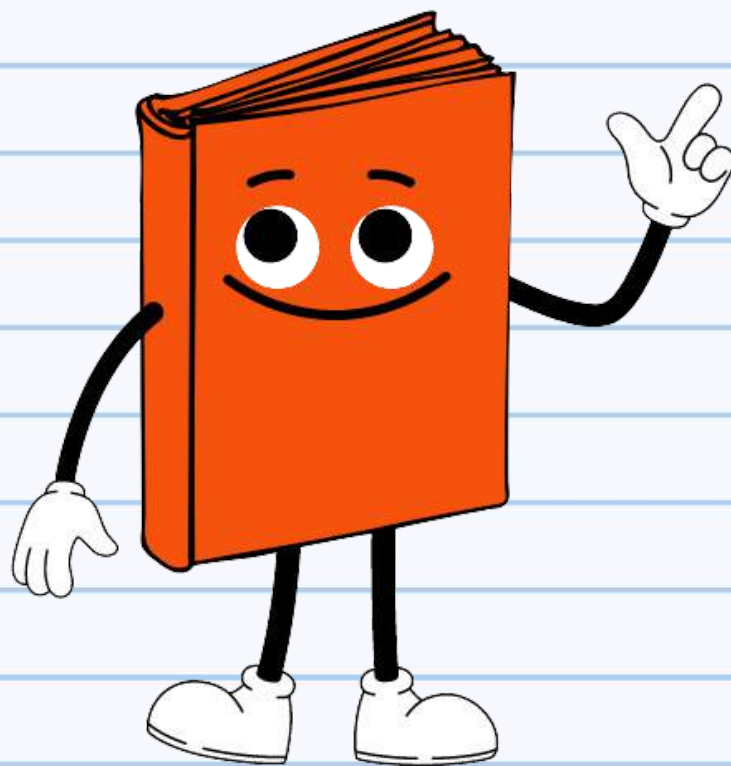
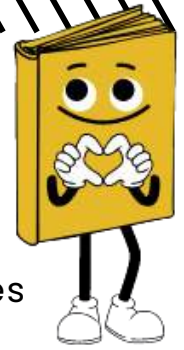


Word Nerd Collaborative
PRE-PLANNED
Calendar



AUGUST
2024

WELCOME TO ANOTHER YEAR.



I was a gymnast until I was 18. In college, I worked as a hostess and then as a server, at T.G.I. Fridays. The same feelings I get as a new school year is about to begin are pretty similar to the ones I'd get right before a meet or the Saturday night rush.

I knew what was coming, or at least, I had a pretty good idea. I knew I was going to have to work hard. I knew that I had people next to me and behind me, but a good portion of what needed to be done was gonna be on me to actually accomplish. I knew I'd practiced and was prepared, but that didn't mean surprises couldn't happen. I knew some moments would fly by and others would feel like they'd never end. I also knew that no matter how hard I worked, there was a chance that not everyone would be satisfied with my performance. And that some days that unsatisfied party, would be me.

I knew though, that despite all of the challenges, I loved it. For me, gymnastics was more than an after school activity. It was my identity. And I loved working at Fridays - my first real job I got all by myself without family connections. It was hard, but fun. In both of these situations I felt like I was where I was meant to be. Teaching 6th grade reading felt exactly the same. Just take out the leotard and the Jack Daniels glazed ribs and substitute in books and tweens.

The anticipation. The rush. The satisfaction of a job well done. The energy depleted crash at the end of the meet, end of the shift, end of the day, week, quarter, school year.

After reading all this, you won't be surprised to hear me say, that in my eyes, teaching is a whole lot like a competitive sport and working in a restaurant. As we go through this school year, I want you to think of the Word Nerd Collaborative as your team. As the fellow players who will cheer you on, offer up their best moves, and pick you up when you've had a bad day.

Here we are back at the beginning. Hands in teacher friends.
Let's do this. Together.

- AMANDA

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Writing Prompts ... 43

Lessons ... 73

Additional Resources ... 101

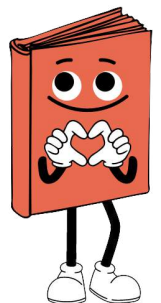
Letter from Amanda ... 124

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT

September Monthly Planning Session Zoom Link (Aug. 18)
LINK

August Lunch Bunch Zoom Link
LINK

Word Nerd Collaborative Private Facebook Group
LINK



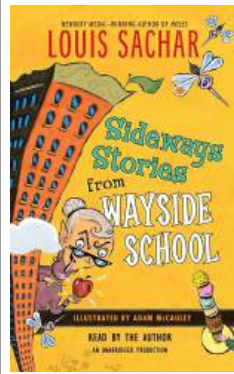
August 2024

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

Notes:

First Chapter Fridays

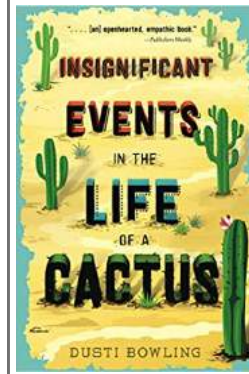
Friday, August 2nd



Sideways Stories
from Wayside
School
by
Louis Sachar

Humor/Prose

Friday, August 9th



Insignificant
Events in the Life
of a Cactus
by
Dusti Bowling

Realistic
Fiction/Prose

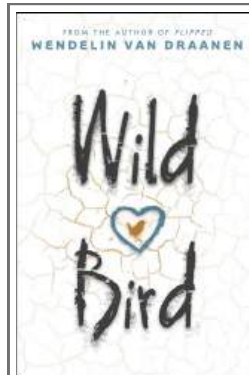
Friday, August 16th



The Remarkable
Journey of
Coyote Sunrise
by Dan
Gemeinhart

Realistic
Fiction/Prose

Friday, August 23rd



Wild Bird
by
Wendelin
Van Draanen

Realistic
Fiction/Prose

Friday, August 30th



Swim Team
by
Johnnie
Christmas

Realistic Fiction/
Graphic Novel

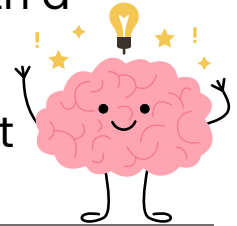
Lunch Bunch
Attendees

Louis Sachar - ?
Dusti Bowling - ?
Dan Gemeinhart -yes
Wendelin Van Draanen -yes
Johnnie Christmas - yes

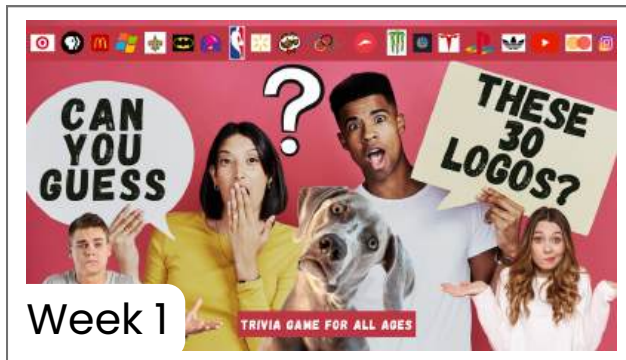


Brain Breaks

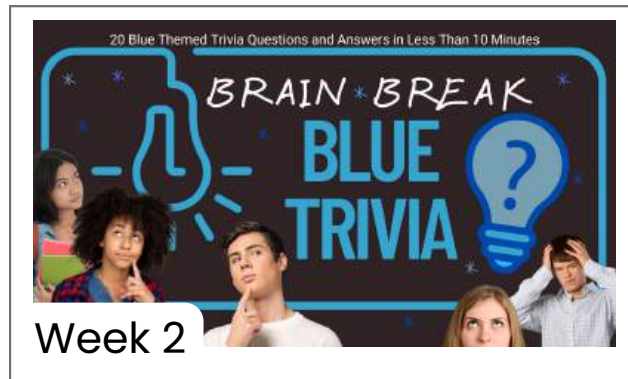
Help your students reset their brains and moods with a little break. Try a fun trivia game! Totally optional, but you can use the LEADERBOARD on page 18 to keep track of student teams and scores throughout the month.



Guess the Logo



Blue Trivia



Animal Name Trivia



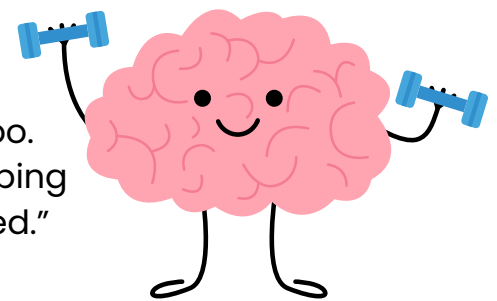
School Around the World Trivia



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](#)



Week 1

Monday
July

Tuesday
July

Wednesday
July

Thursday
Hello My Name Is...

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 2

Monday
Name a Pet

Tuesday
Prank War

Wednesday
Time Travel

Thursday
Create a Friend Recipe

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 3

Monday
Someone Famous is Coming to Dinner!

Tuesday
I Found a Fairy House

Wednesday
Design a Robot

Thursday
Step into the Portal

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 4

Monday
Frozen Field

Tuesday
A Whole New Ending

Wednesday
Emotional Armor

Thursday
3 Unknown Facts

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 5

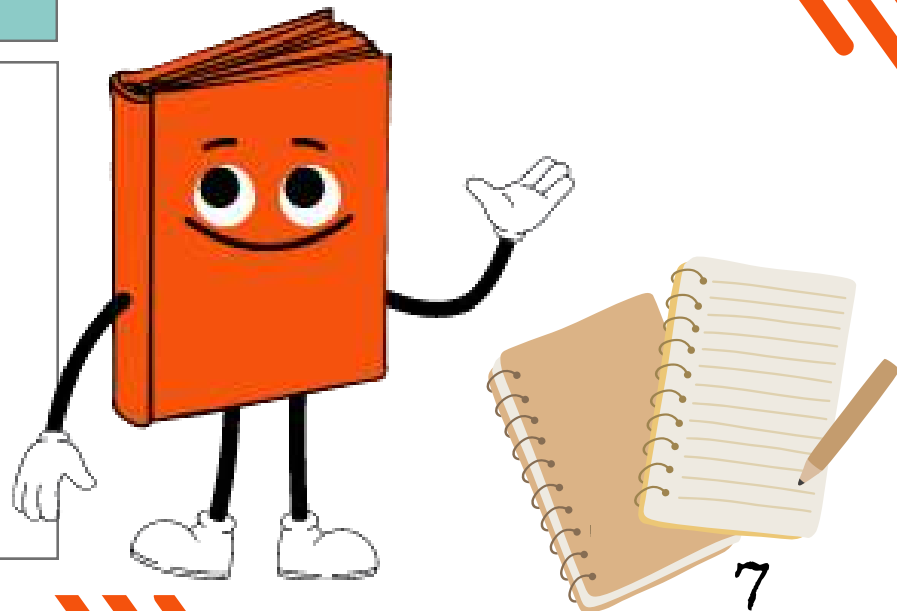
Monday
An Epic Sleepover

Tuesday
A Story in the Sky

Wednesday
A Personal Pep Talk

Thursday
A Birthday Present

Friday
Free Write Friday



LESSONS

Click the underlined title of each resource to access it.

1

ORIGIN STORY INTRODUCTION

Say goodbye to your previously boring “Welcome to my class, I am your teacher” first day spiel, and instead use this fun origin story activity to introduce yourself as a super hero! Then, turn the tables, and ask students to do the same! You’ll be the hero of the first week when students are energized and enthusiastic about being in your classroom and you all know each other’s strengths a bit better.

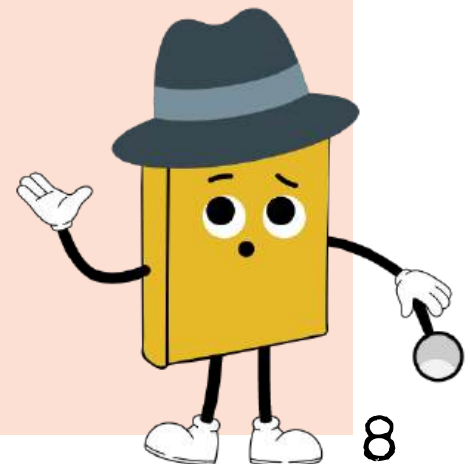


2

COLLECTIVE NOUN PRACTICE

Collective Nouns can be tricky! In this activity students will read the 10 mini-mystery chapters about the Noun Town Library Looter and search to identify 15 collective nouns that are hidden in the text.

An audio file and writing extension activity are included as well as an answer key and rubric.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Click the underlined title of each resource to access it.

1

FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY TRACKING CHARTS

Students can use these interactive charts to keep track of the First Chapter Friday books they have read/listened to and/or as a wish list of titles they want to read in the future.

2

MOTIVATIONAL QUOTE POSTER SET

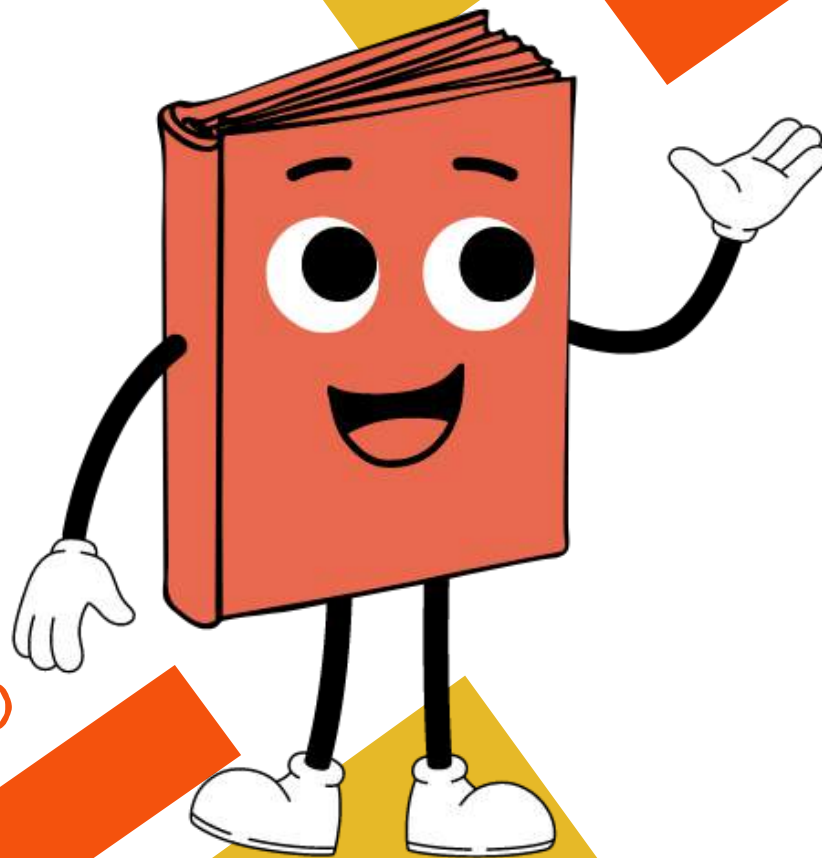
Use these colorful and inspirational, ready-to-print motivational quote posters to easily decorate your room. No theme? No problem! Good advice is always in style.

3

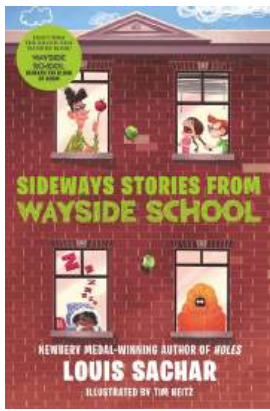
READING RECOMMENDATION LIST: BOOKS ABOUT...

The books in this thematic list will help student looking for a book all about moving to a new school/place and also friendship. Each title and book cover image is directly linked to that book's First Chapter Friday read aloud video.

FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY SHEETS



AUGUST
2024



Name _____

Date _____

Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar



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.

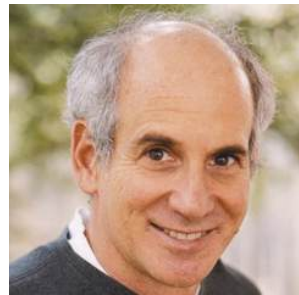
What's It About?

Accidentally built sideways and standing thirty stories high (the builder said he was very sorry for the mistake), Wayside School has some of the wackiest classes in town, especially on the thirtieth floor. That's where you'll meet Bebe, the fastest draw in art class; John, who only reads upside down; Myron, the best class president ever; and Sammy, the new kid—he's a real rat. More than fifteen million readers have laughed at the clever and hilarious stories of Wayside School. So what are you waiting for? Come visit Wayside School! Kids 7 to 13 will zoom through these chapter books—laughing their way through the fast, funny, silly but relatable stories.

AR Reading Level: 3.3

Who Wrote It?

Louis was born in New York in 1954, but only lived there until 3rd grade. Then he moved to California and lived near the orange groves. He liked school as a kid and did pretty well, but it wasn't until high school that he fell in love with reading. During college he volunteered at a school to earn additional credits. It was his experiences at that school that inspired the book Sideways Stories from Wayside School. Before he was a full time writer, Louis had a few other jobs including: door-to-door cleaning salesman, lawyer, and a job at a sweater warehouse. Louis has this to say about his writing process, 'I write every morning, usually for no more than two hours a day. I never talk about a book until it is finished. I spent two years on my latest novel, and nobody, not even my wife, or daughter or my editor knew anything about it until it was finished.



Then they were the first to read it.' Louis now lives in Austin, TX with his wife (who is a school counselor turned zookeeper!) and enjoys playing cards (a game called Bridge) in his free time.

Lexile Level: 530L

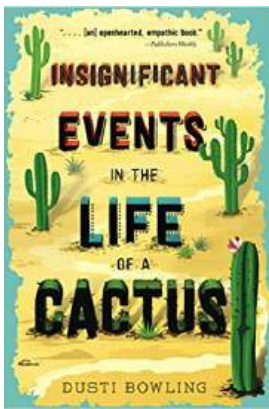
I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



Name _____

Date _____



Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling



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?

Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them. And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she'll have to answer the question over and over again. Her new life takes an unexpected turn when she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It's hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven's about to discover she can do it all . . . even without arms.

A bestselling middle grade novel about a spunky girl born without arms and a boy with Tourette syndrome navigating the challenges of middle school, disability, and friendship—all while solving a mystery in a western theme park. Book 1 in the series!

Who Wrote It?

Dusti Bowling grew up in Scottsdale, Arizona, where, as her family will tell you, she always had her nose in a book. She released her first middle grade novel in 2017 and hasn't stopped writing since.

Dusti's books have won the Reading the West Award, the Sakura Medal, a Golden Kite Honor, the William Allen White Children's Book Award, and have been nominated for over thirty state awards. Her books are Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selections and have won many awards, including best books of the year by the Chicago Public Library, Kirkus, Bank Street, A Mighty Girl, and many others!



Dusti currently lives in New River, Arizona with her husband, three daughters, several tarantulas, a gopher snake named Burrito, and a cockatiel named Gandalf the Grey.

AR Reading Level: 4.6

Lexile Level: 700L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



Name _____

Date _____



The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise

by Dan Gemeinhart



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?

For five years Coyote and her dad, Rodeo, have lived on the road in an old school bus, criss-crossing the nation. It's also how long ago Coyote lost her mom and two sisters in a car crash. Coyote hasn't been home in all that time, but when she learns that the park in her old neighborhood is being demolished—a park where she, her mom, and her sisters buried a treasured memory box—she devises an elaborate plan to get her dad to drive 3,600 miles back to Washington state in four days...without him realizing it. Along the way, they'll pick up a strange crew of misfit travelers. Lester has a lady love to meet. Salvador and his mom are looking to start over. Val needs a safe place to be herself. Over the course of thousands of miles, Coyote will learn that going home can sometimes be the hardest journey of all...but that with friends by her side, she just might be able to turn her 'once upon a time' into a 'happily ever after.'

Book 2 released in Spring 2024!

Who Wrote It?

Dan Gemeinhart was born in Germany because his father was in the Army. Now he lives in a small town smack dab in the middle of Washington state with his wife and three young daughters. He was lucky and grateful to be a teacher-librarian in an elementary school for thirteen years, where he got to share awesome books with awesome kids. He loves camping, cooking and traveling. He also plays guitar (badly) and reads (constantly). His house is always a mess. He is really



pretty darn happy. You can learn more about him and his books @ www.dangemeinhart.com.

AR Reading Level: 4.7

Lexile Level: 730L

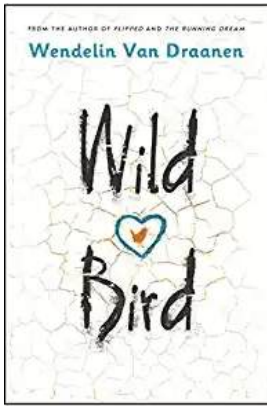
I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



Name _____

Date _____



Wild Bird by Wendelin Van Draanen



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?

3:47 a.m. That's when they come for Wren Clemmens. She's hustled out of her house and into a waiting car, then a plane, and then taken on a forced march into the desert. This is what happens to kids who've gone so far off the rails, their parents don't know what to do with them anymore. This is wilderness therapy camp. Eight weeks of survivalist camping in the desert. Eight weeks to turn your life around. Yeah, right. The Wren who arrives in the Utah desert is angry and bitter, and blaming everyone but herself. But angry can't put up a tent. And bitter won't start a fire. Wren's going to have to admit she needs help if she's going to survive.

This book has a connection to the story Jungle Book and other Disney movies! This book is for 7th graders and up.

Who Wrote It?

I was born on January 6th to Dutch immigrants (Peter & Mieske Van Draanen) in Chicago, IL. When I was very young, my family moved to California, where I still reside. I grew up with two brothers and a sister. We did a lot of camping and backpacking as a family, and also as Scouts, where we learned useful survival skills and also to appreciate nature. I taught computer science and math at the high school level for 15 years. I began writing because I went through some awful times and learned



that writing can help you sort out your troubles and find focus. To learn more about Wendelin, read her memoir: Hope in the Mail or in the interview at the end of this video.

AR Reading Level: 4.4

Lexile Level: 680L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



Name _____

Date _____



Swim Team

by Johnnie Christmas

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?

A splashy, contemporary middle grade graphic novel from bestselling comics creator Johnnie Christmas! Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school, Enith Brigitha, home to the Mighty Manatees—until she's stuck with the only elective that fits her schedule, the dreaded Swim 101. The thought of swimming makes Bree more than a little queasy, yet she's forced to dive headfirst into one of her greatest fears. Lucky for her, Etta, an elderly occupant of her apartment building and former swim team captain, is willing to help. With Etta's training and a lot of hard work, Bree suddenly finds her swim-crazed community counting on her to turn the school's failing team around. But that's easier said than done, especially when their rival, the prestigious Holyoke Prep, has everything they need to leave the Mighty Manatees in their wake. Can Bree defy the odds and guide her team to a state championship, or have the Manatees swum their last lap—for good?

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor, National Book Award Longlist, Kirkus Best Book of the Year, Harvey Award Best Children's or Young Adult Book Nominee

AR Reading Level: 2.6

Who Wrote It?

Johnnie Christmas is a #1 New York Times Best Selling graphic novelist. SWIM TEAM is his middle grade graphic novel debut. When Johnnie was a child he fell into a pool and almost drown. It was that experience that inspired this story. As a kid Johnnie loved reading Calvin and Hobbes and Peanuts comics. Johnnie used to write things for adults, but now focuses on work for kids. He is currently hard at work on two new middle-grade graphic novels, one of them about video games! He also co-created the series ANGEL CATBIRD with celebrated writer Margaret Atwood and adapted William Gibson's lost screenplay for ALIEN 3



into a critically acclaimed graphic novel of the same name. Johnnie lives in Vancouver, British Columbia. You can learn more about him and his work at www.johnniechristmas.com.

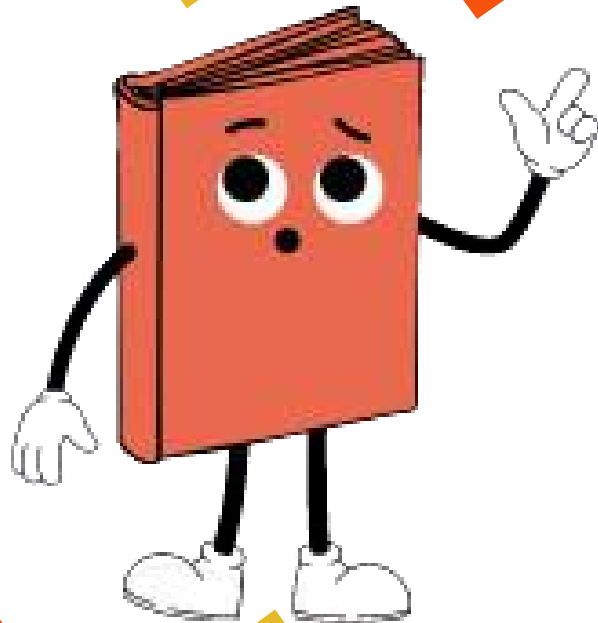
Lexile Level: Unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



BRAIN BREAK SHEETS



AUGUST 2024

How to do TRIVIA

FOR EACH BRAIN BREAK YOU WILL FIND:

1. Link to the YouTube video version (all around 8-11 minutes)
2. Student answer sheets
3. Modified student answer sheets for students of different ages/abilities
4. Printable question and answer sheets (to use with or without the video)
5. Answer key
6. List of additional considerations, applications and implementation ideas
7. ALL SORTS OF FUN!! :)

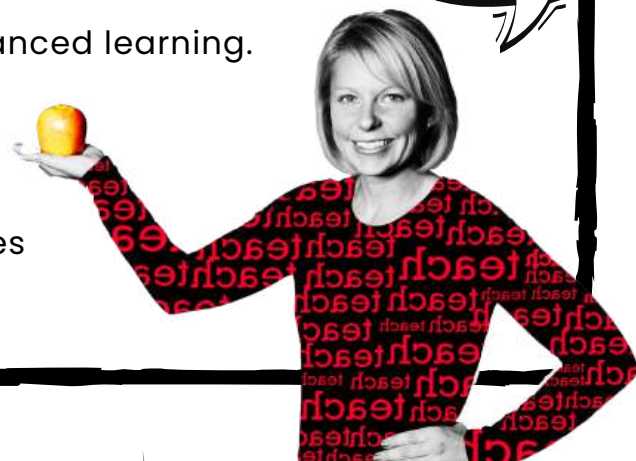
DIRECTIONS

1. Play the video showcasing 20-30 themed trivia questions.
2. Using the the provided printable worksheets, or scratch paper, have students record their guesses.
3. During the answer portion of the slideshow/video pause to allow students to share out or discuss their ideas/guesses with the whole class, in small groups or in partnerships.
 - a. This step is optional, but I find that if you want to get your students talking, it works great. If you need a few minutes of silence... you can ban conversation and it works just fine that way too!
4. Reveal final answers.
5. Total up scores
6. Record scores on the leaderboard (page 18)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/IDEAS

1. This activity can be used as a brain break, ice breaker or fun game.
2. In my classes we keep our teams the same for an entire quarter. We have a "leader board" where we keep a running score for all of our brain break games. This is great for team building or creating comradery in a classroom learning environment. :)
3. You can assign this to individuals (ie: in Google Classroom) to do on their own, or complete the challenge as a whole class activity using a screen and projector.
4. This activity can work well in person or via distanced learning.
5. Because the videos are on YouTube, this is an activity that students can easily try/repeat at home with family members. :)
6. Consider letting a classroom helper or leader be the "game show host" and call on classmates to share their ideas and reveal the answers.

Tired of the same old Brain Breaks? I've got you covered.



August Brain Break LEADERBOARD

In each square record either the # of points a team earned, or their place (1st, 2nd, etc.) The method you choose will determine whether the winner will be the team with the highest or lowest score.

TEAM #1

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total

TEAM #2

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total

TEAM #3

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total

TEAM #4

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total

TEAM #5

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total

TEAM #6

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total



Trivia Game Video Link

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

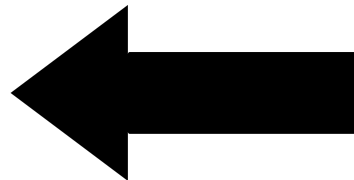
GUESS THE LOGO TRIVIA



This link will take you to the YouTube Video of Guess the Logo Trivia questions: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHqK6jJ8yuw?sub_confirmation=1



Trivia
Video





Guess the Logo Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on the lines below.

Name/Team Name: _____

Round 1

Round 2

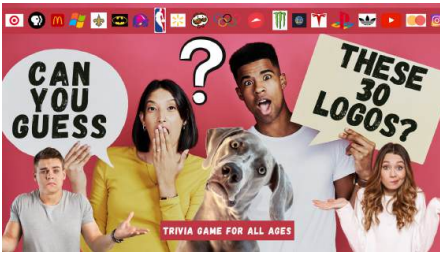
Round 3

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 11. _____ | 21. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 12. _____ | 22. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 13. _____ | 23. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 14. _____ | 24. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 15. _____ | 25. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 16. _____ | 26. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 17. _____ | 27. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 18. _____ | 28. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 19. _____ | 29. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ | 30. _____ |



Trivia
Video

How did you do?
Are you an expert when it comes to
identifying company logos?



Guess the Logo Trivia Game



Trivia
Video

Name: _____



1 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



2 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



3 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



4 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



5 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



6 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



7 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



8 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



9 What company is represented by this logo?

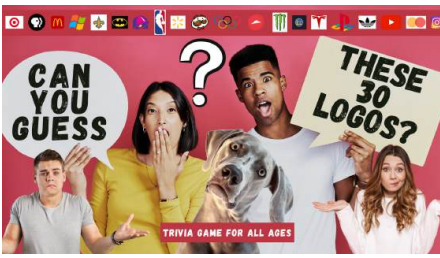
Answer: _____



10 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____

Score for this page: ___/10



Guess the Logo Trivia Game



Trivia
Video

Name: _____



11 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



12 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



13 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



14 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



15 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



16 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



17 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



18 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



19 What company is represented by this logo?

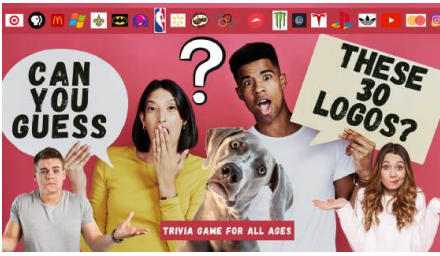
Answer: _____



20 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____

Score for this page: ___/10



Guess the Logo Trivia Game



Trivia
Video

Name: _____



21 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



22 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



23 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



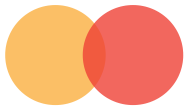
24 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



25 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



26 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



27 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



28 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



29 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



30 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____

Total Score: ___/30

Score for this page: ___/10



Guess the Logo Trivia Answer Key

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

Name/Team Name: _____

Round 1

1. Taco Bell
2. Walmart
3. YouTube
4. Batman
5. Olympics
6. Target
7. Starbucks
8. Instagram
9. McDonald's
10. Nike

Round 2

11. Pizza Hut
12. Microsoft
13. Monster
14. NBA (National Basketball Association)
15. Playstation
16. Pringles
17. New Orleans Saints (NFL)
18. Pepsi
19. Gatorade
20. Golden State Warriors (NBA)

Round 3

21. Tesla
22. LG (Life's Good)
23. Goodyear
24. Adidas
25. PBS (Public Broadcasting System)
26. Mastercard
27. Expedia
28. World Wildlife Fund
29. Unilever
30. Rolex

How did you do?
Are you an expert when it comes to
identifying company logos?



Trivia
Video



Trivia Game Video Link

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

ANIMAL GROUP NAME TRIVIA VIDEO

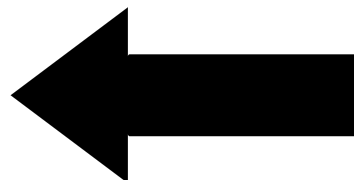


This link will take you to the YouTube Video of Animal Group Name Trivia questions:

https://youtu.be/2Pq7q_0VHH4?sub_confirmation=1



Trivia
Video





Animal Group Name 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 an expert when it comes to
Animal Group Names?



Animal Group Name Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines 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



Animal Group Name Trivia Game



Name: _____

Trivia Video

1 A group of ELEPHANTS is called a

- a) Herd
- b) Gaggle
- c) Parade
- d) Noisy

2 A group of CAMELS is called a

- a) Line
- b) Caravan
- c) Tribe
- d) Pack

3 A group of GORILLAS is called a

- a) Band
- b) Bushel
- c) Buddies
- d) Brood

4 A group of HORSES is called a

- a) Groove
- b) Swarm
- c) Thunder
- d) Team

5 A Group of KANGAROOS is called a

- a) Parcel
- b) Troop
- c) Storm
- d) Leap

6 A Group of BUFFALO is called a

- a) Colony
- b) Rush
- c) Gang
- d) Barrel

7 A group of JAGUARS is called a

- a) Pride
- b) Family
- c) Mischief
- d) Shadow

8 A group of BEAVERS is called a

- a) Colony
- b) Nest
- c) Pack
- d) Knot

9 A group of FROGS is called a

- a) Swarm
- b) Army
- c) Posse
- d) Framily

10 A group of OWLS is called a

- a) Flight
- b) Parliament
- c) Nest
- d) Flock



Animal Group Name Trivia Game



Name: _____

Trivia Video

11 A group of PARROTS is called a

- a) Pandemonium
- b) Crash
- c) Squwak
- d) Wing

12 A group of PORCUPINES is called a

- a) Den
- b) Muster
- c) Prickle
- d) Warren

13 A group of COBRAS is called a

- a) Company
- b) Pod
- c) Clan
- d) Quiver

14 A group of WOMBATS is called a

- a) Court
- b) Wisdom
- c) Bevy
- d) Crew

15 A Group of WASPS is called a

- a) Buzz
- b) Swath
- c) Pledge
- d) Ouch

16 A Group of CHEETAHS is called a

- a) Cackle
- b) Pounce
- c) Coalition
- d) Pace

17 A group of STINGRAYS is called a

- a) Fever
- b) Bloat
- c) Drift
- d) Cauldron

18 A group of EMUS is called a

- a) Flock
- b) Mob
- c) Cloud
- d) Ambush

19 A group of GIRAFFES is called a

- a) School
- b) Tall Guys
- c) Barren
- d) Tower

20 A group of SQUIRRELS is called a

- a) Romp
- b) Problem
- c) Scurry
- d) Litter

Score: __/20



Animal Group Name Trivia Answer Key

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

Trivia
Video



ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. C) Parade | 11. A) Pandemonium |
| 2. B) Caravan | 12. C) Prickle |
| 3. A) Band | 13. D) Prickle |
| 4. D) Team | 14. B) Wisdom |
| 5. B) Troop | 15. C) Pledge |
| 6. C) Gang | 16. C) Coalition |
| 7. D) Shadow | 17. A) Fever |
| 8. A) Colony | 18. B) Mob |
| 9. B) Army | 19. D) Tower |
| 10. B) Parliament | 20. C) Scurry |

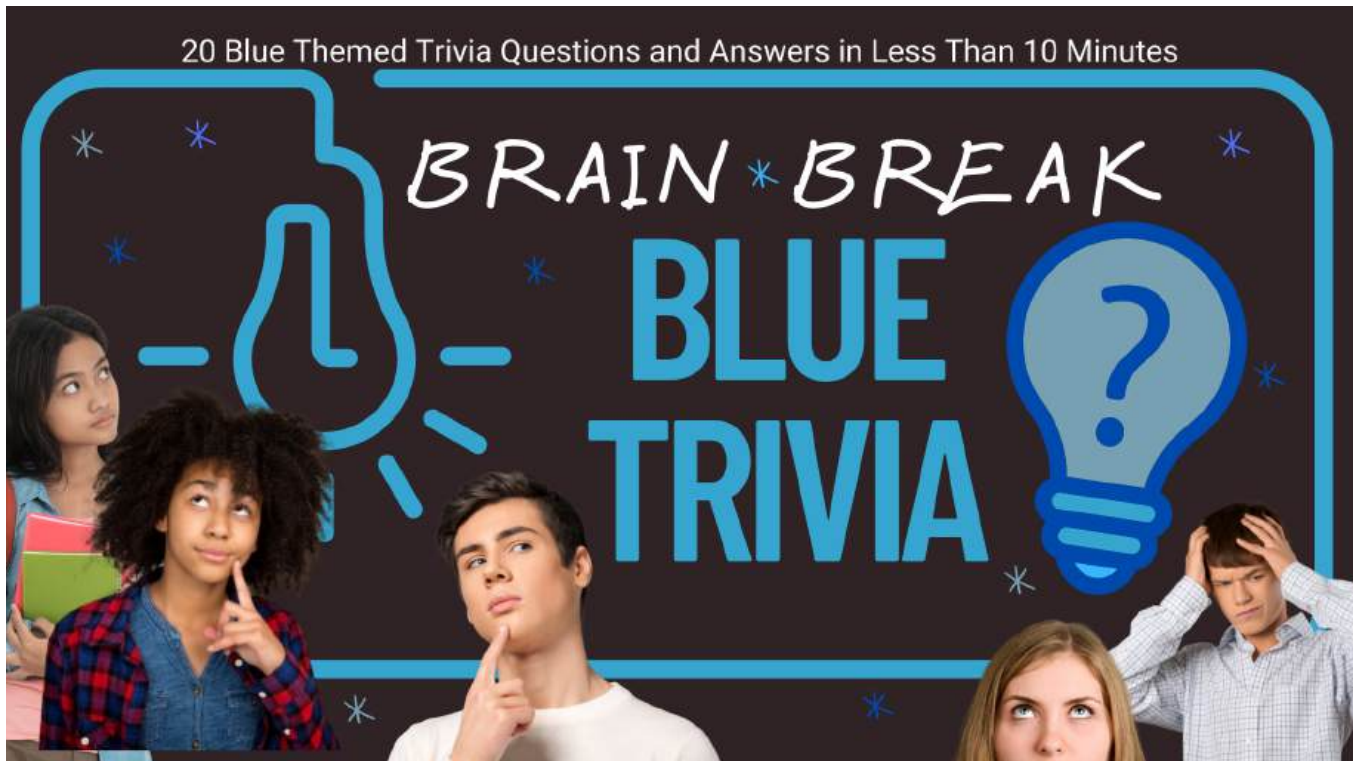
Thanks for playing!
Check out more Brain Brains on YouTube!



Trivia Game Video Link

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

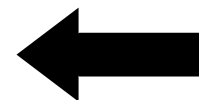
BLUE TRIVIA BRAIN BREAK GAME

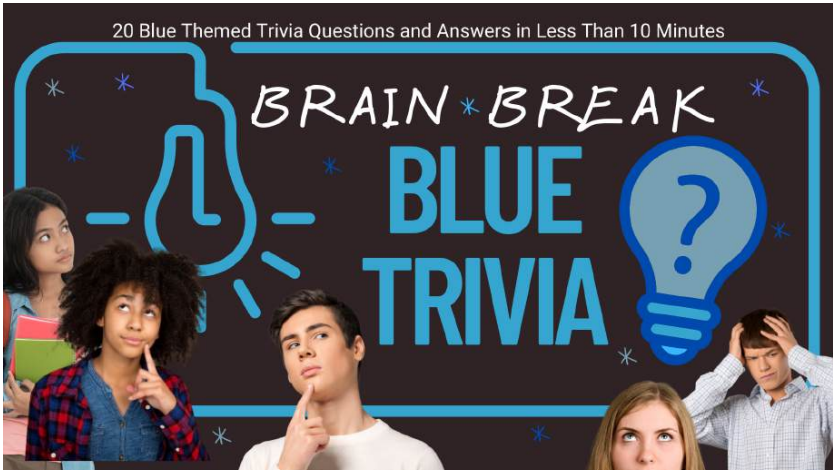


This link will take you to the YouTube Video of Blue Trivia questions: https://youtu.be/dWtRE4qUx5Y?sub_confirmation=1



Trivia
Video





Blue 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 Picasso
when it comes to BLUE TRIVIA?!?!



Blue Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for each question below.

Trivia Video



Name/Team Name: _____

1: A B C D

11. yogurt or blue cheese

2: A B C D

12: True or False

3: A B C D

13: A B C D

4: A B C D

14: Jazz or Beat

5: A B C D

15: A B C D

6: A B C D

16: A B C D

7: good time or blue moon

17: Blue Gill or Blue Fish

8: True or False

18: A B C D

9: A B C D

19: A B C D

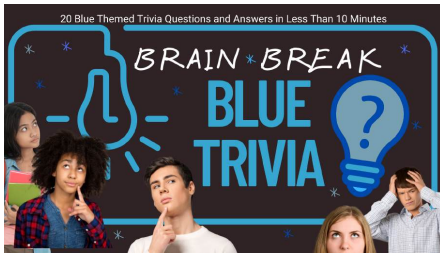
10: Blue Whale or Blue Rhino

20: A B C D

How did you do?
Are you a BLUE
TRIVIA ROCKSTAR?!?!



Score: ____/20



Blue Trivia Brain Break Game

Name: _____

Trivia
Video



1 Name the leader of this blue skinned cartoon troop.

- a) Papa Smurf
- b) Dada Smurf
- c) Poppy Smurf
- d) Grampa Smurf



2 What type of animal is Paul Bunyan's faithful companion?

- a) Babe the Big Blue Bison
- b) Babe the Big Blue Baboon
- c) Babe the Big Blue Ox
- d) Babe the Big Blue Buffalo

3 The State flower of Texas is called the blue _____.

- a) lilac
- b) berry
- c) bell
- d) bonnet

4 How many white dots can be seen on the blue dice?

- a) 11
- b) 18
- c) 7
- d) 45



5 In the movie Avatar, where do the blue skinned people live?

- a) Pangea
- b) Middle Earth
- c) Pandora
- d) Animal Kingdom

6 The famous blue lagoon is located in which island country?

- a) Norway
- b) Iceland
- c) Greenland
- d) Sweden



7 If something happens rarely, it is said it happens once in a ...

— — — — —

8 True or False: Blueberries protect against memory loss.

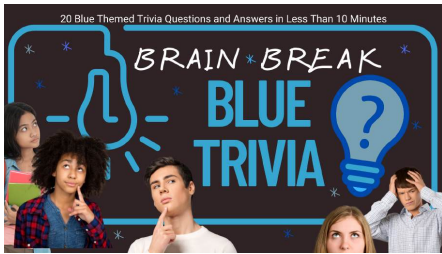
- a) True
- b) False

9 Which country considers blue bad luck?

- a) India
- b) Japan
- c) Argentina
- d) Norway

10 Which animal is the largest on earth, weighing in at over 441,000 pounds, with a tongue heavier than an elephant?

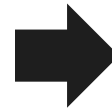
— — — — —



Blue Trivia Brain Break Game

Name: _____

Trivia
Video



11 What dairy product is used to make this popular salad topper?

Blue

— — — — —



12 True or False: Blue is the rarest eye color.

- a) True
- b) False

13 Which is the only bird that can see the color blue?

- a) Ostrich
- b) Penguin
- c) Sparrow
- d) Owl

14 What is another name for the music style called "the blues"?

— — — — —

15 The Blue Angels' planes are called...

- a) Torpedoes
- b) Blue Jackets
- c) Hornets
- d) Wizards

16 How many wishes does a genie grant the holder of the lamp?

- a) two
- b) infinity
- c) zero
- d) three

17 What is the name of this fish?

Blue _ _ _ _



18 Which country has a flag that is half blue and half yellow?

- a) Uzbekistan
- b) Uruguay
- c) Ukraine
- d) Uganda

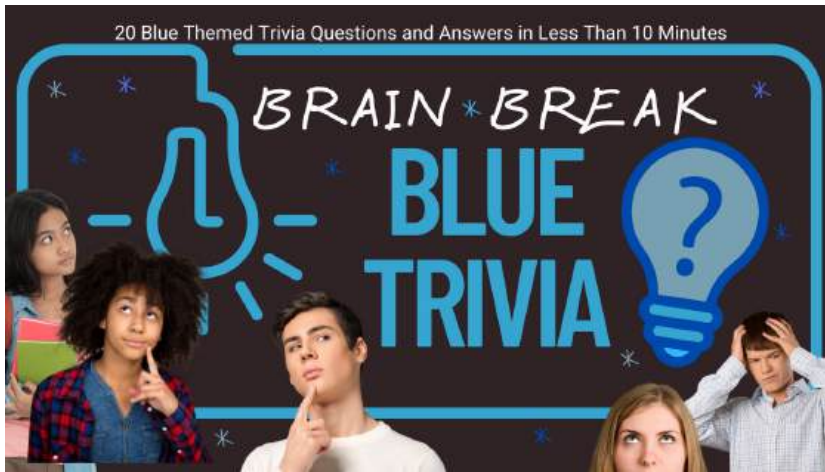
19 Which American political party is represented by the color blue?

- a) Independent
- b) Democratic
- c) Libertarian
- d) Republican

20 Which civilization was the first to create the color blue?

- a) Chinese
- b) Egyptian
- c) Roman
- d) Aztec

Score: __/20

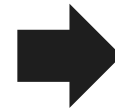


Blue Trivia AnswerKey

Directions:

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

Trivia
Video



ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. A) Papa Smurf | 11. Cheese |
| 2. C) Babe the Blue Ox | 12. True |
| 3. D) Bonnet | 13. D) Owl |
| 4. B) 18 | 14. Jazz |
| 5. C) Pandora | 15. C) Hornets |
| 6. B) Iceland | 16. D) three |
| 7. blue moon | 17. Gill |
| 8. A) True | 18. C) Ukraine |
| 9. A) India | 19. B) Democratic |
| 10. Blue Whale | 20. B) Egyptian |

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



Trivia Game Video Link

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

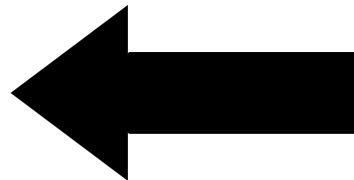
BACK TO SCHOOL TRIVIA VIDEO



This link will take you to the YouTube Video of Back to School Trivia questions: https://youtu.be/I6jDrw9i59E?sub_confirmation=1



Trivia
Video





Back to School 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
Back to School Trivia ROCKSTAR?!?!



Back to School Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for
each question below.

Trivia Video -->



Name/Team Name: _____

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

Score: ____ / 20
The Word Nerd Collaborative



Trivia Video



Back to School Trivia

Name: _____

- 1** In which country would you find more than 100 floating schools on boats? (This is so that during flooding season kids can still get an education!)
 - A) Belgium
 - B) Belarus
 - C) Bangladesh
 - D) Burundi
- 2** True or False?
Children in the Netherlands start school on their 4th birthday.
 - A) True
 - B) False
- 3** In a remote area of this country, some kids have to travel to school by zip line!
 - A) Canada
 - B) Columbia
 - C) Cambodia
 - D) Cuba
- 4** About how many words does a pencil write before it's all used up?
 - A) 9,000 words
 - B) 45,000 words
 - C) 600,000 words
 - D) 1,000,000 words
- 5** True or False?
During WWII some students went to school inside the Great Wall of China.
 - A) True
 - B) False
- 6** The U.S. high school with the largest number of students can be found in which American city?
 - A) Brooklyn, NY
 - B) New Orleans, LA
 - C) San Francisco, CA
 - D) Dallas, TX
- 7** The world's largest library is located at what college or university?
 - A) Russian Presidential Academy (Russia)
 - B) Complutense University of Madrid (Spain)
 - C) University of Lyon (France)
 - D) Harvard University (USA)
- 8** Why are school buses painted yellow?
 - A) Safety reasons
 - B) Most visible color
 - C) A study was conducted
 - D) All of the above
- 9** True or False?
In Japan they do not hire custodians or food service workers for their schools. The students do those chores.
 - A) True
 - B) False
- 10** What is the length of the longest school ever built?
 - A) 0.5 miles long
 - B) 0.78 miles long
 - C) 1.1 miles long
 - D) 2.3 miles long





Trivia Video



Back to School Trivia

Name: _____

11 What country started the tradition of giving teachers an apple?

- A) Denmark
- B) Egypt
- C) France
- D) Guatemala

12 True or False?
A child's brain can produce enough energy to power 7 light bulbs.

- A) True
- B) False

13 The oldest public school in the United States is in which city?

- A) Albany, NY
- B) Boston, MA
- C) Charleston, SC
- D) Washington, D. C.

14 What is the most popular school color combination world wide?

- A) Black and Yellow
- B) Blue and Red
- C) Yellow and Green
- D) Blue and White

15 Before pencil erasers were invented, what was a common way to get rid of pencil markings?

- A) a piece of white bread
- B) Q-tips
- C) chewing gum
- D) a tissue

16 How many countries in the world offer FREE COLLEGE to it's residents?

- A) 0
- B) 9
- C) 17
- D) 22

17 Which country's students have the most homework each week?

- A) Czechia
- B) China
- C) Cambodia
- D) Costa Rica

18 If you were to place the crayons that Crayola makes each year, end to end, how many times would they circle planet Earth?

- A) 3 times
- B) 8 times
- C) 6 times
- D) 13 times

19 Due to their distance from school, some students in this country get their lessons by listening to the radio.

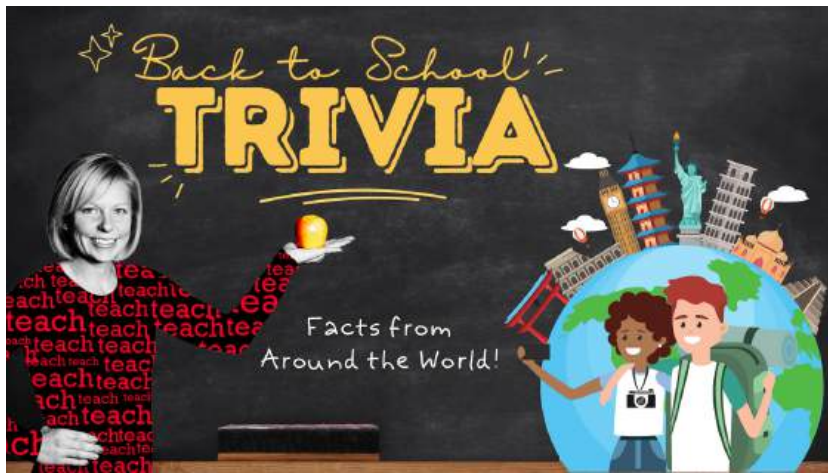
- A) Argentina
- B) Albania
- C) Australia
- D) Afghanistan

20 True or False
In Thailand, it is mandatory for all students to get a haircut before attending school.

- A) True
- B) False

Score: __/20





Back to School Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:

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

Trivia Video

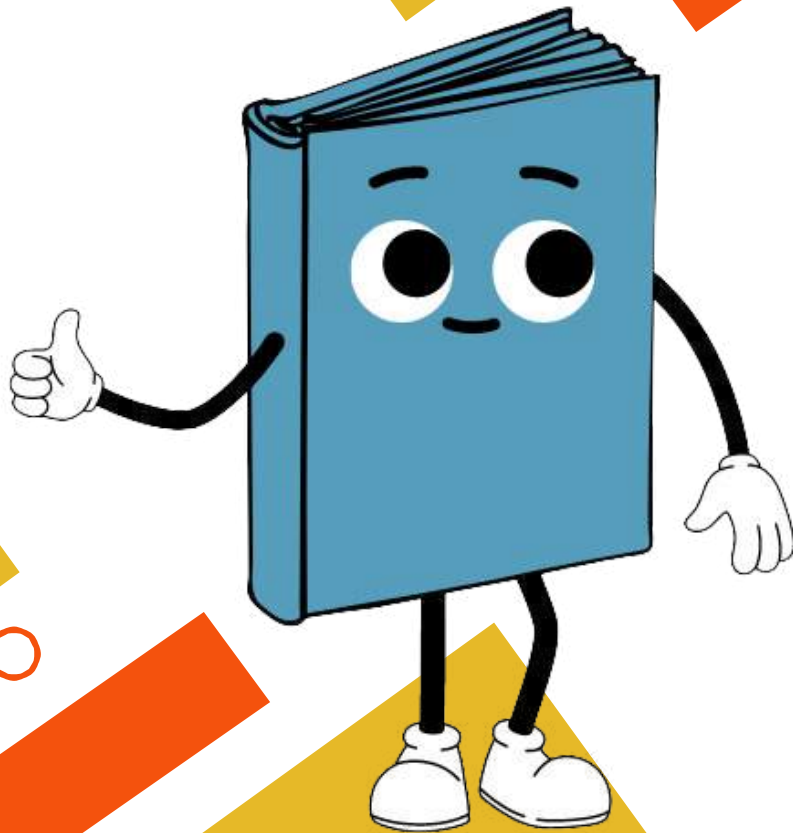


ANSWER KEY

1. C) Bangladesh
2. A) True
3. B) Columbia
4. B) 45,000 words
5. A) True
6. A) Brooklyn, NY
7. D) Harvard University
8. D) All of the Above
9. A) True
10. C) 1.1 Miles Long
11. A) Denmark
12. B) False
13. B) Boston, MA
14. D) Blue and White
15. A) A piece of white bread
16. D) 22
17. B) China
18. C) 6 times
19. C) Australia
20. A) True

Thanks for playing!

WRITING PROMPT SHEETS



AUGUST
2024



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**

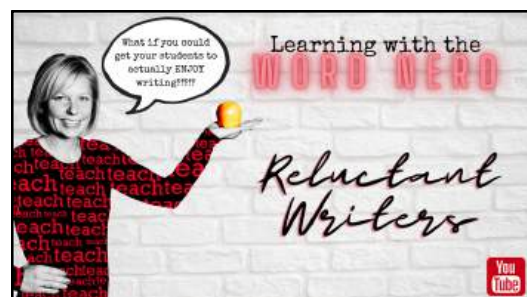
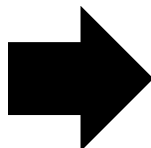
If you want, keep these “curriculum and standard” pieces of information to yourself, go for it! There is no need to let the kids know we have a secret plan to trick them into being better writers and hating it a little bit less each day!

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: _____

<p>GEMS</p> <p>LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITER DOES WELL.</p> <p>•</p> <p>•</p> <p>•</p> <p>•</p> <p>•</p>	<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE.</p> <p>•</p> <p>•</p> <p>•</p> <p>•</p> <p>•</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS

Free Write
Friday

Choice A:
Go back and add onto a story you started earlier this week.

Choice B:
Write about a topic of your choice.

▼ 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:



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:


 The header features a pencil on the left pointing towards a central yellow circle containing a checklist icon. To the right, the words 'JOURNAL' and 'WRITING RUBRIC' are written in large, bold, black capital letters within a black rectangular border.

JOURNAL WRITING RUBRIC

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

July 29 - August 2

Monday

July



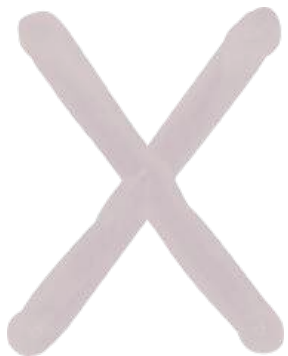
Tuesday

July



Wednesday

July



Thursday

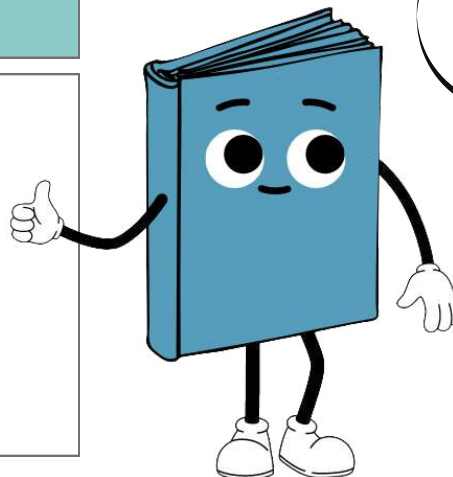
Hello My Name Is

Style/Skills:
Personal Reflection

Friday

Free Write Friday

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



You can project the prompt using these SLIDES!

NAME: _____

Write About Your Name

HELLO MY NAME IS

How did your parents choose your name?
 Does your name have a special meaning?
 Do you like your name?
 Would you change your name if you could? To what?
 Have you been teased about your name?
 What are your nicknames?

Feel free to write about your middle or last name too.

▼ 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

August 5-9

Monday

Name a Pet!

Style/Skills:
Creative Writing
Contemporary/Realistic
Fiction

Tuesday

Prank War

Style/Skills:
Creative Writing
Contemporary/Realistic
Fiction

Wednesday

Time Travel

Style/Skills:
Personal Reflection
Science Fiction

Thursday

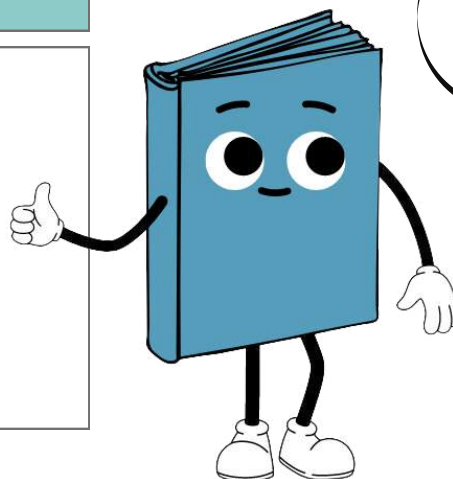
Create a Friend Recipe

Style/Skills:
Personal Reflection
Writing
Format/structure
Content Vocabulary

Friday

Free Write Friday

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



You can project the prompt using these [SLIDES!](#)



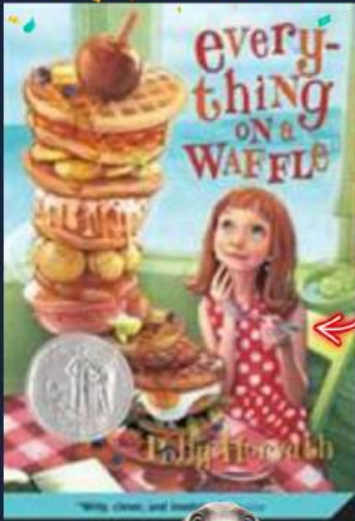
NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS FROM THE WORD NERD

I decided to name the puppy after my favorite cookie because she was round and white and black like a Mallomar."

- Everything on a Waffle by Polly Horvath

**WRITE A SCENE THAT INCLUDES
A PET NAMED AFTER A FOOD!**



FROM:



▼ **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:

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

Each summer at Camp Shenanigans there is a week completely devoted to chaos. It is called Prank War Week.

It is boys against girls, counselors against campers, cabin against cabin. This year...



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:

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

If given the chance, where/when would you travel through time to? Past or Future? Why? What would you hope to see/experience?

▼ 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:

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD



▼ 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

August 12-16

Monday

Someone Famous is Coming to Dinner!

Style/Skills:
Creative Writing
Contemporary/Realistic Fiction
Personal Reflection

Tuesday

I Found a Fairy House

Style/Skills:
Creative Writing
Fantasy

Wednesday

Design a Robot

Style/Skills:
Design and Describe
STEM Connections

Thursday

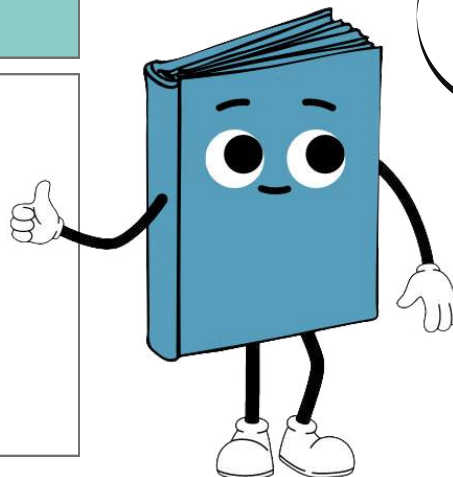
Step into the Portal

Style/Skills:
Science Fiction
Creative Writing

Friday

Free Write Friday

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



You can project the prompt using these SLIDES!



NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

If you could invite a famous person to dinner, who would you choose? Tell about the meal and the time you share together.

1. Where do you eat?
2. What do you eat?
3. What do you talk about?
4. Is anyone else invited to the meal?
5. Why do you want to spend time with this person?



▼ 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:

NAME: _____

CONTINUE THE STORY...

While on a hike you come across this tiny dwelling.

Who lives here? Are they home? What happens next?



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:

NAME: _____

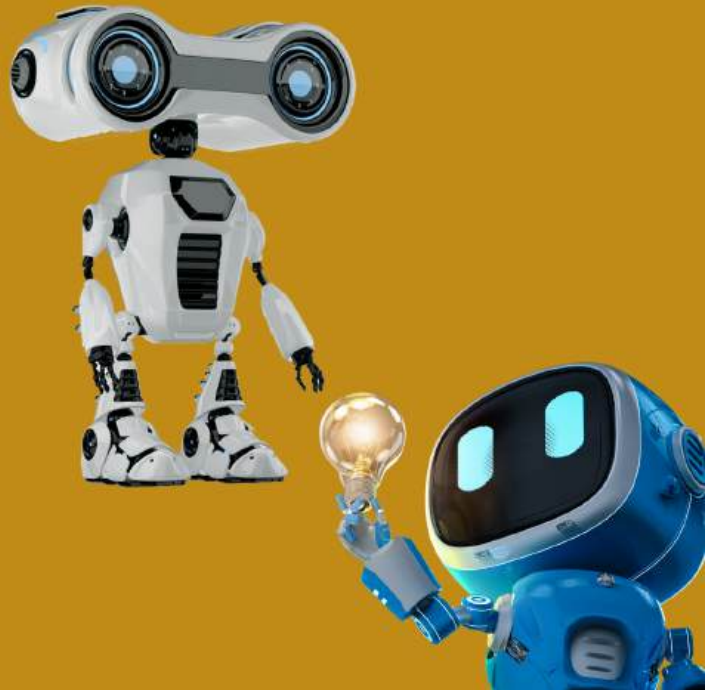
WRITING PROMPTS FROM THE WORD NERD

Design and Describe

Design and describe a robot that will do a chore at your house.

What does the robot look like?

What chore would you like it to do and why?



▼ 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:

NAME: _____

Tell This Story...

Questions to Consider:

- Where is the astronaut coming from?
- What is his/her mission?
- How does the mirror portal work?

Words/Phrases you could use:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Emergency | Levels of oxygen |
| Time portal | Disaster |
| Electromagnetic field | Future |
| Mission success | Goal |
| Running out of time | Commander |
| Returning to Earth | Ancient ruins |

Artist Credit: BP Kelsey



▼ 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

August 19-23

Monday

Frozen Field

Style/Skills:
Creative Writing
Contemporary/Realistic Fiction

Tuesday

A Whole New Ending

Style/Skills:
Creative Writing
Conclusions
Revision

Wednesday

Emotional Armor

Style/Skills:
Word Choice
Metaphor

Thursday

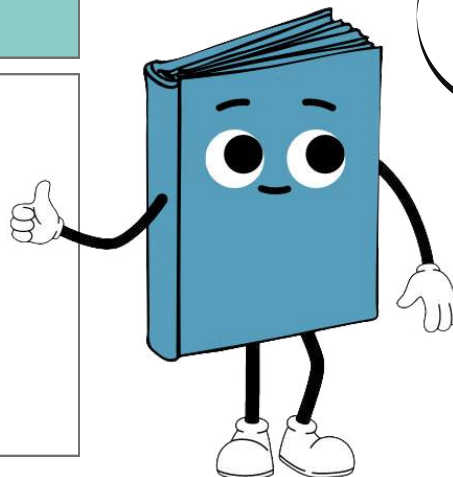
3 Unknown Facts

Style/Skills:
Personal Reflection
List Making

Friday

Free Write Friday

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



You can project the prompt using these SLIDES!



NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS

FROM THE WORD NERD

Write a scene using this prompt.

The moon broke through the clouds an the four of them stood there, frozen, waiting for something to happen.

They were in the middle of an open field and it was as if a spotlight had been trained on them.

And then it happened.

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:

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS FROM THE WORD NERD

Retell your
favorite
book or
movie...
but give it
a **different**
ending.



▼ 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:

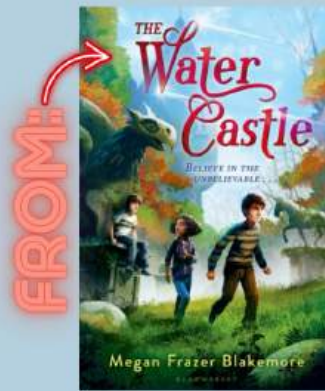
NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS FROM THE WORD NERD



“The kids wore their arrogance like a uniform.”

The Water Castle
by Megan Frazer Blakemore



**MATCH AN EMOTION
TO AN OUTFIT
AND THEN USE IT IN
A SENTENCE.**



Pajamas - relaxed

Fancy shoes - uncomfortable

Itchy sweater - irritated

Your idea?!?!?!?

▼ 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:

NAME: _____

Inform

What are 3 "little known facts" about yourself that you can share with a classmate?

Think about:

- Hidden Talents
- Childhood Memories
- Favorites
- Quirks/Pet Peeves



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

August 26-30

Monday

An Epic Sleepover

Style/Skills:
Personal Reflection

Tuesday

A Story in the Sky

Style/Skills:
Folktales
Sketch to Story
Content Connection
to Astronomy

Wednesday

A Personal Pep Talk

Style/Skills:
Personal Reflection
Format/Structure:
Speech Writing

Thursday

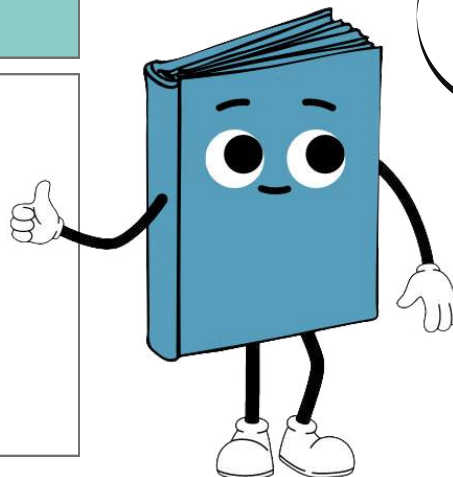
A Birthday Present

Style/Skills:
Connection to
Literature
Characterization

Friday

Free Write Friday

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



You can project the prompt using these SLIDES!



NAME: _____



▼ 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:

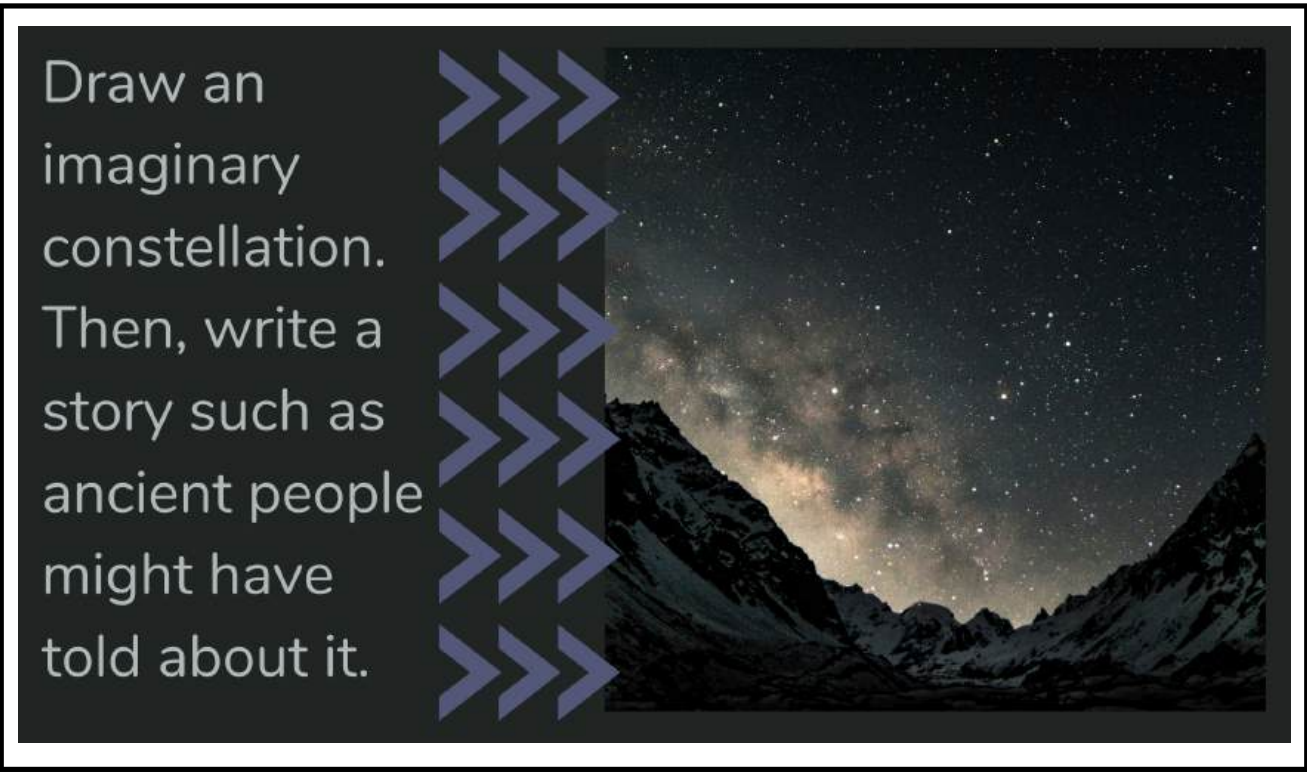
Total Points = ___/10

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS

FROM THE WORD NERD

Draw an imaginary constellation. Then, write a story such as ancient people might have told about it.



▼ **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:

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

Give yourself a pep talk!

Write a motivational speech about achieving your goals and dreams.



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:

Total Points = ___/10

NAME: _____



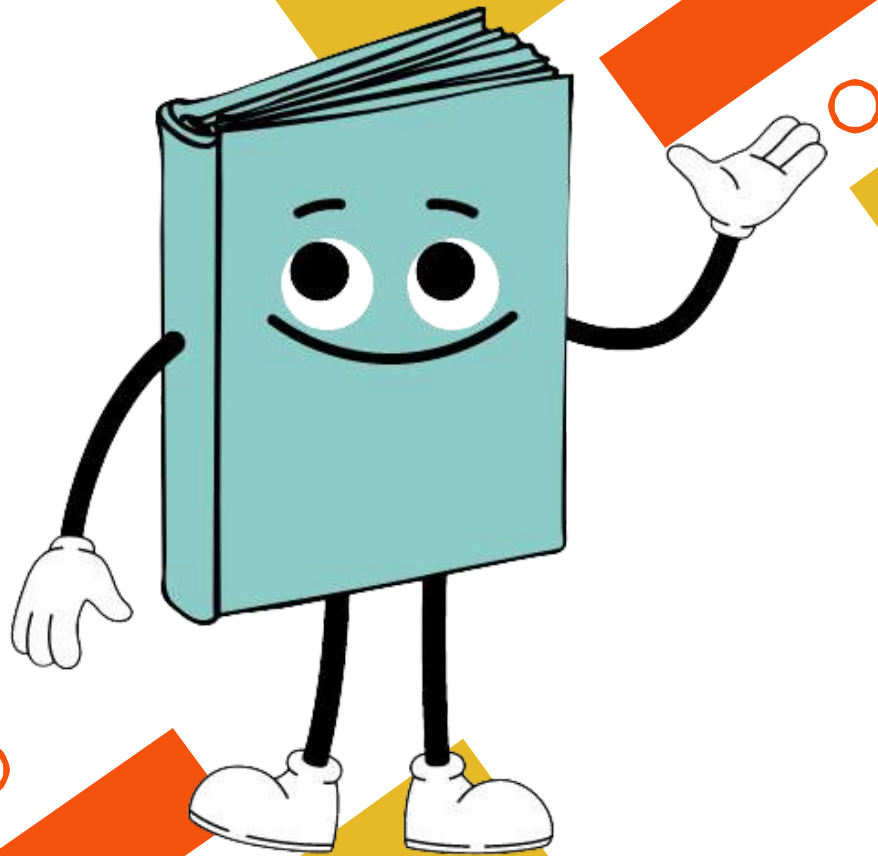
▼ Rubric

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:

LESSONS

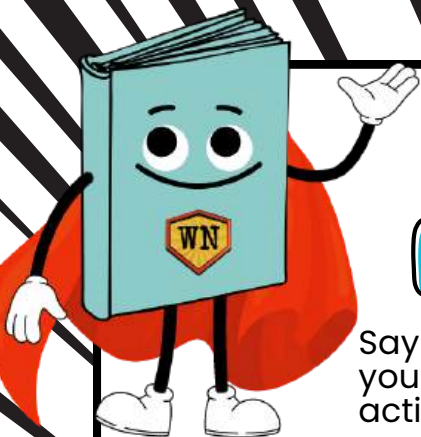


AUGUST
2024

SUPERHERO ORIGIN STORY INTRO ACTIVITY



FROM THE WORD NERD
COLLABORATIVE



SUPERHERO ORIGIN STORY INTRO

Say goodbye to your previously boring "Welcome to my class, I am your teacher" first day spiel, and instead use this fun origin story activity to introduce yourself as a superhero!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

Take your old meet the teacher letter, your resume and perhaps a short bio. Copy and paste them into an AI generator such as ChatGPT or Microsoft Copilot along with this prompt: "Using the information you have about me, my writing, and my work, create a Superhero with the superpowers you think I possess. Help me define my personal brand. Reference my work, emails, chats, etc. to help shape a personal brand fitting to me. Ideally, this personal brand would be in the form of an elevator pitch about what I do and reflect my characteristics."

Next, take the results and bring it over to Canva. In the vertical navigation bar on the left, click the apps icon. Then search AI IMAGE and click the one that says AI Image Gen. Copy and paste your elevator pitch (up to 300 characters) into here along with a few physical demographics (gender, race, age, hair color, etc.) and watch it create your very own super hero rendering! Try it multiple times and see what it comes up with! (See my results on the next page.) I also tried the app "Magic Media" in Canva and that came up with a few fun ones too! Just enter 5 words into that one. (I used blonde, teacher, superhero, books, nerdy.)

Finally, take all of that that information and add it to the templates (printables and slides) you'll find on the following pages. I've included some samples featuring my own results... because I learn best from seeing how others accomplish a task and thought they might be helpful!

Click here to see a VIEW ONLY DOCUMENT, and then FILE MAKE A COPY to be able to add in your superhero details/make it your own.

A FEW CONSIDERATIONS...

As always, when working with AI, know it is a starting point and that you should definitely read and revise the work generated.

Even if you don't lean into the superhero theme for your classroom decor or utilize the concept all year, I think this is a fun way for your students to learn about you and each other. That's right, if you feel comfortable, ask your students to repeat the process. Rather than tell what they did over summer vacation, *again*, they'll be able to tell their classmates about their super powers and strengths. It will be a positive reminder to themselves as well that they are strong, capable, and full of skills and talents that will help them thrive in the upcoming year. The student instructions are slightly different and can be found after the teacher pages. There are two versions... one that utilizes computers/AI generated ideas and one that is old school paper and pencil.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE IMAGES CANVA CREATED FOR ME...



PRETTY NEAT,
HUH?!?!

GIVE IT A TRY
AND SEE WHAT
YOU COME UP
WITH!



INTRODUCING THE WORD WEAVER!



WORD WEAVER, AKA AMANDA ZIEBA, IS A DYNAMIC SUPERHERO WHO WIELDS THE POWER OF WORDS TO TRANSFORM EDUCATION AND EMPOWER TEACHERS WORLDWIDE. WITH HER UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO SPREADING "WORD NERD GOODNESS," SHE'S ON A MISSION TO RESCUE TIRED EDUCATORS, IGNITE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT, AND FILL EMPTY LESSON PLANNERS.

**"UNLOCKING MINDS,
ONE SYLLABLE AT A TIME!"**

MY ORIGIN STORY

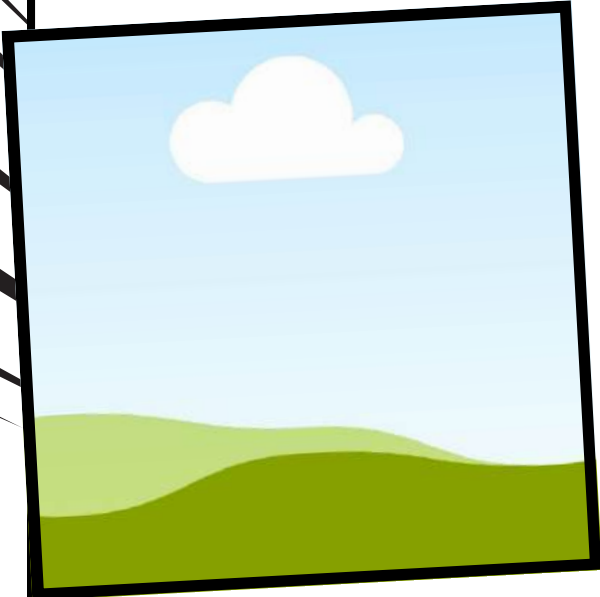
AMANDA ZIEBA, ONCE A MIDDLE SCHOOL ELA TEACHER, DISCOVERED HER POWERS DURING A LATE-NIGHT GRADING SESSION. HER RED PEN GLOWED, AND ESSAYS TRANSFORMED INTO RIVETING TALES. REALIZING HER DESTINY, SHE FOUNDED THE WORD NERD COLLABORATIVE—A SANCTUARY FOR EDUCATORS SEEKING INSPIRATION AND PRACTICAL TOOLS.

MY SUPER POWERS

- 1. LINGUISTIC ALCHEMY:** WORD WEAVER CAN TURN MUNDANE LESSON PLANS INTO CAPTIVATING NARRATIVES, INFUSING THEM WITH MAGIC THAT INSPIRES BOTH TEACHERS AND STUDENTS. HER WORDS CREATE BRIDGES BETWEEN ABSTRACT CONCEPTS AND EAGER MINDS.
- 2. RESOURCE CONJURING:** ARMED WITH HER TRUSTY LAPTOP, WORD WEAVER SUMMONS HIGH-QUALITY, READY-TO-GO TEACHING RESOURCES FROM THIN AIR. WORKSHEETS, LESSON GUIDES, AND INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES MATERIALIZE AT HER COMMAND.
- 3. TIME BENDING:** EVER FELT LIKE THERE AREN'T ENOUGH HOURS IN THE DAY? WORD WEAVER BENDS TIME, GRANTING TEACHERS PRECIOUS MOMENTS TO RECHARGE, REFLECT, AND SIP THAT WELL-DESERVED CUP OF COFFEE.
- 4. STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AMPLIFICATION:** WITH A FLICK OF HER PEN, WORD WEAVER SPARKS CURIOSITY AND ENTHUSIASM IN EVEN THE MOST DISENGAGED LEARNERS. HER SECRET? HIGHLIGHTING RELATABLE STORIES AND CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH CELEBRITY AUTHORS.
- 5. GLOBAL NETWORK NAVIGATION:** WORD WEAVER'S SUPER-SATELLITE DISH CONNECTS HER TO EDUCATORS ACROSS CONTINENTS. SHE COLLABORATES WITH TEACHERS, SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND EDUCATIONAL INFLUENCERS, ENSURING NO TEACHER FIGHTS THE BATTLE ALONE.

REMEMBER, WHEN THE BELL RINGS AND THE CLASSROOM DOOR CREAKS OPEN, WORD WEAVER SWOOPS IN, LEAVING BEHIND A TRAIL OF WELL-CRAFTED SENTENCES AND INSPIRED EDUCATORS.

INTRODUCING YOUR SUPERHERO NAME



YOUR ELEVATOR PITCH

- *
- *
- *
- *
- *
- *
- *
- *

YOUR CATCH PHRASE HERE

MY ORIGIN STORY

YOUR ORIGIN STORY HERE...

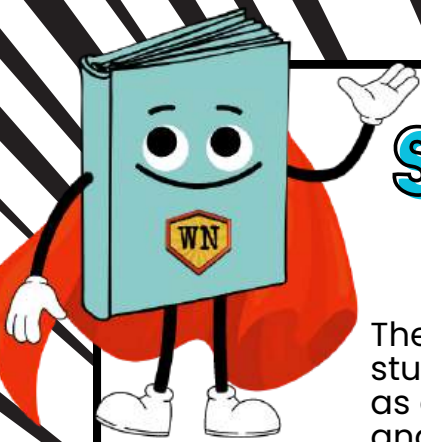
- *
- *
- *

MY SUPER POWERS

YOUR SUPER POWERS HERE..

- *
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- *
- *

A FINAL THOUGHT... FUN FACT... OR ANTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO PUT CAN GO HERE...



SUPERHERO ORIGIN STORY STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

There's no need to be nervous to introduce yourself to your fellow students and new teachers, especially when you introduce yourself as a superhero! Follow these instructions, lean into your best traits, and fly into this school year feeling bold and confident!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

Fill in the information requested for as many of the questions as possible.

First Name: _____

3 things I'm good at: _____

3 positive traits: _____

3 hobbies: _____

A time when I helped someone: _____

Hidden Talent: _____

Greatest accomplishment: _____

Something I am proud of: _____

Hometown/Where you live now: _____

I take care of: _____

I love to: _____

My favorite food is: _____

Something special about me is: _____

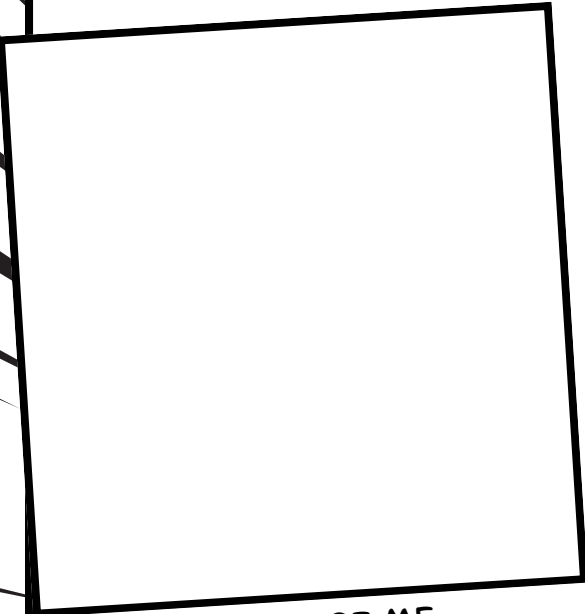
My personal Kryptonite (weakness): _____

NEXT STEPS:

Enter the above questions and answers into ChatGPT or Microsoft CoPilot with the prompt: "Using the information you have about me create a Superhero with the superpowers you think I possess. Help me define my personal brand. Ideally, this personal brand would be in the form of an elevator pitch about what I do and reflect my characteristics. Include an origin story, top 5 skills and a catch phrase." Then use the AI response to help you complete the Super-Self introduction on the next page.

INTRODUCING

USING THE IDEAS FROM CHATGPT, WRITE A BRIEF
DESCRIPTION OF YOUR SUPER-SELF HERE.



PICTURE OF ME

CATCH PHRASE:



MY SUPER POWERS

LIST/EXPLAIN YOUR SUPER POWERS HERE:



SUPERHERO ORIGIN STORY STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

There's no need to be nervous to introduce yourself to your fellow students and new teachers, especially when you introduce yourself as a superhero! Follow these instructions, lean into your best traits, and fly into this school year feeling bold and confident!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

Fill in the information requested for as many of the questions as possible.

First Name: _____

3 things I'm good at: _____

3 positive traits: _____

3 hobbies: _____

A time when I helped someone: _____

Hidden Talent: _____

Greatest accomplishment: _____

Something I am proud of: _____

Hometown/Where you live now: _____

I take care of: _____

I love to: _____

My favorite food is: _____

Something special about me is: _____

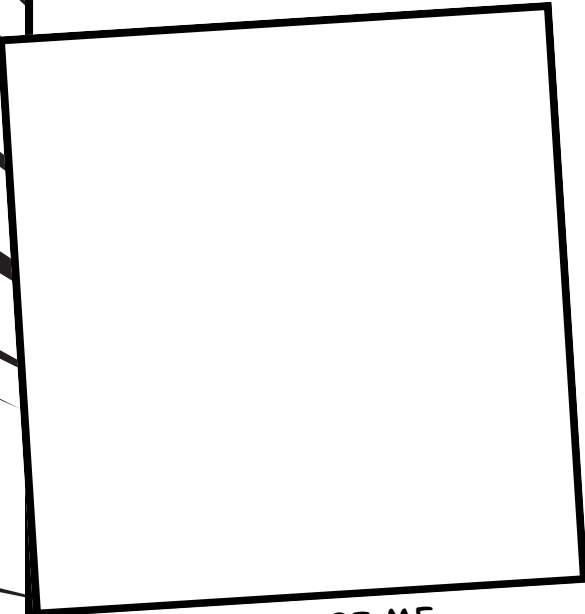
My personal Kryptonite (weakness): _____

NEXT STEPS:

Use this information about yourself to create a superhero introduction (on the next page) that could include a description, origin story, catch phrase, list of superhero powers and more. Be creative. Have fun!

INTRODUCING

USING THE IDEAS FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE, WRITE
A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR SUPER-SELF HERE.



PICTURE OF ME

CATCH PHRASE:



MY SUPER POWERS

LIST/EXPLAIN YOUR SUPER POWERS HERE:

A FEW MORE THINGS...

Use these additional resources to level up this activity.



SLIDES

To get the slide templates for this introduction activity, [click here](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGJPlotdqk/crRcBcpdhK95F3O6kPt5UA/edit?utm_content=DAGJPlotdqk&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton). Or copy and past this link: https://www.canva.com/design/DAGJPlotdqk/crRcBcpdhK95F3O6kPt5UA/edit?utm_content=DAGJPlotdqk&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton



A FEW PARTING THOUGHTS/IDEAS...

- This is currently a VIEW ONLY document. The same is true with the slides above. To make this activity your own, or to give students access to the templates, just **click here** and then, FILE MAKE A COPY. Then, once you have your own version, you'll be able to modify and share it as you see fit.
- You could use the results of this introduction activity to create a bulletin board!
- I'd love to see what you create! If you feel up for it, please email me your superhero deets! They may just be featured in the Word Nerd Collaborative private Facebook group or in the 5 GOOD THINGS for TEACHERS email. :) (wordnerd@amandazieba.com)

FINALLY,

Thanks to my friend Laurie Kenley, a technology expert over at Microsoft for inspiring this idea! I saw her post on LinkedIn detailing her superhero bio experiment and knew it would be a fun one to replicate in the classroom. Thank you Laurie for the work that you do and for sharing your ideas!

THE NOUN TOWN MYSTERY



OF THE LIBRARY LOOTER



Created by
The Word Nerd

**HELLO,
TEACHER
FRIEND!**

THE NOUN TOWN MYSTERY OF THE LIBRARY LOOTER



This activity is a great way to help your students practice identifying collective nouns, but it's a fun story as well! As with all my resources, I hope your students are both engaged and entertained so that their day and learning is a bit more fun... and your life is just a little bit easier!

In this resource you'll find...

- A short story/mystery text (with 15 collective nouns embedded in each of the 10 chapters) in a printable form with answer recording space.
- An answer key
- A writing extension activity with planning page and printable writing sheets
- A writing rubric for the writing extension activity

One way to enhance this product is to use it in conjunction with the audio recording of the story. This way students whose comprehension is improved when listening to text read aloud can have a little assistance, whether they are in your classroom or at home! You can find the video [here](#).

Personally, I'd recommend spreading the story out over several days, ideally, one or two chapters a day. We don't want to lose the fun of the mystery or the "treasure hunt" by doing too much at once. I'd also recommend using the animal group name trivia brain break before you do this lesson to help your students activate some collective noun background knowledge and give them a jump start to some of the answers they are attempting to find within the story.

If you do not already have an introductory lesson to collective nouns, just put this definition on the board and share some of the examples from the animal group name brain break. **A collective noun is a noun that refers to some sort of group or collective—of people, animals, things, etc. Collective nouns are normally not treated as plural, even though they refer to a group of something.**

Then turn them loose and see what they can discover on their own. Sometimes self-exploration can be even more powerful than direct instruction. Lean into the "treasure hunt" concept rather than a "you must find the right answer!" kind of vibe and the activity will sure to be a success.

I hope you and your students enjoy the story and figuring out WHO DUNNIT, as well as practicing with collective nouns.

Happy teaching!

Amanda Zieba



Read Along Video

<https://youtu.be/fzNtUp8cL1E>

The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 1

An eerily silent crowd stood staring at the crime scene. The police department jostled them as they strung up the yellow caution tape and yelled a mess of orders for them to stand back. It was odd. Nothing like this had ever happened in their little town before. The citizens would not have believed it had they not been seeing it with their own pair of eyes. Above them a parliament of owls stared down at the forest of legs standing in the library lawn, adding to the peculiar atmosphere.

“Where is she now?” a man in a heavy coat asked.

“The librarian? Chief said it drove her absolutely mad. She’s at the hospital now,” another responded.

“I heard it took the entire ambulance crew to remove her from the building,” commented a bystander.

As the adults looked on and speculated, a gang of school children burst onto the scene. Having been released from school moments earlier, their pent up energy seemed to overwhelm the scene. They tromped straight past the yellow tape and descended onto the mass of books that littered the library lawn.

Currently the library staff was being marched out of the building and past the bomb squad as they began their search of the building. It was highly unlikely that anything besides the books were amiss, but the team of officers on duty would rather be safe than sorry.

A small section of reporters from the local syndicate stood on the edge of the scene, snapping a roll of film that would document the event for any who might not be present for this bizarre moment.

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 2

The flock of onlookers finally broke up near dusk, heading home to the calling of dinners unprepared and homework un-started. An ensemble of voices and shuffling feet could be heard all along Main Street. Among the homeward bound was the mayor, feverishly wondering which member of his constituency could have possibly pulled this prank. Who would remove every book from the library only to leave them mere paces from the front door? What would such a demonstration prove? Was there anyone who wished to harm the health of the Madame librarian? Because surely this would do the trick.

He waved absentmindedly to the police patrol stationed across the street ushering a pack of children through the crosswalk and decided to focus more closely on his drive home instead of attempting to solve the mystery.

Also heading home was a teacher, just emerging from school. She had been grading a mountain of tests and watching a naughty duo of trouble makers in detention. She therefore, had missed the event. She attempted to catch up on the town gossip as she walked the three short blocks home. She noticed a convoy of vehicles dispersing from the library and hastened to catch up with a student from her class.

"Why the gathering of the public? What's with the swarm of children and parents?" she asked.

"A bunch of the library books were moved to the front lawn," her student explained.

"Why?" she asked.

"No one in the group seemed to know," the student continued. "The police force has no leads."

"Very peculiar," the teacher commented.

"I need to catch up with my family," the student called over their shoulder as he began to run ahead. "Good night!"

"Good night."

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 3

The next day, a Friday, an audience formed to watch a crew of enthusiasm lacking volunteers carry the bundles of books back into the library. In couples and clusters and yokes and masses, the books were brought back inside. From the sidelines, the crowd could hear a majority of the faculty volunteers grumbling a cloud of complaints.

“What did they hope to accomplish by putting this heap of books out here?” a volunteer griped.

“Whoever writes books with an abundance of pages should be fined! My arms are killing me!” a junior staffer whined.

“Is the librarian coming at all today?” another asked.

“Nah, she doesn’t check out of the hospital until tomorrow.”

As dusk fell, the final book was re-shelved and the pair of oak doors were locked, the books safely behind them. The clique of coworkers trailed out of the parking lot. The events of the past two days behind them and a weekend ahead and waiting. Their talk turned from work to a multitude of other mundane topics.

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 4

Curiosity was fueled by a letter that appeared in the newspaper the following day.

To the entire population of Noun Town,

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly apologize for my library spectacle. I am truly sorry for the thicket of trouble it may have caused. I am also writing to ask for some help. While removing the books, I stopped on the moonlit lawn to gaze at the galaxy and constellations in the heavens and read a most fascinating tale. I was quite busy and could not finish it, so I marked my page with a special note. You know how the librarian hates when we lie them face down, damaging their spine in the process. Seeing as I was already going to drive her crazy with my plague of shenanigans, I didn't want to further upset her. When I returned home, yes, I too am a member of this fair city, I realized I left a large bank of wealth tucked inside the pages of the book. Do you think you could help me find it? Please do this discretely, I don't want to create a rush of pandemonium. Simply go to the library and begin checking out a bushel of books. Don't let me catch you returning the bulk of books without reading them... I'd hate to have to turn your house inside out! If you find the currency I spoke of earlier, contact the newspaper and they will place an announcement in a random section alerting me that it has been located. If you should see this notice, feel free to discontinue your search.

Thank you for your host of help and again I apologize for the expanse of trouble I have caused.

Sincerely, The Library Looter

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 5

In every office, on every bus and in every classroom, a harvest of information was gathered. Throughout the town a network of gossip was instated. The assistant librarian's boyfriend had acquired a packet containing a list of every book the library owned. A dozen bouquets had been sent to the librarian and she had a bevy of visitors. Each visiting party attempted to gain some small factoid about what she may have seen upon her unfortunate discovery on the library lawn. Every piece of information was passed along the gossip chain including the knowledge that the librarian was said to be on indefinite leave of absence starting now. An anthology of questions were asked.

"How will the looter know if I actually read the book?"

"Do you really want to test the theory and end up with your laundry scattered in your yard?"

"Can I really find this nest of money buried in a load of dusty books?"

An extensive list of plans were made. A Girl Scout troop strategized to work together and split any money they found. Their meetings were already held in the basement of the library and the frequency of their meetings was increased from one to three times a week. Teachers extended free reading time during class so that they themselves could page zealously through their library books. Whole families instated reading time each night before bed and could be seen religiously reading through their lit windows.

Each night they fell asleep mentally spending their reward and wondering who would be the lucky one to find the hidden coven of treasure.

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 6

If the looter was distressed at the continued displacement of his or her money, they made no comment. Weeks went by, and the town continued to read, and read, and read. The children read a feast of picture books. The teens had set up shop in the young adult section. They refused to allow anyone in but their own age-group while they read a horde of paranormal romances. Mothers checked out batches of cookbooks and after they had run out of those they went through a regiment of historical romances. After a wad of sport and construction magazines the fathers began reading a body of books on architecture. Old men read a platoon of war memoirs while their old biddy wives read a host of religious biographies on saints. It seemed everyone had their section in the library staked out and everyone was reading. And it wasn't just the books.

Keeping in mind that an announcement would be made in the newspaper once the money had been found, the citizens combed the newspaper from front page to last looking for word that the search had ended. Even those who didn't purchase the newspaper, soon became daily subscribers.

The faculty at the library was working harder than they ever had before. Reshelving a battery of books left them feeling delightfully exhausted. If only the mentally vacationing librarian could see this, surely her soul would be healed! But she remained away.

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 7

The assistant librarian used to sit bored at the front desk praying for a friend to stop by, a child to check out a book, or an email from her boyfriend. Now as a line of regulars stretched across the room, she wondered if those days were an illusion. A crop of book lovers seemed to have grown over night. The span of hours she spent at the library seemed to fly by in a blur.

Each day a slew of books exited and reentered the library, carried by a mass of men, women and children. Each time she checked out a book, her heart raced at the thought of discovering the looter's left behind treasure. How much had they really left trapped between chapters? Which of the books in the body of the library had been chosen? How and why? A clutter of questions she asked herself daily. The urge to constantly check her email left her, as her boyfriend now chose to visit her at the end of each work day. Together they assessed the dwindling list of books the library owned that had yet to be checked out since the fateful day.

They promised each other they wouldn't use the list to find THE BOOK themselves. They just enjoyed the process of the treasure hunt the city was determined to complete. As a new reporter among a mob of stiff competition, the boyfriend was excited about his inside angle on this compelling story. At the end of her shift, the assistant librarian carefully locked the door behind a caravan of Girl Scouts leaving with an array of reading selections tucked under their arms before rushing back to the front desk, her boyfriend, and the list.

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 8

“It has been too long since I was last here,” the mayor thought as he veered away from a knot of people gathered around the library

shelves. He’d decided to stop and pick up some evening reading material since his wife was on vacation visiting her sister on the West Coast. It was getting a little lonely at his house and he thought it might be fun to fill his mind with a cast of characters. He was happy to leave behind thoughts of the city planning committee, the finance board meeting, a looming election, a council position that needed to be filled, and the lack of appetizing dinner options awaiting him at home. He instead turned his attention to an anthology of books on the US Presidents.

Once seated comfortably in his car, his parcel of selected books lying in the seat next to him, the mayor shifted into gear and began his drive home. Sounds of the city orchestra accompanied by a string of Latin lyrics drifted out of his speakers as he drove past the zoo, the apple orchard and hobby farm before finally pulling into his subdivision.

After feeding the litter of cats that met him mewing near the door, he settled into his favorite chair, book in hand, ready for an enjoyable reading of evening.

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 9

It was entirely unnecessary, but another note appeared in the newspaper several weeks later.

Dear Citizens of Noun Town,

Good word has reached me that you have become an army of readers! Thank you for taking my cause so seriously. Has anyone found my cache of fortune? Keep looking, I assure you it is there. Feel free to share your current findings, working as a team may be helpful.

Sincerely,
The Library Looter

As expected, it created a rapid of reaction of rumors. The occupants of the town could no longer contain their portfolio of book blurbs, recommendations, and favorites. The blessing of book information gushed forward from one tribe of teens to another, one colony of coworkers to the next, from one congregation to the church across the street until they were all talking and talking and talking about books.

Baskets of books continued to be checked out from the library. The cable company issued a catalogue of complaints due to their large chunk of cancelations. School board members were rejoicing when the principals reported that reading levels at the local schools were escalating at unheard of rates. Children saved their reserve of birthday money to buy books at the newly opened book store downtown.

The shower of questions from the town still rang out, but they had changed. "Have you read the new historical fiction thriller?" "Did you hear that book I read last week finally made its way on to the New York Times bestseller list?" "When is the first book club meeting?"

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 10

Winter descended on the little town. A layer of snow covered the library lawn, and the yellow cautionary tape that had long been taken down was replaced by strings of colored lights. A festive garland was wrapped around the terrace railing and a beautiful wreath hung on the old oak door, welcoming library patrons to the building and the season.

As the librarian returned to her place of work for the first time since the incident last fall, she could see a kit of little kids reading and giggling in the children's corner. A pair of siblings were sharing a chair and a book while their father browsed through a dossier of recent book arrivals. Just beyond the family she saw an entire fleet of women young and old who had gathered for the recently started book club. Everywhere she turned she saw worshipers of the written word, wonder and enjoyment written clearly on their faces.

When her assistant, who was now acting as head librarian, saw her entering, the young woman gasped and attempted to stand. But the librarian, ever a rule follower, shushed her and silently slipped back out into the darkening evening. As a light snow began to fall, the librarian reminisced over the past collection of months, a catalogue of memories in her head. She wondered if the townspeople would ever be able to forgive her for intentionally misleading them. She wondered if they too now understood the wealth to be found in words and that it was their treasure she had been writing of the entire time.

She smiled to herself as she shuffled a pile of books off the passenger seat of her husband's car and buckled her seat belt.

"Everything just how you left it?" he asked her.

"Oh no dear. It is much, much better than I left it."

"Do you feel good about your decision to retire?"

"Absolutely," she responded. "Now, on the way to the symphony, catch me up on the panel of candidates you had in mind for that council position."

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Answer Key

Chapter 1

- 1.crowd
- 2.department
- 3.mess
- 4.pair
- 5.parliament
- 6.forest
- 7.crew
- 8.gang
- 9.mass
- 10.staff
- 11.squad
- 12.team
- 13.section
- 14.syndicate
- 15.roll

Chapter 4

- 1.population
- 2.town
- 3.thicket
- 4.galaxy
- 5.constellations
- 6.plague
- 7.member
- 8.bank
- 9.wealth
- 10.bushel
- 11.bulk
- 12.currency
- 13.expense
- 14.host
- 15.Library

Chapter 2

- 1.flock
- 2.ensemble
- 3.constituency
- 4.patrol
- 5.pack
- 6.mountain
- 7.duo
- 8.convoy
- 9.class
- 10.public
- 11.swarm
- 12.bunch
- 13.force
- 14.group
- 15.family

Chapter 5

- 1.harvest
- 2.network
- 3.packet
- 4.bouquets
- 5.bevy
- 6.party
- 7.chain
- 8.anthology
- 9.nest
- 10.load
- 11.mess
- 12.list
- 13.troop
- 14.week
- 15.coven

Chapter 3

- 1.audience
- 2.bundles
- 3.couples
- 4.clusters
- 5.yokes
- 6.masses
- 7.crowd
- 8.majority
- 9.faculty
- 10.cloud
- 11.heap
- 12.abundance
- 13.pair
- 14.clique
- 15.multitude

Chapter 6

- 1.town
- 2.feast
- 3.age-group
- 4.horde
- 5.batches
- 6.regiment
- 7.wad
- 8.body
- 9.platoon
- 10.host
- 11.section
- 12.subscribers
- 13.faculty
- 14.library
- 15.battery

The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Answer Key

Chapter 7

1. line
2. illusion
3. crop
4. span
5. library
6. slew
7. mass
8. treasure
9. chapters
10. body
11. clutter
12. list
13. mob
14. caravan
15. array

Chapter 9

1. army
2. cache
3. team
4. portfolio
5. blessing
6. tribe
7. colony
8. congregation
9. church
10. company
11. catalogue
12. chunk
13. board
14. reserve
15. shower

Chapter 8

1. knot
2. coast
3. cast
4. committee
5. board
6. coucil
7. anthology
8. parcel
9. orchestra
10. string
11. zoo
12. orchard
13. farm
14. subdivision
15. litter

Chapter 10

1. layer
2. strings
3. patrons
4. kit
5. pair
6. dossier
7. worshipers
8. collection
9. catalogues
10. townspeople
11. treasure
12. pile
13. symphony
14. panel
15. coucil

Name: _____



Writing with Collective Nouns

Directions

Choose 10 collective nouns you found in The Library Looter and write them below. Then, write your own Noun Town Mystery using your chosen collective nouns.

My Collective Nouns

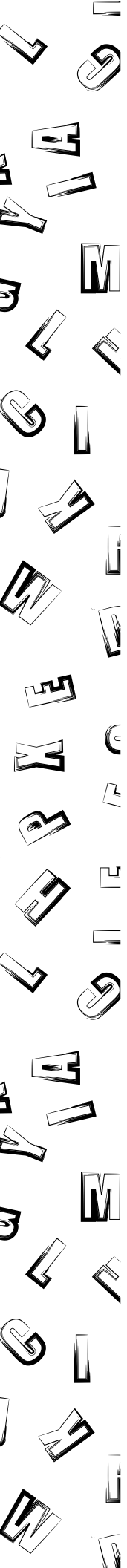
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Pre-Write Planning

Where in Noun Town does your story take place?
(School, post office, mayor's office, town dump, garden center, etc?)

Who are the characters in your story? (Students, fire fighter, baker, pet groomer, etc.?)

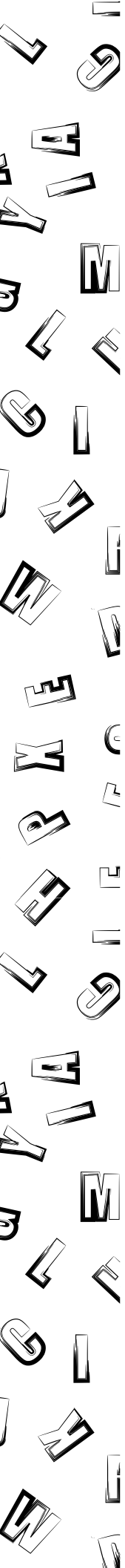
What will be the mystery? (a missing object, a stranger comes to town, a bizzare incident, etc.?)



Title

Written By





Writing Rubric

Write Your Own
 Collective Noun
 Mystery 

Student Name: _____

Task/Points	0	2	4
Inclusion of Collective Nouns	5 or less of the student's chosen collective nouns are included and used correctly.	6 or more of the student's chosen collective nouns are included and used correctly.	All ten chosen collective nouns are included and used correctly.
Style/Writer's Voice	The writer's style, including word choice, varied sentence make up/length, etc. is unsatisfactory and detracts from the overall enjoyment and meaning of the piece.	The writer's style, including word choice, varied sentence make up/length, etc. is adequate and does not detract from the overall enjoyment of the piece.	The writer's style, including word choice, varied sentence make up/length, etc. adds to the overall enjoyment of the piece in a way that is meaningful.
Grammar	Grammar and usage errors dramatically impede the reading of the piece.	Grammar and usage errors slightly impede the reading of the piece.	Few to zero grammar and usage errors. Story reads cleanly and easily.
Inclusion of Story Elements	Student does not clearly include the story elements of character, setting and a plot featuring a mystery.	Student clearly includes two of the following story elements: character, setting and a plot featuring a mystery.	Student clearly includes the story elements of character, setting and a plot featuring a mystery.

Planning sheet is turned in with final copy of story: __/2

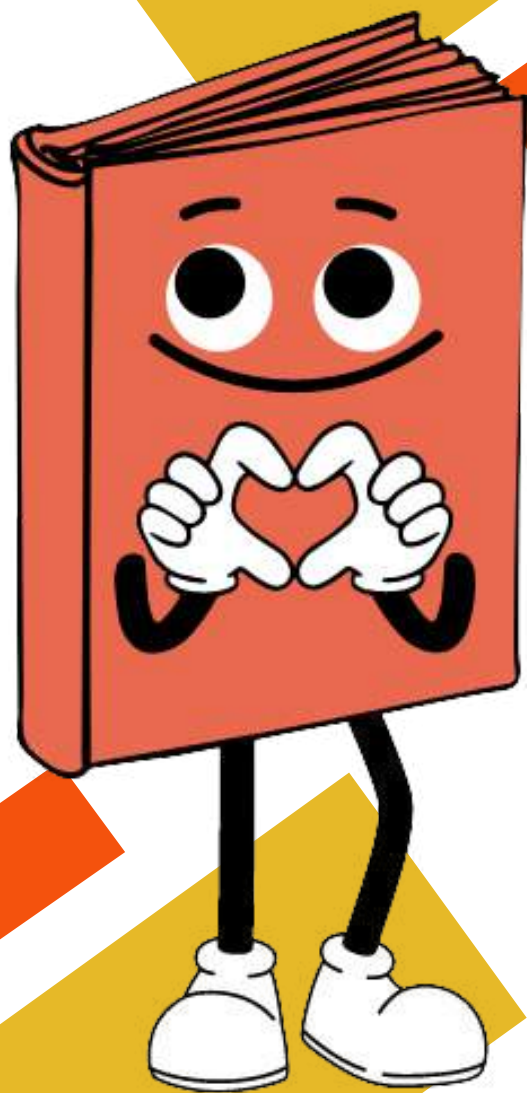
Student includes a title: __/1

Work is turned in on time: __/1

Total Points __/20

Teacher comments and feedback:

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

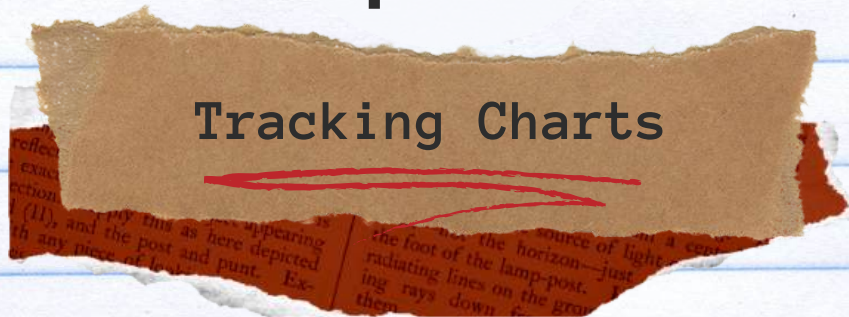


AUGUST
2024

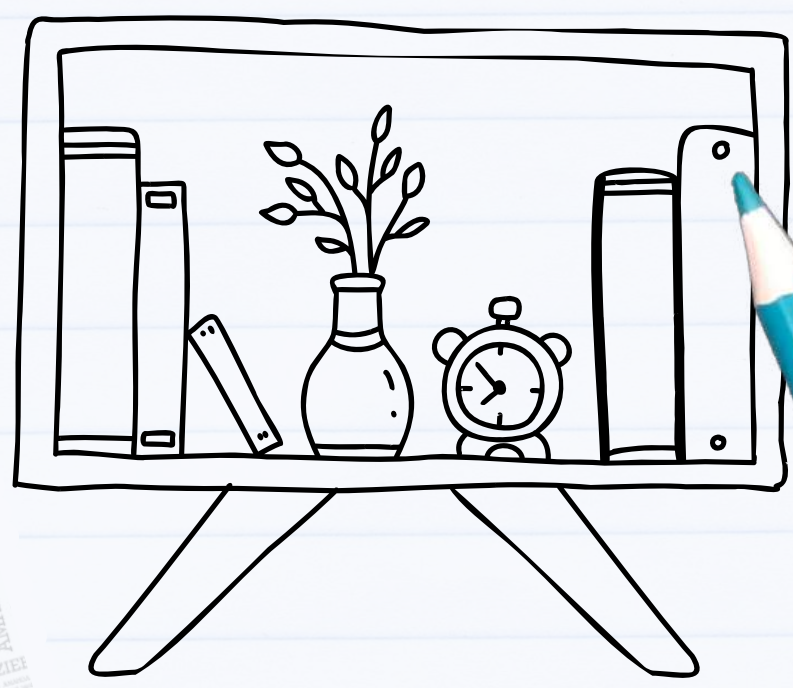
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First Chapter Friday



Tracking Charts



Created by

AMANDA ZIEBA
THE WORD NERD



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Tracking Sheets

Hey there Teacher friend,

I am so excited for you to implement the practice of First Chapter Fridays in your classroom! I hope it will engage your students and spur them into a love of reading... or at the very least to discover some new favorite books.

This resource includes 6 different styles of tracking sheets your students can use to keep track of the First Chapter Friday read alouds they try. Whether you use them to keep your students accountable or help them remember the books they want to check out from the library, I hope they prove useful. I also included versions of each tracking chart students can use to track books they have finished reading in entirety as well. Just look at the worksheet heading and directions to distinguish the difference between the two. Finally, the entire list of First Chapter Friday videos available on my channel is included via a link [here](#). It is a live Google Doc (with over 200 FCFs and growing!!) that I will continue to update. Additionally you will find links to purchase the books and watch the read aloud videos, as well as book reading levels, genre/format, video length and more! And last but not least, you will find a sheet you can use to plan ahead and keep track of the FCF's you use/show in class.

Not sure how First Chapter Friday works? Check out this [video](#) for a full explanation and 4 implementation ideas. If you prefer a written description in lieu of a video, click [here](#).

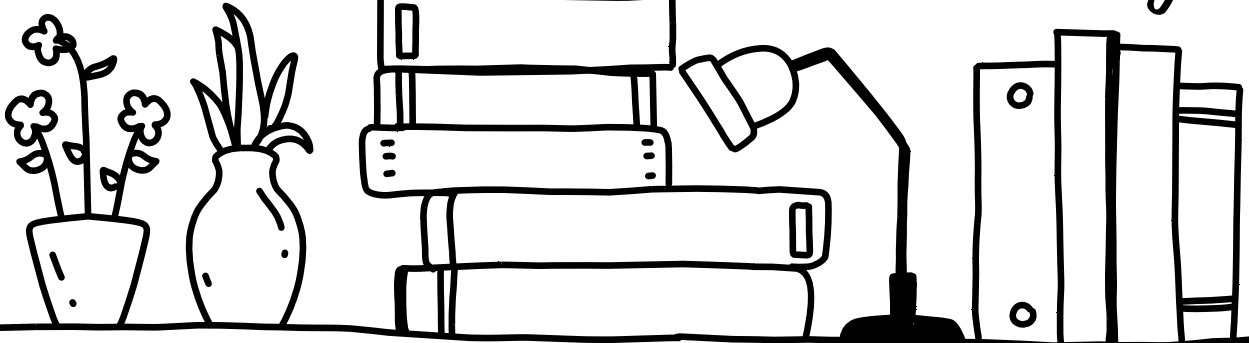
Happy teaching and happy reading!

Amanda Zieba

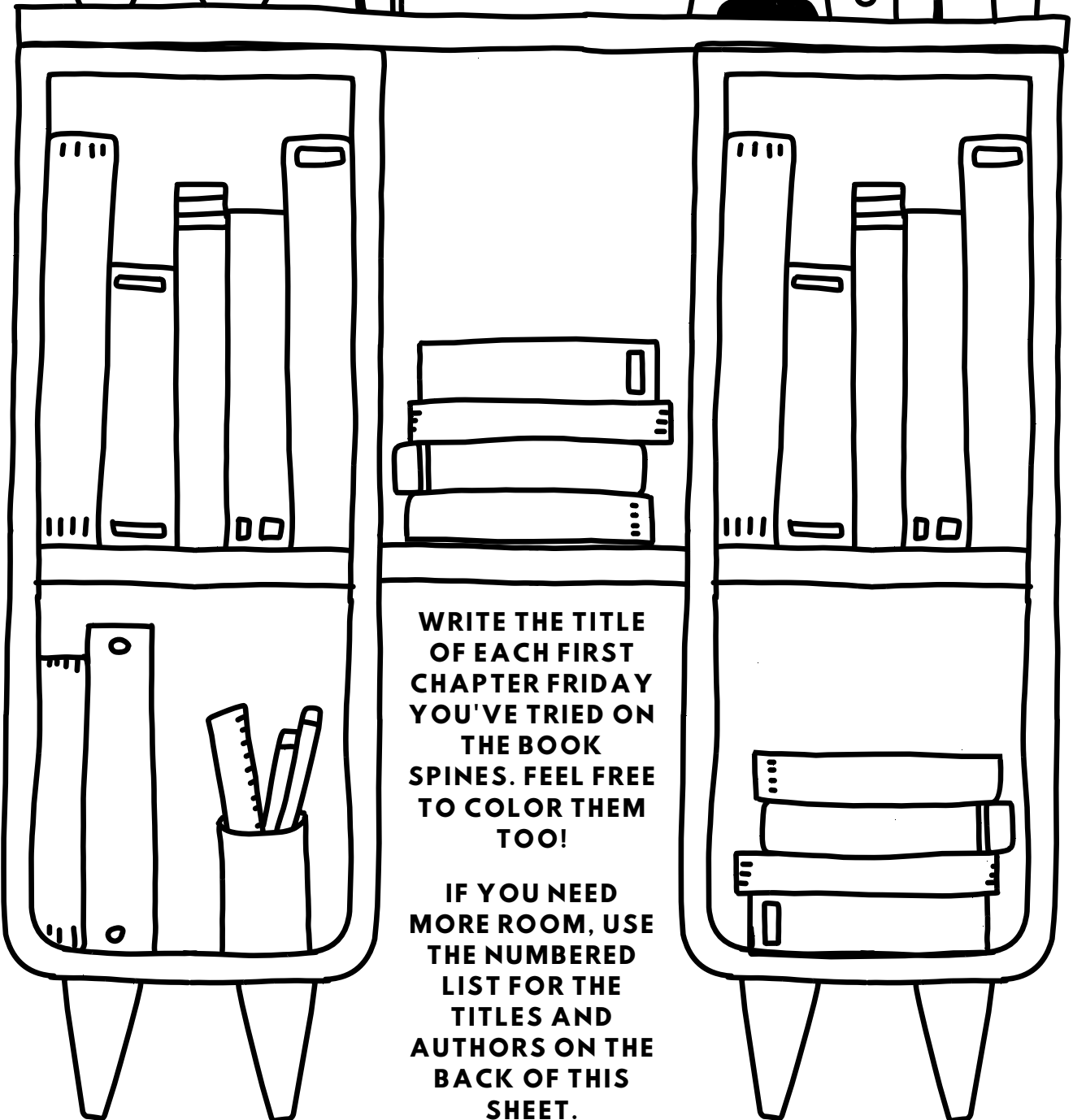


NAME: _____

First
CHAPTER
Fridays

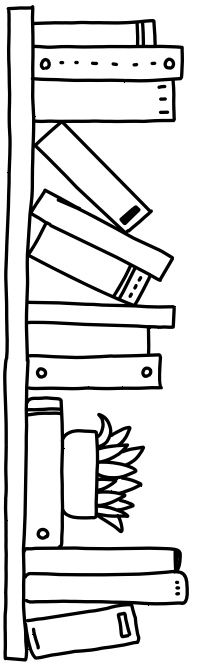


Created by Amanda Zieba, The Word Nerd



**WRITE THE TITLE
OF EACH FIRST
CHAPTER FRIDAY
YOU'VE TRIED ON
THE BOOK
SPINES. FEEL FREE
TO COLOR THEM
TOO!**

**IF YOU NEED
MORE ROOM, USE
THE NUMBERED
LIST FOR THE
TITLES AND
AUTHORS ON THE
BACK OF THIS
SHEET.**



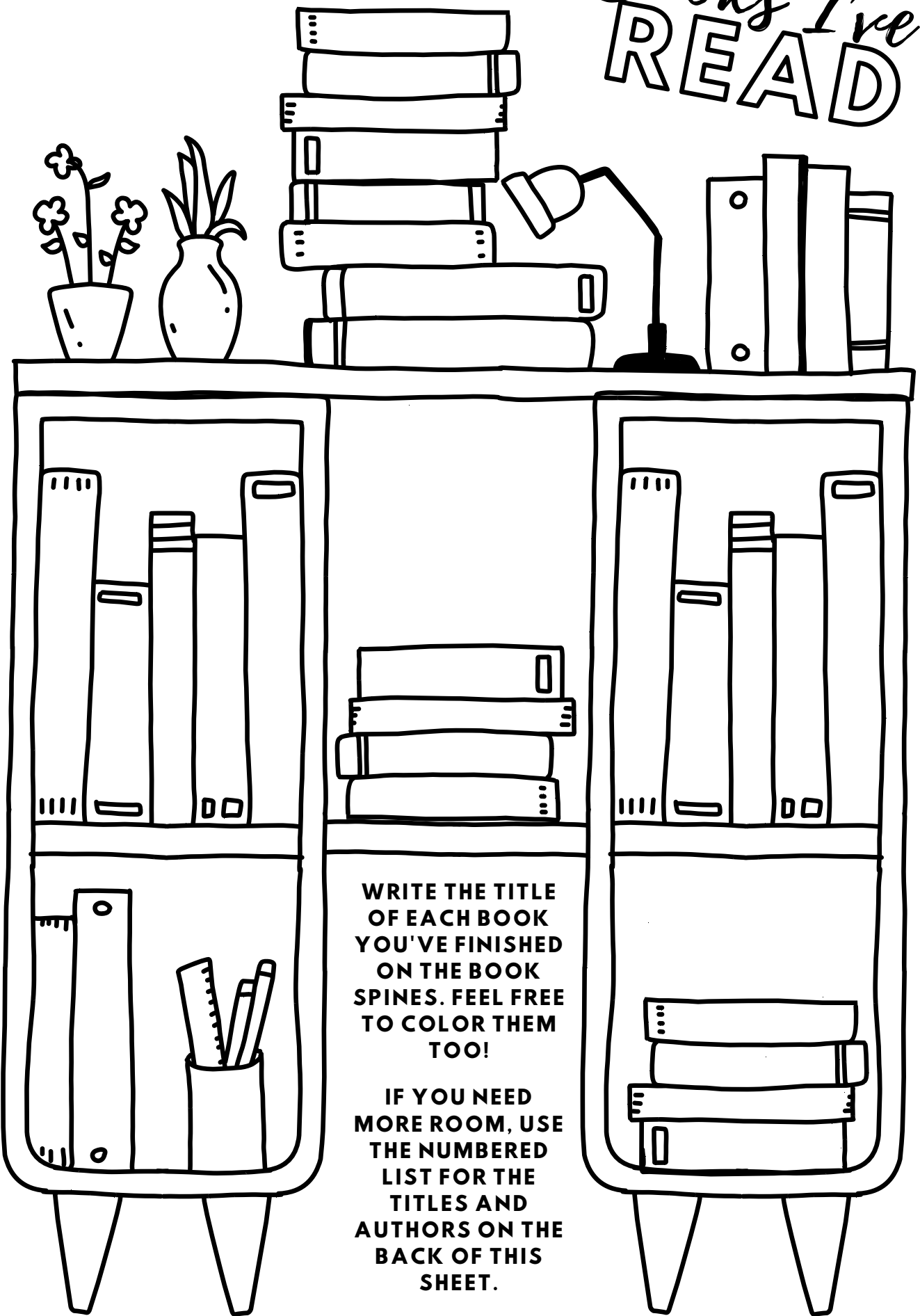
First CHAPTER *Fridays*

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NAME: _____

NAME: _____

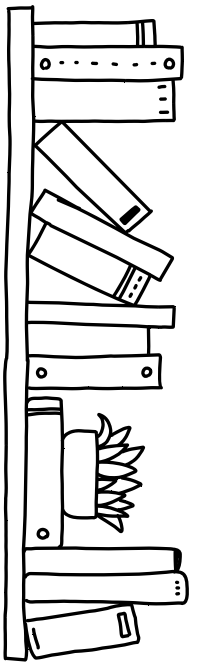
Books I've **READ**



Created by Amanda Zieba, The Word Nerd

**WRITE THE TITLE
OF EACH BOOK
YOU'VE FINISHED
ON THE BOOK
SPINES. FEEL FREE
TO COLOR THEM
TOO!**

**IF YOU NEED
MORE ROOM, USE
THE NUMBERED
LIST FOR THE
TITLES AND
AUTHORS ON THE
BACK OF THIS
SHEET.**



Books We

READ

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NAME: _____

Name: _____

Quarter: #__



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

TRACKER

Use this worksheet to keep track of the First Chapter Friday videos you listen to throughout the quarter.

DATE	TITLE/AUTHOR	GENRE	REACTION

Name: _____

Quarter: #__



BOOKS I'VE READ

Use this worksheet to keep track of the books you have read the quarter.

DATE	TITLE/AUTHOR	GENRE	REACTION



First Chapter Friday

Name: _____ Quarter: _____

Title/Author	Rating: 1	2	3	4	5	Continue Reading?
1 _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N
2 _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N
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4 _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N
5 _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N
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12 _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N
13 _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N
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16 _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N
17 _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N
18 _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N

Book Log

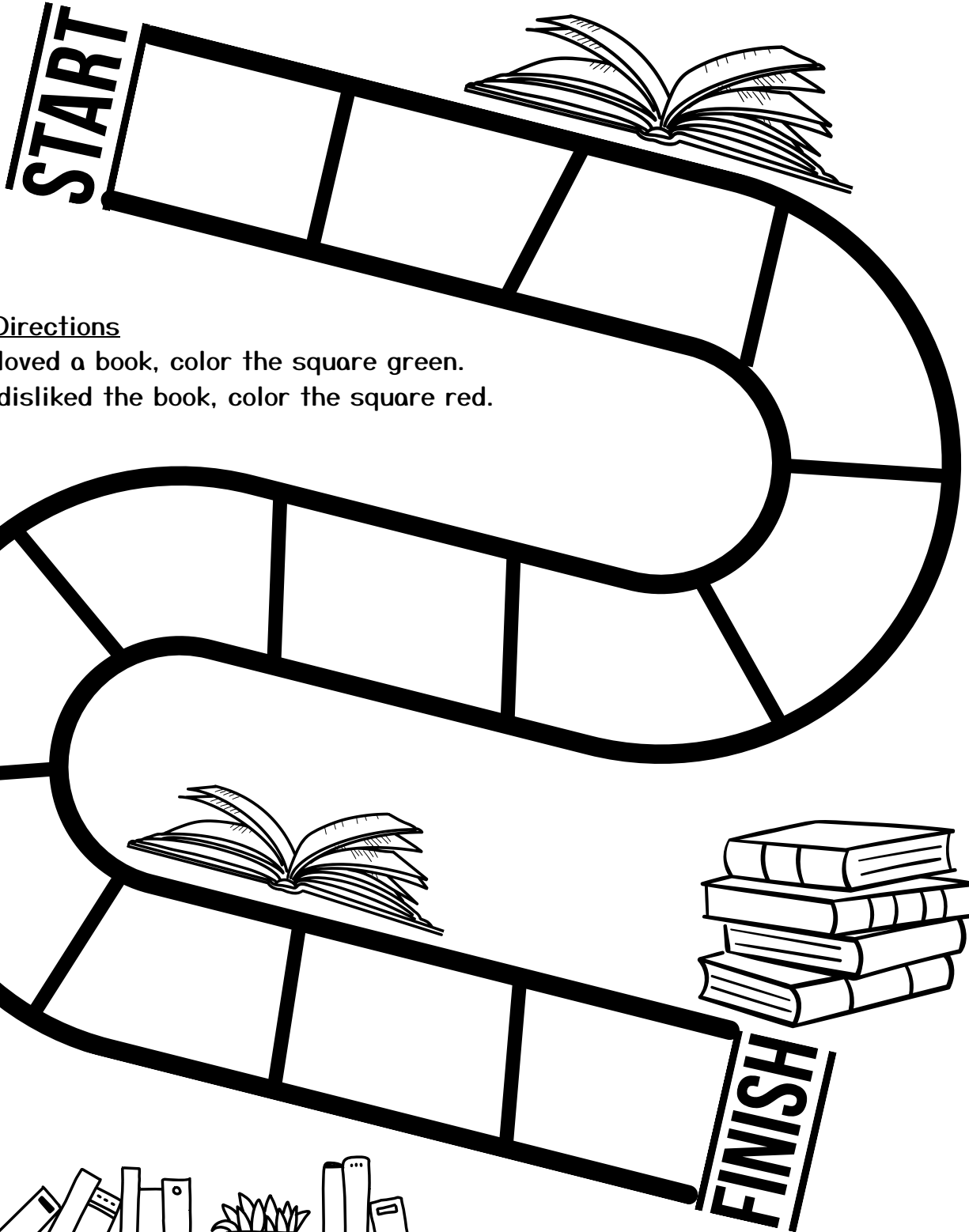
Name: _____ Quarter: _____

Title/Author	Rating: 1	2	3	4	5	Would Recommend?	
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18 _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Y	<input type="radio"/> N

First Chapter Friday Game Board

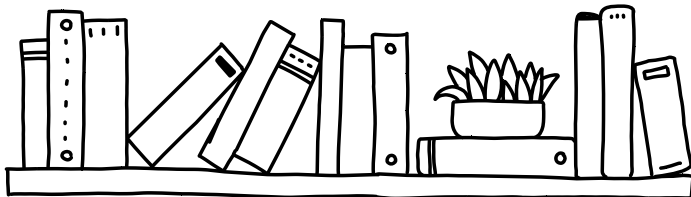


Every time you listen to a First Chapter Friday read aloud video, write its title in the square. To win, fill up the entire game board!



Additional Directions

- If you loved a book, color the square green.
- If you disliked the book, color the square red.

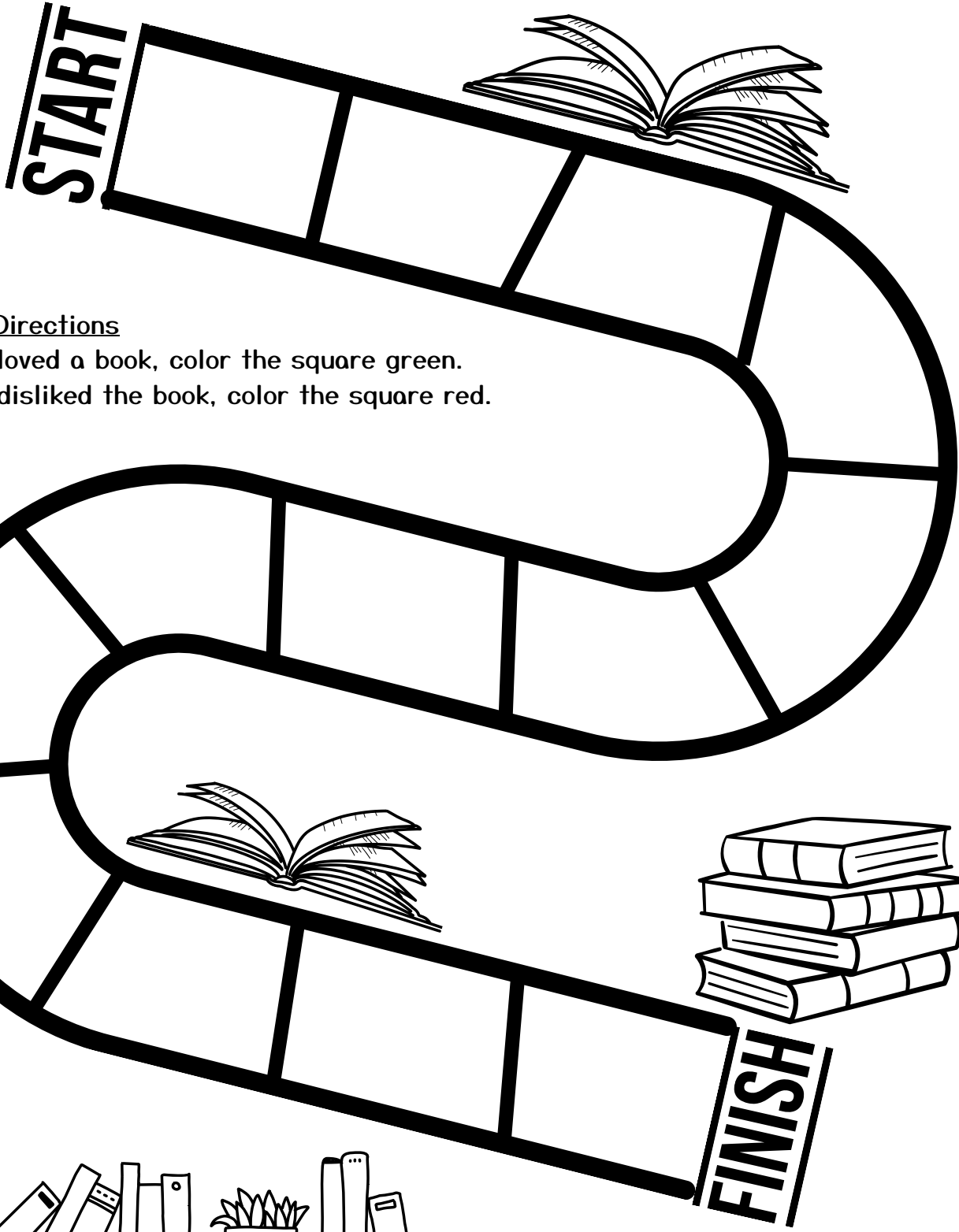


Name: _____

Reading Game Board

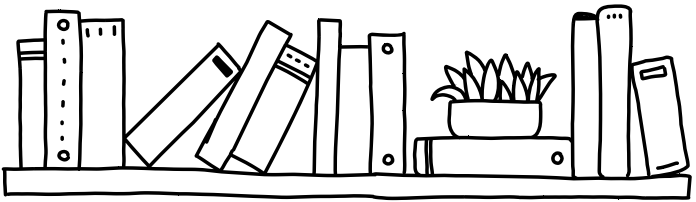


Every time you finish a book, write its title in the square.
To win, fill up the entire game board!

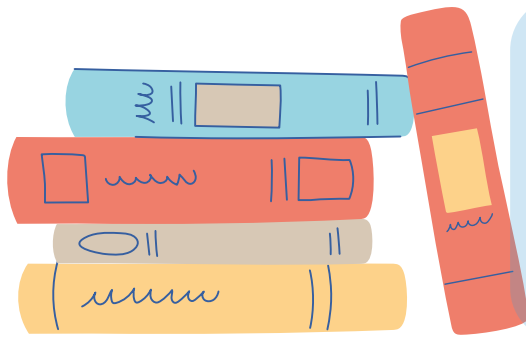


Additional Directions

- If you loved a book, color the square green.
- If you disliked the book, color the square red.



Name: _____

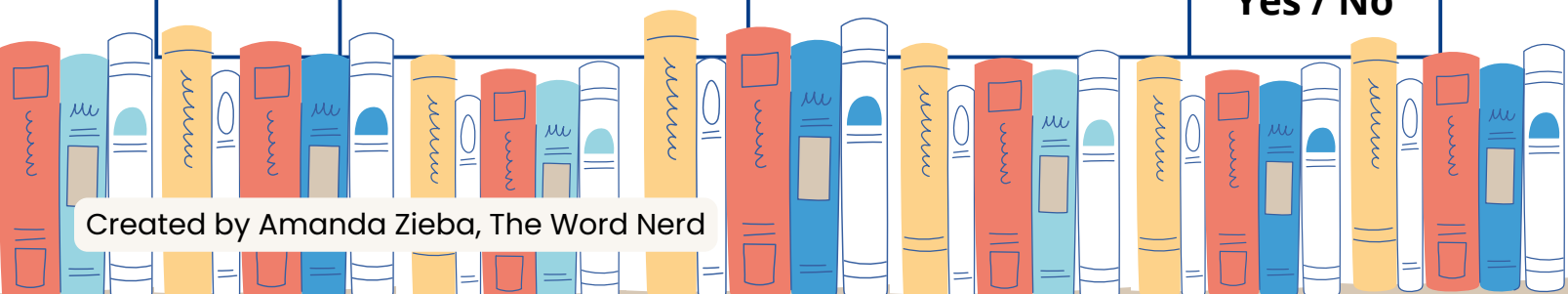


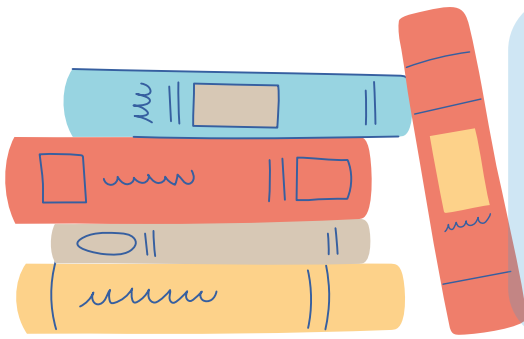
FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Tracker


Name: _____ Class: _____

Date	Book Title & Author	My Reaction	Continue Reading?
			Yes / No
			Yes / No
			Yes / No
			Yes / No
			Yes / No
			Yes / No
			Yes / No
			Yes / No
			Yes / No
			Yes / No



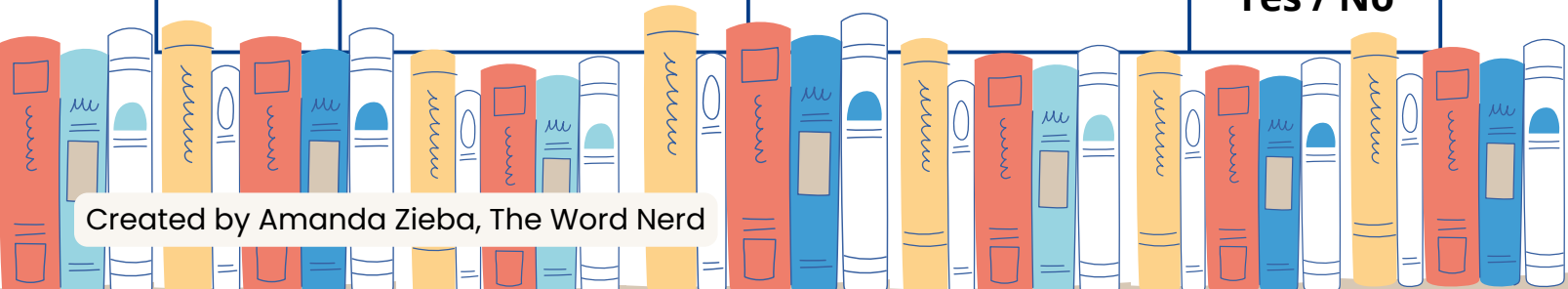


BOOKS I'VE *Read*



Name: _____ Class: _____

Date	Book Title & Author	Reaction	Would Recommend?
			Yes / No
			Yes / No
			Yes / No
			Yes / No
			Yes / No
			Yes / No
			Yes / No
			Yes / No
			Yes / No
			Yes / No



First Chapter Friday

Books I've Tried...



NAME:

TITLE	AUTHOR	RATING
		♥♥♥♥♥
		♥♥♥♥♥
		♥♥♥♥♥
		♥♥♥♥♥
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		♥♥♥♥♥
		♥♥♥♥♥

Books I've Read



NAME: _____

TITLE	AUTHOR	RATING
		♥♥♥♥♥
		♥♥♥♥♥
		♥♥♥♥♥
		♥♥♥♥♥
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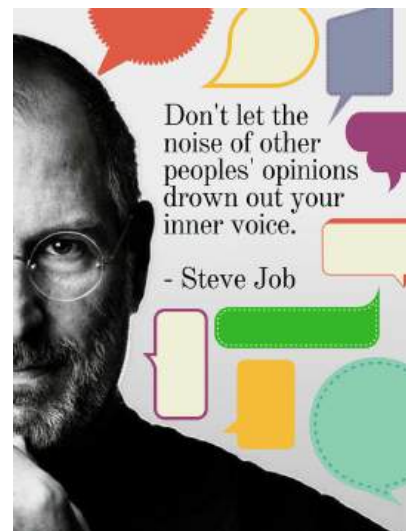
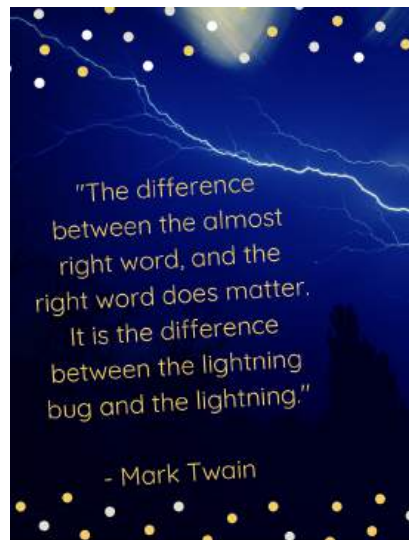
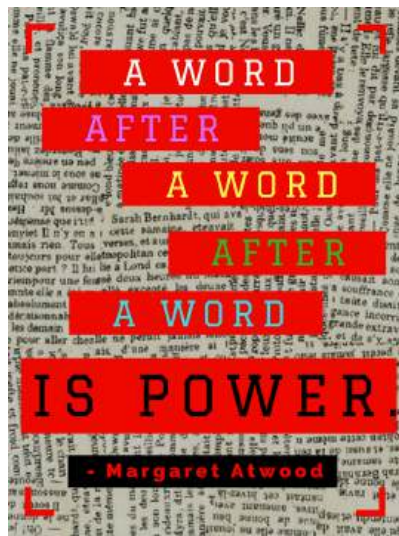
First CHAPTER Friday

DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE & FORMAT	STUDENT REACTION?

MOTIVATIONAL QUOTE

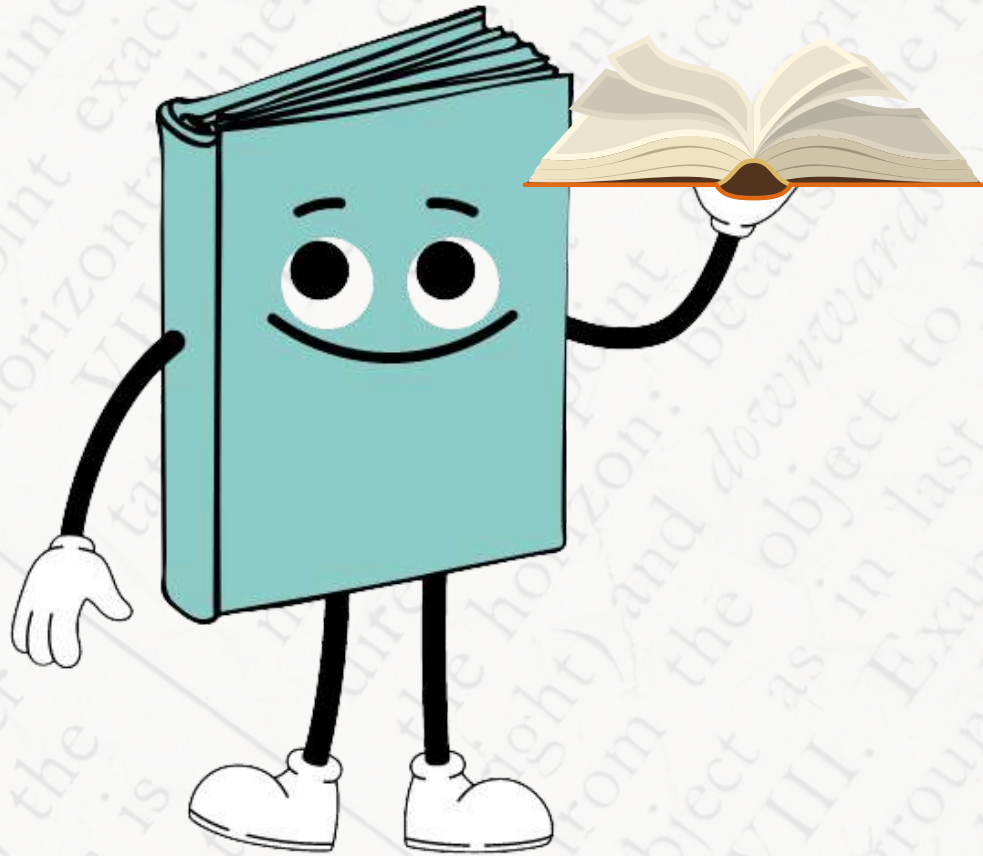
P O S T E R S E T

Use these posters to quickly and easily decorate your classroom space. Personally, I'd print them in color, matte them on cardstock and then laminate them so I could reuse them year after year. :) The images you see below are just a few samples. **Click HERE** to get the full set of posters.



https://www.canva.com/design/DAGJO9tHp40/X2PQvRo6uSQoZT6KbLKyCQ/edit?utm_content=DAGJO9tHp40&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

ENJOY!

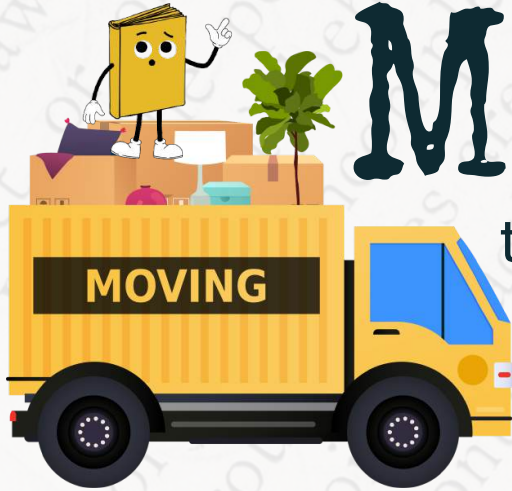


WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

MOVING

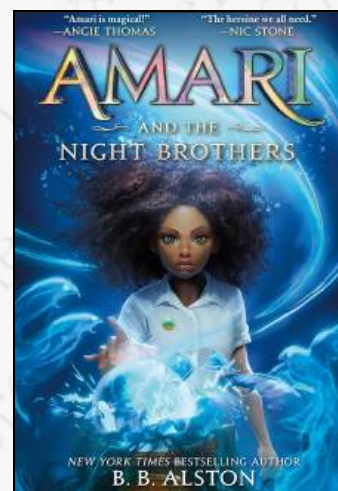
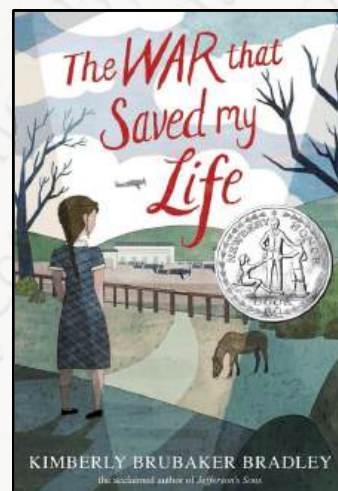
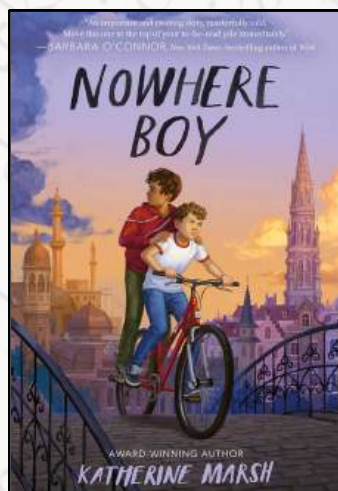
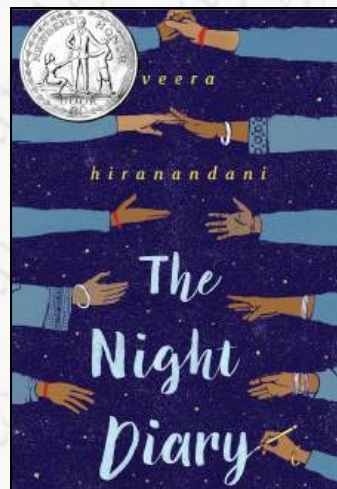
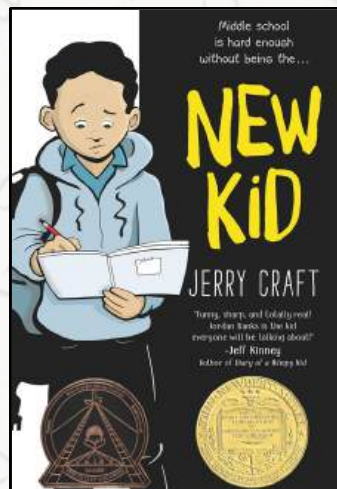
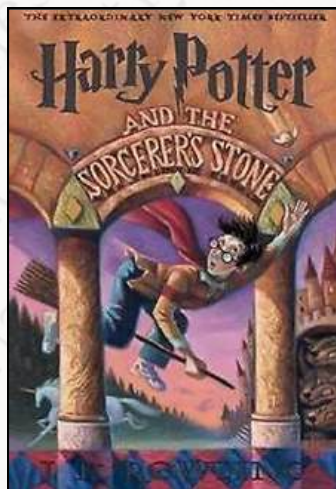
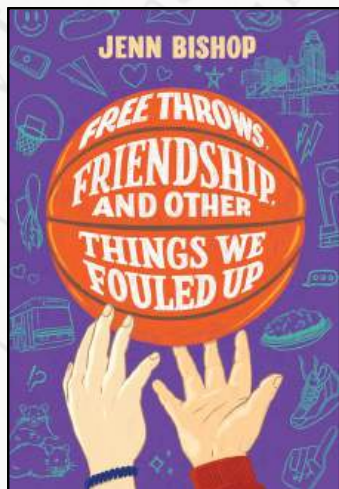
to a new school/town/country



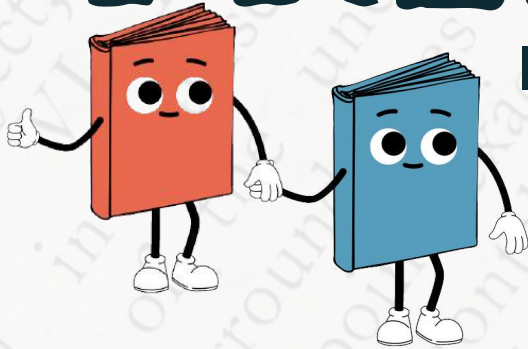
- Amari and the Night Brothers
by B.B. Aslton
- Free Throws, Friendship and Other Things We Fouled Up
by Jenn Bishop
- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
by J.K. Rowling
- New Kid
by Jerry Craft
- The Night Diary
by Veera Hirinandani
- Nowhere Boy
by Katherine Marsh
- The War That Saved My Life
by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley



BOOKS ABOUT: MOVING



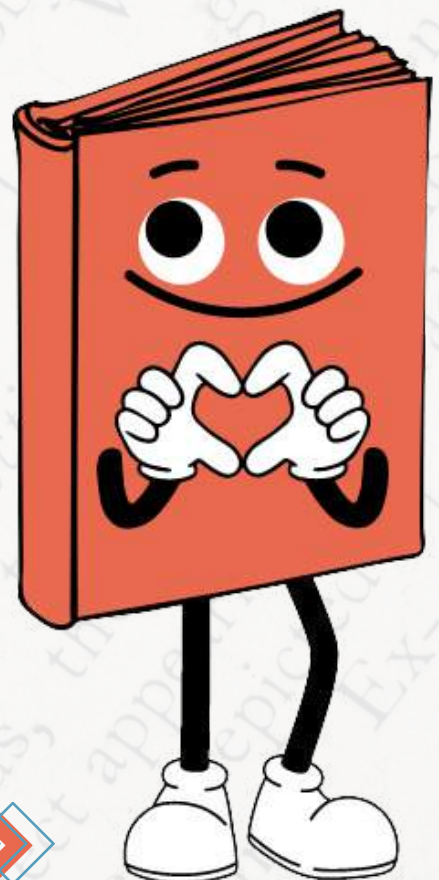
FRIENDSHIP



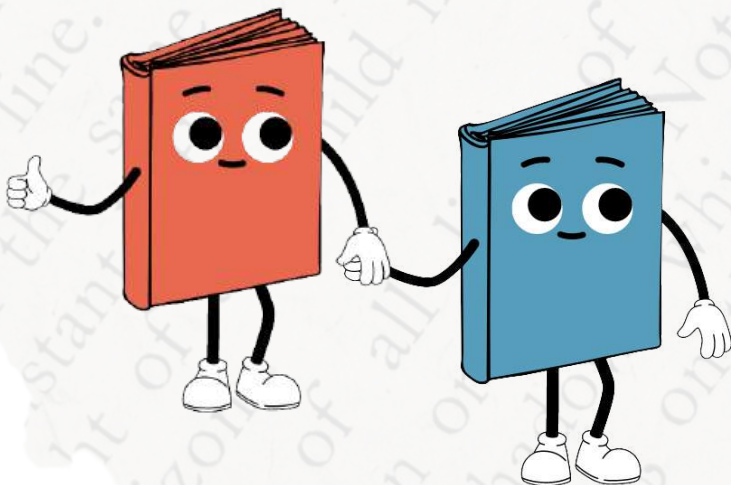
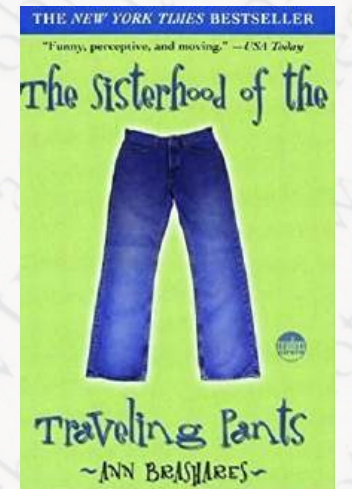
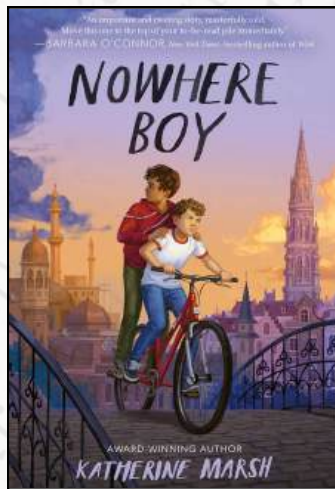
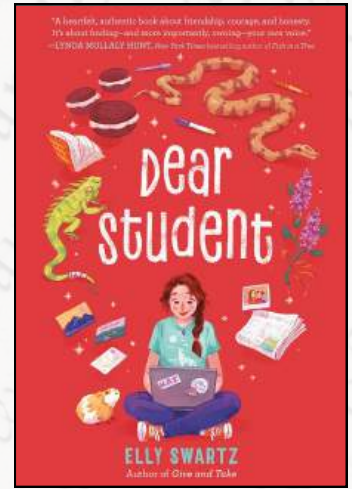
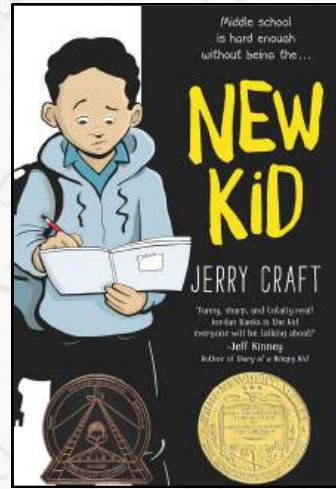
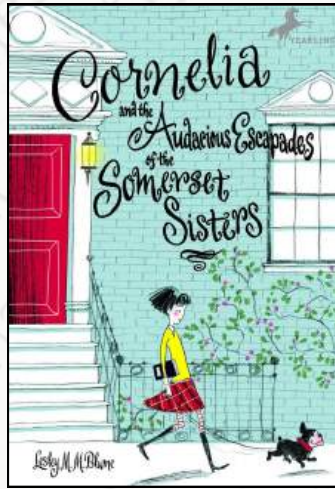
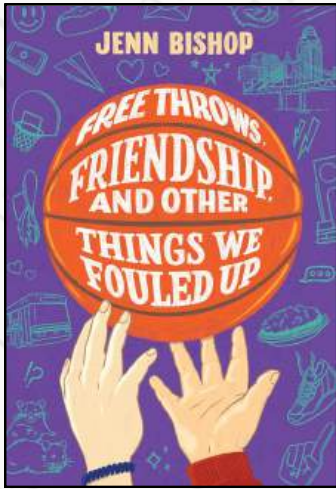
learning to be and find good friends



- Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Somerset Sisters
by Leslie M.M. Blume
- Dear Student
by Elly Swartz
- Free Throws, Friendship and Other Things We Fouled Up
by Jenn Bishop
- From the Desk of Zoe Washington
by Janae Marks
- Hello, Universe
by Erin Entrada Kelly
- House Swap
by Yvette Clark
- Nowhere Boy
by Katherine Marsh
- The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants
by Ann Brashares
- Rules by Cynthia Lord



BOOKS ABOUT: FRIENDSHIP



WHEW, WE MADE IT.

Whether you've reached the end of a full month of school like my friends in the Southern US or you've just barely started (Midwest teacher friends, I'm looking at you!)... we've made it. Good job!

I hope that no matter where you are in your school year, that you are happy and healthy and things are off to a good start for you and your students.

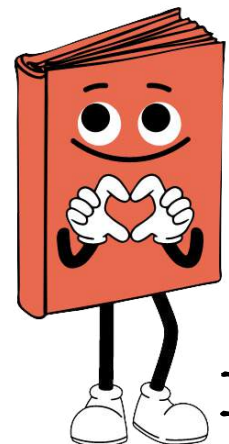
I've been teaching a long time, almost two decades! But this is the first time I've put together something like this. I'd love to hear what you think and how it went over in your classroom. Were your students engaged in the activities? What can I alter and improve? When you get a chance, shoot me a quick email with your feedback. (wordnerd@amandazieba.com). Thanks in advance for helping to make this Word Nerd Collaborative a bit better!

September's pre-planned pack of resources will be released on Sunday, August 18th, 2024 (always the third Sunday of the month prior) and we will have our planning session zoom that same day (2-3:30 pm CST). Here is the link to join us! In the planning session I will walk you through the month's resources and then with the remaining time, answer any questions.

I also want to remind you that daily support is available in our Word Nerd Collaborative private Facebook group. IF you haven't joined us over there yet, [click here](#).

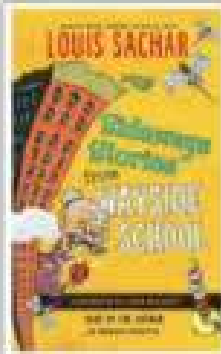
Alright, teacher friends. That's it for now. I am so glad we are doing this together and hope that this school year is your best one yet.

- AMANDA



First Chapter Fridays

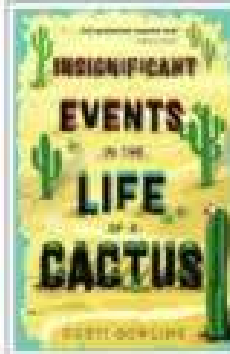
Friday, August 2nd



Sideways Stories
from Wayside
School
by
Louis Sachar

Humor/Prose

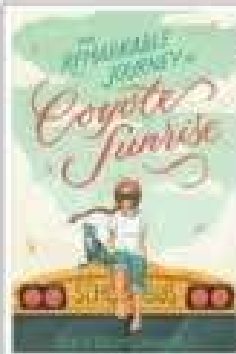
Friday, August 9th



Insignificant
Events in the Life
of a Cactus
by
Dusti Bowling

Realistic
Fiction/Prose

Friday, August 16th



The Remarkable
Journey of
Coyote Sunrise
by Dan
Gemeinhart

Realistic
Fiction/Prose

Friday, August 23rd



Wild Bird
by
Wendelin
Van Draanen

Realistic
Fiction/Prose

Friday, August 30th



Swim Team
by
Johnnie
Christmas

Realistic Fiction/
Graphic Novel

Lunch Bunch
Attendees

Louis Sachar - ?
Dusti Bowling - ?
Dan Gemeinhart - yes
Wendelin Van Draanen - yes
Johnnie Christmas - ?

LET'S WRITE!

In addition to being an educator, I'm an author. I LOVE writing. I know that isn't the case for everyone, but I truly hope that after spending time with me or one of my resources, people will come to like it just a little bit more!

This resource will help you implement a daily writing routine in your classroom. I start small, asking students to write for 5 minutes, and then each week, add on another, until we are up to 10 minutes. I know that they won't create a finished product in that amount of time, but that's not the purpose of these journal writes. The purpose is to be creative, to put ideas on paper, to experiment, and mostly... just to WRITE. The only way we get better at a skill is to practice it. I give a few more implementation tips on page 4, but if you have more questions, feel free to email me at any time. (wordnerd@amandazieba.com).

I hope these prompts spark both interest and ideas in your students.

Happy Writing!

Amanda Zieba
(AKA: The Word Nerd)

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

P.P.S. This is SET #3! Grab [SET #1](#) and [SET #2](#)
(each also 9 weeks of writing prompts).



(https://youtu.be/l7UWA-pw040?sub_confirmation=1)



THIS PRODUCT INCLUDES

1

9 weeks of printable writing prompts (prompt + writing space)

2

A Canva Presentation of the writing prompts to project on a big screen in your classroom. These are editable if you click (FILE - MAKE A COPY) once in Canva.

(Link: https://www.canva.com/design/DAGH0ww0pvl/zL6ckdtWGMHet11iv8xeYQ/edit?utm_content=DAGH0ww0pvl&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton)

3

A Gem and Opportunity Feedback form for students and teachers to use when giving a critique.

4

A rubric for teachers to use to evaluate the writing products created by their students with these prompts. Students can also use this rubric to self-score/evaluate their writing. I wouldn't "grade" every journal write. Maybe ask students to pick one a week they'd like you to score.

5

A list of journal writing tips for students. As well as a video full of ideas for teachers to engage reluctant writers.



5

JOURNAL WRITING TIPS

- 1 Take a minute to think before you start writing. Review what happened in the text, browse any text annotations you made, think about how you related to the characters' situation/emotions in today's scenes.
- 2 Put your phone/chromebook/tablet away. Distractions can easily pull you out of the writing flow.
- 3 If you feel like you are stuck or have nothing else to say, but we still have writing time left, re-read what you have written. This might inspire more ideas. Or, you can go back and add in details to your response that you did not include the first time around.
- 4 You can always go back to the text/prompt/image for clues. reminders, ideas to add.
- 5 Before submitting your work, whisper read your work aloud to yourself. This will help you catch small, easy to fix errors.
- 6 Listen to an instrumental playlist to create a blanket of white noise that will help you focus on your task, rather than the distractions surrounding you. Try [this video!](https://youtu.be/aHVFKDZRC3g) (link: <https://youtu.be/aHVFKDZRC3g>)

