



That's the thing about cooking-even when you know the basics, there are still moments you second-guess yourself. Did I chop that right? Did I forget to add the salt? How is this going to taste? And there's always a little pressure, because someone's waiting to see what you serve up.

Teaching is a lot like that.

You know your craft. You've got your own go-to "recipes." But every year you're faced with new ingredients-different students, new standards, shifting expectations—and sometimes it feels like you're competing on a high-stakes cooking show where the clock is always ticking and the judges (students, parents, admin... and sometimes yourself!) are watching.

Here's the good news: you don't have to do it alone.

Think of the Word Nerd Collaborative as your sous-chef team and your stack of easy-to-follow recipes. We're here to hand you a prepped ingredient (a ready-to-use lesson), toss you a time-saving tip (a brain break video or resource you didn't know you needed), and cheer from the sidelines when the pressure is on.

Teaching will always have its tough moments. But with a little support, some ready-made tools, and a whole community beside you, it can also be creative, joyful, and even fun-like cooking along with your favorite show, knowing someone's already done the hard parts for you.

So tie on that apron, teacher friend. Let's get cooking. Together.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from Amanda ... 2

Monthly Calendar ... 4

First Chapter Friday Overview ... 5

Brain Break Overview ... 6

<u>Writing Prompt Overview ... 7</u>

<u>Lessons Overview ... 8</u>

<u>Additional Resources Overview ... 9</u>

<u>First Chapter Fridays ... 10</u>

Brain Breaks ... 16

Writing Prompts ... 34

<u>Lessons ... 79</u>

<u>Additional Resources ... 117</u>

<u>Letter from Amanda ... 142</u>



OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT

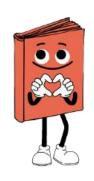
September Monthly Planning Session Zoom Link (Aug. 17) LINK: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82003624150 (8pm CST)

August Lunch Bunch Zoom Link

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

Word Nerd Collaborative Private Facebook Group

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



August 2025

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wednes.	Thurs.	Friday	Satur.
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
September Planning Zoom 8 pm CST	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Lunch Bunch	30
Notes:						5.0



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAYS

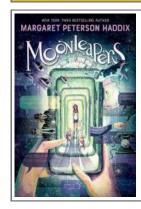
Friday, August 1st



Wonder by RJ Palacio

Realistic Fiction/Prose

Friday, August 8th



Moonleapers by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Science Fiction/Prose

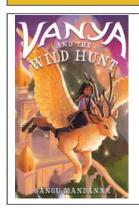
Friday, August 15th



Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Rlordan

Mythology/Prose

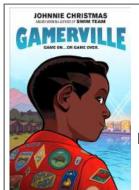
Friday, August 22rd



Vanya and the Wild Hunt by Sangu Mandanna

Fantasy/Prose

Friday, August 29th

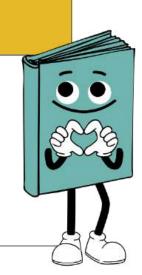


Gamerville by Johnnie Christmas

Realistic Fiction/ Graphic Novel

Lunch Bunch Attendees

Sangu Mandanna & Margaret Peterson Haddix



BRAIN

BREAKS

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

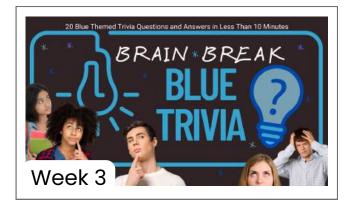
Guess the Logo



Would You Rather...?



Blue Trivia



Picture Detective



Red Trivia



Did you know?

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

-- <u>Reading Rockets</u> <u>Website</u>



Prompts

Week 1

Monday July

Tuesday July

Wednesday July

Thursday July

Friday Free Write Friday

Week 3

Monday

Someone Famous is Coming to Dinner!

Tuesday I Found a Fairy House

Wednesday Design a Robot

Thursday Create a Friend Recipe

Friday Free Write Friday

Week 2

Monday

My Name Is...

Tuesday Name a Pet

Wednesday Prank War

Thursday

Time Travel

Friday Free Write Friday

Week 4

Monday A Whole New Ending

Tuesday Step into the Portal

Wednesday Emotional Armor

Thursday 3 Unknown Facts

Friday Free Write Friday

Week 5

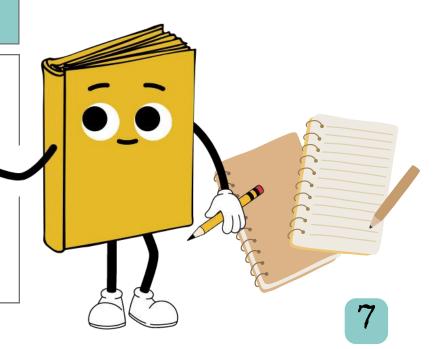
Monday An Epic Sleepover

Tuesday A Story in the Sky

Wednesday A Personal Pep Talk

Thursday A Birthday Present

Friday Free Write Friday





LESSONS

STORY ELEMENT ROUND UP

Story elements are a foundational part of the reading experience. If you can learn about the individual ingredients that go into making a story, it will be much easier to understand it as a whole. PowerPoints, videos, a song, quick quizzes, writing activities and more are ready and waiting for you.

STANDARDS: CCSS: RL 6.2, RL 6.3, RL 6.5, RL 6.6

2 GENRE RESOURCES

Like story elements, genre, is a great thing to cover at the beginning of the year. With the knowledge of the different kinds and styles of books, student will be able to better select books they enjoy. A comprehensive PowerPoint, Podcast Episode for deeper comprehension, and quick check quiz will help you cover all the bases of this important concept.

STANDARDS: CCSS: RL.6.5, RL 6.9, RL.6.10, RI.6.10, W.6.9, SL.6.2



2

RESOURCES

ORIGIN STORY INTRODUCTION

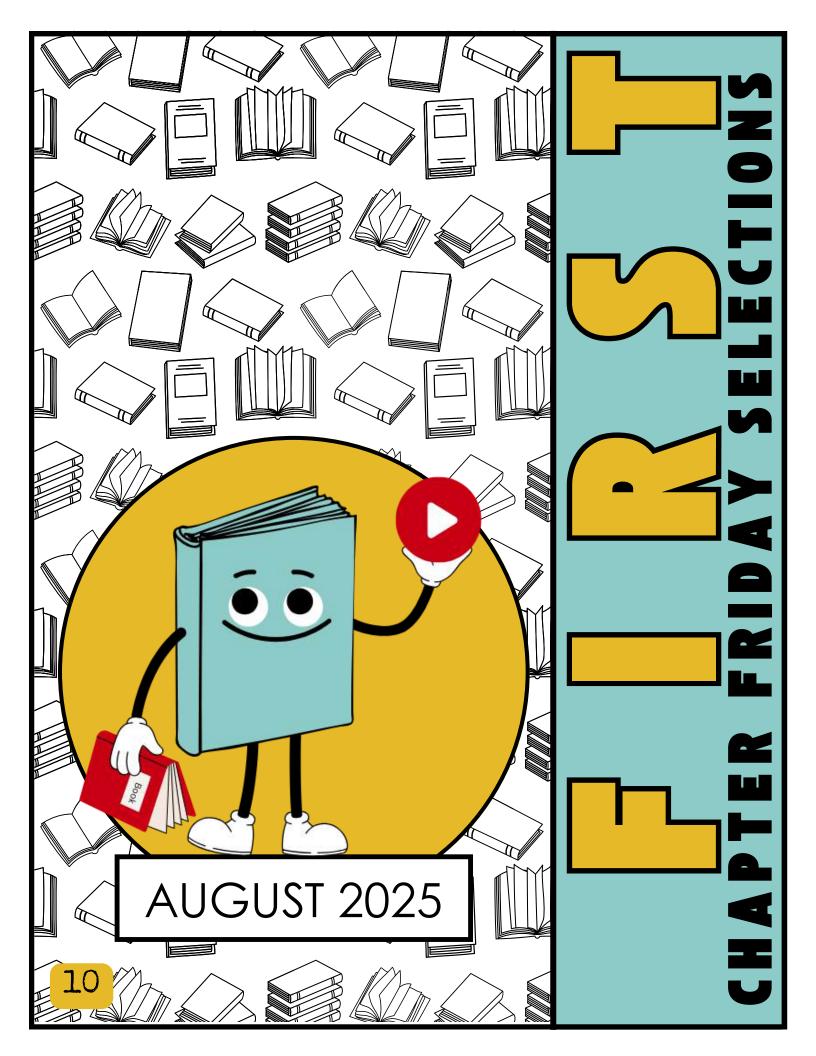
Say goodbye to your previously boring "Welcome to my class, I am your teacher" first day spiel, and instead use this fun origin story activity to introduce yourself as a super hero! Then, turn the tables, and ask students to do the same! You'll be the hero of the first week when students are energized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

WHAT SHOULD I READ NEXT? (FLOW CHARTS)

Have you ever turned your students loose to roam the library and found yourself disappointed with the results? Guess what! Your students are likely disappointed too. Rather than sending them to wander aimlessly, use these book recommendation flow charts to guide students towards books that match their personal interests and preferences.

3 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PLAYLISTS

Sometimes when we are creating something new we need a little auditory stimulation and inspiration! Try using these new musical playlists during your next writing prompt or project work session. To really level up the experience, dim the lights and use a essential oil diffuser to engage additional senses. 5 playlists are listed.



Wonder by R.J. Palacio



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?

I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. WONDER, now a #1 New York Times bestseller and included on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy. compassion, and acceptance.

This book is now also a movie!

Who Wrote It?

A first generation American (her parents were Colombian immigrants), Palacio was born on July 13, 1963 in New York City. Her birth name is Raquel Jaramillo (Palacio was her mother's maiden name). Palacio attended The High School of Art & Design in Manhattan, and then majored in illustration at the Parsons School of Design. She spent her junior year at The American University in Paris, where she traveled extensively before returning to NYC with an eye toward making her career in illustration, R. J. Palacio lives in Brooklyn, NY with her husband, two sons and two dogs (Bear and Beau). Her debut novel, Wonder, has been on the New York



Times bestseller list since March, 2012, and has sold over 5 million copies worldwide. You can learn more about RJ on her website: www.wonderthebo ok.com,

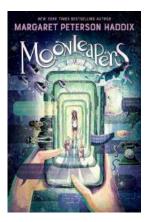
AR Reading Level: 4.8

Lexile Level: 790L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

———— ☼ ☼ WHAT I THINK ☼Ç —————				





Name Date

Moonleapers

by Margaret Peterson Haddix



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 and **Author Interview**

What's It About?

When Maisie's mom gives her an old phone, Maisie can't believe her luck—finally, she can keep up with everyone at school! Unfortunately, her mom also tells her that the whole family will be moving to spend the summer taking care of Maisie's great-aunt Hazel, Maisie's only getting a phone because she'll be responsible for her younger siblings during the entire trip. With that, Maisie is ready to give the phone back. Then the first puzzling text comes in. Between the mystery texts and a not-completely-blank book from Great-Aunt Hazel, Maisie finds herself thrown into the world of moonleapers. Will she be able to learn more about the secretive group, and—gulp—help them accomplish their crucial mission in time?

From New York Times bestselling author Margaret Peterson Haddix comes a suspenseful duology opener about a girl whose first phone connects her to a network of time travelers who want to change the world. Perfect for fans of The Mysterious Benedict Society and City Spies!

Who Wrote It?

Margaret grew up on a livestock farm in Ohio with her parents and three siblings. She later attended college to earn a degree in English and Journalism. After writing for a couple of newspapers and teaching at the college level, she made the transition to books.... and hasn't looked back! Margaret has written over 40 books for children and young adults! She says she loves writing because, "I love making up stories and playing around with words and imagining interesting people in interesting situations." For young writers seeking advice about being a writer she says, "Read a lot. Write a



lot. Think a lot. Enjoy what you read, write and think about.

You can learn more about Margaret on her website: www.haddixbooks.

Lexile Level: Unavailable AR Reading Level: Unavailable

> I want to read this book: YES / NO

————				





The Lightening Thief by Rick Riordan



Here is a little background information about our First
hapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your

Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Percy Jackson is about to be kicked out of boarding school . . . again. And that's the least of his troubles. Lately, mythological monsters and the gods of Mount Olympus seem to be walking straight out of the pages of Percy's Greek mythology textbook and into his life. And worse, he's angered a few of them. Zeus's master lightning bolt has been stolen, and Percy is the prime suspect. Now Percy and his friends have just ten days to find and return Zeus's stolen property and bring peace to a warring Mount Olympus. But to succeed on his quest, Percy will have to do more than catch the true thief; he must come to terms with the father who abandoned him; solve the riddle of the Oracle, which warns him of betrayal by a friend; and unravel a treachery more powerful than the gods themselves.

"Perfectly paced, with electrifying moments chasing each other like heartbeats."--New York Times Book Review

There is a graphic novel version of this book, plus a movie and coming soon... a Disney+ series!

Who Wrote It?

Rick Riordan is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of over twenty novels for young readers, including the Percy Jackson series. For 15 years, Rick taught English and history at public and private middle schools in the San Francisco Bay Area and in Texas. While teaching full time, Riordan began writing mystery novels for grownups. His Tres Navarre series went on to win the top three national awards in the mystery genre – the Edgar, the Anthony and the Shamus, Riordan turned to children's fiction when he started The Lightning Thief as a bedtime story for his oldest son. Today, over 190 million copies of his books are in print worldwide, and rights have been sold into more than 37



countries. Rick
Riordan now writes
full-time. He lives in
Boston with his wife
and two sons. He has
lots more for you to
see and learn on his
website! Go check it
out at
www.rickriordan.com.

AR Reading Level: 4.7

Lexile Level: 680L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

——— ⇔ ⇔ WHAT I THINK ⇔ ⇔ —————————————————————————————————				



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY



Name Date

Vanya and the Wild Hunt by Sangu Mandanna



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 and **Author Interview** Coming Soon! 🙂

What's It About?

Eleven-year-old Vanya Vallen has always felt like she doesn't fit in, She's British-Indian in a mostly white town in England, her parents won't talk about their pasts, and she has ADHD. Oh, and she talks to books. More importantly, the books talk back. When her family is attacked by a monster she believed only existed in fairytales, Vanya discovers that her parents have secrets, and that there are a lot more monsters out there. Overnight, she's whisked off to the enchanted library and school of Auramere, where she joins the ranks of archwitches and archivists. Life at Auramere is unexpected, exciting and wonderful. But even here, there's no escaping monsters. The mysterious, powerful Wild Hunt is on the prowl, and Vanya will need all her creativity and courage to unmask its leader and stop them before they destroy the only place she's ever truly belonged.

Who Wrote It?

The Sang in Sangu is pronounced sung, like the past tense of sing. And I pronounce Mandanna so that it rhymes with bandanna. Sangu Mandanna was 4 years old when an elephant chased her down a forest road and she decided to write her first story about it. The first time she decided she was going to be an author, she was about 9 years old. She wrote a story about a brave and intrepid heroine named Sangu who saves a group of kidnapped girls while on a seaside holiday. Years and many, many manuscripts later, she signed her first book deal. Sangu grew up with very few stories about brown girls, so those are the stories she now wants to write. She wants readers like her —and all readers—to read



and love stories about brown airls who have adventures, fall in love, explore the stars, fight the system, and so much more, Sangu now lives in Norwich, a city in the east of England, with her husband and kids.

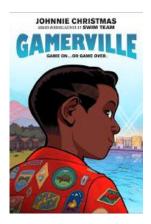
AR Reading Level: Unavailable

Lexile Level: Unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

————				





Gamerville by Johnnie Christmas

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



Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

A video gamer's championship aspirations are dashed when his parents send him to Camp Reset, where electronics are forbidden and you're forced to socialize, eat healthy, and spend time outside. Gamerville is a timely and vulnerable exploration of the importance of human connection and what it means to run in a pack, brought to you by award-winning author Johnnie Christmas.

Max Lightning is howling at the moon he's finally qualified for Gamerville, a championship where players compete to be top dog in the multiplayer video game Lone Wolf of Calamity Bay, But his dreams of domination are doomed when his parents send him to Camp Reset. Gone are the long nights of downing energy drinks and getting copious amounts of screen time. They've been replaced with fresh air and group activities under the hot sun—a shock to the system for a lone wolf like Max. Can Max escape Camp Reset and level up at Gamerville, or has he finally played his last match?

Who Wrote It?

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



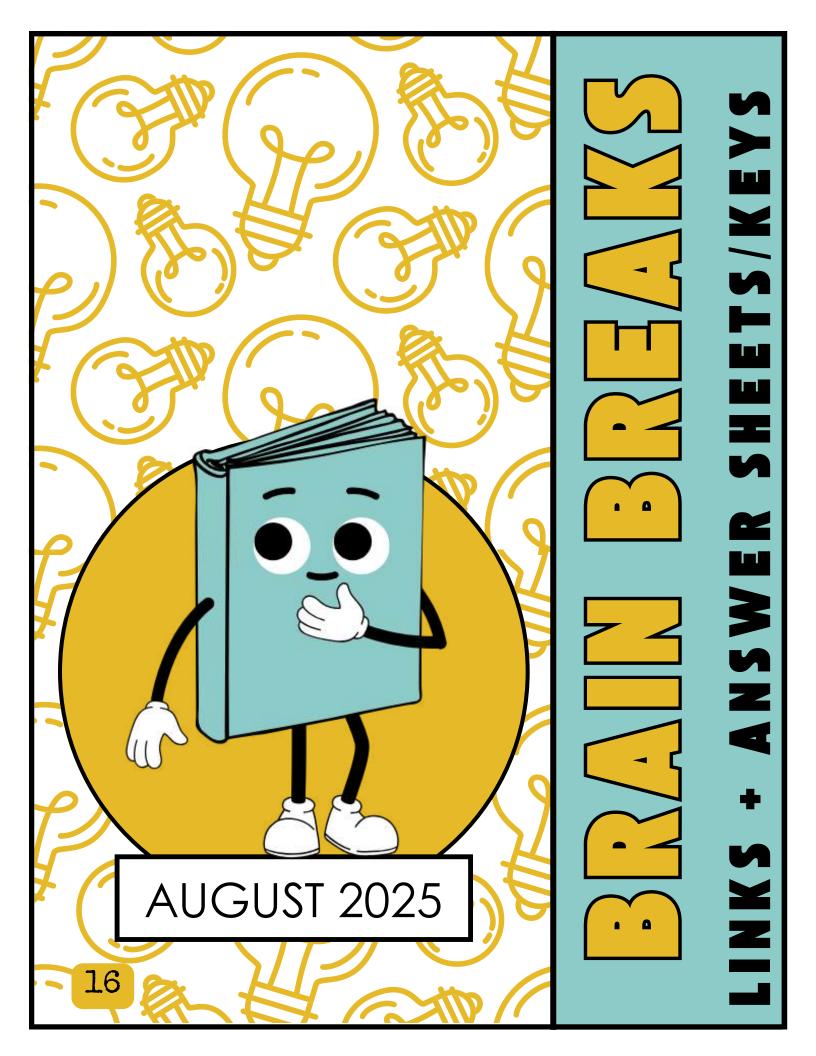
into a critically acclaimed graphic novel of the same name. Johnnie lives in Vancouver, British Columbia. You can learn more about him and his work at www.joh nniechristmas.com.

AR Reading Level: Unavailable

Lexile Level: Unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO ——— ☼ ⇔ WHAT I THINK ⇔ ⇔ —————————————————————————————————	
	_
	_







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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/IDEAS

1. This activity can be used as a brain break, ice breaker or fun game.

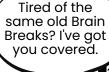
2.In my classes we keep our teams the same for an entire quarter. We have a "leader board" where we keep a running score for all of our brain break games. This is great for team building or creating comradery in a classroom learning environment.:)

3. You can assign this to individuals (ie: in Google Classroom) to do on their own, or complete the challenge as a whole class activity using a screen and projector.

4. This activity can work well in person or via distanced learning.

5.Because the videos are on YouTube, this is an activity that students can easily try/repeat at home with family members. :)

6.Consider letting a classroom helper or leader be the "game show host" and call on classmates to share their ideas and reveal the answers.



August Brain Break LEADERBOARD

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

TEAM #	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total
EAM #2	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total
1EAM #3	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total
1EAM #4	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total
TEAM 45	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total
TEAM 9#	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total

Trivia Game Video Link

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

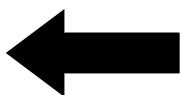
GUESS THE LOGO TRIVIA



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



Trivia Video





Guess the Logo Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on the lines below.

Round 3

Name/Team Name:

Round 2

nound 1	nound a	itouna o
1	_ 11	
2	12	
3	13	23
4	14	24
		25
6	16	26
		27
9	19	
		30



Round 1

Trivia Video

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

Score: ____/30



Guess the Logo Trivia Game

Name: ______



Trivia Video

⊙ • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		T . W T IO
CAN	_?	THESE
GUESS	A V	L06082
GUESS		
	TO SECOND	MAN.
1	TRIVIA DAME FOR ALL AGES	N. Ke

	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
	What company is represented by this logo? Answer:
米	2 What company is represented by this logo? Answer:
	3 What company is represented by this logo? Answer:
	4 What company is represented by this logo? Answer:
000	5 What company is represented by this logo? Answer:
0	6 What company is represented by this logo? Answer:
	7 What company is represented by this logo? Answer:
0	8 What company is represented by this logo? Answer:
M	9 What company is represented by this logo? Answer:
	10 What company is represented by this logo: Answer:



Guess the Logo Trivia Game

Name: ______



Video

CAN YOU GUESS	?	THESE LOGOS?
	TRIVIA GAME FOR ALL AGES	70

	V I U
	II What company is represented by this logo? Answer:
	12 What company is represented by this logo? Answer:
	13 What company is represented by this logo? Answer:
ϕ —	14 What company is represented by this logo? Answer:
	15 What company is represented by this logo? Answer:
	16 What company is represented by this logo? Answer:
	17 What company is represented by this logo? Answer:
	18 What company is represented by this logo? Answer:
	19 What company is represented by this logo? Answer:
	20 What company is represented by this logo?



YÖÜ GUESS	Trivia Game	
TRIVIA BAME FOR A	Name:	_ Trivia Video
7	21 What company is represented by this Answer:	
	22 What company is represented by this Answer:	
A Comment	23 What company is represented by this Answer:	
	24 What company is represented by this Answer:	
	25 What company is represented by this Answer:	
	26 What company is represented by this Answer:	•
+	27 What company is represented by this Answer:	
	28 What company is represented by this Answer:	•
	29 What company is represented by this	logo?





30 What company is represented by this logo?



Guess the Logo Trivia Answer Key

Directions:
Write your answers on the lines below.

Name/Team Name: _____

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
1. Taco Bell	11. Pizza Hut	21. Tesla
2. Walmart	12. Microsoft	22. LG (Life's Good)
3. YouTube	13. Monster	23. Goodyear
4. Batman	14. NBA (National Basketball Association	24. Adidas
5. Olympics	15. Playstation	25. PBS (Public Broadcasting System)
6. Target	16. Pringles	26. Mastercard
7. Starbucks	17. New Orleans Saints (NFL)	27. Expedia
8. Instagram	18. Pepsi	28. World Wildlife Fund
9. McDonald's	19. Gatorade	29. Unilever
10. Nike	20. Golden State Warriors (NBA)	30. Rolex

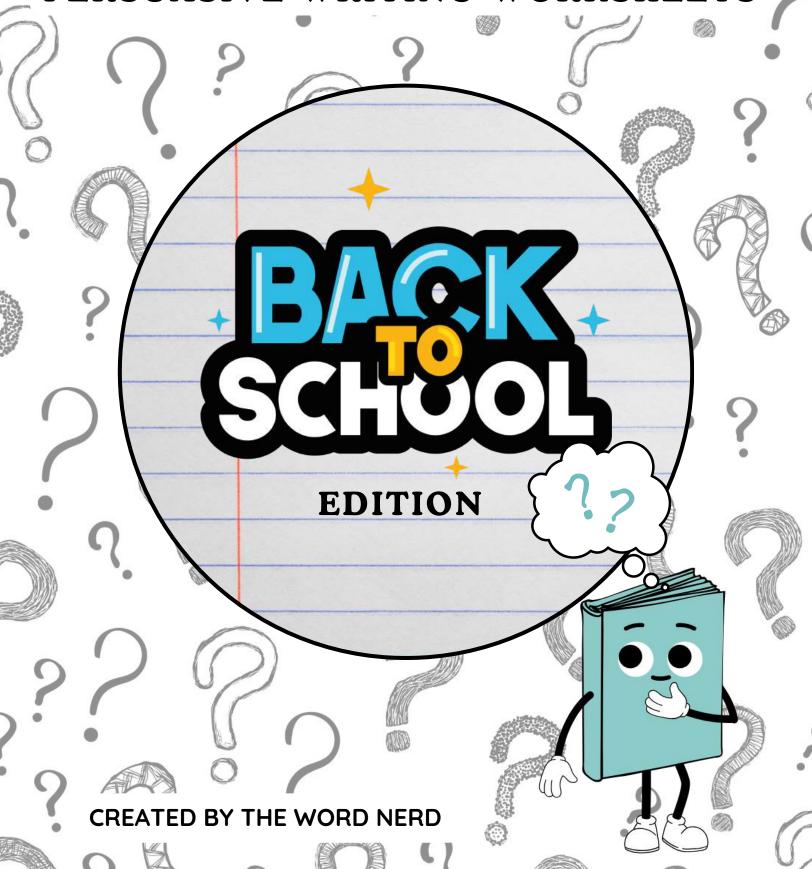
How did you do?

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



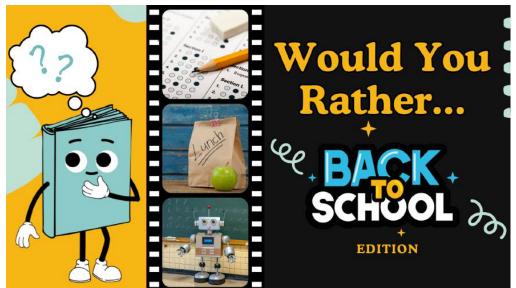
Trivia Video

Would You Rather... PERSUASIVE WRITING WORKSHEETS



WOULD YOU RATHER?

Name: ______





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

- 1. Would you rather never have homework or never have tests?
- 2. Would you rather have hot lunch or cold lunch?
- 3. Would you rather have class on a cruise ship or class on a space ship?
- 4. Would you rather have indoor recess or outdoor recess?
- 5. Would you rather have a longer winter break or a longer summer break?
- 6. Would you rather have a robot teacher or alien teacher?
- 7. Would you rather have Food Court Lunch or Gourmet Cafe for Lunch
- 8. Would you rather have day school starting at 7am or night school starting at 7pm?
- 9. Would you rather have PE taught by pro athletes or PE taught by college athletes?
- 10. Would you rather have your mom for your principal or dad for your principal?

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

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



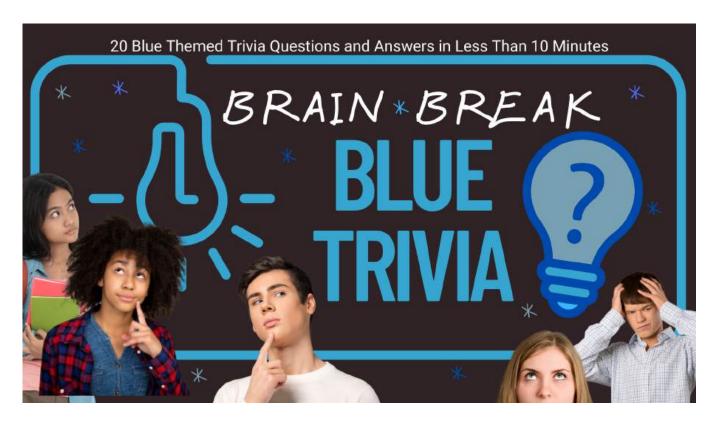
EACH WOULD YOU RATHER SET WOULD INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE VIDEO AND PRINTABLE WRITING WORKSHEETS

CREATED BY THE WORD NERD

Trivia Game Video Link

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

BLUE TRIVIA BRAIN BREAK GAME



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



Trivia Video





Blue Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

Trivia Video

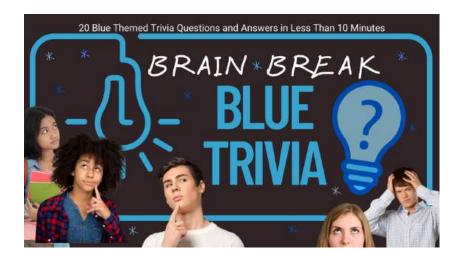




Name/Team Name:	
1	
2	12
3	13
4	14
5	15
6	16
7	17
8	18
9	19
10	20

How did you do? Are you a Picasso when it comes to BLUE TRIVIA?!?!

Score: ___/20



Blue Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions: Circle your answer for each question below.

Trivia Video





NI /	Г	N I	
Name/	ı eam	ivame	7.

1: A B C D

2: A B C D

3: A B C D

4: A B C D

5: A B C D

6: A B C D

7: good time or blue moon

8: True or False

9: A B C D

10: Blue Whale or Blue Rhino

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

11. yogurt or blue cheese

12: True or False

13: A B C D

14: Jazz or Beat

15: A B C D

16: A B C D

17: Blue Gill or Blue Fish

18: A B C D

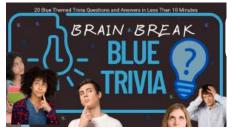
19: A B C D

20: A B C D



Score: ____/ 20

The Word Nerd Collaborative



Blue Trivia Brain Break Game

Name: _______ Trivia

Trivia Video





Name the leader of this blue skinned cartoon troop.

- a) Papa Smurf
- b) Dada Smurf
- c) Poppy Smurf
- d) Grampa Smurf
- 2 What type of animal is Paul Bunyan's faithful companion?
 - a) Babe the Big Blue Bison
 - b) Babe the Big Blue Baboon
 - c) Babe the Big Blue Ox
 - d) Babe the Big Blue Buffalo
- **3** The State flower of Texas is called the blue ______.
 - a) lilac
 - b) berry
 - c) bell
 - d) bonnet
- 4 How many white dots can be seen on the blue dice?
 - a) 11
 - b) 18
 - c) 7
 - d) 45

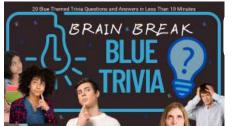


- 5 In the movie Avatar, where do the blue skinned people live?
 - a) Pangea
 - b) Middle Earth
 - c) Pandora
 - d) Animal Kingdom

- **6** The famous blue lagoon is located in which island country?
 - a) Norway
 - b) Iceland
 - c) Greenland
 - d) Sweden



- **7** If something happens rarely, it is said it happens once in a ...
- **8** True or False: Blueberries protect against memory loss.
 - a) True
 - b) False
- **9** Which country considers blue bad luck?
 - a) India
 - b) Japan
 - c) Argentina
 - d) Norway
- 10 Which animal is the largest on earth, weighing in at over 441,000 pounds, with a tongue heavier than an elephant?



c) Hornets

d) Wizards

Blue Trivia Brain Break Game

c) Roman

Score: __/20

d) Aztec

Name:	Trivia
	Video
What dairy product is used to make this popular salad topper? Blue	16 How many wishes does a genie grant the holder of the lamp? a) two b) infinity c) zero d) three
	17 What is the name of this fish?
12 True or False: Blue is the rarest eye color. a) True b) False	Blue
13 Which is the only bird that can see the color blue? a) Ostrich b) Penguin c) Sparrow d) Owl	18 Which country has a flag that is half blue and half yellow?a) Uzbekistanb) Uruguayc) Ukrained) Uganda
d) Owl	19 Which American political party is represented by the color blue?
What is another name for the music style called "the blues"?— — — —	a) Independentb) Democraticc) Libertariand) Republican
15 The Blue Angels' planes are called a) Torpedoes b) Blue Jackets	20 Which civilization was the first to create the color blue?a) Chineseb) Egyptian



Blue Trivia AnswerKey

Directions:

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

Trivia Video





ANSWER KEY

1. A) Papa Smurf

2. C) Babe the Blue Ox

3. D) Bonnet

4. B) 18

5. C) Pandora

6. B) Iceland

7. blue moon

8. A) True

9. A) India

10. Blue Whale

11. Cheese

12. True

13. D) Owl

14. Jazz

15. C) Hornets

16. D) three

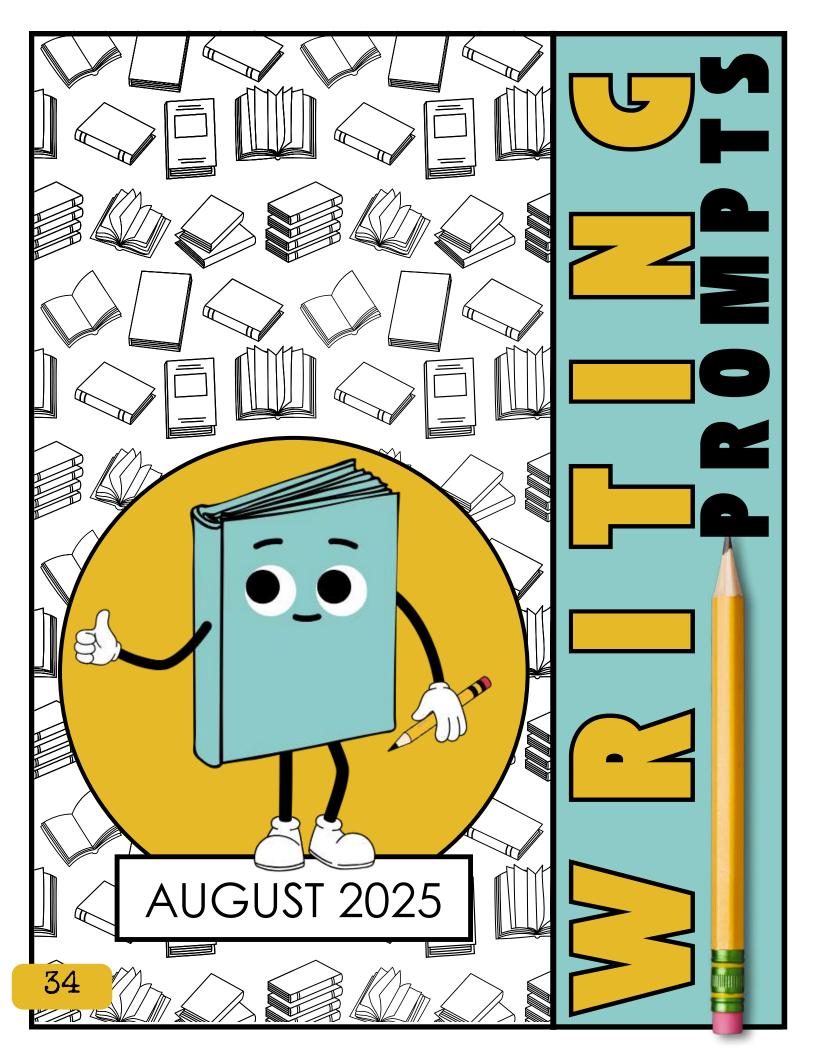
17. Gill

18. C) Ukraine

19. B) Democratic

20. B) Egyptian

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



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!

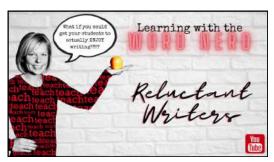
You can either print the following prompt pages for students to directly write on (and then keep in a folder/binder) or project the prompt (via these <u>SLIDES</u>) onto a whiteboard/screen and have students do their writing in a dedicated notebook. Whatever works best for you... go for it!

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 <u>this video</u>.

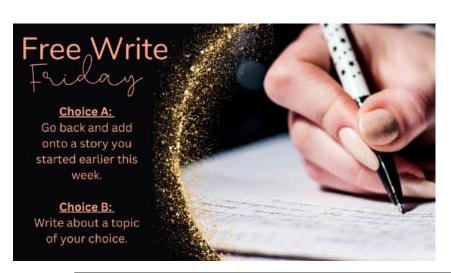




(https://youtu.be/I7UWA-pw04Q?sub_confirmation=1)

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





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

Total Points = ___/10

WRITING PROMPTS



■ 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

My Name:

Name of classmate I am reviewing:

Date:

Title of Piece/Date Written



LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITERS DOES WELL

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

OPPORTUNITIES

LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE

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

FINAL COMMENTS

WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:



Name of classmate I am reviewing: My Name:

Title of Piece/Date Written



LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITERS DOES WELL

FINAL COMMENTS
WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:



Name of classmate I am reviewing: My Name: Date: Title of Piece/Date Written



OPPORTUNITIES

LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE

OPPORTUNITIES

LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE

WRITERS DOES WELL

FINAL COMMENTS
WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:

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

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

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

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

Total Points = ___/10

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

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

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

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

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

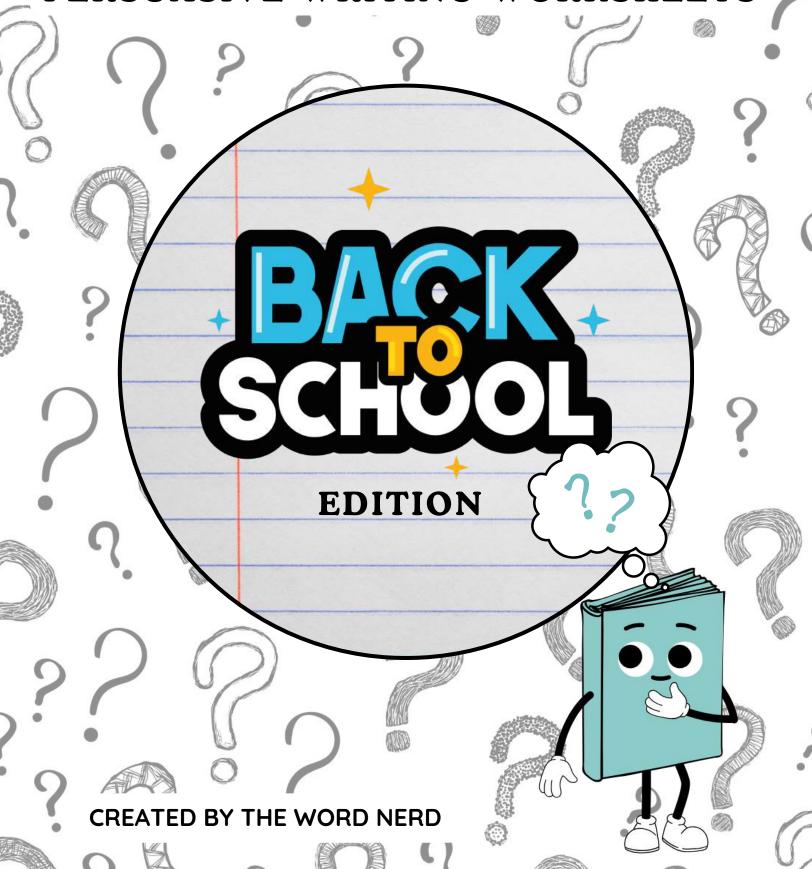
Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

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

Total Points = ___/10

Would You Rather... PERSUASIVE WRITING WORKSHEETS



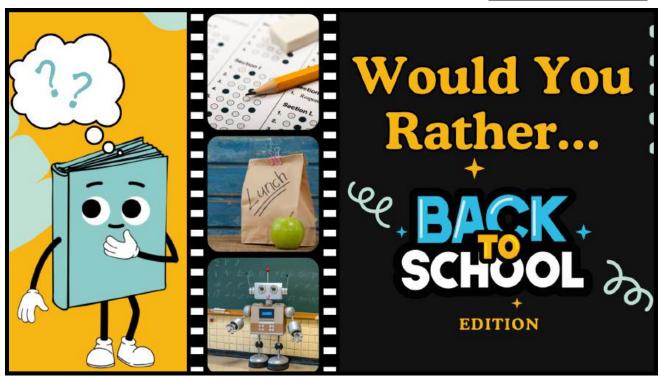
TAKEAWAYS

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:

- Choose a side → Make a clear claim.
- Back it up \rightarrow Give 2-3 strong reasons with evidence or examples.
- Use transitions → Show relationships between ideas.
- Acknowledge the other side → Strengthen their argument.
- Conclude clearly → Wrap up their reasoning in a persuasive way.





CREATED BY THE WORD NERD

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

CREATED BY THE WORD NERD

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?"
 - \circ Give reasons \rightarrow explain why they chose it.
 - Use evidence/examples → support their reasoning with logic, facts, or even life experience.
 - Acknowledge the other side → briefly explain why someone might choose differently, and why their choice is stronger.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BUILD YOUR CASE

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

FOLLOW THESE STEPS!

☑ Step 1: Make Your Claim

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

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

Step 2: Give Your Reasons

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

Step 3: Use Transitions

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

Step 4: Think About the Other Side

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

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

Step 5: Wrap It Up

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

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

Name:	_ Date:
Back to School Edition Would You or	Rather??
Use this space to brain-dump ideas, I	ist reasons, or otherwise plan your response.
	Task 0 1 2 Follows the prompt and stays on topic Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow Length is appropriate Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.) Total Points =/10

Name:	Date	
1 101110.		

Back to School Edition

Would You Rather...



never have homework or never have tests?		
Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan you	r respo	onse.
	(??
	(i	
	(
▼ Rubric		
Task Follows the prompt and stays on topic	0	1 2
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		

Created by the Word Nerd

Name:	Date:
Back to School Edition	
Would You Reat cold lunch or eat hot	
eat cold function eat not	Union
Use this space to brain-dump ideas, lis	t reasons, or otherwise plan your response.
	??
	▼ Rubric
	Task 0 1 2 Follows the prompt and stays on topic
	Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow
	Length is appropriate Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)
	Total Points =/10 Comments:

Name:	_ Date:
Back to School Edition	
Would You F	Rather
	ip or class on a space ship?
Use this space to brain-dump ideas, l	ist reasons, or otherwise plan your response.
	??
	▼ Rubric
	Task 0 1 2 Follows the prompt and stays on topic
	Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow
	Length is appropriate Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article,
	diary entry, etc. Total Points =/10

Name:	Date:		
Back to School Edition			
	or outdoor recess?		
Use this space to brain-dun	np ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your	respo	nse.
			?
	▼ Rubric		
	Task Follows the prompt and stays on topic	0 1	1 2
	Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow Length is appropriate		
	Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.) Total Points =/10 Comments:		

Name:	Date:
Back to School Edition	****
Would You Ro have a longer winter break	***
Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list red	asons, or otherwise plan your response.
	▼ Rubric
	Task 0 1 2 Follows the prompt and stays on topic Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation
	Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow Length is appropriate Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.) Total Points =/10
	Comments:

Name:	Date:
Back to School Edition	
	u Rather er or an alien teacher?
	ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.
	??
	▼ Rubric
	Task 0 1 2 Follows the prompt and stays on topic
	Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow
	Length is appropriate Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.) Total Points =/10

Name:	Date:
Back to School Edition	
Would You Ra	ther
have food court fast food or go	urmet cafe food for lunch?
Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list re	asons, or otherwise plan your response.
	{!?}
	Task 0 1 2
	Follows the prompt and stays on topic Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation
	Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow Length is appropriate Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article,
	diary entry, etc.) Total Points =/10 Comments:

Name:	Date:
Nume.	Date

Back to School Edition

Would You Rather...



attend day school starting at 7 am or night school starting at 7 pm?				
Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, o	r otherwise plan your I	respons	e.	
		??		
	▼ Rubric			
	Task Follows the prompt and stays on topic	0 1	2	
	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:	Date:
Back to School Edition	
	Rathertes or PE taught by college athletes?
Use this space to brain-dump idea	is, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.
	Task 0 1 2 Follows the prompt and stays on topic
	Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow Length is appropriate Format is correct (fetter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.) Total Points s. (10

Name:	Date:
Back to School Edition	
Would You F have your mom as a principal of	
Use this space to brain-dump ide	eas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.
	??
	■ Dubria
	▼ 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

WRITING PROMPTS

July 28 - August 1

Monday

July

Tuesday

July

Wednesday

July

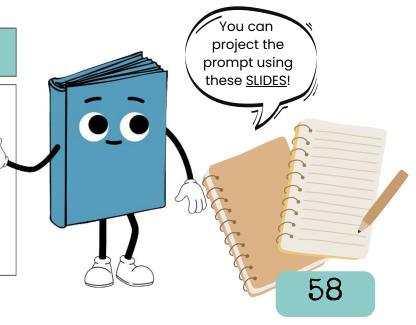
Thursday

July

Friday

Free Write Friday

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





WRITING PROMPTS

August 4-8

Monday

My Name is...

Style/Skills: Expository Writing/ Personal Narrative

Tuesday

Name a Pet!

Style/Skills: Creative Writing Contemporary/Realistic Fiction

Wednesday

Prank War

Style/Skills: Creative Writing Contemporary/Realistic Fiction

Thursday

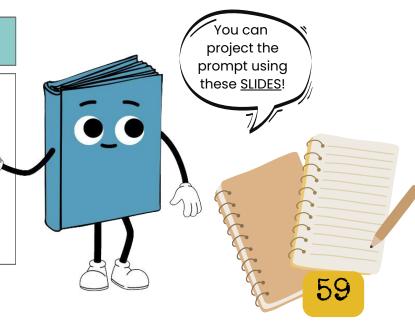
Time Travel

Style/Skills: Personal Reflection Science Fiction

Friday

Free Write Friday

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





ite About Your Name

HELLO MY NAME IS

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

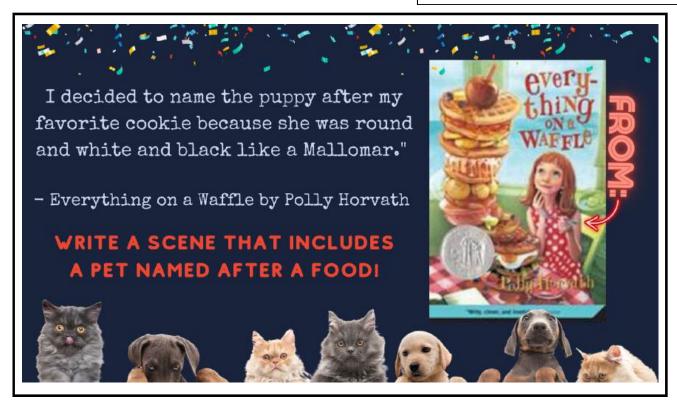
Feel free to write about your middle or last name too.

Rubric

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

Total Points = ___/10



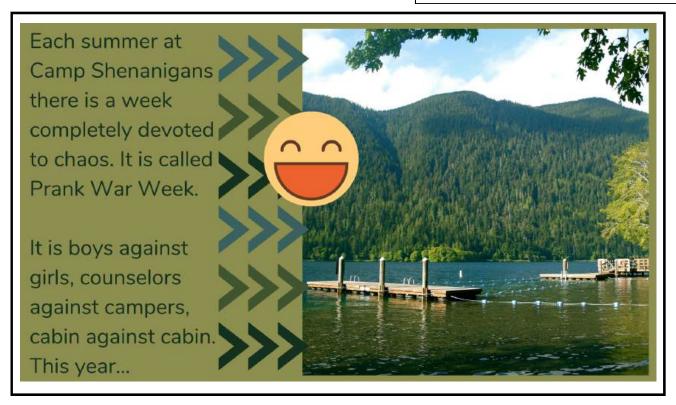


▼ Rubric

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



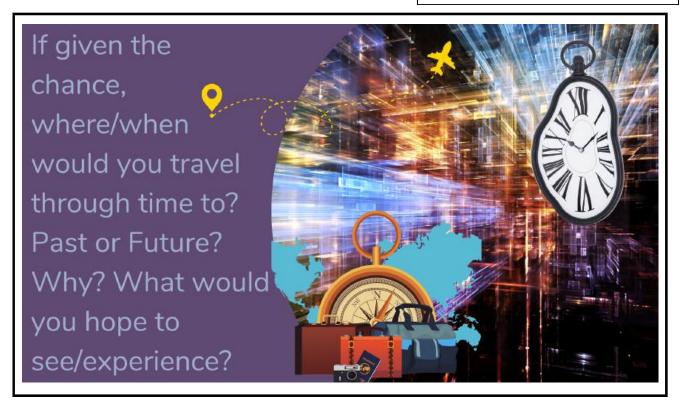


Rubric

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





■ 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

WRITING PROMPTS

August 11-15

Monday

Someone Famous is Coming to Dinner!

Style/Skills: Creative Writing Contemporary/Reali stic Fiction Personal Reflection

Tuesday

I Found a Fairy House

Style/Skills: Creative Writing Fantasy

Wednesday

Design a Robot

Style/Skills: Design and Describe STEM Connections

Thursday

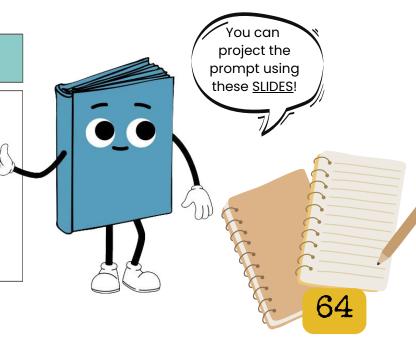
Create a Friend Recipe

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

Friday

Free Write Friday

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







Rubric 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





▼ 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

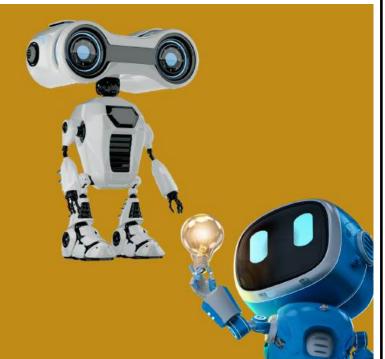


Design and Describe

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

What does the robot look like?

What chore would you like it to do and why?

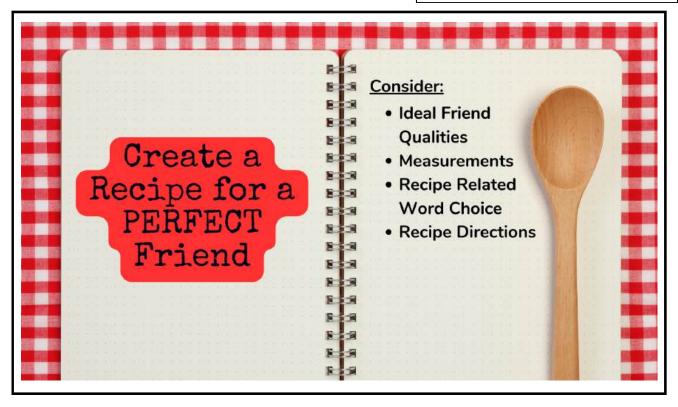


Rubric

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

Total Points = ___/10





▼ 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

WRITING PROMPTS

August 18-22

Monday

A Whole New Ending

Style/Skills: Creative Writing Conclusions Revision

Tuesday

Step into the Portal

Style/Skills: Science Fiction Creative Writing

Wednesday

Emotional Armor

Style/Skills: Word Choice Metaphor

Thursday

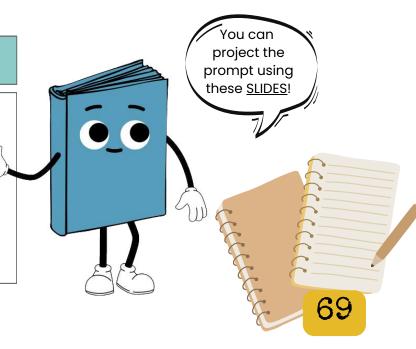
3 Unknown Facts

Style/Skills: Personal Reflection List Making

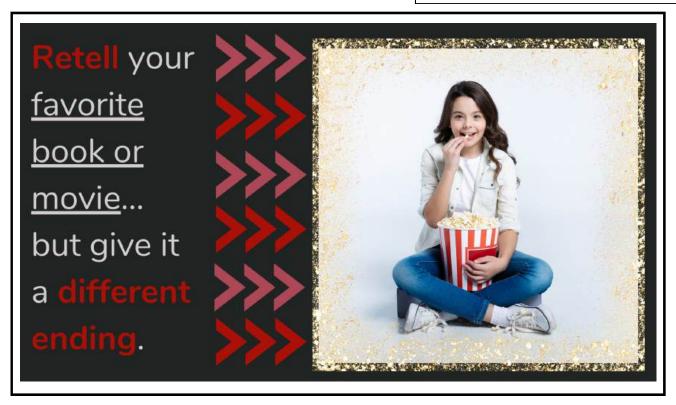
Friday

Free Write Friday

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







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



Tell This Story...

Questions to Consider:

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

Words/Phrases you could use:

Emergency Levels of oxygen

Time portal Disaster
Electromagnetic field Future
Mission success Goal

Running out of time Commander
Returning to Earth Ancient ruins

Artist Credit: BP Kelsey



Rubric

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

Total Points = ___/10





"The kids wore their arrogance like a uniform."

The Water Castle
by Megan Frazer Blakemore

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



Pajamas - relaxed

Fancy shoes - uncomfortable

Itchy sweater - irritated

Your idea?!?!?!

Rubric

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

Total Points = ___/10





■ 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

WRITING PROMPTS

August 25-29

Monday

An Epic Sleepover

Style/Skills: Personal Reflection

Tuesday

A Story in the Sky

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

Wednesday

A Personal Pep Talk

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

Thursday

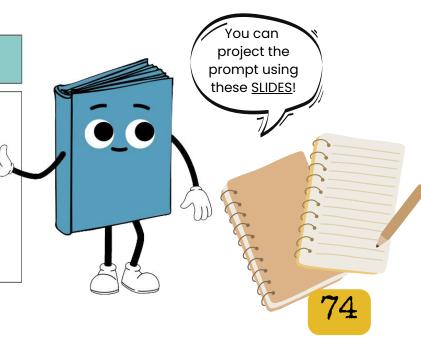
A Birthday Present

Style/Skills: Connection to Literature Characterization

Friday

Free Write Friday

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







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



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

▼ Rubric

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

Total Points = ___/10





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

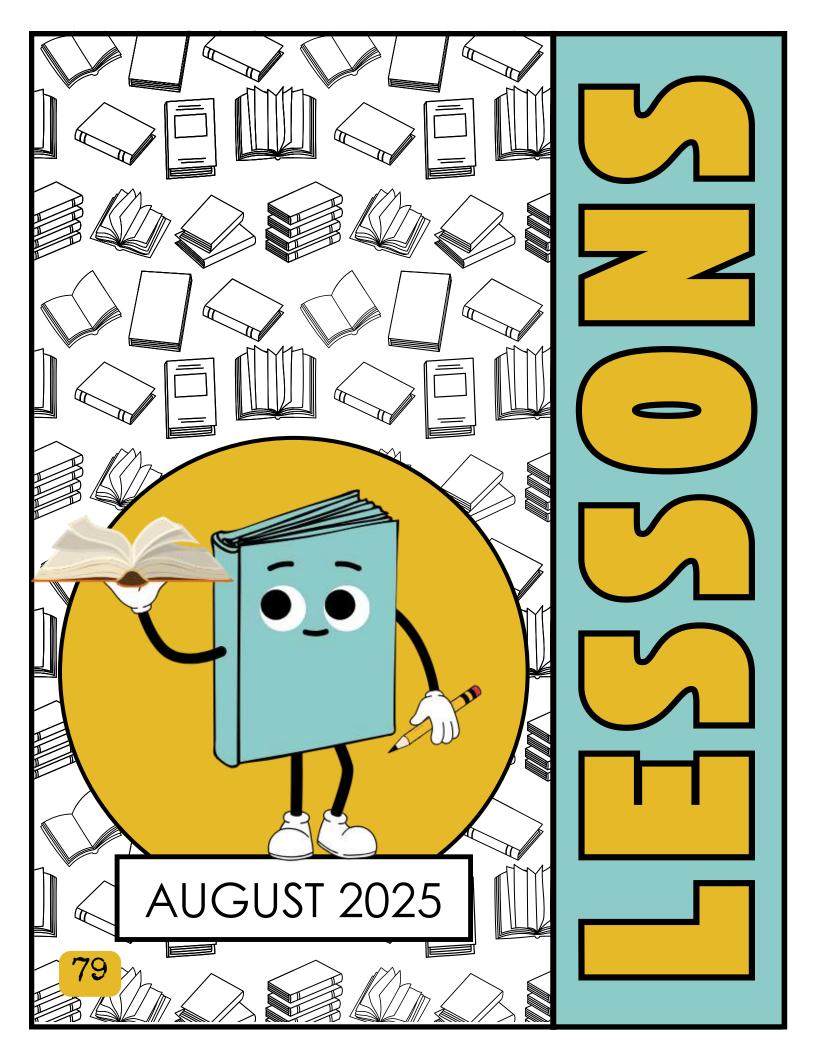




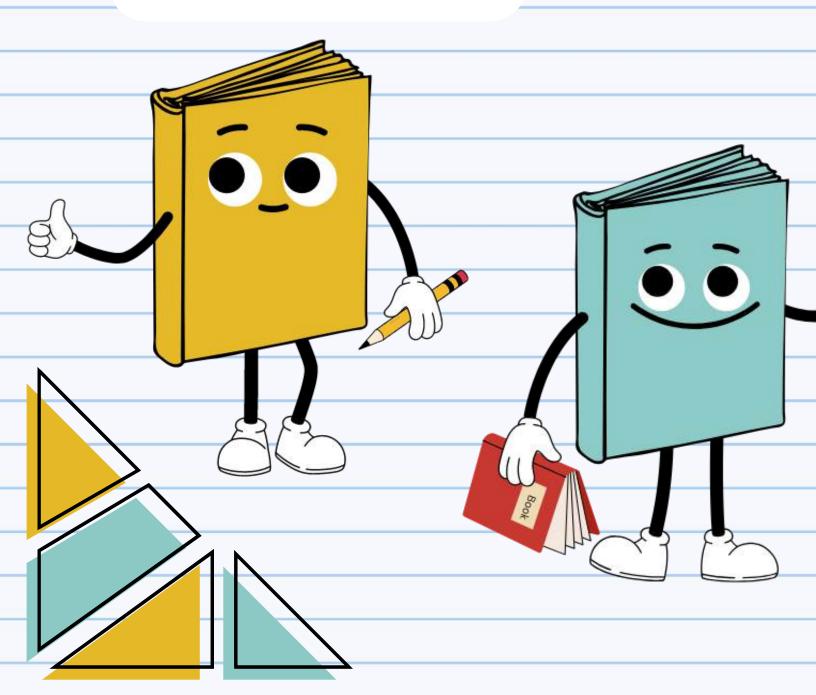
Rubric

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







Story Elements

An overview for the following elements is included:

- · Character
- · Conflict
- Climax
- Setting
- · Point of View
- Theme
- · Resolution

Activities for the following elements will be covered in depth this month:

- · Character
- Setting
- · Point of View

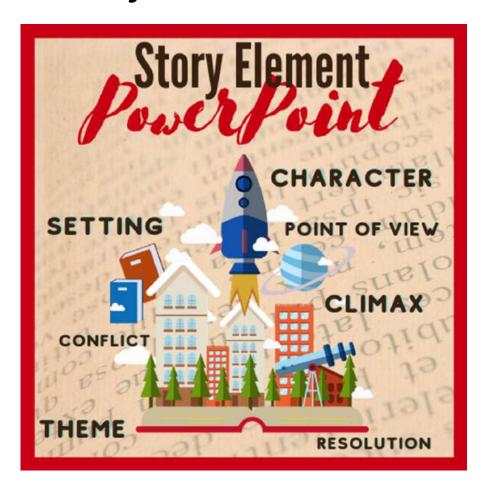
The following elements will be covered in depth in the future:

- · Theme
- · Conflict
- · Climax
- · Resolution



STORY ELEMENTS

Story Element Power Point



Use this introduction to Story Elements
PowerPoint to guide your students through the 7
major story elements. These activities can be
used as an introduction or review in 4th-7th
grade. Definitions, examples and an mnemonic
device to remember the elements are included.

Click image above or this link to access:

https://ldrv.ms/p/s!Ar2GkmuzY8ip3nSivw1AhFeBsw2E?e=dSp9iE

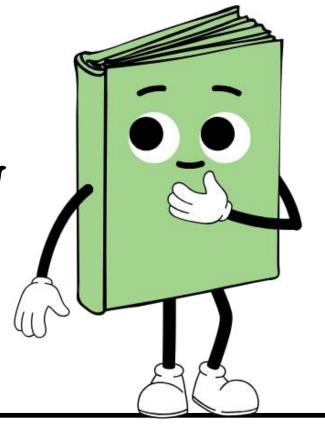
C C C S P T R

Use this mnemonic device to help you remember all 7 story elements!

CCCSPTR

30 Story Parts To Remember

- Character
- Conflict
- Climax
- Setting
- Point of View
- Theme
- Resolution



STORY ELEMENTS

Use this song to reinforce the concepts of story elements and the mnemonic device used to remember all 7!





Student pages with lyrics and follow up activities can be found on the next page!



C3STPR STORY ELEMENT SONG LYRICS









G

Room for Annotations



Read along and annotate as you listen to the song on YouTube! Lyrics by Amanda Zieba & Lex, Song Created with Suno Pro

[Verse 1]

Every tale begins with someone new, A hero, a villain, maybe even a crew. Look at their actions, the things that they say, Their thoughts and emotions help show us the way.

[Chorus]

C-C-C S-T-P-R,

The building blocks of stories, here's what they are! Character, Conflict, Climax too Setting, Theme, and Point of View. Don't forget Resolution, the element at the end A good story needs them all, my reading friend.

[Verse 2]

Conflict's the problem they have to face, A storm, a fight, or an unfair place. Inside their heart or with a friend— It's the trouble they must try to mend.

[Chorus]

C-C-C S-T-P-R,

The building blocks of stories, here's what they are! Character, Conflict, Climax too Setting, Theme, and Point of View. Don't forget Resolution, the element at the end A good story needs them all, my reading friend.

[Verse 3]

Then comes the climax, the top of the ride, The moment your heart jumps up inside. It's the big WOW, the turning tide, Where everything changes or truths collide.





C3STPR STORY ELEMENT SONG LYRICS









Room for Annotations



[Chorus]

C-C-C S-T-P-R,

The building blocks of stories, here's what they are! Character, Conflict, Climax too Setting, Theme, and Point of View. Don't forget Resolution, the element at the end A good story needs them all, my reading friend.

[Verse 4]

Now for the setting—where and when, In a spooky forest or way back when. It sets the mood, it lights the stage, It's the backdrop of each written page.

[Chorus]

C-C-C S-T-P-R.

The building blocks of stories, here's what they are! Character, Conflict, Climax too Setting, Theme, and Point of View. Don't forget Resolution, the element at the end A good story needs them all, my reading friend.

[Verse 5]

Theme is the message the author tells, About kindness, courage, or wishing wells. Look past the plot to what's inside, A truth or lesson you can't hide.

[Bridge]

Point of view shows who's telling the tale, "I" for first, or "he" and "she" for third detail. It colors the story, it shapes what you see, It decides how close to the heart you'll be.

Word Nerd Collaborative



C3STPR STORY ELEMENT SONG LYRICS











Room for Annotations



[Verse 6]

And when it ends, there's resolution—
The problem finds its own solution.
A happy ending or something bittersweet,
That final page feels so complete.

[Final Chorus] C-C-C S-T-P-R,

The building blocks of stories, here's what they are!
Character, Conflict, Climax too
Setting, Theme, and Point of View.
Don't forget Resolution, the element at the end
A good story needs them all, my reading friend.

DISCUSS!

- Which piece of the lyrics did you like the best? Why?
- Which piece of the lyrics did you like the least and why? How would you revise or change them?
- Do you think this is a helpful tool to remember the elements/pieces of a story? Why or why not?
- What would you change about the sound of the song?
- Which version of the song do you like best and why?



Original Version



Female Pop



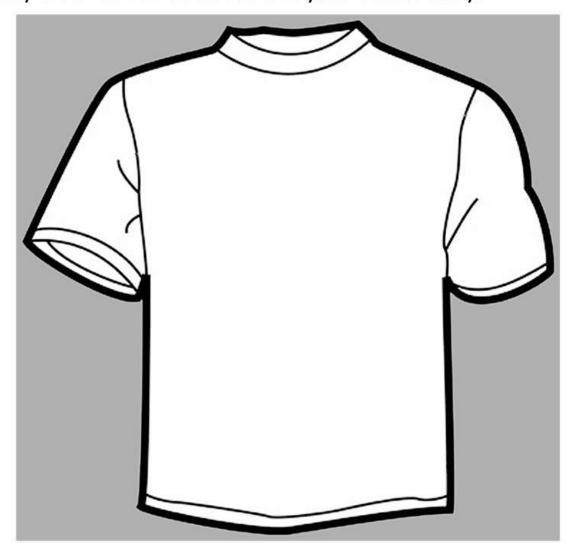
Guy + Guitar

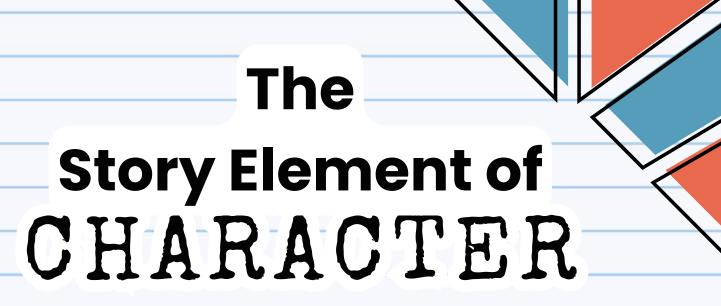


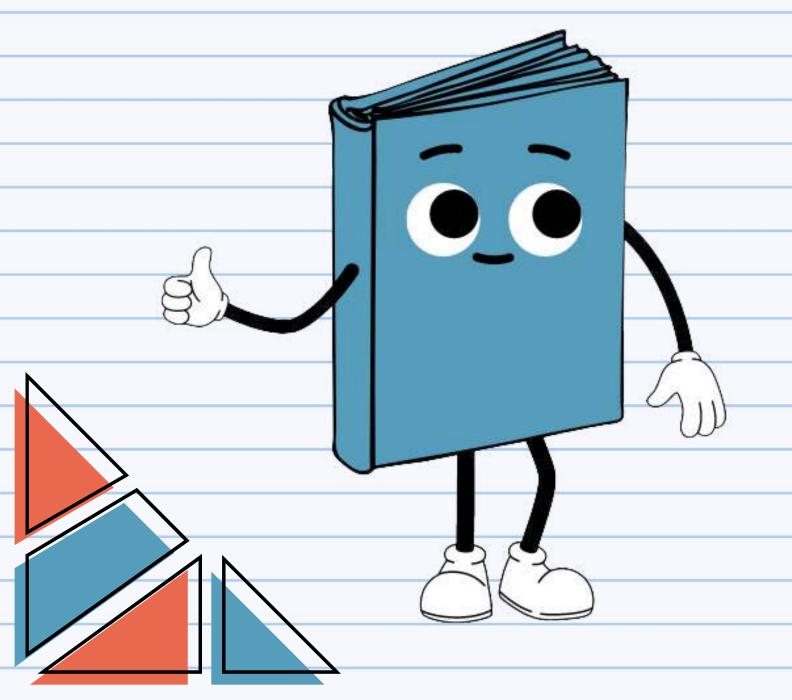
Anthem-Style

T-Shirt Time!

Your job is to design a t-shirt for your main character. Use the blank t-shirt below to show what the shirt would look like visibly. Think about what your character is interested in and where they might go. What kind of a shirt would they want to wear? Comfy? Trendy? Loud? After you have designed the shirt, write a short scene in which your character wears this shirt. Now you'll need to think about how to describe both your character and their shirt with words. Where will your character go in this shirt? What will they do? How do they feel when they wear it? Tell all about it in your t-shirt story.







The T-Shirt A short story by: _____

Grab a pencil and get ready to wrack your brain for 26 different ways to describe your main character. Write them next to, under, on top of or near each of the letters below.

Now that you are done, circle the five strongest attributes of your character.



Missing Person!

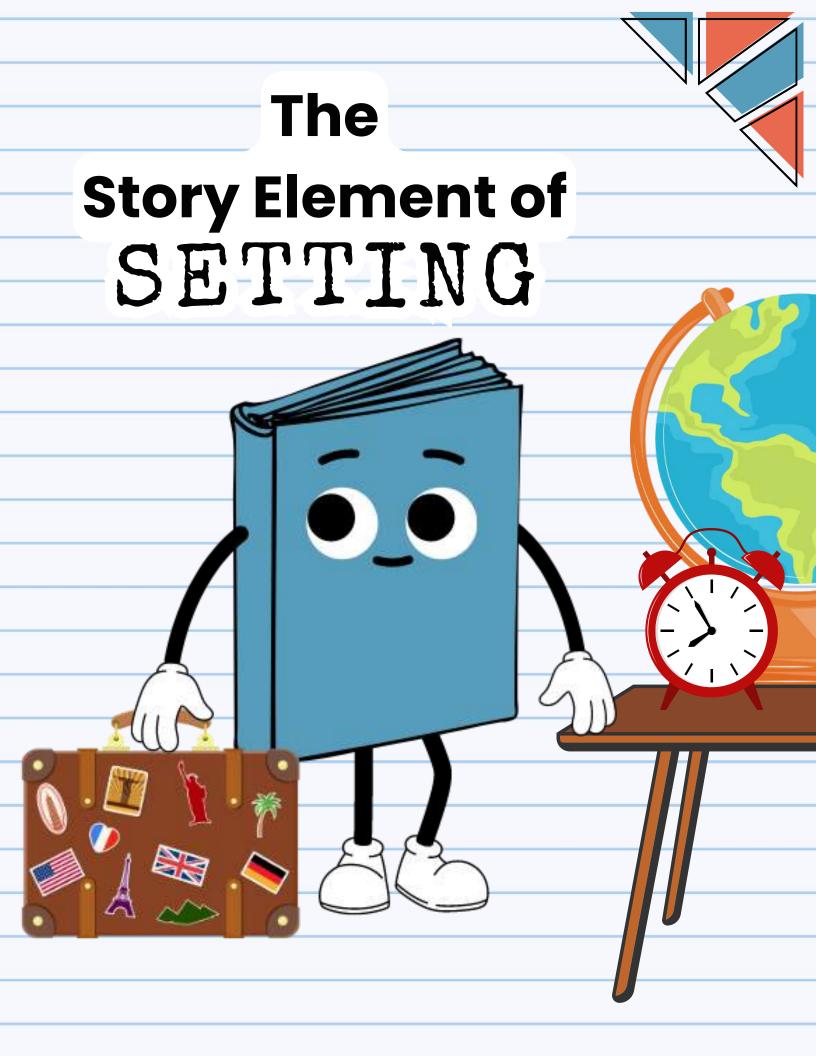
Using your list of character words from the previous page, create a missing person ad describing your character so that if they were lost, this ad could be used to help find them.

	physic traits prefer talent	ember to in cal traits, p and chara rences. Lo ts might al ding your	personali acter cations a Iso be he	and Ipful	Draw a	picture (of your c	haracter h

Conflict Character

Think of a problem your main character is facing. If you were in their shoes, how would you solve it? In the space below, write your character an advice letter, telling them possible solutions for their current predicament. You can write the letter as yourself, or for a twist, write the letter as another character in your book. Who knows, this may become a part of your story. Or it just might be part of the behind the scenes construction (you know, that stuff no one sees because it gets covered up with carpet and paint) that helps you get to the end product. Either way, it should be a valuable exercise. (*Don't forget to do a closure and signature so you can remember who the letter is from!)

Dear		
<u> </u>		o. 210. 210. 210. 210.
		aram aram aram aram aram
8 3 3 100 3 101 3 101 3 101		<u> </u>
		
20		
201 24 (101) 21 (101) 21 (101)		
See A-181 A-181 A-181 A-181		
<u> </u>		o
		
	<i>\</i>	
		\:\:\!\\
	(







Setting

When you are thinking about selecting a setting for your own story, think about the places you know best. Those will be the easiest to describe. You won't need to do hours of research to figure out the way people who live there talk, or what the sunset looks like or how people dress... because you KNOW it. You've LIVED it.

You can call the images of the lake at dawn or the crowded streets to your mind in an instant. You can tell me the fastest way to get from Cinderella's Castle to Tomorrow Land in Disney World, because your family vacations there every year. What does campfire smoke smell like? No problem for you, you spend every summer at your grandparents' cabin. As a young writer, these are the places to set your story. So think, where have you spent oodles of time? Which place in this entire wide world do you know like the back of your hand? The mall? Your neighborhood park? The beach?

Go ahead. Make a list of YOUR PLACES. The places that matter in YOUR WORLD. And then start describing them. I am willing to bet the words will come fast, and if you are lucky, maybe a story with them. :) Happy writing!

Setting

Place	Details	Story Idea



As a reader, it is most often the setting of a book that will determine whether I scoop it up or leave it lay on the shelf. A WWII novel in a holocaust camp? Heck no. Not for me. An epic fantasy in medieval Europe. YUP. A zombie infested futuristic London, caught my eye (and my \$10 in the book store) even though I REALLY don't like scary things. Setting, like genre, can ensnare a reader just by boasting a location or time period of interest. It is a powerful writing element, and one that should be mastered.

Clearly conveying the setting can require research, not to mention a lot of time, but for some, setting the scene is their favorite part of writing. Many authors love creating new worlds and exploring ones long extinct, and it shows in their writing. It is in the works of these authors that we feel we are really there, living inside the pages of their book.

Go to your bookshelf quick and grab a book that has transported you to an interesting place. Be it near or far does not matter. What matters is the author's ability to put you in that time and place. Read a bit, find a passage or chapter that whisks you away. Pay attention to the author's word choice and the way they move your mind from your couch and into their world. Jot down a few of those phrases below.

Did you notice it was more than saying, 4th century Rome? A fancy university campus? An abandoned storm cellar?

A setting contains two parts, the WHERE and the WHEN.

By including facts about both the time and the place of the story, you can add to the reader's experience. Below are a few ways authors describe their settings. Feel Free to add to the list if you have more ideas!

WHEN/TIME

- Look at the sky, light/dark, tells us the approximate time of day.
- Daily routines. If a character is eating breakfast we know it is morning.
- Weather/Seasons/Holidays help us to know the time of year.
- Clothing and fashion styles help us to know the time period/season of the book.
- Famous people in the story help us to know the time period of the book.
- Technology in the story helps us to know the time period of the book.
- Language/Slang gives us clues as to the time period of the book.
- Clocks, calendars, newspaper or other nonfiction reports that mention specific dates and times.

WHERE/LOCATION

- Buildings (ex: school, church, grocery store, home)
- Landscape/Terrain/Soil helps us to know the geographic region the story takes place.
- Surroundings/Environment/Population can help us to know if it is in a rural or urban setting.
- Specific mention of a city, state or country.
- Temperature and weather can help us know a geographic location.
- Plant/animal life mentioned (ex: cactus or polar bear) can help us know a geographic location.
- Clothing (ex: a uniform) can help us know a location (hospital, college logo, military, etc.)
- Language or accents can help us know a country or geographic location.



Let's practice!

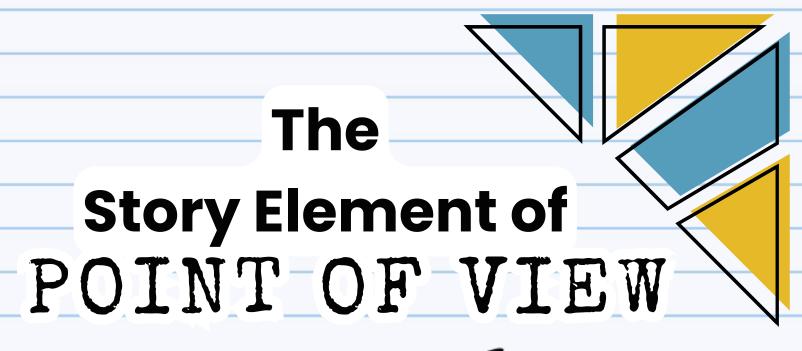
Below are several settings. Using the list of details on the previous page, do your best to describe them. You can insert characters in them if you need to, but your focus should be on clearly conveying the sights, sounds and atmosphere of the time and place given. Ready to work? Go ahead.

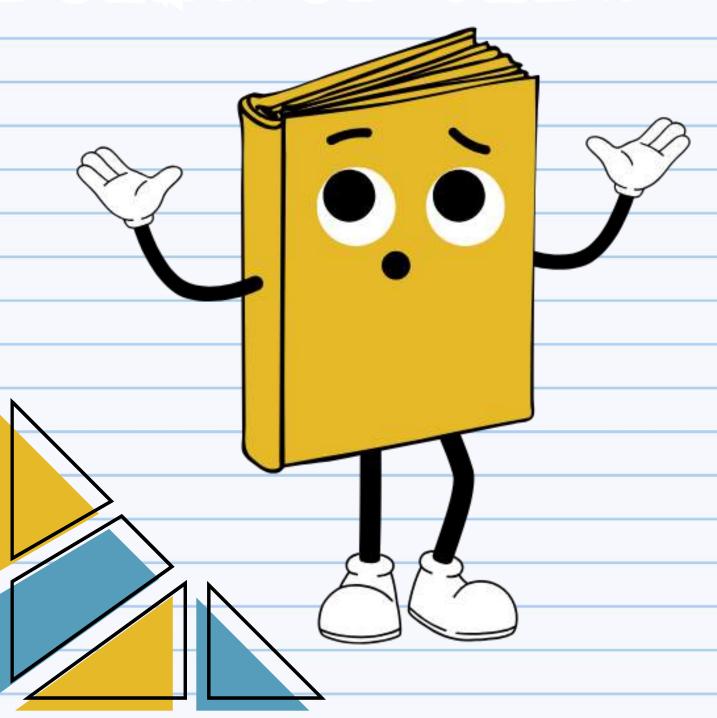
We'll start easy, and give you a picture prompt to get you started.

SUT,	<i></i>	Time: Midnight
Sett	TIME: Holiday Shoppi	

	PLACE: Football Field	TIME: Friday Night
R A		
QI)		
~		
	PLACE: Battlefield	TIME: Revolutionary War
1 7		
-		
W		
	PLACE: The White Hous	e TIME: Election Day

	PLACE: Football Field	TIME: Friday Night
R A		
QI)		
~		
	PLACE: Battlefield	TIME: Revolutionary War
1 7		
-		
W		
	PLACE: The White Hous	e TIME: Election Day





Point of View vs. Perspective

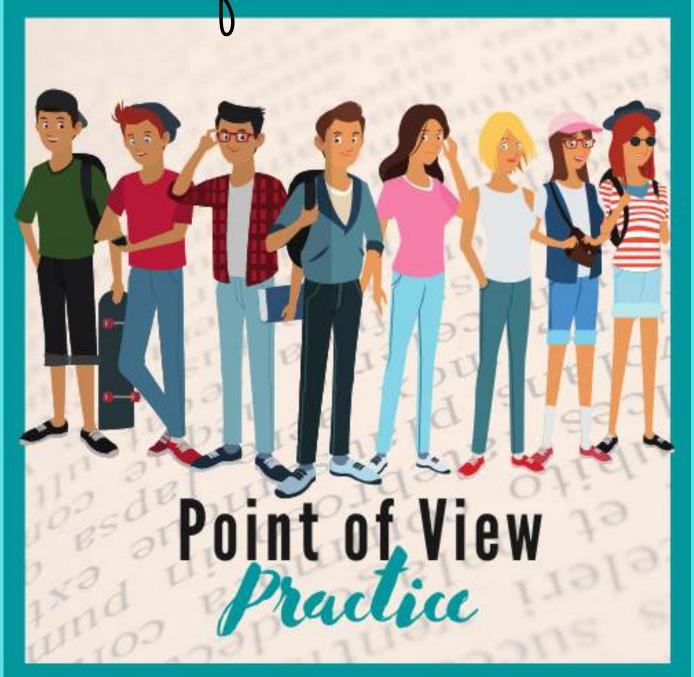
Sometimes students confuse Point of View and Perspective, and I can't blame them. They are pretty similar.

To help them distinguish the difference and practice identifying each, use this video. In this video review 1st, 2nd and 3rd person POV and see examples of each point of view in action. Then learn how perspective is slightly different than POV and examine aspects of a character that can influence their storytelling perspective, which can in turn impact a story. Amanda closes out the video with some specific fractured fairytale ideas and general writing tips. Happy writing ya'll!

(

Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dWXa_VC0cw

Point of View Practice



Instruction, Video Links, 2 Practice Activities Answer Keys, and Color + B/W version included

Name: _____

Point of View Practice



Point of View - the person telling the story

- Point of view is what the character or narrator telling the story can see (his or her perspective).
- There are three main points of view in literature: 1st
 Person, 2nd Person and 3rd Person. 1st and 3rd person are most commonly used.
- Many stories have the protagonist or the main character telling the story. This is called first person. (Words commonly used in first person POV are: I, me, my, we, mine, us.)
- If an outside of the story narrator is telling the story, it is called third person. (Words commonly used in third person POV are: he, she, him, her, they, their.)
- The narrator should not be confused with the author, who is the writer of the story. The author chooses "who" is to tell the story by determining the point of view.

For more instruction, watch one or all of these videos.

- Video 1
- Video 2
- Video 3

Name:			

Point of View Practice



DIRECTIONS

Watch these video clips. Then circle the point of view being used. (1 point each)

Video Clip #1: <u>Flipped</u> 1st person 3rd Person

Video Clip #2: Honey I Shrunk the Kids 1st person 3rd Person

Video Clip #3: <u>Brave</u> 1st Person 3rd Person

Video Clip #4 <u>D2 The Mighty Ducks</u> 1st person 3rd Person

Video Clip # 5: The Croods 1st person 3rd Person

Now write the trailer of your favorite movie. Choose either first or third person. (5 points)

Chosen POV (circle one) 1st	Person 3rd Person

Score: _/10

Name: _____

Point of View Practice



ANSWER KEY

Video Clip #1: <u>Flipped</u> **1st person** 3rd Person

Video Clip #2: Honey I Shurnk the Kids 1st person 3rd Person

Video Clib #3: <u>Brave</u> **1st Person** 3rd Person

Video Clib #4 <u>D2 The Mighty Ducks</u> 1st person **3rd Person**

Video Clip # 5: <u>The Croods</u> 1st person **3rd Person**

Now write the trailer of your favorite movie. Choose either first or third person.

Answers will vary. Give points for correctly using the key words of the chosen point of view. For example, words commonly used in first person POV are: I, me, my, we, mine, us.m and words commonly used in third person POV are: he, she, him, her, they, their.

Name:			

Point of View Practice



DIRECTIONS

Read the following excerpts from stories below and decide if they are told in the first or third person point of view. Put a 1 (for first person) or a 3 (for third person) next to the text to indicate your choice. Highlight the words in the sample that help you to know you are making the correct choice. (1 point for correctly identifying the POV and another per problem for correctly highlighting identifying words.)

Score: _/10

POV) Practice

Answer Key



3 "**She** thought **she** saw car headlights come on where the drive disappeared into the trees, and an engine started. Meggie ran that way. She tripped and fell, grazing her knee on the gravel, which was wet with dew. Warm blood trickled down her leg but she took no notice. She ran on and on, limping and sobbing, until she had reached the big wrought iron gate. The road beyond it was empty. **Mo** was gone." (from Inkheart by Cornelia Funke.) 1 "Stubbornly I shook my head. I would not give up the earrings. As long as I had them, I could keep my dream of running away. I knew if I simply refused, Sass would find a way to make me give them up. So I lied. 'I have lost them.' I said." (from Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan) ___1___ "I felt oddly buoyant as I walked from Spanish toward the cafeteria, and it wasn't just because I was holding hands with the most perfect person on the planet, though that was certainly part of it." (from Eclipse by Stephanie Meyer) **3** "He had never disobeyed an order to hide. Even as a toddler, barely able to walk in the backyard's tall grass, **he** had somehow understood the fear in **his** mother's voice. But on this day, the day they began taking the woods away, **he** hesitated. **He** took one extra breath of fresh air, scented with clover and honeysuckle, and coming from far away – pine smoke. He aid **his** hoe down gently, and savored one last moment of feeling warm soil beneath his bare feet. **He** reminded himself, 'I will never be allowed outside again. Maybe never again as long as I live.' **He** turned and walked into the house silently as a shadow." (from Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix) 1 "Two of them came at **me**. I backed up toward the creek, tried to raise my shield, but Clarisse was too fast. Her spear stuck **me** straight in the ribs. If **I** hadn't been wearing an armored breastplate, I would've been shish-ke-babbed. As it was, the electric point just about shocked **my** teeth out of the mouth. One of her cabin mates slashed his sword across **my**

arm, leaving a good size cut." (from The Lightening Thief by Rick Riordan)

Possible Points: 10

Created by the Word Nerd

Genre



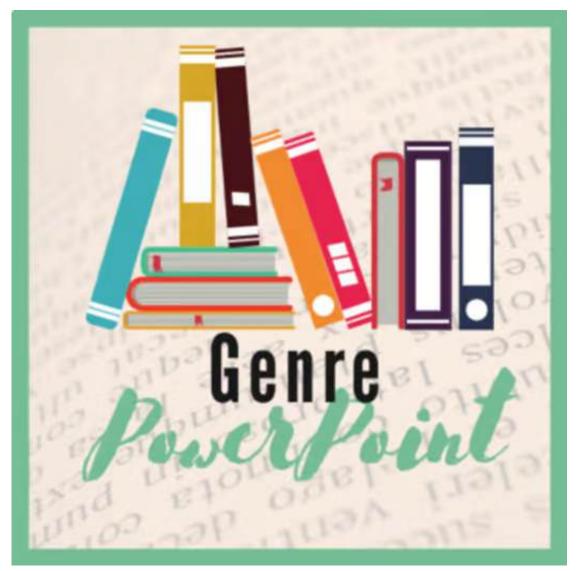
<u>Includes</u>

- · Power Point
- · Quick Quiz



GENRE

Genre Power Point



This PowerPoint defines 14 different fiction and nonfiction genres and as well as provides example titles for each genre, including titles that feature diverse characters.

PowerPoint Link

Genre-ally Speaking





Listen to 2 hosts discuss the concept of genre, including lots of specific book examples. Then, answer the questions using complete sentences.





What do you understand more clearly after listening to the hosts discuss the concept of genre?
2. What is the benefit of listening to and reflecting on another person's thoughts, ideas and analysis? Do you think this was a helpf exercise, why or why not?
3. After listening to this podcast, which genre do you think you are most interested in checking out next? Please explain your choice.



Let's Practice!

Directions: Click on the image or link below to access a Canva Slideshow that will ask students to practice identifying fictional genres by watching quick (2 min) movie trailer videos. There is a quick genre review and then 10 trailers + the correct answers. A printable student answer sheet can be found on the next page, or students can record their answers on scrap paper.



Link: https://www.canva.com/design/DAEHcQs6eZg/-irceyr]EdMut5xFgQyjJQ/edit?
https://www.canva.com/design/DAEHcQs6eZg/-irceyr]EdMut5xFgQyjJQ/edit?
https://www.canva.com/design/DAEHcQs6eZg/-irceyr]EdMut5xFgQyjJQ/edit?
https://www.canva.com/design/DAEHcQs6eZg/-irceyr]EdMut5xFgQyjJQ/edit?
https://www.canva.com/design/DAEHcQs6eZg/-irceyr]EdMut5xFgQyjJQ/edit?
https://www.canva.com/design/DAEHcQs6eZg/-irceyr]EdMut5xFgQyjJQ/edit7
<a href="https://www.canva.com/design-to-tale-to-tal

QR Code →



Created by the Word Nerd

???	Guess the Genre	e ???	
Student	Answer Sh	neet	
	<u>6</u>		
2			
3	8		
4	9		
5			// /
Choose from:	Realistic Fiction Fantasy Historical Fiction Science Fiction	on	
O	reated by the Word Nerd		
555	Guess the Genre	e ???	
Student	Answer Sh	neet	
2			
3	8		

Choose from:

Realistic Fiction Fantasy
Historical Fiction Science Fiction



Quick Genr Quiz

DIRECTIONS

Match the definition from the right to the correct genre on the left.

1. Biography
2. Autobiography
3. Memoir
4. Informational
5. Poetry
6. Realistic Fiction
7. Historical Fiction
8. Science Fiction
9. Fantasy
10. Mythology
11.Tall Tale
12. Folklore
13. Fairy Tale
14. Humor
15. Mystery

A. A book telling facts and informatio	n
about a specific topic.	

- B. Short stories for children with magical creatures and characters.
- C. The story of someone's own life.
- D. Fiction stories that involve strange or other worldly settings and characters.
- E. A story with futuristic elements that can take place on other planets.
- F. A fiction story that is handed down by word of mouth about a folk hero.
- G. A fiction story that evokes a feeling of fear in the characters and reader.
- H. The story of someone's life, as told by another person.
- I. A story in the present, that could happen, but didn't.
- J. Fiction full of fun, comedy and excitement, written to entertain you.
- K. A story or information written in verse, frequently using rhyme and imagery.
- l. A story about a portion of one person's own life.
- M. A humorous story that is too far-fetched to be true. Often includes exaggerations.
- N. A fiction story that involves the solution of a crime or discovering of clues.
- O. A story that takes place in the past involving historical characters and settings.
- P. A story that belongs to a group of people that tells about history, heroes and gods.

Score: _/16

16. Horror

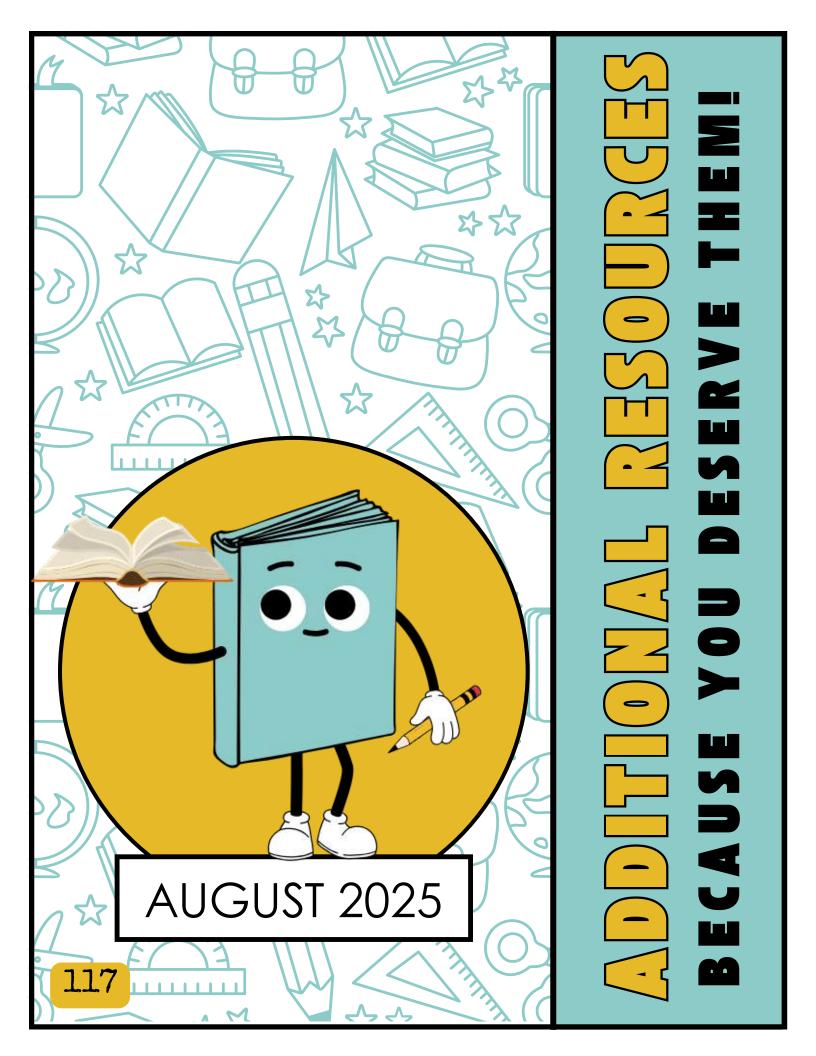


Quick Genr Quiz

Answer Key

- 1. Biography: H
- 2. Autobiography: C
- 3. Memoir: L
- 4. Informational: A
- 5. Poetry: K
- 6. Realistic Fiction: I
- 7. Historical Fiction: O
- 8. Science Fiction: E
- 9. Fantasy: D
- 10. Mythology: P
- 11. Tall Tale: M
- 12. Folklore: P
- 13. Fairy Tale: B
- 14. Humor: J
- 15. Mystery: N
- 16. Horror: G

Possible Points: 16



SUPERHERO ORIGIN STORY INTRO ACTIVITY





FROM THE WORD NERD COLLABORATIVE



SUPERHERO ORIGIN STORY INTRO

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

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

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

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

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

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

A FEW CONSIDERATIONS...

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

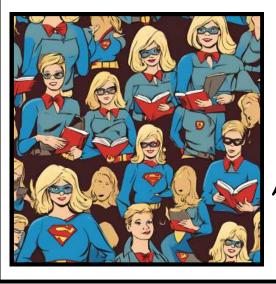
Even if you don't lean into the superhero theme for your classroom decor or utilize the concept all year, I think this is a fun way for your students to learn about you and each other. That's right, if you feel comfortable, ask your students to repeat the process. Rather than tell what they did over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











PRETTY NEAT, HUH?!?!

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

INTRODUCING THE WORD WEAVER!



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

"UNLOCKING MINDS, ONE SYLLABLE AT A TIME!"

My origin story

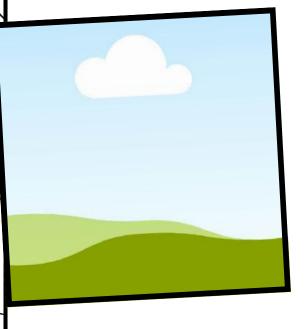
AMANDA ZIEBA, ONCE A MIDDLE SCHOOL ELA TEACHER, DISCOVERED HER POWERS DURING A LATE-NIGHT GRADING SESSION. HER RED PEN GLOWED, AND ESSAYS TRANSFORMED INTO RIVETING TALES. REALIZING HER DESTINY, SHE FOUNDED THE WORD NERD COLLABORATIVE—A SANCTUARY FOR EDUCATORS SEEKING INSPIRATION AND PRACTICAL TOOLS.

My super powers

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

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

INTRODUCING YOUR SUPERHERO NAME



YOUR ELEVATOR PITCH

* * * * *

YOUR GATCH PHRASE HERE

MY ORIGIN STORY

YOUR ORIGIN STORY HERE...

MY SUPER POWERS

YOUR SUPER POWERS HERE..

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



SUPERHERO ORIGIN STORY STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

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

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

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

NEXT STEPS:

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

Something special about me is: _______

My personal Kryptonite (weakness): ______

INTRODUCING

	USING THE IDEAS FROM CHATGPT, WRITE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR SUPER-SELF HERE.
PICTURE OF ME	
FICTOR	CATCH PHRASE:
y super	
T/EXPLAIN YOUR SUP	PER POWERS HERE:



SUPERHERO ORIGIN STORY STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

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

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

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

Frist Name:
3 things I'm good at:
3 positive traits:
3 hobbies:
A time when I helped someone:
Hidden Talent:
Greatest accomplishment:
Something I am proud of:
Hometown/Where you live now:
I take care of:
I love to:
My favorite food is:
Something special about me is:
My personal Kryptonite (weakness):

NEXT STEPS:

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

INTRODUCING

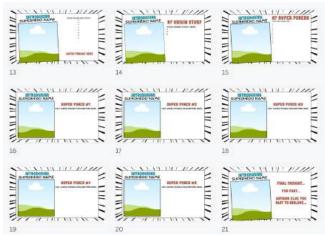
A FEW MORE THINGS...

Use these additional resources to level up this activity.

SLIDES

To get the slide templates for this introduction activity, <u>click here</u>. Or copy and past this link: https://www.canva.com/design/DAGJPLotdqk/crRcBcpdhK95F3O6KPt5UA/edit?utm_content=DAGJPLotdqk&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton



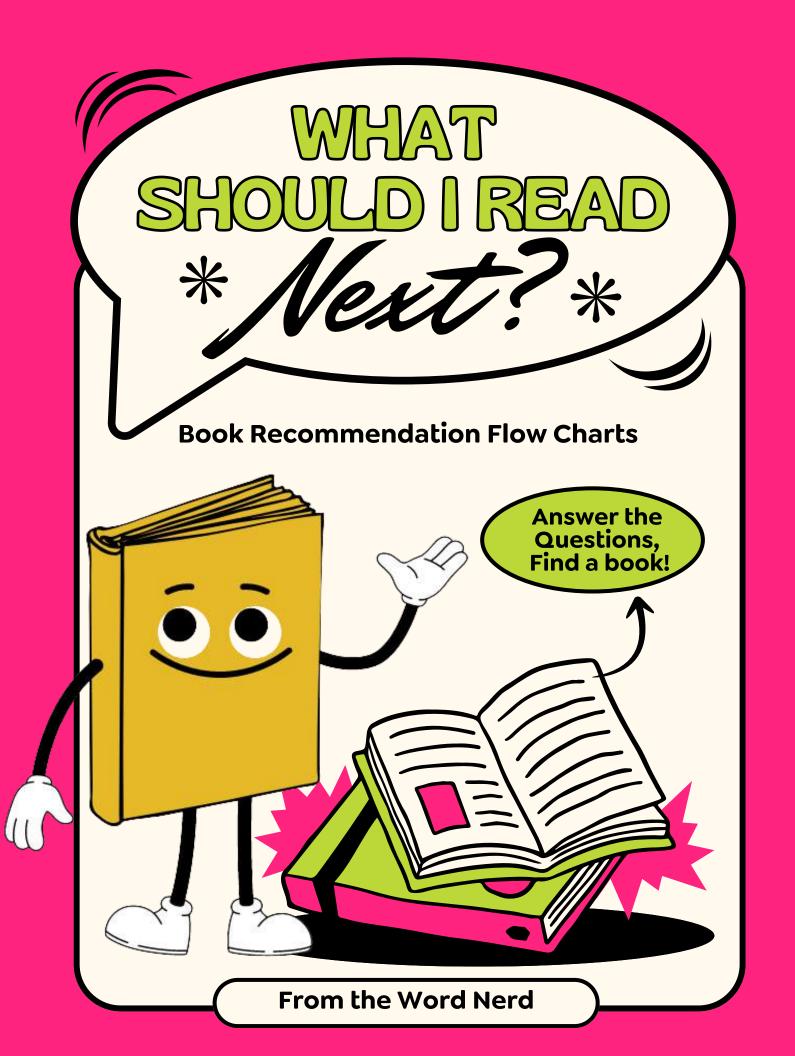


A FEW PARTING THOUGHTS/IDEAS...

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

finally,

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



WHAT SHOULD I READ NEXT? BOOK RECOMMENDATION FLOW CHARTS

Have you ever turned your students loose to roam the library and found yourself disappointed with the results? Guess what! Your students are likely disappointed too.

Rather than sending them to wander aimlessly, use these book recommendation flow charts to guide students towards books that match their personal interests and preferences.

Here's how it works:

- · Share the flow charts with students.
- Students follow the question trails on the chart that identify a possible reading selection.
- Each question (there are 4) will lead students to a book recommendation.
- Read the book description(s) (on the second page/back side) for books that sound appealing. (Students may choose to read the descriptions for one suggestion, or as many as they find interesting.)
- Students will then choose one book to explore more and listen to the linked First Chapter Friday read aloud video by using the QR code or clicking the book cover image.
- · Make a decision about continuing to read the book.
- · Check it out or return to the question trail to try again.

Recommendation Flow Chart Topics/Genres

- Mystery
- · Survival Stories
- · Romance
- · Sports
- Stories That Take Place Far Away

More coming soon? Send recommendations and requests to me at: wordnerd@amandazieba.com



WHAT SHOULD I READ NEXT? BOOK RECOMMENDATION FLOW CHARTS

THIS RESOURCE CAN BE USED ALL SORTS OF WAYS...
LET ME SHARE A FEW OF MY FAVORITES.:)

A Few Implementation Ideas/Tips

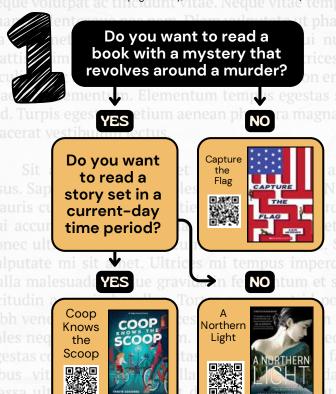
- Print and laminate these flow charts for repeated use. Allow students to circle choices with a dry erase marker.
- OR post the PDFs (with clickable links) in an online platform like Google Classroom.
- You can either share one book recommendation flow chart at a time or print and put the sheets in a binder for students to access any time they'd like a reading recommendation.
- Post the flowcharts on a bulletin board or on the bathroom stall door.
- You can use one flow chart in place of a whole group First Chapter Friday... allowing each student to pick a thematic reading selection of their own and then listen independently with a personal device.

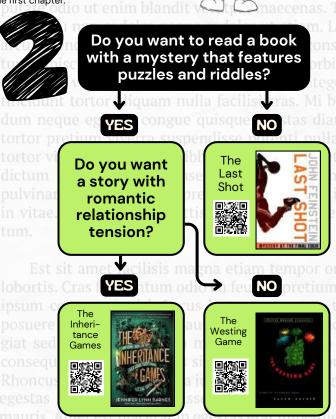
 P.S. There are 190 (and



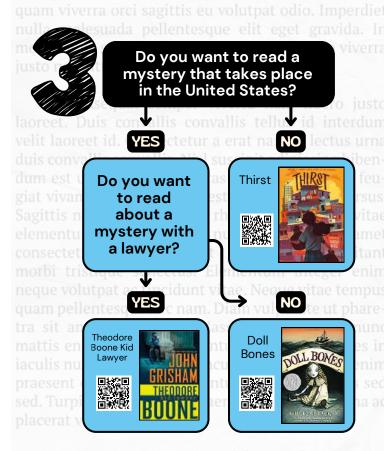
counting) First Chapter
Friday Read Aloud videos on
my YouTube channel, this
resource is an effort to
prevent time wasted scrolling
and increase the chances
students will quickly find a
right-for-them book!

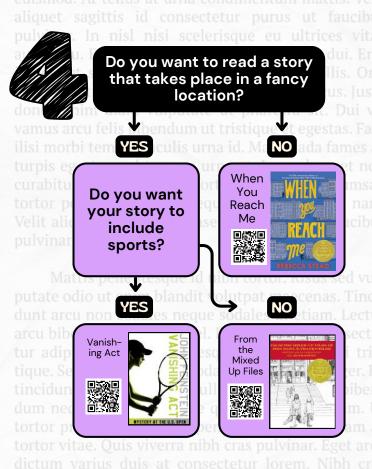
Answer these questions to pick 4 books, then learn a bit more about each on the back of the page. Finally, choose one and use the QR code to listen to the first chapter.





Follow the trail to help you decide!





MYSTERY EDITION

Each book cover is linked to the corresponding First Chapter Friday Read Aloud Video



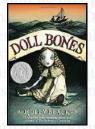
Capture the Flag by Kate Messner

A stolen flag, a secret society, and three complete strangers . . . snowed in at an airport!



Coop Knows the Scoop by Taryn Souders

It seems like there are a lot of secrets that were buried in their small town after all...



Doll Bones by Holly Black

A doll that may be haunted leads three friends on a thrilling adventure in this delightfully creepy novel.



From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg

Run away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art with E. L. Konigsburg's beloved classic and Newbery Medal–winning novel



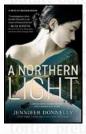
The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

Don't miss this impossible to put down novel with deadly stakes, thrilling twists, and juicy secrets.



The Last Shot by John Feinstein

The games going on behind the scenes between the coaches, the players, the media, the money-men, and the fans turn out to be even more fiercely competitive than those on the court.



A Northern Light by Jennifer Donnelly

A hotel guest entrusts the main character to burning a secret bundle of letters. But when the guest's body is fished from a lake, the letters could reveal the grim truth behind a murder.



Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer by John Grisham

Theodore knows so much—maybe too much—he is suddenly dragged into the middle of a sensational murder trial.



Thirst by Varsha Bajaj

The riveting story of a heroic girl who fights for her belief that water should be for everyone.



The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

A bizarre chain of events begins when 16 unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will.



When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

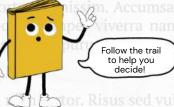
This book will appeal to readers of all types, especially those who are looking for a thought-provoking mystery with a mind-blowing twist.



Vanishing Act by John Feinstein

When teen sportswriters score press passes to the U.S. Open they expect drama. They expect blistering serves, smashed returns and fierce competition. What they don't expect is kidnapping.

SURVIVAL EDITION

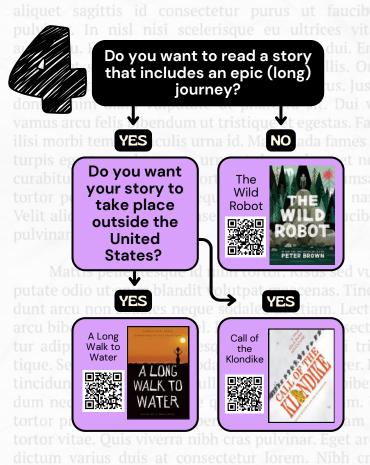


Answer these questions to pick 4 books, then learn a bit more about each on the back of the page. Finally, choose one and use the QR code to listen to the first chapter.

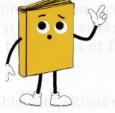




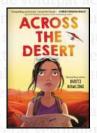




SURVIVAL EDITION

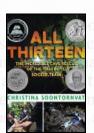


Each book cover is linked to the corresponding First Chapter Friday Read Aloud Video



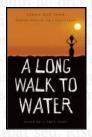
Across the Desert by Dusti Bowling

A girl sets out on a journey across the treacherous Arizona desert to rescue a young pilot stranded after a plane crash in this gripping story of survival, friendship, and rescue.



All Thirteen by Christina Soontornvat

A unique account of the amazing Thai cave rescue told in a heart-racing, you-are-there style that blends suspense, science, and cultural insight. (nonfiction)



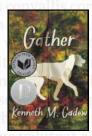
A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park

A powerful tale of perseverance and hope. This book weaves the stories of two Sudanese children who overcome mortal dangers to improve their lives and the lives of others.



Call of the Klondike by David Meissner

The remarkable tale of two young men during the Klondike Gold Rush, told through first-hand diaries, letters, and more. (nonfiction)



Gather by Kenneth M. Cadow

Gather, lan's adopted pup, is good company now that lan has to quit the basketball team, find a job, and take care of his mom as she tries to overcome her opioid addiction. lan is determined to keep his family afloat no matter what it takes.



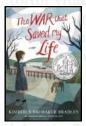
Lifeboat 12 by Susan Hood

This novel in verse based on true events tells the story of a boy's harrowing experience on a lifeboat after surviving a torpedo attack during World War II.



Muhammad Najem: War Reporter by Muhammad Najem

A powerful true story that demonstrates the power of one young person determined to change the world. (nonfiction/graphic novel)



The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. When her little brother is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada sneaks out to join him.



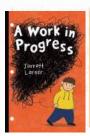
Wild Bird by Wendelin Van Draanen

A remarkable portrait of a girl who has hit rock bottom but begins a climb back to herself at a wilderness survival camp.



The Wild Robot by Peter Brown

A story full of action and thoughtprovoking questions as a robot learns to survive—and live—in the wilderness.



A Work in Progress by Jarrett Lerner

A young boy struggles with body image middle grade journeys to self-acceptance told through prose, verse, and illustration.



A World Below by Wesley King

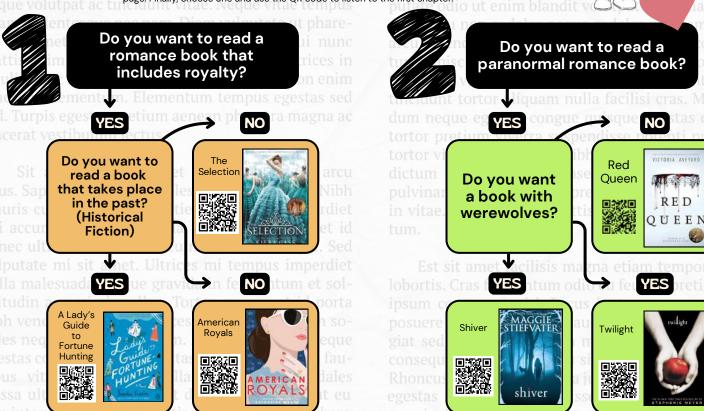
A class field trip turns into an underground quest for survival

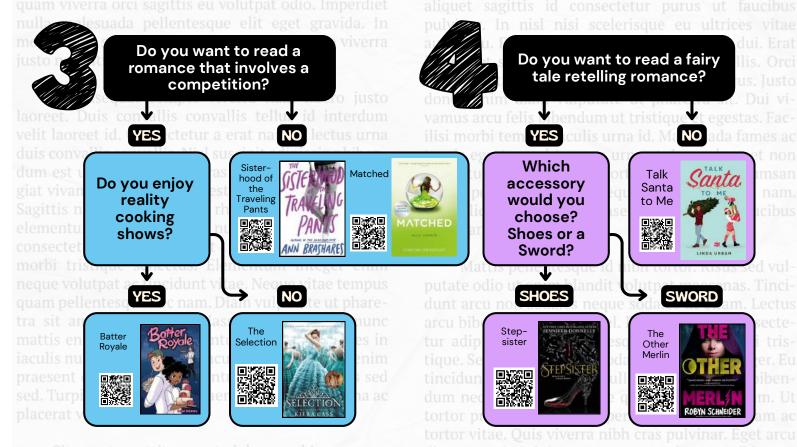
Follow the trail to help you

VICTORIA AVEYARD

RED

page. Finally, choose one and use the QR code to listen to the first chapter.





ROMANCE EDITION





American Royals by Katharine McGee

What if America had a royal family? What if America was about to have it's first QUEEN and everyone wanted her to get married, but she wasn't sure...



The Selection by Kierra Cass

Prepare to be swept into a world of breathless fairy-tale romance, swoon-worthy characters, glittering gowns, and fierce intrigue



Batter Royale by Leisl Adams

A talented young chef is selected to participate in a baking reality show and finds herself mixed up in spicy competition, bitter rivalry, and sweet romance. (Graphic novel)



Shiver by Maggie Stiefvater

A haunting and original supernatural romance that takes place in Minnesota and asks readers to ponder, what would you do to hang on to love?



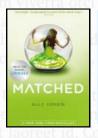
A Lady's Guide to Fortune Hunting by Sophie Irwin

The adventures of an entirely unconventional heroine who throws herself into the London Season to find a wealthy husband. But the last thing she expects is to find love...



The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares

4 friends, 1 pair of pants and one epic summer. Told in 4 different points of view, this book is about friendship and first loves.



Matched by Allie Condie

A superb dystopian romance. with strong feminist ideals. Will Cassia choose the path and person she's always known or a future that is new and uncharted?



Stepsister by Jennifer Donnelly

A startling, fiercely feminist reimagining of Cinderella. Don't just fracture the fairy tale. Shatter it.



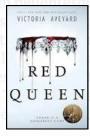
The Other Merlin by Robyn Schneider

A Camelot that becomes the ultimate teen rom-com hotspot in this ultra-fresh take on the Arthurian legend.



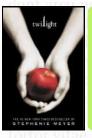
Talk Santa to Me by Linda Urban

A teen girl gets the perfect second try at a first kiss in this hilarious, romp-filled young adult romantic comedy perfect for fans of Hallmark Christmas movies.



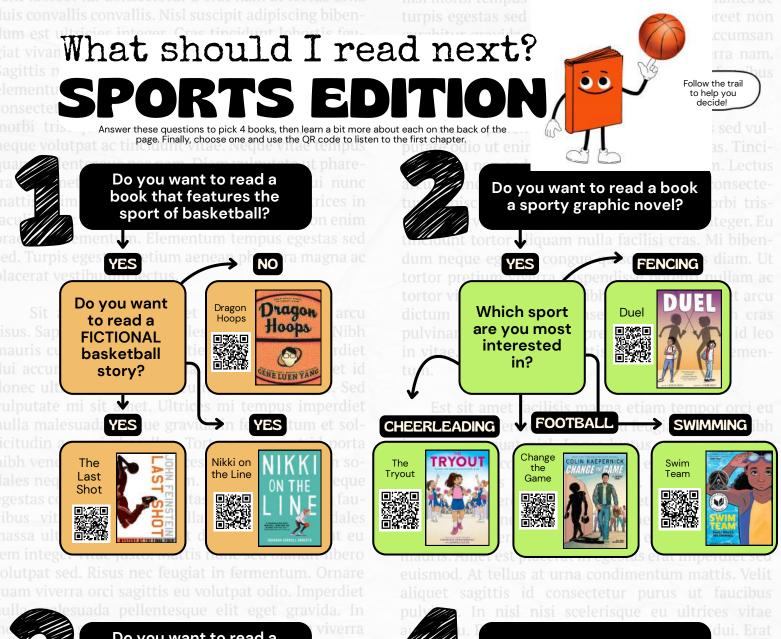
The Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard

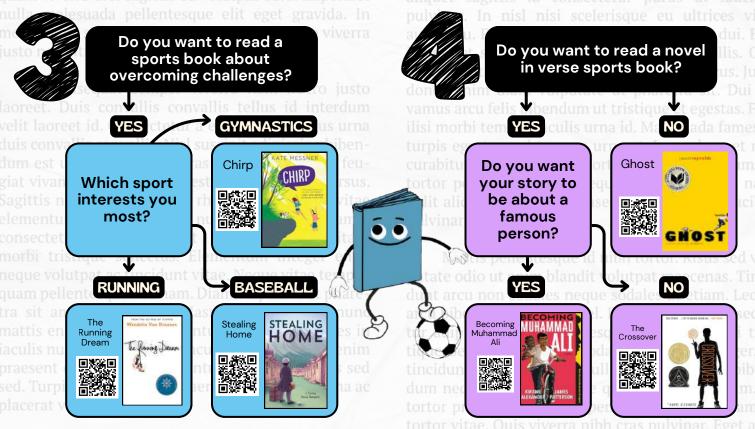
A sweeping tale of 17-year-old Mare, a common girl whose once-latent magical power draws her into the dangerous intrigue of the king's palace. Will her power save her or condemn her?



Twilight by Stephenie Meyer

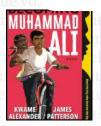
Fall in love with the addictive, suspenseful love story between a teenage girl and a vampire with the book that sparked a "literary phenomenon" and redefined romance for a generation





SPORTS EDITION





Becoming Muhammad Ali
by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander

a knockout critically acclaimed, bestselling biographical novel of cultural icon Muhammad Ali.



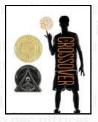
Change the Game by Colin Kaepernick

An inspiring graphic memoir of taking the road less traveled from celebrated athlete and activist Colin Kaepernick.



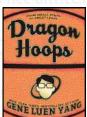
Chirp by Kate Messner

A powerful story of a young girl with the courage to make her voice heard, set against the backdrop of a summertime mystery.



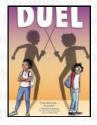
The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Basketball and heartache share the court in this slam-dunk novel in verse.



Dragon Hoops by Gene Luen Yang

Once Gene gets to know the basketball players at the high school where he teaches,, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he's seen on a comic book page.



Duel by Jessixa Bagley

A rivalry between sisters culminates in a fencing duel in this funny and emotional graphic novel.



Ghost by Jason Reynolds

Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down in this first electrifying novel of the acclaimed Track series.



The Last Shot by John Feinstein

The games going on behind the scenes between the coaches, the players, the media, the money-men, and the fans turn out to be even more fiercely competitive than those on the court.



Nikki on the Line by Barbara Carroll Roberts

Nikki wants to be a basketball star... but between school stress, friend drama, and babysitting woes, will she be able to make it on her new team?



The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen

When Jessica is told she'll never run again, she puts herself back together—and learns to dream bigger than ever before. A powerful and healing story.



Stealing Home by J. Torres

When a boy struggles after moving to a Japanese internment camp during WWII, baseball shows him another way to approach life.



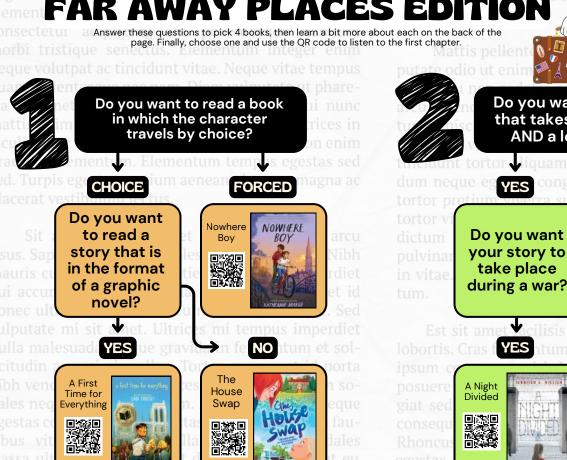
Swim Team by Johnnie Christmas

Combines wonderful characters and history to create a story that will make you want to dive right in!"



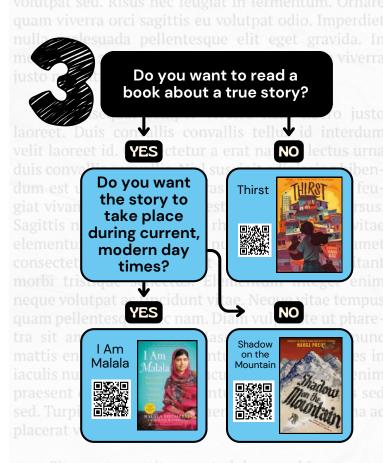
The Tryout by Christina Soontornvat

This pitch perfect graphic memoir is about courage and competition, friendship and belonging.



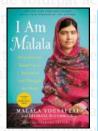


Follow the trail to help you



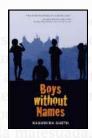


What should I read next? FAR AWAY PLACES EDITION



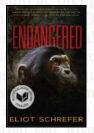
I Am Malala by Malala Youszafzai

Pakistan - the youngest winner of the Nobel Peace Prize—inspires young readers with her stunning story of resilience and power.



Boys Without Names by Kashmira Sheth

India - Gopal is trapped in a childworkhouse and his family doesn't know where he is. Can he escape and help his new friends too?



Endangered by Elio Schrefer

Congo (Africa) - The compelling tale of a girl who must save a group of bonobos -- and herself - from a violent coup.



The Enemy by Charlie Higson

England - When the sickness came, every parent, policeman, politician - every adult - fell ill. The lucky ones died. The others are crazed, confused and hungry, ZOMBIES.
Only children under 14 remain whole, and they're fighting to survive.



A First Time for Everything by Dan Santat

Many Countries in Europe - A middle grade graphic memoir based on the author's awkward middle school years and the trip to Europe that changed his life.



House Swap by Yvette Clark

England - The Parent Trap meets The Holiday in this heartwarming and funny story of two girls, one American and one British, who become friends and confidentes when their families swap houses



The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick

France - Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity.



The Lost Year by Katherine Marsh

Ukraine - A survival story that traces a harrowing family secret back to the Holodomor, a terrible famine that devastated Soviet Ukraine in the 1930s.



A Night Divided by Jennifer A. Nielsen

Germany - A stunning thriller about a girl who must escape to freedom after the Berlin Wall divides her family between east and west.



Nowhere Boy by Katherine Marsh

Belgium - The lives of an American kid and an Afghan refugee collide. Amidst all of their very big troubles, their friendship might be the thing to save them both.



Shadow on the Mountain by Margi Preus

Norway - The adventures of a 14-yearold Norwegian boy during World War II. After Nazi Germany invades and occupies Norway, Espen and his friends are swept up in the Norwegian resistance movement.



Thirst by Varsha Bajaj

India - The riveting story of a heroic girl who fights for her belief that water should be for everyone.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PLAYLIST

Looking for the perfect background music for your classroom? This <u>playlist</u> is ideal for quiet work time, independent writing, and focused classroom activities. With soft, soothing melodies and no lyrics to distract your students, this video sets the tone for calm, concentration, and creativity. 30 and 60 minute options are available. A variety of playlists, videos, moods and vibes are available, pick one, press play and then watch your students' focus and productivity soar!











FIVE 30-60 MINUTE INSTRUMENTAL PLAYSLISTS

In case you need to copy and paste this link for students, here it is:

https://www.youtube.co

m/playlist?
list=PLpVe6VlpCwJbnJw
JsASvvKvkxsMsW6UNw





WHEW! YOU DID IT!

Well, teacher friend, look at you-first batch of lessons served up, plated, and (mostly) devoured. Whether it was a three-course feast or more of a microwaved "make it work" situation, you showed up and got the job done. And that matters.

No one talks about this part enough: how wild it is that in the middle of new rosters, forgotten passwords, meet—the—teacher night, and tracking down your favorite flair pen... we still have to feed ourselves and our families.

I mean, truly—how rude is it that people need to eat every single day while you're out here running a classroom full of mid-sized humans and constantly revising your mental to-do list?

So, as a tiny parting gift for this month's pack, I'm leaving you with a few of my favorite easy, go-to recipes—the kind that require very little brainpower but still feel like a win. You'll find them on the next page.

REMINDER: You're doing great. Even if no one put their dishes in the dishwasher. Even if the lesson flopped. Even if you haven't had a vegetable since Tuesday.

Let's call this a successful first round, and remember—we're just getting started. I'll see you back here soon with your September ingredients prepped and ready to go.

Until then, keep showing up, keep stirring the pot, and when in doubt— eat a snack.

With appreciation and apron strings,





Ingredients (per person):

- 1 boneless, skinless chicken breast
- 1 tablespoon taco seasoning
- 1 cup cooked rice
- Optional mix-ins: sour cream, salsa or pico de gallo, shredded cheese

Instructions:

- 1. Cook the Chicken:
- 2. Place 1 chicken breast per person in your crockpot.
- 3. Sprinkle 1 tablespoon of taco seasoning per chicken breast over the top.
 - Cook on HIGH for 2-4 hours
 - OR on LOW for 6-7 hours
 - (Until chicken is fully cooked and shreds easily.)
- 4. Cook the Rice:
- 5. While the chicken cooks, prepare 1 cup of rice per person according to package instructions.
- 6. Combine & Customize:
 - Shred the cooked chicken.
 - Stir into the cooked rice.
 - Mix in your choice of sour cream, salsa, or pico de gallo for flavor.
 - Sprinkle shredded cheese on top if you'd like (because cheese makes everything better).

Serve warm and enjoy your low-effort, high-reward dinner!

Ingredients:

- 6-8 large potatoes (peeled and diced)
- 1 package diced ham
- 1 can potato soup
- 1 can cream of onion soup
- ½ onion, diced

- 1 bag shredded carrots
- 3 tsp celery salt
- 3 tsp onion salt
- 1 lb bag shredded cheese (cheddar works great!)

Optional: bread, rolls, or corn muffins for serving

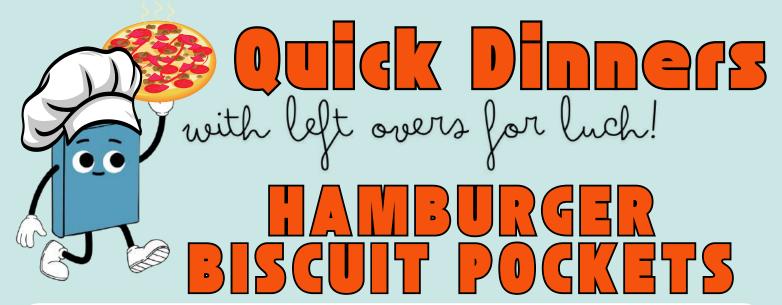
Instructions:

- 1. Prep the Potatoes:
- 2. Peel and dice 6–8 large potatoes.
- 3. Boil until fork-tender, then drain and set aside.
- 4. Start the Soup Base:
- 5. In a large soup pot, combine:
 - o 1 can potato soup
 - \circ 1 can cream of onion soup
 - ½ diced onion
 - 1 package diced ham
 - o 3 tsp celery salt
 - o 3 tsp onion salt
 - Stir well over medium heat.
- 6. Cook Carrots Separately:
- 7. Steam or boil shredded carrots until soft (about 5-7 minutes).
- 8. Then stir them into the soup pot.
- 9. Add the Potatoes:
- 10. Once the soup base is heated through, gently fold in the boiled potatoes.

Heat & Garnish:

- 1. Continue to warm the soup until hot and bubbly.
- 2. Top each bowl with shredded cheese before serving (as much or as little as you like).

Serve with: warm rolls, bread, or corn muffins for a next-level cozy meal. Perfect for fall evenings or "I can't even" weeknights.



Ingredients:

- 1 lb ground beef (or more if feeding a crowd)
- 1 can Pillsbury butter biscuits
- Optional add-ins:
 - Diced onion
 - Chopped cherry tomatoes
 - Shredded parmesan cheese

Instructions:

- 1. Brown ground beef in a skillet over medium heat.
- 2. Drain excess grease.
- 3. Season with salt and pepper—or your favorite seasoning blend.
- 4. Add the Extras (Optional):
 - For adventurous eaters, stir in diced onion and chopped cherry tomatoes while the meat finishes cooking.
 - Want it cheesier? Sprinkle in shredded parmesan cheese once off the heat.
- 5. Prepare the Biscuits:
 - Flatten each biscuit slightly (like you're making a mini pizza crust).
 - Spoon a generous amount of meat mixture into the center of each biscuit.
 - Fold the dough over to create a pocket and press edges to seal.
 - Sprinkle with Sea Salt
- 6. Bake According to Biscuit Package instructions, usually around 375°F for 10–15 minutes, or until golden brown.

<u>Serve with:</u> Steamed veggies, chips and dip, or just a napkin and an episode of your favorite cooking show.

Picky eaters will love them plain. Adventurous eaters can pile on the flavor. These also reheat like champs for lunch the next day!





