# THE BIRTHDAY CACHE

#### Dear Teacher friend,

I am so excited for you and your students to start your geocaching adventures with the Miles family! In addition to the great story you are about to read, I also want to share with you engaging lessons to use along side the text. These vocabulary worksheets, journal writes, and quizzes will bring the text to life and help your students practice foundational literacy skills.

I hope that these prepared materials will make your life in the classroom a bit easier as well as a bit more interesting for your students! Thank you for your purchase. I hope we have the opportunity to work together again in the future.

Happy Teaching,

Amanda Zieba



Each chapter has a set of selected vocabulary words and an accompanying activity. The best thing about these activities is that they are formatted so that you can use them for any books and vocabulary lists, not just with The Birthday Cache.

#### Chapter 1

geocache, satellite, GPS'r, nomad

Increase your understanding of each chapter 1 vocabulary word through completing the Frayer model chart on page 6.

#### **Chapter 2**

pantomime, tourism, penmanship, pestering

Using a dictionary, find the meanings for each word and then think of a person that could do each of the activities associated with the word.

Example word: Excited. Definition: Lots of happy energy. Answer: A child would be EXCITED about going to an amusement park.

There is not a worksheet for this activity. It is meant to be a small group activity and used as a formative check. Students can either verbally share their answer aloud or write it on a slip of paper as an exit ticket to leave the room for the day.

#### VOCABULARY

#### Vocabulary (Continued)

#### **Chapter 3**

excursion, chaperone, RV, cliche, eavesdropping

Draw/write a comic strip using these words. See comic strip template on page 7.

#### **Chapter 4**

inspection, monogrammed, occasionally, topography, perched

In the chart on page 8, list the words alphabetically and then count the number of syllables for each word. Double check your answer in a dictionary. While you are in there, correctly copy the definition for each word as well.

#### **Chapter 5**

constellation, coincidence, guru, prohibited

Think about a time and a place you might hear these words being used. See the chart on page 9.

#### **Chapter 6**

coordinates, pounced, mimicking, moped, one more word of your choice!

Using a thesaurus and the chart on page 10, find and list a synonym for each word to help you better understand it.

#### VOCABULARY

Vocabulary (Continued)

#### **Chapter 7**

frequently, scheming, mischevious, conscience

Using the dictionary, list each word's part of speech. Using the definition given, create a symbol that represents each word's meaning. Use the chart on page 12 to record your answers.

#### **Chapter 8**

assemble, aroma, protest, convince, expertly

Create a "Who Am I?" Game listing description factors as well as using the vocabulary word as you try to get your partner to guess the person's occupation.

For example: (Vocabulary word: fearless. I am brave and strong and fearless. I stick my head into an animal's mouth and do not shrink away from his dagger-like teeth! I am a \_\_\_\_\_ (lion tamer). Write your clues on a note card.

#### **Chapter 9**

agenda, reluctantly, achaeologist, skeptically, one word of your choice

Using a thesaurus, find an antonym for each of the vocabulary words to help you better understand the meaning. Record your answers on the chart found on page 11.

#### Vocabulary (Continued)

#### **Chapter 10**

latitude, longitude, trustworthy, monologue

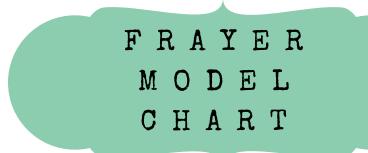
Use each of the listed words in a sentence on a sheet of loose leaf paper. Share your best sentence with a partner or turn it in as an exit ticket. Bonus: Try to write a sentence with two, three or all four words in it if you are looking for a challenge!

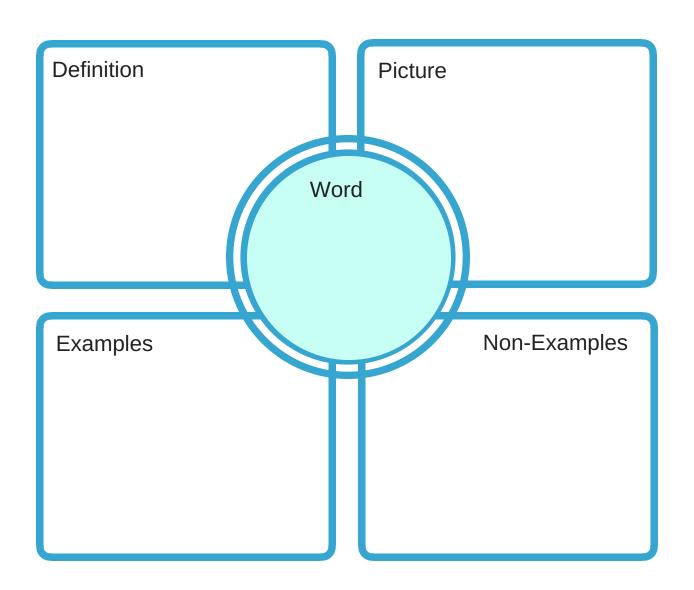
#### **Chapter 11**

vanished, persistence, farewell, chorus

To gain a better understanding of these words, complete the Frayer model chart on page 6.

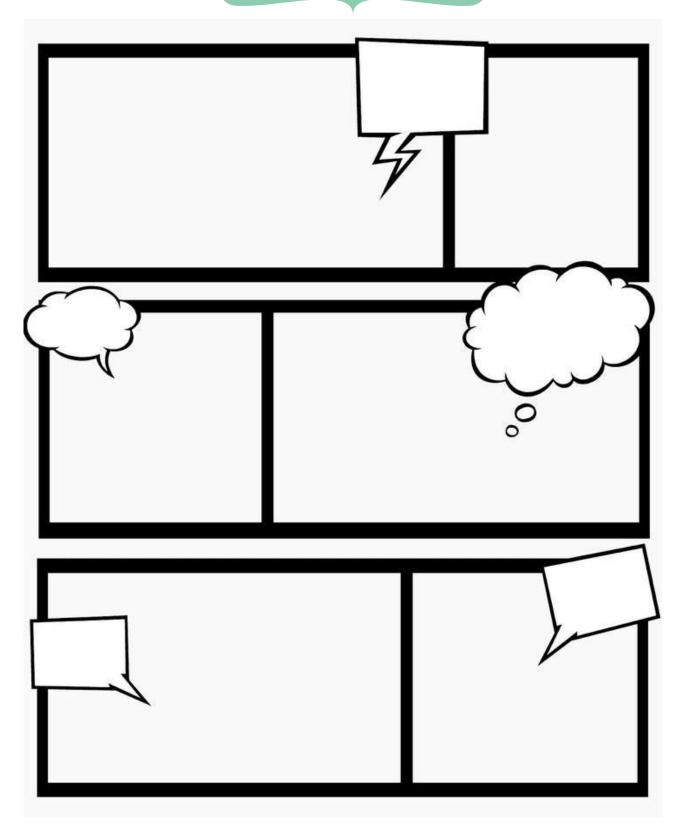






Use this word in a sentence.

### COMIC STRIP TEMPLATE



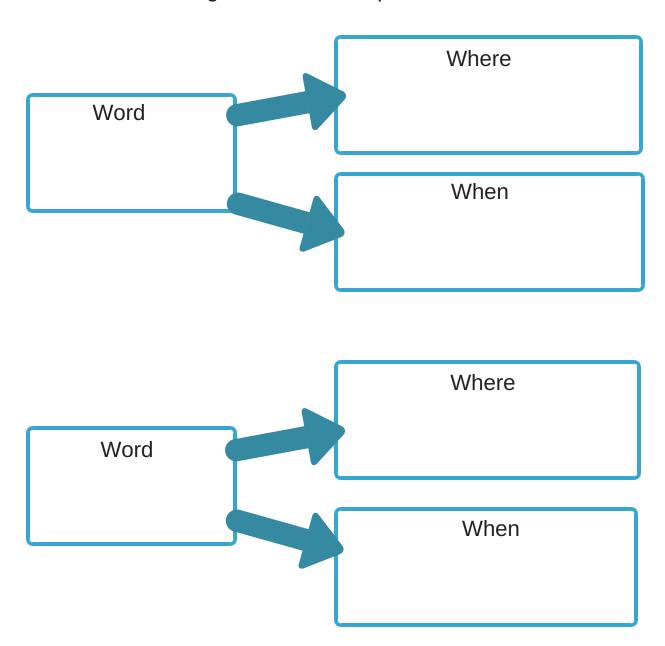
### SYLLABLE CHART

| Word | # of syllables | Definition |
|------|----------------|------------|
|      |                |            |
|      |                |            |
|      |                |            |
|      |                |            |
|      |                |            |
|      |                |            |

# VOCABULARY WHERE AND WHEN

## Where and When?

Think about a time and a place you might hear these words being used. The, complete the chart below.



### SYNONYMS

**Directions**: Use a thesaurus to find similar meanings for your vocabulary words. List your vocabulary words on the left and synonyms for those words in the column on the right.

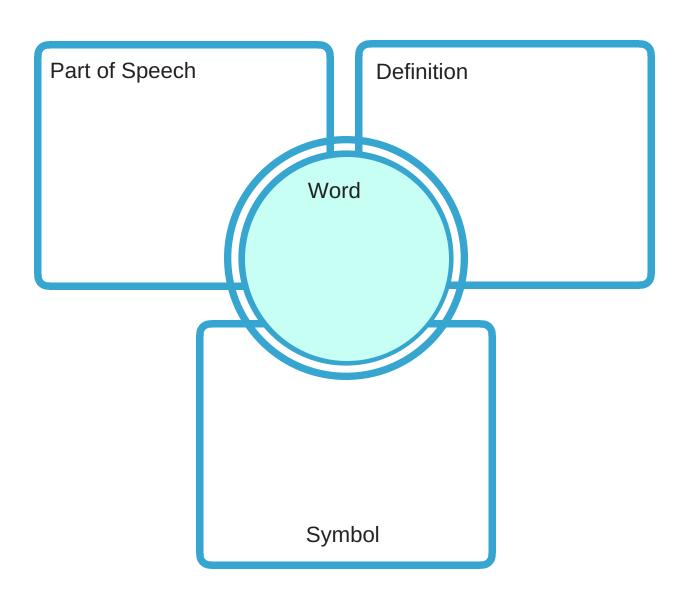
| Word | Synonym(s) |
|------|------------|
|      |            |
|      |            |
|      |            |
|      |            |
|      |            |

### ANTONYMS

**Directions**: Use a thesaurus to find opposite meanings for your vocabulary words. List your vocabulary words on the left and anotonyms for those words in the column on the right.

| Word | Antonym(s) |
|------|------------|
|      |            |
|      |            |
|      |            |
|      |            |
|      |            |





Use this word in a sentence.

## JOURNAL WRITES

For each chapter a journal write question is listed, asking students to further think about and connect to the story of The Birthday Cache.

#### **Journal Writing Tips For Your Classroom**

- 1. Do the journal write the same time each day as a way to help build the habit of daily writing.
- 2. Set a timer for the amount of time you'd like students to write. Ease your students into this daily routine by starting small and increasing the number of minutes a little each day.
- 3. Play instrumental music while students write. This not only seems like a treat, but the white noise of the music covers distracting noises around the room (tapping pencils, squeaky chairs, squirming students) and allows students to settle into a solid time of productive work. (Tip: Search Study Music Playlist on YouTube!)
- 4. Model writing time with/for your students. Once your students get settled, grab a pen and paper and do some writing yourself. Engaging with the journal write, just as your students do, will give you potential answers to share with students who are stuck and also show your students you value the activity by participating in it yourself.

Happy writing! Amanda Zieba



What is the best birthday gift you have ever gotten? Why was it so special? What memories do you have of opening it? Using it? Who gave you this gift?

#### **Chapter 2**

What is your favorite hobby? How did you get started in this hobby? Are there rules that go with this activity? Where do you do this hobby? Who do you do this activity with? Tell all about it!

#### **Chapter 3**

Mason is star-struck by meeting a professional hockey player. What celebrity would you be interested in meeting, and why? If you could spend the day together, what would you do?

#### **Chapter 4**

What do you think you would like or dislike about living "on the road"? What would be your favorite parts about traveling in an RV? Do you think you would like doing school the way Mason and Molly do? Explain your reasoning.

#### **Chapter 5**

The twins are in the middle of a mystery. If you were Mason and Molly, how would you go about trying to figure out who was leaving the pieces? Make a list of your steps/clues/ideas.



Think of a time when you were frustrated and wanted to give up. How did you overcome your obstacle? Can you relate to Mason and Molly when they thought their trail of puzzle pieces had ended in chapter 6?

#### **Chapter 7**

Molly and Mason disobeyed their parents. Think about a time when you have broken the rules. What happened? Why did you make the choice you did? Would you do it differently if given the chance to relive the moment? Explain.

#### **Chapter 8**

In chapter 8 Molly thinks about the type of career she would like to have. An editor, a gallery owner, an archaeologist, a politician. Do any of Molly's career choices sound interesting to you? What do you want to be when you grow up and why?

#### **Chapter 9**

Were you surprised to discover that Molly's plan worked out? What clues in the story helped you to know it would work out this way? Do you predict she will like this new arrangement, or will she change her mind?



Molly and Mason were able to find the final pieces of the puzzle through teamwork. Their parents, John, and Dave all helped them along the way. Think about a time when you were able to accomplish a task because you had a team of people helping you. What did you accomplish? Who helped? How did you feel? Tell me all about it!

#### **Chapter 11**

Dave wanted to do something special for Mason and Molly on their birthday, but he also got a gift, the gift of doing something nice for someone else. Think about something nice you could do for someone. Plan it out here in this journal and then more importantly... go do it!

#### **After Reading**

**AR** #1: Now that you have learned all about geocaching, do you think it is a sport you would enjoy? Why or why not? Do you think you would rather hide the caches or find them?

**AR #2**: What kind of geocaching adventure do you think Mason and Molly should go on next? What exciting things do you think should happen as they hunt for caches? Where should the RV/family travel next?

\*\* Email me your answer to this question and I will consider your ideas as I write the next book in the series!! wordnerd@amandazieba.com \*\*

## JOURNAL WRITES

Want to project the journal writes on your board for students to use during writing time, or print them in a packet to hand out to your students? Go to the Word Nerd TpT store and get them in an easy to use format! Search: **Journal Writes for The Birthday Cache.** 



# FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

**Figurative language** is a description of an object or situation, using a comparison. Figurative language includes similes, metaphors, alliteration, onomatopoeias, idioms, hyperboles and personification.

Below are three figurative language phrases found in The Birthday Cache. Complete the chart to better understand these phrases and they way they enhance a story.

...waiting like puppies salivating for fresh air (p. 40)
The twins were a rush of words, a tidal wave of stories ... (p. 42)
Ancient constellations jumped out from the night sky. (p. 48)

| Phrase:         |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Literal Meaning | Figurative Meaning Picture |

# THE BIRTHDAY CACHE QUIZ

After students read The Birthday Cache, you can check their comprehension using this multiple choice quiz.

- 1. How do Molly and Mason get the GPS'r?
  - a. From their family friend, Dave
  - b. As a present for their 12th birthday
  - c. A freebie from a magazine their dad writes for
  - d. They found it in a geocache
- 2. In what state does this story take place?
  - a. Nevada
  - b. Wisconsin
  - c. Oregon
  - d. New Jersey
- 3. What is the occupation of Molly's mother?
  - a. photographer
  - b. professional geocacher
  - c. hotel owner
  - d. truck driver

# THE BIRTHDAY CACHE QUIZ

- 4. What is Mason's favorite sport?
  - a. basketball
  - b. football
  - c. soccer
  - d. hockey
- 5. When was the sport of geocaching created?
  - a. 1970
  - b. 1980
  - c. 1990
  - d. 2000
- 6. What did Mason and Molly do that caused their parents to threaten sending them to live with their grandparents full time?
  - a. sneak away to find a geocache
  - b. stay out all night geocaching
  - c. trespassing on private property
  - d. get seriously injured while geocaching
- 7. Where did Molly and Mason find the final two puzzle pieces?
  - a. In a geocache outside of a hotel
  - b. In a geocache inside of a restaurant
  - c. In a geocache inside their own RV
  - d. In a geocache at a ballet performance

# THE BIRTHDAY CACHE QUIZ

- 8. What clue lead Molly and Mason to believe their time to finish the puzzle was running out?
  - a. They discovered a secret message said the hunt would only last for the week of their birthday
  - b. There was a date on the puzzle piece.
  - c. The family was leaving the area soon and they would be unable to continue the hunt.
  - d. They had no reason to believe there was a time limit.
- 9. True or False? At first GPS technology was only used in the military.
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 10. True or False? Valuable treasure can be found in every geocache.
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 11. True or False? The first geocache ever was placed in Utah in 1996.
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 12. Who was the person responsible for hiding the puzzle pieces in the geocaches?
  - a. Mr. Miles
  - b. John, the tourism director
  - c. Mrs. Miles
  - d. Dave, the family friend and resort owner

### QUIZ ANSWER KEY

- 1. b, a present for their birthday
- 2. c, Oregon
- 3. a, photographer
- 4. d, hockey
- 5. d, 2000
- 6. a, sneak away to find a geocache
- 7. b, in a geocache inside of a restaurant
- 8. b, there was a date on the puzzle piece
- 9. a, true
- 10. b, false
- 11. b, false
- 12. d, Dave, a family friend and resort owner

# T H A N K Y O U!!

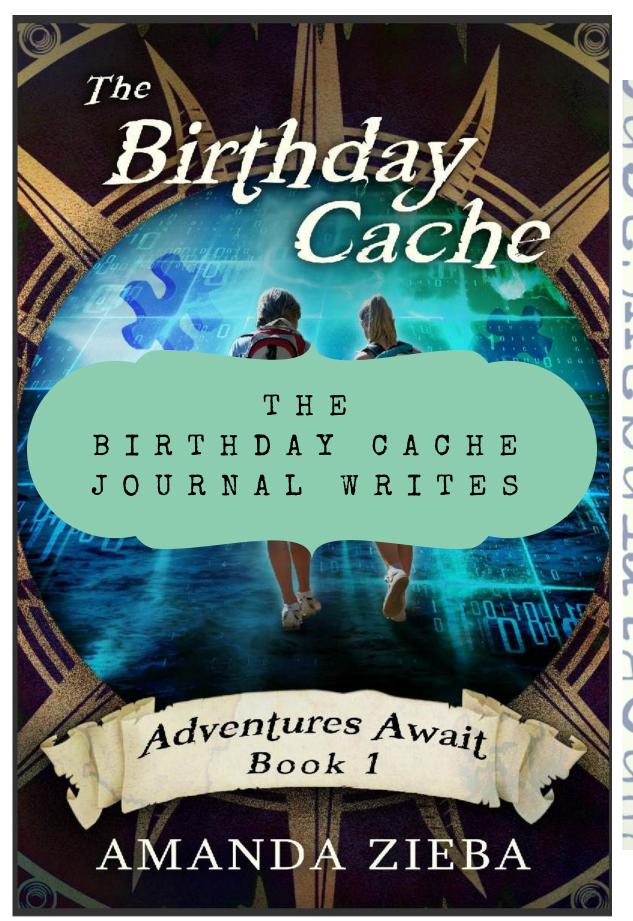
Thank you so much for purchasing this product! I hope it was a fun and useful addition to your reading experience.

If you want to stay connected to me, my work, books and projects, visit my website and join my newsletter. When you do, you'll get a free reader's theater rubric!

www.amandazieba.com/teach

Happy reading, happy writing, happy teaching! ~ The Word Nerd





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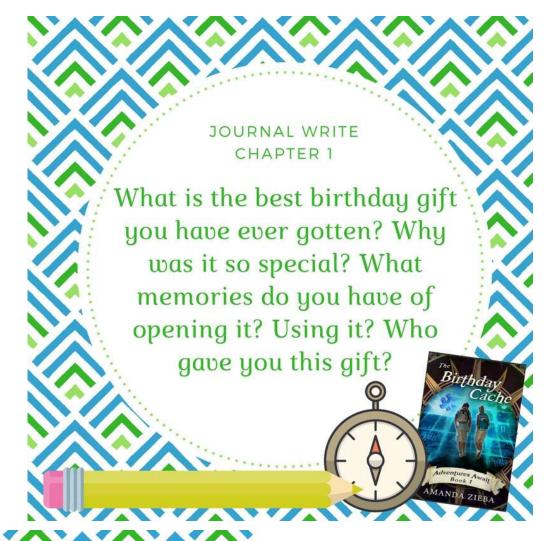




Use the below images to project on the board, in a bulletin board, as cut-out prompts you can place on each table, or however else you see fit!

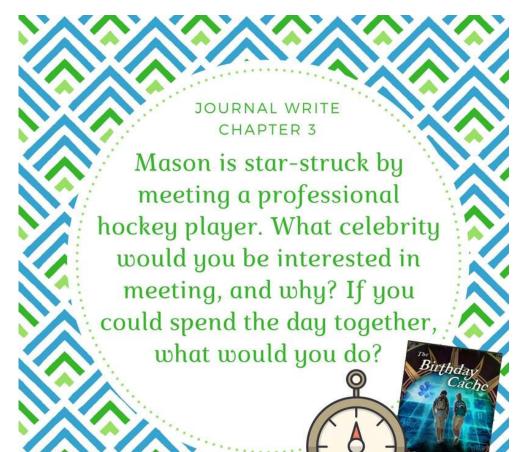
Happy writing!





## What is your favorite hobby? How did you get started in this hobby? Are there rules that go with this activity? Where do you do this hobby? Who do you do this activity with? Tell all about it!

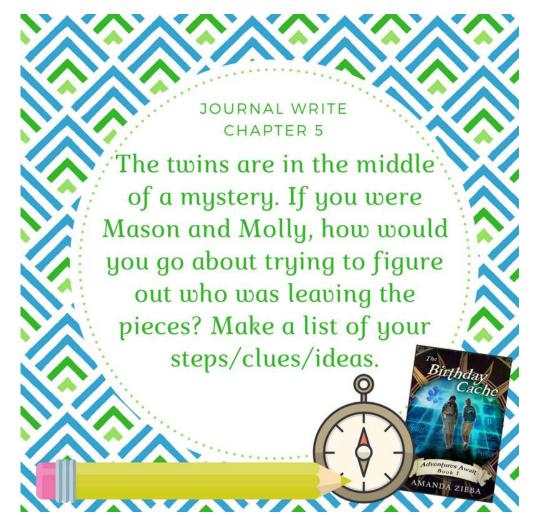
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## JOURNAL WRITE CHAPTER 4

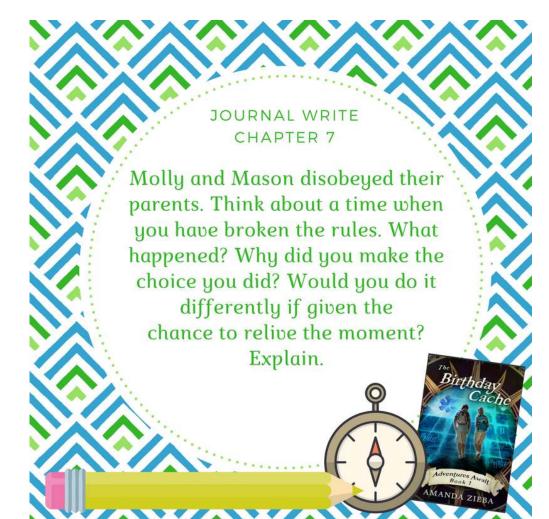
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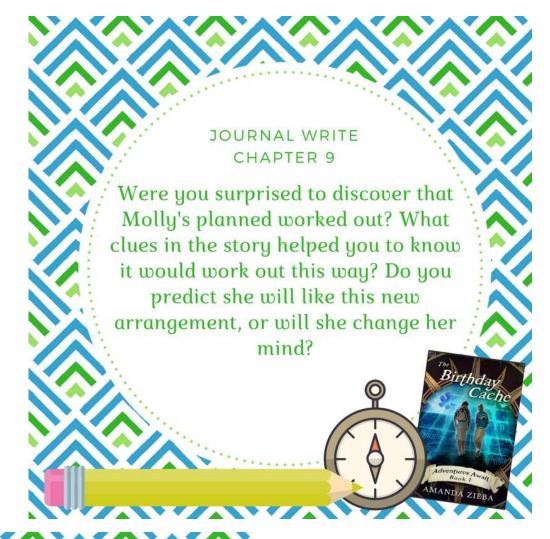
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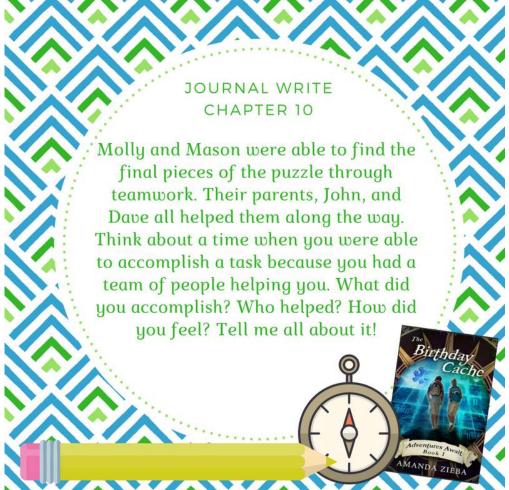
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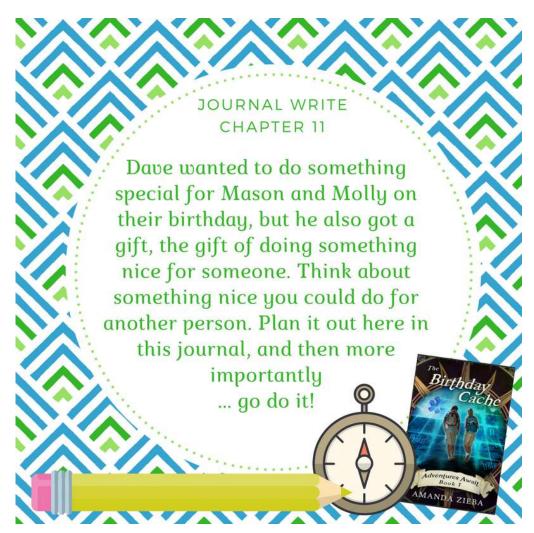
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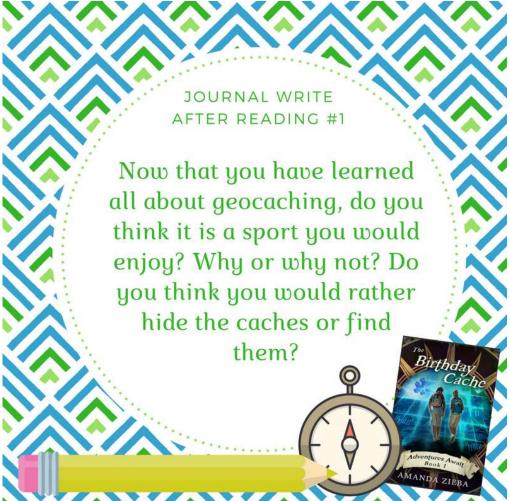
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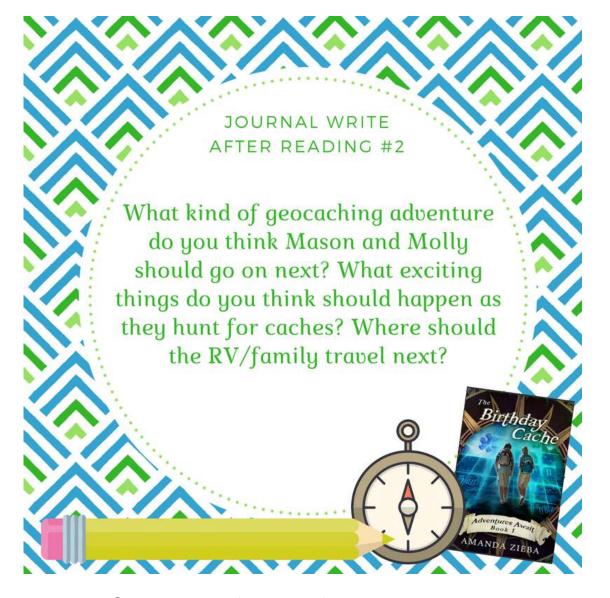


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Happy teaching, The Word Nerd

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