



Word Nerd
Collaborative

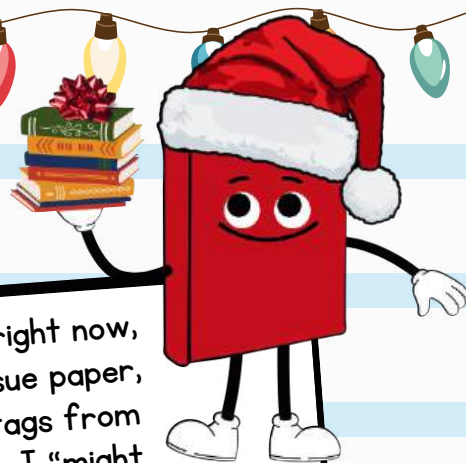
DECEMBER

POWER PLAYBOOK

2025



ALL THE LITTLE PIECES ADD UP TO SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL



If you opened the door to my gift-wrapping closet right now, you might be horrified. It's a tangle of crumpled tissue paper, half-used rolls of tape, ribbons with no spools, gift tags from four years ago... and at least one empty Amazon box I "might need later." But here's the thing: I love that closet. (Especially the fact that I can close the door, lol!) Because even in the mess, it's full of potential.

It's where surprises get wrapped, joy gets layered, and love gets tied together—even if a little unevenly.

December is kind of like that, isn't it? It's a mosaic. A month made of a million tiny pieces—some beautiful, some a little chipped, some you're still trying to figure out where they even came from.

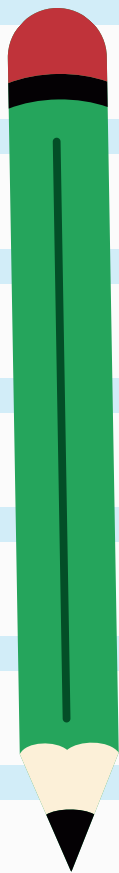
There's the calm of a silent reading period... and the chaos of a cancelled assembly. There's the student who made you laugh until you cried... and the one who just won't stop humming. There's the exhaustion... and the deep satisfaction that somehow, you're still here, still doing the work, still making something meaningful. A middle school teacher's calendar is never neat. No two days are the same, no week ever goes quite as planned. But that's part of the deal. If we're being honest, it's maybe why we even chose to teach middle school.

All those odd-shaped pieces—lesson wins, hallway chats, book recs, brain breaks, hard conversations, and quiet moments—you might not see how they fit while you're in it, but together, they form something real. Something (albeit sometimes weirdly) beautiful.

This month's Pre-Planned Calendar is just one more tile in your mosaic. A piece that's here to support, brighten, and maybe smooth the edges a little bit. It won't make everything perfect—but perfection isn't the goal. Don't let one stressful day, one missed email, or one less-than-stellar moment convince you that the whole thing's a mess.

Zoom out and I know you'll see that you're building something remarkable—one piece at a time.

— AMANDA



The background of the entire image is a repeating pattern of black and white line art Christmas lights. The lights are teardrop-shaped with a small circular base and are connected by thin lines. They are scattered across the page, creating a festive and textured backdrop for the text.

EVERY

**MESSY
MOMENT**

IS PART OF THE

MOSAIC

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EDITABLE
CANVA FILE



OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT

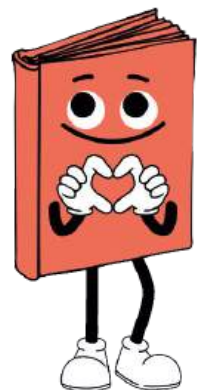
**** There will be no January Planning Session Meeting**

Lunch Bunch Zoom Link (Jan. 9)

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

Word Nerd Collaborative Private Facebook Group

LINK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/427913560232081>



December 2025

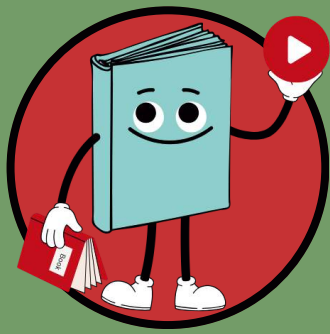
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wednes.	Thurs.	Friday	Satur.
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Notes:

No January Planning Meeting

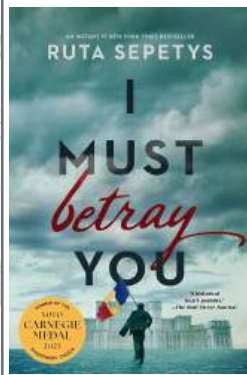
December Lunch Bunch will take place on Friday, January 9th, 2026





FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAYS

Friday, December 5th

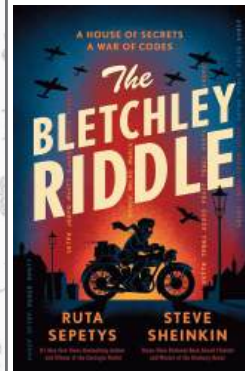


I Must Betray
You

by Ruta Sepetys

Historical
Fiction/Prose

Friday, December 12th



the Bletchley
Riddle

by Ruta Sepetys
and Steve
Sheinkin

Historical
Fiction/Prose

Friday, December 19th

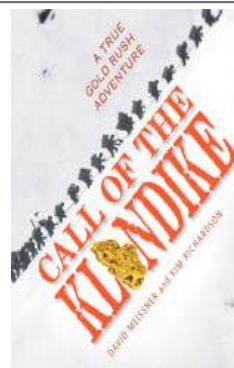


Bomb

by Steve Sheinkin
and Nick Bertozzi

Graphic
Novel/NonFiction

Friday, December 26th



Call of the
Klondike

by David
Meisner

Nonfiction/Prose

BONUS FCF!! 😊



Let it Glow

by Marissa
Meyer and
Joanne Levy

Realistic
Fiction/Prose

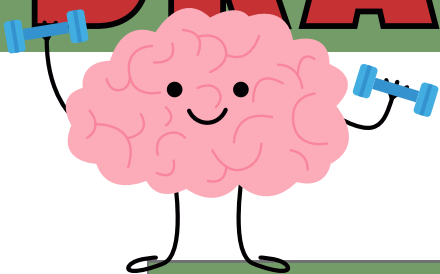
Lunch Bunch Attendees

Ruta Sepetys
and

Steve Sheinkin

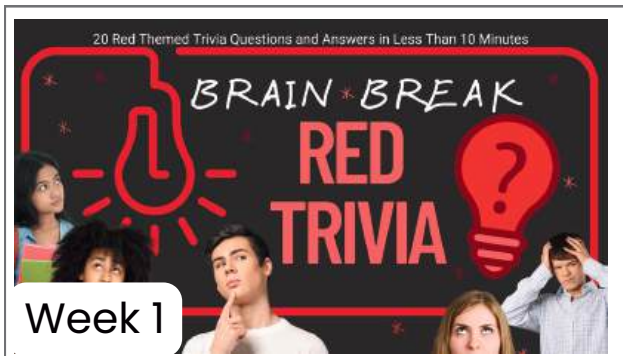
January 9th, 2026

BRAIN BREAKS



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

Red Trivia



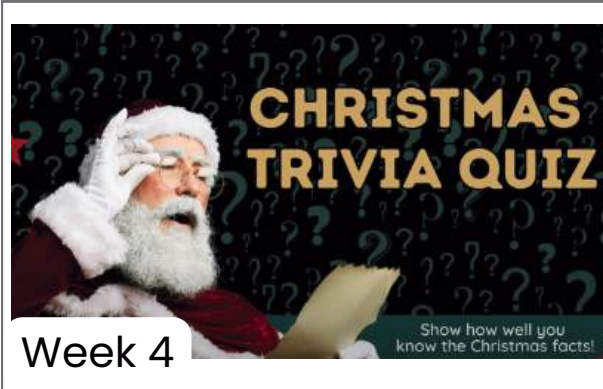
Hanukkah Trivia



Christmas Around the World Trivia



Christmas Trivia



Holiday Parts of Speech + Figurative Language Lyrical Trivia



Coming Soon!

Did you know?

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

-- Reading Rockets
Website



Writing Prompts

Week 1

Monday
Royal Adventure

Tuesday
Secret Mission

Wednesday
Holiday Cards Piled High

Thursday
Snow White Retelling

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 2

Monday
A Snowflake's Descent

Tuesday
My Life as a Potato

Wednesday
My Favorite Food

Thursday
Let's Go On An Adventure

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 3

Monday
A Sci-Fi Story

Tuesday
Frozen Time Machine

Wednesday
What's Your Inner Strength?

Thursday
A Chat With a Polar Bear

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 4

Monday
My Favorite Clothing

Tuesday
Trapped in a Snow Globe

Wednesday
Message in the Snow

Thursday
This or That?

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 5

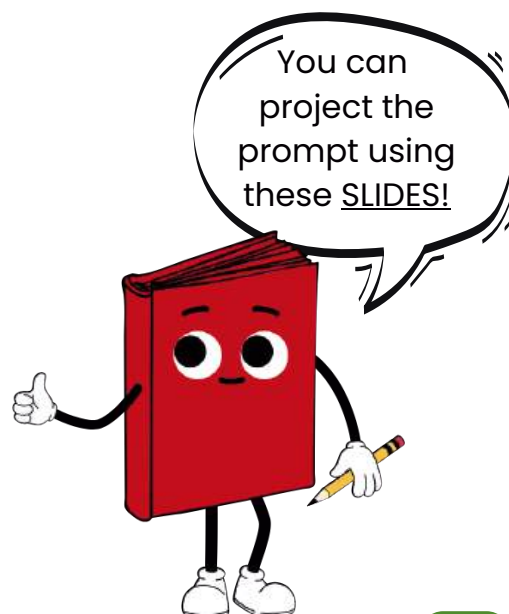
Monday
Create a Comparison

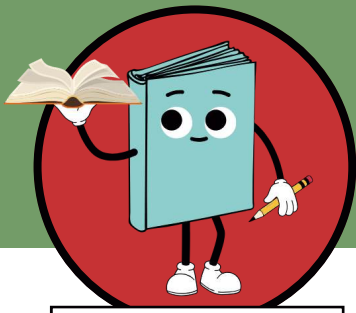
Tuesday
A Story Set in the Future

Wednesday
Frosty Acrostic

Thursday
January

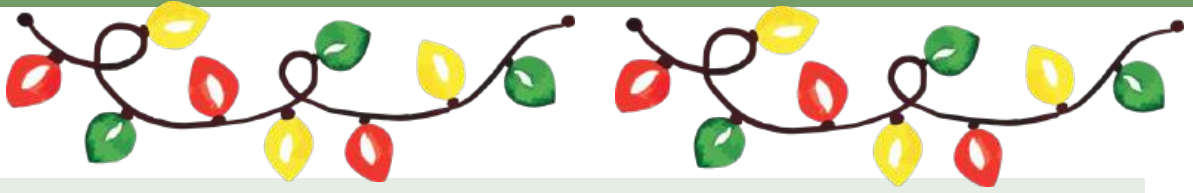
Friday
January





December 2025

LESSONS



1 COLLECTIVE NOUN PRACTICE

Collective Nouns can be tricky! In each of the 10 chapters/passages students will read both to unravel the mystery and practice identify the collective nouns buried in the story. Dive into this small town mystery and watch your students enjoy learning tricky Collective Nouns. Read aloud audio and answer keys are also included.

STANDARDS: CCSSL.6.4A, CCSSL.6.5B, CCSSL.6.6, CCSSCCRA.R.4

2 HOLIDAY RESEARCH 1-PAGER

If you need a quick way for students to showcase their research and reporting skills, look no further. Using this resource and the website NationalToday.com students can explore a wide variety of secular and religious holidays. Fueled by their personal interest, students will happily engage and employ their skills, thus achieving both practice of standards based skills and higher achievement overall.

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





ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

December 2025

10

1 **WOULD RATHER – WINTER EDITION**

Looking for a cozy, no-prep brain break for middle school that also builds real writing skills? This month's WINTER INSPIRED edition of Would You Rather gets students thinking, moving (silently!), and writing persuasively—all in one quick and engaging lesson.

2 **CURATED READING LISTS**

This month I'm highlighting books that feature the topics of: Biographies/Memoirs + Famous People, Holiday focused books, and books with neurodivergent characters. Truly, a little bit of something for everyone this season! I hope that these reading recommendations are a hit in your classroom!

3 **SEASONAL READING COLORING SHEETS**

Sometimes we just need a break. Use these bookish winter and holiday themed coloring sheets to give your students five minutes of mindful meditation and calm. Students can spend time coloring while listening to a First Chapter Friday read aloud video or instrumental music video.

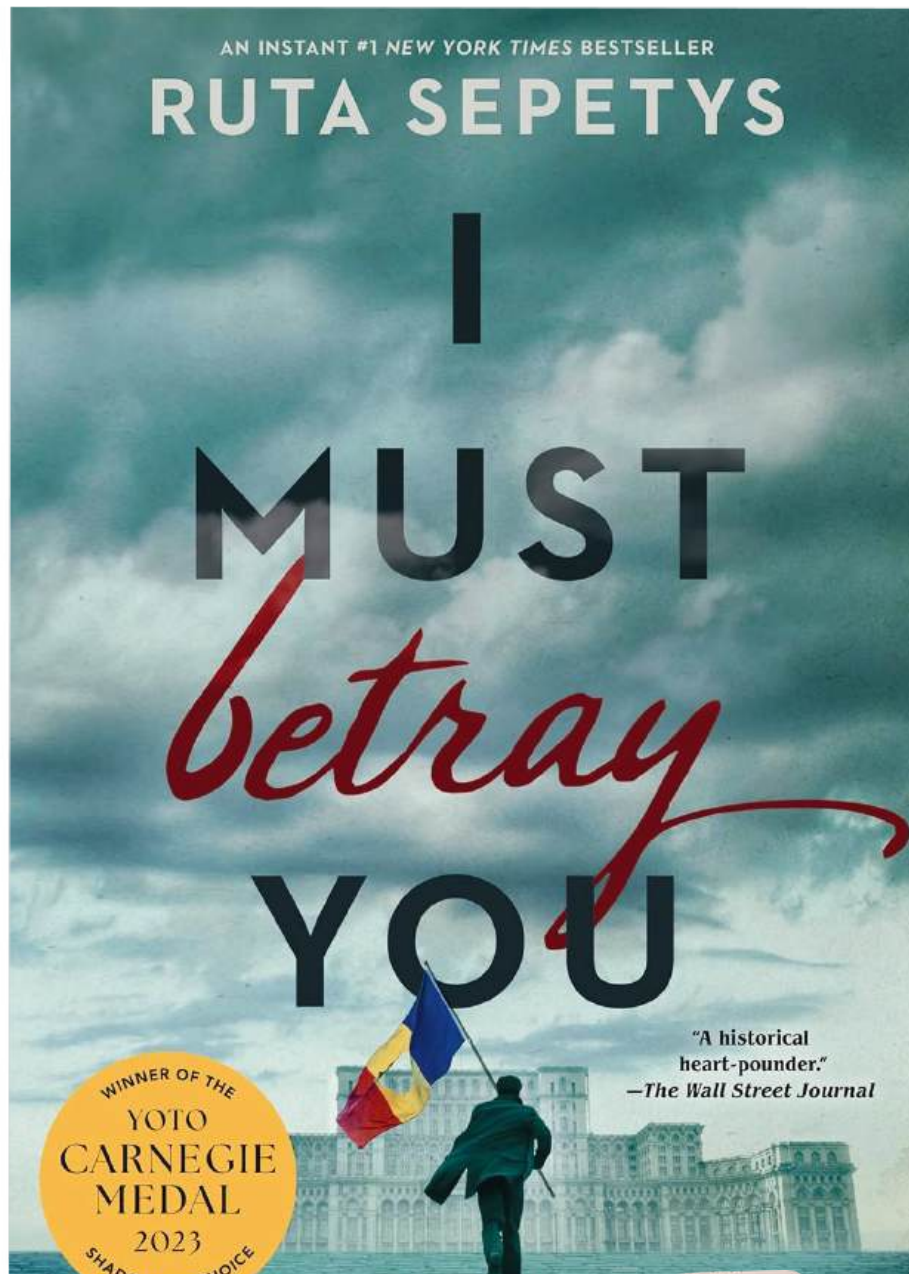


December 2025

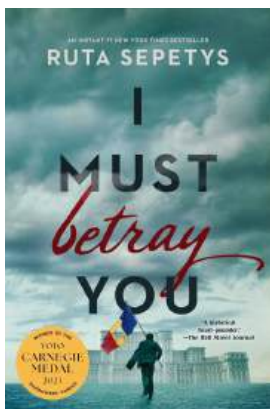
FAST **CHAPTER FRIDAY SELECTIONS**

I MUST BETRAY YOU

by Ruta Sepetys



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY



Name _____

Date _____

I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys



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?

A gut-wrenching, startling historical thriller about communist Romania and the citizen spy network that devastated a nation – Romania, 1989. Communist regimes are crumbling across Europe. Seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu dreams of becoming a writer, but Romanians aren't free to dream; they are bound by rules and force. Amidst the tyrannical dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu in a country governed by isolation and fear, Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. He's left with only two choices: betray everyone and everything he loves—or use his position to creatively undermine the most notoriously evil dictator in Eastern Europe. Cristian risks everything to unmask the truth behind the regime, give voice to fellow Romanians, and expose to the world what is happening in his country. He eagerly joins the revolution to fight for change when the time arrives. But what is the cost of freedom? Master storyteller Ruta Sepetys is back with a historical thriller that examines the little-known history of a nation defined by silence, pain, and the unwavering conviction of the human spirit.

AR Reading Level: 4.3

Who Wrote It?

Ruta is the daughter of a Lithuanian refugee. Born in Michigan, she was raised in a family of artists, readers, and music lovers. She is passionate about the power of history to foster dialogue and global understanding. Her research and writing on human resilience have earned her invitations to speak at NATO, European Parliament, the U.S. Capitol, the Library of Congress, and Embassies worldwide. She has been awarded fellowships from The University of Oxford in England and The Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center in Italy. The New York Times Book Review declared, 'Ruta Sepetys acts as champion of the interstitial people so often ignored—whole populations lost in the cracks of

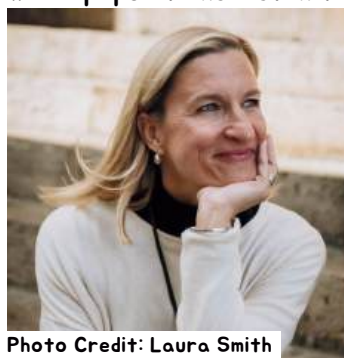


Photo Credit: Laura Smith

history. She is deeply grateful for her Baltic heritage— even if it means she has a name that no one can pronounce. Ruta lives with her family in the hills of Tennessee.

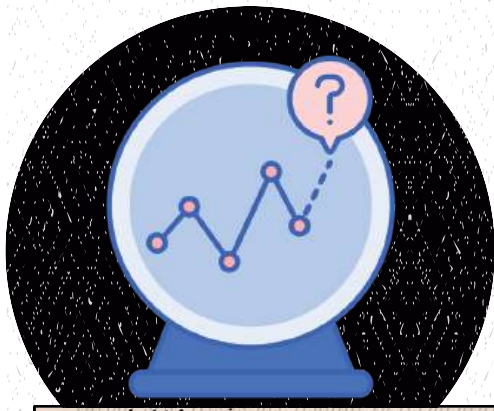
Lexile Level: 500L

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.



PREVIEW & PREDICT



Read Aloud Video

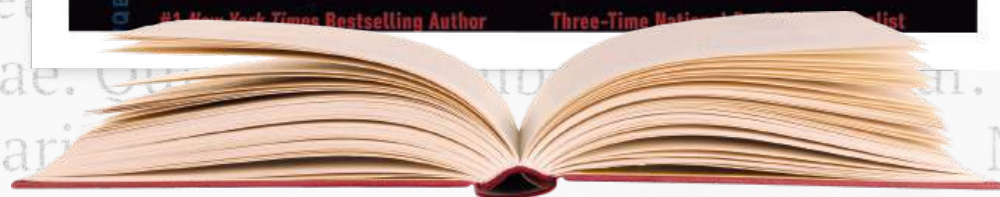
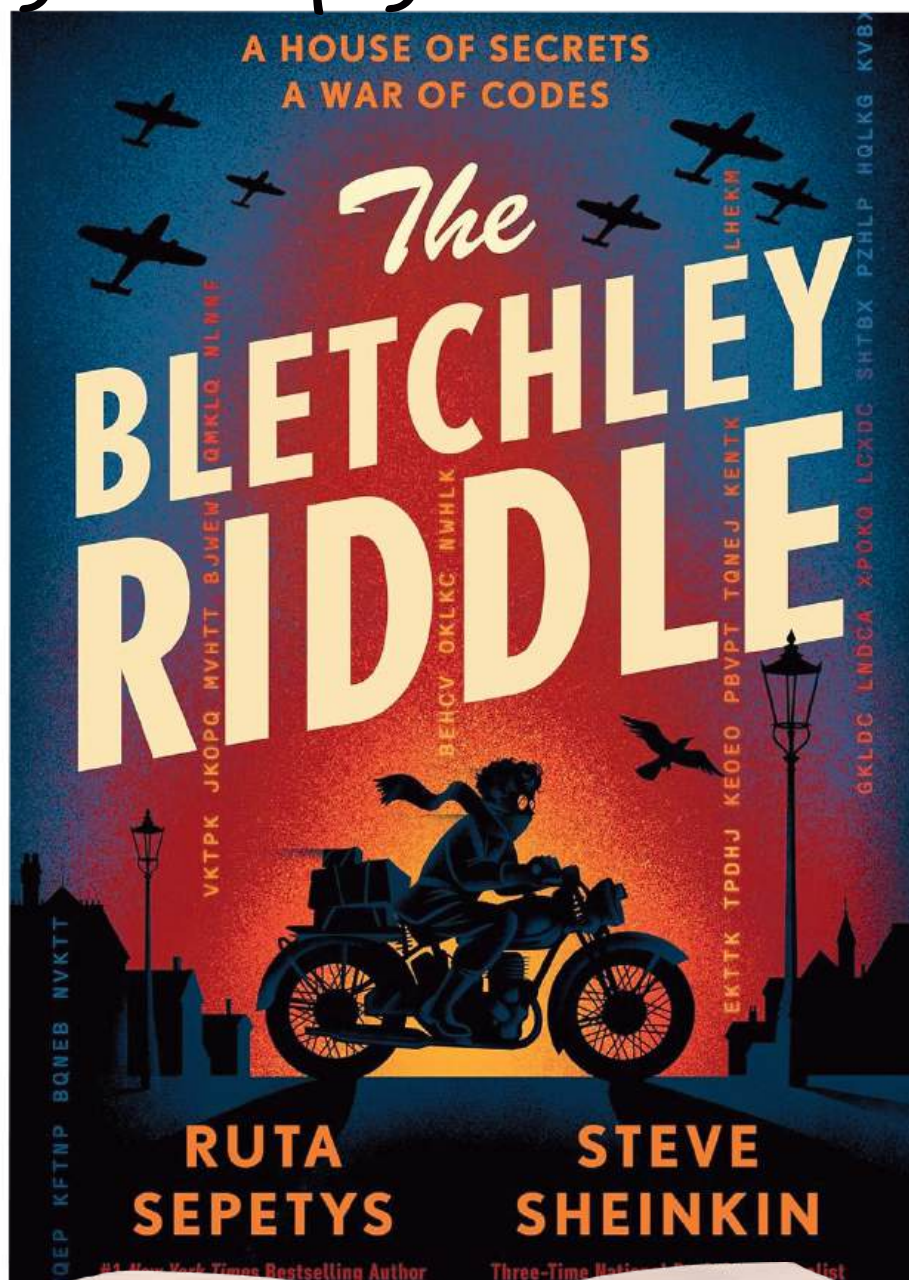
Look at the objects featured on the YouTube thumbnail and book cover and then make a few predictions.



I predict this story will be about...

THE BLETCHLEY RIDDLE

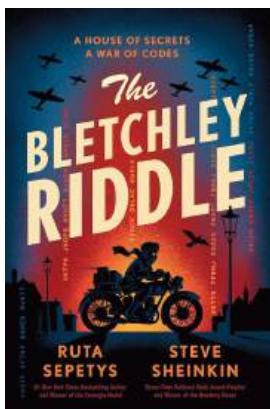
by Ruta Sepetys & Steve Sheinkin



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



The Bletchley Riddle

Written by Ruta Sepetys
and Steve Sheinkin

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



Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

Remember, you are bound by the Official Secrets Act...

Summer, 1940. Nineteen-year-old Jakob Novis and his quirky younger sister Lizzie share a love of riddles and puzzles. And now they're living inside of one. The quarrelsome siblings find themselves amidst one of the greatest secrets of World War II—Britain's eccentric codebreaking factory at Bletchley Park. As Jakob joins Bletchley's top minds to crack the Nazi's Enigma cipher, fourteen-year-old Lizzie embarks on a mission to solve the mysterious disappearance of their mother. The Battle of Britain rages and Hitler's invasion creeps closer. And at the same time, baffling messages and codes arrive on their doorstep while a menacing inspector lurks outside the gates of the Bletchley mansion. Are the messages truly for them, or are they a trap? Could the riddles of Enigma and their mother's disappearance be somehow connected? Jakob and Lizzie must find a way to work together as they race to decipher clues which unravel a shocking puzzle that presents the ultimate challenge: How long must a secret be kept?

AR Reading Level: 4.1

Who Wrote It?

Ruta Sepetys

Ruta Sepetys was born and raised in Michigan in a family of artists, readers, and music lovers. The daughter of a refugee, Ruta is drawn to underrepresented stories of strength through struggle and hopes to give voice to those who weren't able to tell their story. Her award-winning historical novels are published in more than sixty countries and have received over forty literary prizes.



Two Authors!

Steve Sheinkin



A former textbook writer, Steve Sheinkin is now making amends by writing history books that kids and teens actually want to read. His books have won numerous awards. Steve lives with his family in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Lexile Level: 540L

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.

Name _____



As you listen to today's First Chapter Friday video and author interview, record your thoughts, connections and further questions you'd like to ask the author.

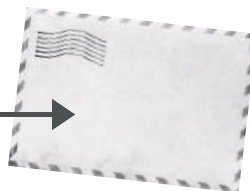
The Bletchley Riddle

by Ruta Sepetys & Steve Sheinkin



Want to write to Ruta and Steve? Use this addresses:

Ruta Sepetys OR Steve Sheinkin
c/o Viking Books for Young Readers
Publicity Department
Penguin Random House
1745 Broadway
New York, NY 10019



☆ MY THOUGHTS ☆

☆ ☆ CONNECTIONS ☆ ☆

Text to Self - Text to Text - Text to World

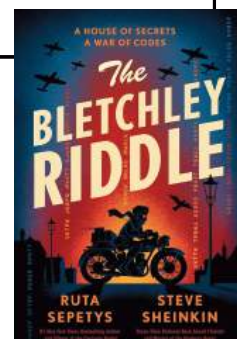
☆ ☆ QUESTIONS I ☆ ☆
STILL HAVE...

After listening to this first chapter and interview,
I am interested in reading a book by this author.

YES / NO



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



Name _____

First Chapter Friday

Mystery Quote

As you listen to the read aloud, watch the screen to learn the mystery quote, one word at a time. Write it here:



○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Book Title: _____

I think this quote relates to:
(check as many as apply)

- ☐ The book's theme
- ☐ A lesson the character learns
- ☐ My life: _____
- ☐ Our curriculum (ELA/Reading lesson)
- ☐ Another book I have read: _____
- ☐ Other: _____



I want to continue
reading this book.



I do not want
to continue
reading this
book.

Name _____

First Chapter Friday

Mystery Quote

My rating of this book's
beginning:



○ ○ ○ ○ ○

I rate this book's beginning ____ stars
because

Emotions I felt as I
listened to this chapter:

Happy Intrigued Hopeful Disgust Nervous Joyful
Focused Sad Frustrated Confident Jealous Bored
Excited Fear Angry Entertained other: _____

The elements of this book's beginnings that drew
me in or pushed me away were... because...

Name _____

First Chapter Friday

Mystery Quote

As you listen to the read aloud, watch the screen to learn the mystery quote, one word at a time. Write it here:

Book Title: _____

Quote: _____

Then turn this paper into your teacher for a chance to win a prize!

Name _____

First Chapter Friday

Mystery Quote

As you listen to the read aloud, watch the screen to learn the mystery quote, one word at a time. Write it here:

Book Title: _____

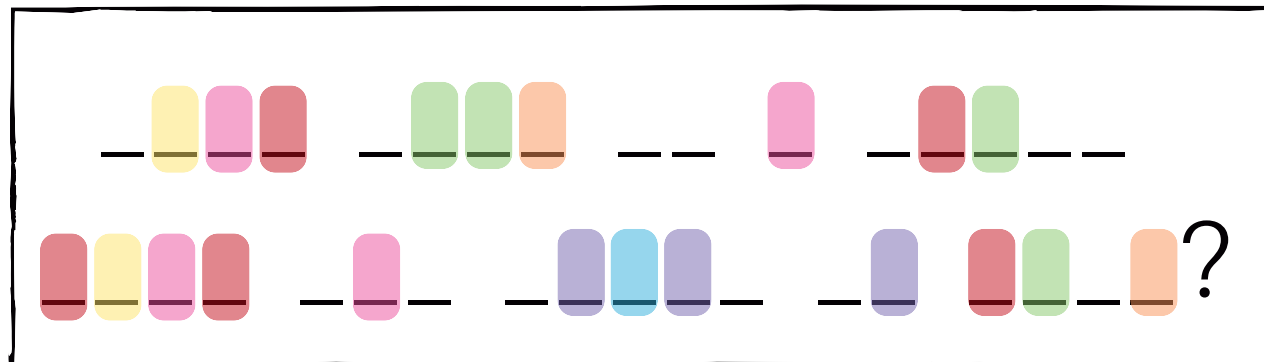
Quote: _____

Then turn this paper into your teacher for a chance to win a prize!

First Chapter Friday

Mystery Quote

a d e h o v t



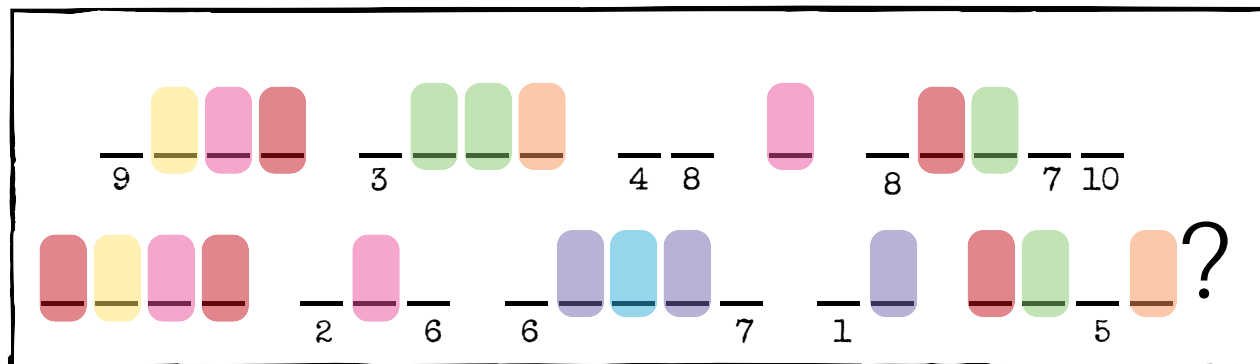
Name _____

First Chapter Friday

Mystery Quote

a d e h o v t

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
b	c	g	i	l	n	r	s	w	y



Then turn this paper into your teacher for a chance to win a prize!

Name _____

First Chapter Friday

Mystery Quote

As you listen to the read aloud, watch the screen to learn the mystery quote, one word at a time. Write it here:

_____?

Then turn this paper into your teacher for a chance to win a prize!

Name _____

First Chapter Friday

Mystery Quote

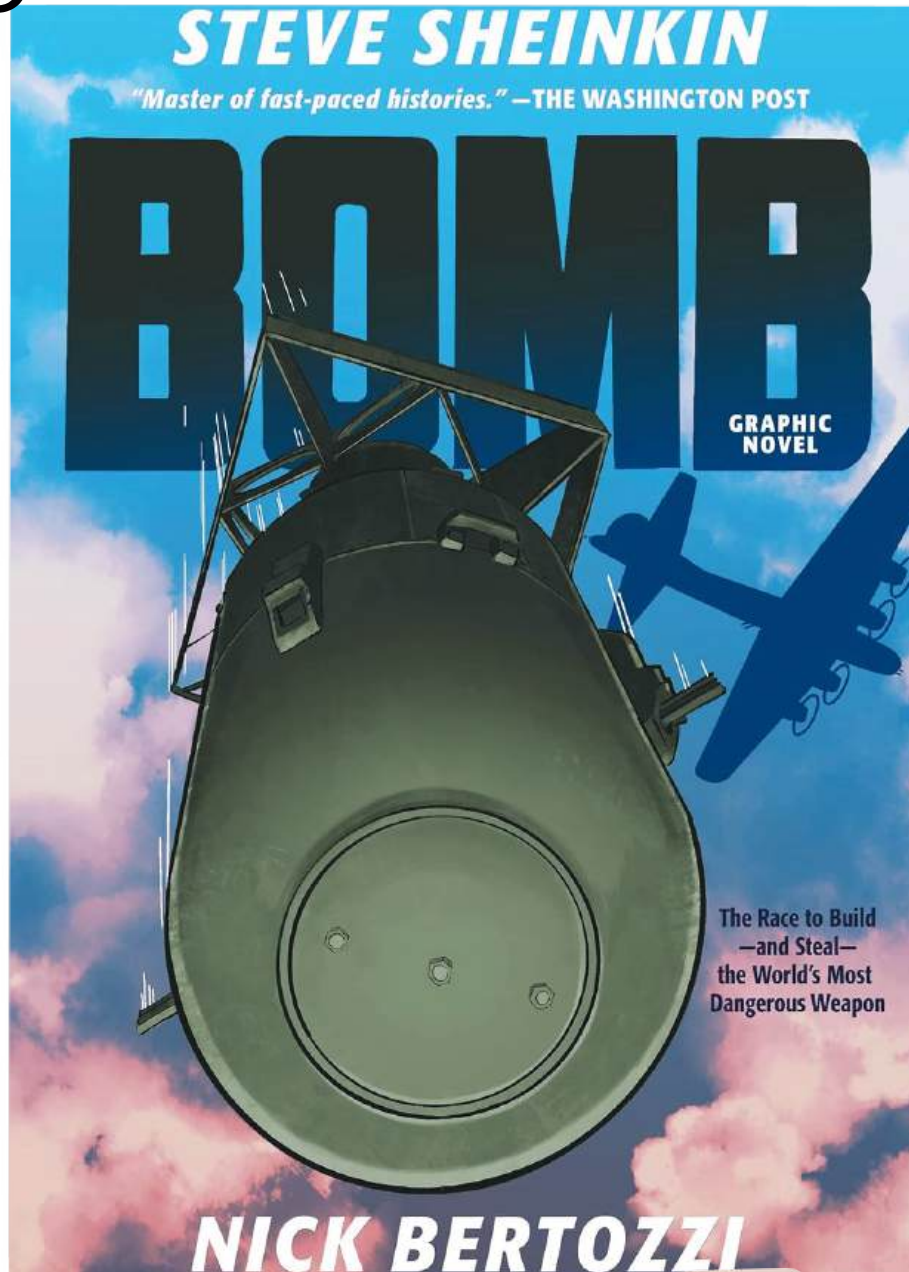
As you listen to the read aloud, watch the screen to learn the mystery quote, one word at a time. Write it here:

_____?

Then turn this paper into your teacher for a chance to win a prize!

BOMB

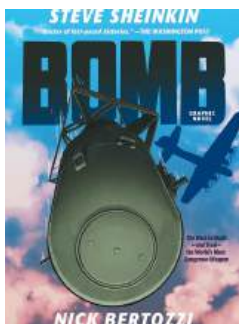
by Steve Sheinkin & Nick Bertozzi



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



Bomb

Written by Steve Sheinkin

Illustrated by Nick Bertozzi



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?

In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned three continents. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists, led by "father of the atomic bomb" J. Robert Oppenheimer, was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb. A riveting graphic novel adaptation of the award-winning nonfiction book, *Bomb*—the fascinating and frightening true story of the creation behind the most destructive force that birthed the arms race and the Cold War.

Who Wrote It?

Steve was born in Brooklyn, NY, and my family lived in Mississippi and Colorado before moving back to New York and settling in the suburbs north of New York City. As a kid his favorite books were action stories and outdoor adventures. I went to Syracuse University and studied communications and international relations. The highlight of those years was a summer I spent in Central America, where I worked on a documentary on the streets of Nicaragua. After college Steve moved made a movie with his brother, wrote comics and worked for a textbook company. After a lot of time spent writing and editing for other people, he finally got the opportunity to write his own book and



Photo Credit: Erica Miller

ideas and aren't we all lucky he did! Other people agree because Steve has won many awards for his work. You can learn more about Steve on his website: www.stevesheinkin.com.

AR Reading Level: 4.8

Lexile Level: 640L

I want to read this book: YES / NO



WHAT I THINK

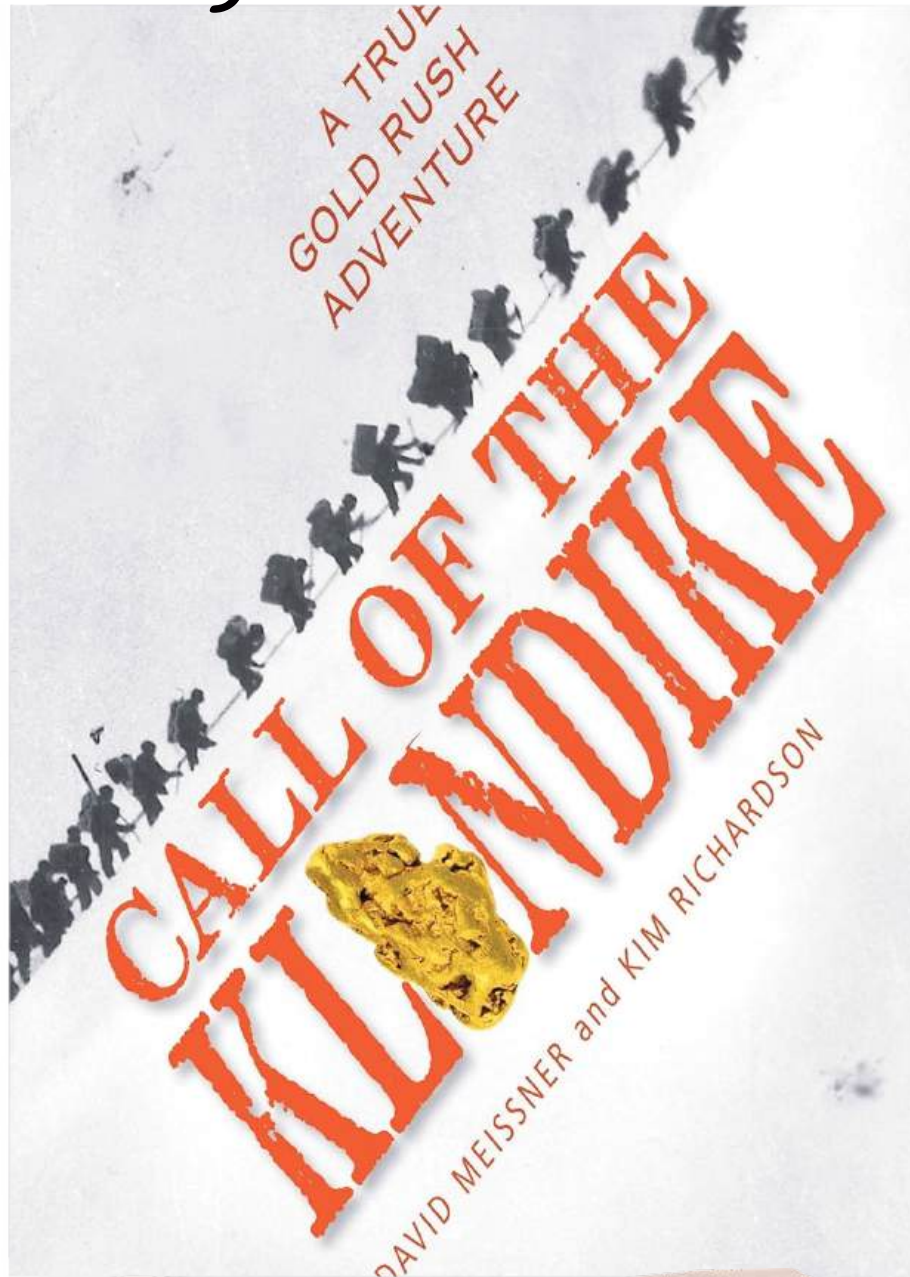




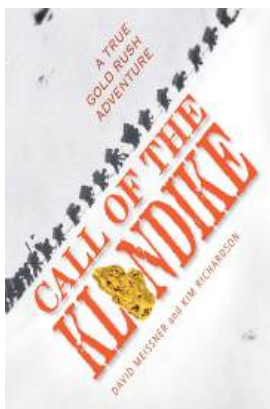
Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

CALL OF THE KLONDIKE

by David Meissner



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY



Name _____

Date _____

Call of the Klondike

by David Meissner



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?

As thousands head north in search of gold, Marshall Bond and Stanley Pearce join them, booking passage on a steamship bound for the Klondike goldfields. The journey is life threatening, but the two friends make it to Dawson City, in Canada, build a cabin, and meet Jack London—all the while searching for the ultimate reward: gold!

A riveting, true, action-packed adventure, with their telegrams, diaries, and letters, as well as newspaper articles and photographs. An author's note, timeline, bibliography, and further resources encourage readers to dig deeper into the Gold Rush era. The clock is ticking and Callum can't trust anyone...

The remarkable tale of two young men during the Klondike Gold Rush, told through first-hand diaries, letters, and more — 'excellent reading' for middle grade fans of The Call of the Wild and adventure stories (School Library Journal)

Who Wrote It?

David Meissner doesn't like to sit still. This is proven true by the many jobs he has including: teacher, author (20+ books!), video creator and organization director. He has also travelled to more than thirty countries and is obviously no stranger to adventure. Another cool thing about David is that he knows four languages - English, Spanish, German and Portuguese! David now lives in Colorado. You can learn more about him in this interview we did back in 2016! -->



<https://amandazieba.com/blog/2016/3/28/author-research-trips-an-interview-with-david-meissner>

AR Reading Level: 6.8

Lexile Level: 110L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

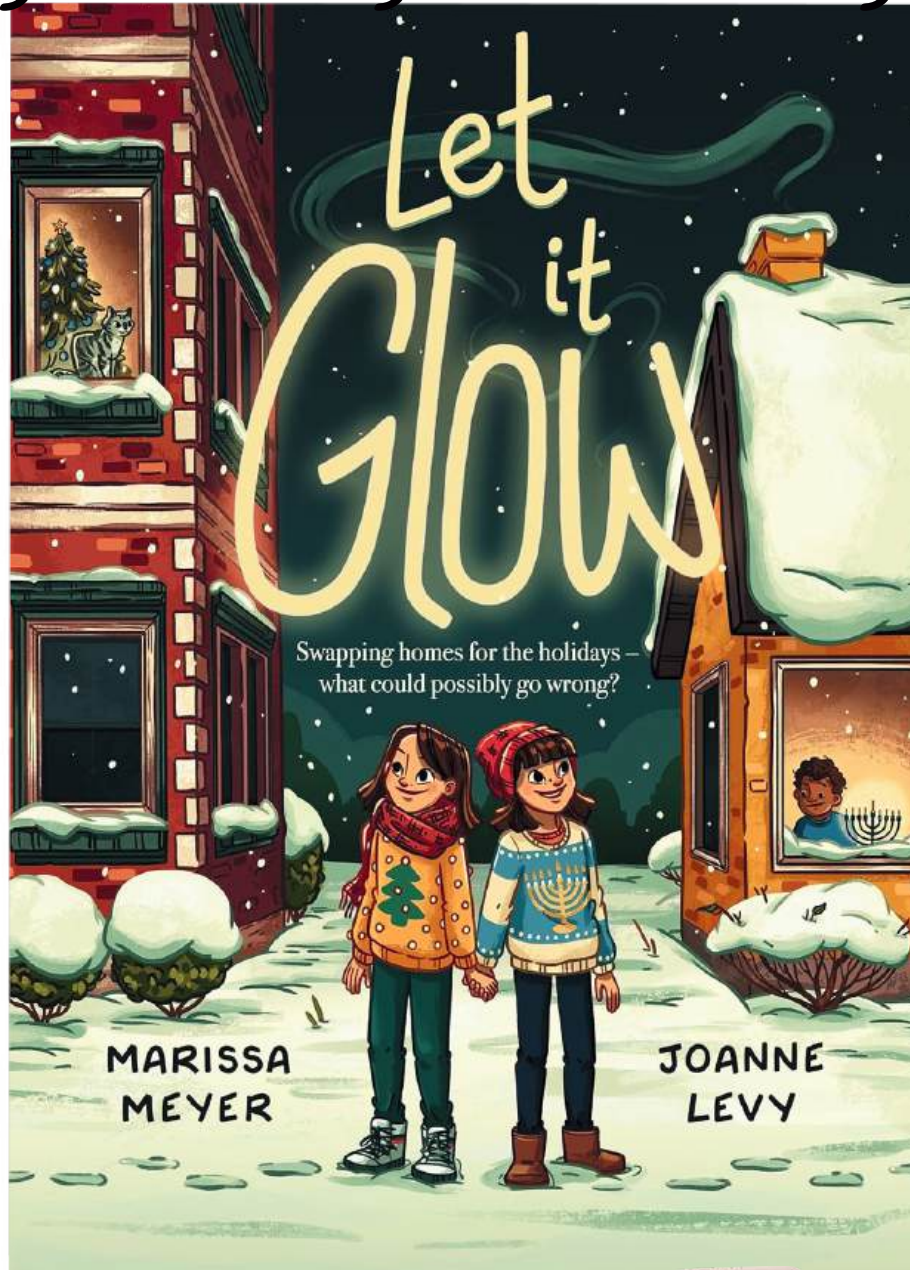
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

LET IT GLOW

by Marissa Meyer & Joanne Levy



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



Let it Glow

by Marissa Meyer
and Joanne Levy



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?

LET IT GLOW is a middle-grade novel about identical twin sisters separated at birth who meet by chance at tryouts for a holiday pageant. Swapping homes for the holidays – what could possibly go wrong? When Aviva Davis and Holly Martin meet at the holiday pageant tryouts for their local senior's center, they think they must be seeing double. While they both knew they were adopted, they had no idea they had a biological sibling, let alone an identical twin! The similarities are only skin deep, though, because while Aviva has a big personality and even bigger Broadway plans, Holly is more the quiet dreamer type who longs to become a famous author like her grandfather. One thing the girls do have in common is their curiosity about how the other celebrates the holidays. What better way to discover the magic of the holidays than to experience them firsthand? The girls secretly trade lives, planning to stage a dramatic reveal to their families at the pageant. Two virtual strangers swapping homes, holidays, and age-old traditions—what could possibly go wrong?

Who Wrote It?

Marissa Meyer lives in Washington (stat), USA and mostly writes Young Adult Fantasy novels. In addition to loving books, Marissa's favorite (non-human) things are cookies and baths.

Joanne Levy lives in Ontario, Canada and mostly writes middle grade realistic fiction. When she isn't writing, Joanne enjoys making little creatures out of felt (cloth) and selling them on Etsy.

Marissa and Joanne co-wrote this book, meaning they wrote it together!



AR Reading Level: 4.6

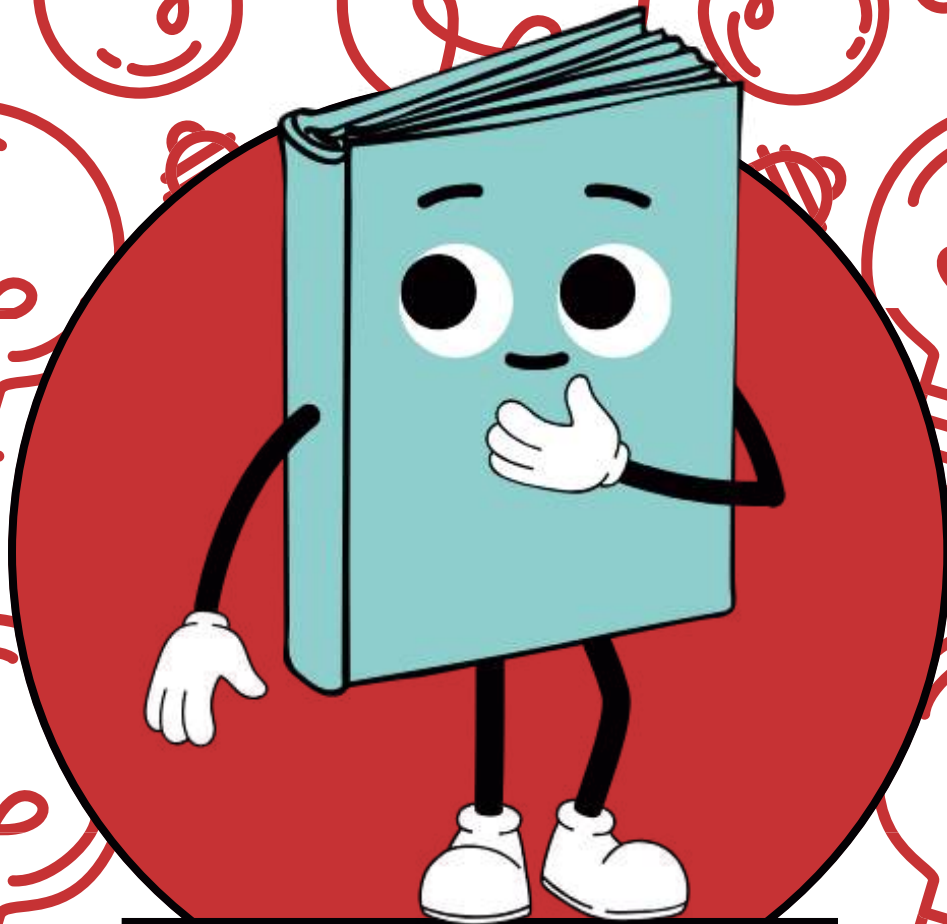
Lexile Level: N/A

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.



December
2025

29

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.



December 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	Week 5

Total:

TEAM
#2

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5

Total:

TEAM
#3

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5

Total:

TEAM
#4

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5

Total:

TEAM
#5

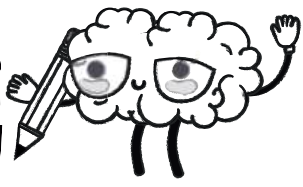
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5

Total:

TEAM
#6

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5

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!

RED TRIVIA BRAIN BREAK GAME



This link will take you to the YouTube Video of Red Trivia questions: <https://youtu.be/nlbkaedo16s>





Red Trivia Answer Sheet

Trivia
Video



Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

Name/Team Name: _____

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

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



Red Trivia Answer Sheet

Trivia
Video



Directions:
Circle your answer for
each question below.

Name/Team Name: _____

1: Choose 2 - hearts clubs
diamonds spades

2: Clarence or Clifford

3: The Red Sea or The Red
Sol

4: The Red Bat or The Red Sox

5: A B C D

6: The Redtree National
Forest or The Redwood
National Forest

7: Old Bob and Little Sue or
Old Dan and Little Ann

8: Make way for famous
people or Roll out the red
carpet

9: A B C D

10: Oval or Octagon

11: China or Japan

12: Circle 1 - True or False

13: A B C D

14: True or False

15: Bangor, Maine or
Orlando, Florida

16: 20% or 2%

17: Matador or
Masters

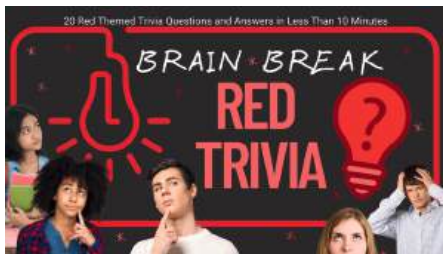
18: True or False

19: Red Sky or Red Eye

20: Mars or Jupiter

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

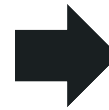
Score: ____/20



Red Trivia Brain Break Game

Name: _____

Trivia
Video



1 What are the two red shapes featured in a regular deck of playing cards? (choose 2)

- a) diamonds
- b) clubs
- c) hearts
- d) spades



2 What is the name of Emily Elizabeth's Big Red Dog in the beloved picture book series with the same name??

C _ _ _ _ _

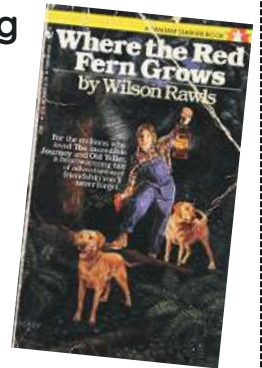


3 What is the name of this body of water that is among the saltiest in the world?

The _ _ _ _ _

7 What are the rhyming names of the two famous dogs in this classic book?

Old _ _ _
& Little _ _ _



8 According to a popular phrase, when you want to give someone the BEST hospitality, you do what?

R _ _ _ _ _
RED _ _ _ _ _

4 What is the name of the professional baseball team in Boston?

_ _ _ _ _



9 Which American political party is represented by the color red?

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

5 What is Lightning McQueen's catch phrase in the movie Cars?

- a) Ka-ching!
- b) Boom!
- c) Ka-chow!
- d) Bling Bling!

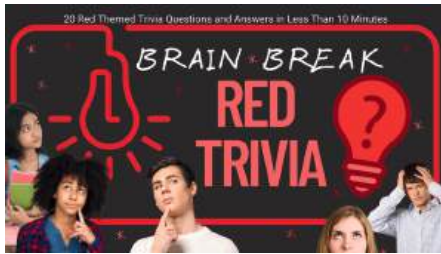
10 What is the shape name of this common, red road sign?

_ _ _ _ _



6 This is a picture of a tree from what Californian National Forest?

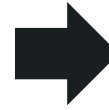
The R _ _ _ _ _ National Forest



Red Trivia Brain Break Game

Name: _____

Trivia
Video



- 11** What country considers Red a lucky color? Fun Fact: Brides in this country often wear red wedding dresses!

C _ _ _ _



- 12** True or False: Red noses for clowns began because a circus performer fell and got a bloody nose mid-show.

- a) True
b) False

- 13** What year were fire hydrants invented?



- a) 1802
b) 1901
c) 1894
d) 1983

- 14** True or False: Barns are painted red so the cows can easily find their way home.

- a) True
b) False

- 15** What city in the US was the first Red Lobster restaurant opened?

O _ _ _ _ _ , _ _

- 16** What percentage of people in the US have red hair?

_ %



- 17** What is the proper name for a bull fighter?

M _ _ _ _ _

- 18** Once upon a time, wearing RED LIPSTICK was illegal.

- a) True
b) False



- 19** What do you call an airplane flight that leaves late at night and arrives the next morning?

The _ _ _ _ _



- 20** Which planet in our solar system is nicknamed "the red planet?"

_ _ _ _ _

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

Score: ____ / 20



Red Trivia Answer Key

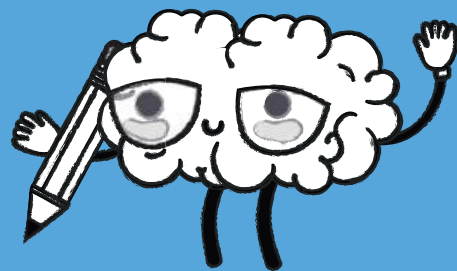
Directions:
If you'd like to check
student answers
without the video,
here is the answer key.

ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Hearts and Diamonds | 11. China |
| 2. Clifford | 12. True |
| 3. The Red Sea | 13. A) 1802 |
| 4. The Red Sox | 14. False |
| 5. C) Ka-chow! | 15. Orlando, Florida |
| 6. The Redwood National Forest | 16. 2% |
| 7. Old Dan and Little Ann | 17. Matador |
| 8. Roll out the red carpet | 18. True |
| 9. D) Republican | 19. Red Eye |
| 10. Octagon | 20. Mars |

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

HANUKKAH TRIVIA



Question and Answer Sheets

HANUKKAH- A HISTORY

A HISTORY OF HANUKKAH

Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish holiday also known as the Festival of Lights. It celebrates the rededication of an important religious building, the Second Temple which is located in Jerusalem. The original event happened over 2,000 years ago, but Jewish people continue to celebrate this important moment still today. This event occurred after a small group of Jewish soldiers, called the Maccabees, successfully rebelled against the Greek-Syrian army.

One of the most famous stories associated with Hanukkah is the miracle of the oil. When the Maccabees reclaimed the Temple, they found only enough oil to light the menorah, a special candle holder for only one day. Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days! This miracle is why Hanukkah lasts eight nights and is symbolized by lighting the menorah.

HOW IS HANUKKAH CELEBRATED?

Each night of Hanukkah, one additional candle is lit on the menorah using a special helper candle called the Shamash. Menorahs can be made from various materials, ranging from expensive metals to creative versions crafted by children. Some families use candles, while others light menorahs with olive oil, honoring the original story. Another Hanukkah tradition is playing with a toy called a dreidel. The letters on the spinning top toy stand for "A great miracle happened there," a nod to the miraculous oil.

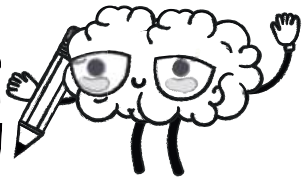
While Hanukkah is a joyous holiday, it is not the most important Jewish holiday; it is considered minor compared to others like Yom Kippur or Passover. However, its timing near Christmas has influenced some modern traditions, such as giving gifts on all eight nights. Historically, children were given gelt—small amounts of money—but today, gifts often range from toys to larger presents. Traditional foods like potato pancakes, called latkes, and jelly doughnuts, known as sufganiyot, are fried in oil to commemorate the miracle.

Celebrated at sunset, Hanukkah is a time for family, reflection, and fun. From spinning dreidels to enjoying festive foods, this holiday brings light and joy to the dark winter nights. With its rich history and vibrant traditions, Hanukkah reminds us of the power of faith, perseverance, and the miracles that shine through in challenging times.



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





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!

HANUKKAH TRIVIA VIDEO



This link will take you to
the YouTube Video of
Hanukkah Trivia
questions:
[https://youtu.be/Y1dhrE
mVTsE?
sub_confirmation=1](https://youtu.be/Y1dhrEmVTsE?sub_confirmation=1)





Hanukkah 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
Hanukkah Trivia ROCKSTAR?!?!



Trivia
Video



Hanukkah Trivia

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

- 1 In English, Hanukkah is known by two names -- Festival of Lights and Feast of Dedication.
a) yes b) no
- 2 A game of chance is played at Hanukkah with a toy called a:
a) Dreidel b) Spinner c) Top d) Latke
- 3 What do the letters on this toy stand for?
a) Joy to the World b) A Great Miracle Happened There
c) The Festival of Lights d) Hanukkah is a Family Time
- 4 What time of day does Hanukkah start?
a) Midnight b) Noon c) Sunrise d) Sunset
- 5 True or False? The candle used to light the other candles in the menorah is called the "shamash."
a) True b) False



- 6 How long do the menorah candles have to burn each night?

- 7 How many days does Hanukkah last?
a) 7 b) 1 c) 8 d) 5

- 8 True or False: Hanukkah is the most important day of the Jewish year.
a) True b) False
- 9 What President was the first to light a Menorah in the White House.
a) President Truman b) President Lincoln
c) President Obama d) President Harrison
- 10 True or False: Hanukkah is the Jewish Christmas.
a) True b) False





11 Yes or No? Eight Chanukah candles are lit every night of the holiday.

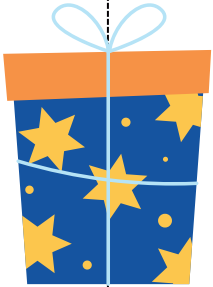
- a) Yes b) No

12 During Hanukkah It is traditional to give children small amounts of money called:

- a) Gelt b) Pennies c) Euros d) Shalom

13 On how many nights of Hanukkah must gifts be given?

- a) 0 b) 1 c) 5 d) 8



14 Menorahs are always made of:

- a) brass b) anything c) silver d) wood



15 Most people light Hanukkah candles, but some use oil. What kind of oil is traditional?

- a) olive b) corn c) canola d) Crisco

16 The most common food to eat on Hanukkah in the United States is...

- a) Lefse b) Potato Pancakes c) Meatballs d) Jelly Donuts

17 Where is the world's largest menorah?

- a) Israel b) Germany c) USA d) Canada

18 True or False: The dates for Hanukkah change and can be different from year to year.

- a) True b) False



19 The Jewish soldiers in the Hanukkah story are the:

- a) Israelites b) The Blue Army c) Maccabees d) Haggadahs

20 True or False: In 1993, an astronaut aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour brought a menorah and dreidel so he could celebrate Hanukkah during his mission.

- a) True b) False



Hanukkah Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for
each question below.

Trivia Video



Name/Team Name: _____

1. Yes or No
2. A B C D
3. A B C D
4. A B C D
5. True or False
6. _____
7. A B C D
8. True or False
9. A B C D
10. True or False
11. Yes or No
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. True or False
19. A B C D
20. True or False

Score:

____/20



Hanukkah Trivia Answer Key

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

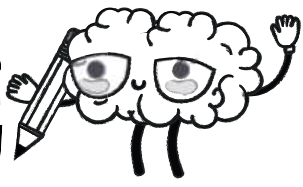
ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Yes | 11. No |
| 2. A) Dreidel | 12. A) Gelt |
| 3. B) A great miracle happened here | 13. A) 0 (zero) |
| 4. D) Sunset | 14. B) Anything |
| 5. True | 15. A) Olive |
| 6. At least a half hour | 16. B) Potato Pancakes |
| 7. C) 8 | 17. C) USA |
| 8. False | 18. True |
| 9. A) President Truman | 19. C) Maccabees |
| 10. False | 20. True |

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

Trivia Video





Trivia Game Video Link

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

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD TRIVIA



This link will take you to the YouTube
Video of Christmas Around the World

Trivia questions:

<https://youtu.be/QG4Jvw-VxOO>





Around the World Christmas 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
Christmas Trivia ROCKSTAR?!?!

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

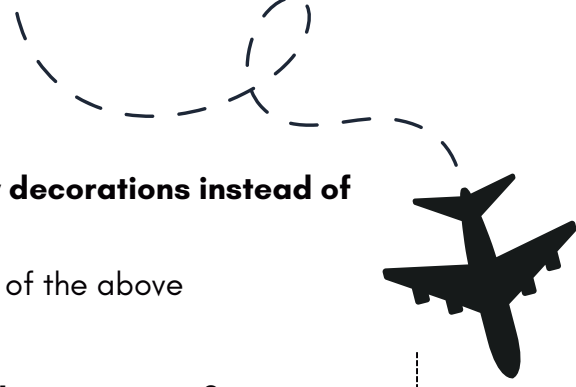


Trivia
Video

Christmas Around the World



- 1 Santa's official address is in which country?**
a) Canada b) Greenland c) Norway d) Finland
- 2 What country created Egg Nog?**
a) France b) England c) Italy d) Australia
- 3 In Austria, who is the festive character "krampus" looking for?**
a) Naughty Children b) Rudolph -- he needs a ride c) Santa d) The Elves
- 4 In which country are the main streets of big cities closed so people can roller skate on Christmas Eve?**
a) Aruba b) Venezuela c) Antigua d) Vietnam
- 5 What has been the world's heaviest Christmas Present?**
a) A warship b) A precious gemstone c) A statue d) A mansion
- 6 Which country gave us the songs O'Christmas Tree and Silent Night?**
a) England b) Germany c) USA d) Canada
- 7 Which of the following is not a name for Santa world wide?**
a) Sinterklaas b) Père Noël c) Papa Rosso d) Babbo Natale
- 8 In Japan, what is the most popular restaurant to eat at for Christmas?**
a) Mc Donald's b) Kentucky Fried Chicken c) Pizza Hut d) Subway
- 9 Bolivians Bring what animal to Mass on Christmas Eve?**
a) Goat b) Mouse c) Cat d) Rooster
- 10 Poinsettias, often considered a "Christmas Flower", are a national emblem for what nation?**
a) Bermuda b) Madagascar c) New Zealand d) Chile



- 11 In Ukraine, they use fake spider webs for holiday decorations instead of what other festive item?**
a) String of lights b) Tinsel c) Ornaments d) all of the above
- 12 What country celebrates "Schmutzli", basically, the anti-Santa?**
a) France b) Brazil c) China d) Afghanistan
- 13 Fruit cake originated in which ancient country?**
a) Egypt b) Austria c) Belgium d) Bhutan
- 14 In India, lanterns shaped like what are strung up between houses?**
a) Angels b) stars c) tress d) hearts
- 15 Where are you if someone wishes you a "Mele Kalikimaka"?**
a) Cuba b) Ecuador c) Fiji d) Hawaii
- 16 In Norway, what do people hide on Christmas Eve?**
a) desserts b) toys c) brooms d) books
- 17 In Finland, Santa doesn't ride a sleigh, he rides a _____.**
a) goat b) moose c) wolf d) bear
- 18 In which country do naughty children get rotten potatoes in their shoes for Christmas?**
a) Iceland b) Russia c) Ireland d) Belarus
- 19 In Slovakia it is tradition for the head of the household to do what before everyone eats Christmas dinner?**
a) Dance around the table b) Turn on the Christmas Lights
c) Sing a festive song d) Throw food at the ceiling
- 20 In which country is it tradition to eat deep fried caterpillars to celebrate Christmas?**
a) North Korea b) Sudan c) South Africa d) Nicaragua



Around the World Christmas Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.



Trivia
Video

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: A B C D

16: A B C D

7: A B C D

17: A B C D

8: A B C D

18: A B C D

9: A B C D

19: A B C D

10: A B C D

20: A B C D



Around the World Christmas Trivia Answer Key

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

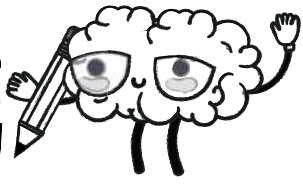
ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. A) Canada | 11. C) Tinsel |
| 2. C) England | 12. A) France |
| 3. A) Naughty Children | 13. A) Egypt |
| 4. B) Venezuela | 14. B) Stars |
| 5. C) A Statue | 15. D) Hawaii |
| 6. B) Germany | 16. B) Brooms |
| 7. C) Papa Rosso | 17. A) Goat |
| 8. B) KFC | 18. A) Iceland |
| 9. D) Rooster | 19. D) Throwing food @ ceiling |
| 10. B) Madagascar | 20. C) South Africa |



Trivia
Video

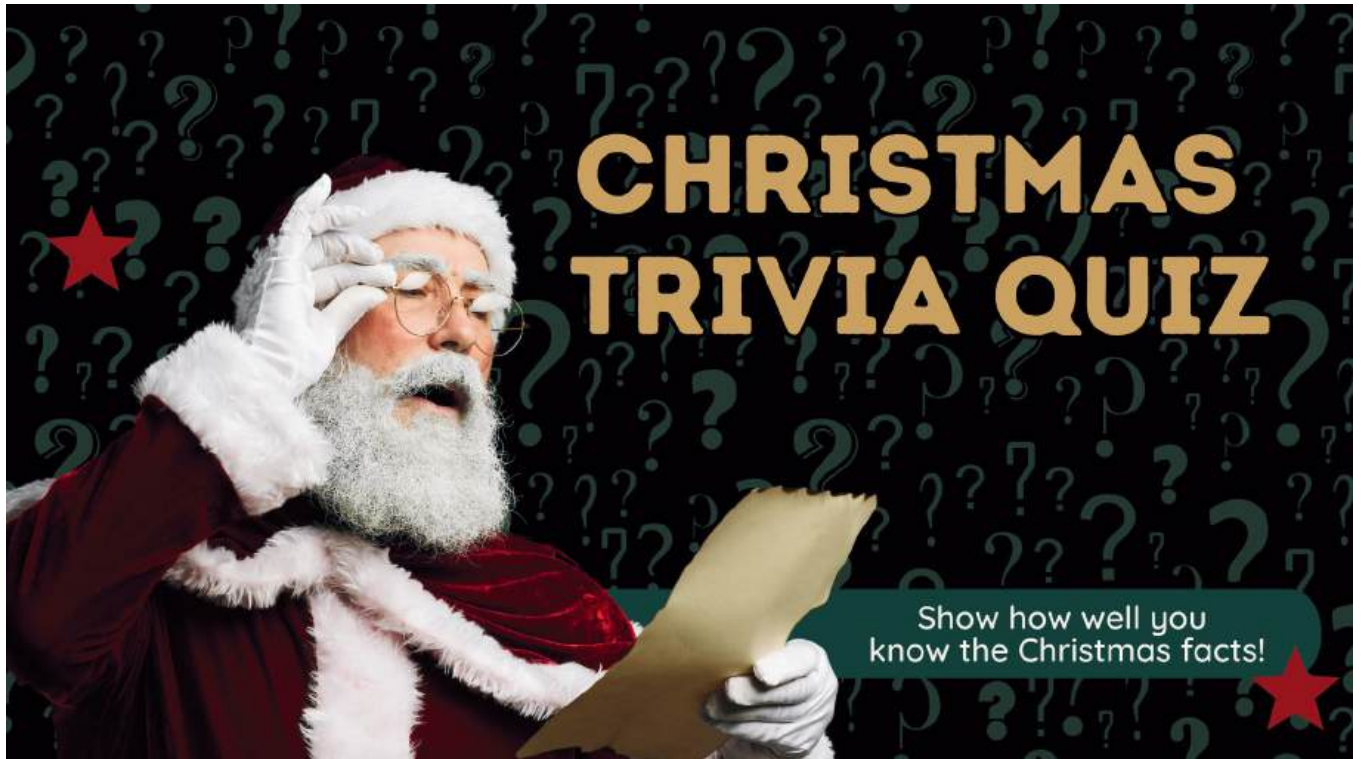
Thanks for playing!
Check out more Brain Brains on YouTube!



Trivia Game Video Link

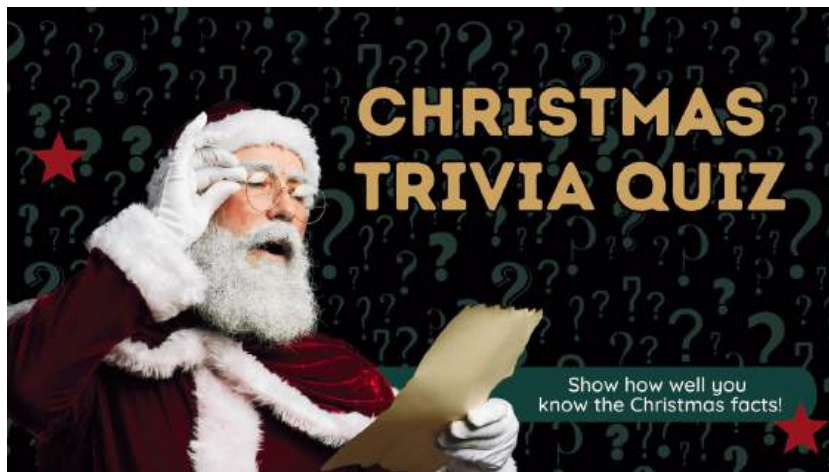
Use the below links to access the video for this activity.
Click the title, image or link to get to the video!

CHRISTMAS TRIVIA



This link will take you to the YouTube Video of Christmas Trivia questions: <https://youtu.be/hKbIKw4oQiE>





Christmas 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
Christmas Trivia ROCKSTAR?!?!

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



Trivia
Video

Christmas Trivia



1 True or False: Thomas Alfa Edison invented the electric Christmas lights.

a) True b) False

2 How many reindeer drive Santa Claus' sleigh (including Rudolph)?

a) 7 b) 8 c) 9 d) 10

3 In the song, The 12 Days of Christmas, what gift is given on Day #3?

a) 3 French Horns b) 3 French Croissants c) 3 French Hens d) 3 French Fries

4 The Nutcracker, a ballet, by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was written in what year?

a) 1824 b) 1892 c) 1912 d) 1938

5 True or False? Santa has a postal code in Canada.

a) True b) False

6 Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?

a) Norway b) Germany c) Yugoslavia

7 What traditional Christmas plant is this? →

a) mistletoe b) poinsettia c) rag weed d) Christmas flower



8 How many ghosts appear in "A Christmas Carol"?

a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4

9 True or False: Santa Claus has an official pilot's license given by the US Government.

a) True b) False

10 The movie Miracle on 34th Street is based on a real-life department store. What is it?

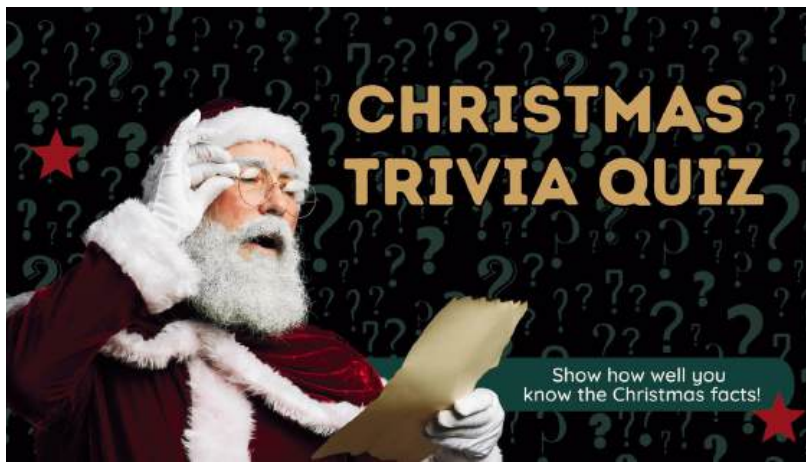
a) Macy's b) Nordstrom's c) JC Penny's





- 11** Elvis isn't going to have a white Christmas he's going to have a....
a) Blue Christmas b) Red Christmas c) Green Christmas d) Gold Christmas
- 12** How do you say "Merry Christmas" in Spanish?
a) Fleece Pajamas! b) Feliz Navidad! c) Feliz Cumplianos! d) Fuzzy Nativity!
- 13** In the movie Elf, what is the first rule in "The Code of Elves"?
a) Safety first!
b) Treat every day like Christmas!
c) Cookies for breakfast!
d) Present wrapping is an art, not a science.
- 14** On dasher, on dancer, on prancer and vixen! On _____ and cupid, on Donner and Blitzen! What name is Santa missing?
a) Tommy b) Gromet c) Comet d) Vomit
- 15** In Home Alone, where are the Mc Callisters going on vacation when they leave Kevin behind?
a) Paris b) Pittsburgh c) Portugal d) Philippines
- 16** Who Wrote: "Christmas doesn't come from a store, maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more?"
a) The Grinch b) Dr. Seuss c) Santa
- 17** How many candy canes are made each year?
a) 1,800,000,000 b) 2,000,000 c) 179,000 d) 8,900
- 18** On average, how long does it take to film a Hallmark Channel Christmas movie?
a) 2 weeks b) 2 months c) 2 years
- 19** True or False: "Jingle Bells" was the first song played in space?
a) True b) False
- 20** Which country celebrates Christmas with a giant, straw Yule Goat?
a) Switzerland b) South Africa c) Senegal d) Sweden





Christmas Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for
each question below.

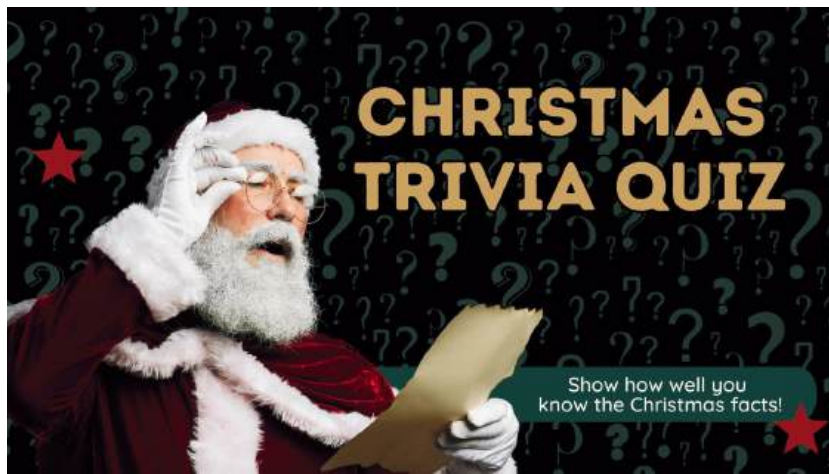
Trivia Video



Name/Team Name: _____

1. True or False
2. A B C D
3. 3 _____
4. A B C D
5. True or False
6. Norway or Germany or Yugoslavia
7. P _____
8. A B C D
9. True or False
10. Macy's or Nordstrom's or JC Penny's
11. _____ Christmas
12. F _____ N _____
13. Treat _____ like Christmas!
14. _ _ _ _ _
15. _____
16. The Grinch or Dr. Seuss or Santa
17. A B C D
18. 2 weeks or 2 months or 2 years
19. True or False
20. A B C D

Score:
____/20



Christmas Trivia Answer Key

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

ANSWER KEY

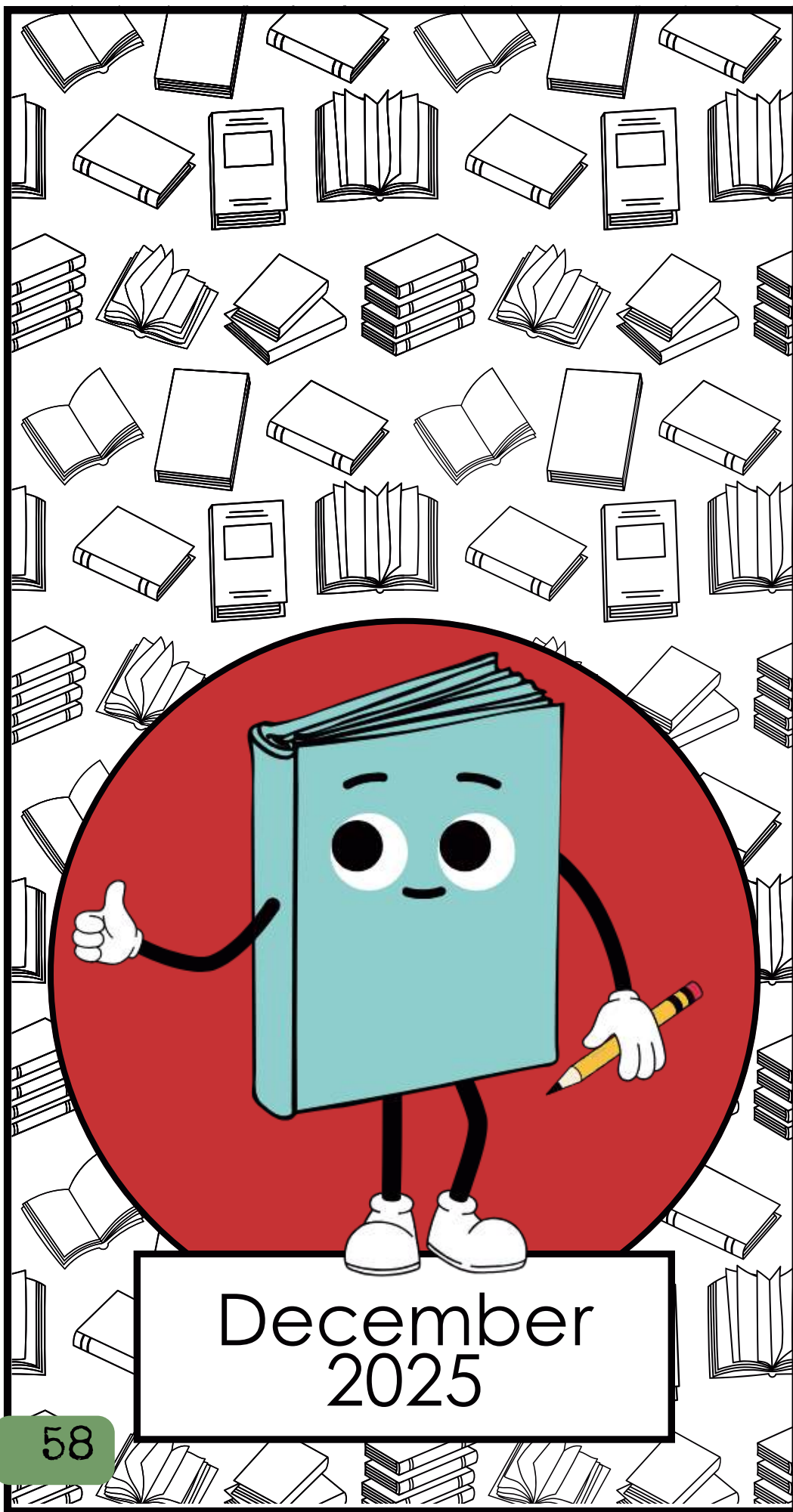
Trivia Video



- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. True | 11. Blue Christmas |
| 2. C) 9 | 12. Feliz Navidad |
| 3. 3 French Hens | 13. Treat every day like Christmas |
| 4. B) 1892 | 14. Comet |
| 5. True | 15. C) Adam Sandler |
| 6. Germany | 16. Paris |
| 7. Poinsettia | 17. Dr. Seuss |
| 8. D) 4 | 18. Stuffing |
| 9. True | 19. A) 1,800,000,000 |
| 10. Macy's | 20. 2 weeks |

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

www.wordnerdcollaborative.com



WRITING PROMPTS



HOW TO USE THE WRITING PROMPTS

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

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

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

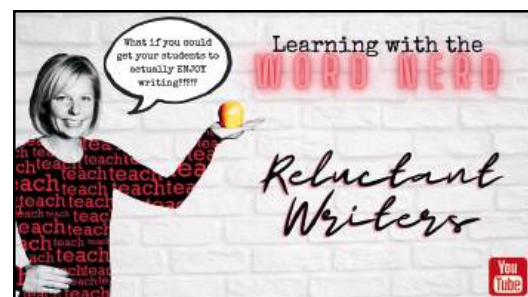
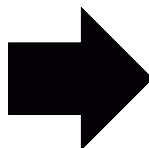
If you want, keep these “curriculum and standard” pieces of information to yourself, go for it! There is no need to let the kids know we have a secret plan to trick them into being better writers and hating it a little bit less each day!

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

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

Happy Writing!

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



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




MULTI-USE FORMS

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

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

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, text, or other markings on the paper.

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

Teacher Comments:



GEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES



My Name:

Name of classmate I am reviewing:

Date:

Title of Piece/Date Written



GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE
WRITERS DOES WELL

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

OPPORTUNITIES



LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE
WRITER TO IMPROVE

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

FINAL COMMENTS

WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:



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

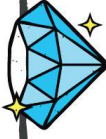
LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE

.....

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

December 1-5

Monday

A Royal Adventure

Style/Skills:

- Sensory Details
- Genre: Realistic Fiction

Tuesday

Secret Mission

Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Prediction
- Genre: Thriller/Suspense

Wednesday

Holiday Cards Piled High

Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Prediction
- Genre: Mystery (Red Herrings)

Thursday

A Snow White Retelling

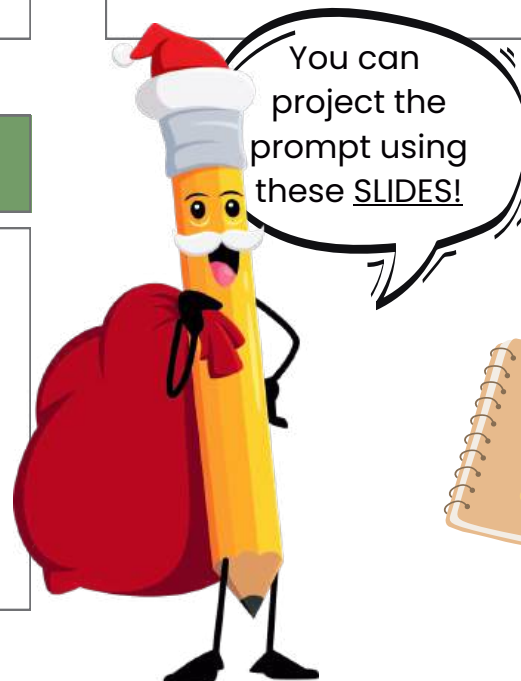
Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Critical Thinking
- Brainstorming
- Genre: Fairy Tale

Friday

Free Write Friday

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



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

**Today is your first day.
How does it go? What is your
uniform like? Do you see
anyone you know? What are
you saving money to buy?**

[illegible]

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

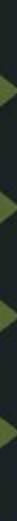
A circular inset image showing a night sky with stars and a field of golden-brown grass under a dark blue sky. The sky is filled with numerous stars of varying brightness, and the grass is a dense, textured field of dry, golden-brown vegetation. The horizon line is visible, separating the dark blue sky from the golden-brown field. The overall image is a composite of a dark blue background with a circular inset showing a night sky and a field of golden-brown grass.

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



The post master was nowhere to be found. The stack of holiday cards were piled high, a mountain of good tidings threatening to crash to the floor. Thomas looked from the pile to you, shrugged and then...

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

Snow White

Change the problem -

Originally, Snow White fell into a deep sleep after eating a poisonous apple. What other problem could she have faced instead? Describe it.

Rubric

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

Total Points = ___/10

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS

December 8-12

Monday

A Snowflake's Descent

Style/Skills:

- Connection to science curriculum
- Word Choice/Description

Tuesday

My Life as a Potato

Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Descriptive Writing (Clothing/emotions)

Wednesday

My Favorite Food

Style/Skills:

- Personal Reflection
- Description

Thursday

Let's Go On An Adventure

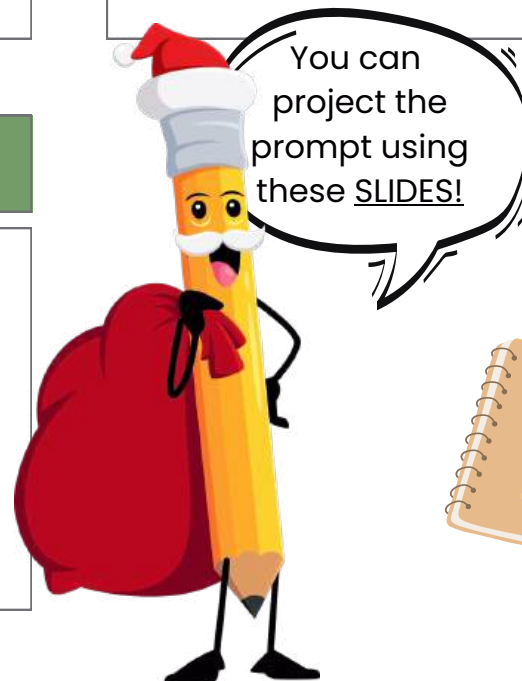
Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Prediction

Friday

Free Write Friday

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



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

A large, intricate snowflake with a complex, dendritic structure. It features a central core from which six main arms radiate. The arms are further subdivided into smaller, feathery branches. The color palette is primarily cool, with shades of light blue, white, and hints of pale purple or lavender. The snowflake is set against a solid light blue background. Scattered around the central snowflake are several smaller, simpler white snowflake icons and four-pointed starburst patterns, creating a festive, wintry atmosphere.

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

NAME: _____

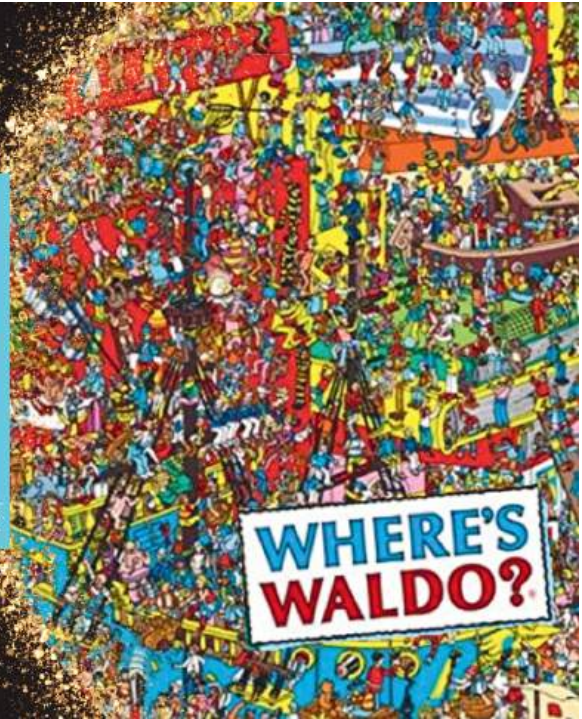
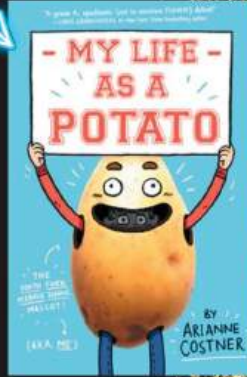
WRITING PROMPTS

FROM THE WORD NERD

"I scan the stands for Ellie, and it feels like I'm playing Where's Waldo because everyone is wearing red."

- My Life as a Potato
by Arianne Costner

**WRITE A
SCENE IN
WHICH
EVERYONE IS
WEARING THE
SAME THING.**



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 collage of various breakfast foods including croissants, fruit, eggs, sausages, and pancakes. The image is a circular collage featuring a variety of breakfast items. In the center is a large plate with a fried egg, two sausages, white beans, mushrooms, and tomatoes. To the left is a blue plate with orange juice, a slice of orange, and a basil leaf. Above it is a small white bowl with raspberries and blueberries. To the right is a light blue plate with pancakes topped with fruit. Below the central plate are two croissants in a blue bowl, a small bowl of almonds, and a bowl of oatmeal. The word "be" is visible in the top left corner.

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
FROM THE WORD NERD

This image shows a single 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

Created by the Word Nerd

WRITING PROMPTS

December 15-19

Monday

A Sci-Fi Story

Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Genre: Science Fiction

Tuesday

Frozen Time Machine

Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Genre: Science Fiction

Wednesday

My Inner Strength

Style/Skills:

- Personal Reflection

Thursday

A Chat with a Polar Bear

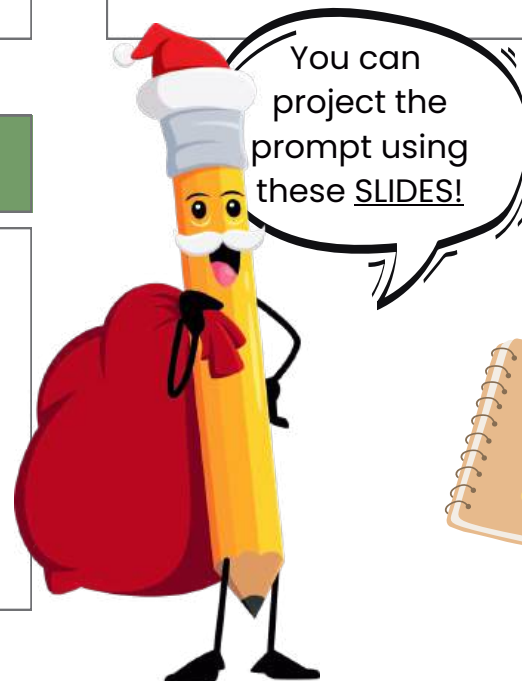
Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Dialogue

Friday

Free Write Friday

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



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

SCIENCE FICTION: FICTION BASED ON IMAGINED FUTURE SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES AND MAJOR SOCIAL OR ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES, FREQUENTLY PORTRAYING SPACE OR TIME TRAVEL AND LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS.



USE THIS PICTURE TO INSPIRE A SCIENCE FICTION STORY.

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

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

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

[illegible]

Teacher Comments:

Created by the Word Nerd

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

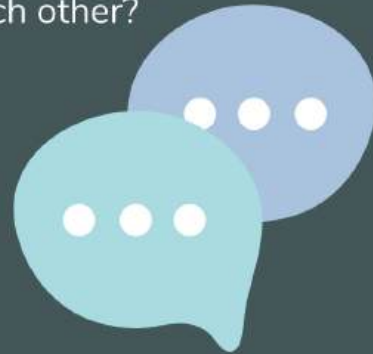


Teacher Comments:

Created by the Word Nerd

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

A polar bear and its cub are resting on a vast, flat expanse of ice. To the left, there is a small, dome-shaped igloo constructed from grey, stone-like blocks. The entrance to the igloo is a circular opening with a warm, orange glow emanating from within. The adult polar bear is lying down, facing towards the right side of the frame. Its cub is positioned slightly behind and to the left of the adult bear, looking towards the camera. The ice surface is textured with small, white snowflakes and patches of blue-tinged ice. The background is a uniform, pale blue-grey, suggesting a distant, open horizon.

[illegible]

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

Teacher Comments:

Rubric



WRITING PROMPTS

December 22-26

Monday

My Favorite Clothing

Style/Skills:

- Personal Reflection
- Description

Tuesday

Trapped in a Snow Globe

Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Prediction
- Genre: Fantasy

Wednesday

Message in the Snow

Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Genre: Mystery

Thursday

This or That?

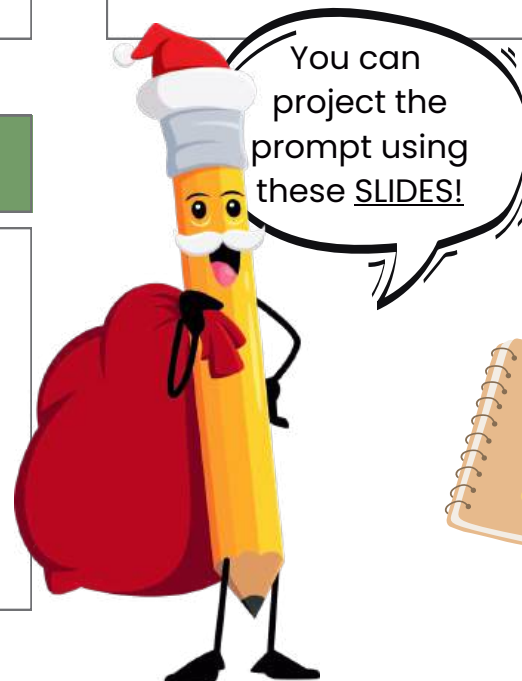
Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Genre: Fantasy

Friday

Free Write Friday

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



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

A large, messy pile of various clothing items, including plaid shirts, jeans, a red baseball cap, and a red hoodie, with a pair of red Converse sneakers in the foreground. The items are crumpled and disorganized, suggesting a state of clutter or a collection of unwanted items.

[illegible]

Total Points = /10

Rubric

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD



- START A STORY ABOUT SOMEONE BEING TRAPPED INSIDE A SNOW GLOBE

- CONTINUE THE STORY FROM WHERE THE MOVIE LEAVES OFF

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.

Teacher Comments:

Created by the Word Nerd

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD



Teacher Comments:

Created by the Word Nerd

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS

FROM THE WORD NERD

THIS TALE OR THAT?

Choose one and then write!

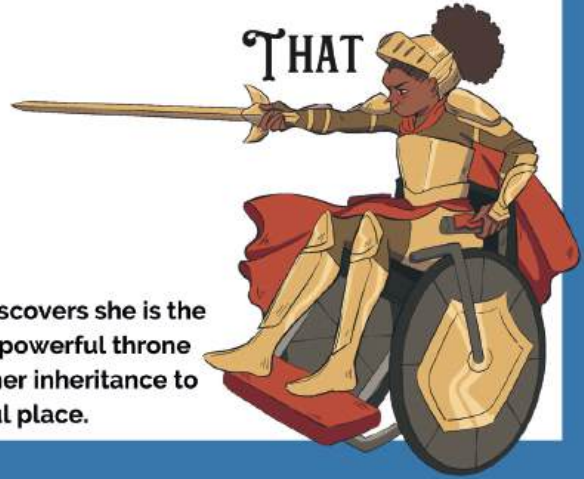
THIS



A young apprentice must learn to control his newly discovered magical powers before an ancient evil is unleashed.

OR

THAT



A young orphan discovers she is the long-lost heir to a powerful throne and must master her inheritance to reclaim her rightful place.

Writing focus: character development

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

December 22-26

Monday

The Webs We Weave

Style/Skills:

- Curriculum connection to Science
- Personification
- Comparisons

Tuesday

Mystery in the Woods

Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Story Element: Setting
- Sensory Details

Wednesday

Frosty Acrostic

Style/Skills

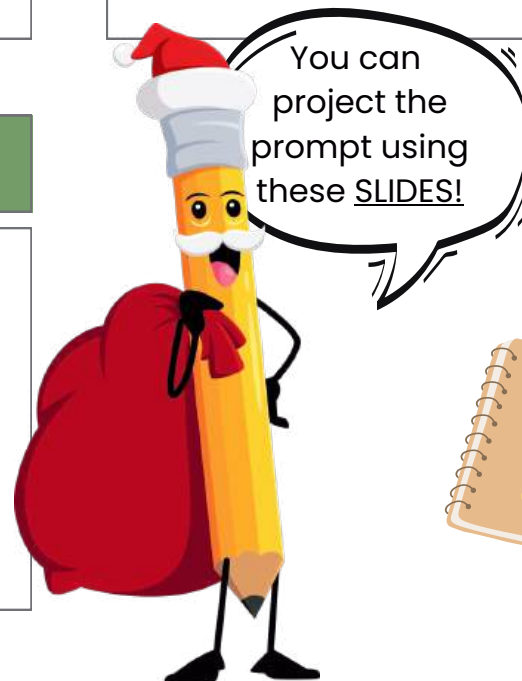
- Format: Poetry
- Word Choice
- Creative Thinking

Thursday

January

Friday

January



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING NOVEL
VICTORIA AVEYARD



RED
QUEEN

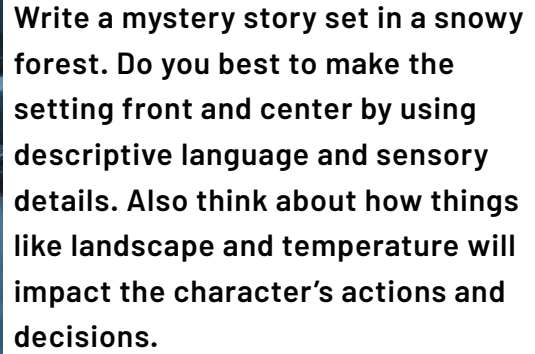
POWER IS A
DANGEROUS GAME

[illegible]

Total Points = /10

Created by the Word Nerd

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD



- Pretend the story starts with a power outage
- Pretend the characters are celebrating a birthday at a cabin
- Pretend a character has inherited the land from a long lost relative

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

Teacher Comments:

Created by the Word Nerd

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

- DECEMBER
- WINTER
- HOLIDAY
- FROZEN

[illegible]

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

Teacher Comments:



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THE NOUN TOWN MYSTERY



OF THE LIBRARY LOOTER



Created by
The Word Nerd

THE NOUN TOWN MYSTERY OF THE LIBRARY LOOTER



HELLO TEACHER FRIEND!

I'm thrilled that you've decided to download this product! Not only is it a great way to help your students practice identifying collective nouns, but it's a fun story as well!

In this product you'll find...

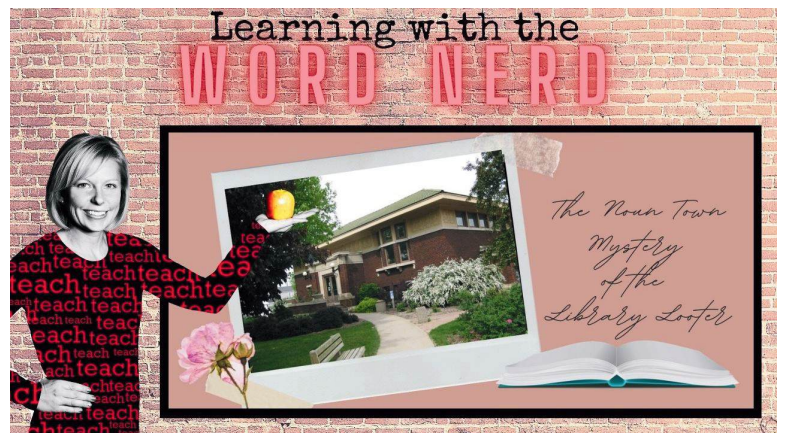
- *A short story/mystery text (with 15 collective nouns embedded in each of the 10 chapters) in a printable form with answer recording space.*
- *An answer key*
- *A writing extension activity with planning page and printable writing sheets*
- *A writing rubric for the writing extension activity*

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

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

Happy teaching!

*Amanda Zieba
(AKA: The Word Nerd)*

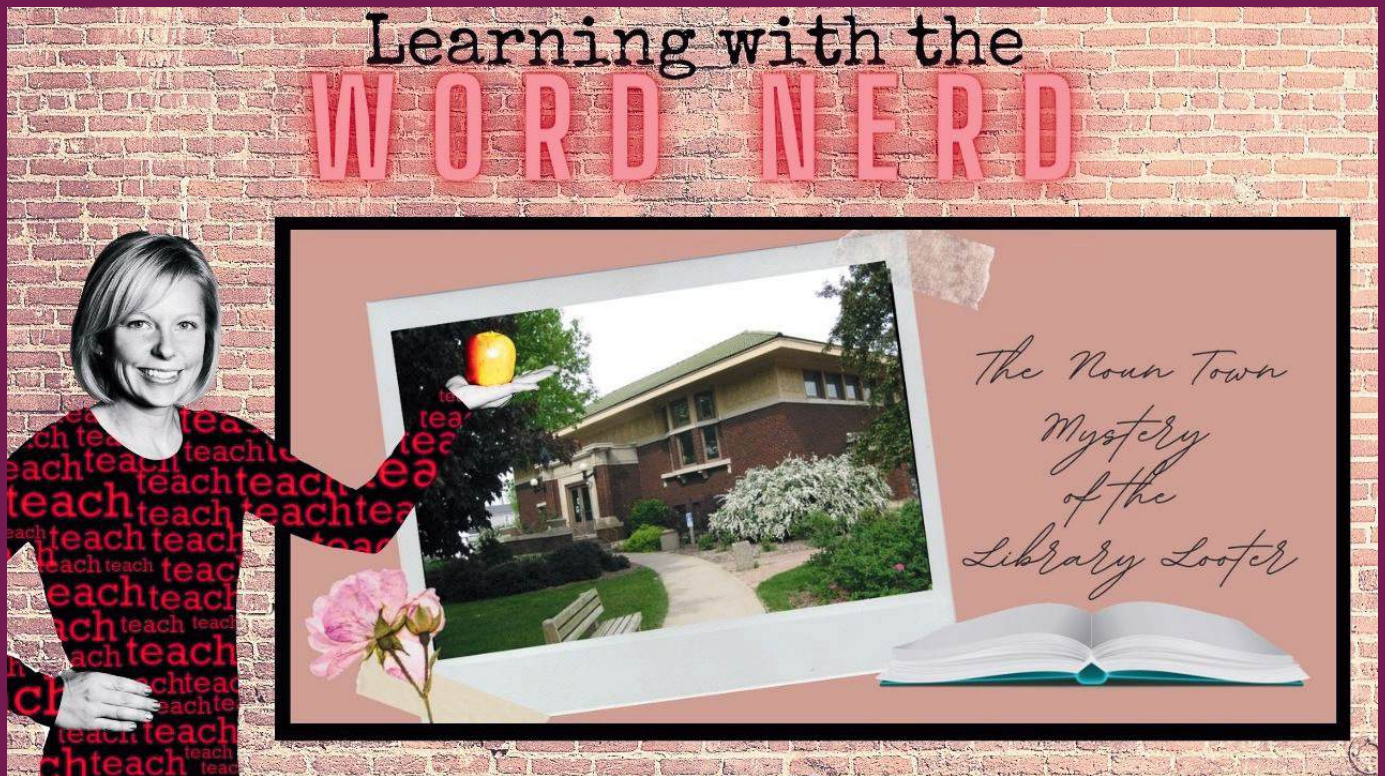


<https://youtu.be/fzNtUp8cL1E>

THE NOUN TOWN MYSTERY OF THE LIBRARY LOOTER



VIDEO



CLICK HERE FOR STUDENTS TO FOLLOW
ALONG WITH THE AUDIO VERSION OF THE
STORY.

THE WORD NERD ON TEACHERS PAY TEACHERS
WWW.AMANDAZIEBA.COM
SUBSCRIBE ON YOUTUBE

The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 1

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

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

"The librarian? Chief said it drove her absolutely mad.

She's at the hospital now," another responded.

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

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

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

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

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 2

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

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

Also heading home was a teacher, just emerging from school. She had been grading a mountain of tests and watching a naughty duo of trouble makers in detention and therefore missed the event. She attempted to catch up on the town gossip as she

walked the three short blocks home. She noticed a convoy of vehicles dispersing from the library and hastened to catch up with a student from her class.

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

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

"Why?" she asked.

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

"Very peculiar," the teacher commented.

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

"Good night."

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 3

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

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

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

"Is the librarian coming at all today?" another asked.

"Nah, she doesn't check out of the hospital until tomorrow."

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

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 4

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

To the entire population of Noun Town,

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly apologize for my library spectacle. I am truly sorry for the thicket of trouble it may have caused. I am also writing to ask for some help. While removing the books, I stopped on the moonlit lawn to gaze at the galaxy and constellations in the heavens and read a most fascinating tale. I was quite busy and could not finish it, so I marked my page with a special note. You know how the librarian hates when we lie them face down, damaging their spine in the process. Seeing as I was already going to drive her crazy with my plague of shenanigans, I didn't want to further upset her. When I returned home, yes, I too am a member of this fair city, I realized I left a large bank of wealth tucked inside the pages of the book. Do you think you could help me find it?

Please do this discretely, I don't want to create a rush of pandemonium. Simply go to the library and begin checking out a bushel of books. Don't let me catch you returning the bulk of books without reading them... I'd hate to have to turn your house inside out! If you find the currency I spoke of earlier, contact the newspaper and they will place an announcement in a random section alerting me that it has been located. If you should see this notice, feel free to discontinue your search.

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

Sincerely,
The Library Looter

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 5

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

An anthology of questions were asked. "How will the looter know if I actually read the book?" "Do you really want to test the theory and end up with your laundry scattered in your yard?" "Can I really find this nest of money buried in a load of dusty books?"

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

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

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 6

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

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

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

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 7

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

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

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

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 8

"It has been too long since I was last here," the mayor thought as he veered away from a knot of people gathered around the library shelves. He'd decided to stop and pick up some evening reading material since his wife was on vacation visiting her sister on the West Coast. It was getting a little lonely at his house and he thought it might be fun to fill his mind with a cast of characters. He was happy to leave behind thoughts of the city planning committee, the finance board meeting, a looming election, a council position that needed to be filled and the lack of appetizing dinner options awaiting him at home. He instead turned his attention to an anthology of books on the US Presidents.

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

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

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 9

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

Dear Citizens of Noun Town,

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

Sincerely,
The Library Looter

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

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

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

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Chapter 10

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

As the librarian returned to her place of work for the first time since the incident last fall, she could see a kit of little kids reading and giggling in the children's corner. A pair of siblings were sharing a chair and a book while their father browsed through a dossier of recent book

arrivals. Just beyond the family she saw an entire fleet of women young and old who had gathered for the recently started book club. Everywhere she turned she saw worshipers of the written word, wonder and enjoyment written clearly on their faces.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Collective Nouns

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The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Answer Key

Chapter 1

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

Chapter 3

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

Chapter 2

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

Chapter 4

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

The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Answer Key

Chapter 5

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

Chapter 7

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

Chapter 6

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

Chapter 8

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

The Noun Town Mystery of the Library Looter



Answer Key

Chapter 9

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

Chapter 10

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

Name: _____

Write Your Own
Collective Noun
Mystery



Writing with Collective Nouns

Directions

Choose 10 collective nouns from the index and write them below. Then, write your own Noun Town Mystery using your chosen collective nouns.

My Collective Nouns

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

Pre-Write Planning

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

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

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

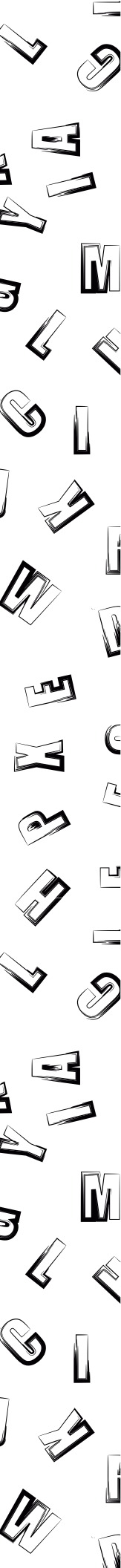
A vertical banner with a repeating pattern of stylized, 3D block letters. The letters are in various orientations (upside down, sideways) and colors (black, white, and grey). The letters include 'A', 'M', 'L', 'E', 'G', 'I', 'R', 'W', 'X', 'F', 'Y', 'U', 'P', 'H', 'J', 'K', 'N', 'O', 'Q', 'S', 'T', 'V', 'Z'. The pattern is dense and covers the entire vertical space.

Own
oun

An open book is shown at the bottom of the page. Above the book, there is a dark speech bubble containing a white question mark. The text 'Own' and 'oun' is positioned to the left of the book.

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.

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.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, and bottom lines) for writing practice.



[illegible]

Writing Rubric

Write Your Own Collective Noun Mystery



Student Name: _____

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

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

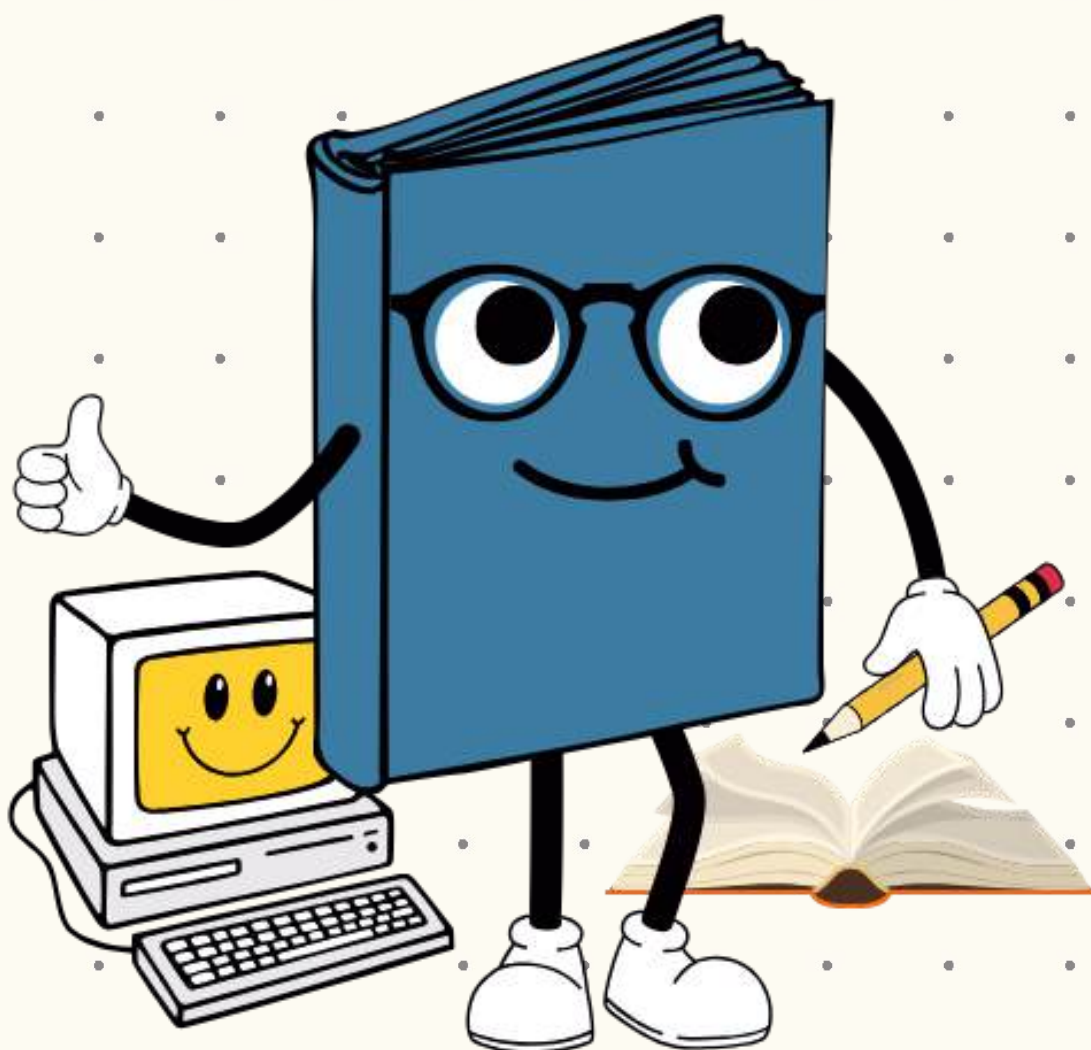
Student includes a title: __/1

Work is turned in on time: __/1

Total Points __/20

Teacher comments and feedback:

HOLIDAY RESEARCH ONE PAGER



from the Word Nerd Collaborative

HOLIDAY RESEARCH – ONE PAGER

A SELF-INTEREST RESEARCH MINI PROJECT

If you need a quick way for students to showcase their research and reporting skills, look no further. Using this resource and the website NationalToday.com students can explore a wide variety of secular and religious holidays. Fueled by their personal interest, students will happily engage and employ their skills, thus achieving both practice of standards based skills and higher achievement overall.

STANDARDS

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.2

Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.3

Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).

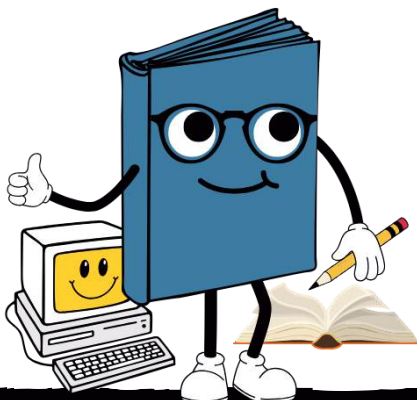
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.7

Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

A FEW TIPS

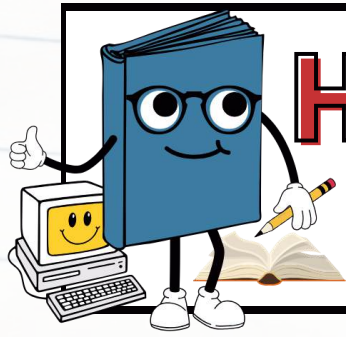


- Decide in advance how you would like your students to cite their sources and clearly communicate this with them.
- You can require students to choose a new-to-them holiday if you'd like... or ban super popular holidays like Halloween to give students the opportunity to learn something new.
- You can stretch this project to be as long or as short as you'd like, but personally, I think repeating it several times throughout the year with topics of personal interest will be more beneficial than spending an entire quarter going through the process one time. With the multiple presentation options shared at the end of this resource, you can still keep the assignment fresh, no matter how many times you repeat it.



HAPPY TEACHING AND RESEARCHING!

– AMANDA



HOLIDAY RESEARCH

One - Pager Mini Project

Your Job:

Research a holiday of your choice. Everything from Christmas to National Donut Day is on the table. Then, share out your results in one of the presentation options.

Step 1

Make a list of topics you are personally interested in. Your list can include hobbies, food, animals, places, celebrities, games... anything and everything you are interested in and love!

Step 2:

Go to NationalToday.com and explore a few of your chosen topics until you find a holiday that matches with your personal interests.

Step 3:

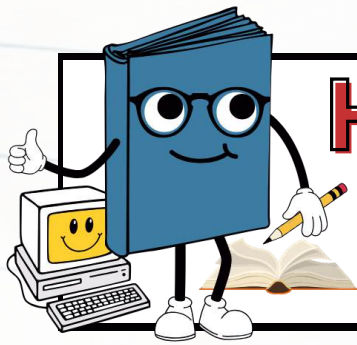
Using NationalToday.com, other traditional research resources (books, internet, interviews, etc.) and the Holiday Fact Sheet provided, record pertinent information about your holiday.

Step 4:

Decide on your method of sharing and then prepare your presentation.

Step 5:

Share your Holiday and learn about others!



HOLIDAY RESEARCH

One - Pager Mini Project

Fact Recording Sheet

Holiday:

Date Celebrated:

My Name:

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

In this box, record facts and information about the activities and events people participate in related to this holiday.

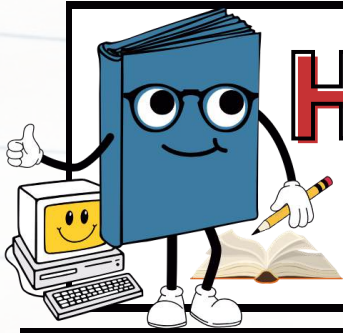
Practices, rituals, traditions, etc. are all things you can write about in this area.

PEOPLE & PLACES

In this box, record facts and information about the people who celebrate this holiday as well as information about the locations related to this holiday and/or where it is celebrated.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

In this box, record additional details related to this holiday. Possible topics may include food, clothing, decorations are all possible topics. Information about the history of the holiday could also go here.



HOLIDAY RESEARCH

One – Pager Mini Project

Option 1

Using what you now know about your chosen holiday, create a collage. Use magazine and print clippings, drawings, photographs, written facts, textiles, food wrappers and any other items you choose to showcase and communicate important aspects of the holiday and the way it is celebrated.

Option 3

Create a powerpoint or slide show presentation showcasing the basic information about your holiday through both visuals and words.

Option 4

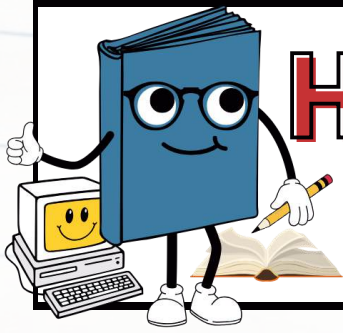
Create a podcast transcript in which one student interviews another about their chosen holiday. Students can either record their episode or perform it live for the class.

Option 2

As a class, create a recipe book of meals and foods that correspond to each students' chosen holiday. Some might require some creative thinking (bonus!). Ask students to include two additional facts about the holiday on their recipe page and also utilize fonts, colors, and images in the style/vibe of the holiday. If you want to go the extra mile, have a holiday feast featuring the items from the cookbook.

Option 5

Take your one page fact sheet to your a younger classroom and teach your "buddy" about your chosen holiday. Take it one step further and find a related picture book to read together as well.



HOLIDAY RESEARCH

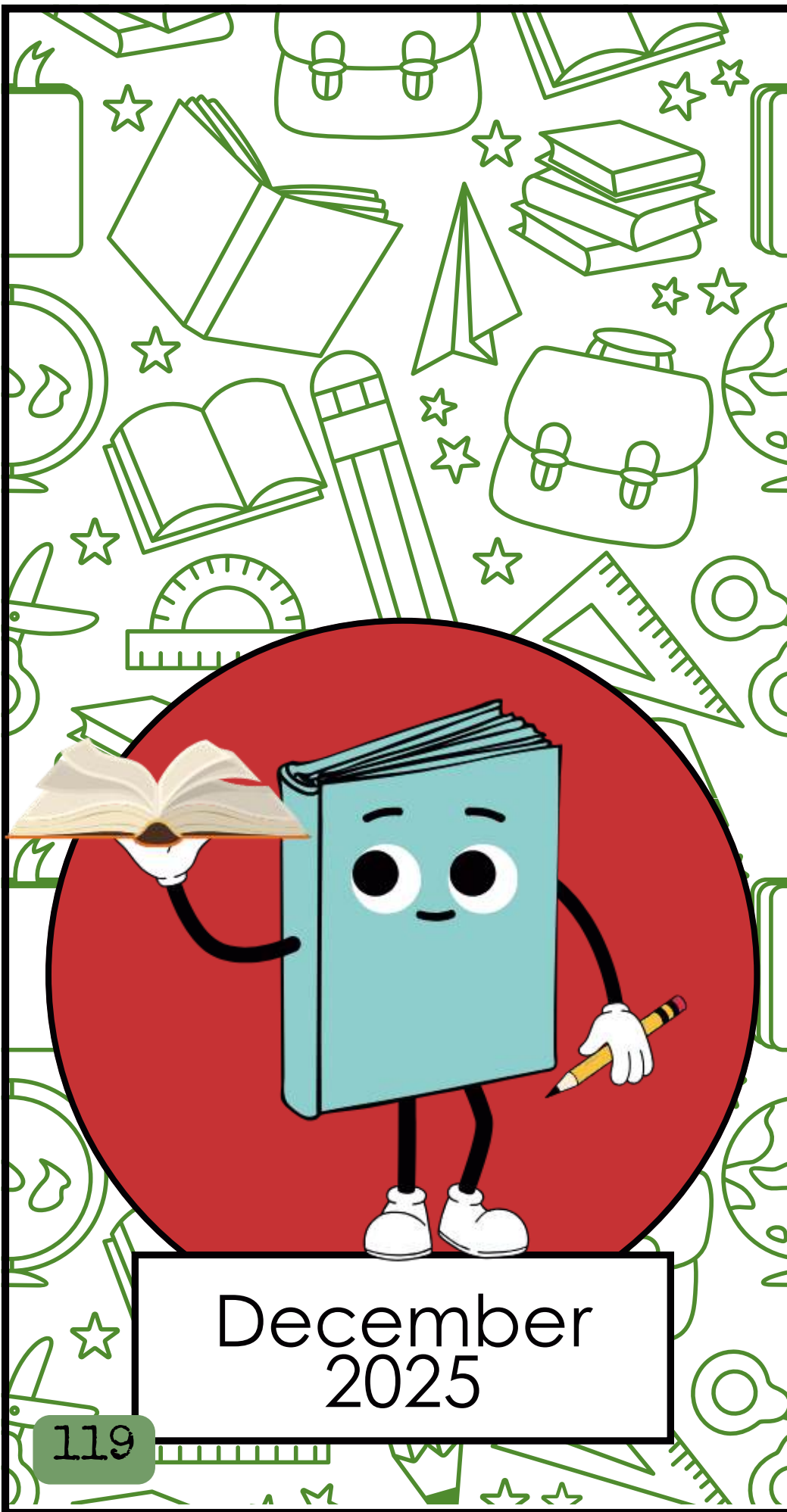
One - Pager Mini Project

from the Word Nerd Collaborative

Rubric

Task/Points	1	2	3	Comments
Student identified a topic of personal interest.		X	X	
Student used research time effectively and was on task			X	
Student completed fact research sheet/one-pager.				
Student prepared a presentation to share.				
Student shared holiday information via one of the given options.				
Total: ____/12 pts				

Comments



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
BECAUSE YOU DESERVE THEM!

Would You Rather...

PERSUASIVE WRITING WORKSHEETS



CREATED BY THE WORD NERD

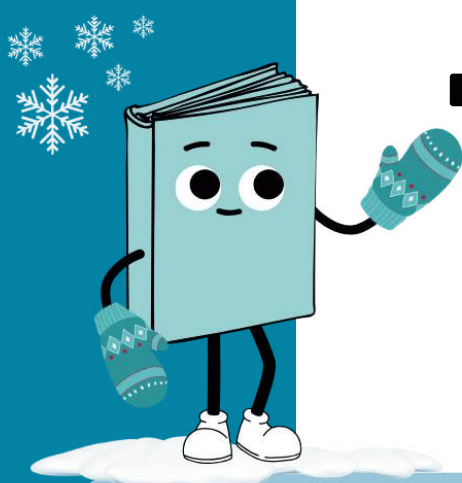


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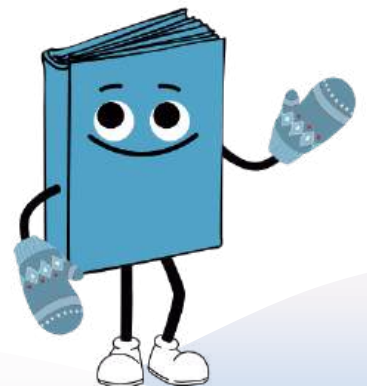
Link + Question List/Brain Break Sheet

130–140

Student Writing Prompt Sheets

141

Would You Rather Line Up (future topics)



TAKEAWAYS

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

WE WANT STUDENTS TO BE ABLE TO:

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



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



Video Link



STANDARDS IN ACTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

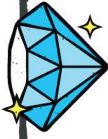


My Name:

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.)			

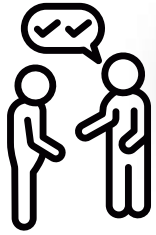
Total Points = ___/10

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:



BUILD YOUR CASE

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

FOLLOW THESE STEPS!

✓ **Step 1: Make Your Claim**

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

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

✓ **Step 2: Give Your Reasons**

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

✓ **Step 3: Use Transitions**

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

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

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

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

✓ **Step 5: Wrap It Up**

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

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

WOULD YOU RATHER?

Name: _____



VIDEO



Video Link

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

1. Would you rather go sledding or ice skating?
2. Would you rather have hot cocoa with marshmallows or whip cream?
3. Would you rather have a pet penguin or reindeer?
4. Would you rather compete in the Olympic event of bobsled or luge?
5. Would you rather sleep in an igloo or an ice castle?
6. Would you rather face an abominable snowman or a polar bear?
7. Would you rather have frozen fingers or frozen toes?
8. Would you rather be an Antarctic Zoologist or an Ice Sculptor?
9. Would you rather live somewhere that was always winter or never winter?
10. Would you rather spend a winter night by the fireplace with a good book or outside under the stars watching the aurora borealis?

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

Name: _____

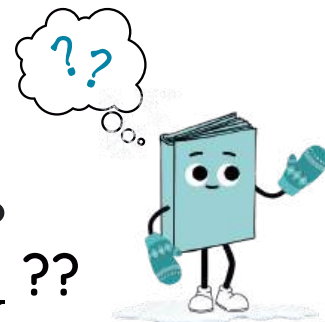
Date: _____

WINTER 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: _____

Would You Rather...

go sledding or ice skating?

[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: _____

have hot cocoa with marshmallows or whip cream?

▼
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:

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...

have a pet penguin or reindeer?



▼
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:

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: _____

compete in the Olympic event of bobsled or luge?

[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...

sleep in an igloo or an ice castle?



▼ 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:

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

Comments:

Name: _____

Date: _____

WINTER EDITION

Would You Rather...

face an abominable snowman or a polar bear?



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: _____

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.)			
Total Points = /10			

Comments:

Date: _____

Would You Rather...

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			
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Total Points = ____/10			

Comments:

▼ Rubric			
Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
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Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
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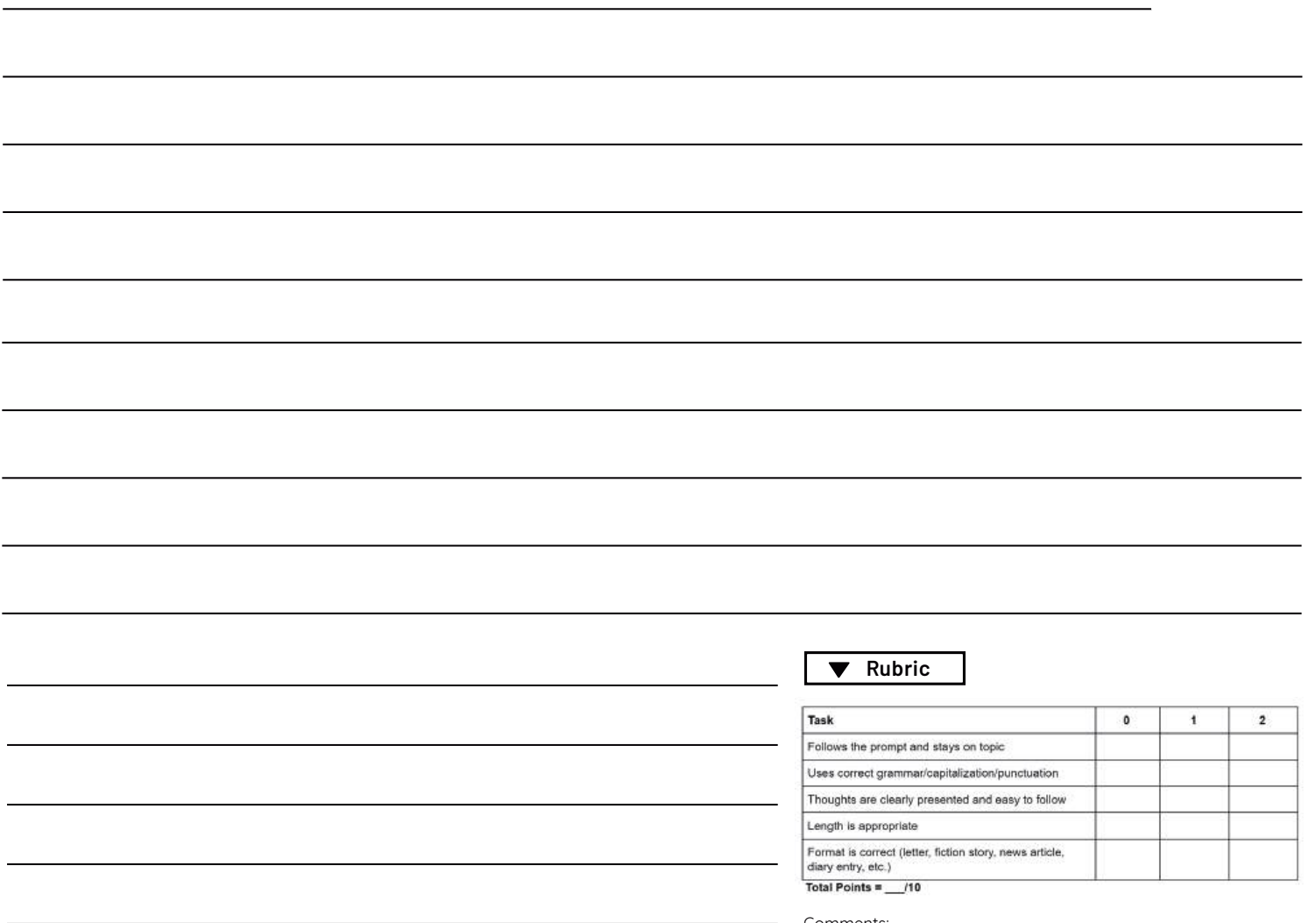
Comments:

Date: _____



er?

live somewhere that was always winter or never winter?



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

Comments:

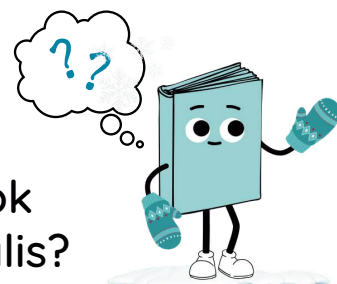
Name: _____

Date: _____

WINTER EDITION

Would You Rather...

spend a winter night by the fireplace with a good book
or outside under the stars watching the aurora borealis?



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



▼ Rubric

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

Comments:

COMING SOON

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

TOPIC LINE UP:

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

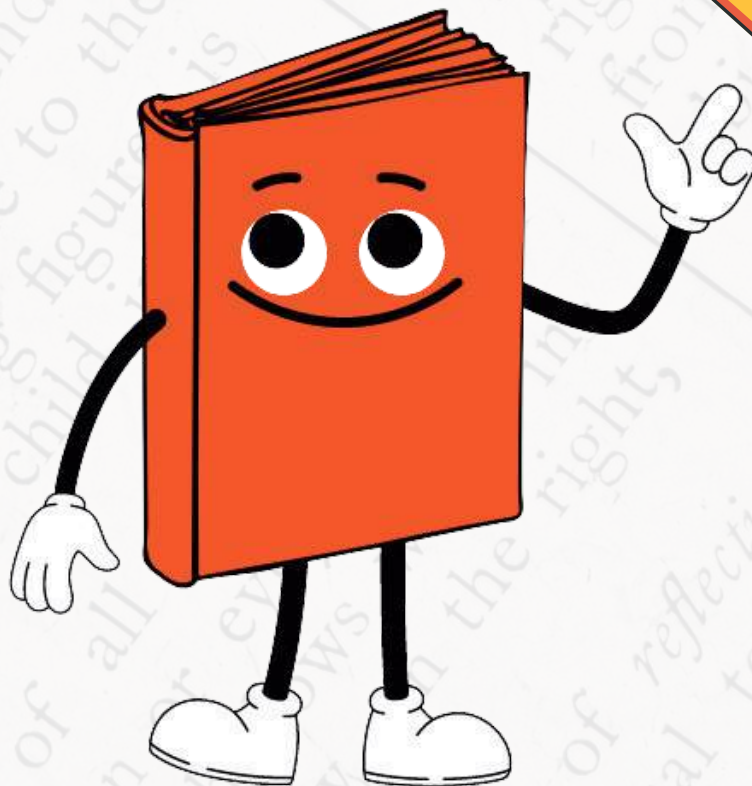


**EACH WOULD YOU RATHER SET
WOULD INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE
VIDEO AND PRINTABLE WRITING
WORKSHEETS**

WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

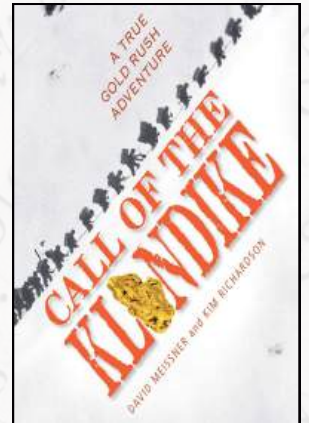
BIOGRAPHY MEMOIR



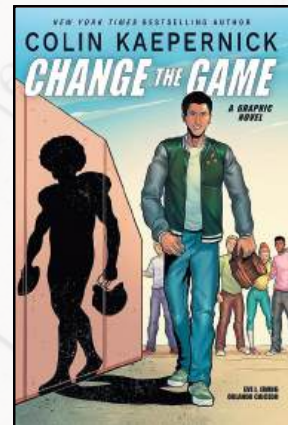
BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

These books are stories written by famous people. In a memoir, people about their own lives. In a biography, another person writes about a famous person's life.

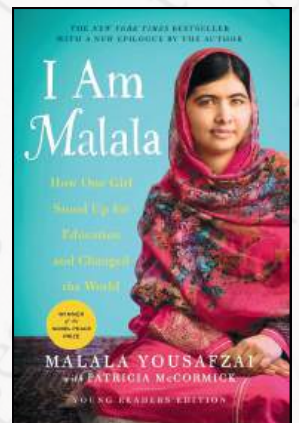
Call of the Klondike by David Meisner



Change the Game by Colin Kaepernick



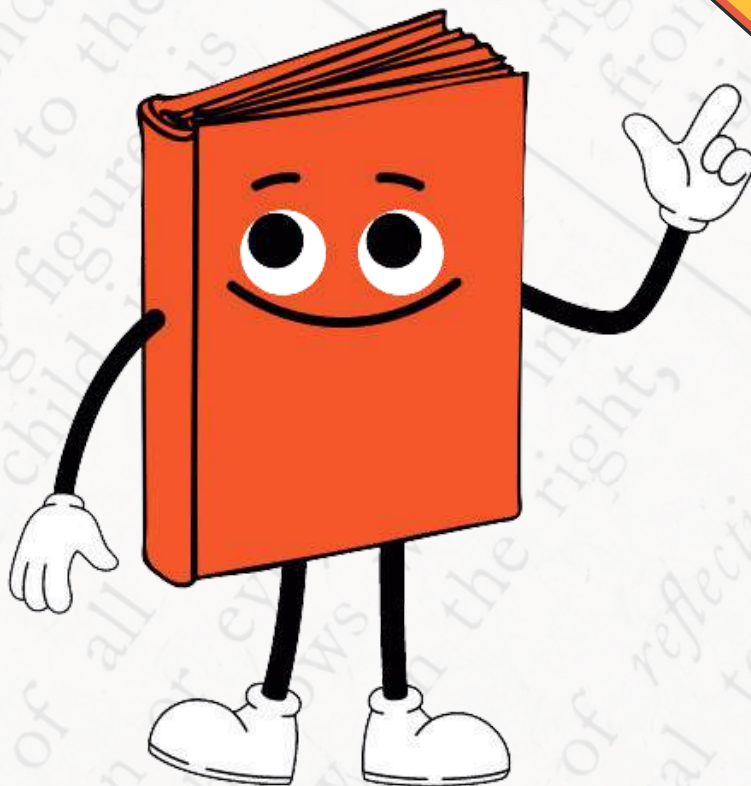
I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai



WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

FAMOUS PEOPLE





FAMOUS PEOPLE

These books are stories written by famous people. In a memoir, people about their own lives. In a biography, another person writes about a famous person's life.

Ain't' Nobody Gonna Turn Me 'Round

by Kathlyn Kirkwood

Becoming Muhammad Ali

by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander

Change the Game

by Colin Kaepernick

Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice

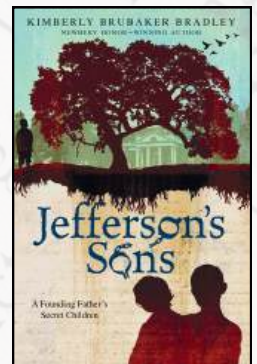
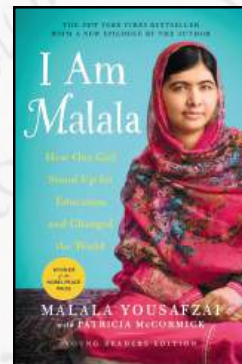
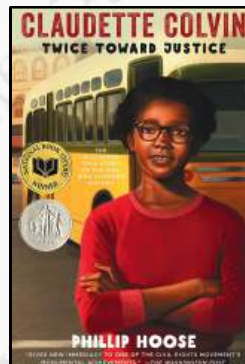
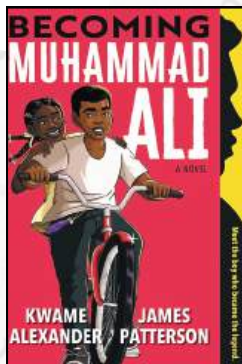
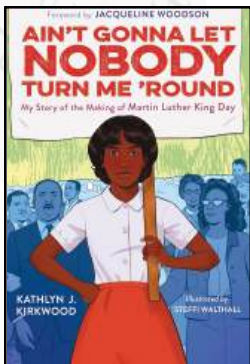
by Phillip Hoose

I Am Malala

by Malala Yousafzai

Jefferson's Sons

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley



WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

HOLIDAYS



BOOKS ABOUT HOLIDAYS

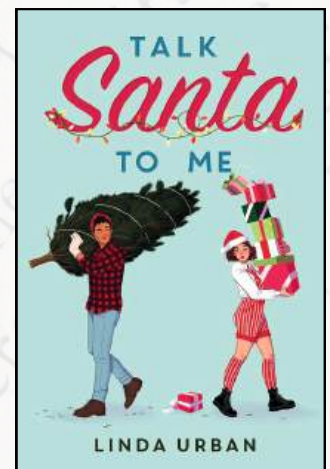
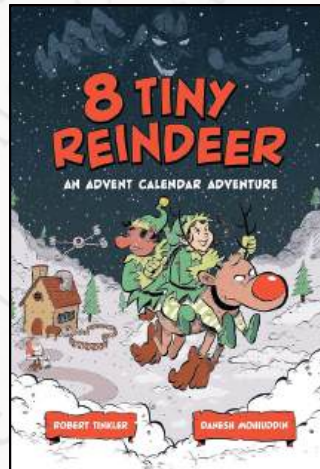
These books take place around a major holiday and include cultural aspects and traditions.

8 Tiny Reindeer
by Robert Tinkler

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
by Barbara Robinson

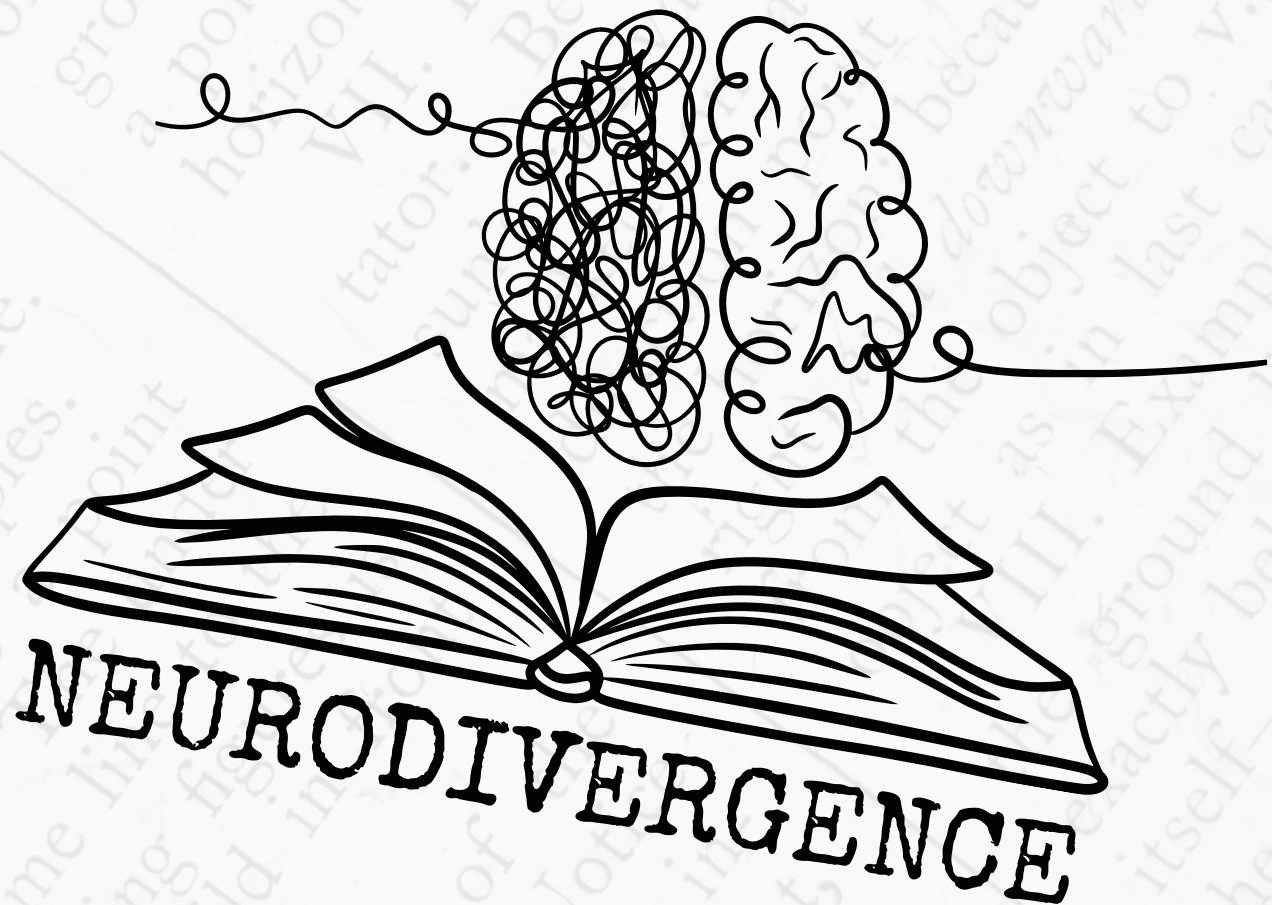
Let it Glow
by Marissa Meyer and Joanne Levy

Talk Santa to Me
by Linda Urban

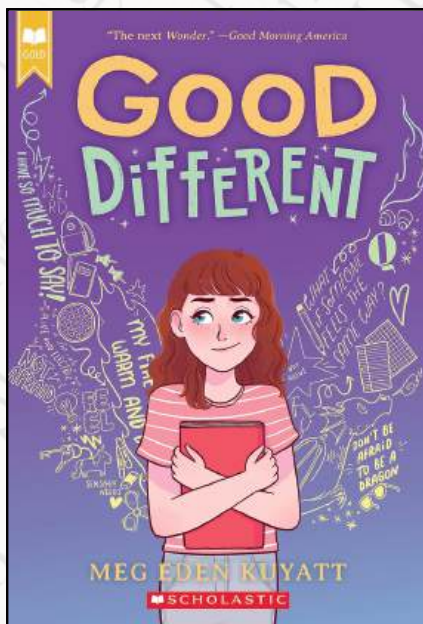
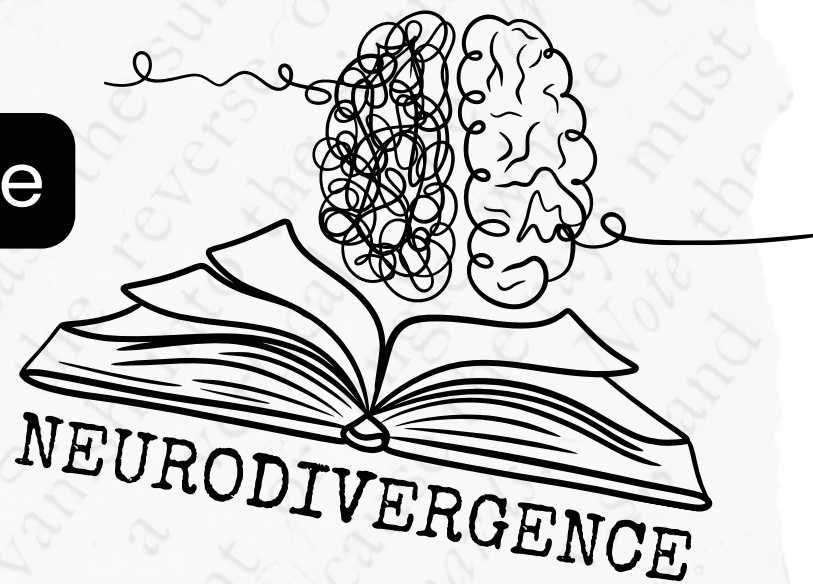


WNC BOOK LISTS

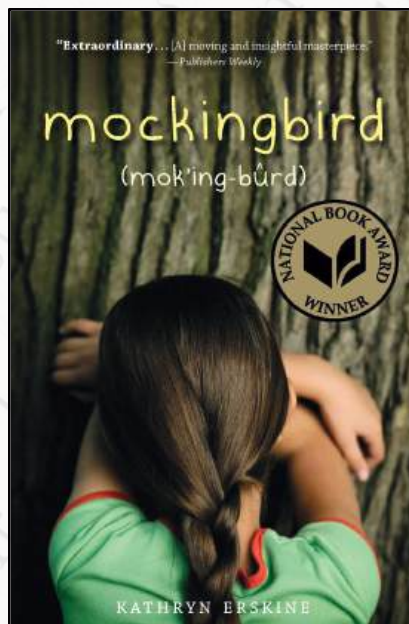
TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS



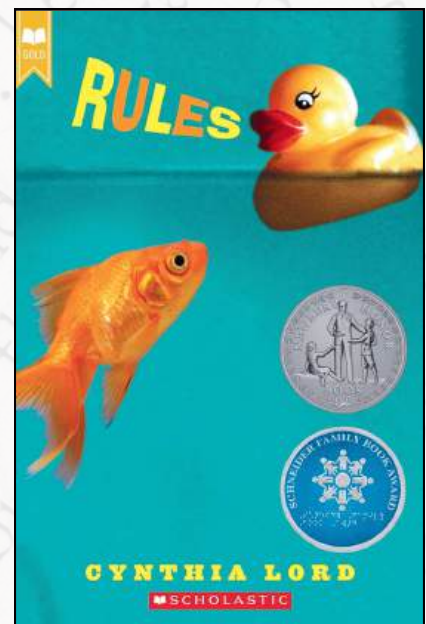
These books feature characters who identify as neurodivergent.



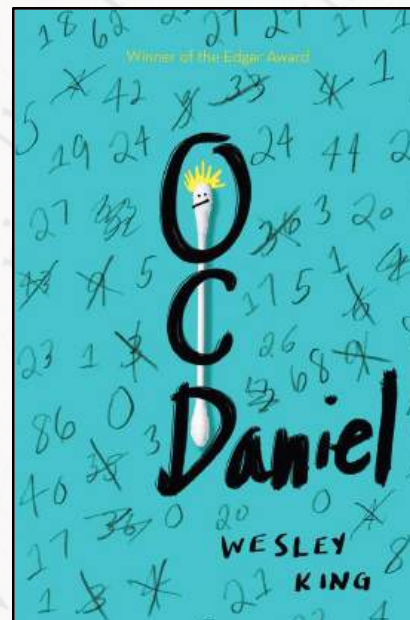
Good Different
by Meg Eden Kuyatt



Mockingbird
by Kathryn Erskine



OCDaniel
by Wesley King



Rules
by Cynthia Lord



The background of the entire image is a repeating pattern of black and white line art Christmas lights. The lights are teardrop-shaped with a small circular base and are connected by thin lines. They are scattered across the page, creating a festive and textured backdrop for the text.

EVERY

**MESSY
MOMENT**

IS PART OF THE

MOSAIC





Dashing

through the

SNOW

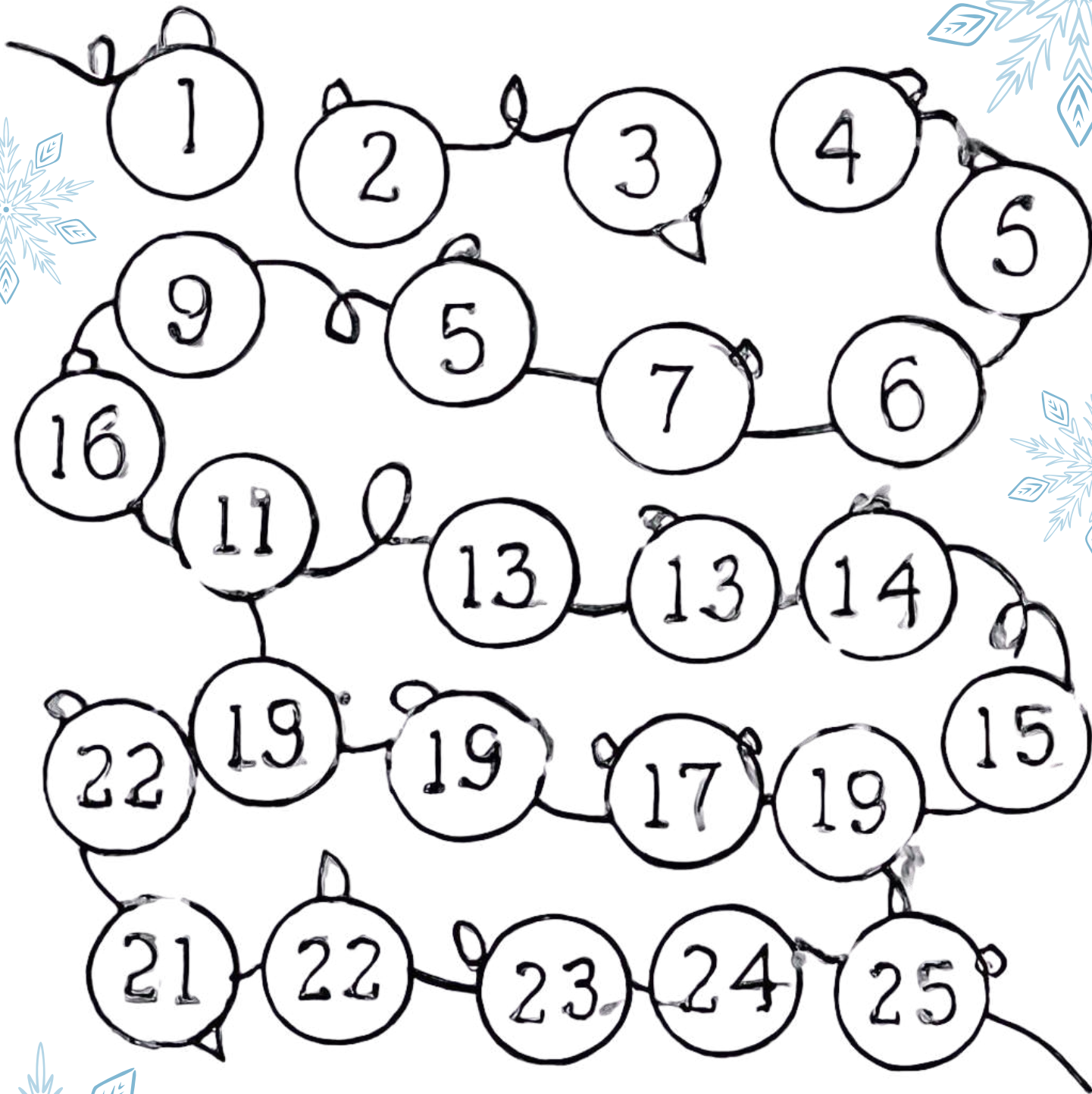




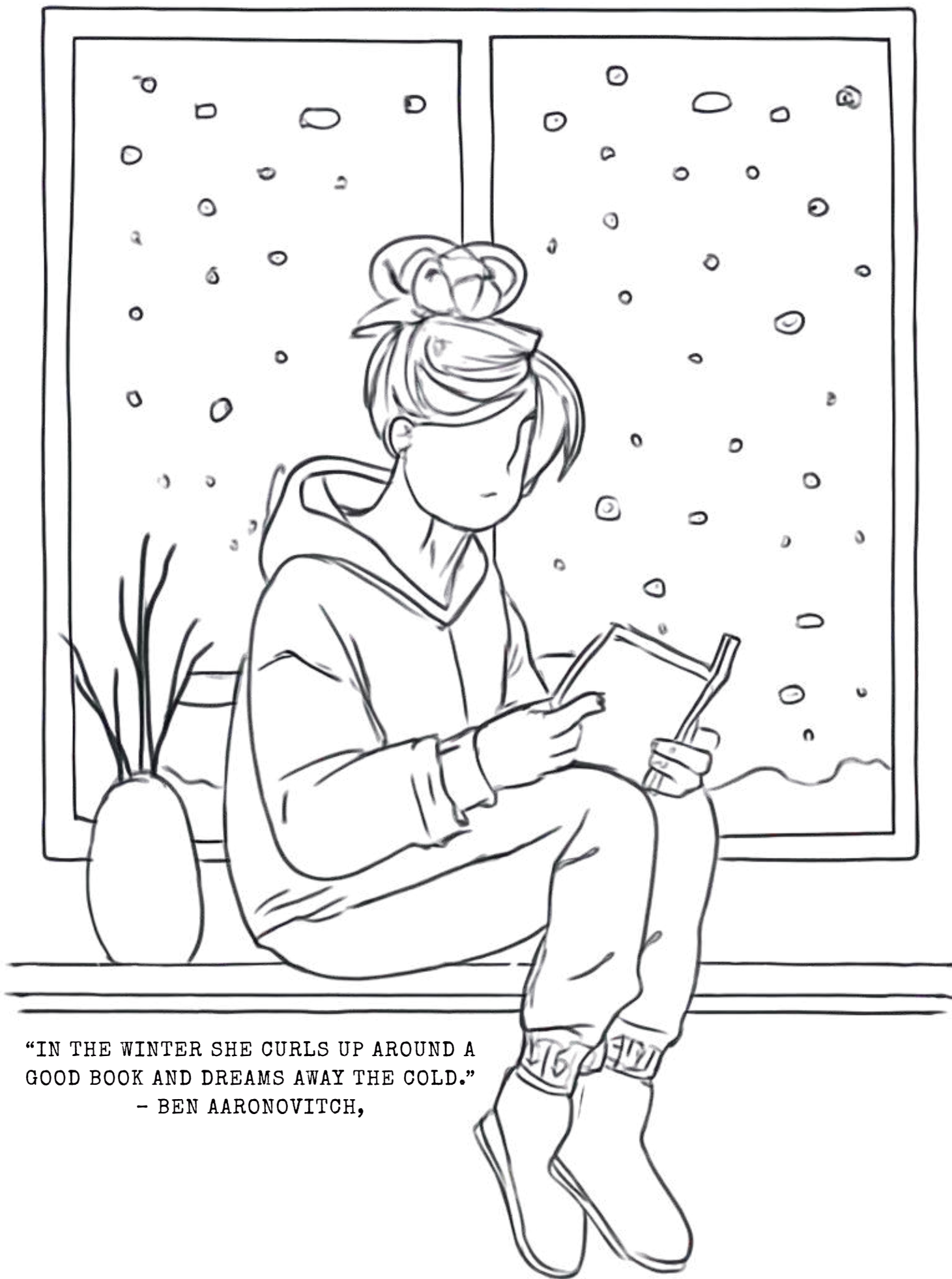
Holiday Reading Tracker

Every time I read __ minutes/pages, I'll color in a light bulb!

Start Date: _____



End Date: _____



"IN THE WINTER SHE CURLS UP AROUND A
GOOD BOOK AND DREAMS AWAY THE COLD."
- BEN AARONOVITCH,



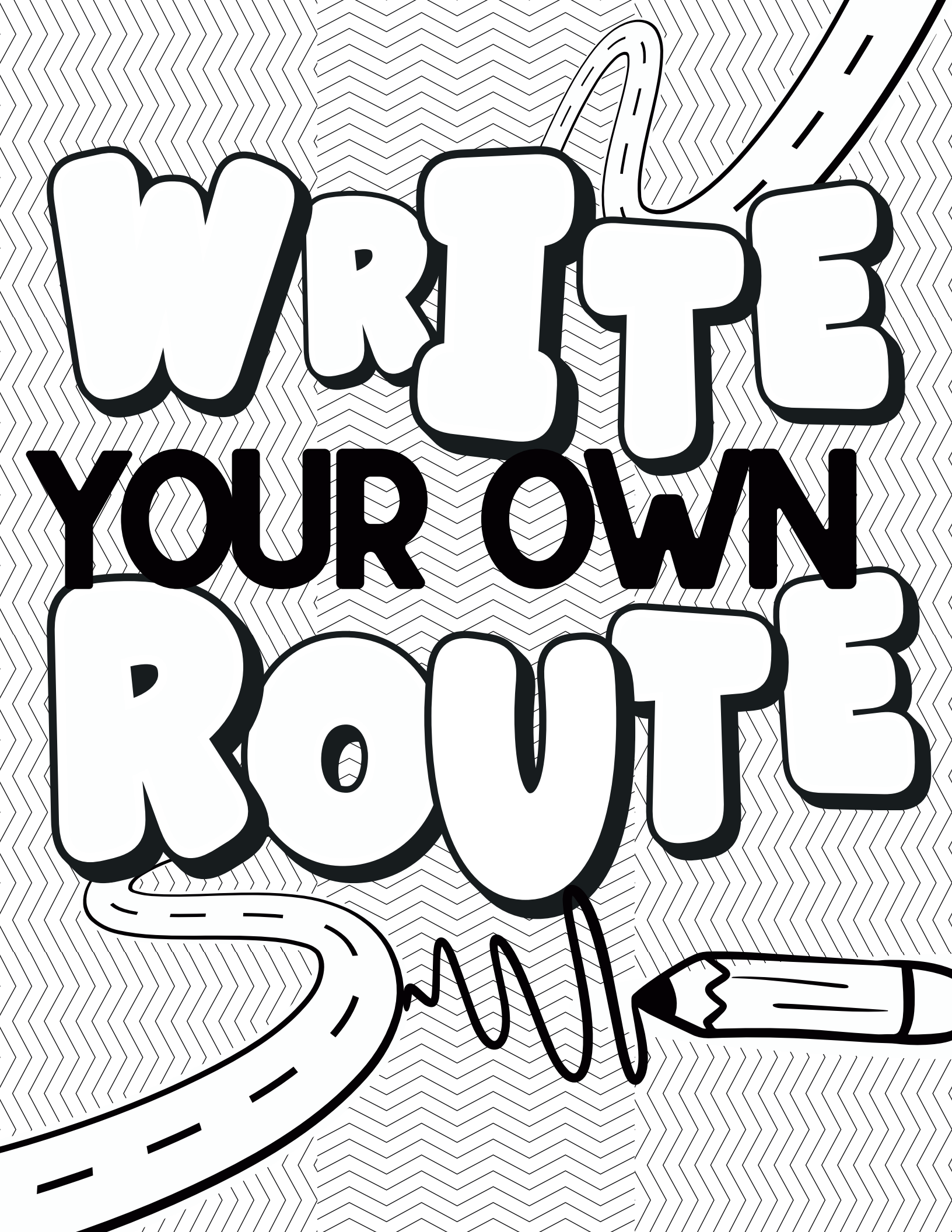
WINTER WAS MADE FOR WARM
BLANKETS AND LARGE BOOKS.
- ANONYMOUS

DOGGONE



**GOOD
BOOK**

**WRITE
YOUR OWN
ROUTE**



MY DECEMBER MOSAIC

Teaching in December can feel like a whirlwind—and sometimes it's hard to see the good when you're moving so fast. This page is a space to pause, zoom out, and notice the small but meaningful moments that made up your month. Think of each response as a little tile in the mosaic of your classroom life—some shiny, some imperfect, but all part of the bigger picture you're creating. There's no right or wrong way to fill this out. Just reflect, celebrate, and maybe rediscover how much you've already done.

MY DECEMBER MOSAIC

A reflection on the tiny pieces that made this month matter.

One moment that made me laugh:

A lesson or activity that really worked:

A small student win I don't want to forget:

A challenge I pushed through (and survived!):

Something kind someone said or did:

A piece of this month I want to carry forward:

Each of these is a tile in the bigger picture.
You're building something remarkable—piece by piece.