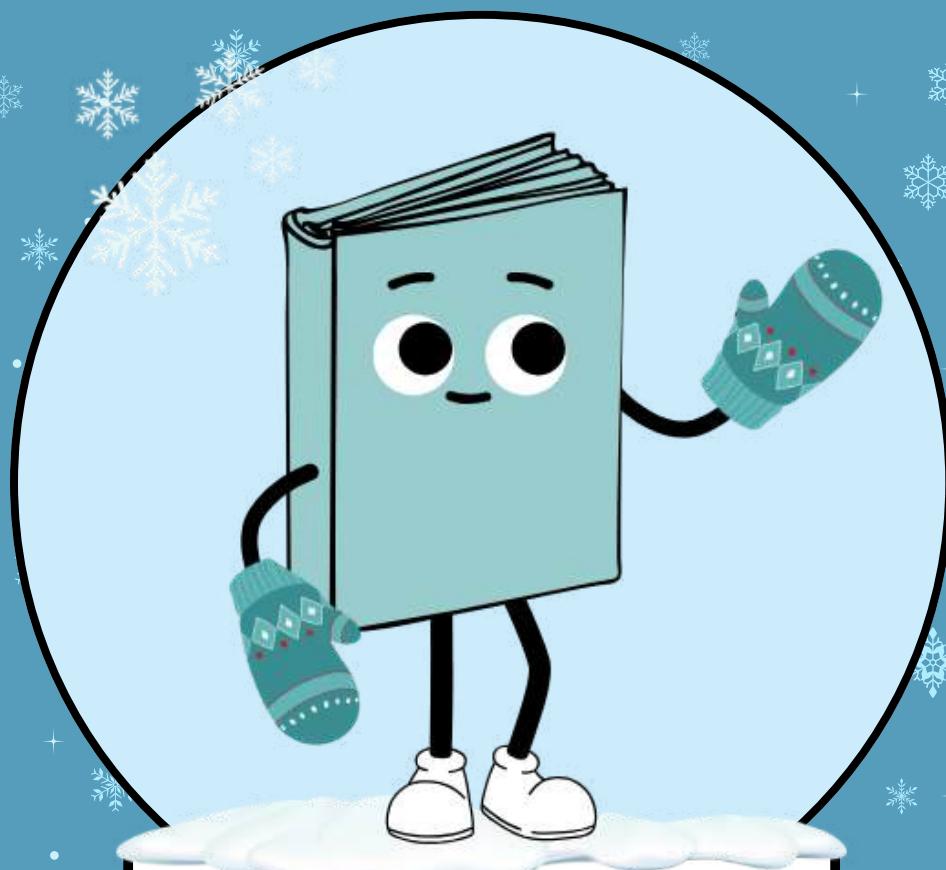


JANUARY ENGAGEMENT GAME PLAN

2026

Word Nerd
Collaborative



I WANT TO INVITE YOU TO A FRESH START.

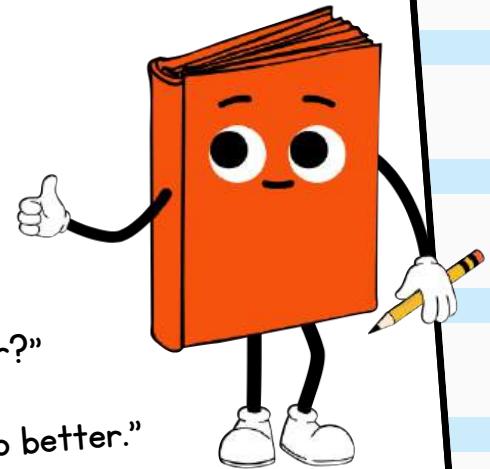
One of the most unique things about teaching is that we get two fresh starts every year. The world celebrates new beginnings in August with fresh pencils and seating charts... and then again in January with planners that still smell like possibility. Not every profession gets that. WE DO. And if the fall felt like a whirlwind (or a wash), January is your invitation to reset.

To recalibrate. To say, "Okay, now that I know these students, this schedule, this year a little better... how can I make the rest of it feel more like what I hoped it would be?"

It's not too late to:

- Try a new routine
- Reinvent a lesson
- Shift your classroom culture
- Explore new ideas and experiment
- Or just pause and ask, "What would make this better?"

As Maya Angelou said: "When you know better, you do better."



And now you know more. About your students. About what's working. About what's not. You've earned that insight. You can trust it.

You—and your students—deserve a classroom that feels good to be in. You deserve a rhythm that works for you. You deserve the space to breathe and the freedom to evolve. So as we step into this new semester, let's frame it like this:

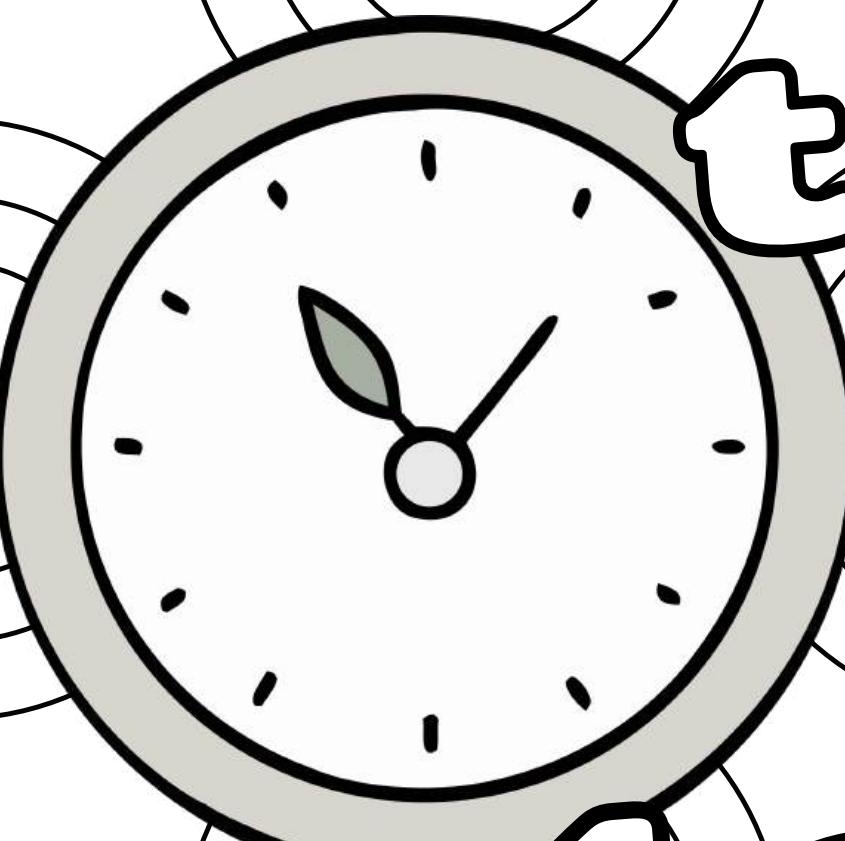
Not as a redo. Not as a pressure-filled to-do list. But as a chance.
A chance to try again.
To do a little better.

To feel a little more like the teacher you want to be. You don't have to do everything all at once. Just pick one thing you'd like to freshen up. And let the Word Nerd Collaborative be here to support you every step of the way.
You've got this!!

— AMANDA

January is your

time



to

start fresh

JANUARY

IS YOUR

TIME

TO

sparkle & shine!

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** Includes exciting opportunity!

EDITABLE
CANVA FILE



OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT

February Planning Session (January 18th)

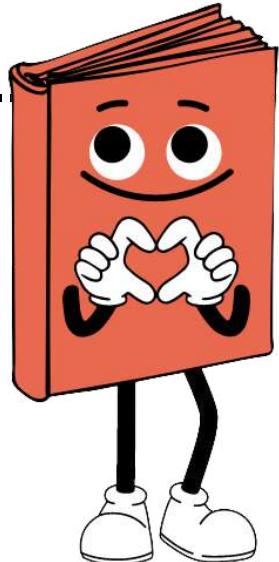
LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82003624150> (2pm CST)

Lunch Bunch Zoom Link (January 9th & January 30th)

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

Word Nerd Collaborative Private Facebook Group

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



January 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wednes.	Thurs.	Friday	Satur.
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Author Lunch Bunch with Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 February Planning Session	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Author Lunch Bunch with Taryn Souders	31

Notes:





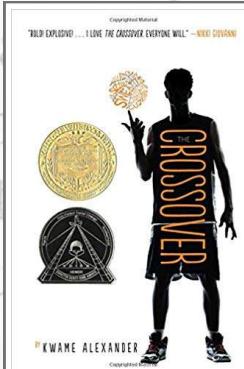
FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAYS

Friday, January 2nd



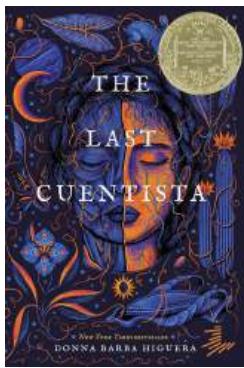
The Explorer
by Katherine Rundell
Historical
Fiction/Adventure
Prose

Friday, January 9th



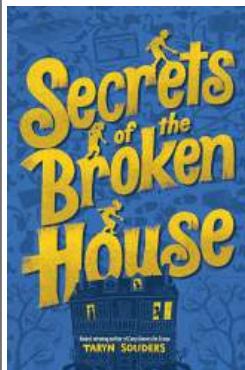
The Crossover
by Kwame Alexander
Realistic Fiction/
Sports Fiction
Novel in Verse

Friday, January 16th



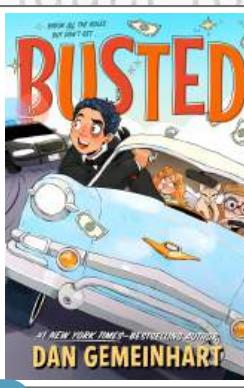
The Last Cuentista
by Dona Barba
Higuera
Graphic
Novel/NonFiction

Friday, December 23rd



Secrets of the Broken
House
by Taryn Souders
Realistic
Fiction/Mystery
Prose

Friday, January 30th



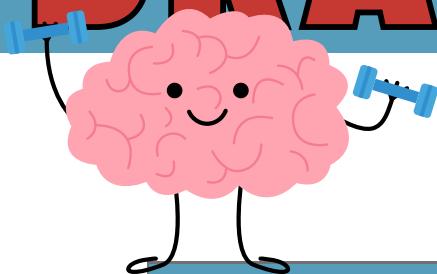
Busted
by Dan Gemeinhart
Realistic
Fiction/Humor
Prose

Lunch Bunch Attendees

Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin
January 9th, 2026

Taryn Souders
January 30th, 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 25 to keep track of student teams and scores throughout the month.

New Years Trivia



Week 1

Picture Detective (Round 3)

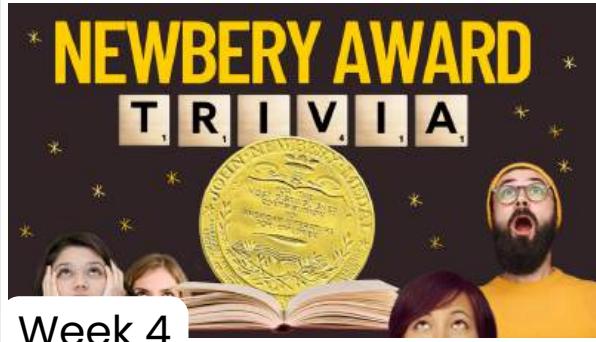


Winter Olympic Trivia



Week 3

Newbery Trivia



Week 4

Animal Name Trivia



Week 5

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
December

Tuesday
December

Wednesday
December

Thursday
The Flashlight

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 2

Monday
My Parents are Spies!

Tuesday
Snow -Figuratively Speaking

Wednesday
It's Alive!

Thursday
All the Feels

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 3

Monday
A Tropical Trip

Tuesday
A Day with No Sun

Wednesday
Vacation Documentary

Thursday
Pick a Hat, Any Hat

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 4

Monday
Family of Entrepreneurs

Tuesday
Full of Hot Air

Wednesday
Let's Talk About a Trip

Thursday
Uncertain

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 5

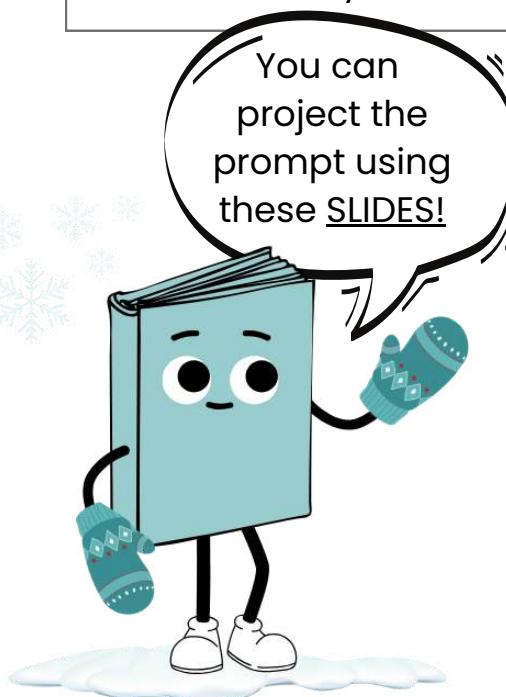
Monday
A Concert with a View

Tuesday
Special Delivery

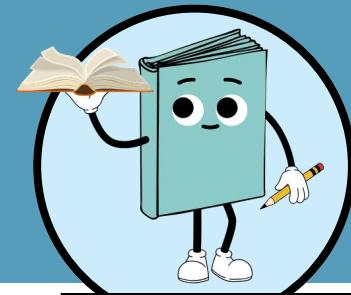
Wednesday
Top 5

Thursday
Before or After?

Friday
Free Write Friday



LESSONS



January 2026

1

NEWBERY AWARD UNIT

The Newbery Award is an important part of children's literature and a great opportunity for educators to expose their students to high quality books that will engage, educate and entertain. Learn about the history of this prestigious children's book award through the following items:

- Newbery Award Power Point
- Newbery Award History and Note Taking Sheet
- Newbery Award Reading Tracking Chart
- Newbery Medal Activity Pack

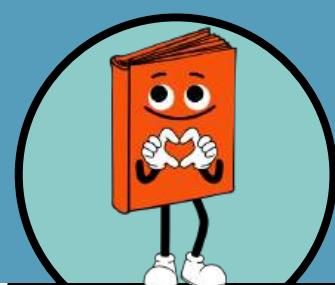
CCSS ELA STANDARDS:
RI.6.1,
RI.6.2, RI.6.4,
SL.6.1, SL.6.2,
W6.1, W6.4,
W6.9

2

ABC RESEARCH PROJECT

Five bucks says that you'll get more than a dozen eye rolls when you utter the words "research project" in your classroom. But what if you could surprise those mood-wielding adolescents and let them pick the topic? Like any topic (save for serial killers... I had to veto that one, one year). What if we let students lean into an already deeply loved subject they desperately want to know more about? Or desperately want to share their knowledge about? What if we could figure out a way to lead them on a passionately curious journey to learn more... one in which they were excited to employ the research strategies and methods we shared with them? Or at least... rolled their eyes less frequently, because the information they were seeking and uncovering was something they loved. Yeah, let's do that.

STANDARDS: CCSS: W.6.2, W6.4, W6.5, W6.6, W6.7, W6.8, SL.6.1, SL.6.4



January 2026

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

11

1 WOULD RATHER - GROSS EDITION

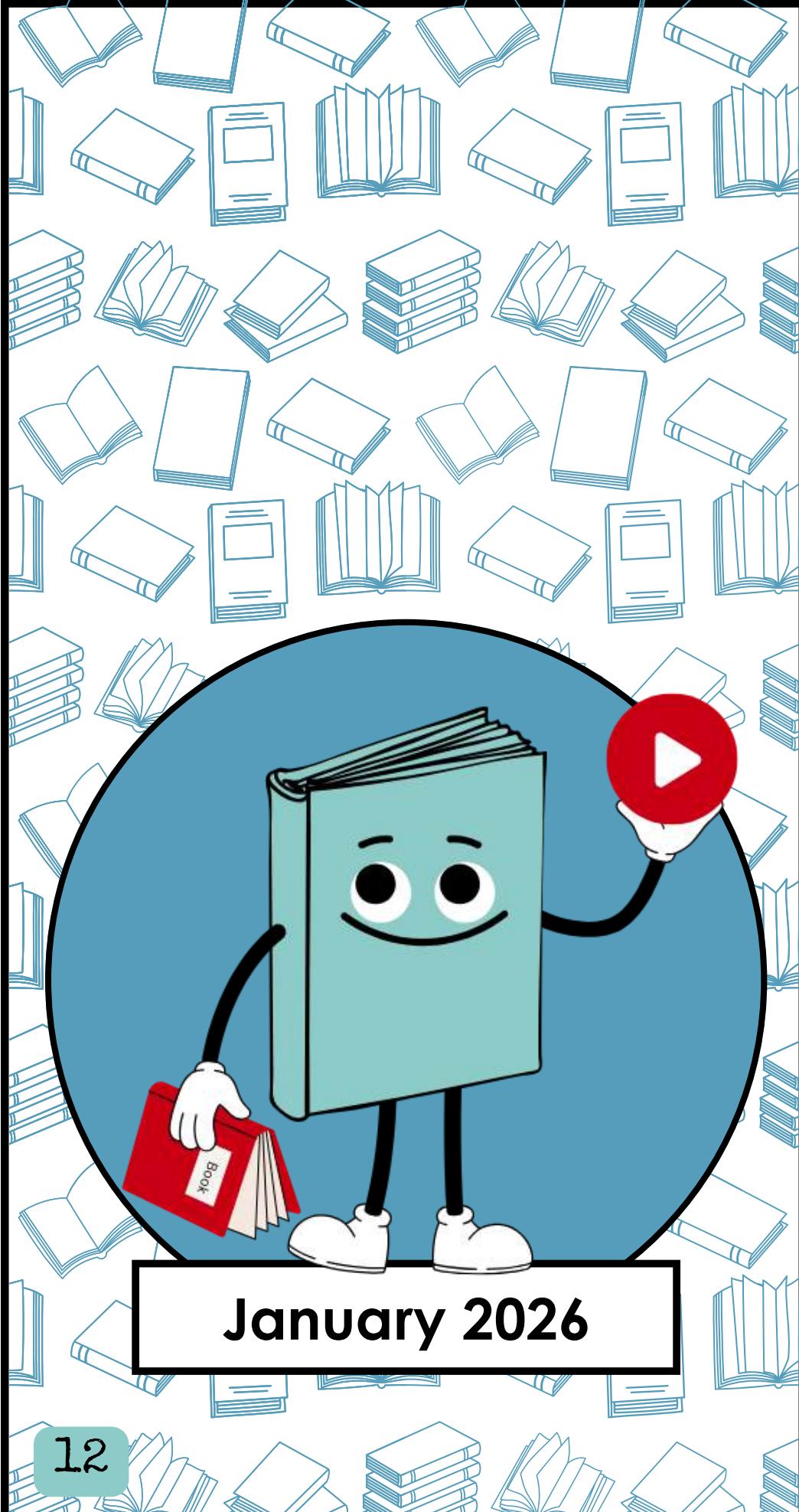
Looking for a fun, low-prep brain break that your middle school students will actually react to? This Gross Edition of Would You Rather is packed with silly, cringe-worthy choices that get students laughing, debating, and fully engaged. Use it as a brain break or as a way to spark ideas for argumentative writing pieces.

2 CURATED READING LISTS

The books in this thematic list highlight titles that have won the Newbery Award! Often times in January I required my students to pick at least one to read. Since there is such a great variety among the winners, I felt confident everyone could find something they would be interested in reading. Another list I included is books about Outer Space!

3 EXERCISES TO DO WHILE READING

PERFECT for teachers dealing with squirrely students and great for BRAIN BREAKS too! Heck, these bookish exercises are great for any bookworm who has been slacking on their step goal and needs to add a little movement to their life. If you had to choose between a workout and finishing the last few chapters of a book you've been wrapped up in, chances are you'd probably choose the book. But don't put your fitness goals on hold because you can't put your book down. There are plenty of workouts you can do while you read—supporting your physical and mental fitness. Great for you and your students!



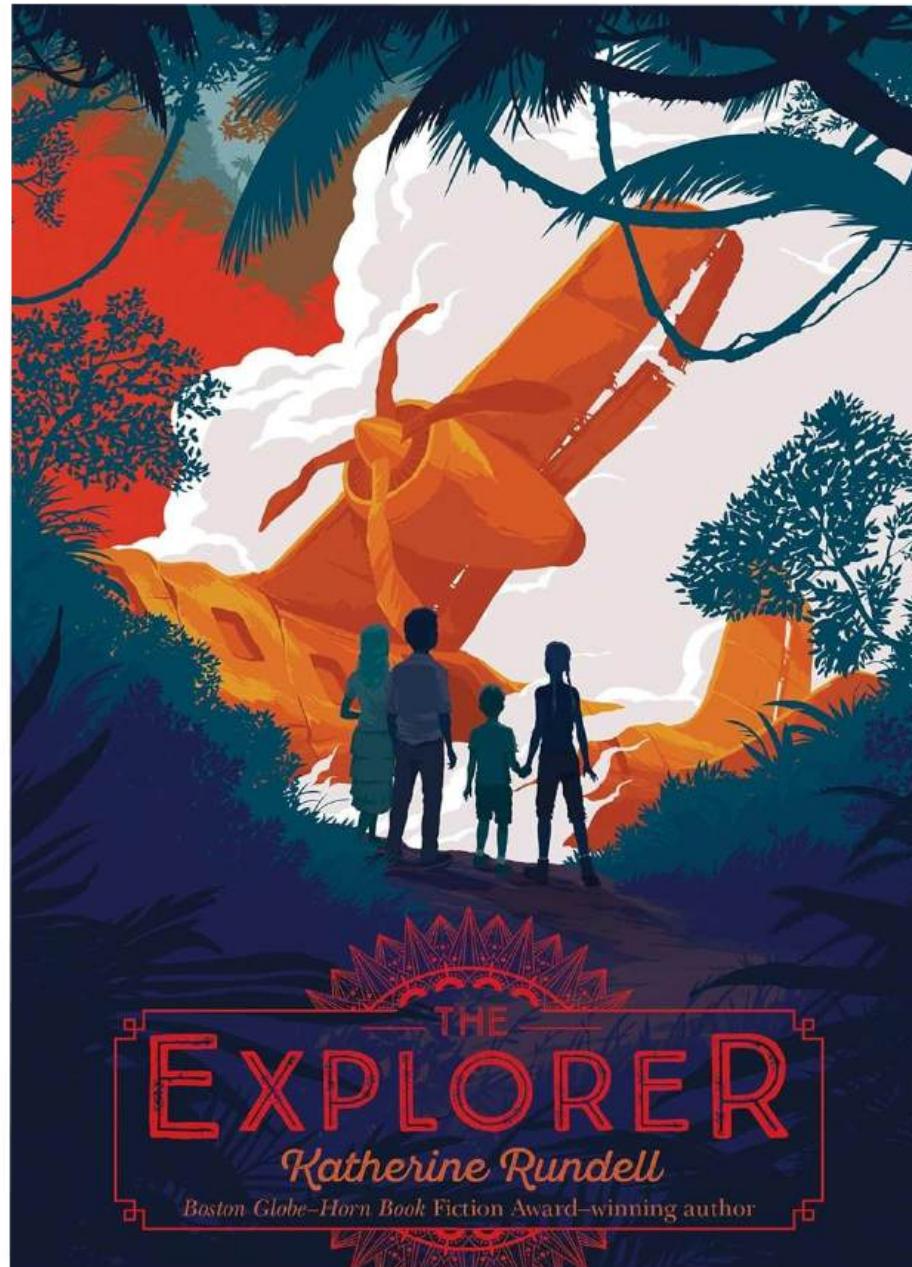
January 2026

12

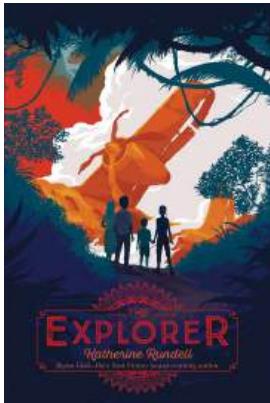
CHAPTER FRIDAY SELECTIONS

THE EXPLORER

by Katherine Rundell



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY



Name _____

Date _____

The Explorer

by Katherine Rundell



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?

Fred, Con, Lila, and Max are flying back to England from the Amazon jungle when their plane crashes—and the pilot dies upon landing. Stranded, scared, and totally alone, they must rely on their instincts, courage, and each other to survive. When Fred finds a mysterious map, it leads them not just to a hidden ruin... but to a secret that could change everything. This is one of my favorite middle grade books of all time—a masterfully written, high-stakes survival story with deep emotional threads and an unforgettable setting. Trust me, you'll be hooked from the first page.

Who Wrote It?

Katherine Rundell spent her childhood growing up in 3 different countries: England, Zimbabwe and Belgium! She is now an internationally bestselling writer. Her books have sold millions of copies, been translated into 40 languages and have won numerous prizes. Her stories often feature adventurous plots, elements of fantasy, and connections to the real world, with themes of survival, discovery, and the natural world. She begins each day with a cartwheel and believes that reading is almost exactly the same as cartwheeling: it turns the



world upside down and leaves you breathless. In her spare time, she enjoys walking on tightropes and trespassing on the rooftops of Oxford colleges.

AR Reading Level: 4.5

Lexile Level: 600L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

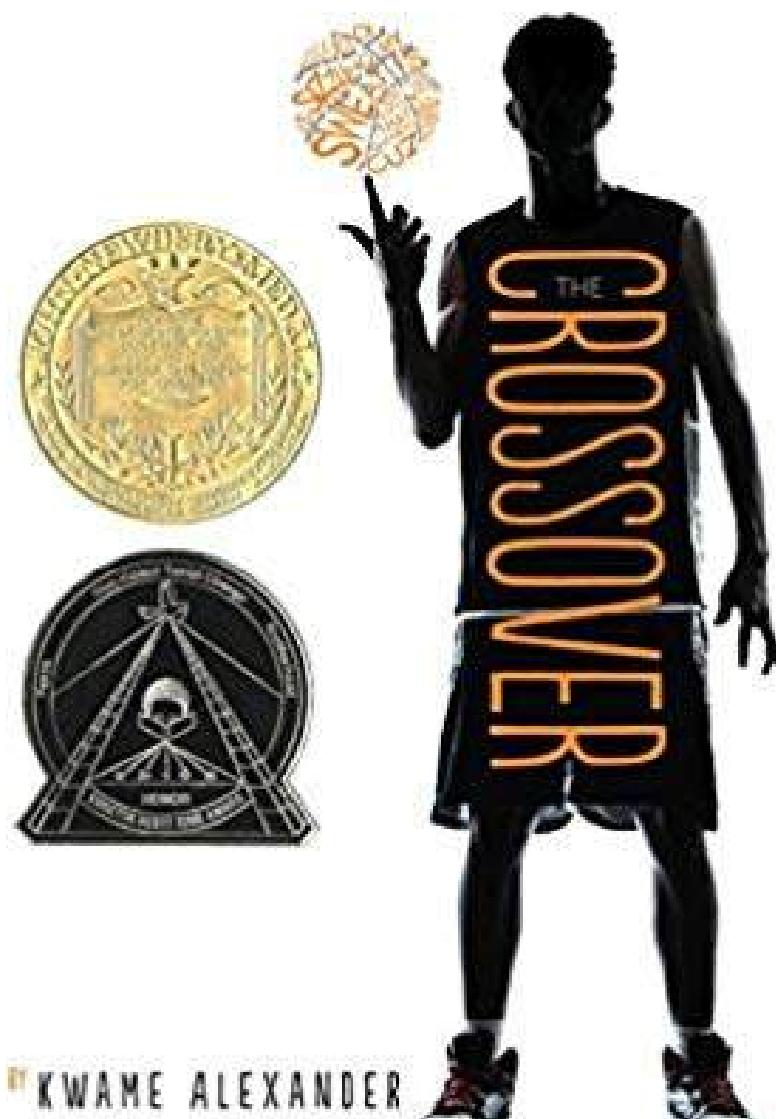


Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

THE CROSSOVER

by Kwame Alexander

"BOLD! EXPLOSIVE! . . . I LOVE THE CROSSOVER. EVERYONE WILL." —NICK GIOVANNI



KWAME ALEXANDER

FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY



The Crossover

by Kwame Alexander



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?

12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

This book is a novel in verse, which means it is told in poems. Many are styled like raps.

- ** Soon to be a show on Disney+
- ** Won the Newbery Award
- ** New York Times Bestseller!

Who Wrote It?

Kwame Alexander has written 35 books, three of them in a chair next to a fireplace at his neighborhood Panera Bread. He now writes in a penthouse in London, where he lives. When he's not writing, Kwame's playing Softball with his soon-to-be six feet tall middle school daughter, walking around London listening to audio books, and travelling to schools and libraries across the globe...on Zoom. Kwame has eaten snails, chocolate covered bugs, and grasscutter, which is like a big rat, which he had no idea he was eating



because it was in a really tasty stew he ate in Ghana while building a library and a health clinic in a village called Konko. Kwame loves jazz. Kwame loves his family. Kwame loves his job.

AR Reading Level: 4.3

Lexile Level: 750L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆

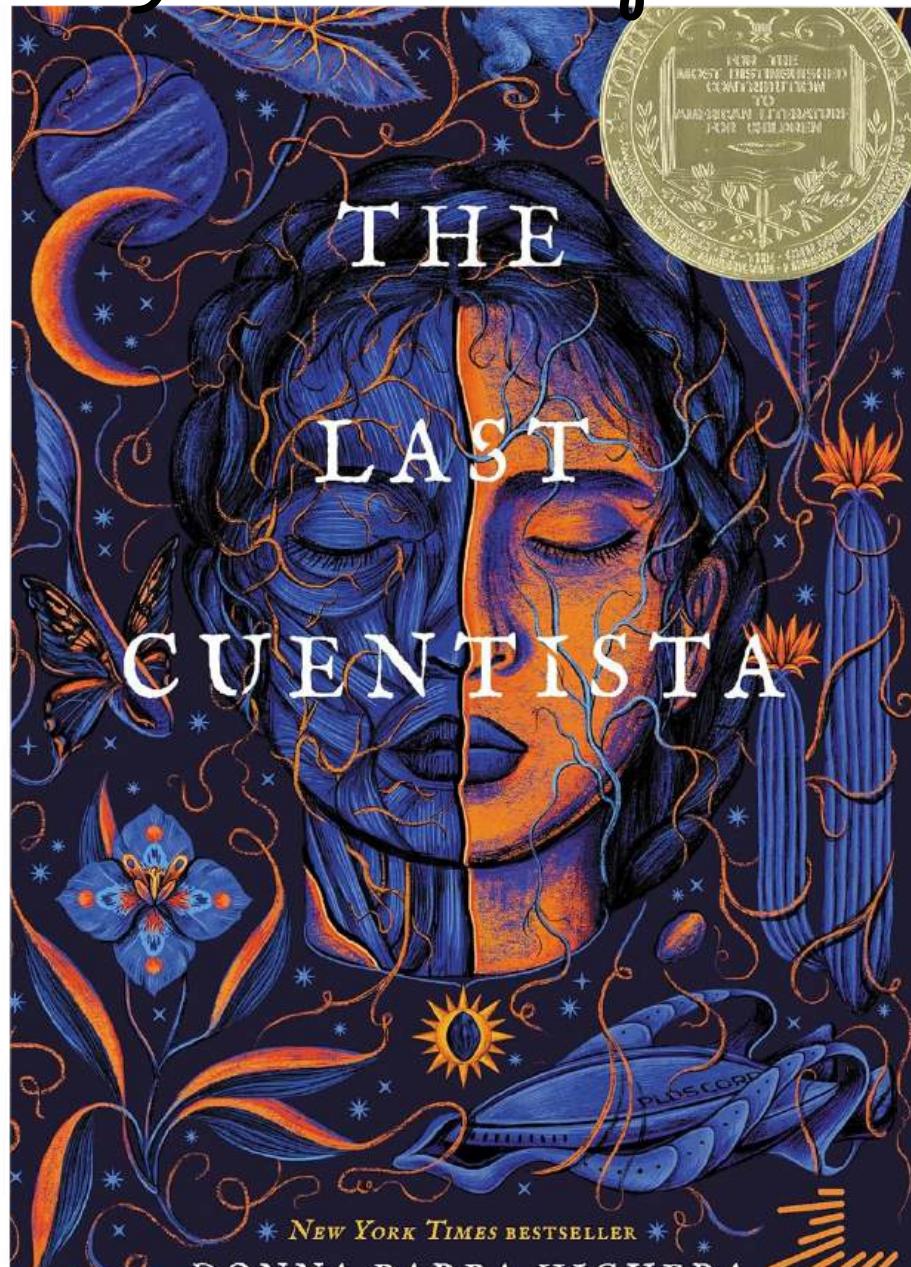
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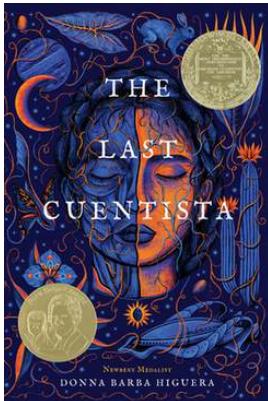
Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

THE LAST CUENTISTA

by Dona Barba Higuera



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY



The Last Cuentista

by Donna Barba Higuera

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?

Había una vez . . . There lived a girl named Petra Peña, who wanted nothing more than to be a storyteller, like her abuelita.

But Petra's world is ending. Earth has been destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children – among them Petra and her family – have been chosen to journey to a new planet. They are the ones who must carry on the human race. Hundreds of years later, Petra wakes to this new planet – and the discovery that she is the only person who remembers Earth. A sinister Collective has taken over the ship during its journey, bent on erasing the sins of humanity's past. They have systematically purged the memories of all aboard – or purged them altogether. Petra alone now carries the stories of our past, and with them, any hope for our future. Can she make them live again?

2022 Newbery Award Winner
 2022 Pura Belpré Award Winner
 School Library Journal's Best of the Year
 Kirkus Reviews' Best of the Year

Who Wrote It?

Donna grew up in Central California surrounded by agricultural and oil fields. As a child she preferred spending recess squirreled away in the janitor's closet with a good book. Her favorite hobbies were calling dial-a-story over and over again, and sneaking into a restricted cemetery to weave her own spooky tales using the crumbling headstones as inspiration. Donna's Middle Grade and Picture Books are about kids who find themselves in odd or scary situations. From language to cultural differences in being biracial life can become...complicated. So like Donna, characters tackle more than just the bizarre things that happen to them in their lives. Donna likes to write



about all things funny, but also sad, and creepy, and magical. If you like those things, she hopes you will read her books! Donna lives in Washington State with her family, three dogs and two frogs.

AR Reading Level: 5.0

Lexile Level: N/A

I want to read this book: YES / NO

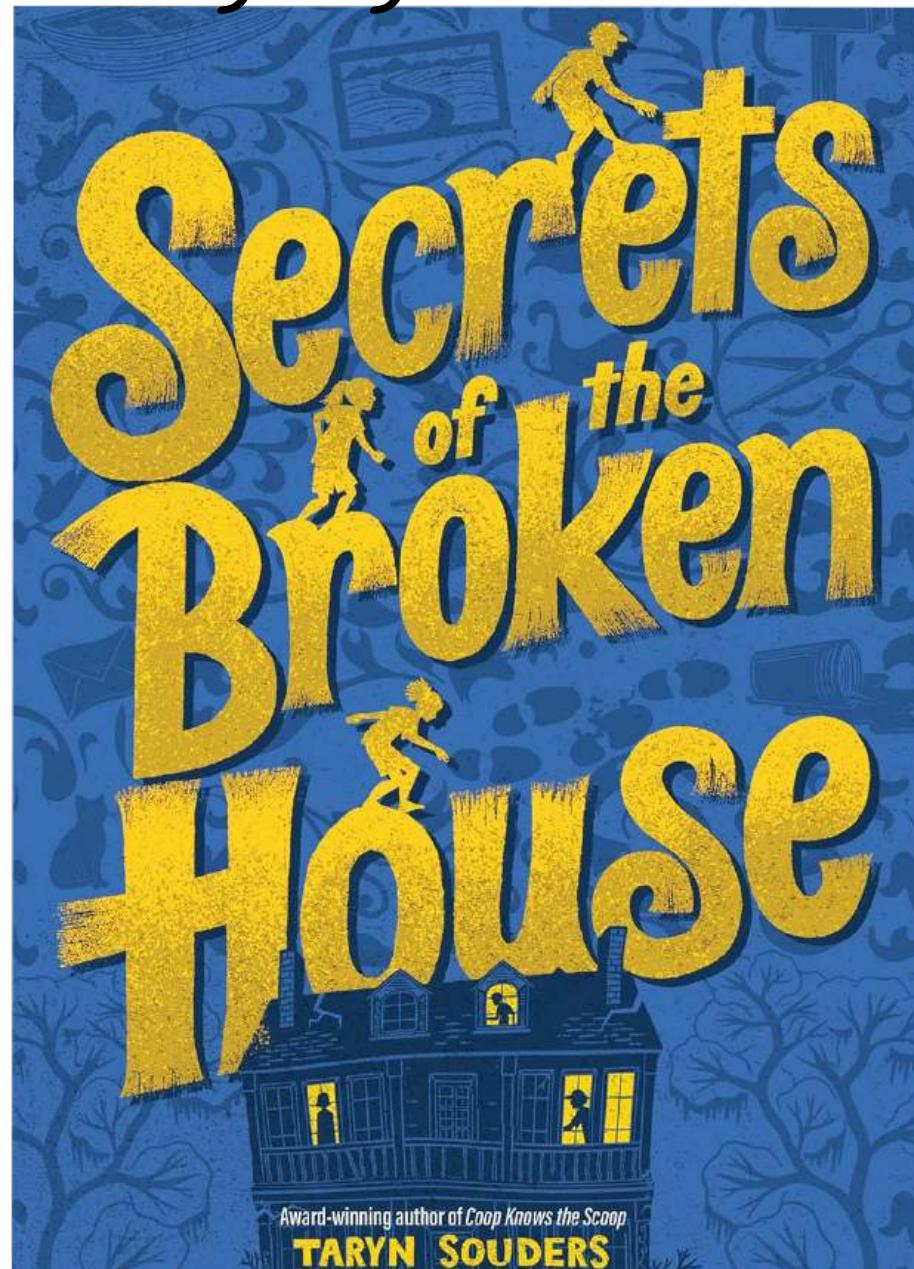
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

SECRETS OF THE BROKEN HOUSE

by Taryn Souders



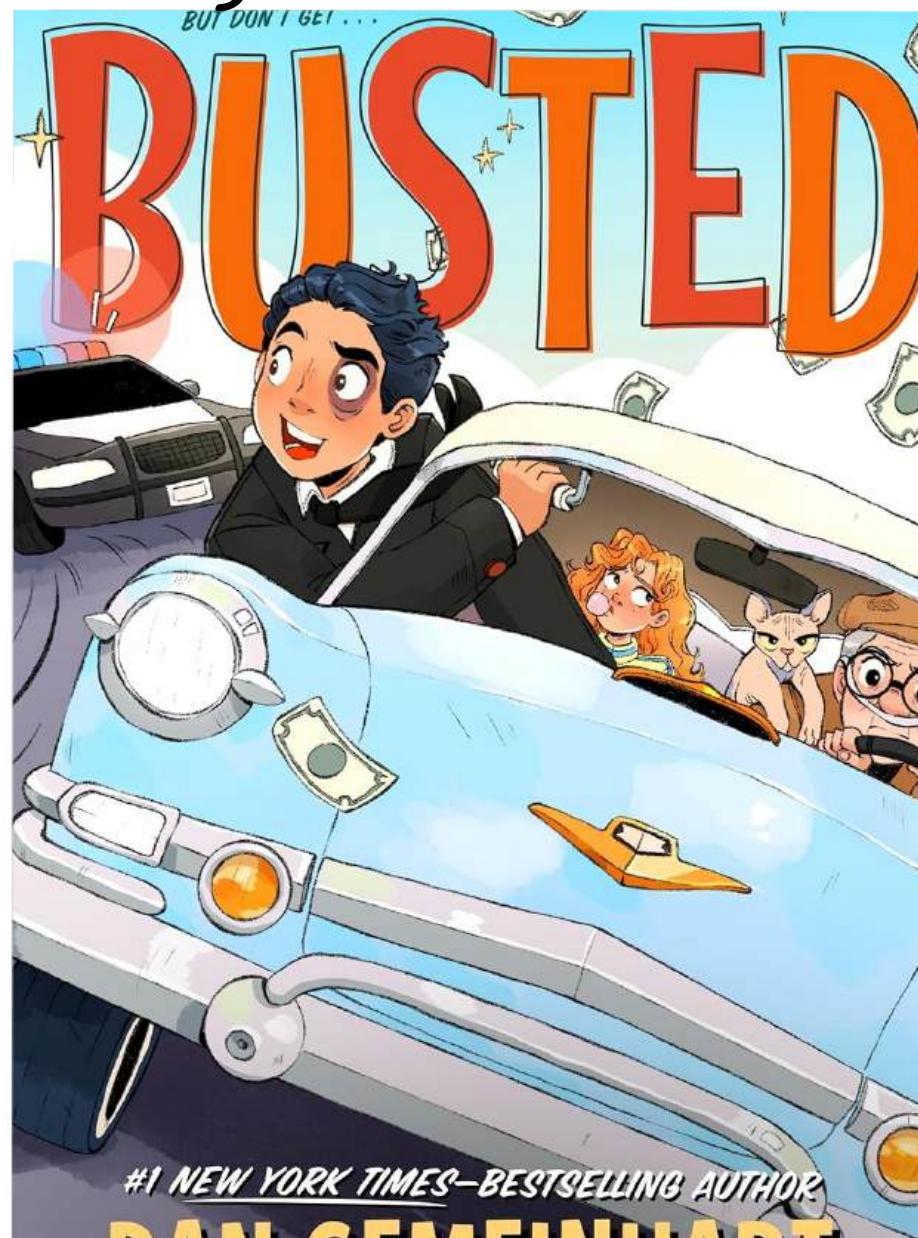
FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Secrets of the Broken House
by Taryn Souders

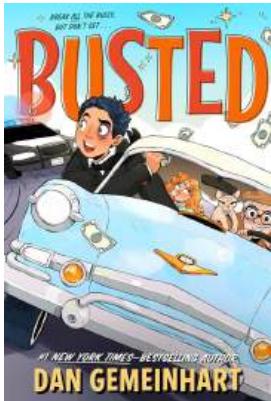
FCF Sheet Coming Soon!
Book Releases January 6th, 2026

BUSTED

by Dan Gemeinhart



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY



Name _____

Date

Busted

by Dan Gemeinhart



Read Aloud Video

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

What's It About?

When 12-year-old Oscar Aberdeen decided he would do anything to save the only home he's ever known, he didn't realize that anything would include theft, trespassing, gambling, a broken nose, grand theft auto, a federal prison, and a police chase. He had no idea it would be so dangerous...or so fun. Oscar Aberdeen is a bit of an oddball. He's an ace at playing bridge, loves Frank Sinatra, and attends a whole lot of funerals. He's also the youngest resident of Sunny Days retirement home by more than a half-century—and he wouldn't have it any other way. So when his grandpa's suddenly served an eviction notice that threatens their place at Sunny Days, he needs to find some cash. Fast. Enter Jimmy Deluca, a shady elderly man with a reputation for being bad news, who makes Oscar an offer he can't refuse. He's got the drop on riches hidden away on the "outside" and he'll share the loot with Oscar on one condition: he busts him out of Sunny Days. In this humdinger of an adventure, the ultimate odd couple, along with an uninvited stowaway, go from high-stakes escape to rollicking escapade as they search for the secret stash—and forge an unlikely friendship along the way.

Who Wrote It?

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



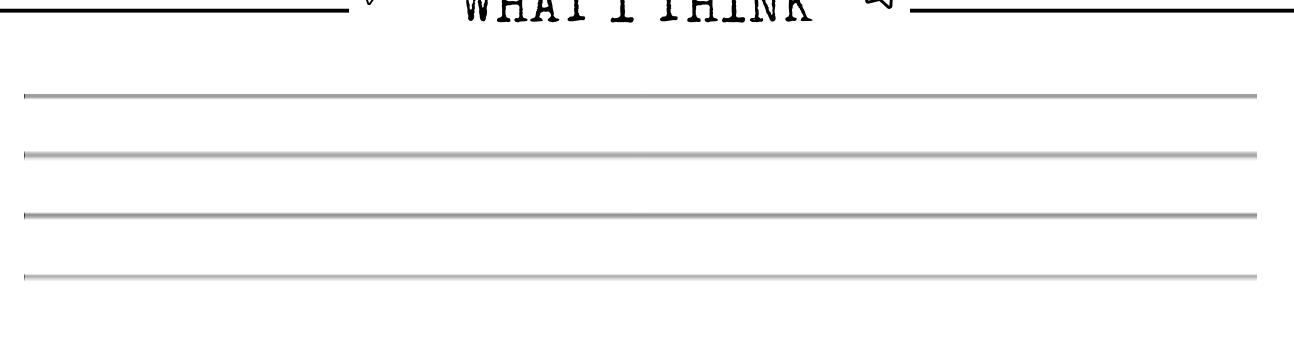
pretty darn
happy. You
can learn
more about
him and his
books @
www.dangem-einhart.com

AR Reading Level: Unavailable

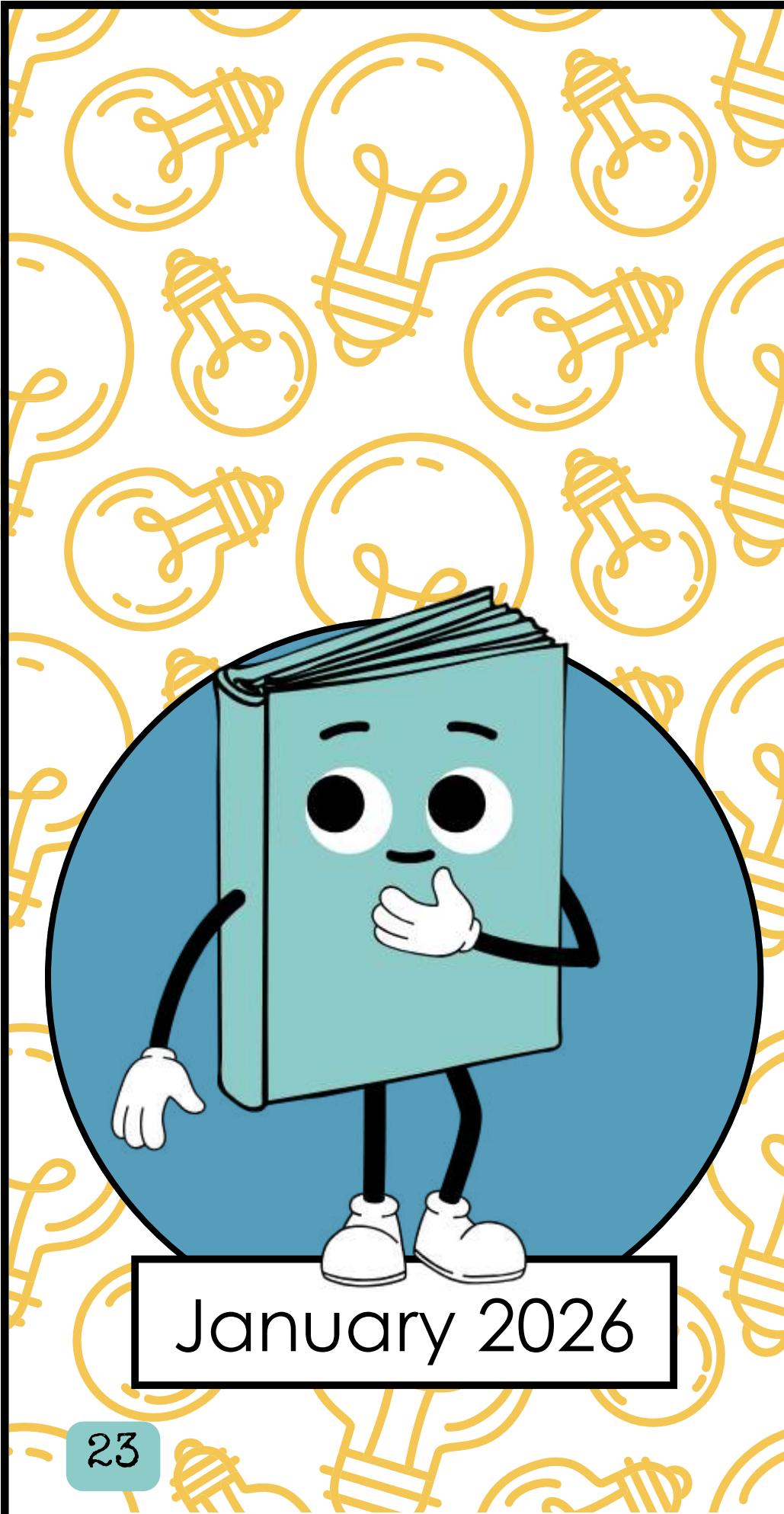
Lexile Level: Unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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



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

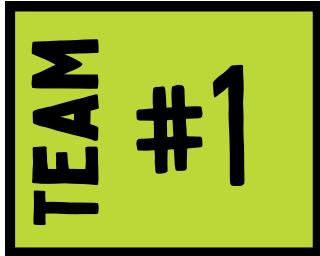
1. This activity can be used as a brain break, ice breaker or fun game.
2. In my classes we keep our teams the same for an entire quarter. We have a "leader board" where we keep a running score for all of our brain break games. This is great for team building or creating comradery in a classroom learning 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.



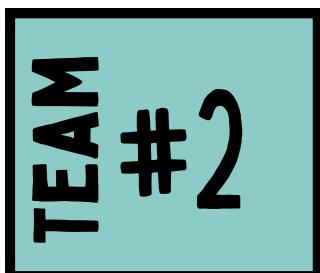
January Brain Break LEADERBOARD

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.



Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5

Total:



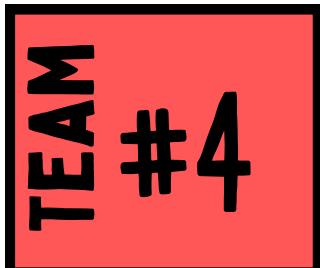
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5

Total:



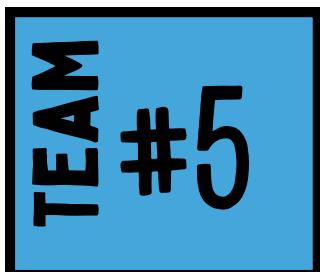
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5

Total:



Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5

Total:



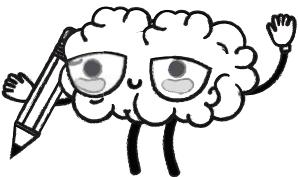
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5

Total:



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.

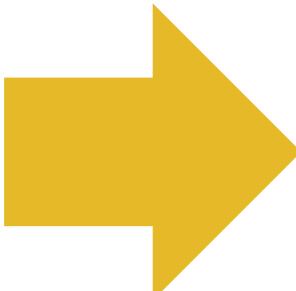
Click the title, image or link to get to the video!

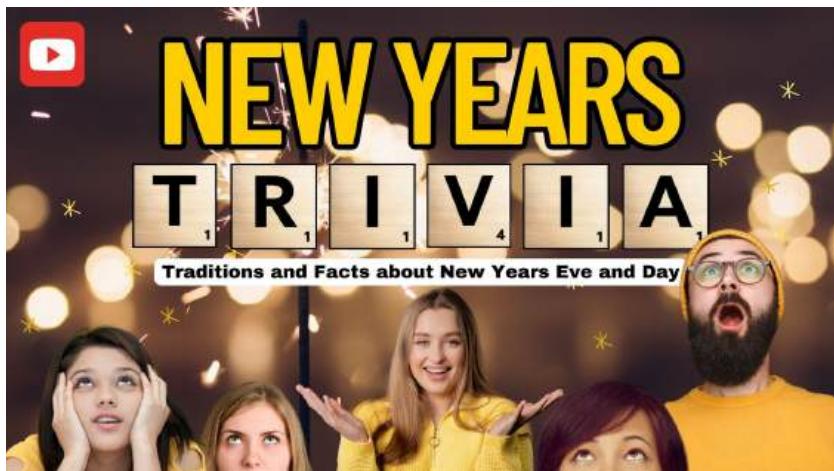
NEW YEAR'S TRIVIA VIDEO



This link will take you to the YouTube Video of New Years trivia questions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsLHm0j5Am8>

Or, use this QR code!





New Year's Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

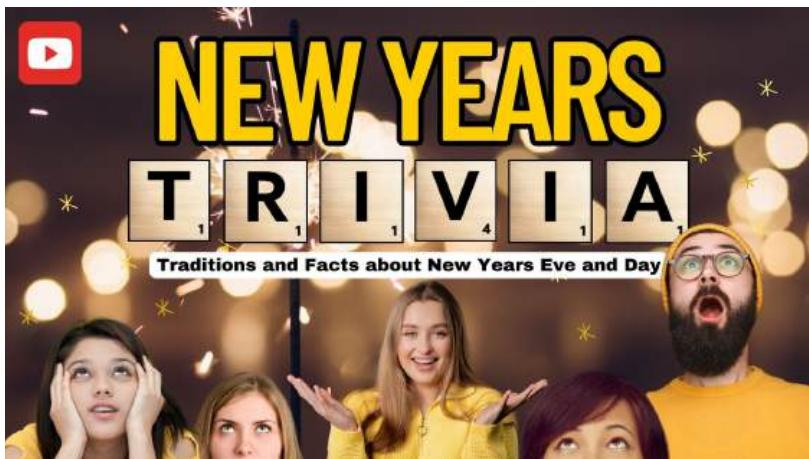
Video
Quiz -->



Name/Team Name: _____

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

How did you do? Are you a
New Years Trivia ROCKSTAR?!?!



New Year's Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:

Write your answers on
the lines below.

Video
Quiz -->



Name/Team Name: _____

1: A B C D

11. True or False

2: A B C D

12: A B C D

3: A B C D

13: A B C D

4: True or False

14: A B C D

5: A B C D

15: A B C D

6: A B C D

16: True or False

7: A B C D

17: A B C D

8: True or False

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

How did you do?
Are you a
New Years Trivia
ROCKSTAR?!?!

Score: _____ / 20



New Years Trivia

Trivia Name: _____
Video



1 Who were the first people to have the earliest recorded history of a New Year's celebration 4,000 years ago.

- a) Babylonians
- b) Egyptians
- c) Romans
- d) Greeks

2 In the Chinese zodiac, a 12-year cycle, each year is represented by _____.

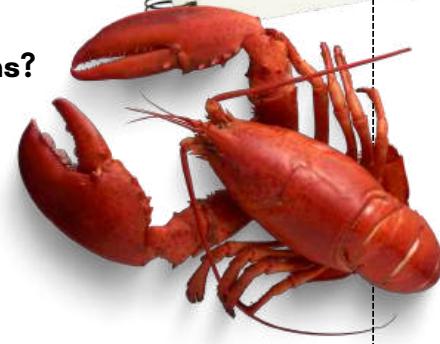
- a) tree
- b) natural element
- c) animal
- d) planet

3 What percentage of Americans make New Year's resolutions?

- a) 20%
- b) 35%
- c) 45%
- d) 50%

4 True or False? Eating lobster or chicken during New Year is thought to bring good luck.

- a) True
- b) False



5 How many people gather in New York City's Times Square to watch the ball drop?

- a) 10,000
- b) 100,000
- c) 1,000,000
- d) 10,000,000

6 In this country, people celebrate the New Year by diving into a frozen lake while holding a tree trunk placed under the ice.

- a) Russia
- b) Iceland
- c) Canada
- d) Mongolia

7 Who or what is considered the mascot or symbol of New Years?

- a) Disco Ball
- b) Firework/Rocket
- c) Ryan Seacrest
- d) Baby New Year

8 True or False? The ball drop tradition was started because of a ban on fireworks.

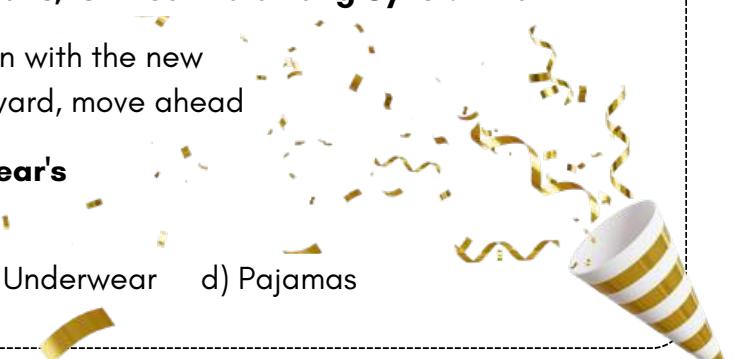
- a) True
- b) False

9 The song traditionally sung on New Year's, is titled "Auld Lang Syne". What does Auld Lang Syne mean?

- a) Times Gone By
- b) Out with the old, in with the new
- c) Check ya later last year
- d) Eyes forward, move ahead

10 What do people wear in Italy on New Year's Day to bring good luck all year long?

- a) A New Hat
- b) Comfy Socks
- c) Red Underwear
- d) Pajamas





11 True or False? People of outside the USA and those of other cultures observe the new year at other times depending on their different calendars.

- a) True
- b) False



12 Why did firecrackers and noisemakers become apart of New Years traditions?

- a) Fun and Colorful
- b) To scare away any evil spirits
- c) Cheap Entertainment
- d) Seen/Heard for miles around

13 How many pounds of confetti are dropped on the crowd in Times Square at midnight?

- a) 200 pounds
- b) 500 pounds
- c) 2,000 pounds
- d) 5,000 pounds

14 What was the original Time Square Ball made of?

- A) Iron
- b) Wood
- c) Light bulbs
- d) All of the Above

15 The Times Square NYE ball is now made of 2,688 Waterford Crystal triangles which are bolted to 672 LED modules and attached to the aluminum frame of the Ball. How much does it weigh?

- a) 1,000 pounds
- b) 6,000 pounds
- c) 11,000 pounds
- d) 16,000 pounds

16 The New Year's Eve Ball hasn't missed a year since its 1907 introduction.

- a) True
- b) False



18 In some Asian countries, people eat this food to symbolize their desire to live a long life.

- a) 12 grapes
- b) Long noodles
- c) Dumplings
- d) Fish

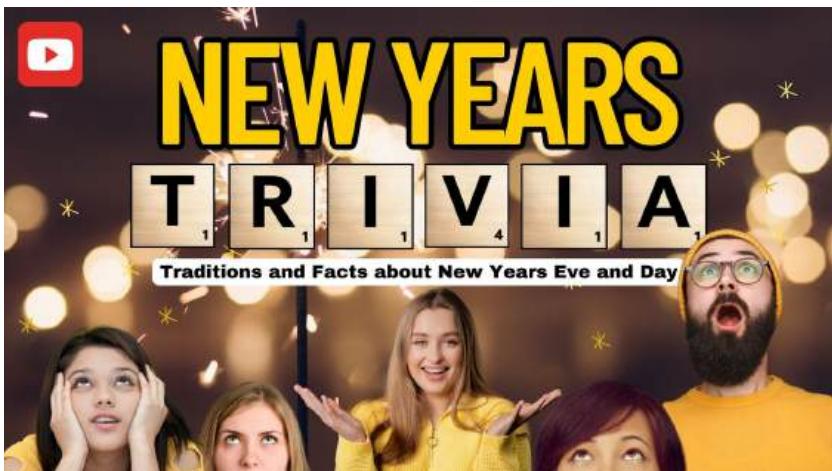


19 The island nation Kiribati rings in the new year first. Which country is the last?

- a) Cape Verde (Spanish Isles)
- b) American Samoa
- c) Los Angeles, USA
- d) Russia

20 What percentage of people give up on their New Years Resolutions by February?

- a) 50%
- b) 60%
- c) 70%
- d) 80%



New Year's Trivia Answer Key

Directions:

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

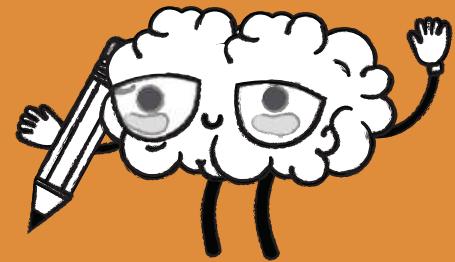
ANSWER KEY

1. A) Babylonians
2. C) animal
3. C) 45
4. False
5. C) 1,000,000
6. A) Russia
7. D) Baby New Year
8. True
9. A) Times Gone By
10. C) Red Underware
11. True
12. B) To scare away evil spirits
13. C) 2,000 pounds
14. D) All of the Above
15. C) 11,000 pounds
16. False
17. A) Hockey (NHL)
18. B) Long Noodles
19. B) American Samoa
20. D) 80%

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

PICTURE DETECTIVE

BRAIN BREAK



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





Round 3 Answer Sheet

Starts at Min Mark 7:35

What everyday item is pictured
in each close up photograph?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

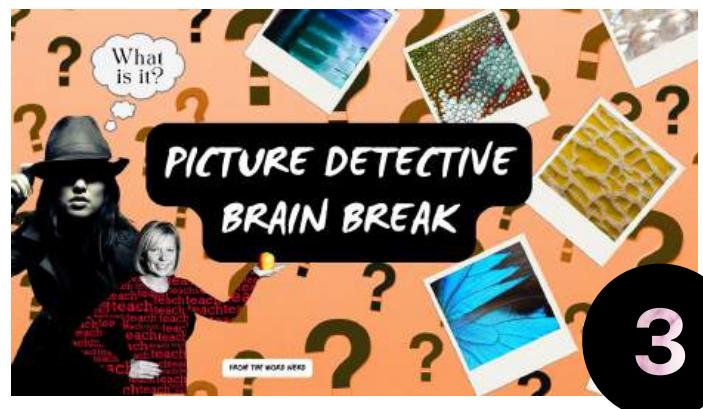
6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____



Round 3 Answer Sheet

Starts at Min Mark 7:35

What everyday item is pictured
in each close up photograph?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

MODIFIED ANSWER SHEET



3



Round 3
Answer
Sheet

Starts at Min Mark 7:35



3



Round 3
Answer
Sheet

Starts at Min Mark 7:35

What everyday item is pictured in each close up photograph?

1. fancy skirt or orange
2. tennis shoe or softball
3. bike tire or vinyl record
4. bird feather or corduroy pants
5. elephant trunk
or jacket sleeve
6. remote control sensor
or tail light
7. pinecone or turtle shell
8. bullet or key
9. dragonfly wing or bubble
10. mushroom or fingerprint

What everyday item is pictured in each close up photograph?

1. fancy skirt or orange
2. tennis shoe or softball
3. bike tire or vinyl record
4. bird feather or corduroy pants
5. elephant trunk
or jacket sleeve
6. remote control sensor
or tail light
7. pinecone or turtle shell
8. bullet or key
9. dragonfly wing or bubble
10. mushroom or fingerprint



Video



Picture Detective Round #3

Name: _____

3





Video



3

Picture Detective Round #3

Name: _____



#9



#10

Record Your Answers Here:

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

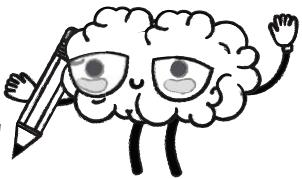


Round 3 Answer Sheet

3

What everyday item is pictured in each close up photograph?

1. Orange
2. Tennis Shoe
3. Vinyl Record
4. Bird Feather
5. Cactus
6. Tail Light
7. Pinecone
8. Key
9. Dragonfly Wing
10. Mushroom



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!

WINTER OLYMPIC TRIVIA VIDEO



This link will take you to the YouTube Video of Winter Olympic Trivia questions: https://youtu.be/81O7jI67fRY?sub_confirmation=1





Winter Olympic Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

Trivia Video



Name/Team Name: _____

1. _____
2. _____
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6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

How did you do? Are you a
Winter Olympic Trivia ROCKSTAR?!?!



Winter Olympic Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:

Write your answers on the lines below.

Trivia Video



Name/Team Name: _____

1. A B C D
2. A B C D
3. A B C D
4. True or False
5. A B C D
6. A B C D
7. A B C D
8. True or False
9. I _____

10. A B C D
11. A B C D
12. A B C D
13. True or False
14. A B C D
15. A B C D
16. Bobsled or Skeleton
17. A B C D
18. A B C D
19. A B C D
20. A B C D

How did you do?
Are you a Winter Olympics Trivia
CHAMPION?

Score: ___ / 20
www.amandazieba.com

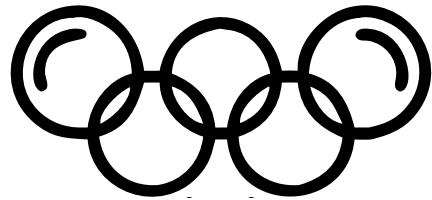


Are you a Winter Olympic Trivia Champion? Take this Trivia quiz and see!



Trivia
Video

Winter Olympic



Name: _____

1 The 1st Winter Olympics had 258 athletes from 16 countries and took place in which country?

A) Canada B) France C) Norway D) Russia

2 How many countries participated in the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics?

A) 56 B) 78 C) 91 D) 104

3 How many countries have participated in every Winter Olympic Games?

A) 8 B) 12 C) 16 D) 20

4 True or False? The Winter Olympics have never been held in the Southern Hemisphere.

A) True B) False

5 During his 1936 cross country skiing race, what did a Finnish skier spit in the snow?

A) Blood B) Gum C) Dentures D) Vomit

6 The 42 pound stone used to make "the rock" in curling is a rare and dense granite quarried from...

A) India B) Peru C) Croatia D) Scotland

7 How much did NBC pay for the rights to be the sole U.S. broadcaster of the Olympics from 2012-2032?

A) \$1.2 million B) \$12 million C) \$1.2 Billion D) \$12 Billion

8 True or False: The 1993 Disney movie Cool Runnings about a Jamaican bobsled team at the Olympics was inspired by a true story.

A) True B) False

9 What do speed skating, ice hockey, curling and figuring skating have in common... a similarity that isn't true for any of the Winter Olympics events?

They are the only 4 Winter Olympic Sports... _____.

10 Throughout the years, which country has won the most Winter Olympic medals?

A) Norway B) USA C) Germany D) Austria

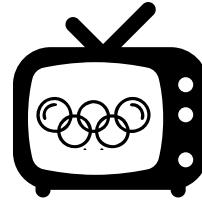


11 What threatened to cancel the 1974 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck?

A) lack of snow B) military conflict C) lack of athletes D) an avalanche

12 What year were the Winter Olympics first broadcast in color on TV?

A) 1964 B) 1968 C) 1972 D) 1976



13 True or False? The Winter and Summer Olympics used to be held in the same year.

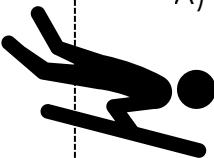
A) True B) False

14 Which country is the only one to have won a gold medal at EVERY Winter Olympic Games?

A) Norway B) USA C) Germany D) Austria

15 Up until 1972, the Winter Olympics took place in a European or North American country. Where did they take place in 1972?

A) Russia B) China C) Japan D) Korea



16 Which travels faster?

A Bobsled OR A Skeleton Sled?



17 There were no Olympics in 1940 and 1944 due to ...

A) Global Warming B) Lack of Athletes
C) Global Pandemic D) World War 2

18 The Olympic motto, "Citius, Altius, Fortius" means what?

A) Run, Jump, Achieve
B) Faster, Higher, Stronger
C) Strive, Compete, Succeed
D) All I do is WIN



19 The Olympic medals are designed by...

A) A committee of the previous year's winners
B) The International Olympic Committee (IOC)
C) The hosting country
D) The country with the most athletes competing in that year's games.

20 What year were the Paralympics added to the games??

A) 1948 B) 1952 C) 1960 D) 1972



Winter Olympic Trivia Answer Key

Directions:

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

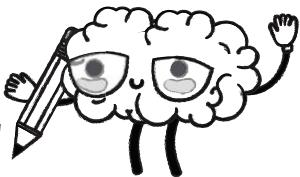
Trivia Video



ANSWER KEY

1. B) France	11. A) lack of snow
2. C) 91	12. B) 1968
3. B) 12	13. True
4. True	14. B) USA
5. C) Dentures	15. C) Japan
6. D) Scotland	16. Skeleton Sled
7. D) 12 billion	17. D) World War 2
8. True	18. B) Faster, Higher, Stronger
9. Indoors	19. C) The hosting country
10. A) Norway	20. C) 1960

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

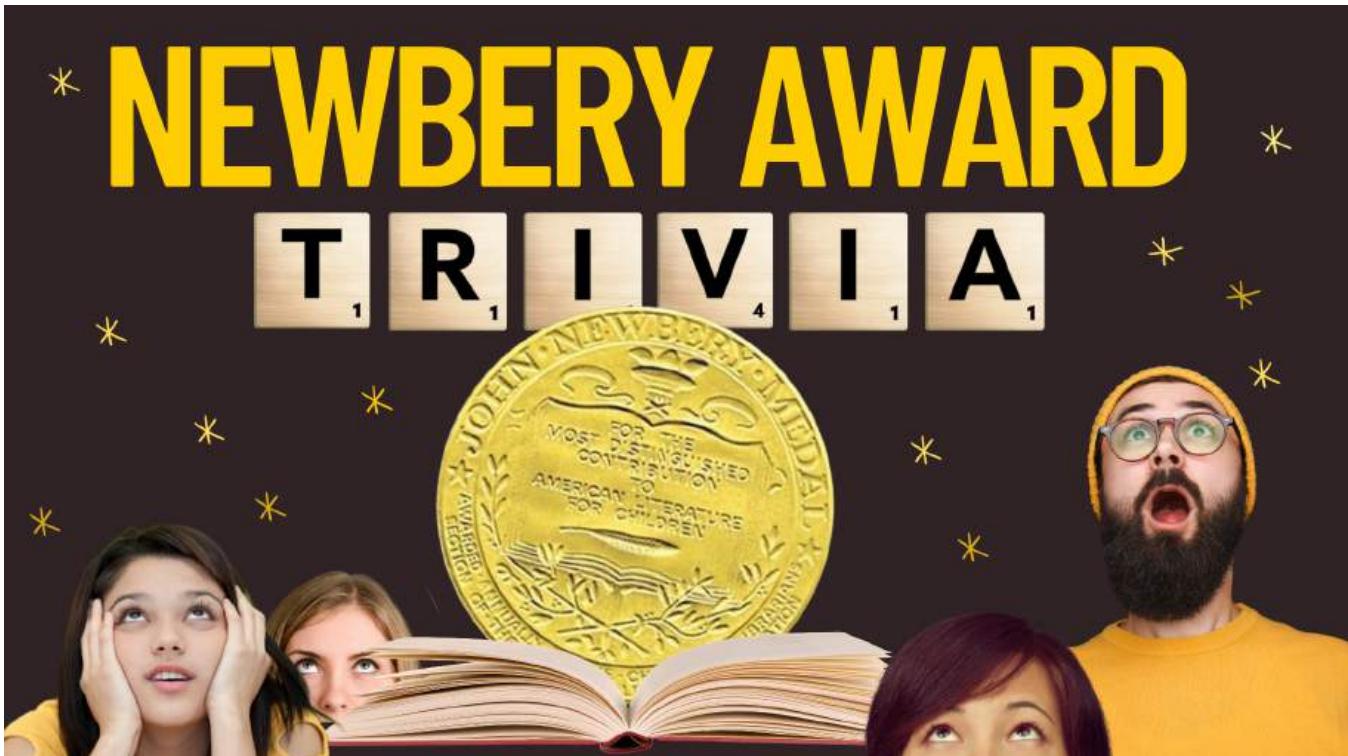


Trivia Game Video Link

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

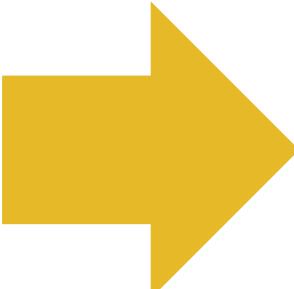
Click the title, image or link to get to the video!

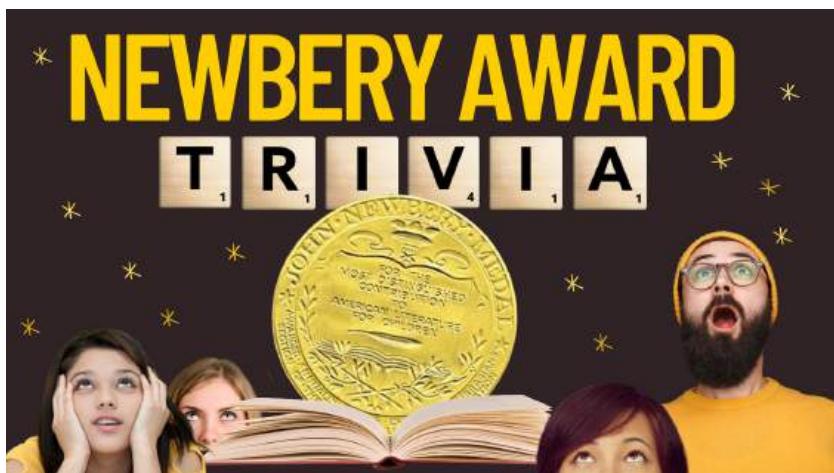
NEWBERY AWARD TRIVIA VIDEO



This link will take you to the YouTube Video of Newbery Award trivia questions: https://youtu.be/6to5SrqVyis?sub_confirmation=1

Or, use this QR code!





Newbery Award Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

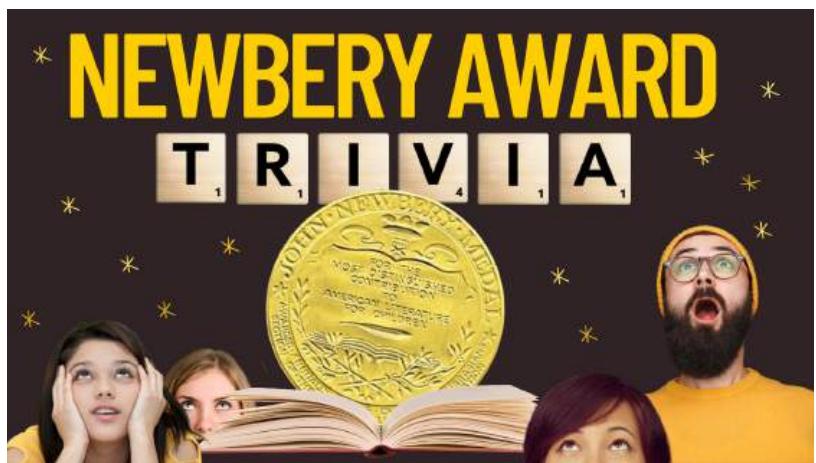
Video
Quiz -->



Name/Team Name: _____

1. _____
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9. _____
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12. _____
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14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

How did you do? Are you a
Newbery Award Trivia ROCKSTAR?!?!



Newbery Award Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

Video
Quiz -->



Name/Team Name: _____

1: 1902 or 1922 or 1942 11. True or False

2: A B C D 12: True or False

3: A B C D 13: A B C D

4: True or False 14: True or False

5: A B C D 15: A B C D

6: A B C D 16: True or False

7: A B C D 17: A B C D

8: True or False 18: F _____ B _____
won the N _____ A _____

9: A B C D 19: A B C D

10: S _____ and P _____
F _____ 20: L _____
I _____
W _____

How did you do?
Are you a
Newbery Award
Trivia ROCKSTAR?!?!

Score: _____ / 20

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



Trivia
Video

Newbery Award Trivia



Name: _____

1 **What year was the Newbery Award first given?**

- a) 1902
- b) 1922
- c) 1942

2 **The award is named after John Newbery. What was his profession?**

- a) writer
- b) dictionary printer
- c) publisher
- d) teacher

3 **As of 2024, how many people have won the Newbery Medal more than once?**

- a) 6
- b) 5
- c) 4
- d) 3

4 **True or False? More women have won the Newbery Award than men.**

- a) True
- b) False

5 **Who is the only person to have won both the Newbery and the Caldecott?**

- a) Brian Selznick
- b) Dr. Seuss
- c) Ellen Raskin
- d) Robert Lawson

6 **Robin McKinley is the youngest person to ever win the Newbery Medal.**

How old was she when she won it?

- a) 22
- b) 29
- c) 35
- d) 41

7 **What is the name of the artist that designed the Newbery Medal?**

a) Rene Paul Chambellan	b) Barbara Elleman
c) John Newbery	d) Hendrick Willem Van Loon



8 **True or False? The Newbery Medal is made of gold!**

- a) True
- b) False

9 **As of 2024 How many poetry books have won the Newbery Award?**

- a) 2
- b) 4
- c) 6
- d) 8

10 **What father and son duo won the Newbery Award two years apart?**

S_____ and P_____ F_____



11 True or False? The same number of Newbery Honor Books are chosen each year.

a) True b) False



12 True or False? The author of the winning book must be a citizen of the United States of America.

a) True b) False

13 How many nonfiction books have won the Newbery Award?

a) 3 b) 7 c) 12 d) 26



14 True or False? The same person designed both the Newbery and Caldecott Medals.

a) True b) False

15 How often is the Newbery Award given?

a) twice a year b) once a year
c) once every other year d) once every 5 years

16 True or False? The Newbery award can NOT be given to a graphic Novel.

a) True b) False



17 What has been the highest number of Newbery Honor Medals given in any one year?

a) 5 b) 8 c) 11 d) 16

18 When it comes to the Newbery Award, what do Christopher Paul Curtis and Kate DiCamillo have in common?

Their F_____ B_____ won the N_____ A_____!!

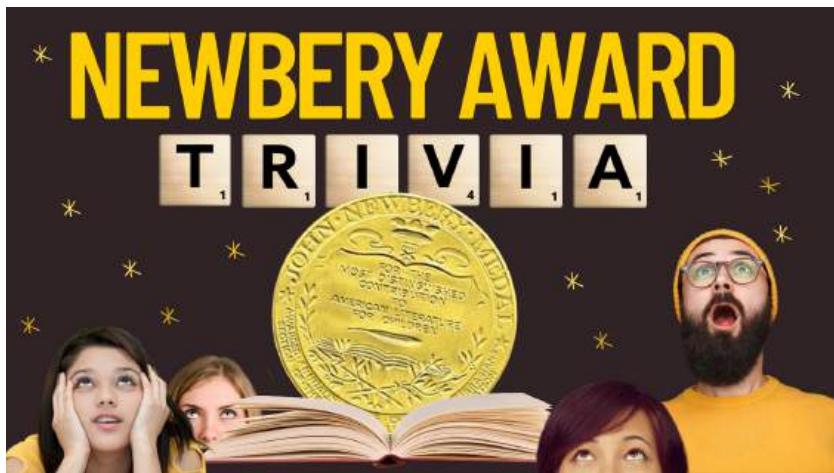
19 How many Newbery Award winning books have less than 100 pages?!?!

a) 1 b) 3 c) 5 d) 7

20 Which famous female Midwest author won 5 Newbery Honor medals, but never a Newbery?

Picture hints in video quiz!

L_____ I_____ W_____



Newbery Award Trivia Answer Key

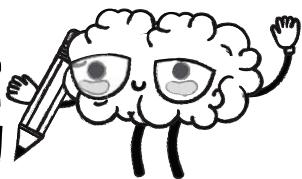
Directions:

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

ANSWER KEY

1. 1922
2. C) publisher
3. A) 6
4. True
5. D) Robert Lawson
6. C) 35
7. A) Rene Paul Chambellan
8. False
9. B) 4
10. Sid and Paul Fleischman
11. False
12. True
13. B) 7
14. True
15. B) Once a year
16. False
17. B) 8
18. Their 1st book won the Newbery Award
19. D) 7
20. Laura Ingalls Wilder

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



Trivia Game Video Link

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

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

ANIMAL GROUP NAME TRIVIA VIDEO



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

https://youtu.be/2Pq7q_OVHH4?sub_confirmation=1



Animal Group Name Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

Name/Team Name: _____

1. _____
2. _____
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9. _____
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11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

How did you do?
Are you an expert when it comes to
Animal Group Names?



Animal Group Name Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

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



Animal Group Name Trivia Game

Name: _____

Trivia
Video

1 A group of ELEPHANTS is called a

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

2 A group of CAMELS is called a

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

3 A group of GORILLAS is called a

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

4 A group of HORSES is called a

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

5 A Group of KANGAROOS is called a

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

6 A Group of BUFFALO is called a

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

7 A group of JAGUARS is called a

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

8 A group of BEAVERS is called a

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

9 A group of FROGS is called a

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

10 A group of OWLS is called a

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



Animal Group Name Trivia Game

Name: _____

Trivia
Video

11 A group of PARROTS is called a

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

12 A group of PORCUPINES is called a

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

13 A group of COBRAS is called a

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

14 A group of WOMBATS is called a

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

15 A Group of WASPS is called a

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

16 A Group of CHEETAHS is called a

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

17 A group of STINGRAYS is called a

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

18 A group of EMUS is called a

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

19 A group of GIRAFFES is called a

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

20 A group of SQUIRRELS is called a

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



Animal Group Name Trivia Answer Key

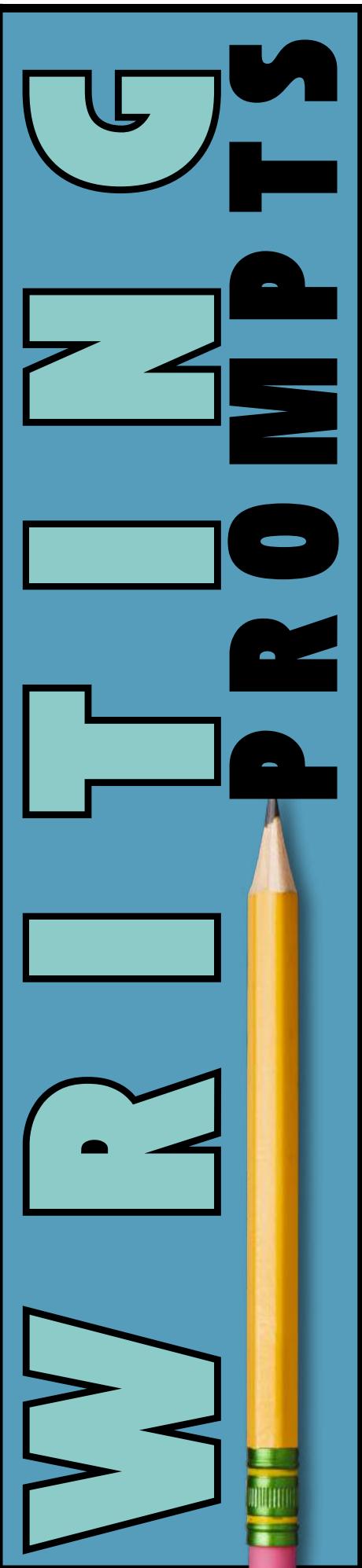
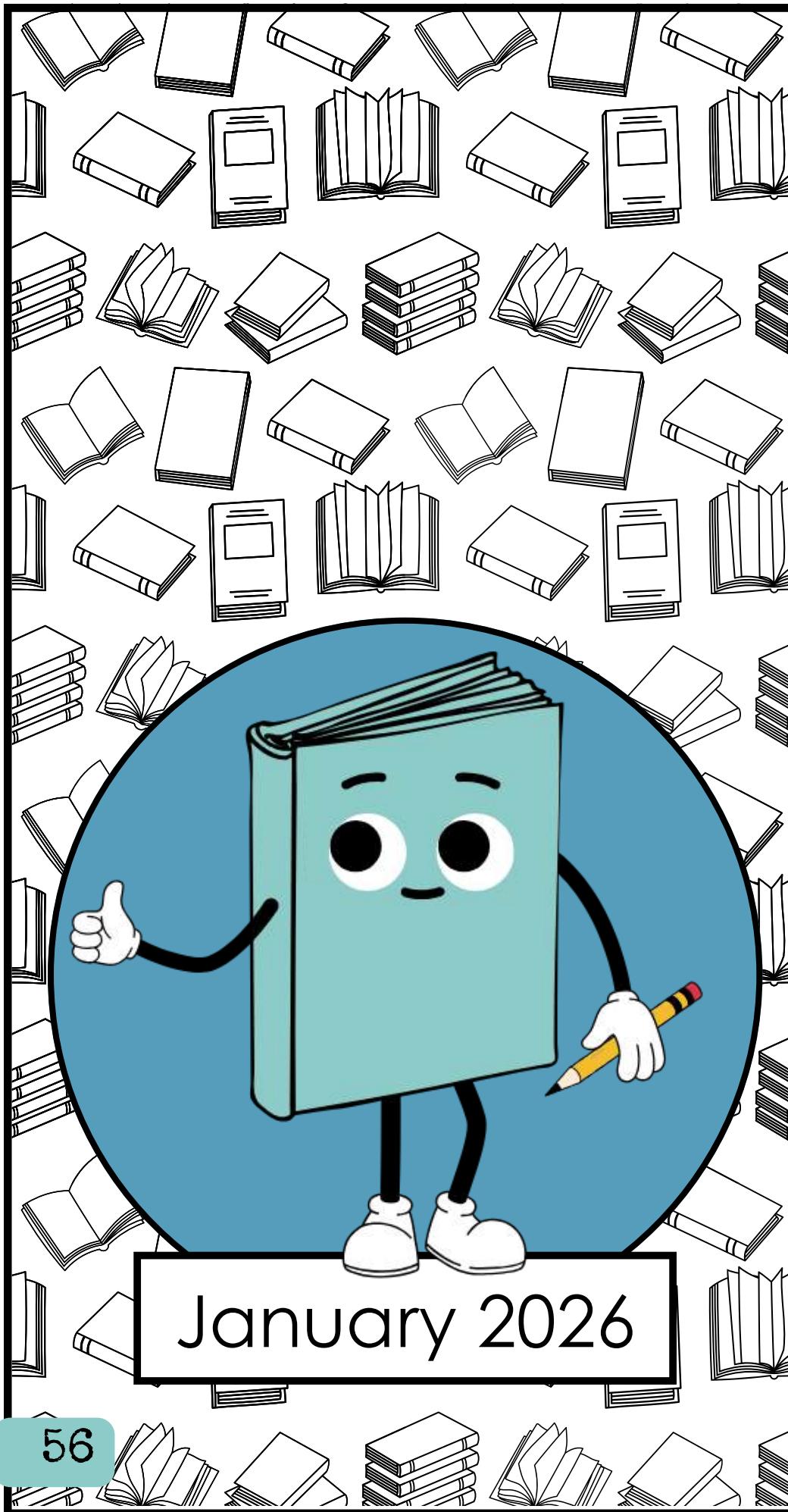
Directions:

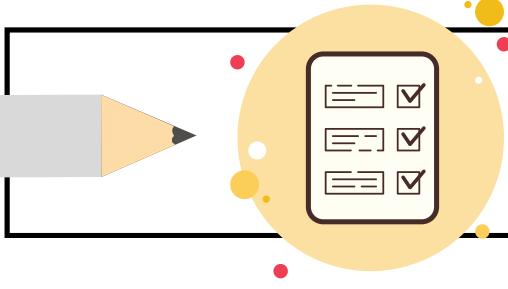
If you'd like to check student answers without the video, here is the answer key.

ANSWER KEY

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

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





HOW TO USE THE WRITING PROMPTS

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

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

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

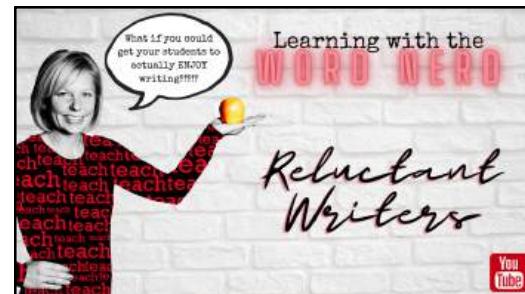
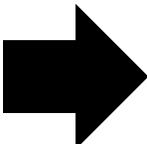
If you want, keep these “curriculum and standard” pieces of information to yourself, go for it! There is no need to let the kids know we have a secret plan to trick them into being better writers and hating it a little bit less each day!

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

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

Happy Writing!

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



(https://youtu.be/I7UWA-pw040?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.



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

Total Points = ___/10

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS

Free Write Friday

Choice A:

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

Choice B:

Write about a topic of your choice.



► Rubric

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

Teacher Comments:

Total Points = ___/10



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:

Title of Piece/Date Written



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:

Title of Piece/Date Written

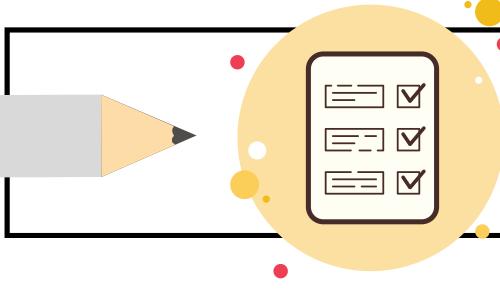


LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE
WRITER TO IMPROVE

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

FINAL COMMENTS

WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:



JOURNAL WRITING RUBRIC

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

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

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

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

Total Points = ___/10

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

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

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

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

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

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

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

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS

January 1-2

Monday

DECEMBER



Tuesday

DECEMBER



Wednesday

DECEMBER



Thursday

The Flashlight

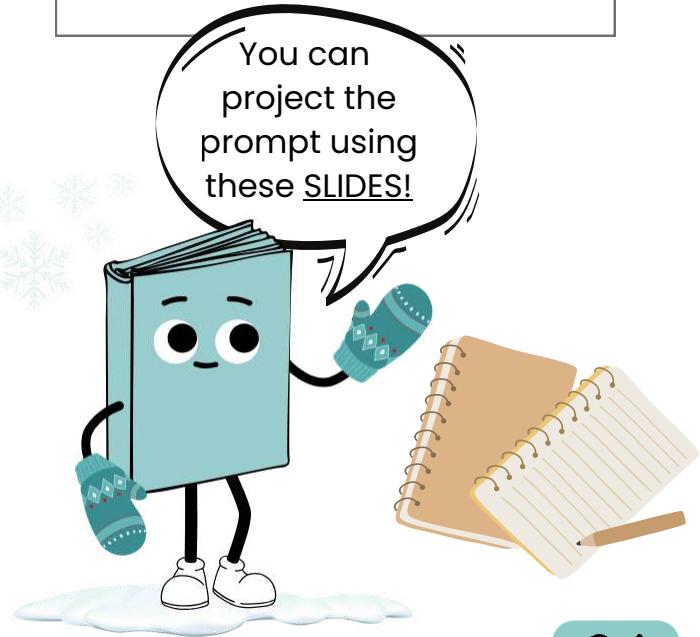
Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Description

Friday

Free Write Friday

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



NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

Write a
scene
using the
image
and/or
the words



The flashlight almost wasn't necessary. Almost.

WRITING PROMPT

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

January 5-9

Monday

My Parents are Spies!

Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Contemporary/Realistic Fiction

Tuesday

Snow – Figuratively Speaking

Style/Skills:

- Figurative Language (simile)

Wednesday

It's Alive!

Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Genre = Fantasy Adventure

Thursday

All the Feels

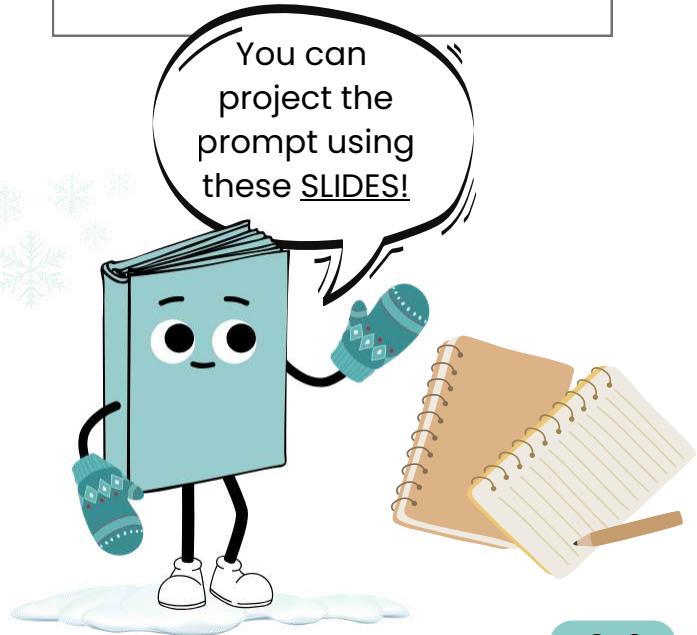
Style/Skills:

- Personal Reflection

Friday

Free Write Friday

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



NAME: _____

CONTINUE THE STORY...

Last night at dinner your parents told you they are spies.

Now What?



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:

"Winter had come to Walnut Grove like a toddler having a tantrum – that's the way my mom described it – kicking and howling, without apology or regret."

- Laura Ingalls is Ruining My Life by Shelly Tougas

SIMILE = a comparison using the words **LIKE** or **AS**.

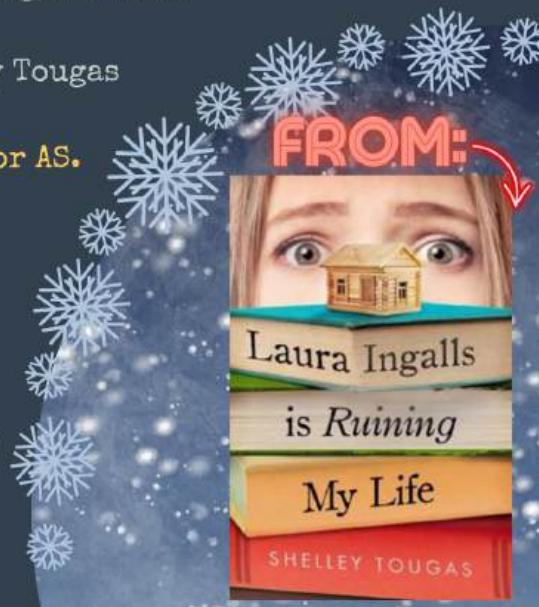
YOU TRY!

Action

- Shark Feeding Frenzy
- Tsunami
- Jenga Tower

Event

Black Friday Shopping
Growing To-Do List
Falling plates of food
in a restaurant



▼ Rubric

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

Teacher Comments:

Total Points = ___/10

What happens next?

Leo loved Legos. Last week he built an epic display that included mountains, a river, and this explorer dude he named Geo. When the final brick was placed and Leo stuck Geo in the scene (with a map in hand), the little Lego guy turned his plastic head and said, "Thanks, Leo."



Rubric

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

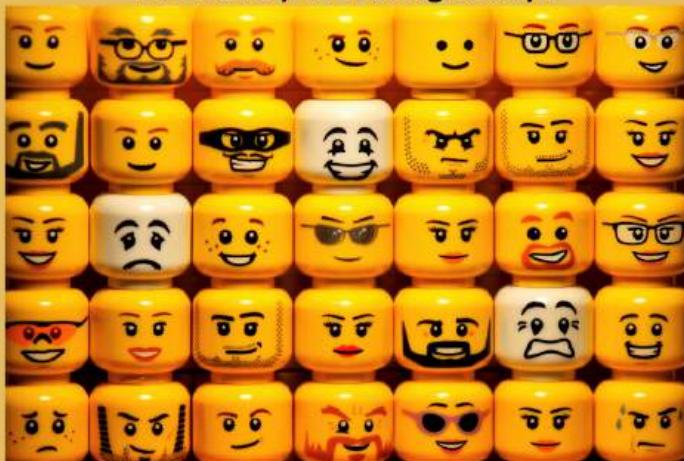
Total Points = ___/10

Teacher Comments:

NAME: _____

Reflect

How are you feeling today?



Try to label your current emotion and then list a few reasons why you might be feeling that way.

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

January 12-16

Monday

A Tropical Trip

Style/Skills:

- List Making
- Narrative Writing
- Story Element = Setting

Tuesday

A Day with No Sun

Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Genre - Science Fiction
- Curriculum Connection to science/astronomy

Wednesday

A Vacation Documentary

Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Career Connections/Exploration

Thursday

Pick a Hat, Any Hat

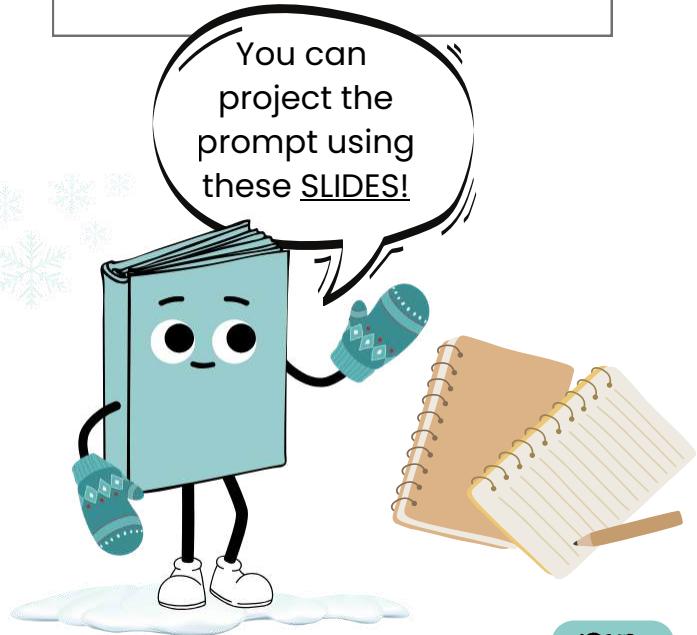
Style/Skills:

- Story Element - Characterization

Friday

Free Write Friday

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

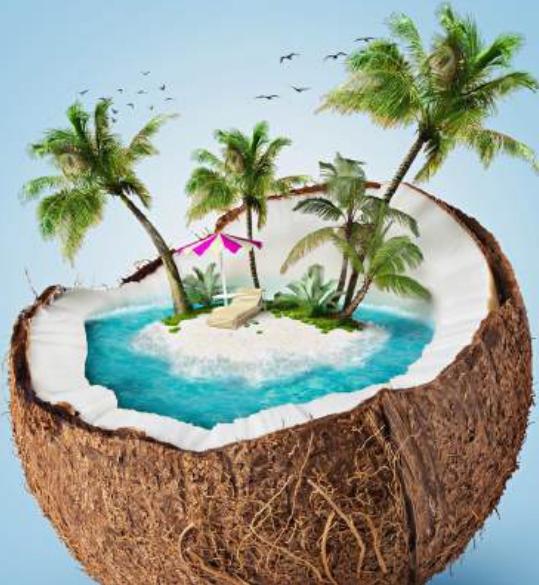


Let's plan a trip!

Plan a trip to a tropical island.

For this prompt you can...

- List everything you need to take
- Write a narrative
- Describe your ideal setting
- Write the trip as an advertisement from a travel agent



Rubric

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

Teacher Comments:

Total Points = ___/10

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD



Tell this Tale

After Earth's sun is destroyed, a team of scientists and engineers must race against time to build a new one before the planet is consumed by darkness.

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:

While you are on vacation, you discover there is a film crew on site making a documentary. You want to get involved.

Questions to Consider:

- What role/job would you most like to have?
- What do you hope the documentary is about?
- What happens when the documentary is complete?
- How does this change your trip? Your future career plans?

Want to know more?

**Rubric**

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

Total Points = ___/10

Teacher Comments:

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

Pick a hat...

and then write about
a character who wears 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

January 19-23

Monday

Family of Entrepreneurs

Style/Skills:

- Curriculum connection = business class
- Career Exploration
- Creative Writing

Tuesday

Full of Hot Air

Style/Skills:

- Word Choice
- Creative Writing

Wednesday

Let's Talk About a Trip

Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Dialogue

Thursday

Uncertain

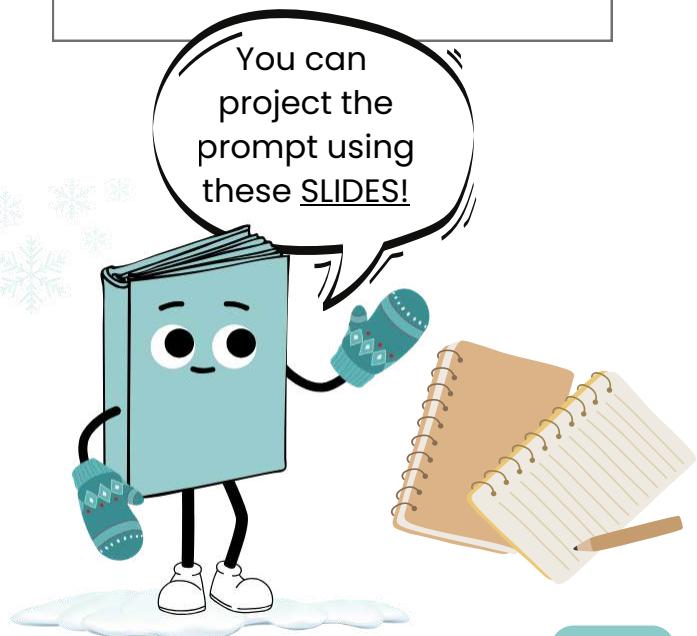
Style/Skills:

- Social Emotional Learning

Friday

Free Write Friday

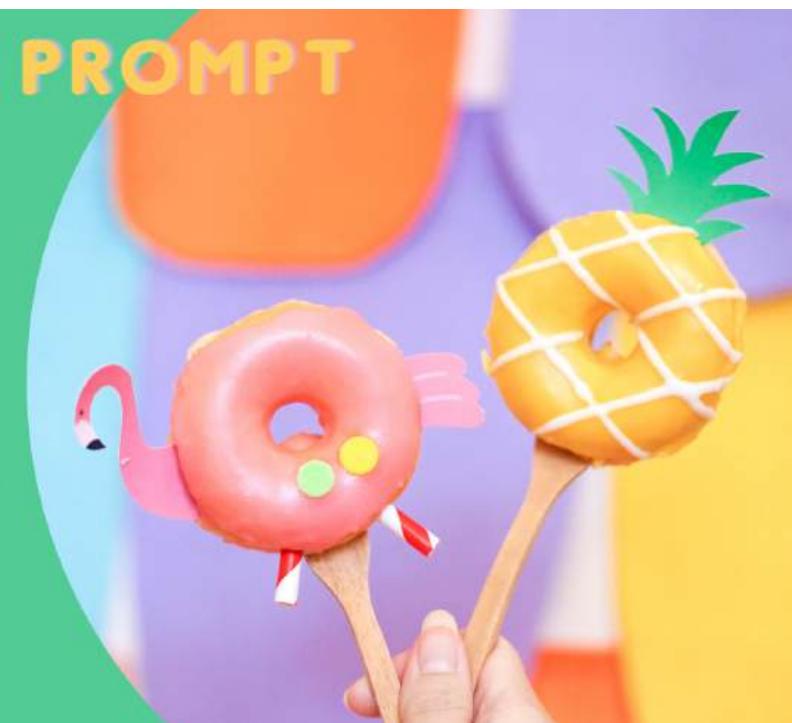
Write whatever you'd like... including continuing a past prompt. :)



WRITING PROMPT

Everyone in Helena's family was an entrepreneur. The same way that some families seemed to produce nurses or teachers or lawyers... hers produced entrepreneurs. It was almost... expected. She didn't mind working hard and working hard for herself seemed better than working for someone else. But the trouble was, she had zero ideas. Her brother owned and operated a bicycle sale and repair shop. Her parents ran the local diner and her sister was set to open her own day spa next week.

Time was running out. Helena needed a good idea and she needed one in a hurry.



Rubric

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

Total Points = ___/10

Teacher Comments:

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

USE THIS PICTURE AND THE DESCRIPTIVE WORD BANK TO INSPIRE YOUR STORY



WORD BANK

STEEP

TITAN

CHISELED

MISTY

MEDIEVAL

MOSS-COVERED

MASSIVE

Rubric

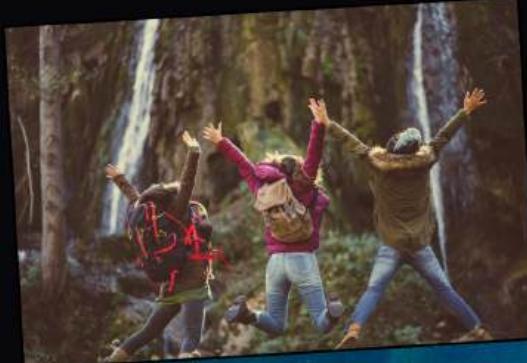
Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ___/10

Teacher Comments:

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS FROM THE WORD NERD



Continue the Story

**“Pack your bags.
We’re going on a
trip.”**



“Where?”

"I'll tell you when we get there."

▼ **Rubric**

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

Teacher Comments:

Total Points = ___/10

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

"Ever since I found out they kicked Pluto out of the planets, I haven't been feeling so sure about a lot of things."

--No Passengers Beyond this Point
by Jennifer Choldenko

**WHAT SITUATION WOULD
MAKE A PERSON FEEL
UNCERTAIN OR
DOUBTFUL? TRY TO COME
UP WITH SOMETHING
SPECIFIC OR UNUSUAL.**



IDEAS:

**MYSTERY MEAT
@ SCHOOL
LUNCH**

**PRESENT FROM
YOUR ENEMY**

NEW TEACHER

**DISCOVERING A
FAMILY SECRET**

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

January 26-30

Monday

A Concert with a View

Style/Skills:

- Point of View
- Format: Diary Entry

Tuesday

Special Delivery

Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Genre: Realistic Fiction

Wednesday

Top 5

Style/Skills:

- Personal Reflection
- Goal Setting

Thursday

Before or After?

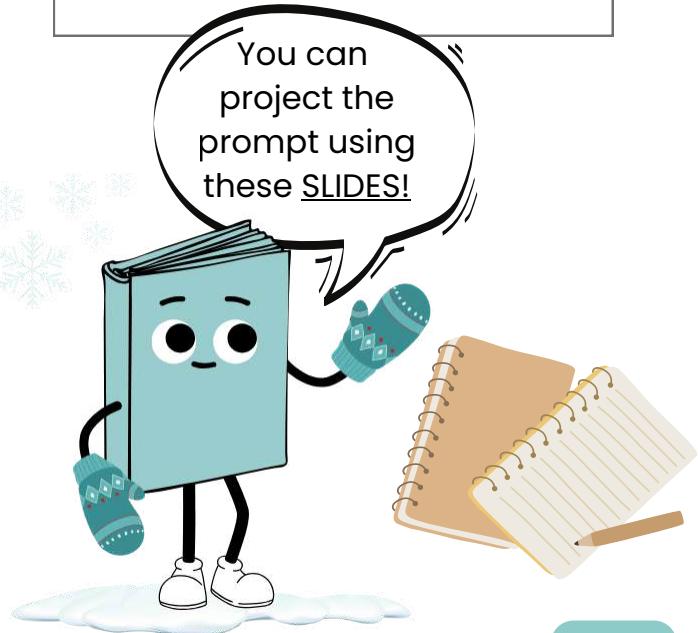
Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Word Choice (Time Words)

Friday

Free Write Friday

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



NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD



Write a diary entry about this scene from one of the below perspectives. Use first person point of view.

- Lead Singer
- Concert Goer
- Band Manager
- Stagehand
- Person who didn't get tickets
- #1 Fan



Rubric

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

Total Points = ___/10

Teacher Comments:

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS FROM THE WORD NERD

Continue the Story



The letters arrive on an ordinary Monday. A whole bunch of them. It wasn't clear until I started opening them why they had been sent, but I figured it out pretty quickly. It turns out ...



Rubric

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

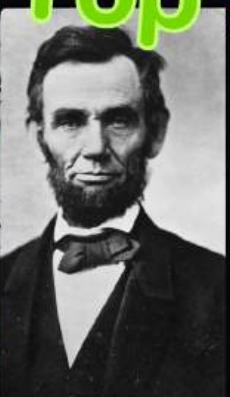
Teacher Comments:

Total Points = ___/10

NAME: _____



Top 5



Researchers say that you become the average of the 5 people you hang around most. If you could pick any 5 people to be your Top 5, who would you choose and why?

Rubric

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

Total Points = ___/10

Teacher Comments:

Tell this story...

Either begin **one hour** before this picture was taken, or **immediately** after the picture was taken.

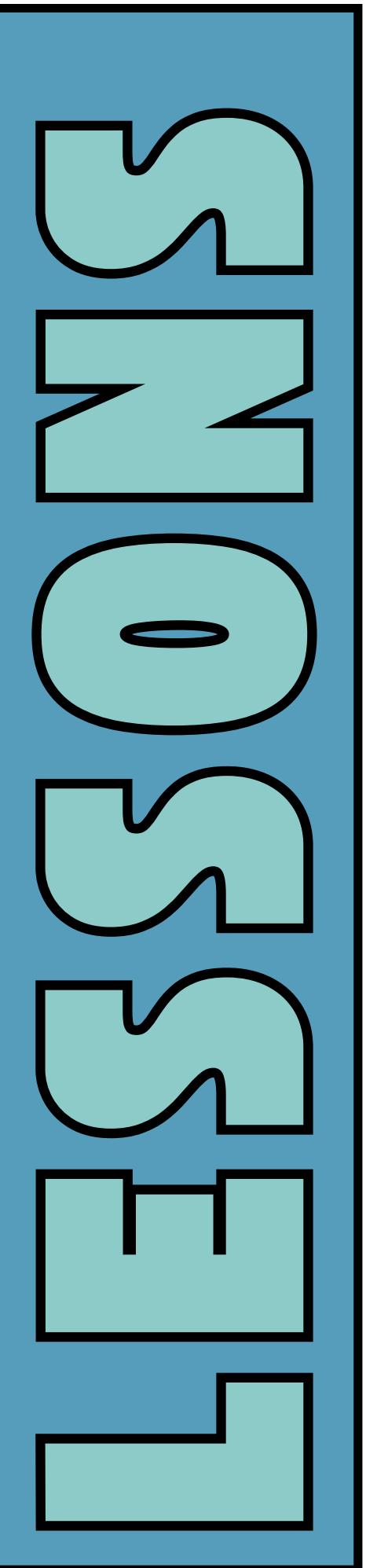
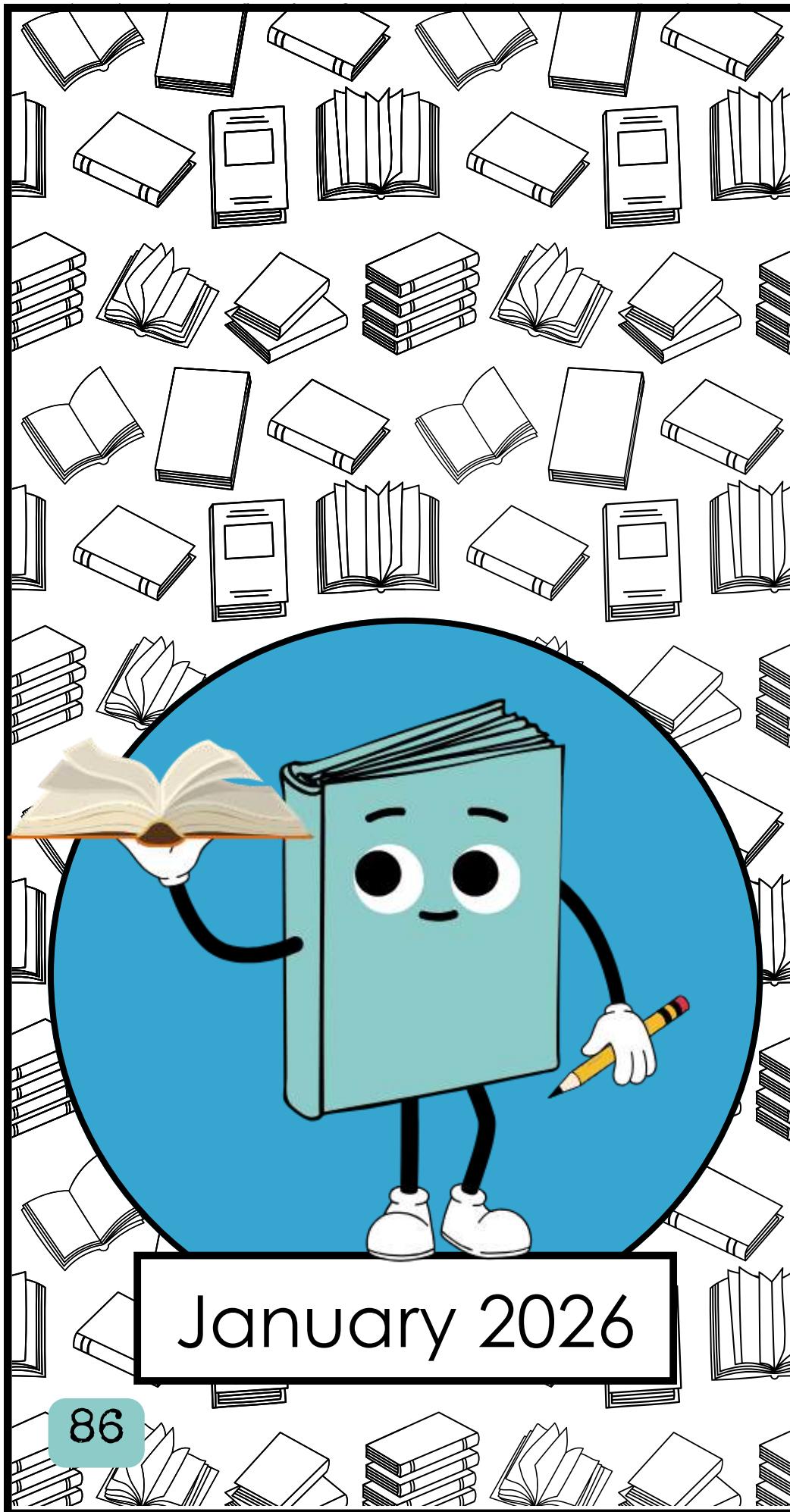


Rubric

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:



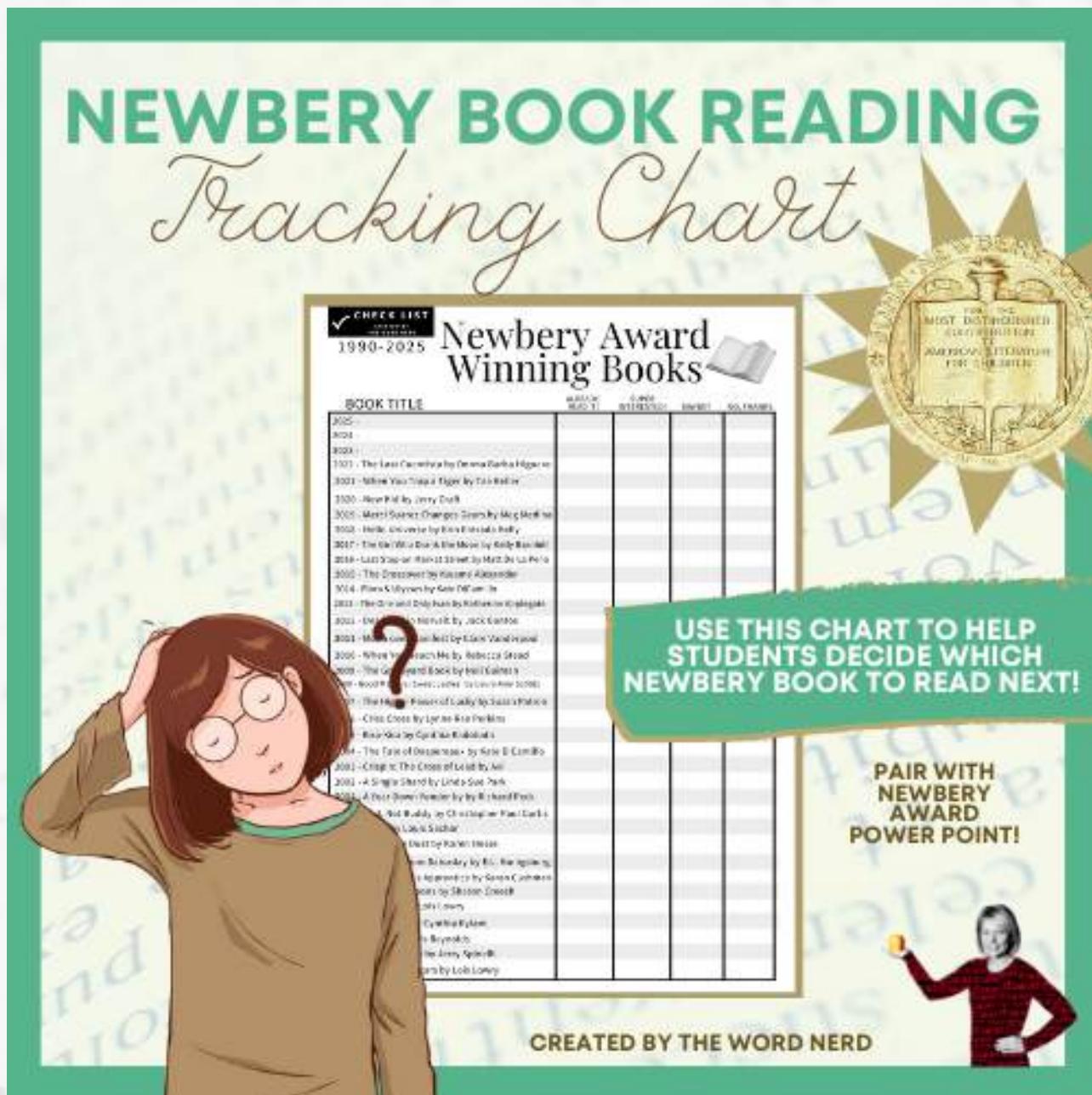
January 2026

NEWBERY AWARD LESSONS



NEWBERY BOOK

READING TRACKING CHART



The image shows a Newbery Book Reading Tracking Chart. At the top, the title "NEWBERY BOOK READING" is in bold green capital letters, and "Tracking Chart" is in a large, elegant cursive font. To the right is a gold Newbery Medal with a starburst background. Below the title is a "CHECK LIST" for the years 1990-2025. A cartoon girl with glasses and a question mark on her head is on the left. A green callout box in the center says "USE THIS CHART TO HELP STUDENTS DECIDE WHICH NEWBERY BOOK TO READ NEXT!". A smaller box on the right says "PAIR WITH NEWBERY AWARD POWER POINT!" with a photo of a woman holding a yellow ball. The chart itself has columns for "BOOK TITLE", "AUTHOR", "GRADE LEVEL", "INTEREST", "INTEREST", and "NO. FRAMES". A sample list of books is provided for each year from 2005 to 2019.

BOOK TITLE	AUTHOR	GRADE LEVEL	INTEREST	INTEREST	NO. FRAMES
2005					
2006					
2007					
2008					
2009					
2010					
2011					
2012					
2013					
2014					
2015					
2016					
2017					
2018					
2019					

CREATE BY THE WORD NERD

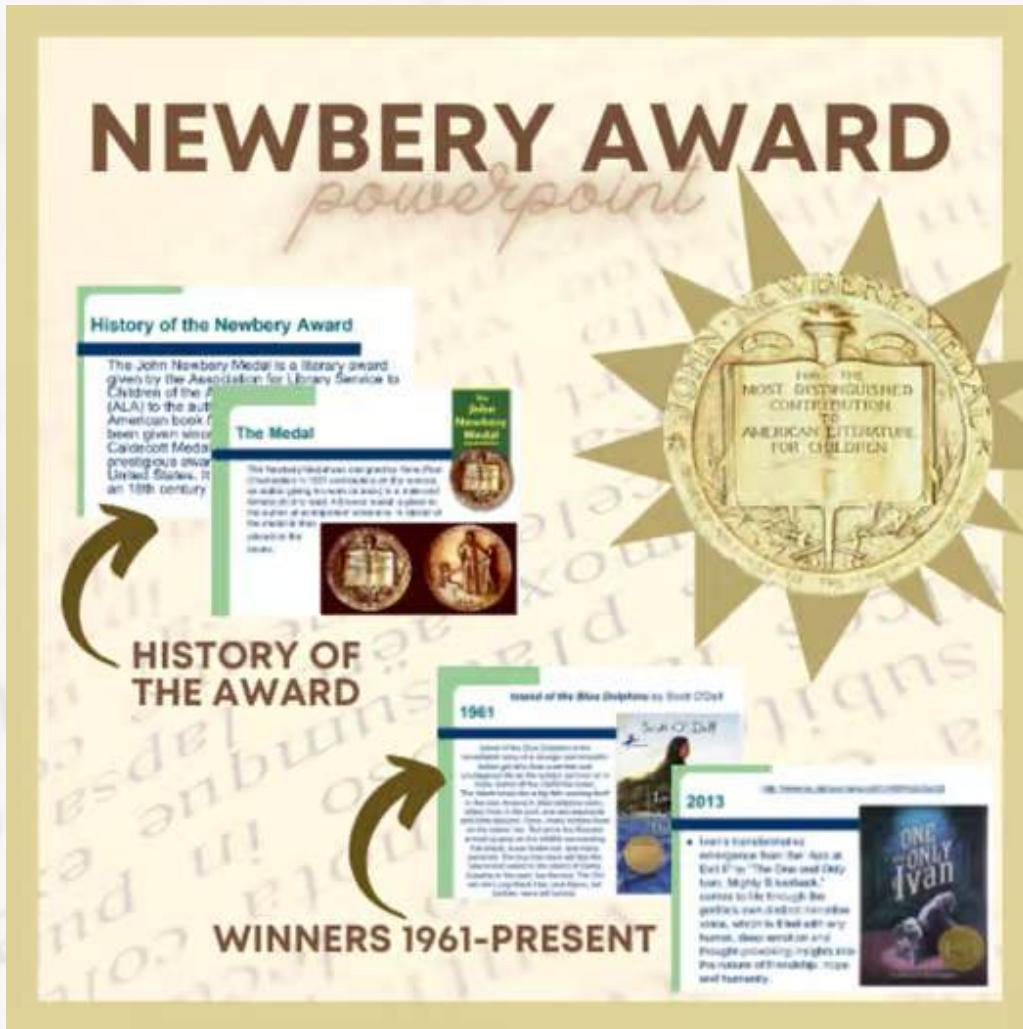
There are lots of Newbery books to choose from, but it can be hard to decide which one to read next! Students can use this chart to record their level of interest as you book talk selections (or as you go through my Newbery Award Powerpoint). Then, when you go to the library, they have a few books preselected, plus the titles and authors they need to find the books on the shelves! Happy reading!

Newbery Award Winning Books



BOOK TITLE	ALREADY READ IT!	SUPER INTERESTED!	MAYBE?	NO, THANKS.
2025 -				
2024 - The Eyes and the Impossible by Dave Eggers				
2023 - Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson				
2022 - The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera				
2021 - When You Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller				
2020 - New Kid by Jerry Craft				
2019 - Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina				
2018 - Hello Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly				
2017 - The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill				
2016 - Last Stop on Market Street by Matt De La Pena				
2015 - The Crossover by Kwame Alexander				
2014 - Flora & Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo				
2013 - The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate				
2012 - Dead End in Norvelt by Jack Gantos				
2011 - Moon over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool				
2010 - When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead				
2009 - The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman				
2008 - Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! by Laura Amy Schlitz				
2007 - The Higher Power of Lucky by Susan Patron				
2006 - Criss Cross by Lynne Rae Perkins				
2005 - Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata				
2004 - The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo				
2003 - Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi				
2002 - A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park				
2001 - A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck				
2000 - Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis				
1999 - Holes by Louis Sachar				
1998 - Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse				
1997 - The View from Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg				
1996 - The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman				
1995 - Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech				
1994 - The Giver by Lois Lowry				
1993 - Missing My by Cynthia Rylant				
1992 - Shilo by Phyllis Reynolds				
1991 - Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli				
1990 - Number the Stars by Lois Lowry				

NEWBERRY BOOK POWER POINT



This power point is an easy way to introduce students to the history and vocabulary surrounding this prestigious literary award. The presentation begins with definitions for 10 related vocabulary words followed by an overview of the award. The last portion of the show highlights the award winning titles from 1961-2022 including book covers, blurbs and (for some more recent titles) even book trailer videos and First Chapter Friday read aloud videos.

You can use this PowerPoint to not only introduce your students to Newbery Award history and requirements, but also over 60 award winning titles so they can select one to read for themselves. [**TO ACCESS THE POWERPOINT, CLICK HERE.**](#)

NEWBERY AWARD HISTORY AND NOTE TAKING SHEET

NEWBERY AWARD

Notes Sheet

Newbery Notes

The Newbery Award is a literary award given by the Association for Library Service to Children of the American Library Association (ALA) to the author of the outstanding book for children.

The award has been given since 1922. Together with the Caldecott Medal, it is considered the most prestigious award for children's literature in the United States. It is named for John Newbery, an 18th-century English bookseller.

The award is a gold medal. The real medal is presented to the author and a copy of the medal is put on the cover of the books.

The medal should be awarded to the author of the most outstanding contribution to American literature for children published by an American publisher in the United States in a given year.

The award is restricted to authors who are citizens or residents of the United States.

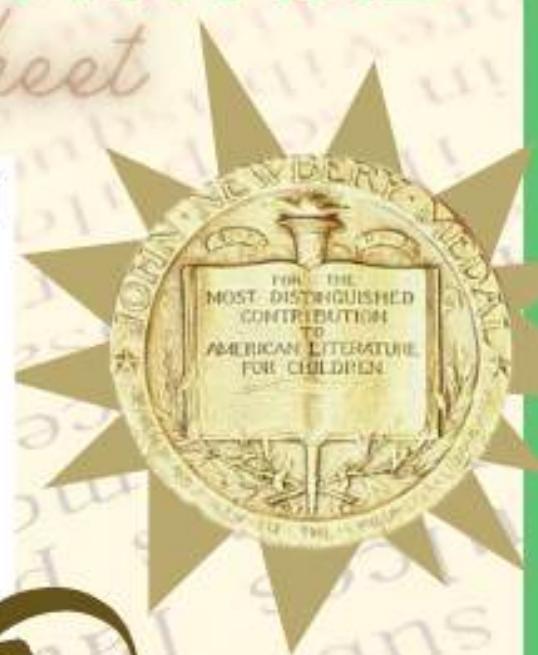
The committee should keep in mind that the award is for literary quality and not for presentation for children. The award is not for writing or illustrating. The award is given to the best book.

The runners-up for the Newbery Award are called Honor books. These books have a silver seal on their cover, and are also noted for being the "best" for that year.

Word Bank

- publisher
- nonfiction
- children
- English
- educational
- fiction
- 1922
- prestigious
- American
- Newbery Medal
- bronze
- author
- literature
- annually
- distinguished
- popularity
- honor
- preceding
- poetry
- citizens
- children

Created by the Word Nerd



USE THE AWARD DESCRIPTION PASSAGE AND NOTES SHEET TO LEARN ABOUT THIS CLASSIC CHILDREN'S AWARD.

The Newbery Award is an important part of children's literature and a great opportunity for educators to expose their students to high quality books that will engage, educate and entertain. Learn about the history of this prestigious through the description passage and use the accompanying fill-in-the-blank sheet to work with targeted vocabulary to improve memory of the concepts as well as note taking skills.





Newbery Award History

Name: _____

The History of the Newbery Award

The John Newbery Medal is a literary award given by the Association for Library Service to Children of the American Library Association (ALA) to the author of the outstanding American book for children. The award has been given since 1922. Together with the Caldecott Medal, it is considered the most prestigious award for children's literature in the United States. It is named for John Newbery, an 18th century publisher of juvenile books.

Why is the Newbery Award Given?

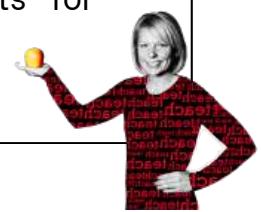
The Newbery Award is given "to encourage original creative work in the field of books for children. To emphasize to the public that contributions to the literature for children deserve similar recognition to poetry, plays, or novels. To give those librarians, who make it their life work to serve children's reading interests, an opportunity to encourage good writing in this field. The Newbery Award thus became the first children's book award in the world. Its terms, as well as its long history, continue to make it the best known and most discussed children's book award in this country."

The Medal

The Newbery Medal was designed by Rene Paul Chambellan in 1921 and depicts on the reverse, an author giving his work (a book) to a male and female child to read. A bronze medal is given to the author at an important ceremony. A sticker of the medal is then placed on the books. The medal shall be awarded annually to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children published by an American publisher in English during the preceding year. The committee should keep in mind that the award is for literary quality and quality presentation for children. The award is not for educational content or popularity. It can be given for fiction, nonfiction or poetry.

Newbery Honor Books

The runners – up for the Newbery Award are called honor books. Honor books have this seal on their cover, and are also noted for being the "greats" for that year as well. Usually 2-4 honor books are chosen each year.





Name: _____

Newbery Notes

The _____ is a literary award given by the Association for Library Service to Children of the American Library Association (ALA) to the author of the outstanding book for _____.

The award has been given since _____. Together with the Caldecott Medal, it is considered the most _____ award for children's _____ in the United States. It is named for John Newbery, an 18th century _____ of children's books.

The award is a _____ medal. The real medal is presented to the _____, and a sticker of the medal is put on the cover of the books.

The Medal shall be awarded _____ to the author of the most _____ contribution to American literature for children published by an American publisher in the United States in _____ during the _____ year.

The Award is restricted to authors who are _____ or residents of the United States.

The committee should keep in mind that the award is for literary quality and quality presentation for _____. The award is not for _____ content or _____. The award can be given to _____, _____, _____, or _____.

The runners - up for the Newbery Award are called _____ books. These books have a silver seal on their cover, and are also noted for being the "greats" for that year as well.

Word Bank

publisher
nonfiction
children
English
educational
fiction
1922
prestigious
American
Newbery Medal
bronze
author
literature
annually
distinguished
popularity
honor
preceding
poetry
citizens
children



ANSWER KEY

The **Newbery Medal** is a literary award given by the Association for Library Service to Children of the American Library Association (ALA) to the author of the outstanding **American** book for **children**.

The award has been given since **1922**. Together with the Caldecott Medal, it is considered the most **prestigious** award for children's **literature** in the United States. It is named for John Newbery, an 18th century **publisher** of children's books.

The award is a **bronze** medal. The real medal is presented to the **author**, and a sticker of the medal is put on the cover of the books.

The Medal shall be awarded **annually** to the author of the most **distinguished** contribution to American literature for children published by an American publisher in the United States in **English** during the **preceding** year.

The Award is restricted to authors who are **citizens** or residents of the United States.

The committee should keep in mind that the award is for literary quality and quality presentation for **children**. The award is not for **educational** content or **popularity**.

The award can be given to **fiction**, **nonfiction** or **poetry**.

The runners – up for the Newbery Award are called **honor** books. These books have a silver seal on their cover, and are also noted for being the “greats” for that year as well.

Word Bank

publisher

nonfiction

children

English

educational

fiction

1922

prestigious

American

Newbery Medal

bronze

author

literature

annually

distinguished

popularity

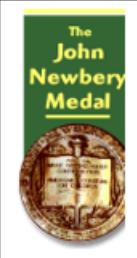
honor

preceding

poetry

citizens

children





Name: _____

Newbery Award Criteria

Visit the [ALA website](#) and read the information in the criteria section. Then, complete the Newbery Medal criteria list below.

- Criteria = book characteristics to be measured

1. Development of _____
 - a. How are the characters described and explained?
 - b. Do they feel like a real person to you?
2. Development of _____
 - a. Are the events easily understood and followed?
3. Development of _____
 - a. Are the time and place well described?
 - b. Are they believable?
 - c. Can you see it in your imagination?
4. Interpretation of theme or _____
 - a. Does the author clearly communicate a message to the reader?
 - b. Can you walk away with a major lesson learned?
 - c. Did the book leave a lasting impression on you?
5. Presentation of _____
 - a. Is the information accurate?
 - b. Is the information clear?
 - c. Is it organized in an interesting way?
6. Appropriateness of _____
 - a. Did the author communicate in a way that is appropriate for children?
 - b. Did the author format the material in a way that is easy for kids to understand?





Name: _____

Newbery Award Criteria

Answer Key

1. Development of Character

- How are the characters described and explained?
- Do they feel like a real person to you?

2. Development of Plot

- Are the events easily understood and followed?

3. Development of Setting

- Are the time and place well described?
- Are they believable?
- Can you see it in your imagination?

4. Interpretation of theme or Concept

- Does the author clearly communicate a message to the reader?
- Can you walk away with a major lesson learned?
- Did the book leave a lasting impression on you?

5. Presentation of Information

- Is the information accurate?
- Is the information clear?
- Is it organized in an interesting way?

6. Appropriateness of Style

- Did the author communicate in a way that is appropriate for children?
- Did the author format the material in a way that is easy for kids to understand?





Name:

Newbery Award Criteria

Pretend you are a judge on the Newbery committee. Use the award criteria to evaluate the book you have just finished reading. How does it measure up to these standards? For each item, place a checkmark in the yes, somewhat or no column. Then answer the writing prompt below.

Book: _____ **Author:** _____

Criteria	Yes	Somewhat	No
Development of Character How is the character explained? Does it feel like a real person to you?			
Development of Plot Are the events easily followed and understood?			
Development of Setting Are the place and time well described? Can you see it in your imagination?			
Interpretation of Theme or Concept Does the author communicate a major message? Did the book look an impression on you?			
Presentation of Information Is the information accurate, clear and presented in an interesting way?			
Appropriateness of Style Did the author communicate in a way that is appropriate for children? Was the book easy to understand?			

Do you think your book deserves the Newbery Medal, why or why not? Be sure to use complete sentences and also the criteria above in your answer.



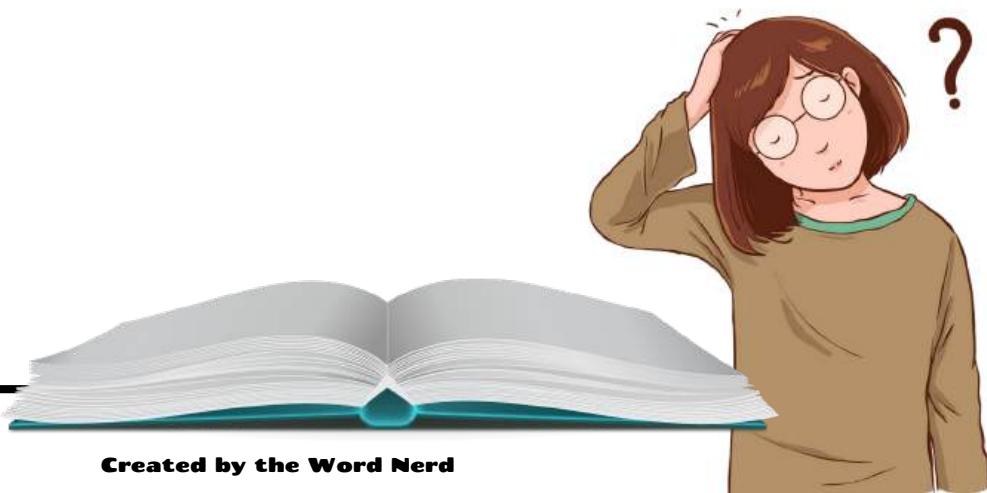
What Makes a Book **GOOD!?!?**

Name: _____

Directions: Create a list of qualities that good books possess. Think about your favorite books. What are they about? In what style are they written? Where do the stories take place? Use these as clues to help you make your list.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Directions: If you were an artist in charge of designing a new Newbery Medal, what would it look like? Shape? Color? Images used? Use this space to sketch your ideas.

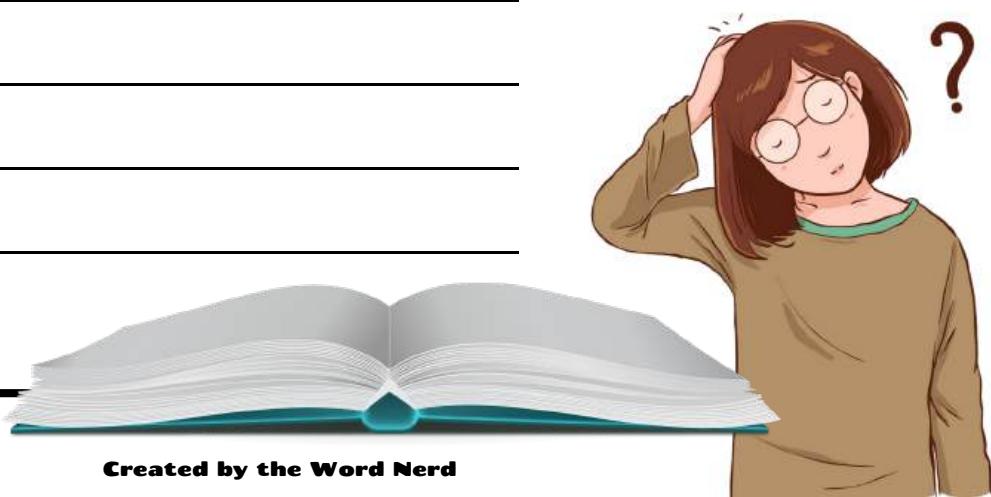


What Makes a Book **GOOD!?!?**

Name:

Directions: Share final design for your new medal here.

Directions: Write a description for your new medal including award criteria, award name and any background information you'd like to share (invented history).



Newbery Journal Write

Name:

Directions: Choose one of the questions below and answer it in at least one paragraph. Make sure to fully explain your thoughts in complete sentences using correct capitalization and punctuation.

- **Why is it important to think about what makes a book good?**
- **Who do you think the judges of the Newbery Award should be?**
- **What criteria of a book would you evaluate if you were a Newbery judge?**
- **What do you think the winner of the Newbery Award should get as a prize?**



Newbery Journal Write Rubric

Name: _____

Task	2 points	1 point	0 points
Response Journal Set Up	Journal response included the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Date• Name• Title/heading	Journal response included 2 of the three following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Date• Name• Title/heading	Journal response included 1 or 0 of the three following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Date• Name• Title/heading
Correct Grammar Usage	Journal entry is written with very few grammatical errors. Proper punctuation and capitalization are used throughout the writing piece.	Journal entry is written with many grammatical errors. Proper punctuation and capitalization are not used throughout the writing piece.	Journal entry is written with many grammatical errors. It is difficult to understand the meaning of the text because of the multiple errors.
Neatness of Entry	Response journal looks as if the owner truly treasures their writing.. Pages are flat and handwriting is easily read.	Your response journal has an occasional wrinkled page and handwriting that is somewhat difficult to read.	Your response journal has many ripped out or crumpled pages. The handwriting is very difficult to read so teacher cannot understand what you are trying to communicate.
Level of Completion	All elements of the question are fully answered using details and personal experiences where appropriate. Journal entry addresses all important aspects of the question.	Most elements of the question are fully answered. Journal entry addresses some of the important aspects of the question.	Journal entry has minimal writing. You are missing major portions of the asked question or gave an incorrect answer (based on text reading).
Level of Thinking	Journal response shows deeper levels of thinking. You relate to the question in a relevant personal manner. You demonstrate that you understand what you are reading.	Journal response shows an attempt at deeper levels of thinking. You demonstrate that you understand most what you are reading, but you miss some key details or misunderstand a major topic.	Journal entry is off topic or irrelevant to question asked. You neglected to include story details or personal connections. There are gaps in your understanding.

Total ___/10





Name: _____

Newbery Award Quiz #1

1. The Newbery Award was first given in the year _____.
 - a. 1911
 - b. 1922
 - c. 1933
 - d. 1944

2. The Newbery is given _____ a year.
 - a. Once
 - b. Twice
 - c. Three times
 - d. Every other

3. True or False. The Newbery Award can be given to books written in Spanish or English.

4. An author must be a _____ of the United States to win a Newbery Award.
 - a. Visitor
 - b. Illegal alien
 - c. Citizen
 - d. None of the above

5. True or False. The Newbery Award is only given to fiction and nonfiction books.

6. Which word below is defined as: "sticking out in a good way"?
 - a. Annually
 - b. Prestigious
 - c. Distinguished
 - d. Committee

7. Which word is defined as: "very special and a great honor"?
 - a. Annually
 - b. Prestigious
 - c. Distinguished
 - d. Committee





Name: _____

Newbery Award Quiz #1

8. What color is the Newbery Medal?
 - a. Gold
 - b. Silver
 - c. Bronze

9. What color is the Newbery Honor Medal?
 - a. Gold
 - b. Silver
 - c. Bronze

10. True or False. The award is given to the most popular book each year.

11. True or False. The award is for children's books only.

12. The Newbery Award is judged by...
 - a. A group of librarians
 - b. A committee of people who know books and kids
 - c. A panel of principals
 - d. Kids vote on it each year

13. The Newbery Award is selected by looking at which of the following characteristics?
 - a. Best cover
 - b. Character explanation
 - c. Length of book
 - d. Most copies sold

14. The Newbery Award is selected by looking at which of the following characteristics?
 - a. Setting explanation
 - b. Plot Development
 - c. Organization and Presentation
 - d. All of the above





Name: _____

Answer Key Quiz #1

1. The Newbery Award was first given in the year _____.
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 - b. 1922
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 - a. Setting explanation
 - b. Plot Development
 - c. Organization and Presentation
 - d. All of the above





Name: _____

Newbery Award Quiz #2

Use the words in the word bank to complete the sentences below. Each word or phrase will be used only once.

Word Bank

American

children's

chronological

conflict

guide

inference

personality

physical

plot

theme

world

written

The Newbery Award is given to the best _____ book
_____ by an _____ author.

The setting of a book describes the _____ in which the characters live.

The _____ of a book is what happens in the story.

_____ order, is putting events in a list, according to the time they happened.

An _____ is a guess made by a reader based on the clues given to them by the author.

_____ words are bolded words at the top of a dictionary page that tell the first and last word on each page. A _____ trait tells how a character looks from the outside.

A _____ trait tells how a character acts or treats others.

The _____ is who is telling the story. (ex: a narrator).

A problem in a story is called the _____.

The _____ of a book is the main message the authors wants to communicate to readers.

Score: _____/12





Name: _____

Answer Key Quiz #2

The Newbery Award is given to the best **children's** book **written** by an **American** author.

The setting of a book describes the **world** in which the characters live.

The **plot** of a book is what happens in the story.

Chronological order, is putting events in a list, according to the time they happened.

An **inference** is a guess made by a reader based on the clues given to them by the author.

Guide words are bolded words at the top of a dictionary page that tell the first and last word on each page. A **physical** trait tells how a character looks from the outside.

A **personality** trait tells how a character acts or treats others.

The **point of view** is who is telling the story. (ex: a narrator).

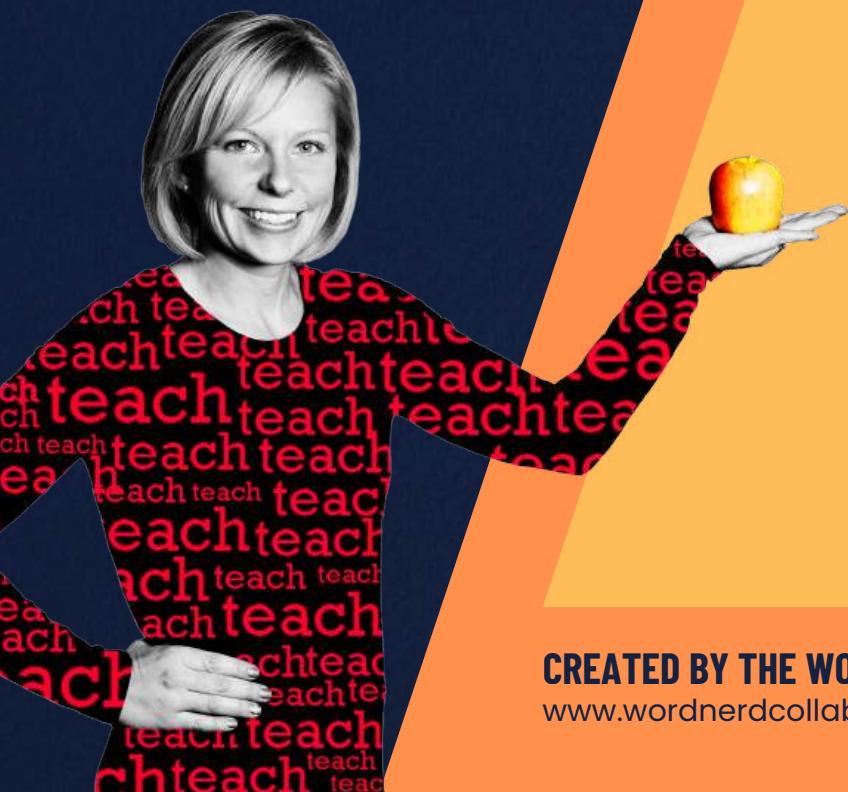
A problem in a story is called the **conflict**.

The **theme** of a book is the main message the authors wants to communicate to readers.





ABC RESEARCH PROJECT



CREATED BY THE WORD NERD
www.wordnerdcollaborative.com

ABC RESEARCH PROJECT

RESEARCH + CRITICAL THINKING + CREATIVITY

Five bucks says that you'll get more than a dozen eye rolls when you utter the words "research project" in your classroom. But what if you could surprise those mood-wielding adolescents and let them pick the topic? Like any topic (save for serial killers... I had to veto that one, one year). What if we let students lean into an already deeply loved subject they desperately want to know more about? Or desperately want to share their knowledge about? What if we could figure out a way to lead them on a passionately curious journey to learn more... one in which they were excited to employ the research strategies and methods we shared with them? Or at least... rolled their eyes less frequently, because the information they were seeking and uncovering was something they loved.

Yeah. Let's do that. :)

Here's how it works:

- Through a few exploratory activities students will identify some areas of interest and then whittle it down to one.
- Students will then research their chosen topic using the library, the internet, and strategies you share in class.
- Throughout the research process, facts will be recorded a variety of ways (see upcoming pages of slides and note taking sheets)
 - Students will then organize the facts alphabetically, listing one fact per letter of the alphabet. (Samples included below)
 - Finally, students will play the role of expert on their topic and share their presentation with small groups, the class or at an open house event with parents & community members.

SOUND GOOD?

GREAT. LET'S DO THIS.



ABC RESEARCH PROJECT

RESEARCH + CRITICAL THINKING + CREATIVITY

Resources Included:

- Google Slideshow introducing the assignment and walking you (and students) through the steps. (Peer feedback form can also be found in this slideshow)
- Google Doc of student handouts. You can either share access with students or print copies for them.
- Google Slideshow sample and templates for final ABC Research Project Presentation.
- Rubrics for the paper and verbal presentation can be found on pages 10-12 of this doc.

** All of these are “view only” but all you have to do to edit, share, etc. is click FILE --> MAKE A COPY.

On the next page, you’ll see a daily schedule for this project. Not required... just a suggested guideline if you’d like one.

Potential Topic Category Ideas

- Countries/States
- Animals
- Sports
- Famous people/celebrities (both modern and historical - ie: Presidents)
- Styles of Music/Musical Instruments
- Famous places (Mount Rushmore, Eiffel Tower, etc.)
- Movie/Book Franchises (Harry Potter, Star Wars, etc.)



ABC RESEARCH PROJECT

RESEARCH + CRITICAL THINKING + CREATIVITY

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

All classes and students move at their own pace. This schedule is just a suggestion. Move through the content as your students need.

Day 1:

Introduce project using slideshow

Exploratory Research (slides 5-8)

Day 2:

Exploratory Research Page (Slides 9-11 and page 1 of this doc)

Day 3:

Researching and recording (Slides 12-14 and page 2 of this doc)

Days 4-5:

Researching and recording (page 2 of this doc)

Day 6-7:

Researching and recording (slides 15-16 and pages 3- 9 of this doc)

Day 8-10:

Transfer ABC facts to google slide show + creatively design slides (slide 17)

Day 11:

Edit/Revise/Polish slides and practice presentation (slide 18)

Days 12-13:

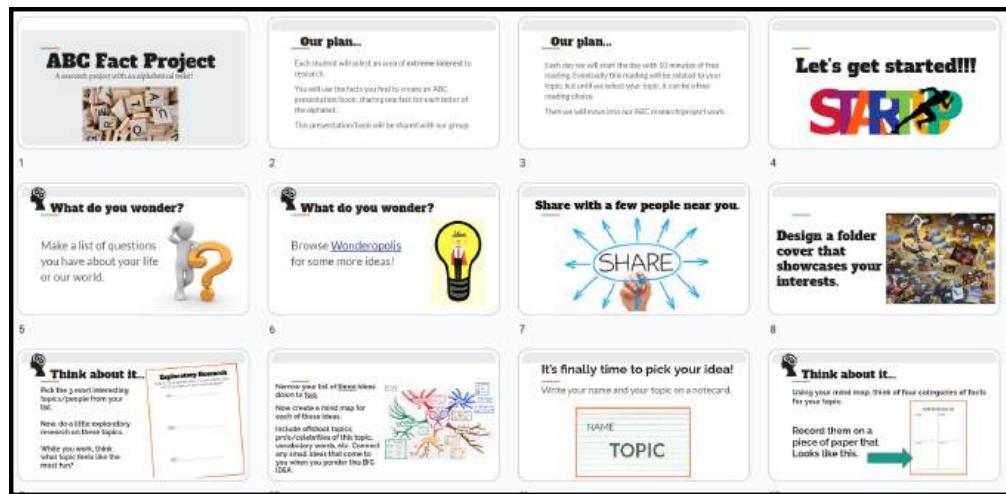
Present ABC Research Projects (Peer feedback forms on slides 19-20)
**Rubrics (editable) on pages 10-12

ABC RESEARCH PROJECT

RESEARCH + CRITICAL THINKING + CREATIVITY

SNEAK PEEK OF RESOURCES

Google Slideshow introducing the assignment and walking you (and students) through the steps. (Peer feedback form can also be found in this slideshow)



Google Doc of student handouts.
You can either share access with students or print copies for them.

** Note, throughout the samples, a variety of levels of complexities (depth of facts, level of citation, etc. are shown. You can choose the correct level of rigor appropriate for your students and communicate that with them.

ABC Fact Organizer

For each letter, designate an item or topic and then attach a related fact.

FOR EXAMPLE:

A is for Atlantic Puffin.

The Atlantic Puffin is a meat eating sea bird, who can both fly and swim, lives most of its life in the atlantic ocean, but goes ashore to breed.

I is for Iceland.

This bird is commonly seen in Iceland in the spring and summer.

T is for teacup.

The Atlantic Puffin bird is roughly the size of a teacup.

A IS FOR: _____

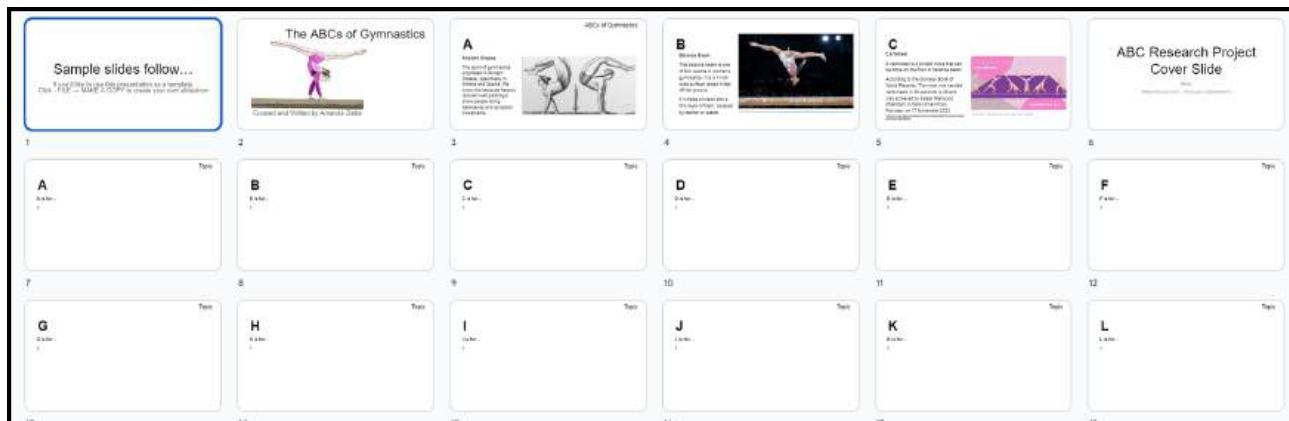
B IS FOR: _____

ABC RESEARCH PROJECT

RESEARCH + CRITICAL THINKING + CREATIVITY

SNEAK PEEK OF RESOURCES

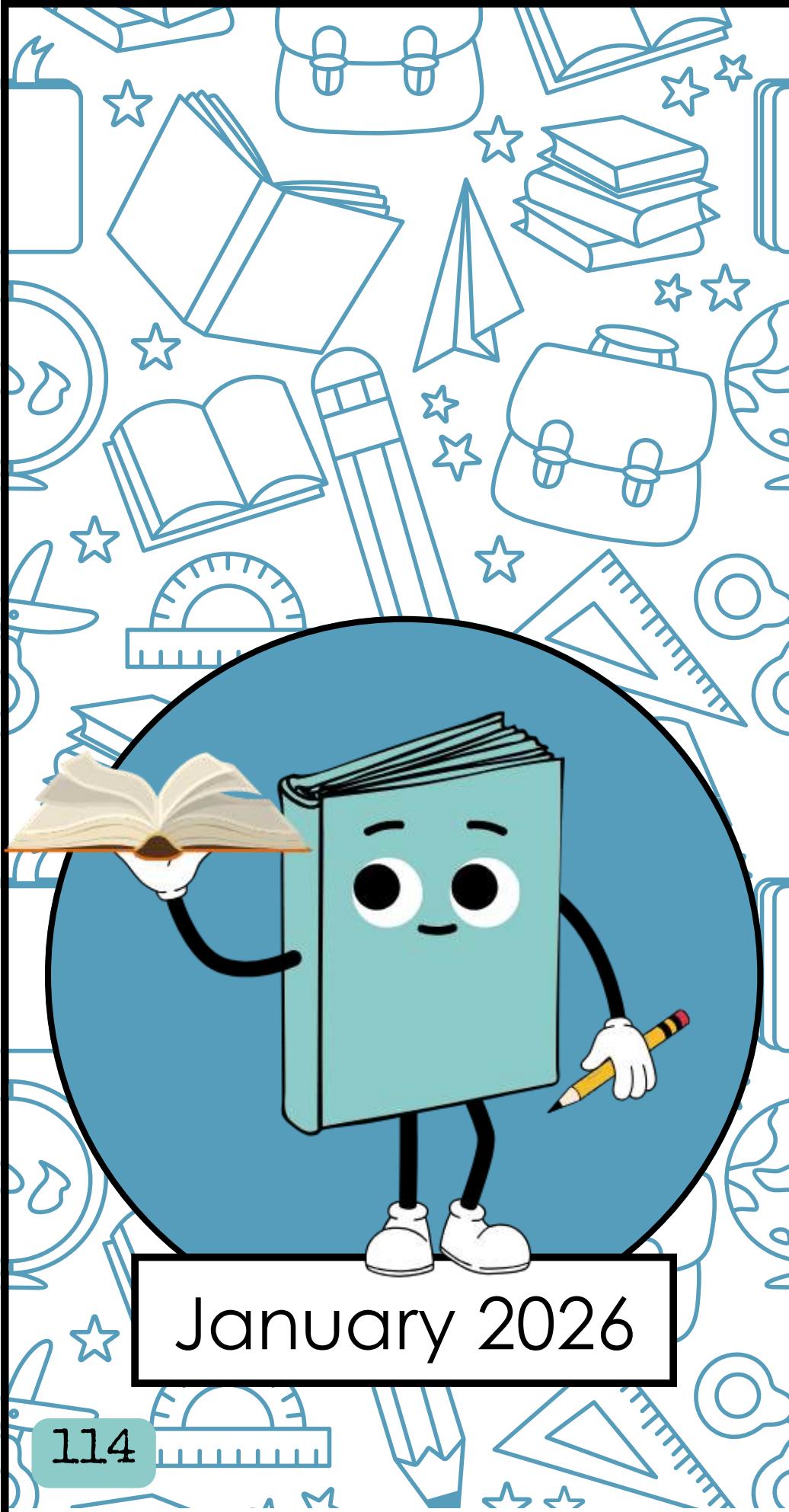
Google Slideshow sample and templates for final ABC Research Project Presentation.



Rubrics for the paper and verbal presentation can be found on pages 10-12 of this doc.

TASK/POINTS	RUBRIC			TOTAL
	1 (ATTEMPTED)	2 (SOLIDLY PRESENT)	3 (EXCELLED)	
Exploratory Sheet Completed (x1)				
Fact Category Sheet Completed (x1)				
In the final presentation, facts were clearly communicated with high quality sentence structure. (x3)				
In the final presentation, correct grammar and punctuation were utilized, especially in regard to proper nouns. (x2)				
In the final presentation, the slides with visual representations of their facts. (x2)				
Student clearly cited their information (in regard to teacher directions). (x2)				
+ Student Identified a fact for each letter of the Alphabet 24/26				
COMMENTS:				

Verbal Presentation Rubric				Name: _____
Task	1 points	2 points	3 points	
Volume	Speaks unnaturally soft or loud for the role	Usually speaks loud enough for the audience to hear	Consistently speaking loud enough for the audience to hear	
Clarity	Many words are pronounced incorrectly or lots of mumbling	Most words are pronounced correctly and easily understood	Words are pronounced correctly and easily understood	
Rate	Speaks too fast or slow	Speaks with an acceptable speed	Speaks with a speed that is appropriate for the task	
Expression	Reads with little to no expression	Consistently reads with appropriate expression	Excellent expression is evident in many lines and adds to the overall quality of the performance	



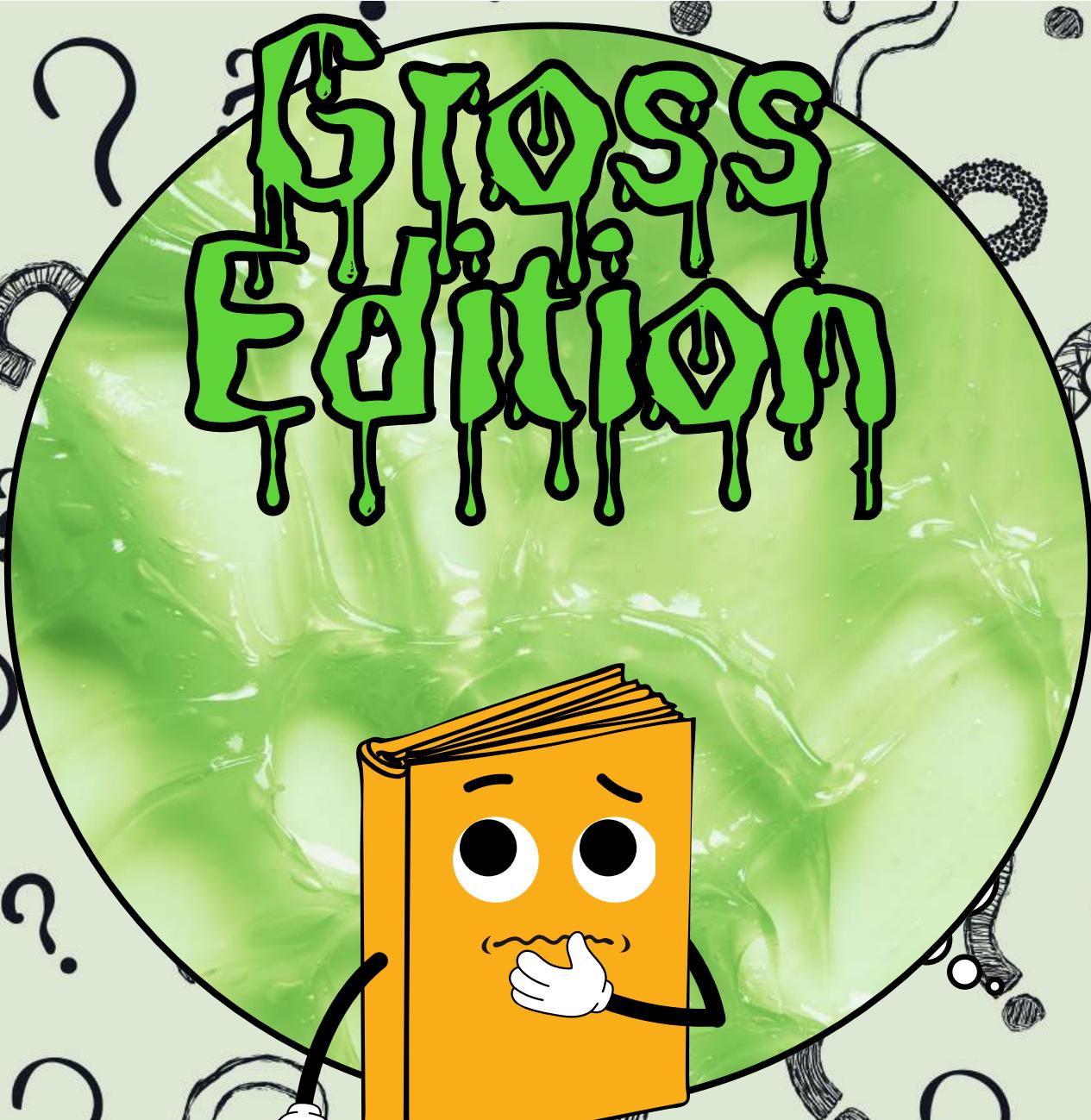
January 2026

114

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
BECAUSE YOU DESERVE THEM!

Would You Rather...

PERSUASIVE WRITING WORKSHEETS



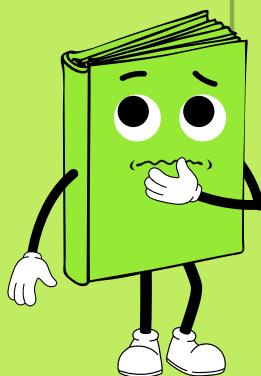
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Table of CONTENTS

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- 117 Instructions + Link
- 118 CCSS ELA Standards
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- 123 Student Tip Sheet
- 124 Link + Question List/Brain Break Sheet
- 125–135 Student Writing Prompt Sheets
- 136 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:

Title of Piece/Date Written



OPPORTUNITIES

LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE
WRITER TO IMPROVE

* * * * *



GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE
WRITERS DOES WELL

* * * * *

FINAL COMMENTS

WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:

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My Name:
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OPPORTUNITIES

LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE
WRITER TO IMPROVE

* * * * *



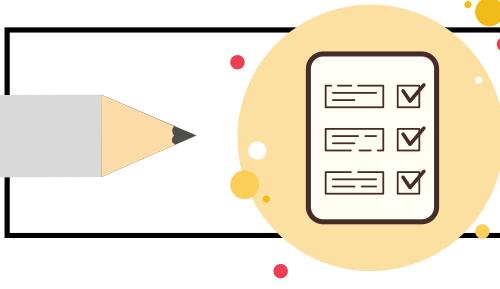
GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE
WRITERS DOES WELL

* * * * *

FINAL COMMENTS

WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:



JOURNAL WRITING RUBRIC

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

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

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

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

Total Points = ___/10

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

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

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
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Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
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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			
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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 jump in a pit of slime or mud?
2. Would you rather brush your teeth with soap or expired milk?
3. Would you rather wear the same socks for a month or same underwear for a week?
4. Would you rather rid the world of mosquito bites or bee stings?
5. Would you rather eat chewing gum flavored like ketchup or mustard?
6. Would you rather always be sweaty or have bad breath?
7. Would you rather walk through a car wash of ranch dressing or apple juice?
8. Would you rather dissect a frog or a cow eye?
9. Would you rather touch a booger or a scab?
10. Would you rather clean out a moldy refrigerator or an abandoned locker?

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

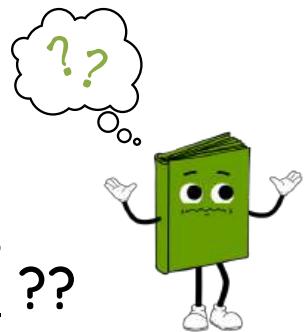
Name: _____

Date: _____

GROSS EDITION

Would You Rather...

or _____ ??



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

Name: _____

Date:

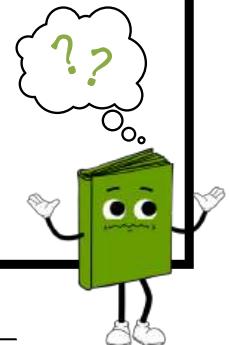
GROSS EDITION

Would You Rather...

jump in a pit of slime or mud?



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



Name: _____

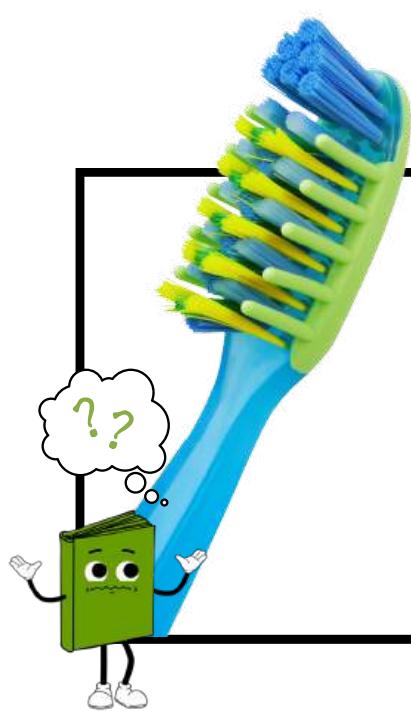
Date: _____

GROSS EDITION

Would You Rather...

brush your teeth with soap or expired milk?

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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Name:

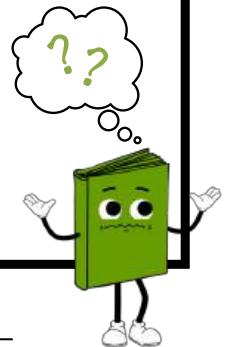
Date:



Would You Rather...

wear the same socks for a month or same underwear for a week?

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



Name: _____

Date: _____

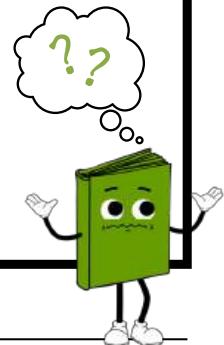


GROSS EDITION

Would You Rather...

rid the world of mosquito bites or bee stings?

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			
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—

Name: _____

Date: _____

GROSS EDITION

Would You Rather...

eat chewing gum flavored like ketchup or mustard?



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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— 1 —

Name: _____

Date: _____

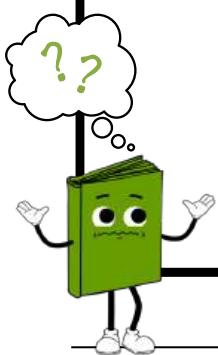
GROSS EDITION

Would You Rather...

always be sweaty or have bad breath?



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





Handwritten text 'Hello' in cursive script, written on a lined page. The text is centered and written in a fluid, continuous stroke.

▼ Rubric

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Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
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Comments:

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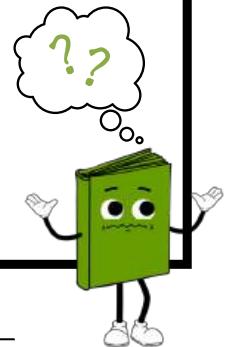
GROSS EDITION

Would You Rather...

walk through a car wash of ranch dressing or apple juice?



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



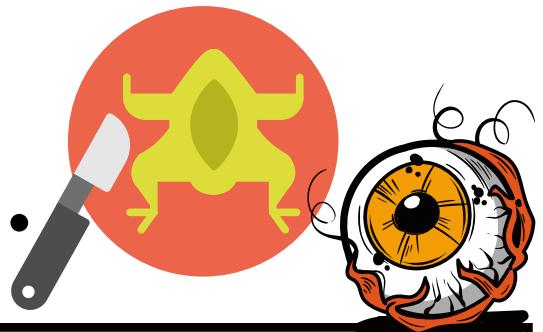
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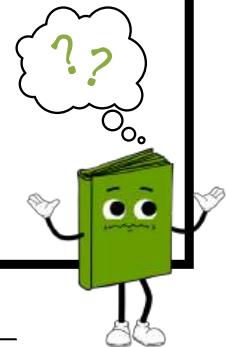
GROSS EDITION

Would You Rather...

dissect a frog or a cow eye?



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



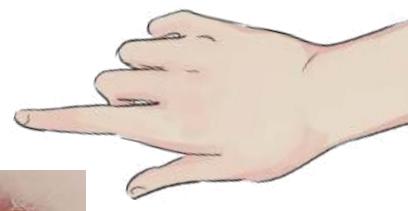
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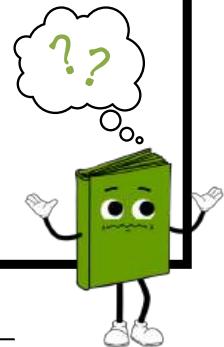
GROSS EDITION

Would You Rather...

touch a booger or a scab?



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



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Date: _____

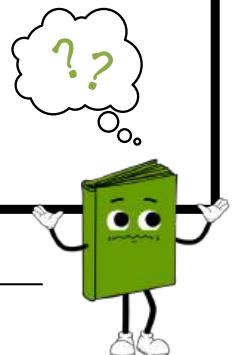
GROSS EDITION

Would You Rather...

clean out a moldy refrigerator or an abandoned locker?



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



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



NEWBERY AWARD WINNING BOOKS

NEWBERY AWARD WINNING BOOKS

The books on this list have the distinguished honor of winning the John Newbery Medal.

Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

The Giver by Lois Lowry

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Hello, Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly

The Last Cuentista by Donna Barbara Higuera

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina

New Kid by Jerry Craft

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo

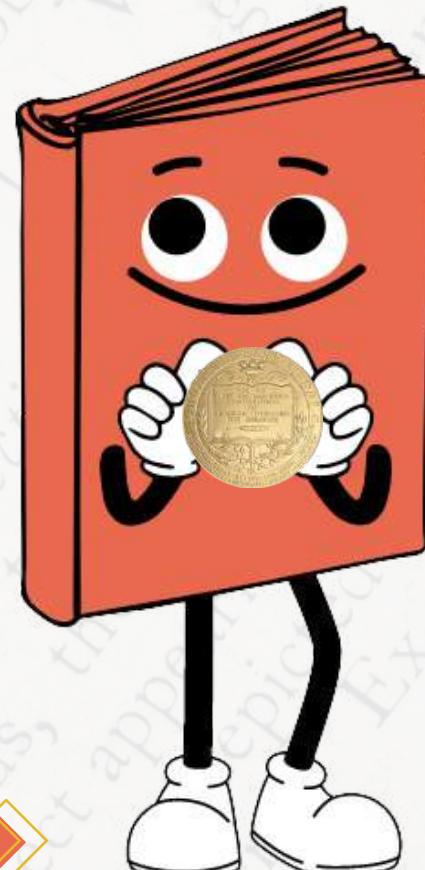
The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

When You Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller

The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleishman

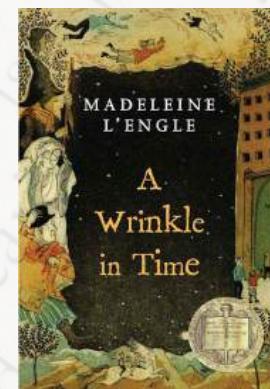
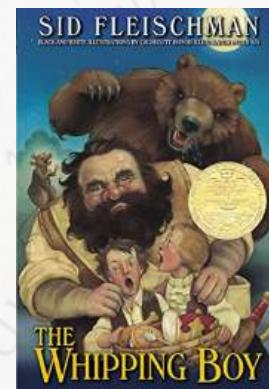
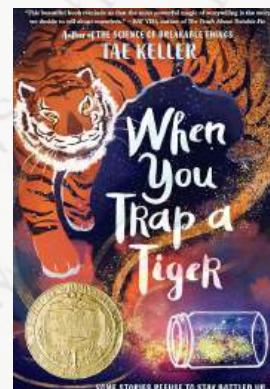
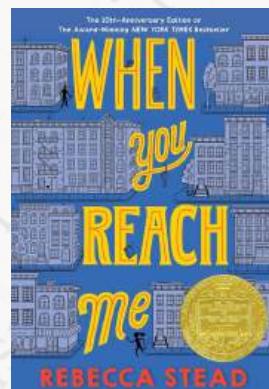
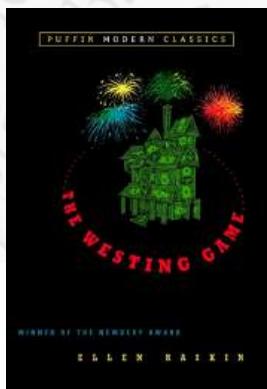
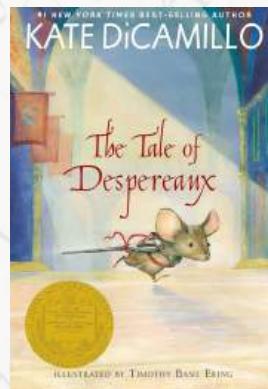
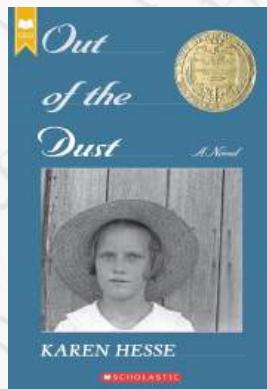
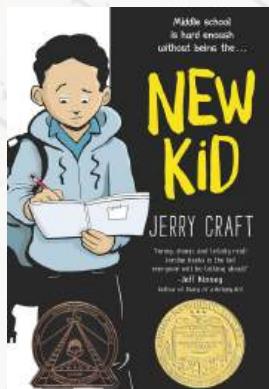
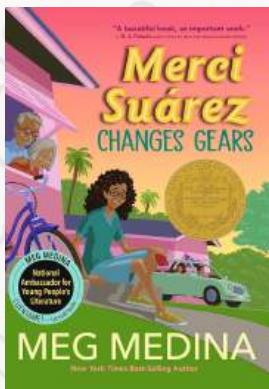
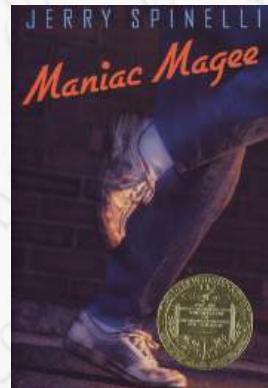
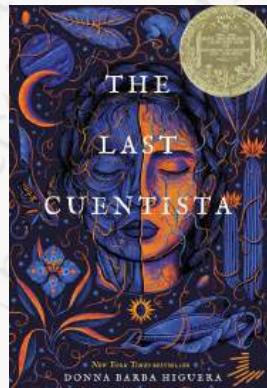
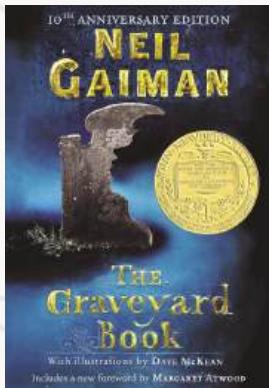
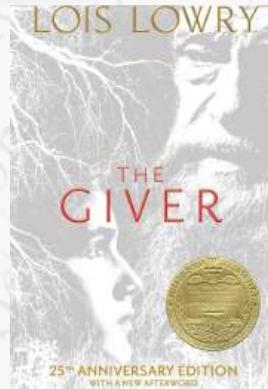
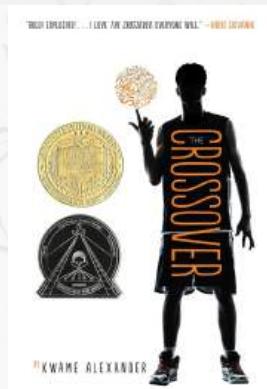
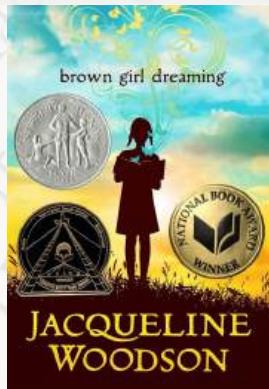
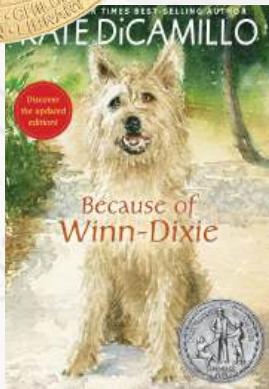
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle





WNC BOOK LISTS * TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

NEWBERY AWARD WINNING BOOKS



WNC BOOK LISTS * TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

OUTER SPACE



WNC BOOK LIST

OUTER SPACE

These books take place among the stars and galaxies far, far away.



Alone Out Here by Riley Redgate

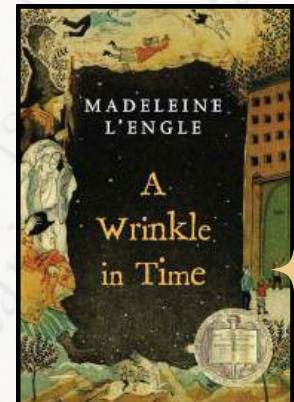
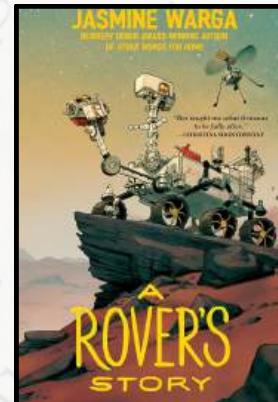
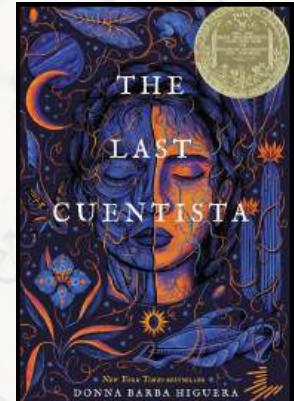
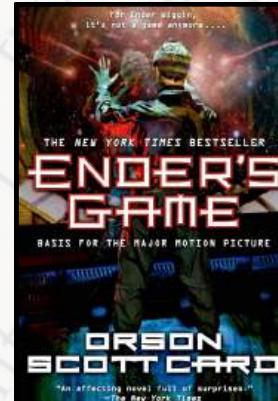
Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

The Last Cuentista by Donna Barbara Higuera

The Lion of Mars
by Jennifer L. Holm

A Rover's Story
by Jasmine Warga

A Wrinkle in Time
by Madeline L'Engle



EXERCISE WHILE YOU READ



[Watch video on YouTube](#)

Error 153

Video player configuration error



PERFECT for teachers dealing with squirrely students and great for BRAIN BREAKS too! Heck, these bookish exercises are great for any bookworm who has been slacking on their step goal and needs to add a little movement to their life. If you had to choose between a workout and finishing the last few chapters of a book you've been wrapped up in, chances are you'd probably choose the book. But don't put your fitness goals on hold because you can't put your book down. There are plenty of workouts you can do while you read—supporting your physical and mental fitness. Great for you and your students!

**HAPPY READING &
EXERCISING!**