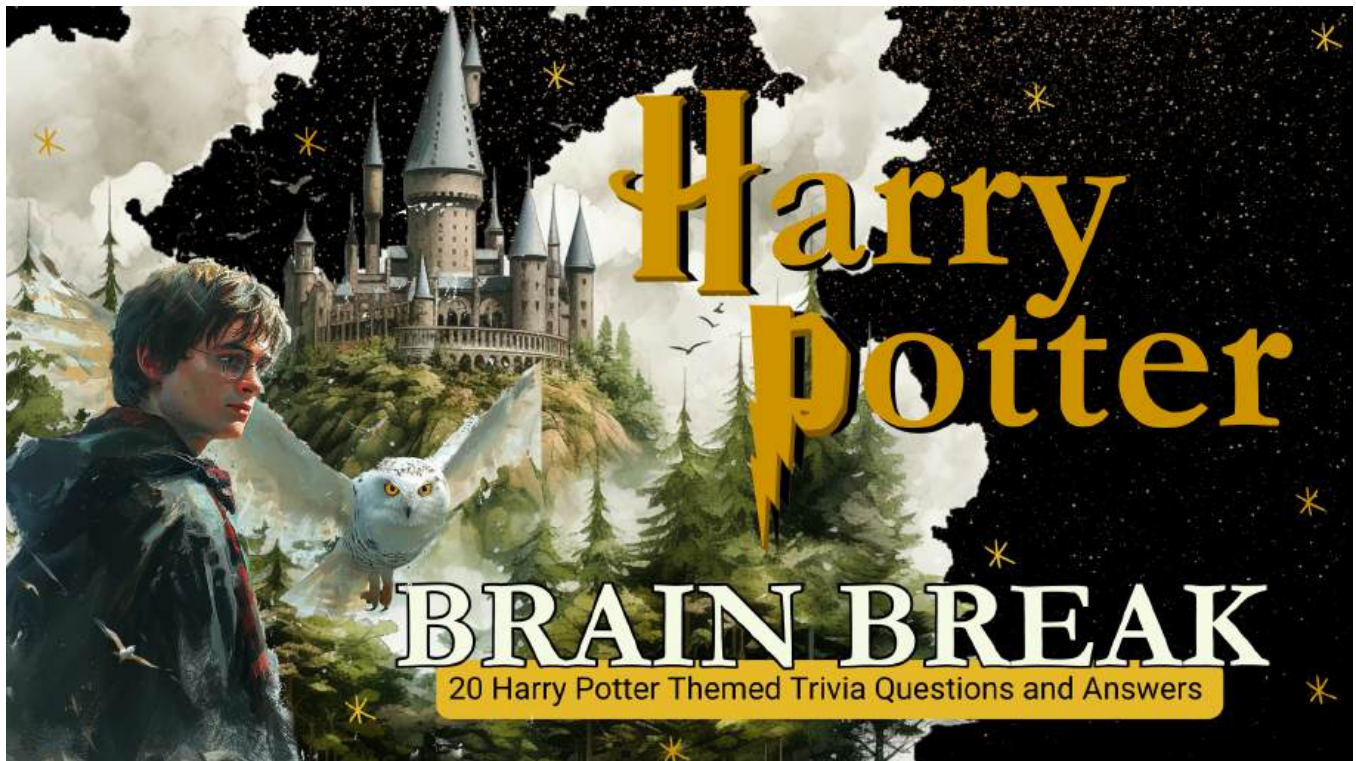
1. Oreo cookie
2. Cigarette
3. Chocolate Bar
4. Bird Feather
5. Cactus
6. Spaghetti Noodles
7. Honey
8. Chameleon
9. Human Hands
10. Cantaloupe



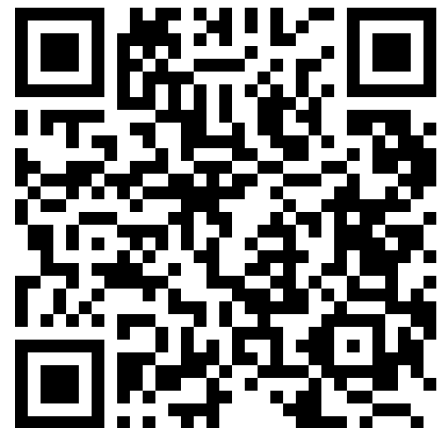
Trivia Game Video Link

Use the below links to access the video for this activity.
Click the title, image or link to get to the video!

HARRY TRIVIA VIDEO

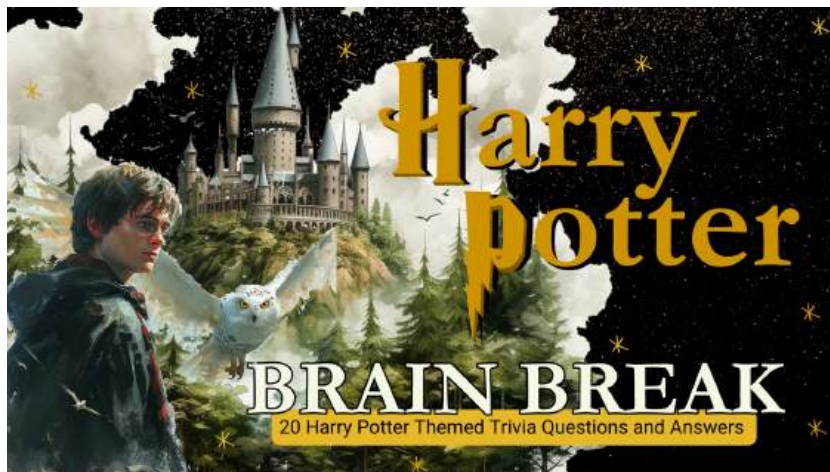


This link will take you to the YouTube
Video of Harry Potter Trivia questions:
https://youtu.be/mnyuM_ZEH0s



Song Credit: Suno Pro + Amanda Zieba

All content creation done by Amanda Zieba using Canva and Clip Art purchased from Etsy (Tysia Art Work)



Harry Potter Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

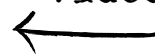
Name/Team Name: _____

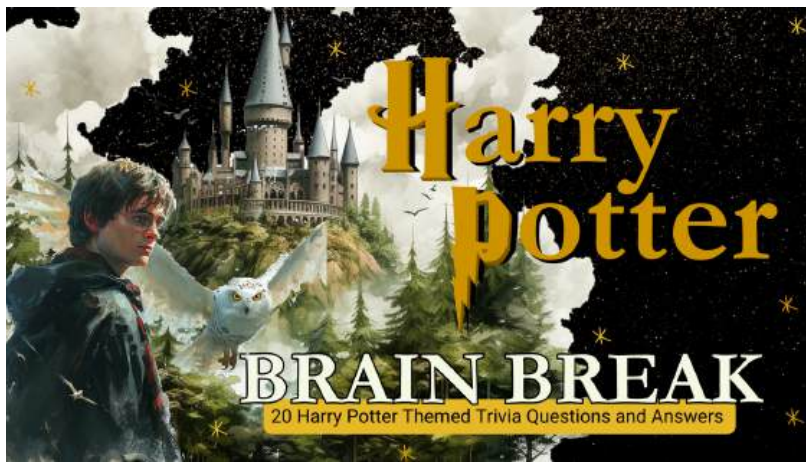
- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ |

Are you a WIZARD at
Harry Potter Trivia?



Trivia
Video





Harry Potter Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for
each question below.

Trivia
Video



Name/Team Name: _____

1. A B C D
2. A B C D
3. A B C D
4. A B C D
5. A B C D
6. A B C D
7. A B C D
8. A B C D
9. A B C D
10. A B C D
11. A B C D
12. A B C D
13. A B C D
14. A B C D
15. A B C D
16. A B C D
17. A B C D
18. A B C D
19. A B C D
20. A B C D

Are you a
WIZARD at
Harry Potter
Trivia?



Score:

____/ 20



Trivia
Video

Harry Potter Trivia



Who's the WIZARD when it comes to Harry Potter Trivia?

1 When Harry lived with his aunt and uncle, where was his bedroom located?

- a) In the garage
- b) Under the Stairs
- c) In the attic
- d) Basement

2 What is the name of Harry's Pet Owl?

- a) Hoodlum
- b) Golden Eyes
- c) Harold
- d) Hedwig

3 How many books are there in the original Harry Potter series?

- a) 5 b) 6 c) 7 d) 8



4 What wizarding sport did J.K. Rowling invent for this book series?

- a) Quidditch
- b) Sock-It-Ball
- c) Turf Battle
- d) Wandball



5 What position in this game did both Harry and his father play?

- a) Keeper
- b) Seeker
- c) Chaser
- d) Bludger

6 When Harry arrives at Hogwarts, what house is he sorted into?

- a) Gryffindor
- b) Hufflepuff
- c) Ravenclaw
- d) Slytherin

7 What job did J.K. Rowling have while she was writing the first Harry Potter book?

- a) Secretary
- b) Barista
- c) Maid
- d) Teacher

8 How many total copies have the Harry Potter books been sold worldwide?

- a) 100 million
- b) 300 million
- c) 500 million
- d) 600 million



9 What color is associated with the house of Ravenclaw?

- a) Yellow
- b) Blue
- c) Red
- d) Green

10 How many siblings does Ron Weasley have?

- a) 4 b) 5 c) 6 d) 7

11 In the first Harry Potter book, what is the name of the 3 headed dog that guards the Philosopher's Stone?

- a) Fluffy b) The 3 Kings c) Fancy d) Thor

12 What is the shape of the scar Harry has on his forehead?

- a) Star b) Crescent c) Lightening Bolt d) Triangle

13 What spell is used to disarm another wizard?

- a) Expelliarmus b) Wingardium Leviosa
c) Lumos d) Expecto Patronum



14 What is the name of the magical map Harry and his friends use to sneak around the castle?

- a) Mischief Map b) Marauder's Map c) Hogwarts Hider
d) Enchanted Exits

15 What year was Harry Potter first published?

- a) 1994 b) 1997
c) 2000 d) 2001

16 In the third Harry Potter book, what color is the night bus?

- a) Orange
b) Purple
c) Green
d) White



17 In the Chamber of Secrets we meet Hagrid's giant spider friend. What is the spider's name?

- a) Arachniss
b) Spidey
c) Aragog
d) Harry

18 What animal is associated with the house of Slytherin?

- a) Shark
b) Salamander
c) Snake
d) Saber Tooth Tiger

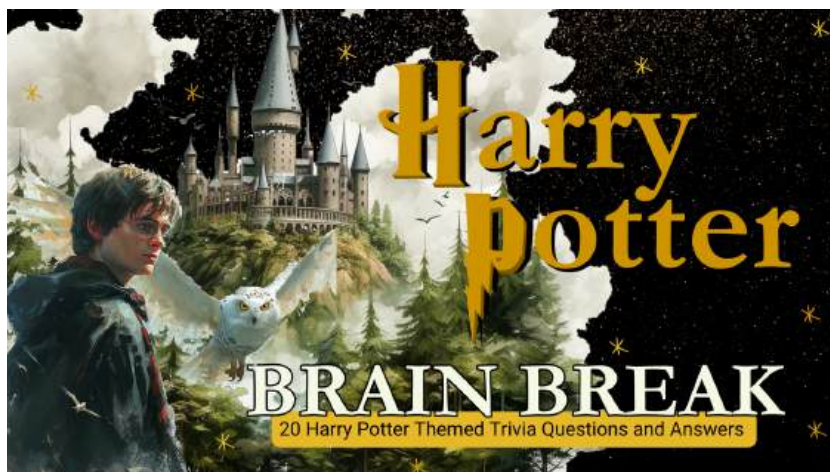
19 What is the name of the tree that protects the grounds of Hogwarts (and also prevents Harry and Ron from arriving to their Second Year on time)?

- a) Whomping Willow
b) Terrifying Tree
c) Banshee Branches
d) Lethal Leaves

20 Both Harry and Voldemort have the same wand core. What is it made of?

- a) Dragon Heart String b) Unicorn Hair c) Phoenix Feather d) Mermaid Fin





Harry Potter Trivia Answer Key

Directions:

If you'd like to check student answers without the video, here is the answer key.

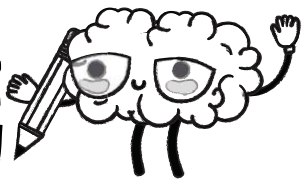
ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. B) Under the Stairs | 11. A) Fluffy |
| 2. D) Hedwig | 12. C) Lightning Bolt |
| 3. C) 7 | 13. A) Expelliarmus |
| 4. A) Quidditch | 14. B) Marauder's Map |
| 5. B) Seeker | 15. B) 1997 |
| 6. A) Gryffindor | 16. B) Purple |
| 7. D) Teacher | 17. C) Aragog |
| 8. D) 600 Million | 18. C) Snake |
| 9. B) Blue | 19. A) Whomping Willow |
| 10. C) 6 | 20. C) Phoenix Feather |

Thanks for playing!
Check out more Brain Breaks
on YouTube!



Trivia
Video
←



Trivia Game Video Link

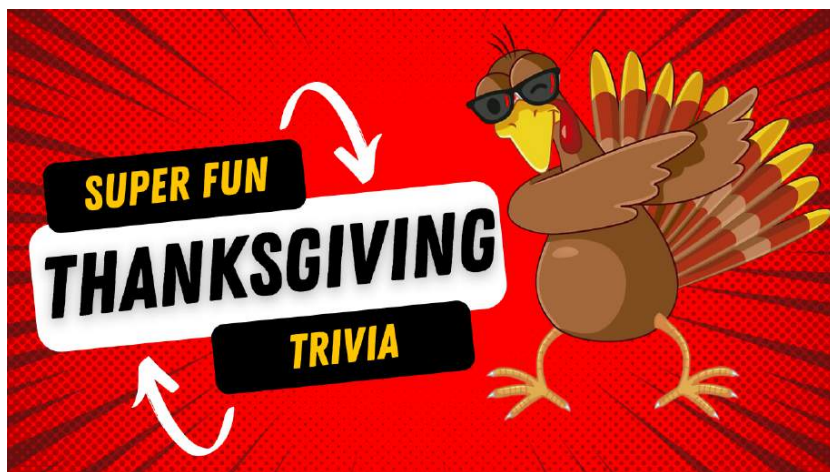
Use the below links to access the video for this activity.
Click the title, image or link to get to the video!

THANKSGIVING TRIVIA VIDEO



This link will take you to
the YouTube Video of
Halloween Trivia
questions:
[https://youtu.be/3TQyNimRrew?](https://youtu.be/3TQyNimRrew?sub_confirmation=1)
[sub_confirmation=1](https://youtu.be/3TQyNimRrew?sub_confirmation=1)





Thanksgiving Day Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

Trivia Video



Name/Team Name: _____

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ |

How did you do? Are you a
Thanksgiving Trivia ROCKSTAR?!?!

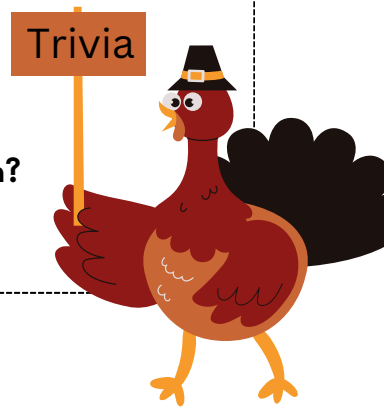


Trivia
Video

Thanksgiving Trivia

Are you a Thanksgiving Trivia Rockstar? Take this Trivia quiz and see!

- 1 How long was the first Thanksgiving celebration?**
a) 3 days b) one week c) ten days d) one month
- 2 Who was the first president to pardon a turkey?**
a) Thomas Jefferson b) John F. Kennedy c) Richard Nixon d) Jimmy Carter
- 3 What year was the 1st Thanksgiving NFL Football game?**
a) 1924 b) 1934 c) 1944 d) 1954
- 4 What Native American tribe celebrated the first Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims?**
a) The Oneida b) The Sioux c) The Wampanoag d) The Chippewa
- 5 True or False? Female turkeys do not gobble. Only male turkeys gobble.**
a) True b) False
- 6 What percentage of Americans skip turkey on Thanksgiving?**
a) 2% b) 12% c) 24% d) 30%
- 7 Which president made Thanksgiving a permanent holiday?**
a) John Adams b) Abraham Lincoln c) Calvin Coolidge
- 8 How many calories (on average) are consumed, per person, at Thanksgiving dinner?**
a) 2,300 calories b) 4,500 calories c) 5,700 calories d) 8,000 calories
- 9 When was the first turkey trot?**
a) 1896 b) 1908 c) 1923 d) 1951
- 10 Black Friday is the biggest day of the year for what trade profession?**
a) Masons b) Electricians c) Dental Hygienists d) Plumbers



11 How many pumpkin pies are consumed in the United States on Thanksgiving?

- a) 5 million b) 15 million c) 50 million d) 500 million

12 True or False: Americans prefer Pumpkin Pie over Apple Pie.

- a) True b) False

13 What year did the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade start?

- a) 1900 b) 1928 c) 1941

14 What percentage of Americans prefer Thanksgiving leftovers to Thanksgiving dinner?

- a) 20% b) 40% c) 60% d) 80%

15 In 1992 this comedian released his famous "Thanksgiving Song."

- a) Will Smith b) Jimmy Fallon c) Adam Sandler d) Weird Al Yankovic

16 When was the GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE introduced to Thanksgiving dinners?

- a) 1938 b) 1955 c) 1971 d) 1980

17 According to the Guinness Book of World Records, how much does the heaviest turkey on record weigh?

- a) 57 lbs. b) 79 lbs. c) 86 lbs. d) 105 lbs.

18 Statistically, what is American's favorite Thanksgiving side dish?

- a) Cranberries b) Stuffing c) Mashed Potatoes

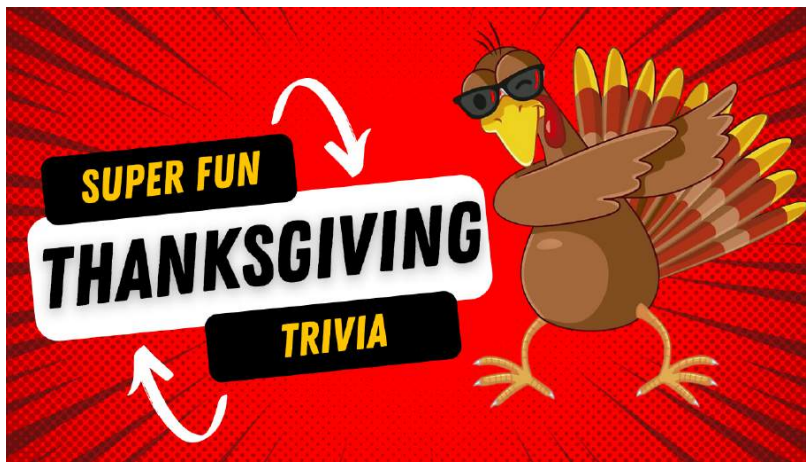
19 True or False: The name of the Native American interpreter who helped the Pilgrims was Squanto.

- a) True b) False

20 Which president refused to celebrate Thanksgiving?

- a) Thomas Jefferson b) Grover Cleveland c) Zachary Taylor





Thanksgiving Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for
each question below.

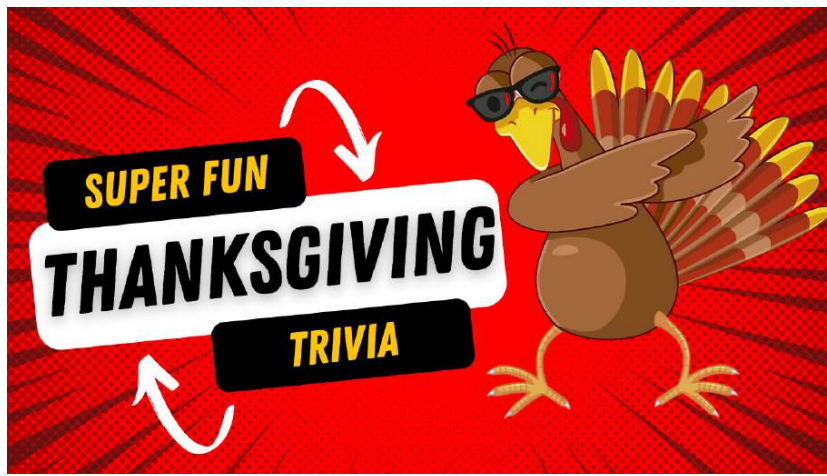
Trivia Video



Name/Team Name: _____

1. A B C D
2. A B C D
3. 1934 or 1954
4. A B C D
5. True or False
6. 12% or 22% or 32%
7. John Abrams or Abraham Lincoln or Calvin Coolidge
8. A B C D
9. A B C D
10. A B C D
11. A B C D
12. True or False
13. 1900 or 1928 or 1941
14. 18% or 50% or 68% or 80%
15. A B C D
16. A B C D
17. 38 pounds or 59 pounds or 86 pounds
18. Cranberries or Stuffing or Mashed Potatoes
19. True or False
20. Thomas Jefferson or Grover Cleveland
or Zachary Taylor

Score:
____/20



Thanksgiving Trivia Answer Key

Directions:

If you'd like to check student answers without the video, here is the answer key.

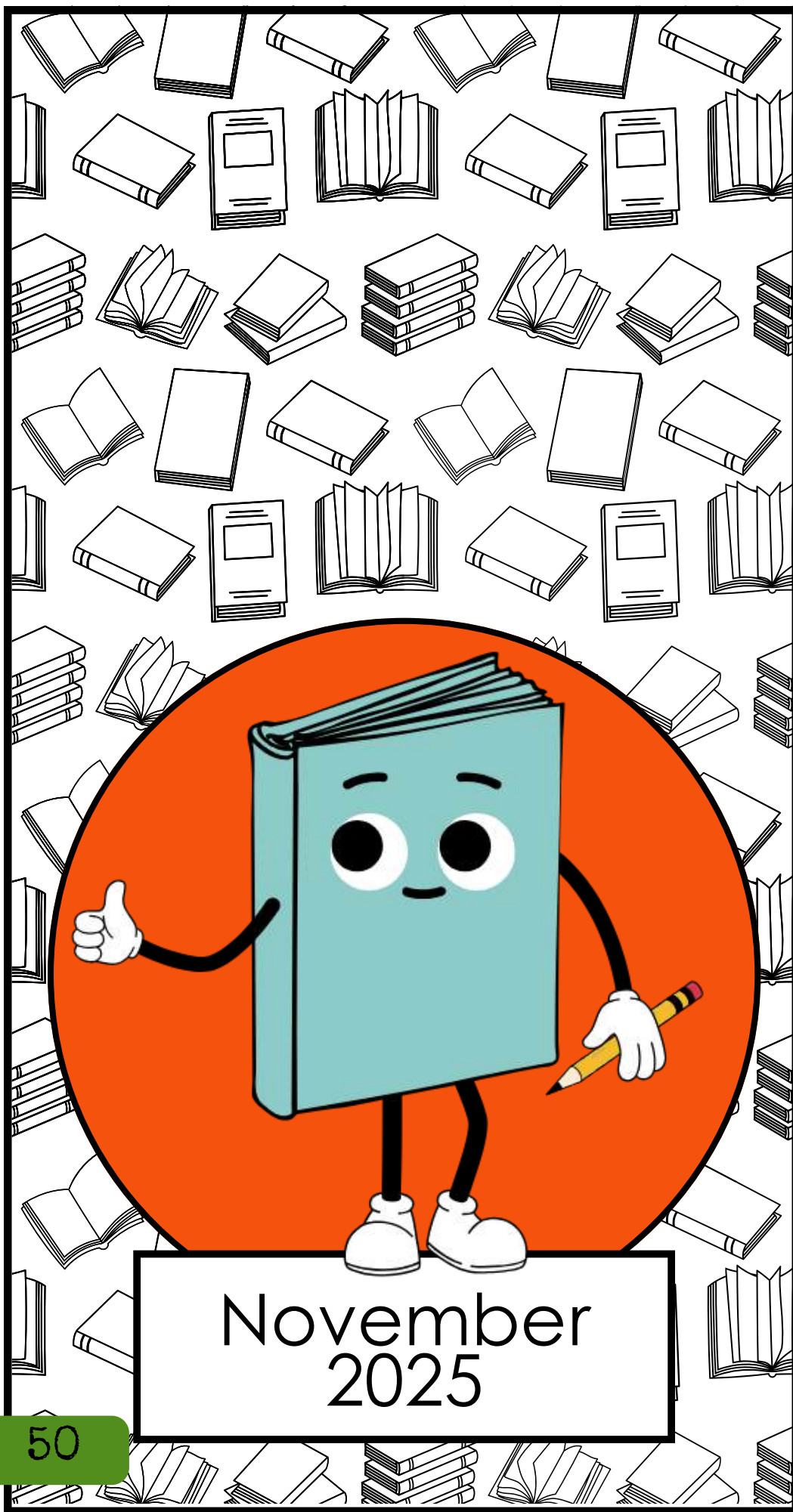
ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. A) 3 Days | 11. C) 50 million |
| 2. B) John F. Kennedy | 12. False |
| 3. 1934 | 13. 1928 |
| 4. C) The Wampanoag | 14. 80% |
| 5. True | 15. C) Adam Sandler |
| 6. 12% | 16. B) 1955 |
| 7. Abraham Lincoln | 17. 86 pounds |
| 8. B) 4,500 calories | 18. Stuffing |
| 9. A) 1896 | 19. True |
| 10. D) Plumbers | 20. Thomas Jefferson |

Thanks for playing!
Check out more Brain Breaks
on YouTube!

Trivia Video





November
2025

WRITING PROMPTS



HOW TO USE THE WRITING PROMPTS

How do we get better at any skill? We practice. If you want to be a better free-throw shooter, you get on the line and shoot free throws. If you want to be a faster swimmer, you get in the pool. The same is true for writing. The more we do it, the better we get.

In my classroom, this looks like ten minutes of writing every day. We start at five minutes a day the first week and build up, adding a minute a week, until we reach ten. The prompts in this resource will help you make that practice fun and engaging and also purposeful. The prompts will cover a variety of high interest topics, purposes and forms including fiction, nonfiction, and reflections, with an emphasis on building stamina, idea generation, and enjoyment. When applicable, I call out the genre focus and/or specific skill being practiced. Also, below you can see a list of Common Core State Standards (CCSS) that are routinely addressed and covered by doing these daily writing prompts.

- **Writing CCSS: W 6-8.2, W 6-8.3, W 6-8.4, W 6-8.5, W 6-8.9, W 6-8.10**

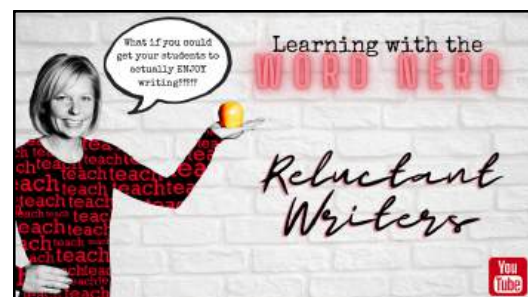
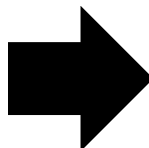
If you want, keep these “curriculum and standard” pieces of information to yourself, go for it! There is no need to let the kids know we have a secret plan to trick them into being better writers and hating it a little bit less each day!

You can either print the following prompt pages for students to directly write on (and then keep in a folder/binder) or project the prompt (via these [SLIDES](#)) onto a whiteboard/screen and have students do their writing in a dedicated notebook. Whatever works best for you... go for it!

My hope is that the daily practice becomes something that students look forward to rather than dread. I hope that as students see the words and ideas pile up, their confidence grows. I hope that by having this resource of high-quality, ready to go prompts, your life will be made just little bit easier!

Happy Writing!

P.S. For more ideas on how to get reluctant writers going, watch [this video](#).



(https://youtu.be/l7UWA-pw04Q?sub_confirmation=1)




MULTI-USE FORMS

The following pages will be used multiple times throughout the resources, but are included just once to save space.

- Free Write Fridays
- Gem and Opportunity Feedback Sheets
- Writing Rubric Sheets




GEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES


My name: _____
 Name of classmate I am reviewing: _____
 Date: _____

Title of Piece/Date Written: _____


GEMS
 LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITER DOES WELL.

OPPORTUNITIES
 LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE

FINAL COMMENTS
 WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ____/10

WRITING PROMPTS

Choice B:
Write about a topic
of your choice.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Teacher Comments:



GEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES



My Name:

Name of classmate I am reviewing:

Date:

Title of Piece/Date Written



GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE
WRITERS DOES WELL

*

*

*

*

*

*

OPPORTUNITIES



LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE
WRITER TO IMPROVE

*

*

*

*

*

*

FINAL COMMENTS

WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:

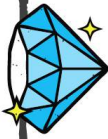


My Name:
Name of classmate I am reviewing:
Date:



My Name:
Name of classmate I am reviewing:
Date:

Title of Piece/Date Written



GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITERS DOES WELL

.....

OPPORTUNITIES

LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE

.....

FINAL COMMENTS
WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:

Title of Piece/Date Written



GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITERS DOES WELL

.....

OPPORTUNITIES

LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE

.....

FINAL COMMENTS
WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:



Use this rubric to first communicate your writing expectations to students and then to evaluate the writing products they create. Students and/or peers can also use this rubric to self/peer score/evaluate the pieces of writing.

The rubric can be found at the bottom of each prompt for easy access for both you and your students. There is also a page with 3 rubrics to print and cut for use with this or other writing tasks.

I assign 2 points if the task was completed and done well, 1 if the task was attempted but not mastered, and 0 if the task was not attempted at all.

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ____/10

Again, the Writing CCSS routinely covered and practiced with these prompts include:

W 6-8.2, W 6-8.3, W 6-8.4, W 6-8.5, W 6-8.9, W 6-8.10

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS

November 3-7

Monday

Who Would You Pick?

Style/Skills:
Personal Reflection
Persuasion

Tuesday

What Would This Robot Do?

Style/Skills:
Creative Thinking
Science Fiction
Description

Wednesday

Word Choice Word Play

Style/Skills:
Word Choice
Figurative Language
Strong Verbs

Thursday

Majestic Mutations

Style/Skills:
Creative Thinking
Description
Science Fiction

Friday

Free Write Friday

Write whatever you'd like... including continuing a past prompt. :)



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

MAKE
YOUR
CHOICE

www.wordnerdcollaborative.com

[illegible]

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = /10

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

Write a scene explaining.



www.wordnerdcollaborative.com

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Teacher Comments:

Rubric



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

contain

www.wordnerdcollaborative.com

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Teacher Comments:

Total Points = /10

Rubric



NAME: _____

Let's Get Creative!

Create a new creature that is a mutation of a shark.

Describe its physical features, habitat, diet and activities.



Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ___/10

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS

November 10-14

Monday

An Ocean Sized Forest

Style/Skills:
Creative Writing
Dystopian Genre

Tuesday

Why Do You Shine?

Style/Skills:
Personal Reflection

Wednesday

Lost at the Museum

Style/Skills:
Creative Writing
Setting Details

Thursday

Talking with Gramps

Style/Skills:
Dialogue Writing
Characterization

Friday

Free Write Friday

Write whatever you'd like... including continuing a past prompt. :)



NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS

FROM THE WORD NERD

Write a
scene
using this
prompt.



Writing Prompt

Instead of the oceans covering the earth, forests have grown up in their place, making it possible to walk from continent to continent.

Like oceans, the forests get deeper and darker and creatures get more aggressive and rarer to see the farther in you go.

You are tasked to document a trek through one of the ocean-forests of your choice.

Adapted by Amanda Zieba
From: Promptarium

www.wordnerdcollaborative.com

Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ___/10

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

Why do
YOU
SHINE?

www.wordnerdcollaborative.com

[illegible]

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Teacher Comments:

Rubric



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

Tell this story...

A MID-FIELD TRIP NAP-DIDN'T SEEM LIKE A BAD IDEA AT THE TIME, BUT WHEN YOU WOKE UP... YOU KNEW THAT YOU UNDERESTIMATED THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

www.wordnerdcollaborative.com

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Teacher Comments:

Rubric



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

Dialogue:
words spoken out loud
by characters in a story

www.wordnerdcollaborative.com

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Teacher Comments:

Rubric



WRITING PROMPTS

November 17-21

Monday

A New Discovery

Style/Skills:
Science Fiction
Descriptive Writing

Tuesday

Big Things Start Small

Style/Skills:
Personal Reflection
Motivational Writing
(Persuasive)

Wednesday

Family Celebrations

Style/Skills:
Personal Reflection
Description

Thursday

Came From Nowhere

Style/Skills:
Creative Writing
Predictions
Time/Transition/Location Words

Friday

Free Write Friday

Write whatever you'd like... including continuing a past prompt. :)



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

What does it eat?

www.wordnerdcollaborative.com

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Teacher Comments:

Rubric



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

FROM:

jason **reynolds**





GHOST

RUNNING FOR HIS LIFE, OR FROM IT?

www.wordnerdcollaborative.com

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Teacher Comments:

Rubric



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

What is something special your family celebrates?



www.wordnerdcollaborative.com

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = /10

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

The
motorcycle
came out of
nowhere...



www.wordnerdcollaborative.com

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS

November 24-28

Monday

Fortune Cookie

Style/Skills:
Creative Writing
Prediction

Tuesday

Three Things
Happened...

Style/Skills:
Chronological Order
Content Flow
Transition Words

Wednesday

Perfect Day

Style/Skills:
Personal Reflection

Thursday

Searching for More

Style/Skills:
Cross Curriculum
Connections (Social
Studies/History)
Creative Writing

Friday

Free Write Friday

Write whatever you'd
like... including
continuing a past
prompt. :)



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Total Points = /10

Teacher Comments:

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS

FROM THE WORD NERD

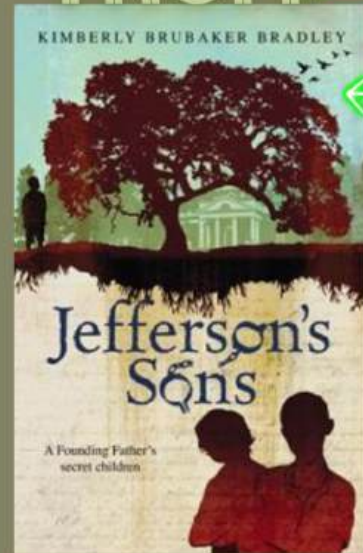
USE THIS LINE TO START YOUR OWN STORY

3

"Three important things happened in the second half of that year."

-from: Jefferson's Sons by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

FROM:



IDEAS/STRATEGIES

- CREATE YOUR LIST FIRST
- THINK ABOUT THE ORDER YOU WANT TO SHARE THE ITEMS
- TRY TO ADD A SURPRISING ITEM
- IF YOU CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING, THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU DON'T WANT TO HAPPEN AND MAKE THAT LIST!

www.wordnerdcollaborative.com

▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ___/10

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD



www.wordnerdcollaborative.com

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Teacher Comments:

Rubric



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

It wasn't what they'd been searching for. It was more.

www.wordnerdcollaborative.com

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Rubric	Task	0	1	2
	Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
	Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
	Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
	Length is appropriate			
	Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Teacher Comments:

Would You Rather...

PERSUASIVE WRITING WORKSHEETS

Sports Edition



CREATED BY THE WORD NERD

TAKEAWAYS

Even silly prompts (“Would you rather have pizza every day or ice cream every day?”) still help students practice the serious structure of argumentative writing—without the intimidation of “real” essay topics. This lowers the stakes while reinforcing core skills.

WE WANT STUDENTS TO BE ABLE TO:

- Choosing a side → Making a clear claim.
- Backing it up → Giving 2-3 strong reasons with evidence or examples.
- Using transitions → Showing relationships between ideas.
- Acknowledging the other side → Strengthening their argument.
- Concluding clearly → Wrapping up their reasoning in a persuasive way.



**SPARK STUDENT
ENGAGEMENT -
START WITH THE VIDEO!**



Video Link



STANDARDS IN ACTION

W.6.1 – Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

- Students should learn to:
 - Make a claim → choose one option in their “Would You Rather?”
 - Give reasons → explain why they chose it.
 - Use evidence/examples → support their reasoning with logic, facts, or even life experience.
 - Acknowledge the other side → briefly explain why someone might choose differently, and why their choice is stronger.

W.6.1a – Introduce claims clearly, organize reasons and evidence.

- Skill Focus: Write an introductory sentence that states their choice.
- Ex: “I would rather be a ballerina than a weightlifter because it fits my personality and challenges me in new ways.”

W.6.1b – Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

- Skill Focus: Develop 2–3 strong reasons with examples or explanations.
- Ex: “Dancing allows me to express myself creatively, and it’s also excellent exercise.”

W.6.1c – Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify relationships among claims, reasons, and evidence.

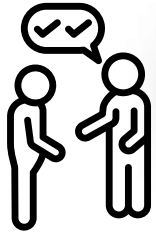
- Skill Focus: Use transition words like for example, in addition, because, however, and therefore to guide readers.

W.6.1d – Establish and maintain a formal style.

- Skill Focus: Write in a clear, academic voice (not “texting language”), even if the topic is silly.
- Ex: “I’d choose...” instead of “Because it’s cool.”

W.6.1e – Provide a concluding statement or section.

- Skill Focus: Wrap up by restating the claim and leaving a final thought.
- Ex: “For these reasons, being a ballerina would be a better fit for me than being a weightlifter.”



BUILD YOUR CASE

You've made your choice... now it's time to convince someone else to agree with you! Use this organizer to help plan and write your persuasive paragraph. Strong persuasive writers make a claim, give clear reasons, support their ideas, and wrap it all up like a pro!

FOLLOW THESE STEPS!

✓ **Step 1: Make Your Claim**

Write a strong opening sentence that clearly states your answer to the Would You Rather question.

Example: I would rather live in a treehouse than on a boat because I love nature and dislike water.

✓ **Step 2: Give Your Reasons**

List 2-3 strong reasons why you chose your answer. Add examples or explanations for each one.

✓ **Step 3: Use Transitions**

Use words like because, for example, in addition, also, however, even though to connect your ideas and make your writing flow.

✓ **Step 4: Think About the Other Side**

Can you think of why someone might choose the other option? Briefly explain why your choice is still the better one.

Example: Some people might say... But I think...

✓ **Step 5: Wrap It Up**

Write a conclusion sentence that restates your choice and leaves the reader convinced.

Example: That's why I would definitely rather live in a treehouse!

WOULD YOU RATHER?

Name: _____



VIDEO



Video Link

Directions: As you watch the video, circle your preferred choice and then follow the physical cue on screen!

1. Would you rather be an athlete or a coach?
2. Would you rather attend a professional sports event or a college sports event?
3. Would you rather be the highest paid player on a team or be on the most successful team?
4. Would you rather be the referee/umpire or the announcer/commentator?
5. Would you rather watch sports in person or on TV?
6. As an athlete would you rather get a brand deal for shoes or a sports drink?
7. Would you rather be the #1 Draft Pick or Rookie of the Year?
8. Would you rather be stronger physically or mentally?
9. Would you rather have an animal mascot or a non-animal mascot?
10. Would you rather compete in an individual sport or team sport?

Respond: Which would you rather match up do you have the strongest feelings about? Why?

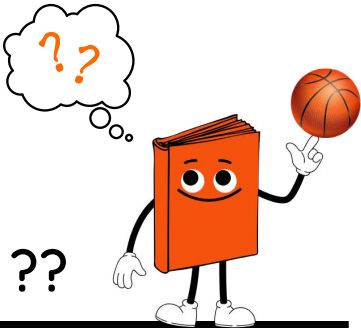
Name: _____

Date: _____

SPORTS EDITION

Would You Rather...

_____ or _____ ??



Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.

▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
Total Points = ___/10			

Comments:

Name: _____

Date: _____

SPORTS EDITION

Would You Rather... be an athlete or a coach?



Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
Total Points = ___/10			

Comments:

Name: _____

Date: _____

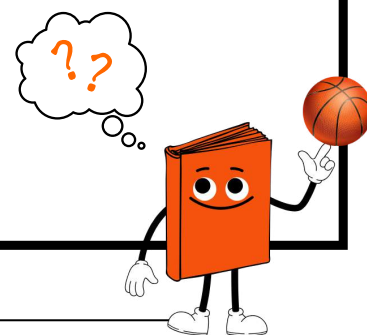
SPORTS EDITION



Would You Rather...

attend a professional sports event or a college sports event?

Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
Total Points = ___/10			

Comments:

Name: _____

Date: _____

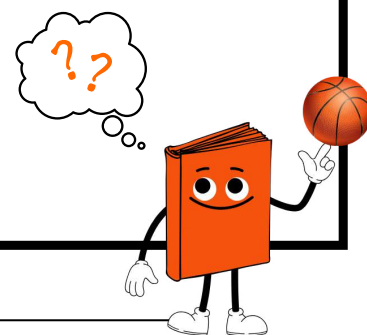
SPORTS EDITION

Would You Rather...

be the highest paid player on a team or
be on the most successful team?



Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



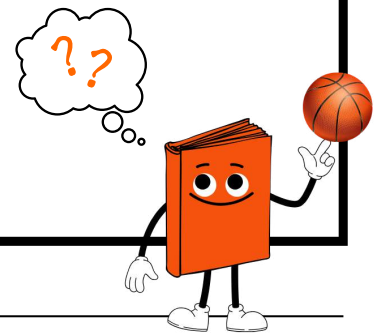
▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
Total Points = ___/10			

Comments:

Date: _____

Would You Rather...

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. At the top right corner, there are two small, simple cartoon shoes. The rest of the page is empty, providing space for writing or drawing.

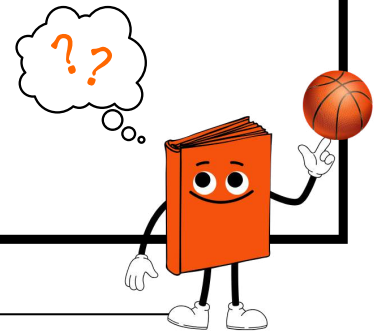
Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
Total Points = /10			

Comments:

Date: _____

Would You Rather...

An illustration of three diverse people (two men and one woman) cheering enthusiastically. They are holding a large banner that reads "GO TEAM!". The person on the left is a man with dark skin and curly hair, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, holding a small flag. The person in the middle is a man with light skin and glasses, wearing a white t-shirt, with his arms raised in a fist. The person on the right is a man with dark skin, wearing a blue tank top, also with his arm raised in a fist. The woman in the center is wearing a white crop top and blue pants, clapping her hands. The banner is white with blue text and a blue border.



▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Comments:

Name: _____

Date: _____

SPORTS EDITION

Would You Rather...

get a brand deal for shoes or a sports drink?



Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
Total Points = ___/10			

Comments:

Date: _____

Would You Rather...

be the #1 Draft Pick or Rookie of the Year?

[illegible]

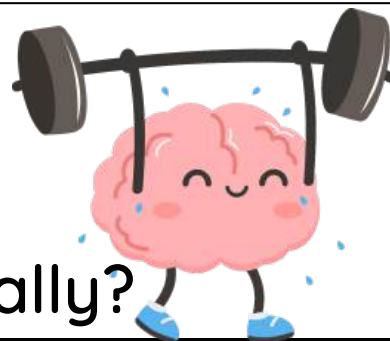
Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Comments:

Name: _____

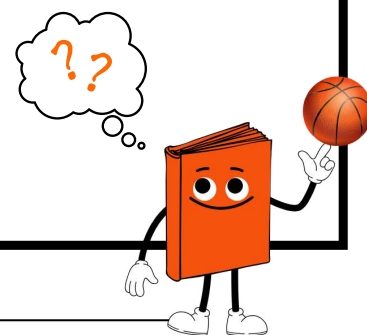
Date: _____

SPORTS EDITION



Would You Rather... be stronger physically or mentally?

Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
Total Points = ___/10			

Comments:

Date: _____

have an animal mascot or a non-animal mascot?

▼ Rubric			
Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Comments:

Name: _____

Date: _____

SPORTS EDITION

Would You Rather...

compete in an individual sport or team sport?



Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
Total Points = ___/10			

Comments:

COMING SOON

Check back to my store, channel or the membership each month for more Would You Rather Brain Breaks!

TOPIC LINE UP:

- August: Back to School
- September: Sci-Fi and Fantasy
- October: Scary Edition
- November: Sports Edition
- December: Winter Edition
- January: Gross Stuff!
- February: Fun Stuff!
- March: Body Adaptations
- April: Around the World
- May: 100 of ...
- June: Summer Edition



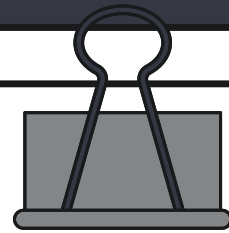
**EACH WOULD YOU RATHER SET
WOULD INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE
VIDEO AND PRINTABLE WRITING
WORKSHEETS**



November
2025

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Theme Lesson

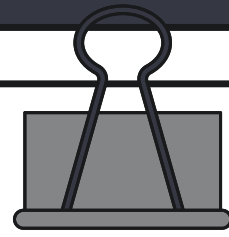
Review the story element of theme through...

- Definition slides
- Literary and film examples
- Interactive exploration group activity
- Individual writing assessment + rubric



Created by The Word Nerd, Amanda Zieba

Theme Lesson



Hey there, Teacher Friend!

Theme can be a hard lesson to teach, in part because it feels (especially to a middle schooler) so abstract. This lesson is my attempt to make this story element more concrete (and hopefully engaging and fun).

First, introduce or review theme through direct instruction slides and note taking sheets as well as literary and film examples (links included for read aloud and film clips).

Then, their knowledge into action! Print pages 9-19 for a group exploration activity. Make them big! Laminate them for reuse... or keep them as single pages and have students rotate from table to table recording their ideas... it's up to you and what you think will work best for you/your students/your classroom environment.

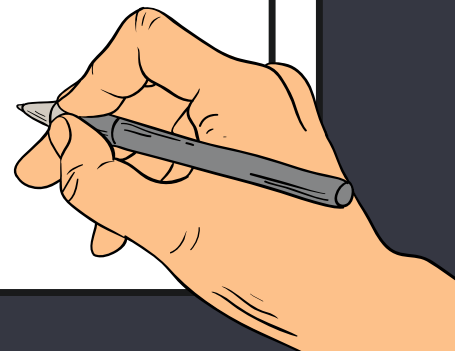
On each poster, students will record books and movies they think showcase the targeted theme. There is also a space for them to include evidence to support their choice. Set a timer, give students a dedicated time at each poster and the rotate. Hopefully, seeing other examples will jog their memory and help them think of more examples. If you are worried they won't be able to come up with any at the first station on their own, add one in yourself to get them going.

After students have been to all the stations, share the themes and their examples aloud. Ask students which they think best exemplifies each theme and why. Each individual or small group could prepare a statement to share with the class, identifying their choice and argument in favor of their exemplar example. (page 15) Then, share them aloud! Perhaps a healthy discussion will ensue! (At least, that is my goal/hope!) A rubric for evaluating their written responses is included. (page 16/17)

Finally, vote! Come up with a BEST EXAMPLE LIST and post it in your classroom. In future class periods, compare the results from class to class. Bonus tip: Have some of the books the students mention on hand to disperse to students suddenly interested in checking them out. And one last idea, you could do a grade level vote for the movies that were suggested and watch it as a reward for excellent engagement and participation.



Happy Teaching!
Amanda
The Word Nerd



Theme Lesson

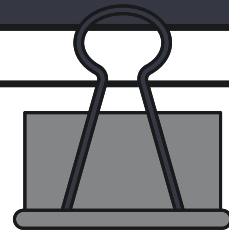


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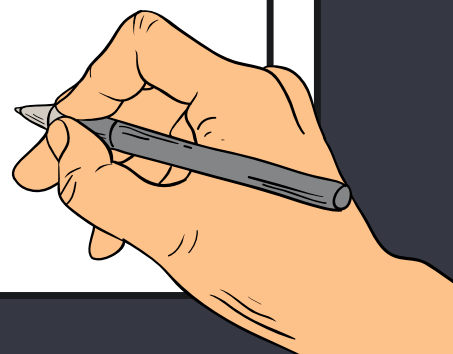
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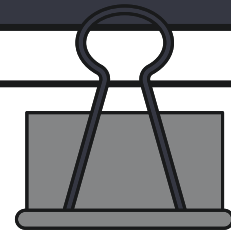
Student Note Taking Sheets ... 101-103

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Theme Lesson



Examples in Literature and Film

Circle of Life

- Film: The Maker (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDXOioU_OKM) or Bao (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7q2HGxwu8Ms>)
- Literature: Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls and Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr

Coming of Age

- Film: La Luna (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UMecxjQAvk>)
- Literature: The Lost Year by Katherine Marsh and/or Ender's Game Orson Scott Card

Faith vs. Doubt

- Film: Coin Operated (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5L4DQfVlcdg>)
- Literature: The Giver by Lois Lowry and/or Divergent by Veronica Roth

Fate vs. Free Will

- Film: Umbrella (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bl1FOKpFY2Q>)
- Literature: A Wish in the Dark by Christina Soontornvat

Good vs. Evil

- Film: A Joy Story (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQGuVKHtrxc>)
- Literature: A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle and/or Between Monsters and Marvels by Alysa Wishingrad

Hubris

- Film: Lifted (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVL0c6FrLi0>)
- Literature: Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Identity

- Film: Snack Attack (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YSxJnqCr8I>)
- Literature: The Crossover by Kwame Alexander and/or Okay Witch by Emma Steinkellner

Justice

- Film: The Bridge (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_AfRk9F9w)
- Literature: The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins and The Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard

Pursuit of Love

- Film: The Blue Umbrella (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5aziLb8Irl>)
- Literature: The Selection and One for the Murphys

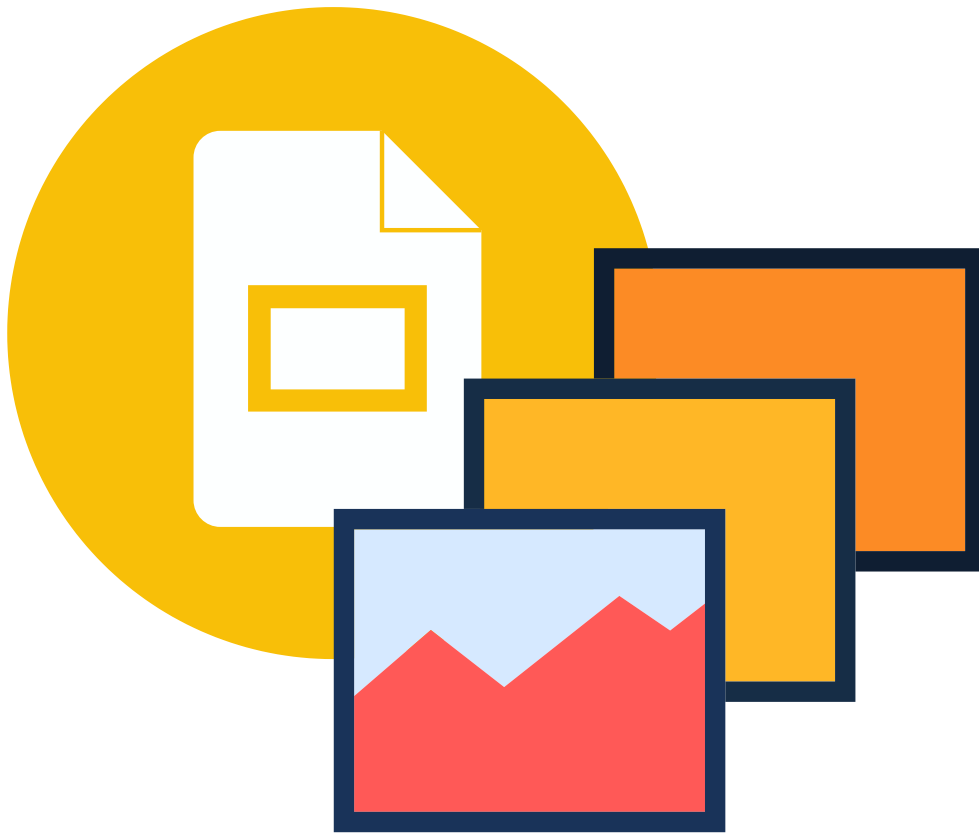
Revenge

- Film: Presto (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Wa4gLSn8Hc>)
- Literature: Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi

Survival

- Film: Partly Cloudy (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfyJQEIsMt0>)
- Literature: Alone by Megan E. Freeman

Use these slides
to introduce/review
Theme.



<https://www.canva.com/design/DAF5thmrS00/vvfGm2CrZb9PqbvWRHRFtg/edit?>

[utm_content=DAF5thmrS00&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton](https://www.canva.com/design/DAF5thmrS00/vvfGm2CrZb9PqbvWRHRFtg/edit?utm_content=DAF5thmrS00&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton)



** Use the following pages for
your students to take notes.

Created by The Word Nerd, Amanda Zieba

Notes Sheet

Theme

- A _____

- A _____ or “take away” learned or experienced through the _____ and their situation.

- If done well, theme can add a meaningful _____ to a story that will help you _____ the story to your real life as well as learn an important lesson.

- Theme is _____ than _____.

- Theme occurs _____ times throughout the story.

- Theme can be _____ or obvious.

- Theme can also be defined as the _____ or underlying _____.

If you had to tell a new student who missed today's lesson about theme, how would you explain it in your own words?

THEME NOTES

CIRCLE OF LIFE

COMING OF AGE

FAITH VS. DOUBT

FATE VS. FREE WILL

GOOD VS. EVIL

HUBRIS

THEME NOTES

IDENTITY	

JUSTICE	

PURSUIT OF LOVE	

SURVIVAL	

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Theme: Circle of Life

Definition:

Books with this theme explore the ideas that what comes around, goes around and that life isn't a permanent state. These books help us understand that death is an evolution rather than THE END.

Examples

In the space below, list examples of books and movies that showcase this theme/lesson learned.

As a group, identify the example that best models this theme. Circle it or mark it with a star.

Theme: Coming of Age

Definition:

This theme involves the intense experiences of transitioning from a child to an adult, and how these growing up experiences shape the future of the main character.

Examples

In the space below, list examples of books and movies that showcase this theme/lesson learned.

As a group, identify the example that best models this theme. Circle it or mark it with a star.

Theme: Faith vs. Doubt

Definition:

Whether it's faith in a religion, a higher being, other people, or belief in their own self, believing is a difficult task for the main character in books with this theme. Through the story they discover if their long held faith is worth hanging on to.

Examples

In the space below, list examples of books and movies that showcase this theme/lesson learned.

As a group, identify the example that best models

Theme: Fate vs. Free Will

Definition:

The main character ponders how much of our actions as humans are decided by fate and how much is dictated by free will.

These main characters wonder: are we in control of our own lives, or not?

Examples

In the space below, list examples of books and movies that showcase this theme/lesson learned.

As a group, identify the example that best models this theme. Circle it or mark it with a star.

Theme: Good vs. Evil

Definition:

This story features an external battle between good and evil forces... a battle whose outcome will have a large impact.

Examples

In the space below, list examples of books and movies that showcase this theme/lesson learned.

As a group, identify the example that best models this theme. Circle it or mark it with a star.

Theme: Hubris

Definition:

A story in which the main character exudes excessive self-confidence as well as the terrible decisions that arise from it. (Hint: often found in mythology)

Examples

In the space below, list examples of books and movies that showcase this theme/lesson learned.

As a group, identify the example that best models this theme. Circle it or mark it with a star.

Theme: Identity

Definition:

The main character wrestles with the question: Who am I? “Identity” refers to the qualities that make one person different from another. How much of a difference exists between one person and another? Is that difference important? Why?

Examples

In the space below, list examples of books and movies that showcase this theme/lesson learned.

As a group, identify the example that best models this theme. Circle it or mark it with a star.

Theme: Justice

Definition:

What makes a society just? Justice, in its broadest sense, is the concept that individuals are to be treated in a manner that is equitable and fair. These theme looks at the consequences of just and unjust actions and what qualifies those actions to be just and/or unjust.

Examples

In the space below, list examples of books and movies that showcase this theme/lesson learned.

As a group, identify the example that best models this theme. Circle it or mark it with a star.

Theme: Pursuit of Love

Definition:

Some say love is the most important thing in the entire world. Whether it's romantic, familial, or platonic love, this kind of story is about a person's quest to find love and the conflict that comes from pursuing it.

Examples

In the space below, list examples of books and movies that showcase this theme/lesson learned.

As a group, identify the example that best models this theme. Circle it or mark it with a star.

Theme: Revenge

Definition:

This story follows a character as they attempt to find and put right wrongs that have been committed. Revenge is tempting, but is it worth it? Can revenge beget justice? And How far is too far? These are the questions a main character grapples with in a story with this theme.

Examples

In the space below, list examples of books and movies that showcase this theme/lesson learned.

As a group, identify the example that best models this theme. Circle it or mark it with a star.

Theme: Survival

Definition:

The literary theme of survival applies to stories about being about fighting against nature to stay alive, but it also applies to stories about the survival of ideas, groups, and society/humanity-at-large.

Examples

In the space below, list examples of books and movies that showcase this theme/lesson learned.

As a group, identify the example that best models this theme. Circle it or mark it with a star.

Name: _____

Chosen Theme:

Book/Movie: _____

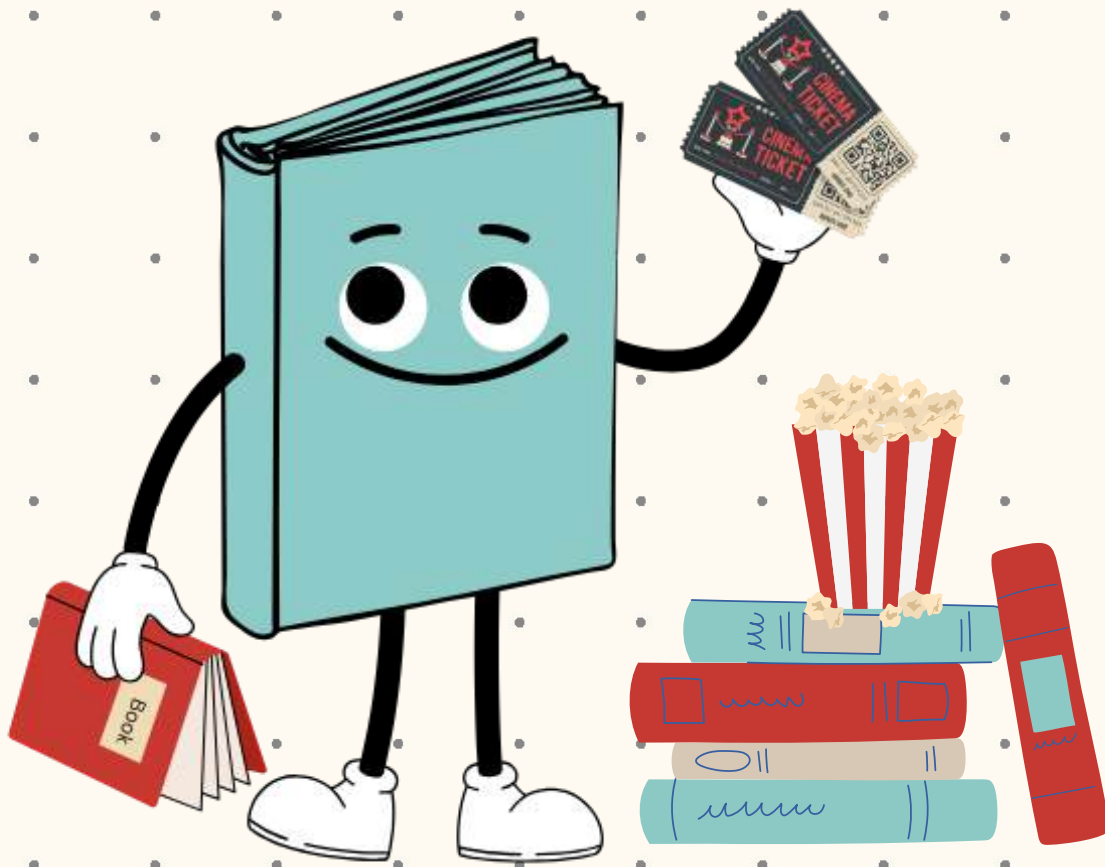
Author/Screen Writer: _____

Directions: Use the space below to explain how your chosen story showcases the identified theme. Remember to use specific examples as evidence to support your answer.



PAGE VS. SCREEN

Analyzing How a Story is Seen



from the Word Nerd Collaborative

PAGE VS. SCREEN

AN INTERACTIVE LESSON ON BOOKS AND MOVIES

There are all sorts of ways to tell a story and all sorts of things we can learn about storytelling by experiencing different versions.

This resource will help you and students deconstruct and compare different versions of a story, specifically, books and movies. The goal is to better understand how a story is made and how story elements impact a reader, all while focusing on my favorite part of stories... enjoying them!



Standards Covered in this Resource

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.5

Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.7

Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text, including contrasting what they "see" and "hear" when reading the text to what they perceive when they listen or watch.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.9

Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.

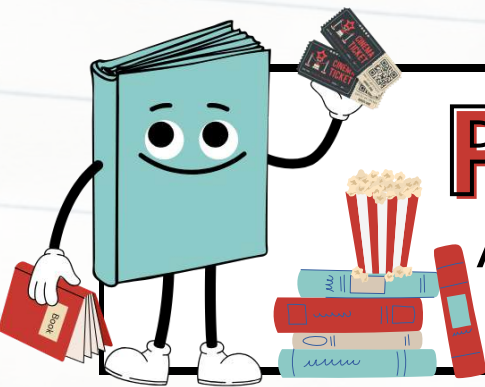


If you have any questions while using this resource, feel free to reach out!

wordnerd@amandazieba.com

Happy teaching, reading, watching and writing!

Amanda Zieba
(aka: The Word Nerd)



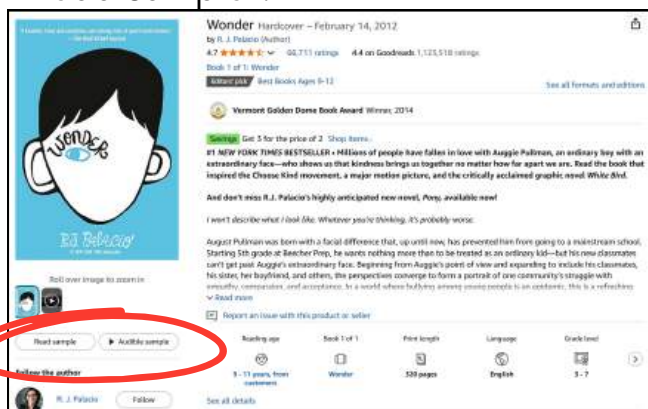
PAGE VS. SCREEN

Analyzing How a Story is Seen

from the Word Nerd Collaborative

Step 1:

Read chapter 1 of your chosen story. You can either do this directly from a physical copy of the book, or if you don't have access to the book, head to Amazon.com and click "read sample".



Step 3:

Watch the movie. Watch as long as you'd like, but I recommend (for the sake of the activity) to watch until the end of the chapter 1 event. Later you can come back and watch more as a reward for finishing the book/activity/etc. You know your school best, so watch via DVD/Streaming/etc. as your school allows. Do not just show the trailer... more on this soon. :)

Step 2:

Go to ScreenWritersNetwork.org and search for your movie script. You can either print a few pages of the script or have students read directly from the website. To help your students understand the lingo and abbreviations that come with this format, [use this brief slideshow](#).

Step 4:

Compare! Using the next few pages, record important information about each version of the story and then, look for similarities and differences. Use these as the pre-writing phrase for any longer pieces of writing you'd like your students to complete.

Standards Covered in this Resource

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.5

Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.7

Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text, including contrasting what they "see" and "hear" when reading the text to what they perceive when they listen or watch.

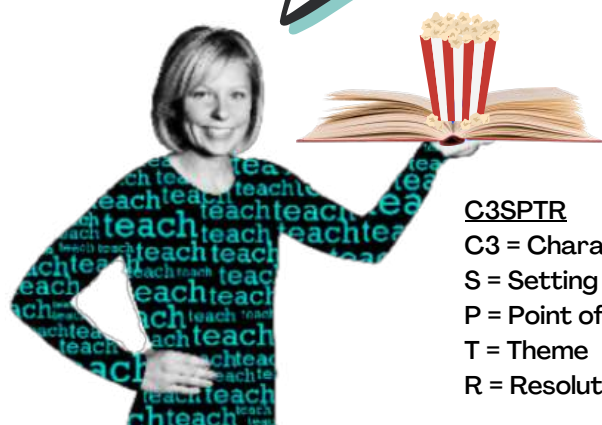
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.9

Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.

Name: _____
 Class: _____

C3 Story
 Parts To
 Remember!

Story Elements



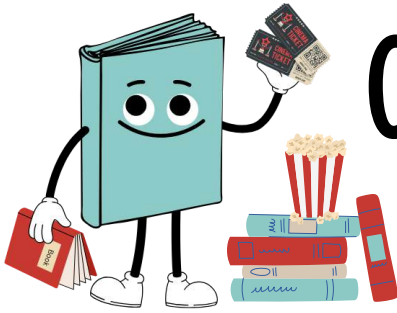
C3SPTR
 C3 = Character, Conflict, Climax
 S = Setting
 P = Point of View
 T = Theme
 R = Resolution

Directions: Read/listen to the first chapter of the book, read the first scene of the screen play and watch the first scene of the movie. For each, identify as many story element pieces as possible.

	Book Chapter 1	Screen Play Scene 1	Movie Scene 1
Title			
Author/ Writer			
Characters			
Setting			
Conflict			
Point of View			
Additional Details			

Now that you've experienced 3 different forms of the story, which do you prefer and why? Which version was the strongest/most impactful/enjoyable? Why? Jot a few notes below and then use this page to write a full response (per your teacher's instructions.)

Name: _____



Compare and Contrast

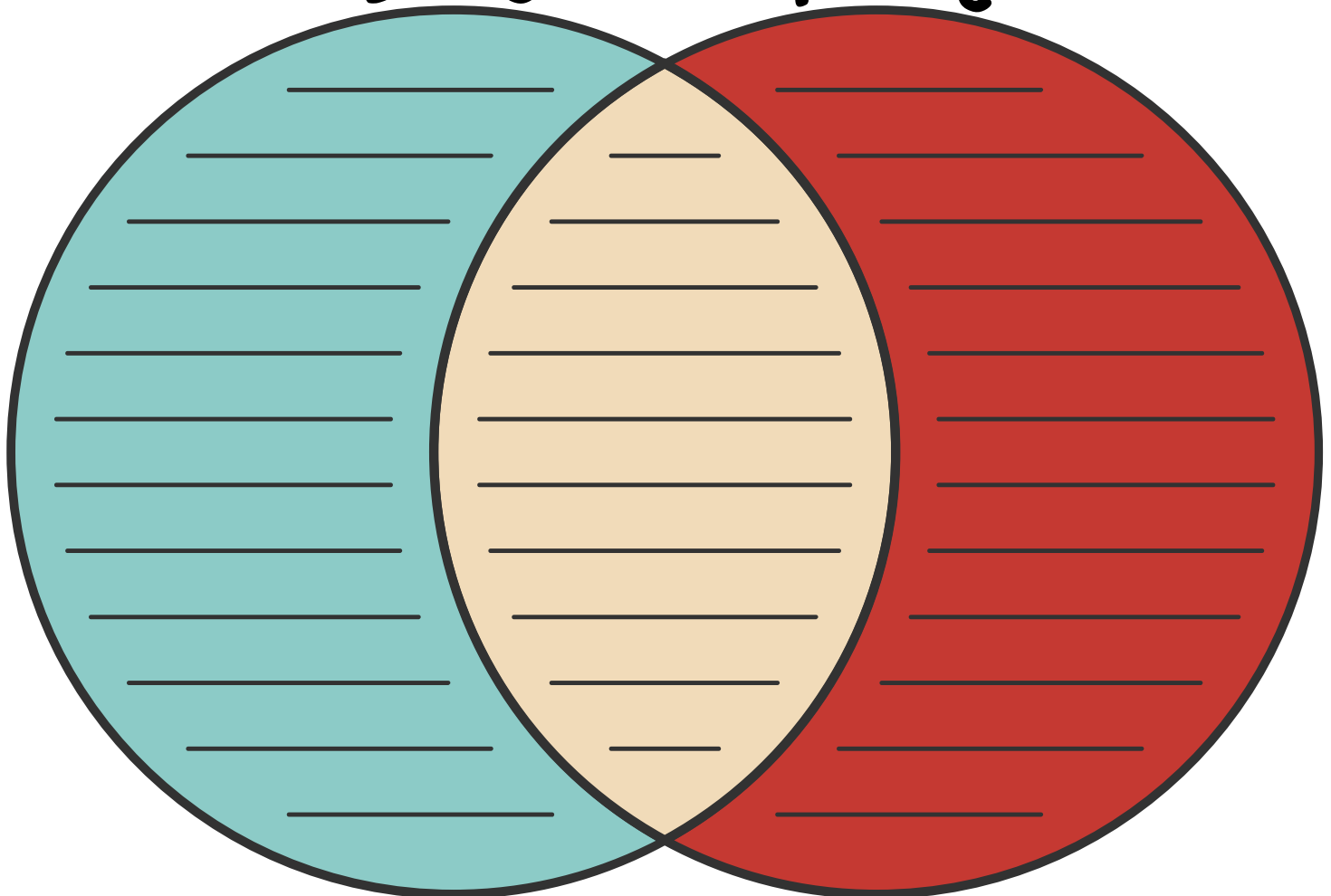
Find a book that has been turned into a movie. Read the book's blurb (summary on the back cover or inside flap or Amazon description) and also watch the movie version trailer (search on YouTube). Then compare and contrast these two "introductions" to the story. If you are stuck, ask yourself the below questions to generate some ideas.

Questions to ask yourself:

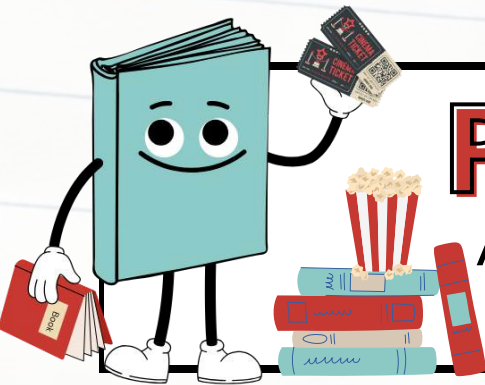
1. Was character or plot more strongly emphasized? How did this focus impact my first impression?
2. Did the "introduction" lean heavily into the celebrity status of the author/creators/actors?
3. What additional elements (images, sound effects, music, visuals, endorsements, awards) were present? How did they affect your first impression?

Blurb

Movie



Overall, which introduction version (the blurb or the movie trailer) did a better job of making you want to read/experience the story? Why? Be specific! What elements pulled you in?



PAGE VS. SCREEN

Analyzing How a Story is Seen

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Option 1

Using what you now know about screenplays, write a script for you and a partner (or small group) introducing your audience to a story that has been turned into both a book and a movie. In your script highlight several positive features from each form. Encourage your audience to experience both versions and then make up their mind about which was better, the book or the movie. Practice your script and then perform it for your classmates!

Option 2

Create a billboard promoting your chosen story. Include information about both the book and movie, about the writer and actors. Work to include story elements and visually represent them in an appealing and clear way. Your goal is to convince students to give the story a try!

Option 4

Create your own trailer video for this book. (Canva and iMovie will work well for this!). Work to include as many story elements as possible and also film effects like music. Study other examples to give you ideas! Keep the target audience and what will appeal to them, in mind!

Option 3

Create a powerpoint or slide show presentation explaining the differences between the multiple versions of the story. Add in your opinions and how you think the author would feel about the way their story is being presented now. Do your best to include specific examples from all three versions (book, screenplay and movie).

**No matter what option
you choose, have fun
showcasing what you
have learned!**



November
2025

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
BECAUSE YOU DESERVE THEM!

Comprehension Strategy

Improve your students' reading comprehension with this fun strategy! In this video, I will teach you how to engage your students by letting them play with playdough while you read aloud – yep, you read that right. You can use this strategy with fiction or nonfiction text, and with students of all ages. After this quick 8 minute tutorial video, you'll be ready to bring a whole new level of understanding (and fun!) to your reading lesson.



Here's a video that will walk you through the process!

WRITING TIP VIDEOS

1



Do you have a reluctant writer on your hands? Struggling to help your students get words down on the page? What if you could get your kiddo to actually like the writing process?!? Never fear, the word nerd is here to help! In this video I share several strategies and techniques to take the anxiety out of the beginning stages of writing and (gasp!) maybe even make it a little fun! incorporate timers into your classroom.

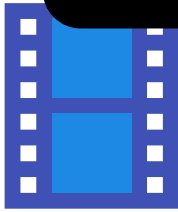
2



Have you ever wondered where authors get their ideas? In this video, popular middle grade authors share where they find their story ideas. LISTEN to the tips from these award winning writers, LEARN about their strategies and techniques and then go WRITE! The world needs your stories and I hope this video can help you bring them to life.



In this video I give middle school writers two practical tips to help them take their story to the next level. To make the abstract concept of "getting better at writing" and make it concrete, Amanda shows examples from her own work and explains her choices and the impact she intended them to have.



BOOKS INTO MOVIES

Here are some videos and playlists to use alongside this month's lessons and resources.

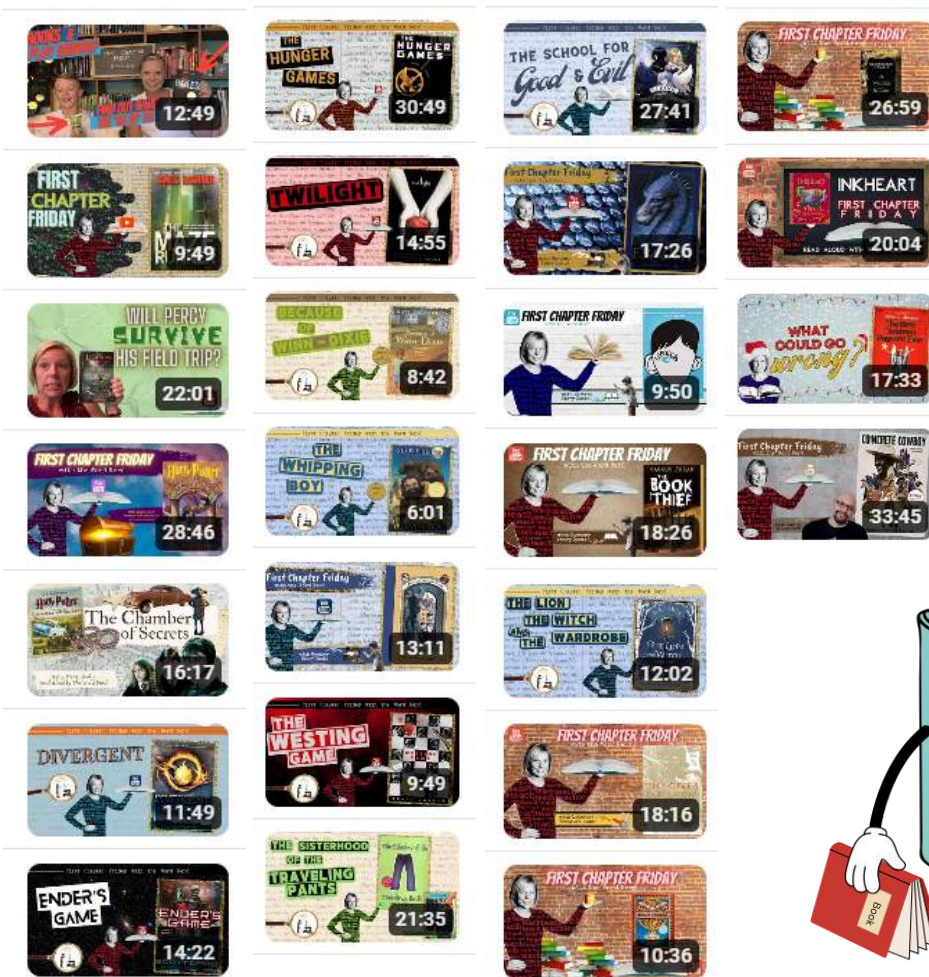
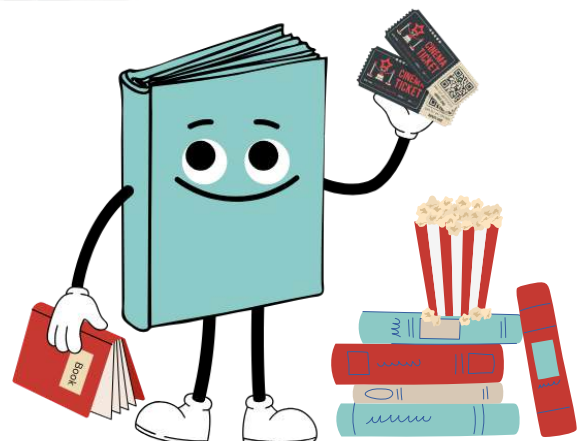
QUICK RECS

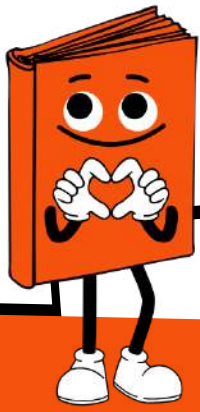
19 Cinematic reading recommendations in less than 4 minutes. Pull these titles from your school or classroom library so when kids immediately want these books, you are ready! Click [here](#) to watch the video.



FCF BOOKS INTO MOVIES PLAYLIST

This [playlist](#) has 25 books (and counting!) that have been turned into movies. If a student is looking for one, this is a great place to get them started!





I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOU.

All month long, we've been looking for gratitude in the margins—those quiet little moments tucked between bells, lesson plans, and the occasional paper snowball. And I hope you found a few.

Maybe it was a student who remembered your name and how to spell “because.” Maybe it was a coworker who refilled the copy paper. Maybe it was ten quiet seconds at your desk where you got to just... breathe.

Gratitude doesn't always show up with confetti. Sometimes it arrives in lowercase, with a slightly smudged sticky note and a crumpled granola bar wrapper.

But here's the thing: when you take time to notice it, you also grow your capacity to share it. So before we turn the page to December, I want to give you one more moment to pause—not just to feel grateful, but to express it. Whether it's a teammate, a friend, an administrator, or a student who caught you off guard with their kindness... let's pass the good stuff on.

You can write a quick thank you note, send a text, or—if time is short—just try filling in one or two of these Mad Libs in your head or heart:

Gratitude Mad Libs - Pass It On Edition

- ♥ I'm grateful for you because you keep showing up even when _____.
- ♥ You deserve gold stars for _____ and _____.
- ♥ If I could give you a gift, it would be _____ and an unlimited supply of _____.
- ♥ Working with you makes _____ feel a little lighter.
- ♥ You probably don't even realize it, but _____ meant a lot to me.

This season is full—full of pressure, full of events, full of expectations. But it can also be full of meaning. And you get to choose where your attention goes. So as we close out November, I want to say this one more time: I'm grateful for you. For your passion. Your presence. Your persistence. For every time you show up for your students and for yourself.

Thank you for letting me be part of your work and your world.

♥ , AMANDA