

Word Nerd
Collaborative

2026

FEBRUARY
ENGAGEMENT GAME PLAN

A LOTTA WORD NERD LOVE

Dear Teacher Friend,

It's February—and whether or not you're a fan of Valentine's Day, I think we can all agree: words are worth falling in love with. I mean, I love them so much I nick-named myself The Word Nerd and built an entire collaborative community around them. Not just big fancy vocabulary words (though those are fun too)—but the right words. The unexpected ones. The words that make you laugh out loud in the middle of a read-aloud or blink back tears during a student's journal entry.

I love a witty marketing phrase or meme that uses unique blend of words.
I love a one-word sentence that carries the weight of a paragraph.
I love when students invent a word on accident and somehow it's perfect.

Words help us explain.
They help us connect.
They help us belong.

This month, I hope you lean into that love—both for your students and yourself. Not in a sappy or extra way (unless that's your thing), but in small, sincere moments:

- A sincere compliment that makes someone smile.
- A new genre or format that surprises a reluctant reader
- A silly grammar pun that makes middle schoolers roll their eyes... and then smile
- A student voice that shows up bold on the page, maybe for the first time

This month's Game Plan is full of ways to reconnect with the heart of why we teach English Language Arts: because words matter. And when we help kids discover how to use them—creatively, truthfully, powerfully—we're giving them more than academic success. We're giving them tools to shape their world.

So go ahead. Write a raving review for a great book. Confess your feelings for metaphors. Send an author a DM on socials saying how much you enjoyed their story world. Tell your comma it's been forgiven. Slip a lil note into your kids'/spouse's lunch box. Sometimes it's hard to say things OUT LOUD, but written words can get the job done (and sometimes mean much more because we can hold onto them!).

Because even when this job is hard (and let's be honest, February has feelings), you're still here—doing the work, turning the page, and passing the love of words forward. And that, teacher friend, is something worth celebrating.

— AMANDA

World Needs

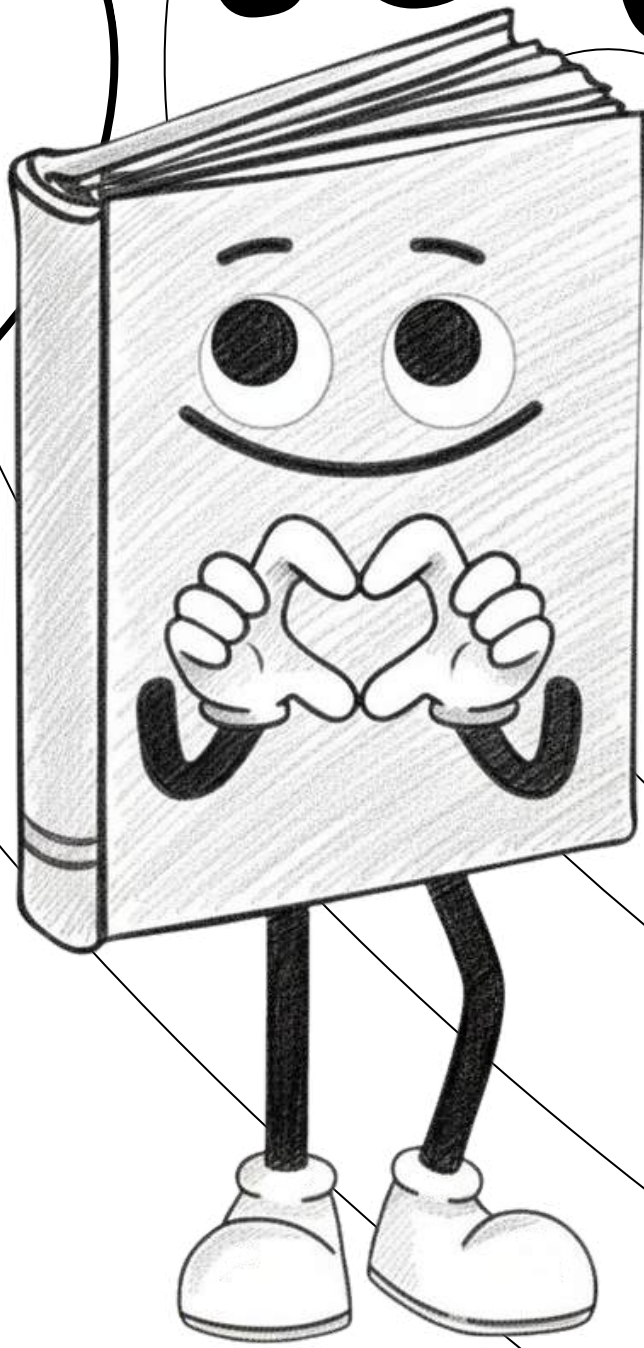


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WALK THROUGH
VIDEO



EDITABLE
CANVA FILE



OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT

February Planning Session (January 18th)

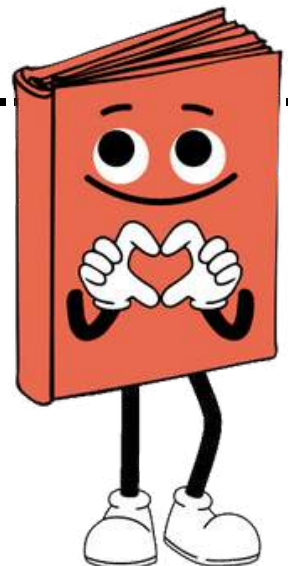
LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82003624150> (2pm CST)

Lunch Bunch Zoom Link (February 27th)

LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84702864396>

Word Nerd Collaborative Private Facebook Group

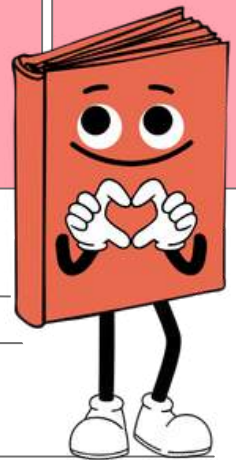
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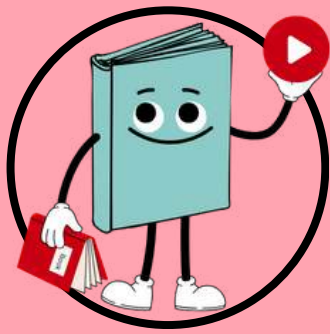


February 2026

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

Notes:





FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAYS

Friday, February 7th



Batter Royale
by Leisl Adams
Realistic Fiction
Fiction/Graphic Novel

** INCLUDES AUTHOR INTERVIEW

Friday, February 14th

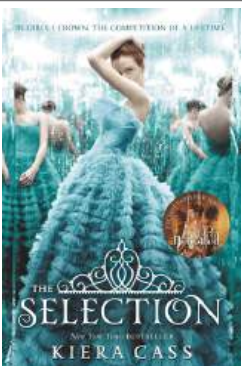


American Royals
(book 1)
by Katharine McGee
Realistic Fiction/
Alternative History

Prose

** INCLUDES AUTHOR INTERVIEW

Friday, February 21st



The Selection
by Kiera Cass
Dystopian Romance
Prose

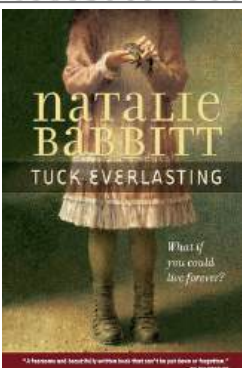
Friday, February 28th



Shiver
by Maggie Stiefvater
Paranormal
Fiction/Romance

Prose

BONUS BOOK



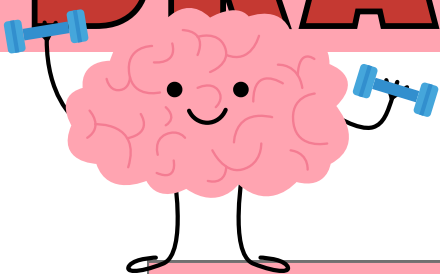
Tuck Everlasting
by Natalie Babbitt
Historical Fiction/
Magical Realism

Prose

Lunch Bunch Attendees

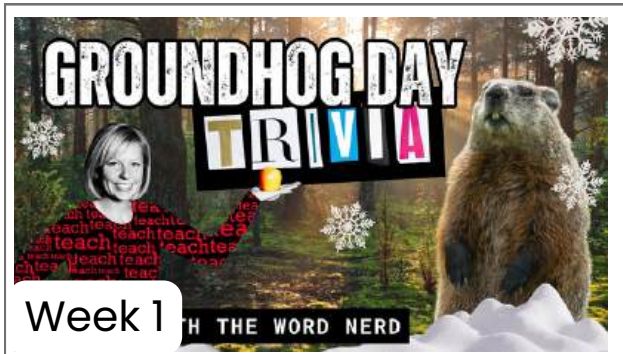
STAY
TUNED!

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 24 to keep track of student teams and scores throughout the month.

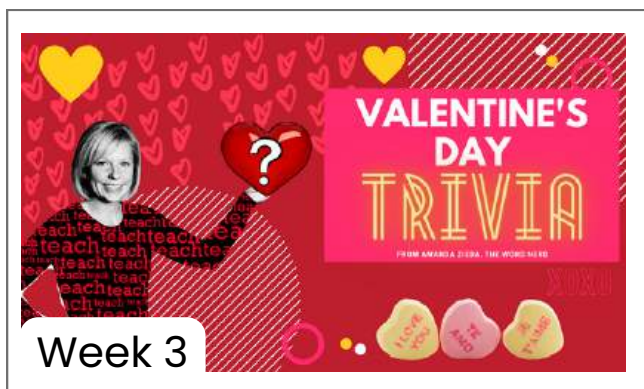
Groundhog Day Trivia



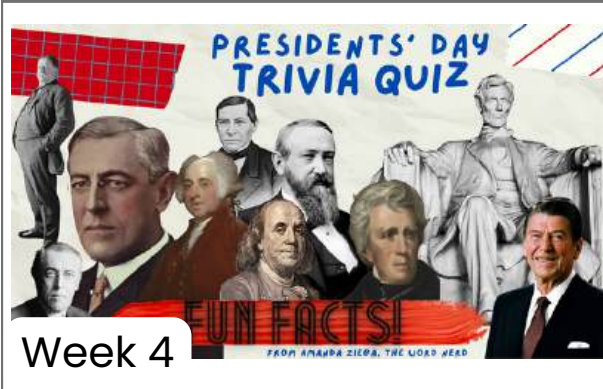
Super Bowl Trivia



Valentine's Day Trivia



Presidents' Day Trivia



Did you know?

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

-- Reading Rockets Website



Writing

Week 1

Monday

Reading Road Trip

Tuesday

Have you seen anything like this?

Wednesday

Welcome to Dystopia

Thursday

Gasp!!

Friday

Free Write Friday

Prompts

Week 2

Monday

Anti-Romance

Tuesday

A Modern Museum

Wednesday

Rapunzel Retold

Thursday

Characters in Love!

Friday

Free Write Friday

Week 3

Monday

Design a Neighborhood

Tuesday

Dentist Day at the Zoo

Wednesday

Grandma's Secrets

Thursday

Who? Where?

Friday

Free Write Friday

Week 4

Monday

A Magical Typewriter

Tuesday

A Positive Message

Wednesday

Waiting at the Vet

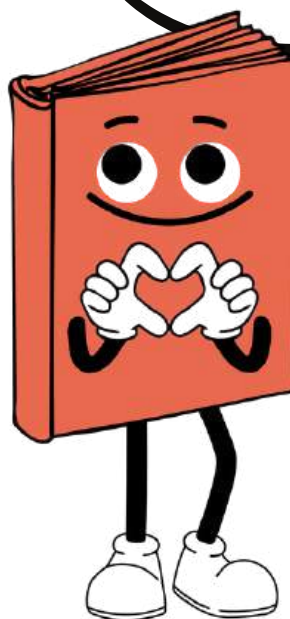
Thursday

Virtual Reality Gone Wrong!

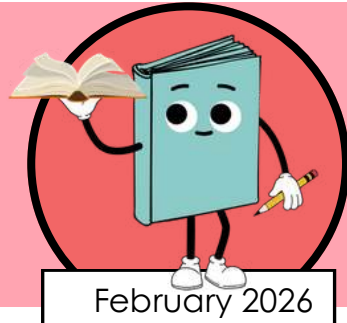
Friday

Free Write Friday

You can
project the
prompt using
these SLIDES!



LESSONS



February 2026

1 SPEED DATE A BOOK

Still struggling to fall in love with a good book? This fun Valentines Day activity will allow your students to "speed date" several books and evaluate them to decide if they'd like to spend more time with one of them. Through targeted questions and thematic graphics, students will be guided through the "dating" and selection process. After students select a book, they will be given the chance to check in "after a few dates" to decide if they'd like to still keep reading their original choice or go back to another round of "speed dating".

STANDARDS: CCSS.ELA RI.6.1, RI.6.2, RI.6.4, RI.6.10, SL6.1, SL6.2, W6.2, W6.7, W6.10

2 MINI BLACK HISTORY BIOGRAPHIES + ACTIVITY

This Black History Month "2 Truths and a Lie" activity combines short informational mini-biographies with an engaging critical-thinking game. Students read or listen to mini bios of influential Black Americans and analyze three statements to determine which two are true and which one is false. The activity promotes close reading, listening comprehension, fact-checking, and discussion, and includes an extension where students research a famous Black American and create their own "2 Truths and a Lie" set. It works well as a bell ringer, discussion starter, collaborative activity, or independent literacy task during Black History Month or any time of year.

STANDARDS: CCSS.ELA RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.7, RI.6.1, RI.6.7, SL6.1, SL6.6, W6.1, W6.4

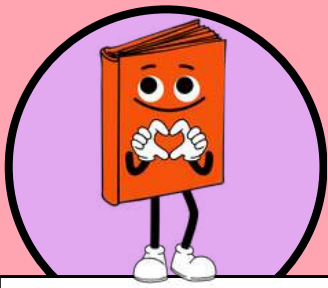
3 BOOK COVER COMPARISON LESSON

Ever notice that a book has two different covers? There are lots of reasons why they do this! Sometimes a publishing company will update or modernize a book published a long time ago. Sometimes a book is turned into a movie and they want to put the actors on the cover. With these worksheets, you'll be able to examine two different book covers for the same story and

- figure out which style you like the best
- learn different parts of a book cover
- analyze book cover styles

**** Links to First Chapter Friday read aloud videos linked for each title!**

STANDARDS: CCSS.ELA RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.10, RI.6.1, RI.6.10, SL6.1, SL6.4, W6.1, W6.4, W6.10



February 2026

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



1 WOULD YOU RATHER – FUN EDITION

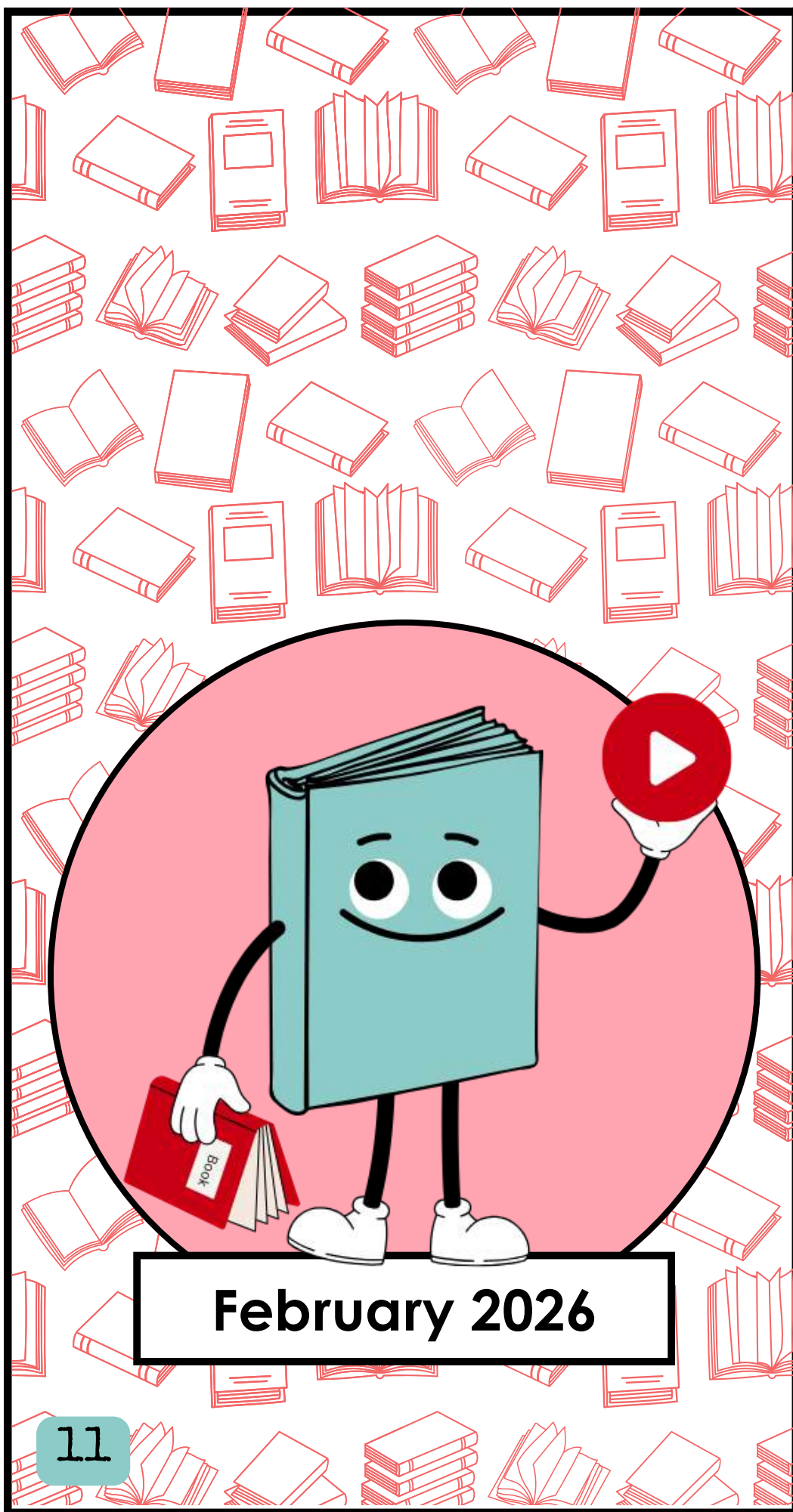
Looking for a high-energy, classroom-safe brain break that also supports persuasive writing skills? This FUN Edition of Would You Rather is packed with imaginative, debate-worthy questions your middle school students will love. No prep. Just press play and let students think, move, and argue (politely!).



2 CURATED READING LISTS

The books in this thematic list highlight two timely topics: Romance and Racism. Whether you are working with curriculum related to Black History Month or leaning into the love-bird vibes circling your classroom, these two curated reading lists have some AMAZING books. 😊



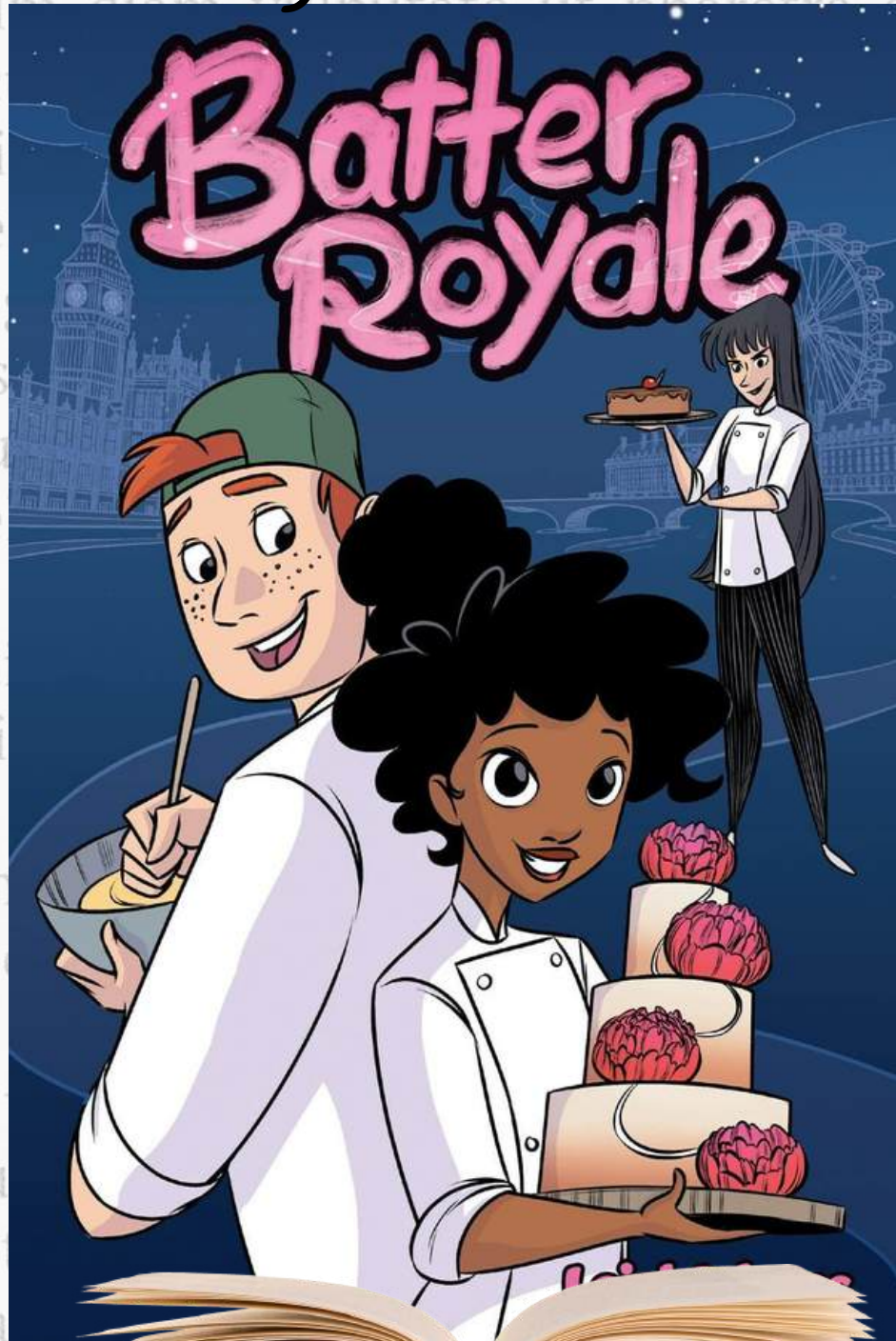


February 2026

FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY SELECTIONS

BATTER ROYALE

by Leisl Adams



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY



Name _____

Date _____

Batter Royale

by Leisl Adams



Read Aloud Video

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

What's It About?

In Leisl Adams's fun debut graphic novel, *Batter Royale*, a talented young chef is selected to participate in a baking reality show and finds herself mixed up in spicy competition, bitter rivalry, and sweet romance.

When 17-year-old small-town waitress Rose impresses a famous food critic, she and her best friend, Fred, find themselves thrust into the tough world of competitive baking. The contest is an intense 10 days of bizarre challenges, and the competition is cutthroat. Some competitors are willing to lie, cheat, and sabotage their way to the top. Rose may be in over her head, but she is determined to show that she can become a top chef.

Batter Royale is a fish-out-of-water-style romantic comedy about climbing out of the circumstances you're in and making your dreams come true.

Who Wrote It?

Even though *Batter Royale* is Leisl's first graphic novel, she is no stranger to art and stories. She has been working in the animation business for over 20 years. She has worked for a variety of big deal companies including: Warner Bros, Disney Jr., Mattel, Teletoon and CBC. Leisl lives in Canada with her family and is currently working on many projects including a new graphic novel and a couple of short films. An interview is included in the



video read aloud so you can learn even more about her and her work.

AR Reading Level: N/A

Lexile Level: N/A

I want to read this book: YES / NO

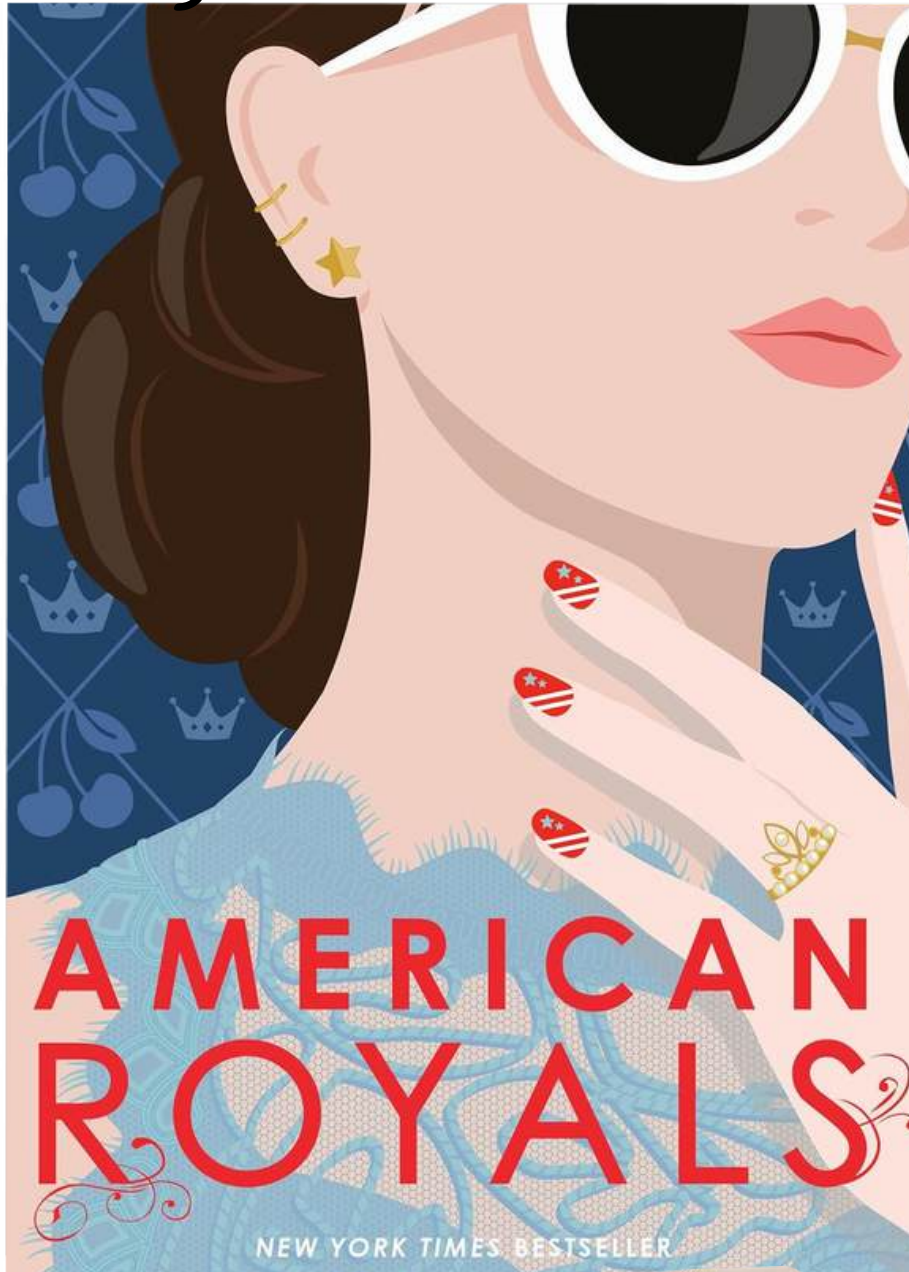
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

AMERICAN ROYALS

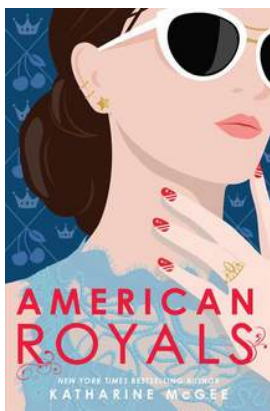
by Katharine McGee



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



American Royals (Book 1) by Katharine McGee



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.

Check out the whole series!



NY Times Bestsellers!!



Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

What if America had a royal family? When America won the Revolutionary War, its people offered General George Washington a crown. Two and a half centuries later, the House of Washington still sits on the throne. Like most royal families, the Washingtons have an heir and a spare. A future monarch and a backup battery. Each child knows exactly what is expected of them. But these aren't just any royals. They're American. As Princess Beatrice gets closer to becoming America's first queen regnant, the duty she has embraced her entire life suddenly feels stifling. Nobody cares about the spare except when she's breaking the rules, so Princess Samantha doesn't care much about anything, either...except the one boy who is distinctly off-limits to her. And then there's Samantha's twin, Prince Jefferson. If he'd been born a generation earlier, he would have stood first in line for the throne, but the new laws of succession make him third. Most of America adores their devastatingly handsome prince...but two very different girls are vying to capture his heart. The duty. The intrigue. The Crown.

Who Wrote It?

Katharine, or Katie as her friends call her, grew up in Houston, Texas. After high school she studied English and French literature at Princeton and has an MBA from Stanford. For a while, she worked at an editor at a New York Big 5 Publishing House (Harper Collins). Eventually she decided she'd rather write her own books than work on other people's stories. She's been speculating about American royalty since her undergraduate days, when she wrote a thesis on 'castle envy': the idea that the American psyche is missing out on something, because Americans don't have a royal family of their own. Katharine lives with her husband and children in her hometown of Houston, Texas.



AR Reading Level: 6.2

Lexile Level: 820

I want to read this book: YES / NO



WHAT I THINK

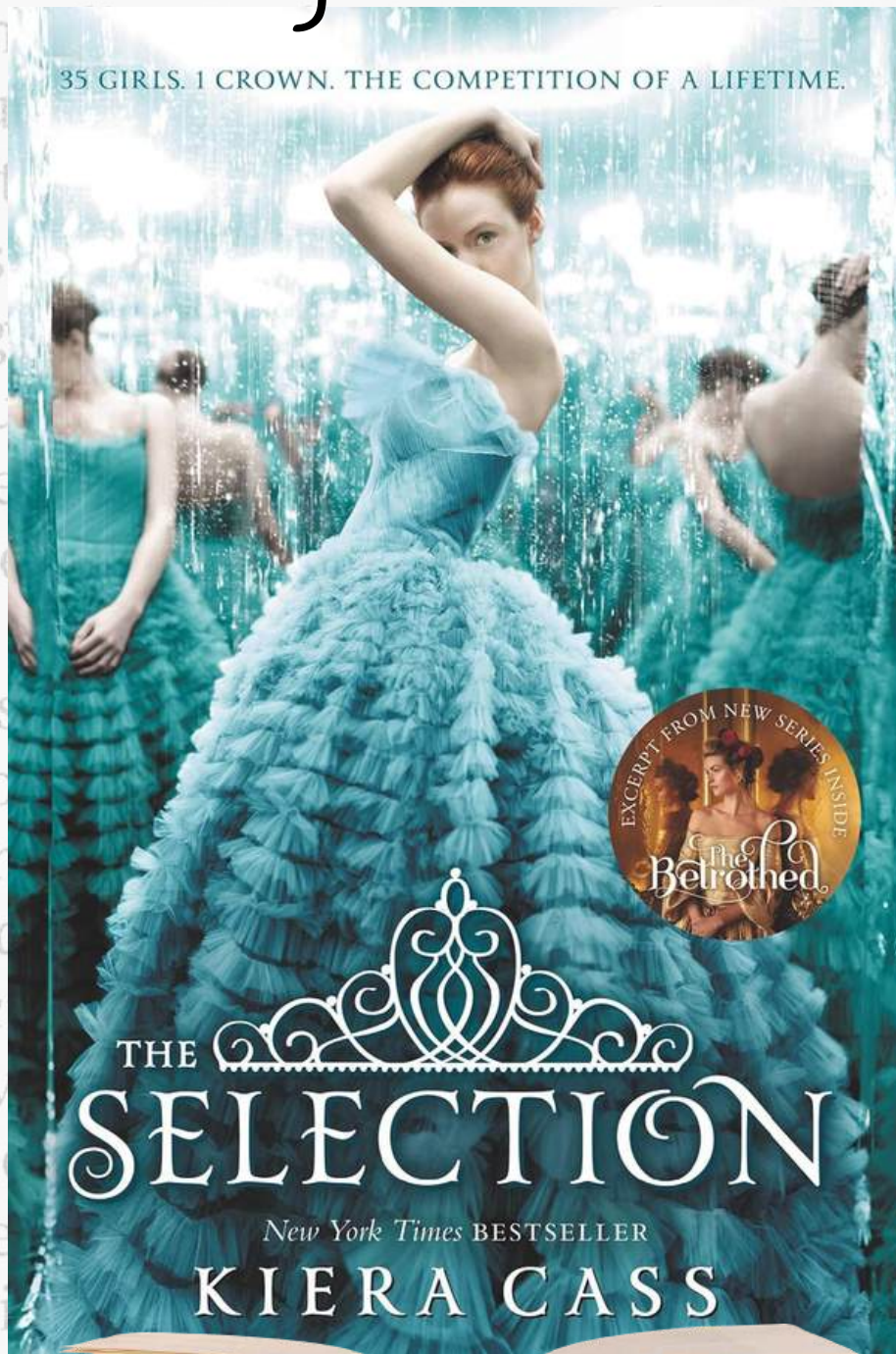




Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

THE SELECTION

by Kiera Cass



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



The Selection

by Kiera Cass



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?

Fall in love—from the very beginning. Discover the first book in the captivating, #1 New York Times bestselling Selection series.

Prepare to be swept into a world of breathless fairy-tale romance, swoonworthy characters, glittering gowns, and fierce intrigue perfect for readers who loved Divergent, Delirium, or The Wrath & the Dawn. For thirty-five girls, the Selection is the chance of a lifetime. The opportunity to escape a rigid caste system, live in a palace, and compete for the heart of gorgeous Prince Maxon. But for America Singer, being Selected is a nightmare. It means turning her back on her secret love with Aspen, who is a caste below her, and competing for a crown she doesn't want. Then America meets Prince Maxon—and realizes that the life she's always dreamed of may not compare to a future she never imagined.

Who Wrote It?

I am a graduate of Radford University with a B.S. in History. I grew up in South Carolina and currently live in the LA area with my family. Said family consists of a Seminary Student Hubby, a Video Game Wizard Son, a Experimental Artist Daughter, a Sun-Loving Dog, and a Family Assistant Turned Friend/Roommate! I'm a #1 New York Times bestseller, woohoo! I'm super into boybands, gluten free cake, and my collection of tiaras. In my free



time, I like making my readers cry. Such fun. You can learn more about Kiera and her books on her website at www.kieracass.com

AR Reading Level: 4.7

Lexile Level: 680L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

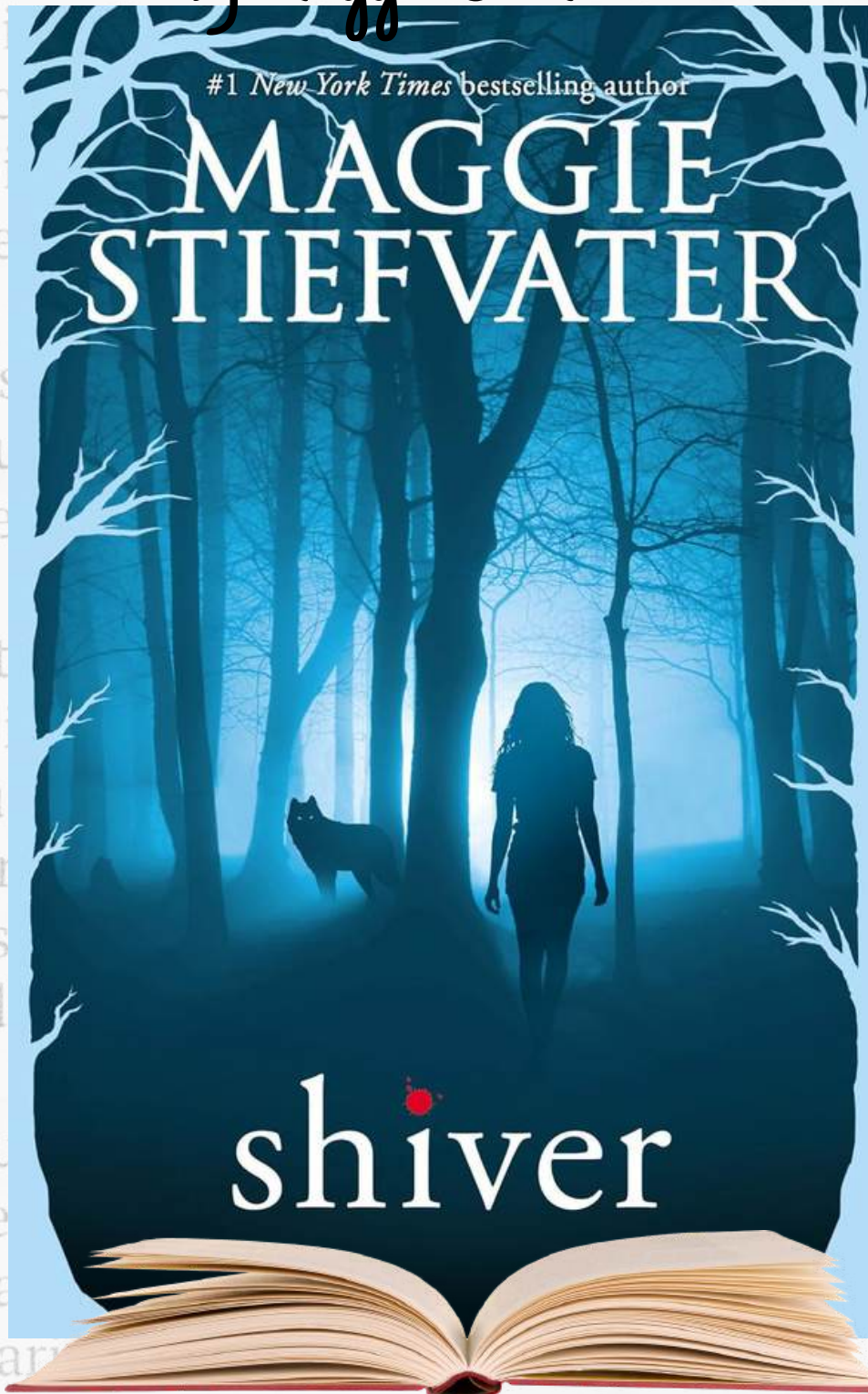
☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



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

SHIVER

by Maggie Stiefvater



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY



Name _____

Date _____

Shiver

by Maggie Stiefvater

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?

For years, Grace has watched the wolves in the woods behind her house. One yellow-eyed wolf—her wolf—is a chilling presence she can't seem to live without.

Meanwhile, Sam has lived two lives: In winter, the frozen woods, the protection of the pack, and the silent company of a fearless girl. In summer, a few precious months of being human... until the cold makes him shift back again.

Now, Grace meets a yellow-eyed boy whose familiarity takes her breath away. It's her wolf. It has to be. But as winter nears, Sam must fight to stay human—or risk losing himself, and Grace, forever.

- Book 1 in a series of 4!

Who Wrote It?

I am Maggie Stiefvater. I write books. Some of them are funny, ha-ha, and some of them are funny, strange. Several of them are #1 NYT Bestsellers.

I play several musical instruments (most infamously, the bagpipes) and make art in several media (most typically, colored pencils).

Currently I live in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia with my husband, two



children, some cows, seven dogs, an interminable number of miniature silky fainting goats, and a mating pair of growly tuner cars. I like things that go.

AR Reading Level: 4.9

Lexile Level: 740

I want to read this book: YES / NO

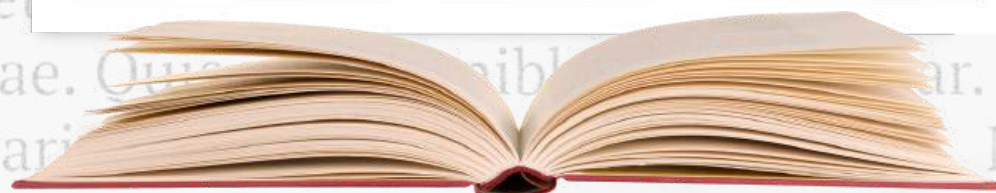
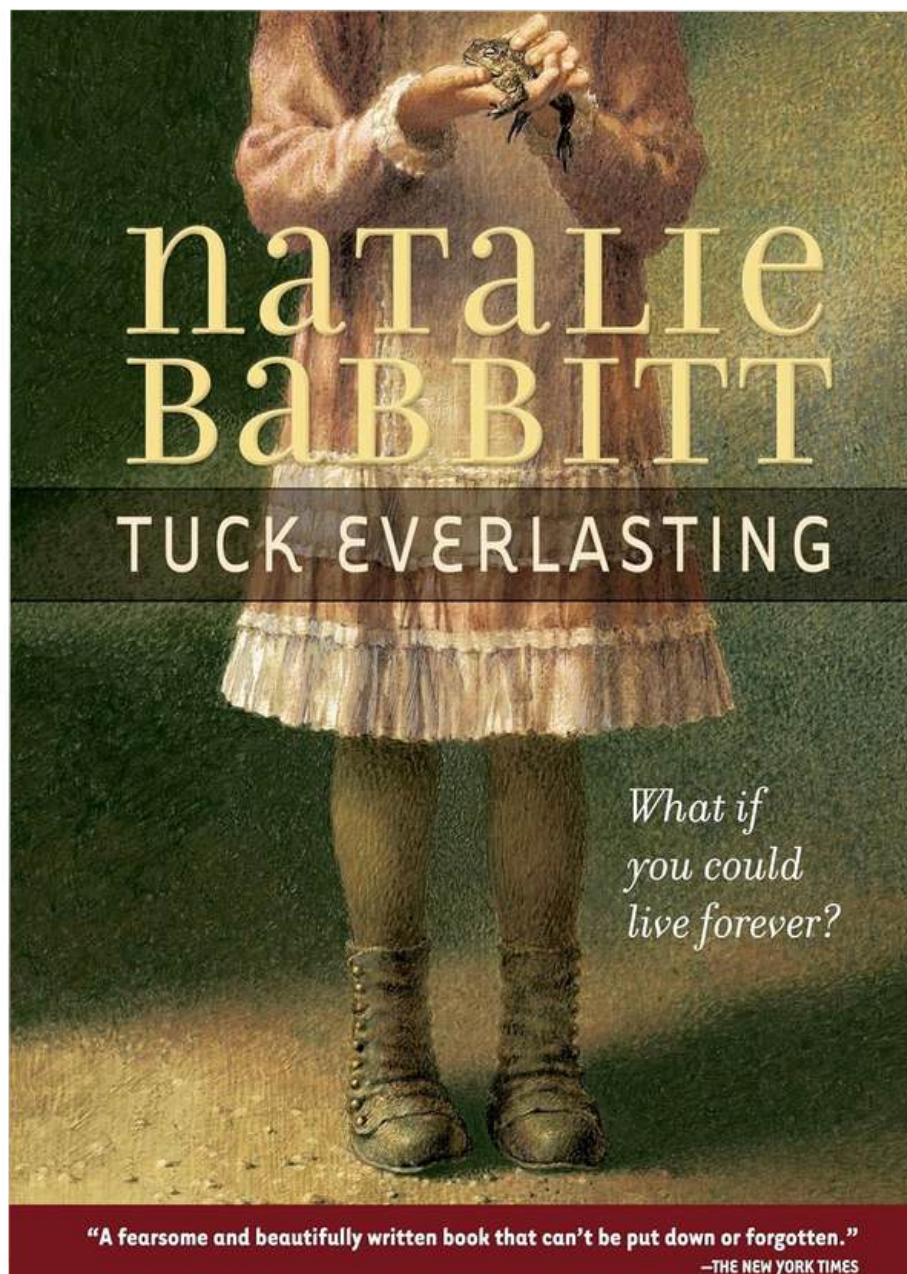
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

TUCK EVERLASTING

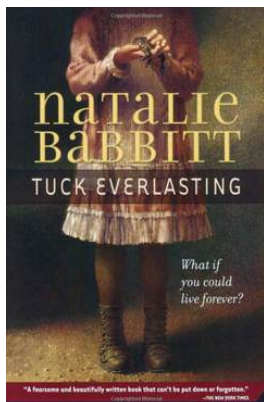
by Natalie Babbitt



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



Tuck Everlasting

by Natalie Babbitt



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?

What if you could live forever?

Is eternal life a blessing or a curse? That is what young Winnie Foster must decide when she discovers a spring on her family's property whose waters grant immortality. Members of the Tuck family, having drunk from the spring, tell Winnie of their experiences watching life go by and never growing older.

But then Winnie must decide whether or not to keep the Tucks' secret—and whether or not to join them on their never-ending journey.

Critically acclaimed when it was first published, Natalie Babbitt's *Tuck Everlasting* has become a much-loved, well-studied modern-day classic.

Now a major motion film available on streaming, featuring stars Alexis Bledel, Ben Kingsley, and Sissy Spacek!

Who Wrote It?

Natalie described herself as a 'fairly average child, 'Very skinny, but fond of toasted-cheese sandwiches and anything chocolate.' She said her favorite books were the kind where "the stories which presented life as it really is: the dark and the light all messed up together, coexisting, with unanswerable questions remaining unanswered." She grew up in Massachusetts and later attended Smith College. Throughout her career she wrote and illustrated dozens of books. In 2012, Babbitt was awarded the inaugural E.B. White Award for achievement in children's literature by the American Academy of



Arts and Letters. Natalie passed away in 2016 and was best known for her award winning book *Tuck Everlasting*.

AR Reading Level: 5.0

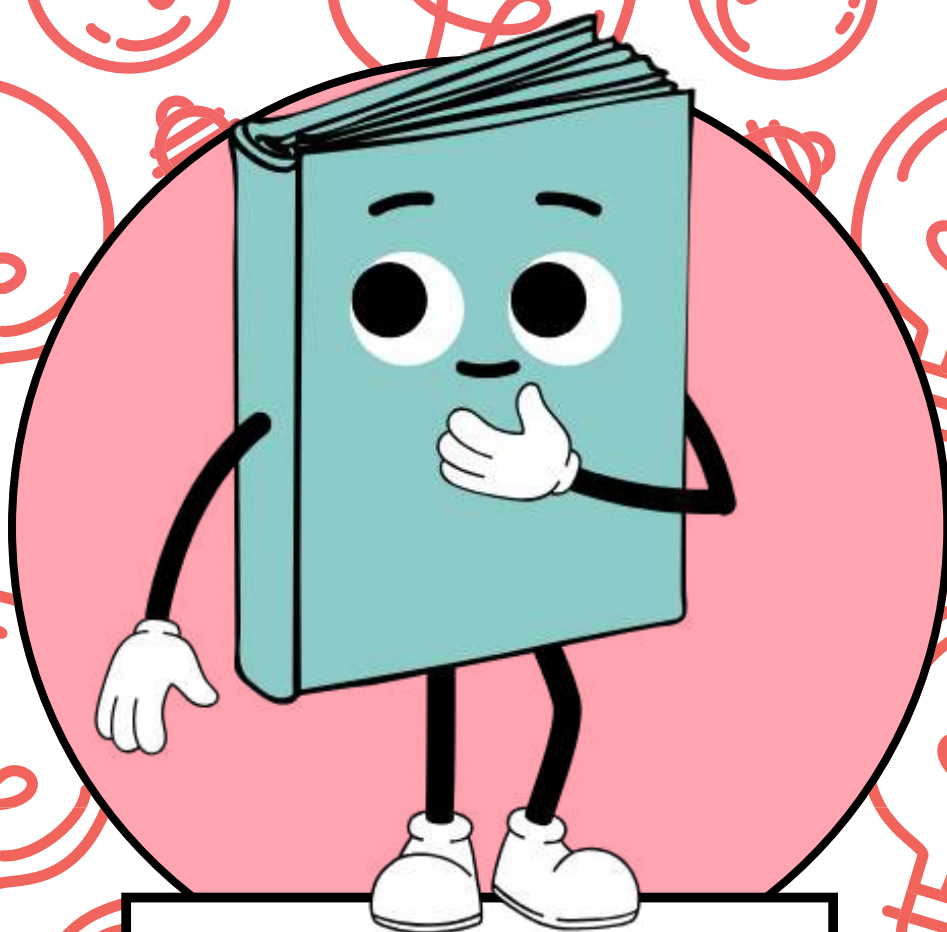
Lexile Level: 770L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



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



February 2026

22

BRAIN BREAKS

LINKS + ANSWER SHEETS/KEYS

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 22)

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.



February 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

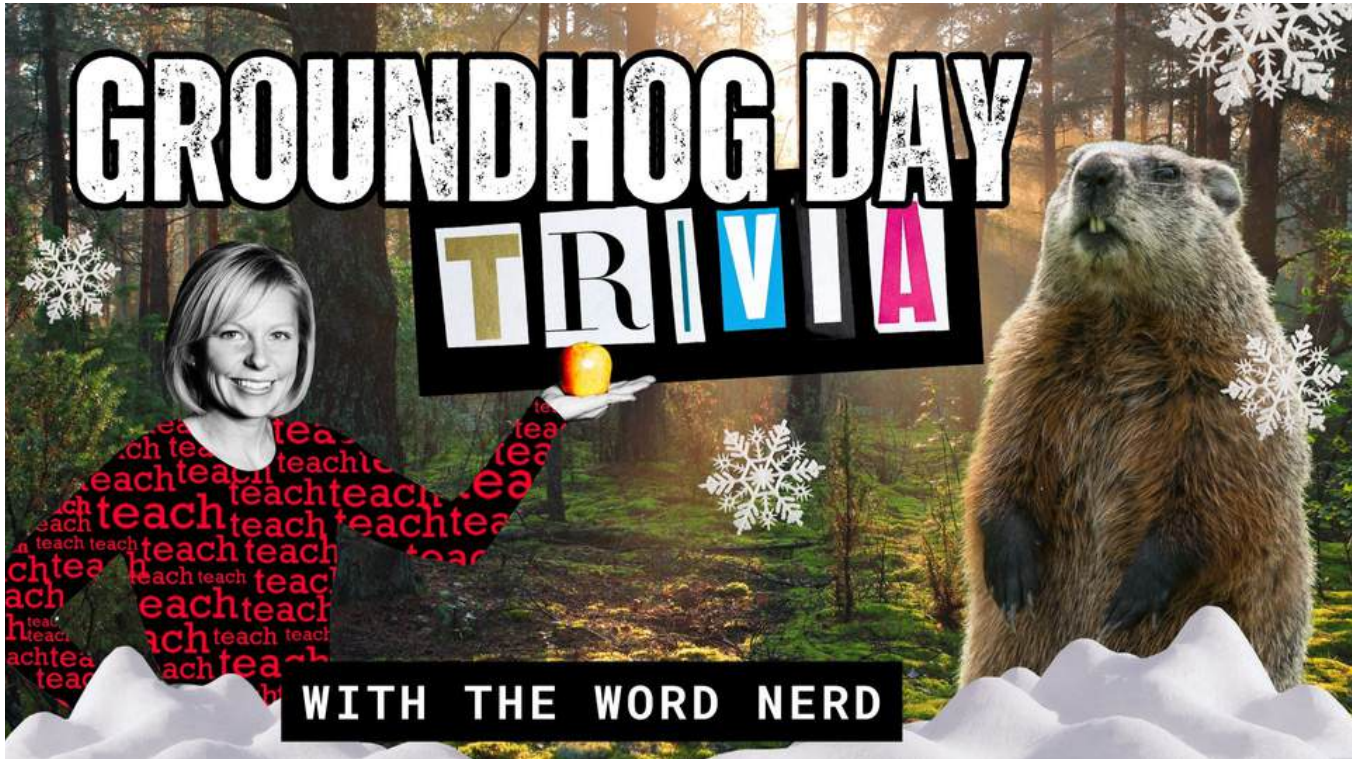
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total



Trivia Game Video Link

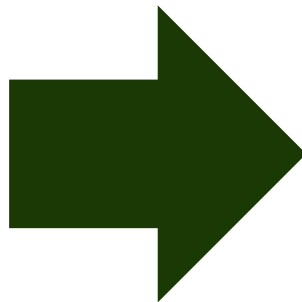
Use the below links to access the video for this activity.
Click the title, image or link to get to the video!

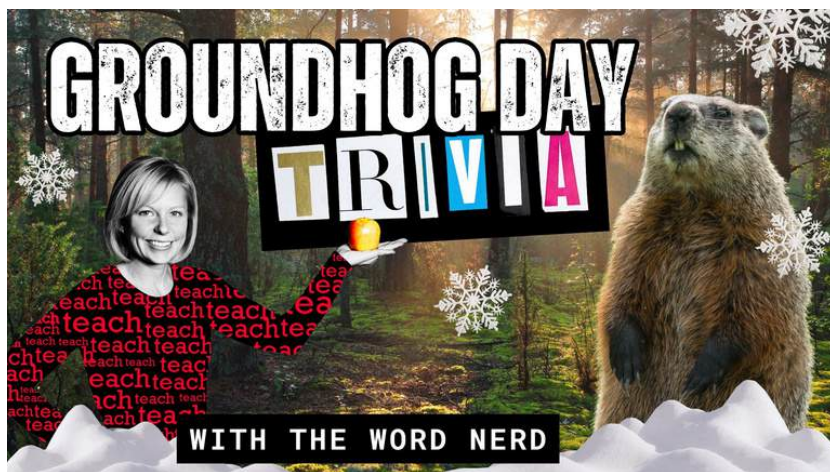
GROUNDHOG DAY TRIVIA



This link will take you to the YouTube Video of Groundhog Day trivia questions: https://youtu.be/4LAZ4b_E74M

Or, use this QR code!





Groundhog Day Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

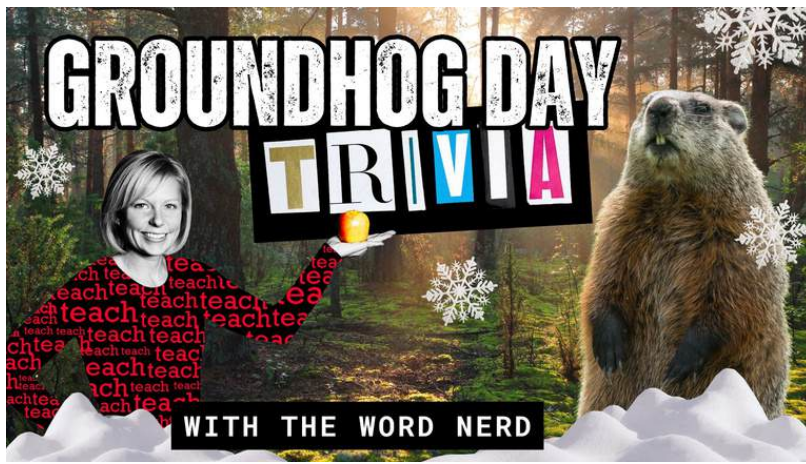
Video
Quiz -->



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 ROCKSTAR when it
comes to GROUNDHOG DAY Trivia!?!?



Groundhog Day Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

Video
Quiz -->



Name/Team Name: _____

1: A B C D

11: A B C D

2: A B C D

12: A B C D

3: A B C D

13: A B C D

4: A B C D

14: A B C D

5: A B C D

15: A B C D

6: True or False?

16: True or False?

7: A B C D

17: A B C D

8: A B C D

18: A B C D

9: A B C D

19: True or False?

10: A B C D

20: A B C D

How did you do?
Are you a ROCKSTAR when
it comes to GROUNDHOG
DAY Trivia!?!?

Score: ____/20



Groundhog Day Trivia

Trivia
Video

Name: _____



1 What date is Groundhog Day celebrated each year?

- a) January 31 b) February 2 c) March 1 d) April 1

2 What is the significance of Groundhog day in American folklore?

- a) predicting the weather
b) climate change awareness
c) predicting migration patterns
D - celebrating furry animals



3 What is the name of the famous groundhog celebrated each year?

- a) Harry b) Paul c) timothy d) Phil



4 In weather folklore, how many more weeks of winter are predicted if the groundhog sees its shadow?

- a) 4 weeks b) 6 weeks c) 8 weeks d) 12 weeks

5 When was the first official Groundhog day celebration held in the US?

- a) 1815 b) 1850 c) 1887 d) 1905



6 True or False: Baby groundhogs are born blind.

- a) True b) False



7 How old is Punxatawney Phil, the most famous groundhog, claimed to be by his handlers?

- a) 37 b) 80 c) 102 d) 133

8 What animal did European folklore use for weather prediction before groundhogs?

- a) badger b) weasel c) otter d) ferret

9 What US State is home to the most famous groundhog day celebration?

- a) Massachusetts b) Connecticut c) Oregon d) Pennsylvania

10 What do members of the Punxsutawney groundhog club wear during the annual ceremony?

- a) fur coats b) bib overalls c) tuxedo & top hat d) beach attire





11 What is the scientific name of the groundhog?

- a) Marmota Monax b) Groundus Hogus
c) Mono Maretipig d) Harry Hibernator



12 what is the approximate lifespan of a groundhog in the wild?

- a) 2-4 years b) 6-8 years c) 10-12 years d) 14+ years

13 What family of animals do groundhogs belong to?

- a) Marsupials b) reptiles c) birds d) rodents

14 What is another common name for a groundhog?

- a) prairie dog b) woodchuck c) hedgehog d) gopher

15 approximately how long is the average groundhog burrow?

- a) 5 feet b) 25 feet c) 50 feet d) 75 feet



16 True or False? Groundhogs hibernate in the winter.

- a) True b) False

17 What is a groundhog's favorite thing to eat?

- a) insects b) fish c) plants d) nuts



18 Groundhog fur is not fashionable, but it is commonly used to make what instead of coats?

- a) tying trout flies b) wigs c) moccasins d) mattress filling



19 True or False? True or False?

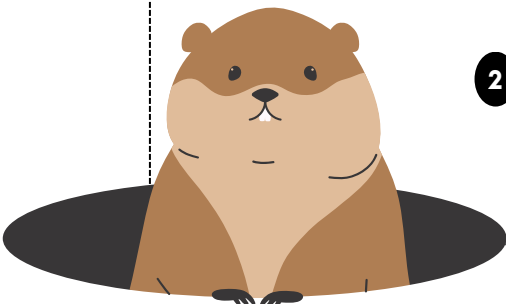
Groundhog teeth grow throughout their lives, adding about 1/16th of an inch each week.

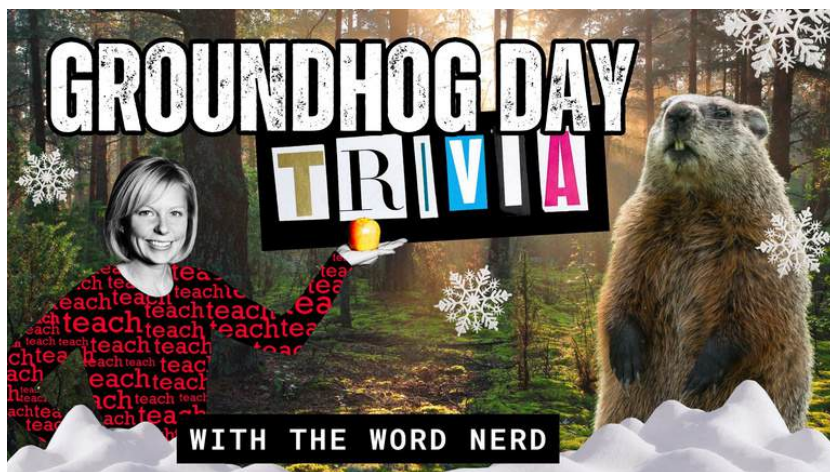
- a) True b) False



2 What is Punxsutawney Phil's success rate in predicting the weather over the last 100 years?

- a) 39% b) 49% c) 59% d) 79%





Groundhog Day Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:

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

Video
Quiz -->



ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. B) February 2nd | 11. A) Marmota Monax |
| 2. A) Predicting the Weather | 12. b) 6-8 years |
| 3. D) Phil | 13. D) Rodents |
| 4. B) 6 weeks | 14. B) Woodchuck |
| 5. C) 1887 | 15. B) 25 feet |
| 6. A) True | 16. A) True |
| 7. D) 133 | 17. C) Plants |
| 8. A) Badger | 18. A) Tying Trout Flies |
| 9. D) Pennsylvania | 19. A) True |
| 10. C) Tuxedo and Top Hat | 20. A) 39% |

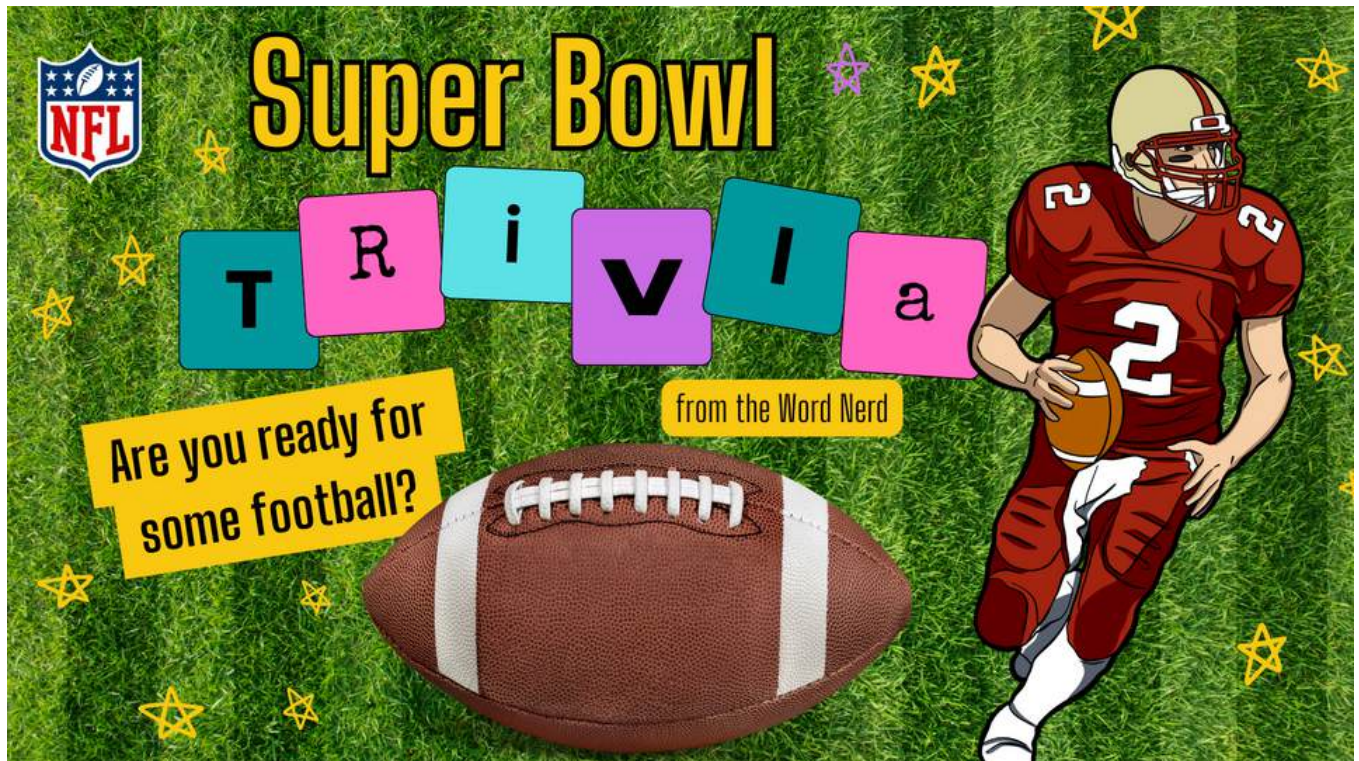
Thanks for playing!
Check out more Brain Breaks on YouTube!



Trivia Game Video Link

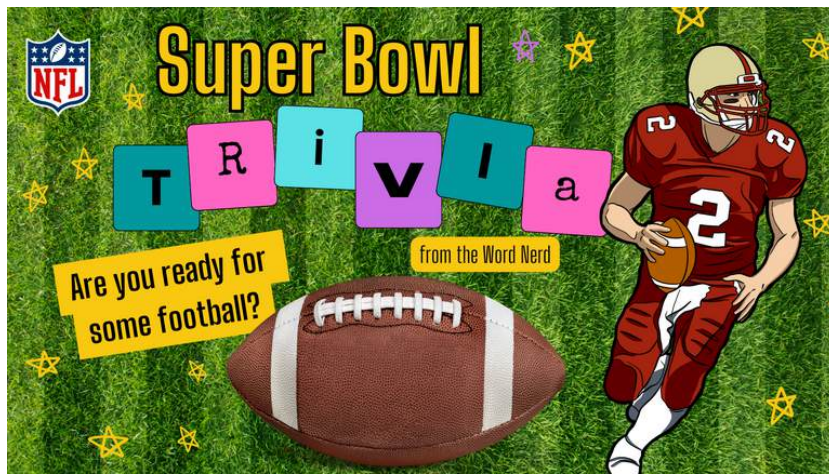
Use the below links to access the video for this activity.
Click the title, image or link to get to the video!

SUPER BOWL TRIVIA VIDEO



This link will take you to the YouTube Video of Super Bowl Trivia questions: <https://youtu.be/N220idLRfsQ>





Super Bowl Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

Trivia Video

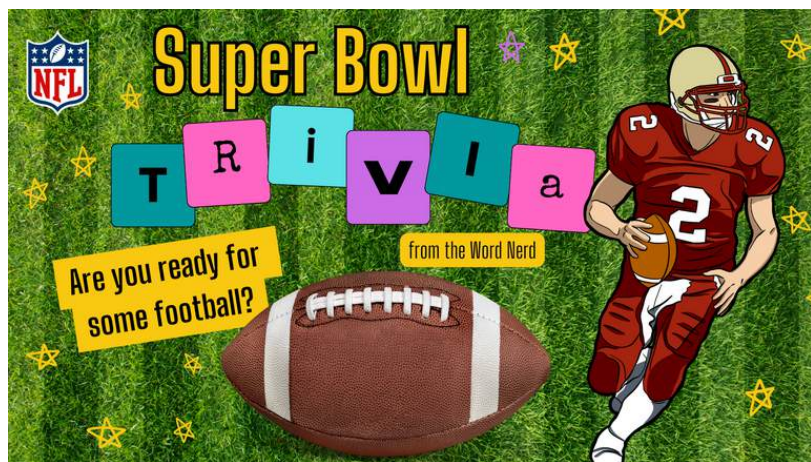


Name/Team Name: _____

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 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 Super Bowl Trivia

MVP?



Super Bowl 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
3. A B C D
4. True or False
5. A B C D
6. A B C D
7. True or False
8. ____ Pounds
9. A B C D
10. A B C
11. A B C D
12. _____
13. A B C D
14. A B C D
15. True or False
16. A B C D
17. A B C D
18. True or False
19. A B C D
20. A B C

Score: ____ / 20

How did you do?
Are you a Super Bowl Trivia

MVP?!?!?

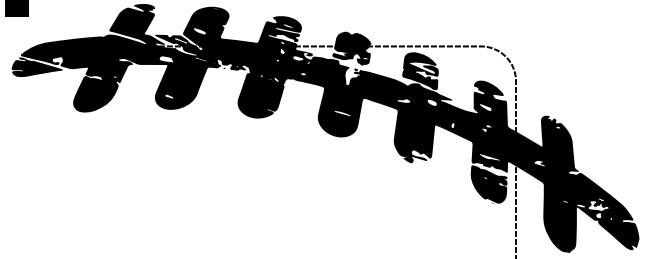




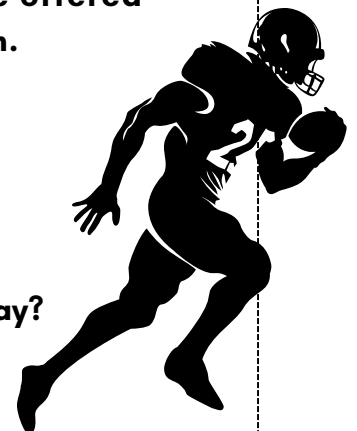
Trivia
Video

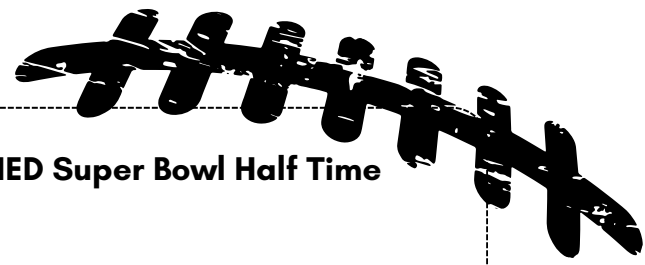
Super Bowl Trivia

Are you a Super Bowl Trivia MVP?
Take this Trivia quiz and see!



- 1 As of 2024, what 2 teams have won the most Super Bowls? (choose 2)**
a) Pittsburg Steelers b) Dallas Cowboys
c) Green Bay Packers d) New England Patriots
- 2 What city hosted the COLDEST Super Bowl ever?**
a) Chicago, IL b) New Orleans, LA c) Indianapolis, IN d) Pontiac, MI
- 3 What is the highest number of points scored in a Super Bowl by one team?**
a) 45 b) 50 c) 55 d) 60
- 4 True or False? Tom Brady has appeared in more Super Bowls than any other player?**
a) True b) False
- 5 As of 2023, the most expensive Super Bowl commercial was for which product?**
a) Amazon Alexa b) Chevy Silverado c) Doritos Chips d) Mountain Dew
- 6 In 2023, what event interrupted the Super Bowl game for 32 minutes?**
a) A half time performer refused to leave the field.
b) The roof malfunctioned and needed to be fixed before the game could resume.
c) A power outage cut all but the emergency lights in the stadium.
d) A fight between the 2 teams needed to be resolved.
- 7 True or False: The quarterbacks of Super Bowl XXI were offered \$75,000 to say, "I'm going to Disney World!" if they won.**
a) True b) False
- 8 How many pounds does the Lombardi Trophy weigh?**
_____ pounds
- 9 How many chicken wings are consumed on Super Bowl Sunday?**
a) 142,000 b) 420,000 c) 1,420,000 d) 1,420,000,000
- 10 Which 2 cities have hosted the most Super Bowl games? (Choose 2)**
a) Los Angeles, CA b) New Orleans, LA c) Miami, FL d) Tampa, FL





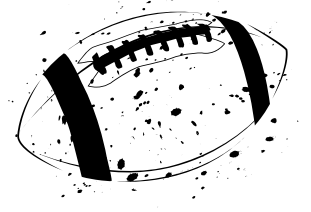
11 As of 2023, which artist has the MOST WATCHED Super Bowl Half Time Show?

- a) Katy Perry (2015) b) Michael Jackson (1993)
c) The Rolling Stones (2006) d) Rhianna (2023)

12 As of 2023, which movie franchise paid the most money to premier a movie trailer during the Super Bowl?

13 What was the first Super Bowl winning team to visit the White House?

- a) The Cowboys b) The Steelers c) The Bills d) The Packers



14 How many footballs does each team get for the Super Bowl?

- a) 25 b) 76 c) 92 d) 108

15 True or False: The Chicago Bears won a Grammy for their song, The Super Bowl Shuffle.

- a) True b) False

16 What traditional ingredient was missing from Super Bowl XLV? (Packers vs. Steelers)

- a) Cheerleaders b) Referees c) Fans d) TV Cameras

17 How much was the most expensive ticket for Super Bowl #1?

- a) \$8 b) \$12 c) \$26 d) \$40

18 True or False: The coin used for Super Bowl XLIV was literally “out of this world” because it spent 11 days prior to the game orbiting the planet on a NASA space mission.

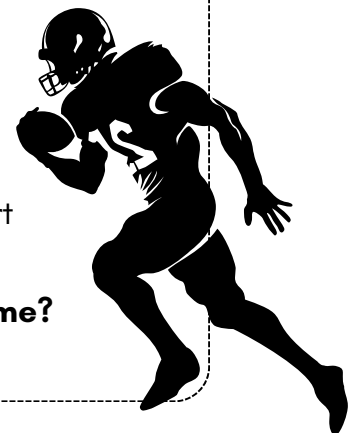
- a) True b) False

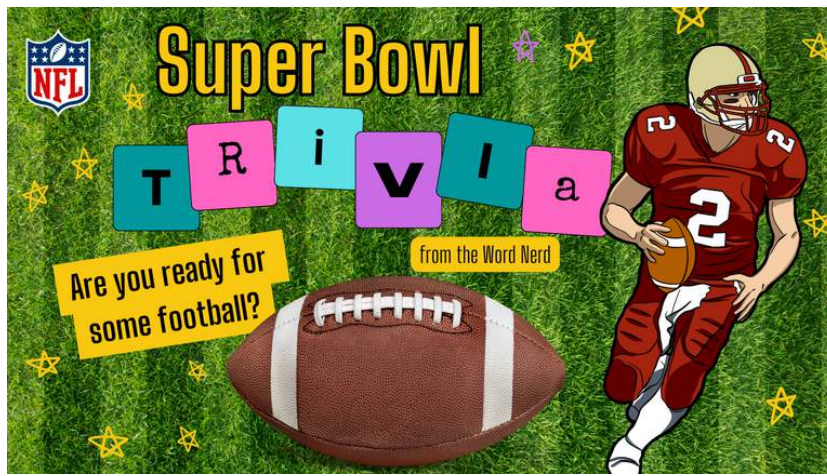
19 Super Bowl XLIV (Saints vs. Colts) beat out what to become the MOST WATCHED television event ever? (In the United States)

- a) Muhammad Ali vs. Joe Frazier III b) MASH Series Finale
c) Prince Charles and Princess Diana’s Wedding d) LIVE AID Concert

20 What is the fastest anyone has ever scored in a Super Bowl Game?

- a) 7 seconds b) 1 minute 45 seconds c) 2 minutes 6 seconds





Super Bowl 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. A) Pittsburgh Steelers
& D) New England Patriots | 11. D) Rihanna (2023) |
| 1. B) New Orleans, LA | 12. Jurassic World |
| 2. C) 55 | 13. B) Pittsburgh Steelers |
| 3. True | 14. D) 108 |
| 4. A) Amazon Alexa | 15. True |
| 5. C) A power outage cut all but
the emergency lights in the
stadium. | 16. A) Cheerleaders |
| 6. True | 17. B) \$12 |
| 7. 7 pounds | 18. True |
| 8. D) 1,420,000,000 | 19. B) MASH Series Finale |
| 9. B) New Orleans & C) Miami | 20. A) 7 Seconds |

Thanks for playing!
Check out more Brain Breaks on YouTube!
www.amandazieba.com



Trivia Game Video Link

Use the below links to access the video for this activity.

Click the title, image or link to get to the video!

VALENTINE'S DAY TRIVIA VIDEO



This link will take you to the YouTube Video of Valentine's Day Trivia questions: <https://youtu.be/tsNwNGBclag>





Valentine's Day Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

Trivia Video



Name/Team Name: _____

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

How did you do? Are you a
Valentine's Day Trivia ROCKSTAR?!



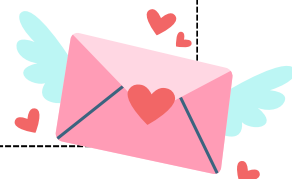
Trivia
Video

Are you a Valentine's Day Trivia Rockstar? Take this Trivia quiz and see!

Valentine's Day Trivia



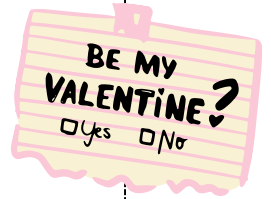
- 1 In what year was the first heart shaped box of chocolates given for Valentine's Day?**
A) 1795 B) 1861 C) 1900 D) 1933
- 2 Esther Howland is considered the "Mother of Valentine's Day" in America. This is because she commercialized what holiday essential?**
A) Gifting Flowers B) Valentine's Day Cards
C) Gifting Chocolate D) Writing Love Poems
- 3 In 2023, Americans spent how much money on Valentine's Day gifts?**
A) \$1 million B) \$20 million C) \$15 billion D) \$26 billion
- 4 What is the shelf-life of a bag of candy conversation hearts?**
A) 6 months B) 1 year C) 2.5 years D) 5 years
- 5 Where in the world will you find the oldest love poem ever written?**
A) Nepal B) Japan C) Ireland D) Iraq
- 6 Hallmark produced it's first Valentine card in what year?**
A) 1799 B) 1841 C) 1913 D) 1937
- 7 In 2020, how many American households gave Valentine's Day gifts to their pets?**
A) 2 million B) 27 million
- 8 True or False: As far as Valentine's Day gifts go, people spend the most money on jewelry.**
A) True B) False
- 9 In the United States, who spends more money on Valentine's Day?**
A) Men B) Women
- 10 Which two U.S. territories became states on Valentine's Day? (Choose 2)**
A) Oregon and Arizona B) Wisconsin and Hawaii



XOXO

11 During the Victorian period, women would send WHAT to suitors that didn't interest them?

- A) Vitriol Valentines B) Volatile Valentines
C) Vicious Valentines D) Vinegar Valentines



12 Flowers used to be a nonverbal love note. Each flower sent a different message. What did a yellow rose symbolize?

- A) romance B) gratitude C) friendship D) remorse

13 True or False: Valentine's Day is the most popular card giving holiday.

- A) True B) False

14 What percentage of Americans say Valentine's Day is their favorite holiday of the year?

- A) 1% B) 5% C) 16% D) 20%

15 What is the most popular kind of restaurant to visit on Valentine's Day?

- A) Italian B) Mexican C) French D) Chinese

16 In the country of Estonia, singles ride on this in hopes of meeting a new admirer.

- A) Love B) Love Boat C) Love Bike D) Love Buggy

17 Cupid is often associated with Valentine's Day. His parents were the messenger god and the goddess of love. What are their names? (Choose 2)

- A) Aphrodite and Zeus B) Mercury and Venus

18 Each year there is a letter writing contest that takes place on Valentine's Day. People write thousands of letters to this literary romantic. Who is it?

- A) Lucy (from Peanuts) B) Juliet Capulet
C) Scarlett O'Hara D) Elizabeth Bennet

19 Which profession receives the most valentine's while doing their job?

- A) Barista B) Teacher C) Baker D) Professional Athlete

20 True or False: Love birds are just a mythical creature.

- A) True B) False





Valentine's Day Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for
each question below.

Trivia Video



Name/Team Name: _____

1. A B C D
2. A B C D
3. A B C D
4. A B C D
5. A B C D
6. A B C D
7. 2 million or 27 million
8. True or False
9. men or women
10. A or B
11. A B C D
12. A B C D
13. True or False
14. 1% or 11% or 21%
15. A B C D
16. A B C D
17. A or B
18. A B C D
19. A B C D
20. True or False

Score:

____/20



Valentine's Day 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. B) 1861
2. B) Valentine's Day Cards
3. D) 26 billion dollars
4. D) 5 years
5. D) Iraq
6. C) 1913
7. 27 million
8. True
9. Men
10. A) Oregon and Arizona
11. D) Vinegar Valentines
12. C) Friendship
13. False
14. A) 1%
15. A) Italian
16. A) Love Bus
17. B) Mercury and Venus
18. B) Juliet Capulet
19. Teacher
20. False

Thanks for playing!

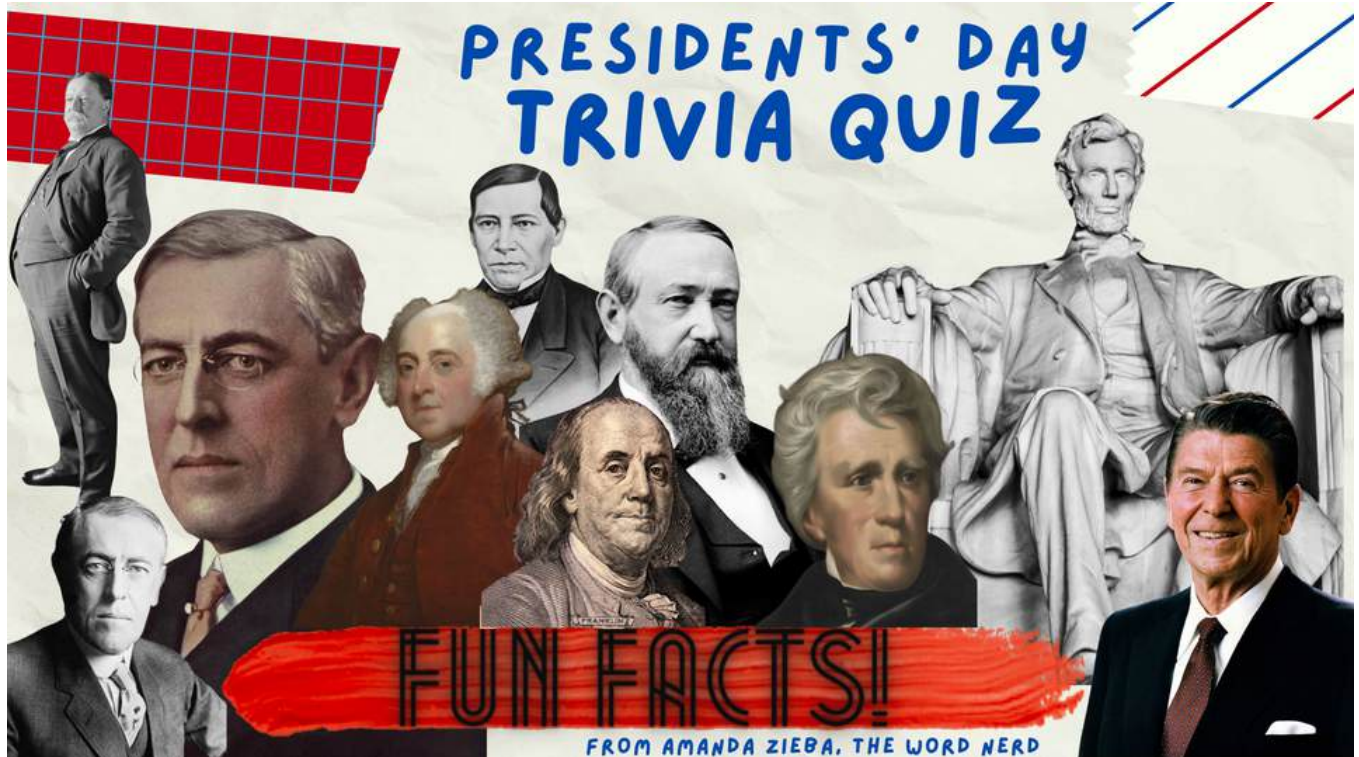
www.wordnerdcollaborative.com



Trivia Game Video Link

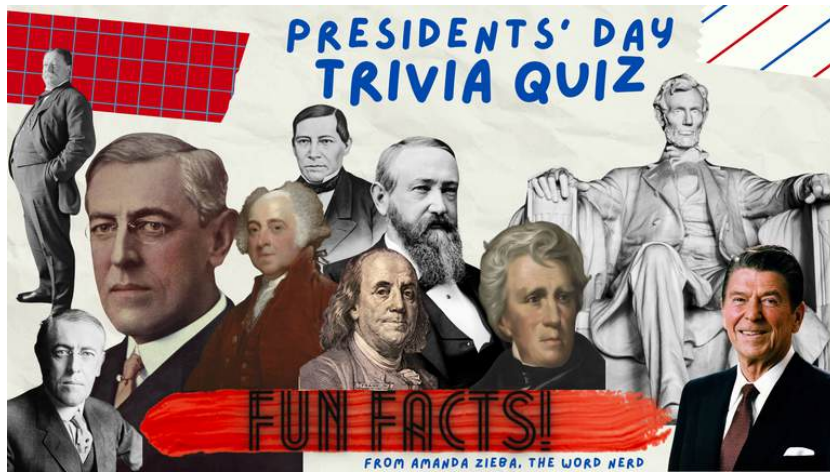
Use the below links to access the video for this activity.
Click the title, image or link to get to the video!

PRESIDENTS' DAY TRIVIA VIDEO



This link will take you to the YouTube Video of Presidents' Day Trivia questions: <https://youtu.be/RtBhDh3APg4>





Presidents' Day Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

Trivia Video -->



Name/Team Name: _____

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

How did you do? Are you a
Presidents' Day Trivia ROCKSTAR?!?!

Are you a Presidents' Day Trivia Rockstar? Take this Trivia quiz and see!

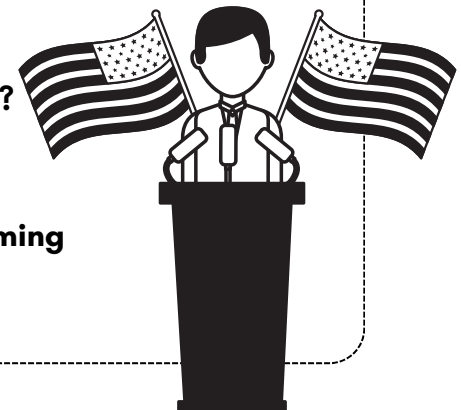


Trivia
Video

Presidents' Day Trivia



- 1 As of the year 2022, how many presidents have we had in the United States of America?**
a) 40 b) 46 c) 50 d) 56
- 2 True or False: George Washington was the only president to be unanimously elected to office.**
a) True b) False
- 3 Which 4 presidents appear on Mount Rushmore?**
1 - G _____ W _____
2 - T _____ J _____
3 - T _____ R _____
4 - A _____ L _____
- 4 Which president was the head cheerleader for his high school?**
a) Joe Biden b) Lydon B. Johnson c) Harry Truman d) George W. Bush
- 5 True or False? President James Buchanan belonged to a SECRET SOCIETY!**
a) True b) False
- 6 3 presidents died on the 4th of July, but only 1 president was born on the 4th of July. Who was it?**
a) John Adams b) Calvin Coolidge c) Thomas Jefferson d) James Monroe
- 7 Who was the first president to be born an American citizen? (The previous presidents were born as British subjects!)**
a) John Madison b) Andrew Jackson c) James K. Polk d) Martin Van Buren
- 8 How many US states do not officially celebrate Presidents' Day?**
a) 2 b) 13 c) 18 d) 34
- 9 Which of these states has had the most presidents born there?**
a) Idaho b) Massachusetts c) Ohio d) Virginia
- 10 True or False: William Henry Harrison died 32 days after becoming president.**
a) True b) False





11 Which president had a pet parrot that he taught to swear?

- a) Andrew Jackson b) Warren Harding c) Bill Clinton d) Dwight D. Eisenhower

12 Which president's wife was a descendant of Pocahontas?

- a) Woodrow Wilson b) William McKinley c) Howard Taft d) Gerald Ford

13 This president had a secret surgery on his friend's yacht to transplant a jaw made of vulcanized rubber:

- a) Donald Trump b) Millard Fillmore
c) Ronald Reagan d) Grover Cleveland

14 Who was the 1st president to appear on TV?

***Hint: The date was April 30, 1939**

- a) Calvin Coolidge b) Herbert Hoover
c) Franklin D. Roosevelt d) Harry S. Truman



15 It is rumored that this president went skinny dipping in lake Potomac each morning.

- a) George Washington b) John Quincy Adams
c) John Tyler d) Franklin Pierce

16 Which US president implemented Presidents' Day?

- a) Abraham Lincoln b) Rutherford B. Hayes
c) George H. Bush d) Ulysses s. Grant

17 Which president won a Pulitzer prize for his book, Profiles in Courage?

- a) Barack Obama b) John F. Kennedy
c) Theodore Roosevelt d) Franklin D. Roosevelt

18 Which president loved bowling so much that he put a bowling alley in the basement of the white house?

- a) Richard Nixon b) Benjamin Harrison c) William McKinley d) Warren Harding

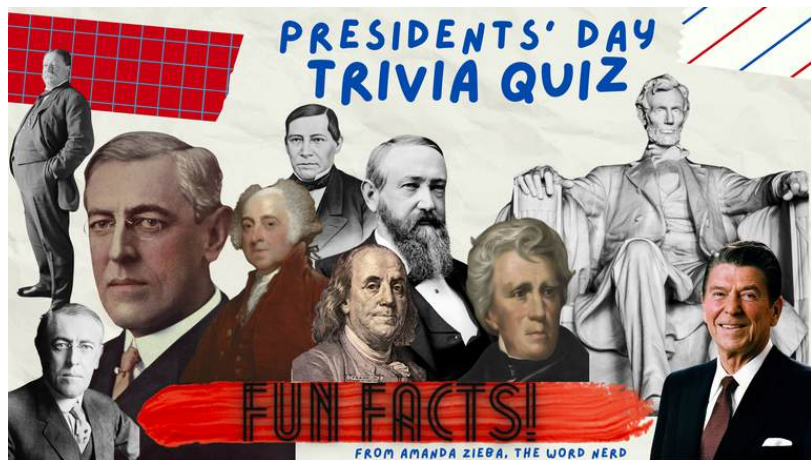
19 Which president's son had pet alligators that roamed the white house lawn?

- a) John F. Kennedy b) Herbert Hoover c) Franklin D. Roosevelt d) Donald Trump

20 True or False: In order to pay for a white house renovation, President Chester A. Arthur sold off 24 wagon loads of white house relics including a pair of Lincoln's pants and John Adams' hat.

- a) True b) False





Presidents' Day Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for
each question below.

Trivia Video

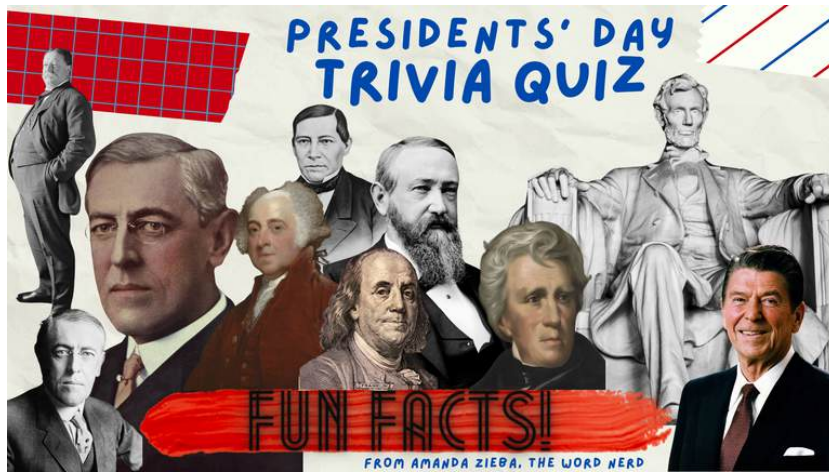


Name/Team Name: _____

1. A B C D
2. True or False
3. _____

4. A B C D
5. True or False
6. A B C D
7. A B C D
8. True or False
9. A B C D
10. True or False
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. True or False

Score:
_____/20



Presidents' Day Trivia Answer Key

Directions:

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

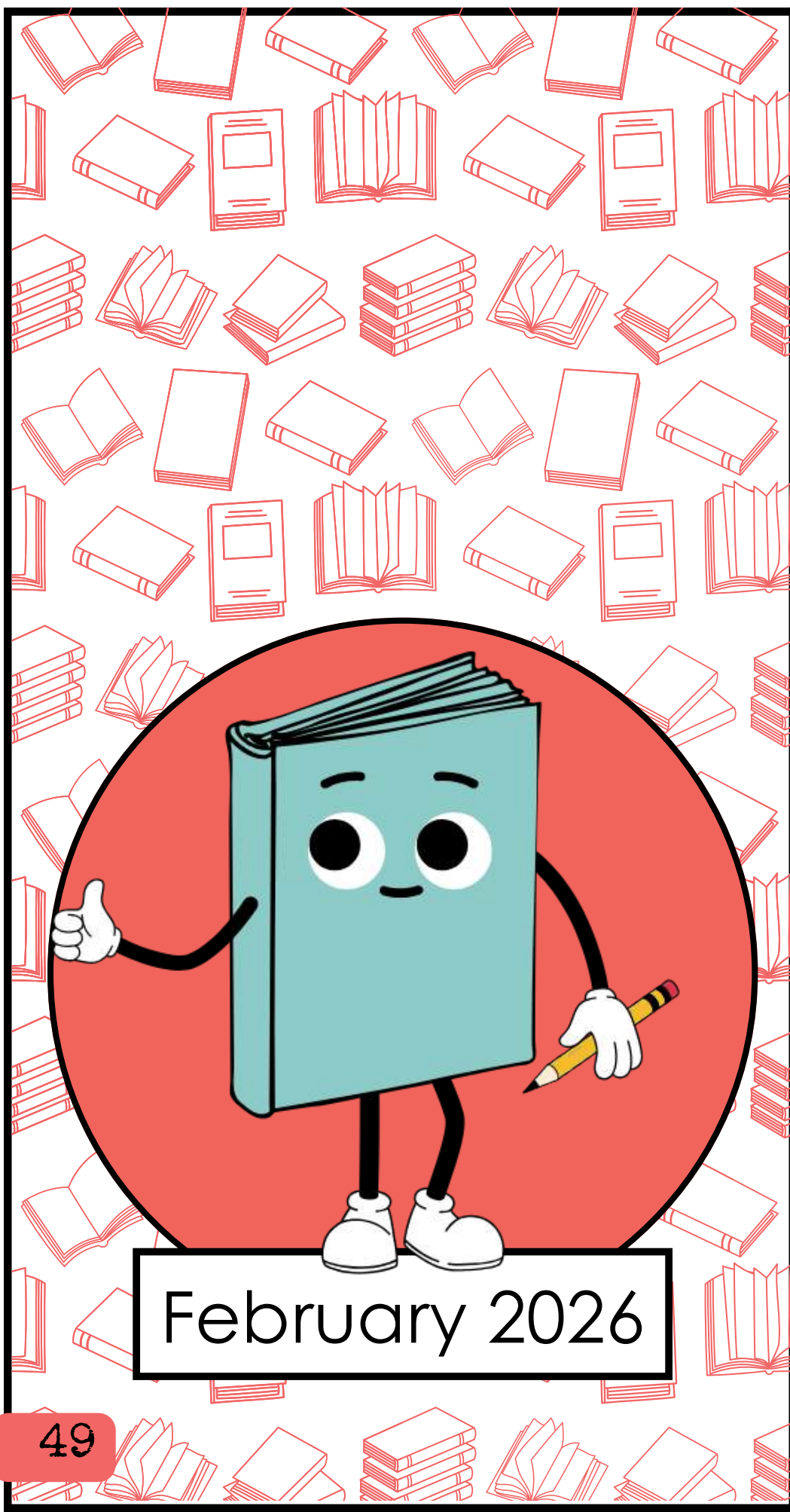
Trivia Video



ANSWER KEY

1. B) 46
2. True
3. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln
4. D) George W. Bush
5. True
6. B) Calvin Coolidge
7. D) Martin Van Buren
8. B) 13
9. D) Virginia
10. True
11. A) Andrew Jackson
12. A) Woodrow Wilson
13. D) Grover Cleveland
14. C) Franklin D. Roosevelt
15. B) John Quincy Adams
16. B) Rutherford B. Hayes
17. B) John F. Kennedy
18. A) Richard Nixon
19. B) Herbert Hoover
20. True

Thanks for playing!



February 2026

WRITING PROMPTS



HOW TO USE THE WRITING PROMPTS

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

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

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

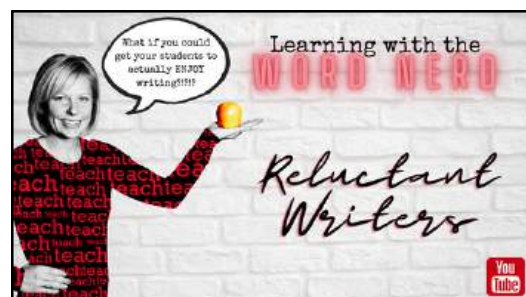
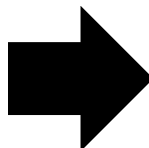
If you want, keep these “curriculum and standard” pieces of information to yourself, go for it! There is no need to let the kids know we have a secret plan to trick them into being better writers and hating it a little bit less each day!

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

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

Happy Writing!

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



(https://youtu.be/I7UWA-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

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.





GEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES



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

Title of Piece/Date Written: _____



GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITER DOES WELL



OPPORTUNITIES

LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE

FINAL COMMENTS
WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:

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

Total Points = ____/10

WRITING PROMPTS

Write about a topic
of your choice.

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

Total Points = ____ /10

Rubric



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:



GEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

My Name:

Name of classmate I am reviewing:

Date:



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:

Title of Piece/Date Written



GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITERS DOES WELL

.....

OPPORTUNITIES

LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE

.....

FINAL COMMENTS

WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:





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

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

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

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

Total Points = ____/10

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

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

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

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

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

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

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

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS

February 2-6

Monday

Reading Road Trip

Style/Skills:
Literary Connections
Real World Planning/
Application

Tuesday

Have You Seen
Anything Like This?

Style/Skills:
Dialogue

Wednesday

Welcome to Dystopia

Style/Skills:
Genre: Dystopian
Creative Writing

Thursday

Gasp!!!

Style/Skills:
POV/Perspective
Prediction

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

Pretend that the characters in your book are going on a weekend road trip...

Where would they like to go?

How will they get there?

What snacks will they pack?

Who will be in charge?

Who will get lost?

What music will they listen to on the way?

Do things go as planned?

Connect to your Reading...



Rubric



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

Total Points = ___/10

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

Dialogue:
words spoken out loud
by characters in a story.

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

Total Points = ____ /10

Rubric

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

[illegible]

Total Points = ___/10

Rubric

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

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

Total Points = ____/10

Created by the Word Nerd

WRITING PROMPTS

February 9-13

Monday

Anti-Romance!

Style/Skills:
Literary Connection
Creative Writing

Tuesday

A Modern Museum

Style/Skills:
Opinion Writing
Providing explanation to
support your opinion

Wednesday

Rapunzel Retold

Style/Skills:
Fairy Tale Retelling
Setting

Thursday

Characters in Love!

Style/Skills:
Literary Connections
Creative Writing

Friday

Free Write Friday

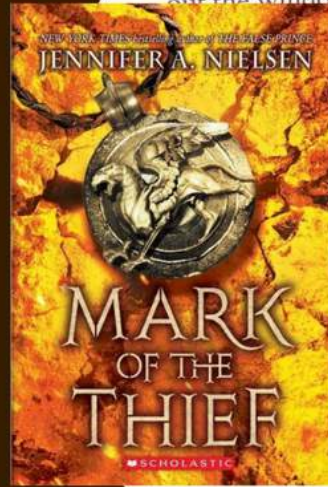
Write whatever you'd
like... including
continuing a past
prompt. :)

You can
project the
prompt using
these SLIDES!



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

-- Mark of the Thief by
Jennifer A. Nielsen



At the top of the village, way above where Peig Sayers had lived. It had been in 1910, but the winds had punctured the windows. In the seventies, from Alabama came a great Basket on hold. An ambition to rebel on exiled island. After all, who could on an inaccessible island, or so the rumour. The people west of the river when his plans came anyone thought. In the mid-eighties, the *Journal* offered the. It was the start of a battle between a company based in Taylor Collings's share of the land. It had at that time by Charles

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

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

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

Why or why not?

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

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

Teacher Comments:

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS

FROM THE WORD NERD

Rapunzel

Change the setting

In the original adaptation, Rapunzel was raised in a small room at the top of a tower. Describe the new setting for your fractured fairy tale.

▼ Rubric

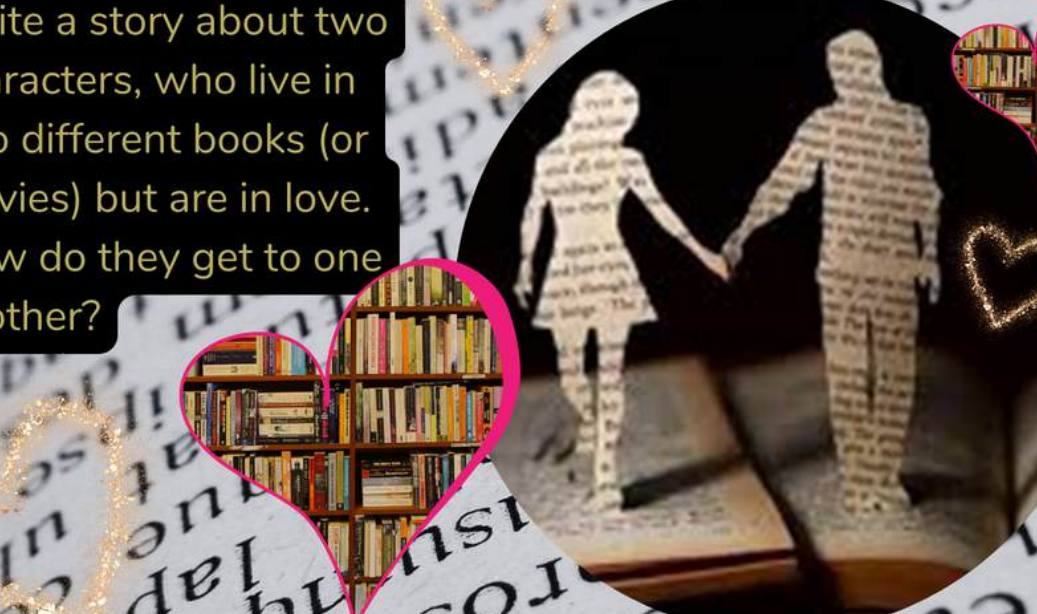
Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ___/10

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

Write a story about two characters, who live in two different books (or movies) but are in love. How do they get to one another?

[illegible]

Total Points = ____ /10

Created by the Word Nerd

WRITING PROMPTS

February 16-20

Monday

Design A
Neighborhood

Style/Skills:
Critical Thinking
List Making

Tuesday

Dentist Day at the Zoo

Style/Skills:
Point of View/
Perspective
Humor

Wednesday

Grandma's Secrets

Style/Skills:
Creative Writing
Event Sequencing/
Chronological Events

Thursday

Who? Where?

Style/Skills:
Characterization
Setting
Word Choice

Friday

Free Write Friday

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

You can
project the
prompt using
these SLIDES!



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD



- Food
- Entertainment
- Transportation
- Safety/Medical
- Community
- Variety of Ages
- Pets

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

Total Points = ____ /10

Rubric

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

- the alligator
- the vet
- a student on a field trip
- the young alligator's mother

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

▼ Rubric

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

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD



What do you do next?

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

Total Points = ____ /10

Rubric

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS FROM THE WORD NERD

"The **book thief** and her **brother** were traveling down toward **Munich**, where they would soon be **given over to foster parents**."

--The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Take out the **red words** and add in your own character and details. If you have time, write a scene!

EXAMPLE:

"**Kinley** and her **babysitter** were traveling down **Main Street**, where they would soon, although not soon enough in Kinley's opinion, be **able to see the city pool**."



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

February 23-27

Monday

A Magical Typewriter

Style/Skills:
Creative Writing
Sequencing Events/
Chronological Events

Tuesday

A Positive Message

Style/Skills:
Concise Writing
Inspirational Writing

Wednesday

Waiting at the Vet

Style/Skills:
Indirect
characterization

Thursday

Virtual Reality Gone Wrong!

Style/Skills:
Genre: Science Fiction
Creative Writing
Modern Day Fable

Friday

Free Write Friday

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

You can project the prompt using these SLIDES!



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

What happens next?

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

Total Points = ____ /10

Rubric

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD



Teacher Comments:

Created by the Word Nerd

NAME: _____

Indirect Characterization

Picture a scene where three characters are sitting in the waiting room at a veterinary clinic.

At their feet, sit their pets awaiting their appointments.

Convey the personality of each of the three owners purely through descriptions of their pets and their shoes.



Rubric



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

Total Points = ___/10

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

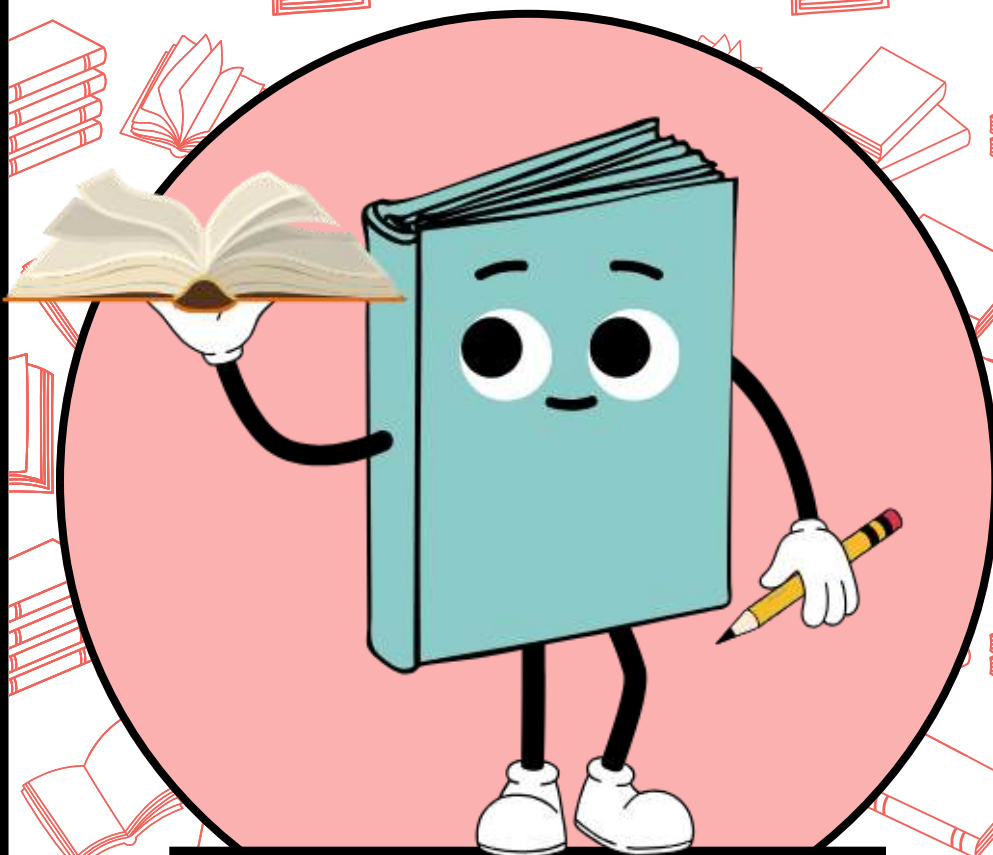
A person is shown from the chest up, wearing a VR headset and a futuristic suit with glowing neon lines. The suit has a V-neckline and arm details. The person is also wearing a necklace with a circular pendant. The background is dark.

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

Total Points = ____/10

Created by the Word Nerd

SNOWS FELL



February 2026



SPEED DATE WITH A BOOK



SPEED DATE

WITH A



Thank you for purchasing this product! Whether you choose to use this in connection to Valentine's Day or any time you want to match students to a great book, I hope that you all have fun and find some great books you'd like to date!

Let's dive right in!

This activity can work a variety of ways. You can either turn your reader's loose in the library to hunt for their selections, or you could ask them to choose from a pre-selected collection of books. I have done this both ways and both work!

Then ask students to spend time browsing and then select four books to bring back to their workspace "to date". You will then hand out the "speed dating forms" and ask students to evaluate each of their choices through the provided questions. I will often use a timer, and tell students they must first look at their choice for a given time before being allowed to write the answers to their questions. This will force them to take a good look at each title to figure out what they like and do not like, rather than rush right through.

After the initial dating sessions you can have all sorts of great conversations about their final choices and how they went about making their selections. You can discuss parts of a book, cover images, blurbs, author name, the appeal of a series, book topic, and more. I have always found these discussions to be more rich after going through the "speed dating" process. You will also find an "after the date" check in sheet for students to fill out once they have been on a few dates with their book. For [video instructions](#), see the next page.

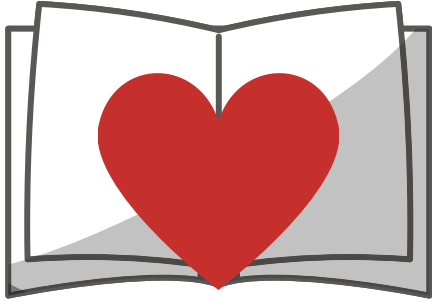
Happy Teaching!

Amanda Zieba

SPEED DATE

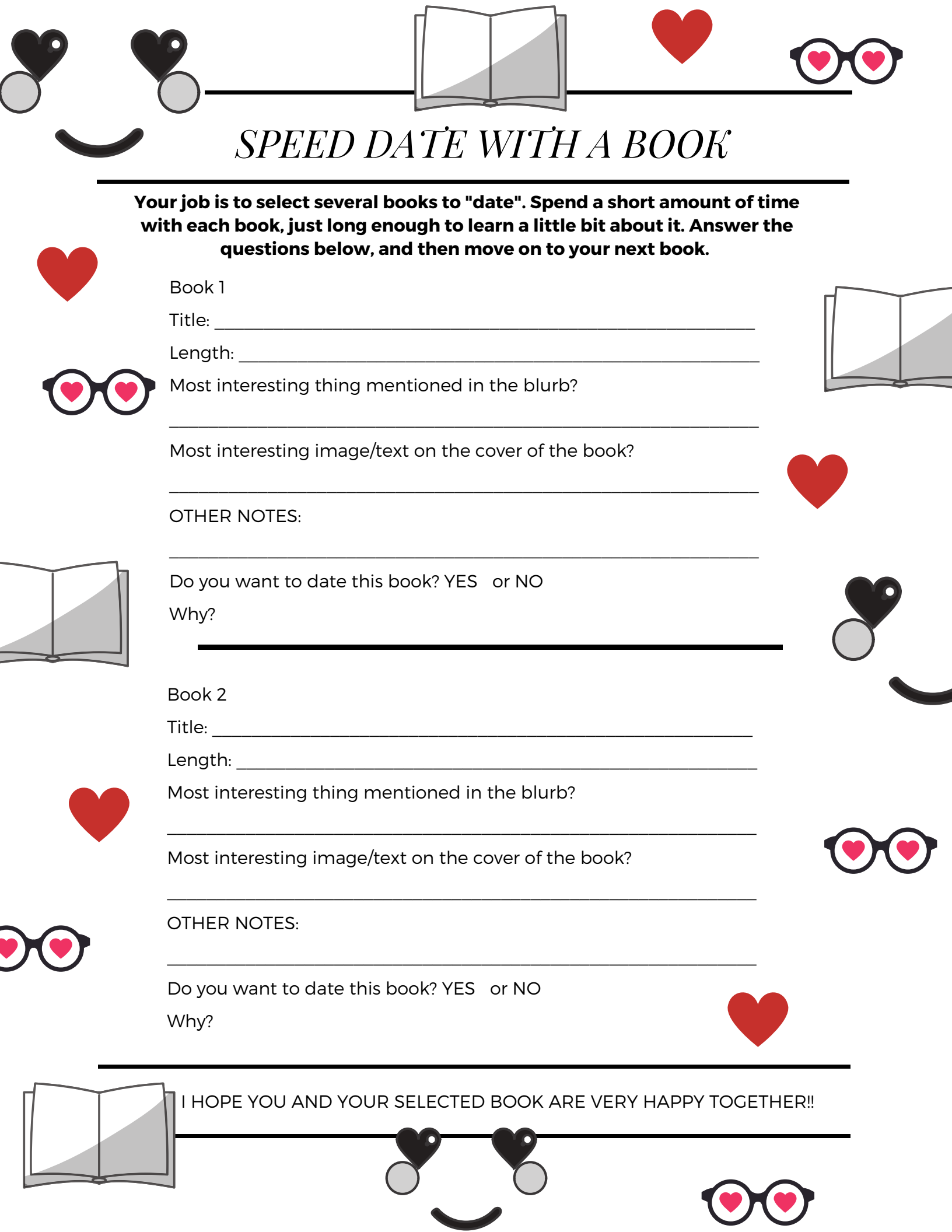
WITH A

BOOK



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





SPEED DATE WITH A BOOK

Your job is to select several books to "date". Spend a short amount of time with each book, just long enough to learn a little bit about it. Answer the questions below, and then move on to your next book.

Book 1

Title: _____

Length: _____

Most interesting thing mentioned in the blurb?

Most interesting image/text on the cover of the book?

OTHER NOTES:

Do you want to date this book? YES or NO

Why?

Book 2

Title: _____

Length: _____

Most interesting thing mentioned in the blurb?

Most interesting image/text on the cover of the book?

OTHER NOTES:

Do you want to date this book? YES or NO

Why?

I HOPE YOU AND YOUR SELECTED BOOK ARE VERY HAPPY TOGETHER!!



SPEED DATE WITH A BOOK

Your job is to select several books to "date". Spend a short amount of time with each book, just long enough to learn a little bit about it. Answer the questions below, and then move on to your next book.



Book 3

Title: _____

Length: _____



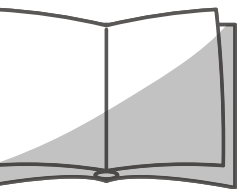
Most interesting thing mentioned in the blurb?

Most interesting image/text on the cover of the book?

OTHER NOTES:

Do you want to date this book? YES or NO

Why?



Book 4

Title: _____

Length: _____

Most interesting thing mentioned in the blurb?

Most interesting image/text on the cover of the book?

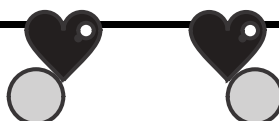
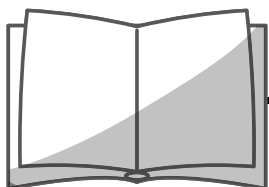
OTHER NOTES:

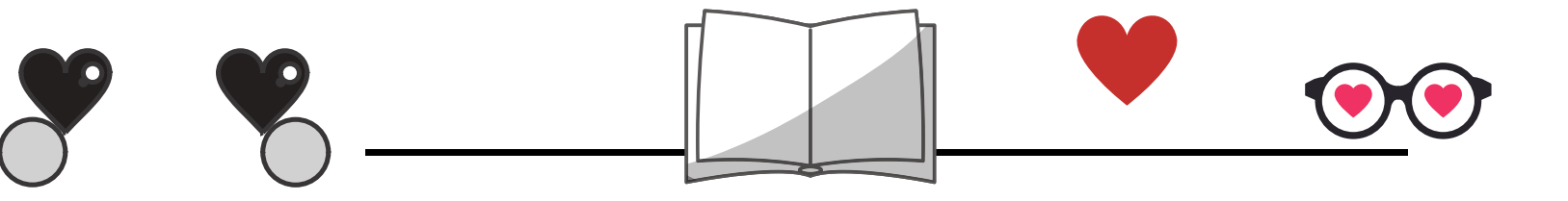
Do you want to date this book? YES or NO

Why?



I HOPE YOU AND YOUR SELECTED BOOK ARE VERY HAPPY TOGETHER!!





SPEED DATE WITH A NONFICTION BOOK

Your job is to select several books to "date". Spend a short amount of time with each book, just long enough to learn a little bit about it. Answer the questions below, and then move on to your next book.



Book 1

Title: _____

Topic: _____

Length: _____

Use of Images? _____

Index available? _____

Most interesting item in the table of contents:

OTHER NOTES:

Do you want to date this book? YES or NO

Why?

Book 2

Title: _____

Topic: _____

Length: _____

Use of Images? _____

Index available? _____

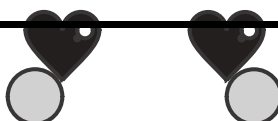
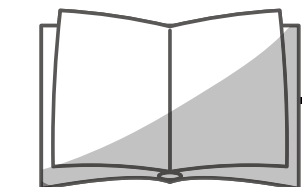
Most interesting item in the table of contents:

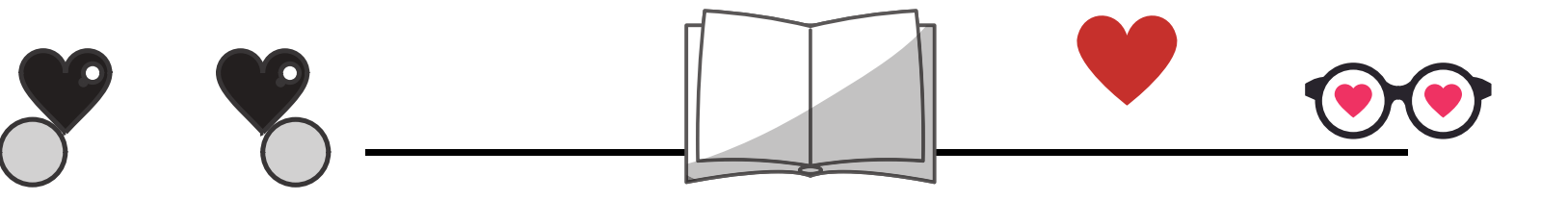
OTHER NOTES:

Do you want to date this book? YES or NO

Why?

I HOPE YOU AND YOUR SELECTED BOOK ARE VERY HAPPY TOGETHER!!





SPEED DATE WITH A NONFICTION BOOK

Your job is to select several books to "date". Spend a short amount of time with each book, just long enough to learn a little bit about it. Answer the questions below, and then move on to your next book.



Book 3

Title: _____

Topic: _____

Length: _____

Use of Images? _____

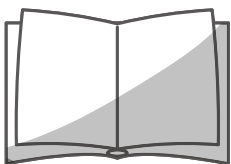
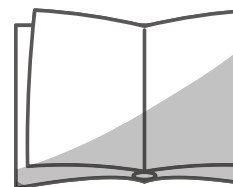
Index available? _____

Most interesting item in the table of contents:

OTHER NOTES: _____

Do you want to date this book? YES or NO

Why?



Book 4

Title: _____

Topic: _____

Length: _____

Use of Images? _____

Index available? _____

Most interesting item in the table of contents:

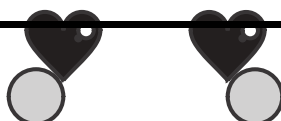
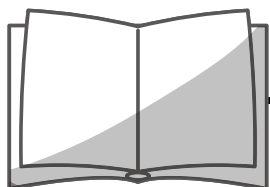
OTHER NOTES: _____

Do you want to date this book? YES or NO

Why?



I HOPE YOU AND YOUR SELECTED BOOK ARE VERY HAPPY TOGETHER!!



SPEED DATE

WITH A

B  ***K***



How was your date?

It's time to check in! Have you fallen in love with your book, or are you needing to have another speed dating session? Can't make up your mind? Answer the below questions to help you decide.

1. What book did you decide to date? (at least for a little while.)
2. Did you finish the book? YES or NO If not, what page are you on?
3. (FICTION BOOKS ONLY) Who is the main character in your story? Can you relate to this person or make a connection with them/their life?
4. What is your book about? Is this a topic you still find interesting? What is one thing you have learned through reading/dating your book?
5. What is your favorite part of this book so far?
6. What is one thing you wish were different about this book?

Read your answers to the questions above. Do you want to continue to date this book? Yes or No?



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2 Truths *and a lie*



Access the mini-
bios for each
person in this slide
show in this QR
code ---->
or this link.



Create by Amanda Zieba and Sara Beth Gerard for the Word Nerd Collaborative

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2 Truths *and a lie*

Directions: As you listen to/read each mini bio, try to determine which two of the statements listed for the person are true and which one is a lie. Mark the box by each statement with either a T (truth) or L (lie).

MAYA ANGELOU

- ☐ Maya Angelou was awarded a Nobel Prize in Literature for her contributions as an author and poet.
- ☐ “Maya” received her nickname from her brother Bailey.
- ☐ Maya was a poet, dancer, singer, activist, author and scholar.

BEYONCÉ

- ☐ Beyoncé frequently donates money through her BeyGOOD Foundation to different sources.
- ☐ Beyonce is an actress as well as a musician.
- ☐ Beyonce rose to fame as a member of TLC before launching a successful solo career.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2 Truths *and a lie*

Directions: As you listen to/read each mini bio, try to determine which two of the statements listed for the person are true and which one is a lie. Mark the box by each statement with either a T (truth) or L (lie).

SIMONE BILES

- ☐ Simone frequently advocates for foster and adoptive care awareness.
- ☐ Biles' journey to greatness includes a record-breaking 25 World Championship medals and seven Olympic medals.
- ☐ Simone Biles withdrew from the 2024 Olympics for her mental health and emotional stability.

JANE BOLIN

- ☐ Bolin worked to end juvenile crime with Eleanor Roosevelt.
- ☐ Jane became the first African American female judge in the United States in 1931.
- ☐ Jane received her law degree from Wellesley College in 1928.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2 Truths *and a lie*

Directions: As you listen to each mini bio, try to determine which two of the statements listed for the person are true and which one is a lie. Mark the box by each statement with either a T (truth) or L (lie).

RAY CHARLES

- ☐ Ray has been blind his entire life.
- ☐ Some of his numerous awards include 8 honorary doctoral degrees, 17 GRAMMYS, and the GRAMMY Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ☐ Ray believes he was born with music inside of him.

STEPHEN CURRY

- ☐ Steph had played on the same team for his entire professional basketball career.
- ☐ Curry is married with 4 children.
- ☐ Curry has led the Golden State Warriors to multiple NBA championships and earned two MVP awards.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2 Truths *and a lie*

Directions: As you listen to/read each mini bio, try to determine which two of the statements listed for the person are true and which one is a lie. Mark the box by each statement with either a T (truth) or L (lie).

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

- ☐ Douglass was an ally of many famous abolitionists and helped recruit African Americans to fight in the Union Army during the Civil War.
- ☐ At the age of 20, Douglass made the daring decision to escape slavery and start a new life as a freeman.
- ☐ In 1847 he published his first book, narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American slave, which quickly became a bestseller.

ALTHEA GIBSON

- ☐ Gibson was multi-talented in the field of sports.
- ☐ Gibson broke barriers before other greats like the Williams sisters.
- ☐ In 1951 Gibson was the first woman to play at Wimbledon.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2 Truths *and a lie*

Directions: As you listen to/read each mini bio, try to determine which two of the statements listed for the person are true and which one is a lie. Mark the box by each statement with either a T (truth) or L (lie).

MAE JEMISON

- ☐ Jemison has written several books for children and appeared on children's television shows as well!
- ☐ Mae Jemison was the first African American woman to travel in space.
- ☐ Born in Alabama and raised in Chicago, Jemison graduated from Stanford with degrees in chemical engineering as well as African and African-American studies.

MICHAEL JORDAN

- ☐ Jordan accepted a basketball scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- ☐ He played fifteen seasons in the NBA between 1984 and 2005.
- ☐ At a height of 5 feet 11 inches, Jordan was deemed too short to play at the varsity level.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2 Truths *and a lie*

Directions: As you listen to/read each mini bio, try to determine which two of the statements listed for the person are true and which one is a lie. Mark the box by each statement with either a T (truth) or L (lie).

CORETTA SCOTT KING

- ☐ Coretta helped Martin begin working in the area of Civil Rights.
- ☐ The ALA named an award after Coretta and it is given annually.
- ☐ Coretta was an accomplished singer and writer.

ALBERT MURRAY

- ☐ Albert did not believe that race defined those around him.
- ☐ Albert claimed that people are not really “white” or “black”.
- ☐ He believed that there was more to our culture than the experience of any race.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2 Truths *and a lie*

Directions: As you listen to/read each mini bio, try to determine which two of the statements listed for the person are true and which one is a lie. Mark the box by each statement with either a T (truth) or L (lie).

SADIE TANNER MOSSELL

- ☐ Sadie was unable to check books out of the school library.
- ☐ Sadie earned her law degree in 2 years.
- ☐ Sadie received her Ph.D in Economics.

BARACK OBAMA

- ☐ Obama was elected as the first president of the Harvard Law Review prior to graduation.
- ☐ Obama and Michelle Robinson were married in '92 and had two daughters, Malia and Sasha.
- ☐ Obama's family traveled for his father's job, both in and out of the country.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2 Truths *and a lie*

Directions: As you listen to/read each mini bio, try to determine which two of the statements listed for the person are true and which one is a lie. Mark the box by each statement with either a T (truth) or L (lie).

MICHELLE OBAMA

- ☐ The audiobook version of Michelle's second book, *The Light We Carry: Overcoming In Uncertain Times*, won two Grammys!
- ☐ Michelle has a law degree from Harvard.
- ☐ Michelle became the first delegate to the committee of human rights.

ROSA PARKS

- ☐ Parks gained the title "first lady of civil rights" after helping accomplish desegregation on public transportation.
- ☐ Parks was the first African American woman to resist bus segregation.
- ☐ Parks worked for Civil Rights throughout her lifetime.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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Directions: As you listen to/read each mini bio, try to determine which two of the statements listed for the person are true and which one is a lie. Mark the box by each statement with either a T (truth) or L (lie).

JACKIE ROBINSON

- ☐ At UCLA, Jackie became the first athlete to win varsity letters in four sports: baseball, basketball, football and track.
- ☐ Jackie played for the Brooklyn Dodgers after playing for the Kansas City Monarchs.
- ☐ Jackie was immediately inducted into the baseball hall of fame in 1962.

MADAME CJ WALKER

- ☐ Madame CJ Walker began creating beauty products for women due to personal issues that she and her community faced.
- ☐ She only had three months of formal education, at the church she attended
- ☐ Walker was worth over a million dollars when she passed.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2 Truths *and a lie*

Directions: As you listen to/read each mini bio, try to determine which two of the statements listed for the person are true and which one is a lie. Mark the box by each statement with either a T (truth) or L (lie).

OPRAH WINFREY

- ☐ Oprah worked at WVOL as a on-air personality.
- ☐ Oprah left high school to become a reporter and news anchor.
- ☐ Oprah began her career as a life-changing woman of color by competing in beauty pageants.

☐☐☐

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2 Truths *and a lie*

Directions: Research a famous Black American and write your own truth and lie statements in the space below. Then quiz a classmate!

☐

☐

☐




☐

☐

☐

ANSWER KEY

MAYA ANGELOU

-  Maya Angelou was awarded a Nobel Prize in Literature for her contributions as an author and poet.
-  "Maya" received her nickname from her brother Bailey.
-  Maya was a poet, dancer, singer, activist, author and scholar.




BEYONCÉ

-  Beyoncé frequently donates money through her BeyGOOD Foundation to different sources.
-  Beyonce is an actress as well as a musician.
-  Beyonce rose to fame as a member of TLC before launching a successful solo career.

SIMONE BILES

-  Simone frequently advocates for foster and adoptive care awareness.
-  Biles' journey to greatness includes a record-breaking 25 World Championship medals and seven Olympic medals.
-  Simone Biles withdrew from the 2024 Olympics for her mental health and emotional stability.

JANE BOLIN

-  Bolin worked to end juvenile crime with Eleanor Roosevelt.
-  Jane became the first African American female judge in the United States in 1931.
-  Jane received her law degree from Wellesley College in 1928.




RAY CHARLES

-  Ray has been blind his entire life.
-  Some of his numerous awards include 8 honorary doctoral degrees, 17 GRAMMYS, and the GRAMMY Lifetime Achievement Award.
-  Ray believes he was born with music inside of him.

STEPHEN CURRY

-  Steph had played on the same team for his entire professional basketball career.
-  Curry is married with 4 children.
-  Curry has led the Golden State Warriors to multiple NBA championships and earned two MVP awards.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

-  Douglass was an ally of many famous abolitionists and helped recruit African Americans to fight in the Union Army during the Civil War.
-  At the age of 20, Douglass made the daring decision to escape slavery and start a new life as a freeman.
-  In 1847 he published his first book, narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American slave, which quickly became a bestseller.

ALTHEA GIBSON

-  Gibson was multi-talented in the field of sports.
-  Gibson broke barriers before other greats like the Williams sisters.
-  In 1951 Gibson was the first woman to play at Wimbledon.




MAE JEMISON

-  Jemison has written several books for children and appeared on children's television shows as well!
-  Mae Jemison was the first African American woman to travel in space.
-  Born in Alabama and raised in Chicago, Jemison graduated from Stanford with degrees in chemical engineering as well as African and African-American studies.

MICHAEL JORDAN

-  Jordan accepted a basketball scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
-  He played fifteen seasons in the NBA between 1984 and 2005.
-  At a height of 5 feet 11 inches, Jordan was deemed too short to play at the varsity level.

CORETTA SCOTT KING

-  Coretta helped Martin begin working in the area of Civil Rights.
-  The ALA named an award after Coretta and it is given annually.
-  Coretta was an accomplished singer and writer.

ALBERT MURRAY

-  Albert did not believe that race defined those around him.
-  Albert claimed that people are not really "white" or "black".
-  He believed that there was more to our culture than the experience of any race.

ANSWER KEY

SADIE TANNER MOSSELL

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FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

INTERACTIVE WORKSHEETS



BOOK COVER EXAMINATION

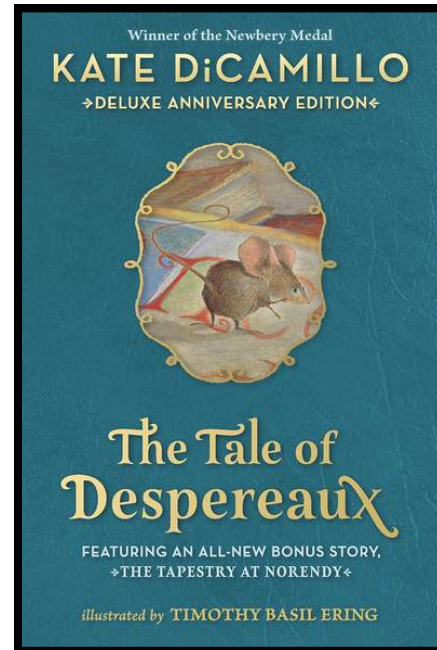
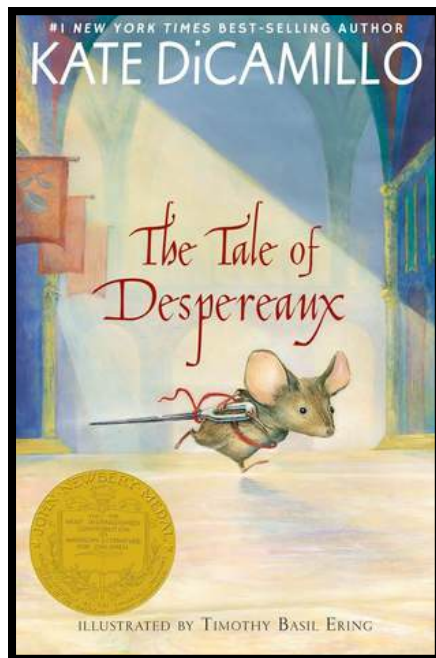
Ever notice that a book has two different covers?

There are lots of reasons why they do this! Sometimes a publishing company will update or modernize a book published a long time ago. Sometimes a book is turned into a movie and they want to put the actors on the cover.

With these worksheets, you'll be able to examine two different book covers for the same story and

- figure out which style you like the best
- learn different parts of a book cover
- analyze book cover styles

WHICH COVER DO YOU LIKE BETTER?



Listen to the first chapter on youtube



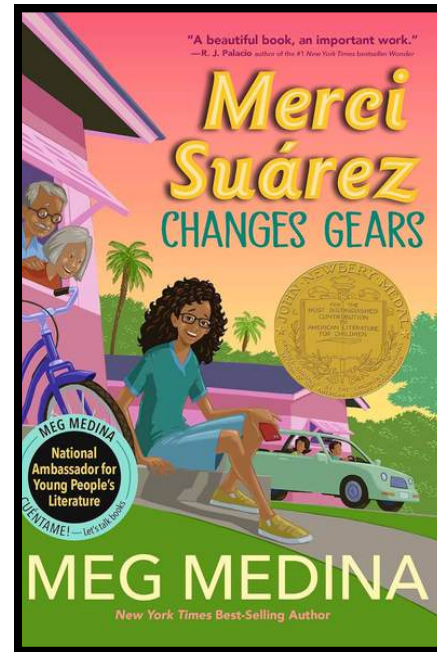
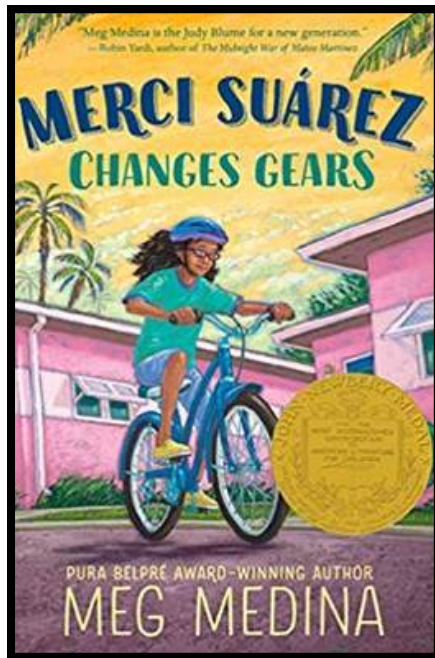
TWO DIFFERENCES I NOTICED:

1

2

WHICH COVER DO YOU LIKE BETTER AND WHY?

WHICH COVER DO YOU LIKE BETTER?



Listen to the first chapter on youtube



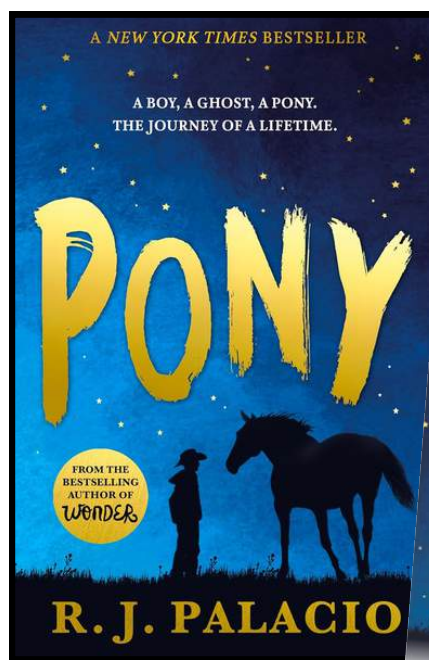
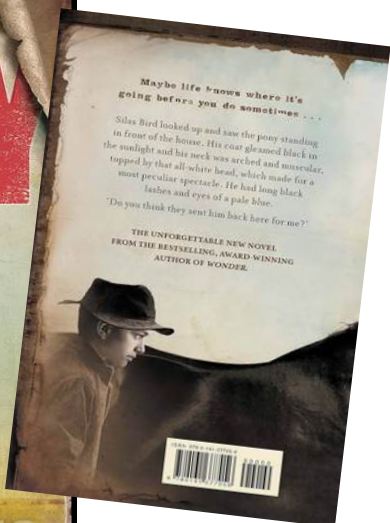
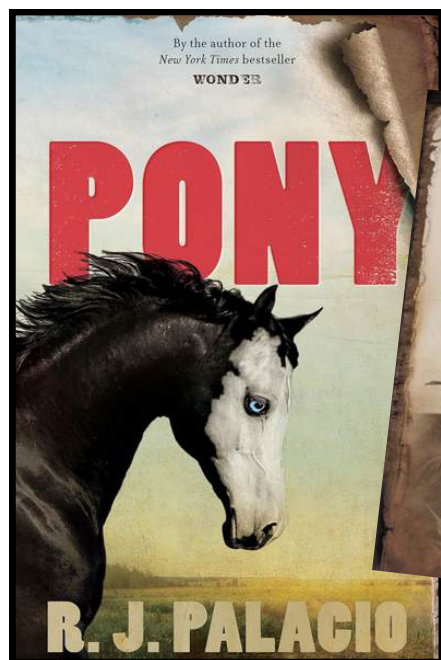
TWO DIFFERENCES I NOTICED:

1

2

WHICH COVER DO YOU LIKE BETTER AND WHY?

WHICH COVER DO YOU LIKE BETTER?



Listen to the first chapter on youtube



TWO DIFFERENCES I NOTICED:

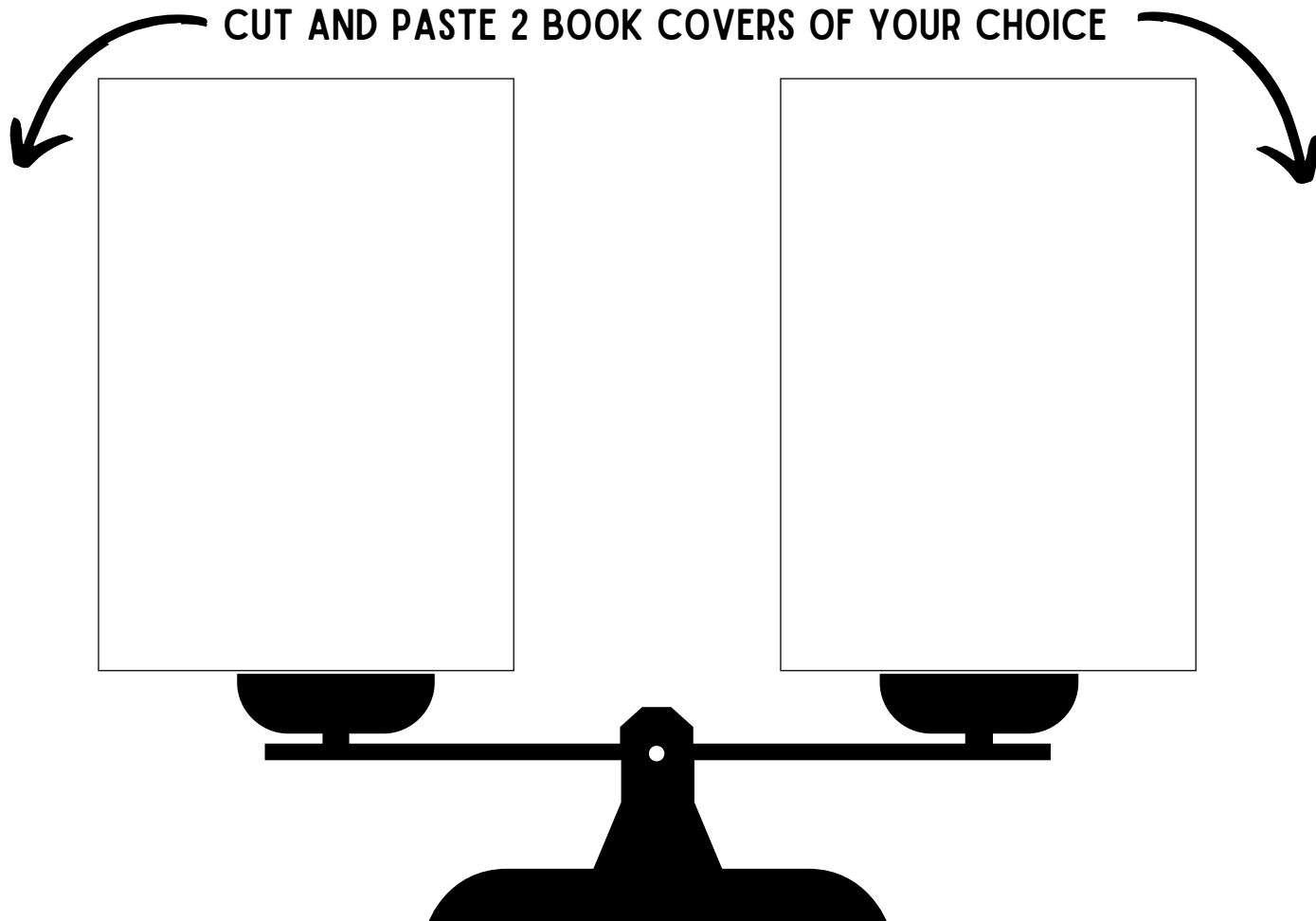
1

2

WHICH COVER DO YOU LIKE BETTER AND WHY?

WHICH COVER DO YOU LIKE BETTER?

CUT AND PASTE 2 BOOK COVERS OF YOUR CHOICE

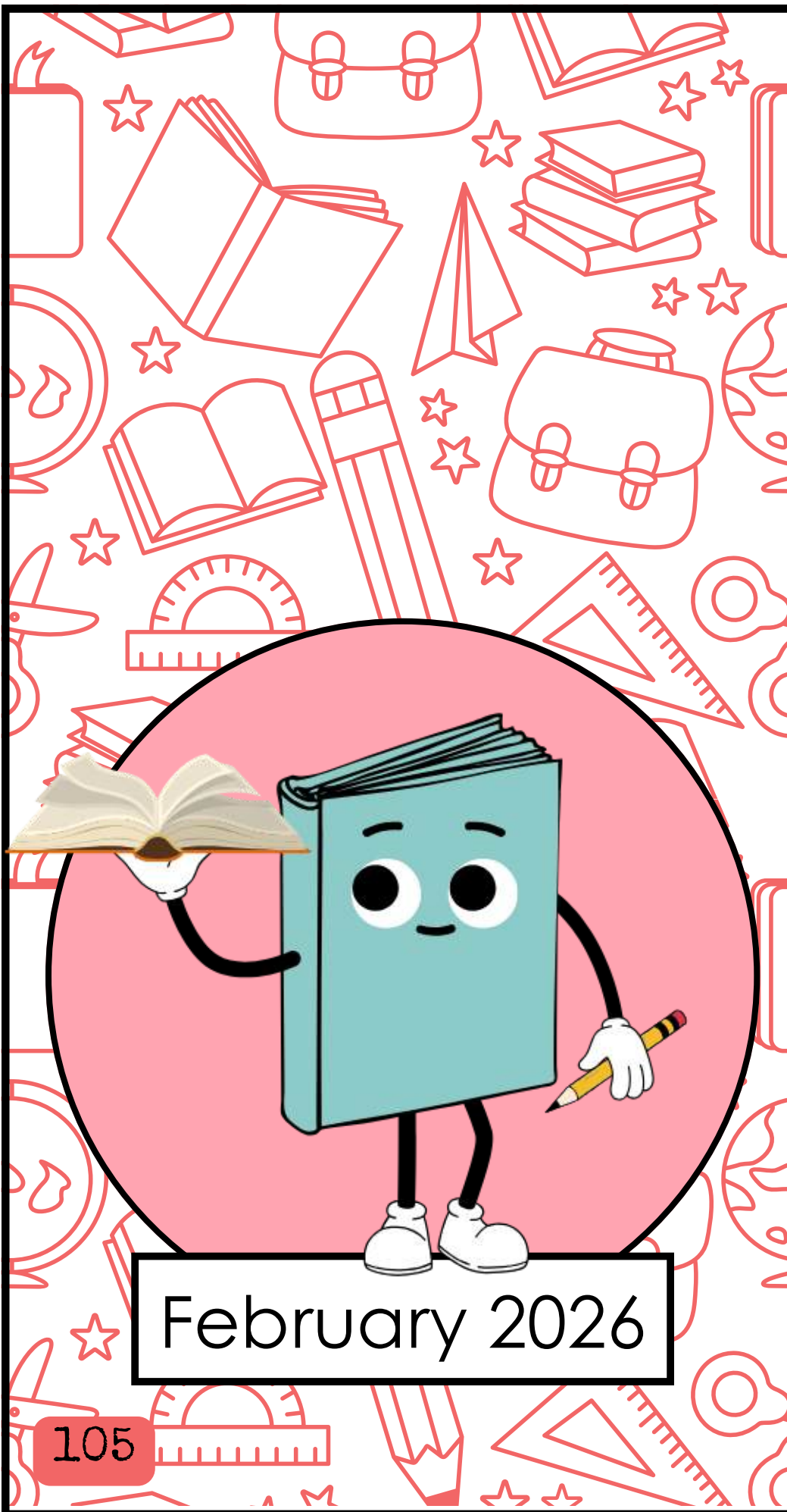


.....
TWO DIFFERENCES I NOTICED:

1

2

WHICH COVER DO YOU LIKE BETTER AND WHY?



February 2026

105

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
BECAUSE YOU DESERVE THEM!**

Would You Rather...

PERSUASIVE WRITING WORKSHEETS



CREATED BY THE WORD NERD

TAKEAWAYS

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

WE WANT STUDENTS TO BE ABLE TO:

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



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

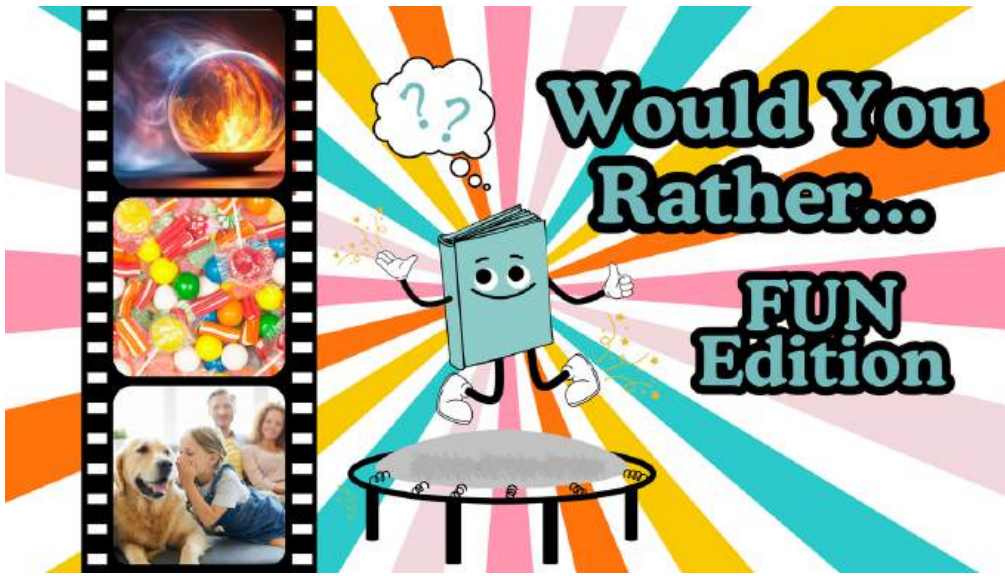


Video Link



WOULD YOU RATHER?

Name: _____



VIDEO

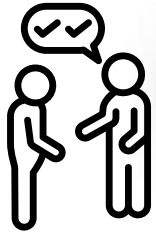


Video Link

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

1. Would you rather be a professional video game tester or candy taste tester?
2. Would you rather be a famous musician, athlete or actor?
3. Would you rather own a crystal ball or magic carpet?
4. Would you rather travel everywhere for free or eat everywhere for free?
5. Would you rather be the star of a building/decorating show or cooking/baking show?
6. Would you rather live in a palace, tree house or cruise ship?
7. Would you rather be driven to school in a limo or RV?
8. Would you rather go to 1 place on a permanent vacation or travel to a new place every month?
9. Would you rather be able to communicate with animals or speak/understand every human language?
10. Would you rather have front row tickets to every concert or unlimited VIP access to an amusement park?

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



BUILD YOUR CASE

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

FOLLOW THESE STEPS!

✓ **Step 1: Make Your Claim**

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

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

✓ **Step 2: Give Your Reasons**

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

✓ **Step 3: Use Transitions**

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

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

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

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

✓ **Step 5: Wrap It Up**

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

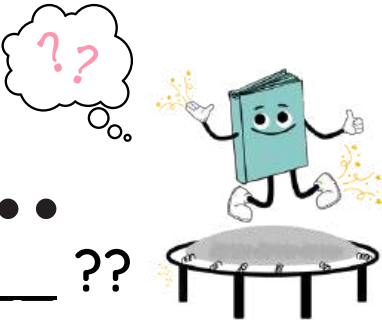
Example: That's why I would definitely rather live in a treehouse!

Name: _____

Date: _____

FUN EDITION

Would You Rather...



_____ or _____ ??

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

▼ Rubric

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

Comments:

Date: _____

A blue video game controller with a black cord is positioned on the left. To its right is a large, colorful pile of various candies, including lollipops, hard candies, and chocolate bars, suggesting a reward or incentive system.

be a professional video game tester or candy taste tester?

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

[illegible]

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

Date: _____

Would You Rather...



▼ 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.)			
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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.)			

Comments:

Date: _____

Would You Rather...


own a crystal ball or a magic carpet?

[illegible]

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

Created by the Word Nerd

Date: _____



travel everywhere for free or eat everywhere for free?

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

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

[illegible]

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
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Date: _____

Would You Rather...

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

[illegible]

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

Comments:

Date: _____

Would You Rather...

A stylized illustration of a large, multi-towered castle. The castle is light gray with red roofs on the towers. It has several green flags on poles. The central tower is the tallest and has a cross on top. There are smaller towers on the sides and corners. The castle has many windows and a large arched entrance at the bottom center.



▼ Rubric

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

Comments:

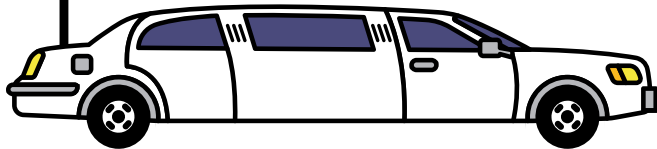
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Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Comments:

Date: _____

Would You Rather...

be driven to school in a limo or RV?



▼
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			
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Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Comments:

Date: _____

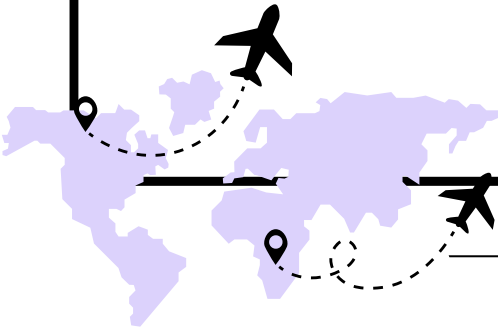


go to 1 place on a permanent vacation or travel to a new place every month?

ner...

to a new place every month?

otherwise plan your response.



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

Comments:

Date: _____

be able to communicate with animals or speak/understand every human language?

??

[illegible]

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

Comments:

Date: _____

Would You Rather...

A colorful illustration of a fairground. On the left is a Ferris wheel with yellow and orange spokes and colorful passenger cars. To its right is a blue roller coaster track with a yellow train. Above the Ferris wheel is a hot air balloon with orange and yellow stripes. In the foreground, there is a yellow and orange striped tent. In the background, there is a grey building with two towers and red flags. The sky is light blue with white clouds.

▼ Rubric

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

Comments:

STANDARDS IN ACTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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:



GEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES



GEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

My Name:

Name of classmate I am reviewing:

Date:

My Name:

Name of classmate I am reviewing:

Date:

Title of Piece/Date Written

Title of Piece/Date Written



GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITERS DOES WELL

- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .



GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITERS DOES WELL

- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .

OPPORTUNITIES

LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE

- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .

OPPORTUNITIES

LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE

- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .

FINAL COMMENTS

WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:

FINAL COMMENTS

WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:



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

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

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

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

Total Points = ____/10

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

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

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
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Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

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Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

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Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

COMING SOON

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

TOPIC LINE UP:

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



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

Romance Book Playlist

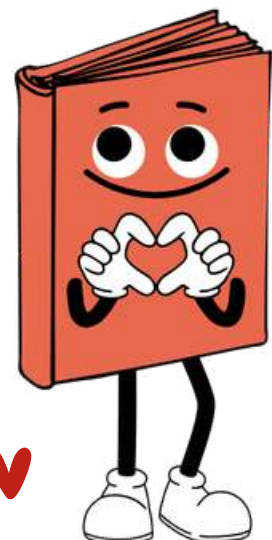
Love a good love story? Looking for your next fictional crush or want to be swept away by a whirlwind romance? In this playlist you will find over a dozen romance books, appropriate for middle and high school students. Happy reading, love birds!



I ❤️



Here is a link to the playlist!



WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS



RACISM

WNC BOOK LIST

RACISM

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round by Kathlyn Kirkwood

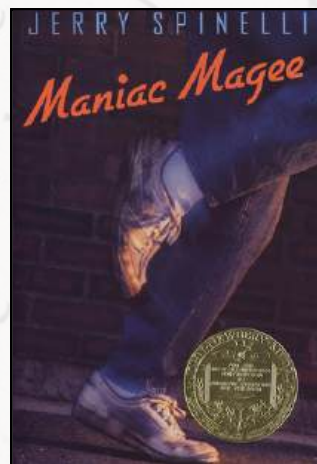
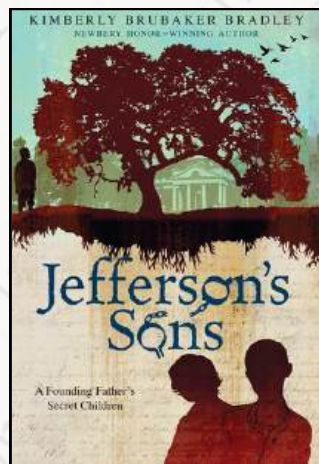
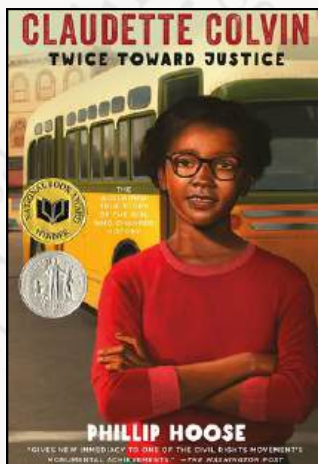
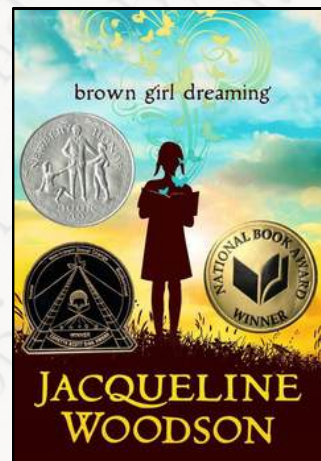
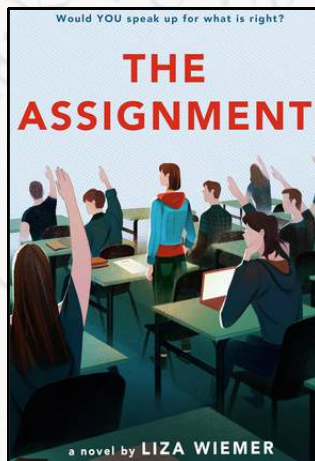
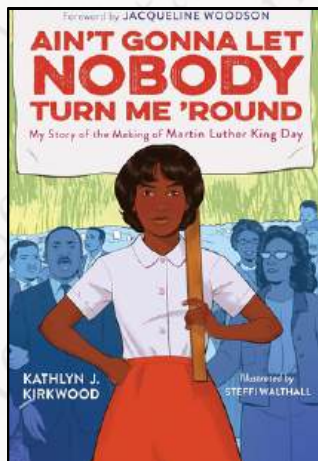
The Assignment by Liza Wiemer

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jaqueline Woodson

Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice by Phillip Hoose

Jefferson's Sons by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli



These books look at events, emotions, actions and reactions to tense situations revolving around racial issues.



RACISM

“The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.” – Ludwig Wittgenstein

Dear Teacher Friend,

If February reminded us of anything, it's this: words matter. They shape stories, spark conversations, and stitch us together on the days that feel a little undone. Whether you spent this month reading love poems, writing literary valentines, or just keeping the classroom conversations flowing—you used words to make your students feel seen, heard, and capable. That's not small. That's powerful.

Maybe you helped a reader find a book they didn't want to put down. Maybe a student surprised you with their voice on the page. Maybe you fell in love with a sentence that made you pause and say, “Dang, that's good.”

Whatever your February looked like, I hope you're walking away with at least one moment that reminded you why this work is worth it. And if this month was a mess of snow days, sniffles, and forgotten assignments... hey, that's real too. Even in the chaos, you showed up—with a stack of stories and a love of language tucked under your arm.

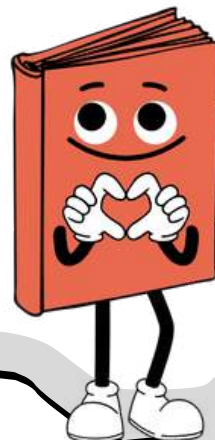
That counts. That always counts.

So as we head into a new month, hold on to that. Keep writing. Keep reading. Keep loving the words—and the kids learning how to use them.

You're doing amazing.
See you in March.



AMANDA



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