



Word Nerd
Collaborative

OCTOBER
ELA ENGAGEMENT GAME PLAN

WELCOME TO OCTOBER,

Where the leaves are falling, there's a chill in the air,
and middle schoolers bring a little spooky flair.



You know what I mean. They're casting spells like "let's just use lowercase for everything" and summoning the latest TikTok trend mid-lesson like it's a group ritual. But underneath the goofiness (and spiking hormones), there's a whole lot of good stuff brewing.

Because October is when things start to click. Your routines are settling in. You're starting to see which students need a little more nudging and which ones are already growing faster than you expected. The classroom is beginning to feel like a community.

Sure, teaching still has its mystery moments. Sometimes it feels like navigating a corn maze in the fog. But here's the thing:

You're not lost.
You've got a map.
You've got your instincts.

And you've got this Word Nerd Collaborative ELA Engagement Game Plan to use as your monthly guide of tried-and-true strategies, ready-to-go lessons, and brain breaks when you just need a breather.

This month, let's lean into the fun, the weird, and the wonderful that middle schoolers bring to our lives. Let's celebrate every lightbulb moment, every book recommendation that hits, every student who shows up a little more fully than the day before. Because October isn't just spooky season—it's sweet spot season.

The kids are opening up. The classroom is taking shape. And you—you're doing amazing. So light the metaphorical lantern, grab your favorite pen, and let's keep the magic going.

— AMANDA



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OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT

Word Nerd Collaborative Private Facebook Group

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

MVP MEMBERS - Watch your email for the October Ask Me Anything Google Form and October Author Lunch Bunch Question Submission Form links!

October 2026

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

Notes:





FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAYS

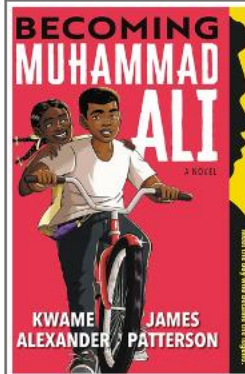
Friday, October 2nd



Life in the
Passenger Seat
by Amanda
Zieba

Realistic
Fiction/Prose

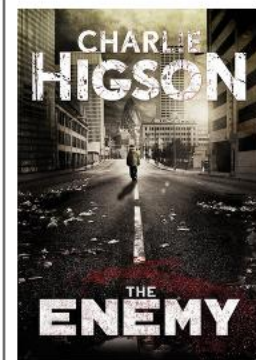
Friday, October 9th



Becoming
Muhammad Ali
by Kwame
Alexander and
James Patterson

Historical
Fiction/Prose/ Novel
in Verse

Friday, October 16th



The Enemy
by Charlie
Higson

Realistic Fiction/
Prose

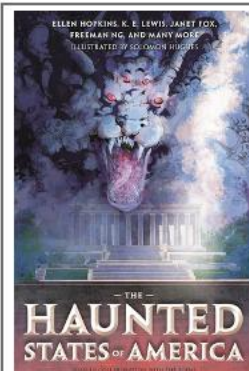
Friday, October 23rd



Deadlands:
Hunted
by Skye Melki-
Wegner

Fantasy/Prose

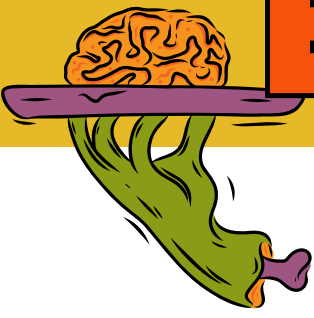
Friday, October 30th



The Haunted
States of
America

Horror/ Prose





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

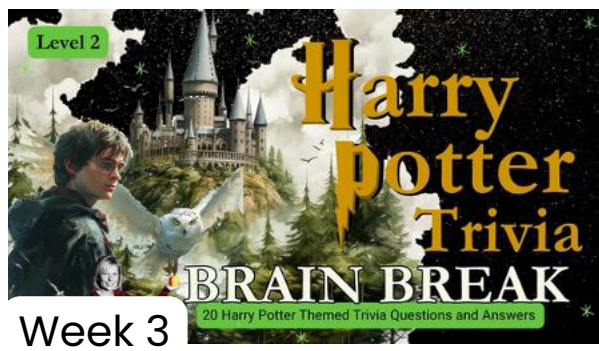
Harry Potter Trivia (Level 1)



Orange Trivia



Harry Potter Trivia (Level 2)



Halloween Idiom Brain Break



Halloween Trivia



Did you know?

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

-- [Reading Rockets Website](#)



Week 1

Monday
September

Tuesday
September

Wednesday
September

Thursday
Scared?

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 2

Monday
Invent a Monster!

Tuesday
Tidal Wave

Wednesday
Fashionista

Thursday
The Yellow Door

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 3

Monday
A Magical Night

Tuesday
Famous Parents

Wednesday
Advice for a Friend

Thursday
A Whale of a Tale

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 4

Monday
Cold Killer

Tuesday
3 Wishes

Wednesday
Trick or Treat

Thursday
OWL: Caption This!

Friday
Free Write Friday

You can
project the
prompt using
these [SLIDES!](#)

Week 5

Monday
The Discovery

Tuesday
Name the Dragon

Wednesday
Campfire Stories

Thursday
The Pumpkin Carving Contest

Friday
Free Write Friday





October 2026

LESSONS

1

LIBRARY SCAVENGER HUNT

What if we could find a way to lure our students into the wonderful world of the library... get them to paw all over the books and dig into the treasure the shelves have to offer? What if we could get them to purposely search for new-to-them books, authors, formats, and genres? What if we could gamify our library time and make it a place of discovery and fun, rather than silence and boredom? YES! The answer is yes. We can do all of that. And we can do it with this activity.

STANDARDS: CCSS: RI.6.7, SL.6.1, W.6.4, W.6.8, RL.6.10, L.6.6

2

THE WINDUP & THE STEAL (STORY STORY + LESSON)

I invite you and your students to join me for a mystery at the ballpark! This story includes a famous major league pitcher, a world renown thief, a fancy party for celebrities and a battle of wits... and a whole bunch of opportunities to brush up on some of the most foundational literacy skills. With this short story and its accompanying resources, you'll be able to: practice annotation skills, extend vocabulary, do some creative writing, analyze a story on a deeper level with a 9 min podcast, compare prose and lyrical versions of the story, and more!

STANDARDS: RL.6.1, RL.6.4, RL.6.5, RL.6.7, RL.6.9, W.6.3, W.6.4, W.6.5, L.6.4, L.6.5, L.6.6

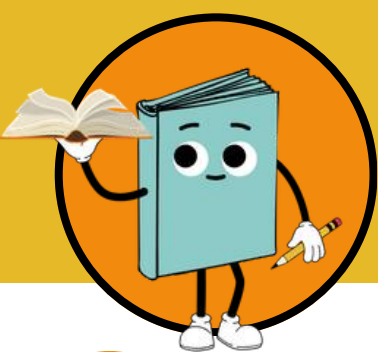
3

CANDY SLOGAN SHOWDOWN

Candy Slogan Showdown turns familiar candy slogans into a fun, interactive trivia game that gets your middle school students thinking critically about language. Students won't just answer questions—they'll analyze what slogans really mean, evaluate how words are used to persuade, and practice key ELA skills... all while having fun.

What Students Practice: Figurative language, Author's purpose, Word choice & tone, Inference and context clues, Identifying claims and messages.

STANDARDS: RL.6.1, RL.6.4, RL.6.5, RL.6.7, RL.6.9, W.6.3, W.6.4, W.6.5, L.6.4, L.6.5, L.6.6



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

October 2026

1 WOULD YOU RATHER: SCARY EDITION

Students will love choosing between silly-scary scenarios like “Would you rather face a vampire or a werewolf?” or “Would you rather sleep overnight in a haunted house or a graveyard?” Each question includes silent movement responses students can do from their seats, keeping energy high and disruptions low. After the brain break, students select one prompt and use the included writing organizer to practice their argumentative and persuasive writing skills—aligned to CCSS ELA writing standards.

2 TIMER VIDEOS

I don’t know about you, but sometimes, I get distracted. Even in the middle of a lesson! A student will ask an individual question or an email will come through that I think I can respond to “real quick” and then, shoot! 10 minutes have slipped by when I only wanted students to try it on their own for 3 minutes. I can’t be the only one, right?!?! These timer videos will help keep both you and your students on track!

3 THEMEATIC READING RECOMMENDATION LISTS SPORTS AND FOSTER CARE

This month I’m highlighting books that feature the topics of: sports and foster care. Lean into the buzz of the fall sports season with these great titles, plus a quick video rundown – perfect to watch before heading to the library! Also, this month I’m highlighting my own book, *Life in the Passenger Seat*, which touches on (among other things) Foster Care. So if kids want more books on that topic, you’ve got a list ready to go! I hope that these reading recommendations are a hit in your classroom!



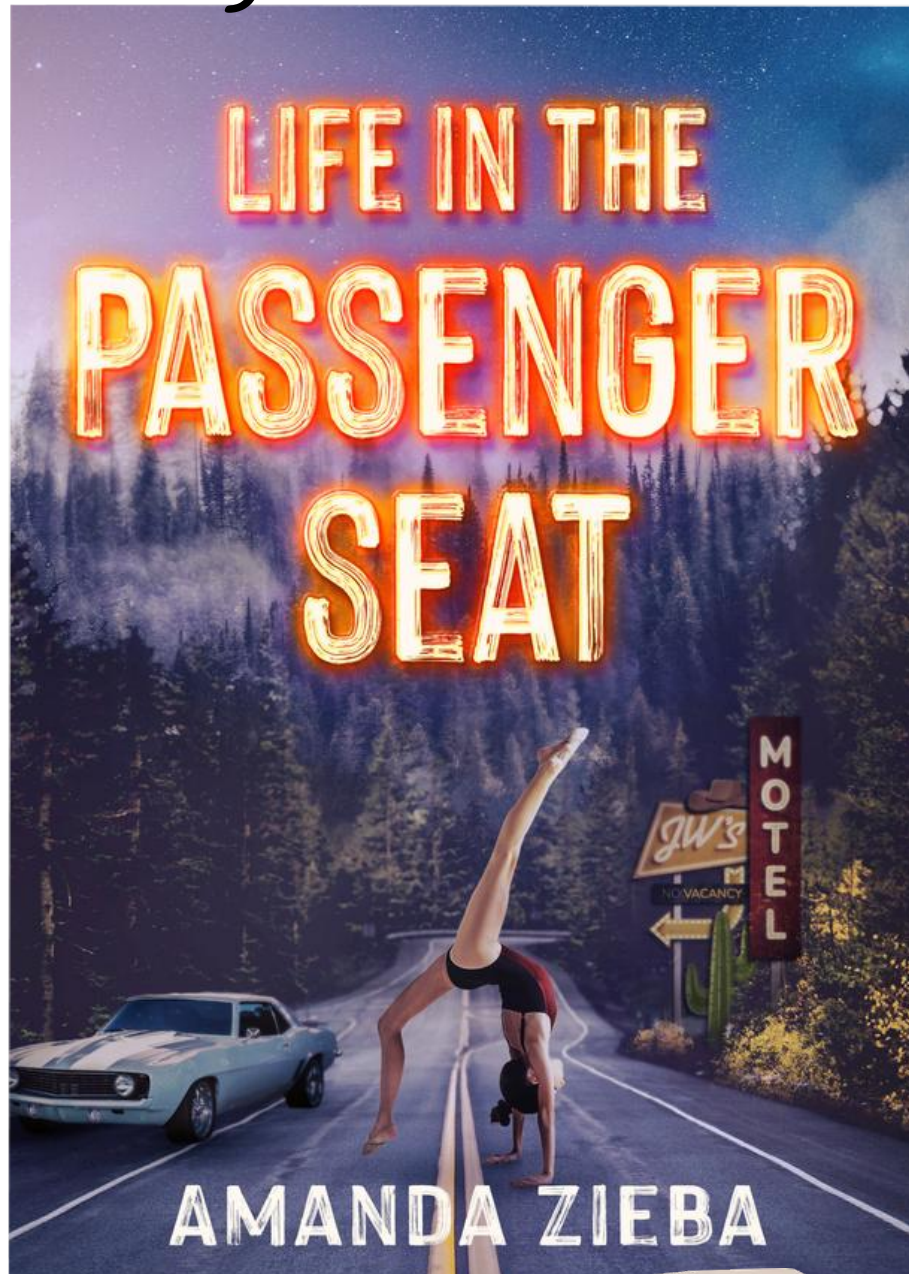
OCTOBER 2026

10

TSIRF **CHAPTER FRIDAY SELECTIONS**

LIFE IN THE PASSENGER SEAT

by Amanda Zieba



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



Life in the Passenger Seat by Amanda Zieba



Read Aloud Video and
Author Interview

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?

For readers who love emotional coming-of-age stories, underdog sports drama, and fierce teen girls fighting for their future.

Shelby has spent her life moving from place to place in her mom's classic Mustang, always one eviction away from starting over. But when they run out of gas in Michigan, Shelby finally gets a taste of something she's never had: stability. She joins a gymnastics team, starts making friends, and falls in love with a routine of regularity. Then her mom disappears—again—and Shelby is placed in foster care with her coach and his wife. These days, her biggest trouble is fighting for her spot in the line-up. But when her mom suddenly reappears, Shelby must confront the fact that she's just a passenger in her own life, and that perhaps it's time to take the wheel.

Perfect for fans of realistic YA fiction, foster care stories, sports novels for teens, and books for teen girls 14-18. Includes expert back matter from NFL player Alec Ingold and a collegiate sports psychologist.

Who Wrote It?

Amanda has likely always been a word nerd. Ever since she was born in Wisconsin, she's loved reading and writing. But just like anyone else, there's more than one side of her. Amanda was also a gymnast, a camp counselor, coach, teacher, and will forever be a sweet tooth. Amanda is also a mom, wife, daughter, sister, YouTuber, caffeine lover, and avid sports spectator. She loves her laptop, but prefers to brainstorm and draft with paper and pen. Amanda does not love bacon, nor animals (but hopes you will still like her anyway.) When she isn't creating content or writing, she might be getting a gel manicure,



watching HGTV or hanging out with her awesome family. To learn more, check out Amanda's other books, or just say hi, visit her word-nerdy website: www.amandazieba.com. She is so happy you have found her First Chapter Fridays!

AR Reading Level: Unavailable

Lexile Level: Unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

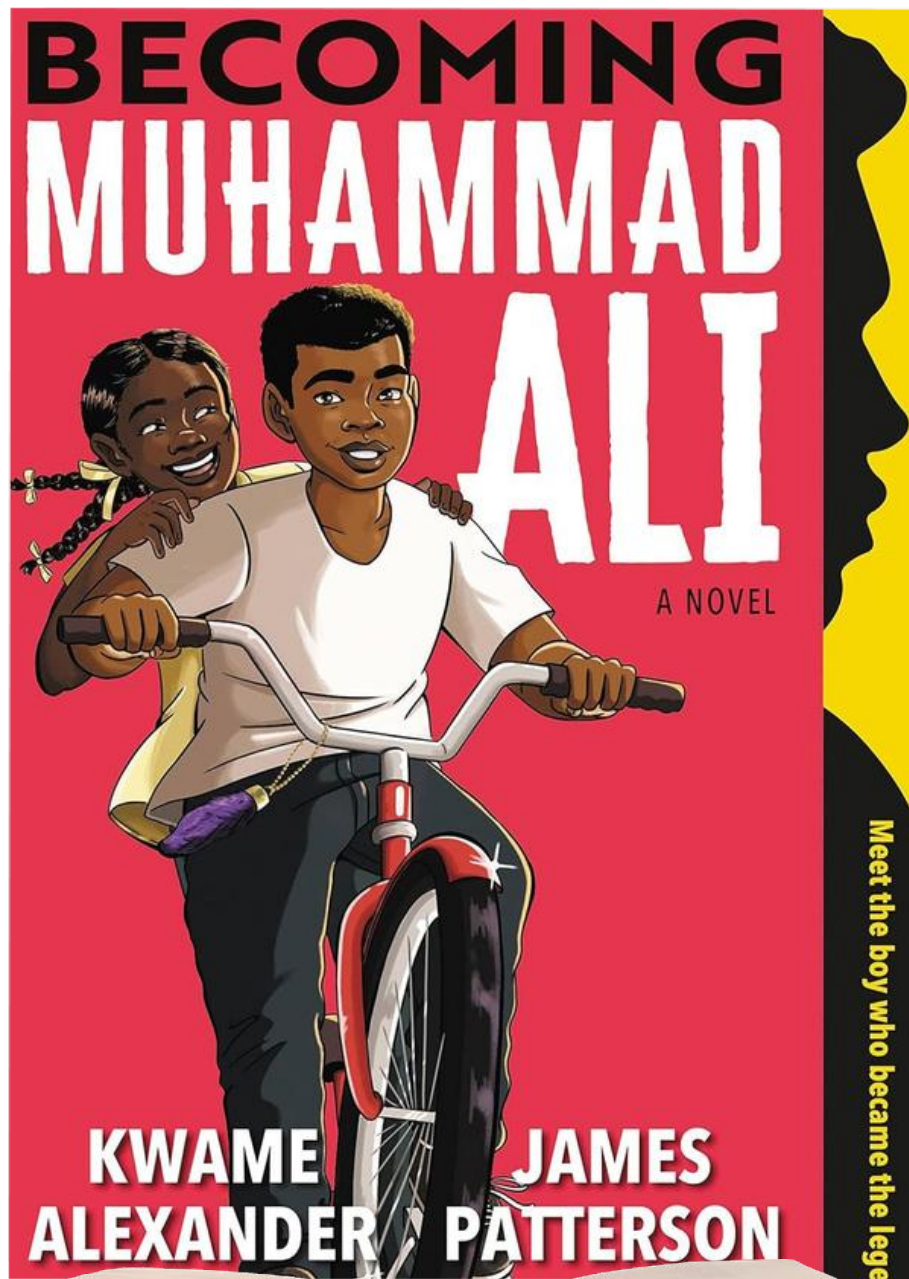
☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



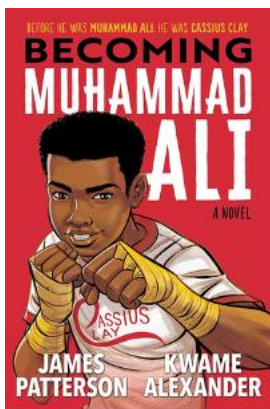
Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

BECOMING MUHAMMAD ALI

by Kwame Alexander
and James Patterson



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY



Name _____

Date _____

Becoming Muhammad Ali

by Kwame Alexander and James Patterson



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?

Before he was a household name, Cassius Clay was a kid with struggles like any other. James Patterson and Kwame Alexander join forces to vividly depict his life up to age seventeen in both prose and verse, including his childhood friendships, struggles in school, the racism he faced, and his discovery of boxing. Readers will learn about Cassius's family and neighbors in Louisville, Kentucky, and how Cassius began training as an amateur boxer at age twelve. Before long, he won his first Golden Gloves bout and began his transformation into the unrivaled Muhammad Ali. Fully authorized by and written in cooperation with the Muhammad Ali estate, *Becoming Muhammad Ali* dynamically captures the budding charisma and youthful personality of one of the greatest sports heroes of all time.

AR Reading Level: 5.4

Who Wrote It?

Things Kwame and James have in common...

- Award Winning Authors
- Both have written more than 40 books!
- Advocates for Children's Literature
- Some of their books have been turned into movies and TV shows!
- They are philanthropists, which means they donate money to charitable causes.

Some differences...

- James lives in Florida.
- Kwame lives in London.
- James has a son.
- Kwame has a daughter.
- James writes prose.
- Kwame writes poetry.



Lexile Level: 1010L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

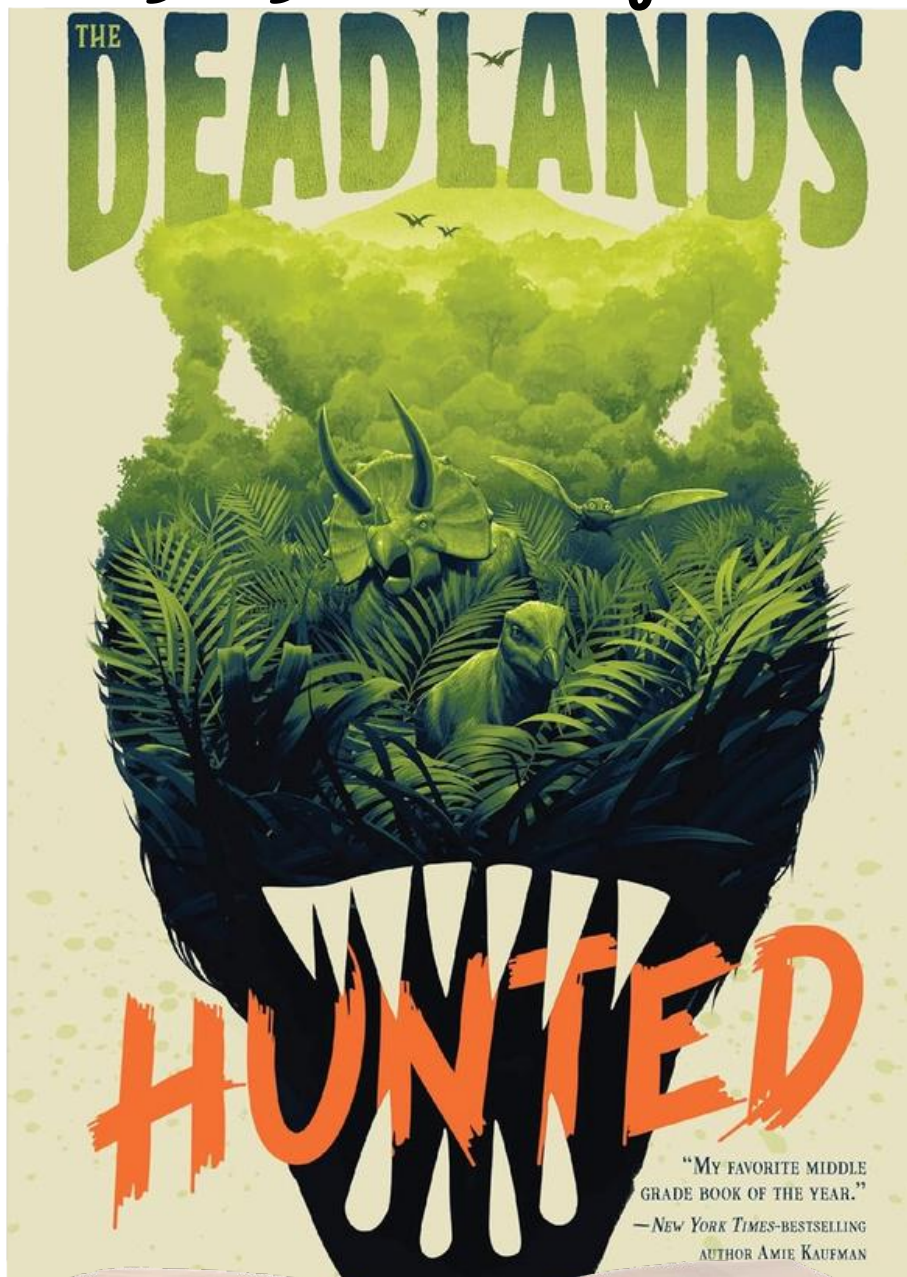
☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



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

THE DEADLANDS: HUNTED

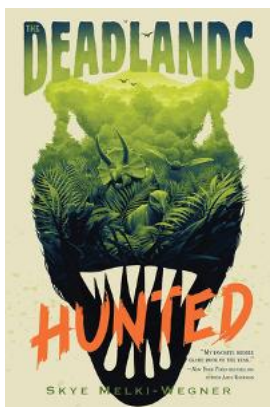
by Skye Melki-Wegner



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



The Deadlands

by Skye Melki-Wegner



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?

Wings of Fire meets Jurassic Park in this action-adventure middle grade debut series by Skye Melki-Wegner about five outcasts—and former enemies—who are the only hope to save their warring kingdoms from impending doom.

Battle rages between the dinosaur kingdoms of Cretacea. When the Fallen Star struck, it brought death and despair, ash and toxic rain. But some dinosaurs survived . . . and were changed. Their minds grew alert. They learned to speak. To dream. To wage war. As the two remaining dinosaur kingdoms fight for territory, Eleri, the disgraced son of a prince, is exiled from his home for saving an enemy soldier. Banished to the merciless Deadlands, a terrifying desert full of tar pits, poisonous gas, and ruthless carnivores, he must join forces with a group of questionable allies—including the enemy soldier he saved—to avoid becoming prey. When Eleri and his fellow exiles discover the horrific truth behind the war, the unlikely heroes must do all they can to save their kingdoms from a lurking predator. . . and a secret plot that might destroy them all.

AR Reading Level: N/A

Who Wrote It?

Skye Melki-Wegner started writing as soon as she could hold a pen. She was immediately drawn to fantasy — and soon her notebooks overflowed with dragons, pixies, wizards and various magical shenanigans. After graduating with an honors degree in law, she decided to pursue her passion and prioritized writing fantasy



books over pursuing a legal career. Sky lives in Melbourne, Australia. Visit Skye's website [here](#).

Lexile Level: N/A

I want to read this book: YES / NO

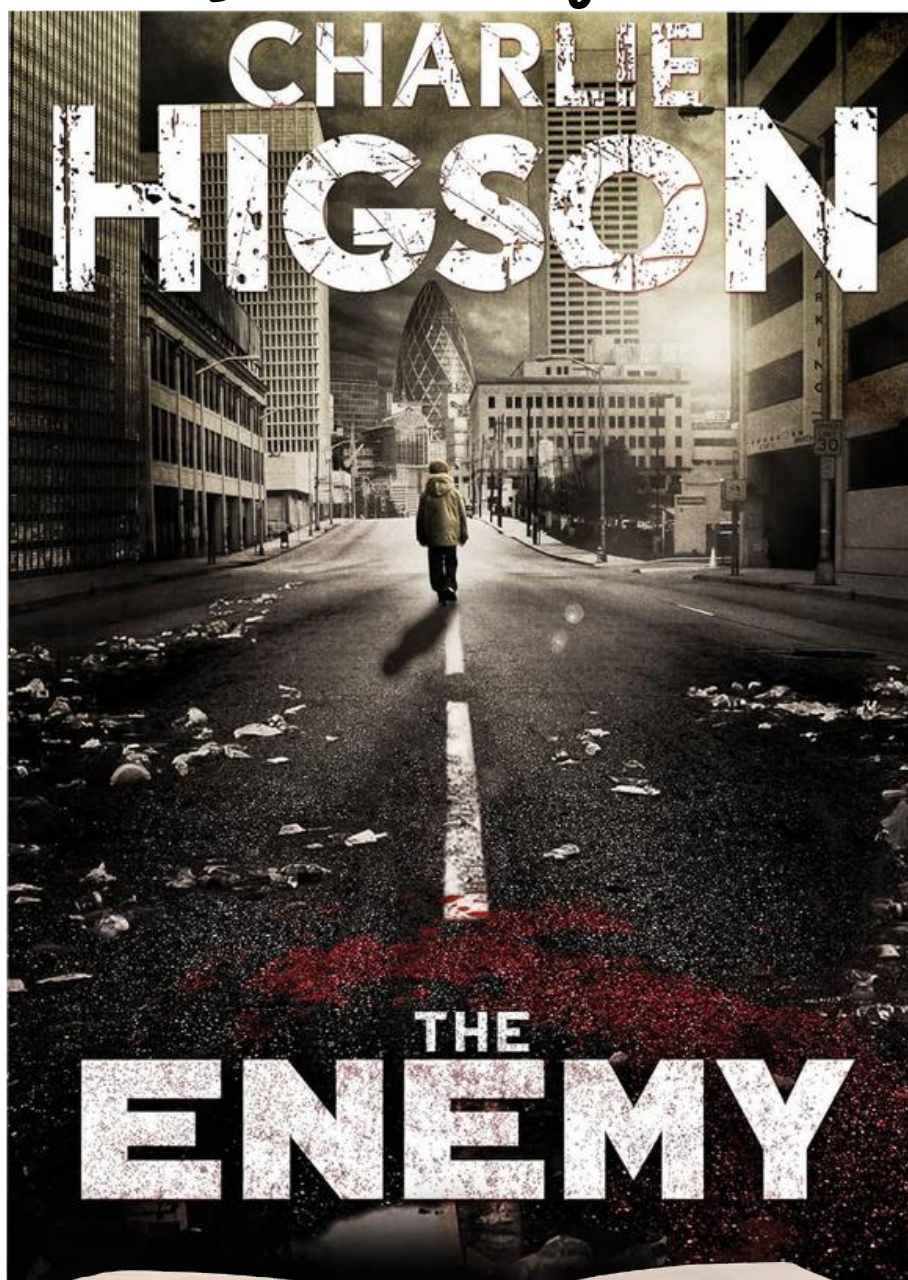
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

THE ENEMY

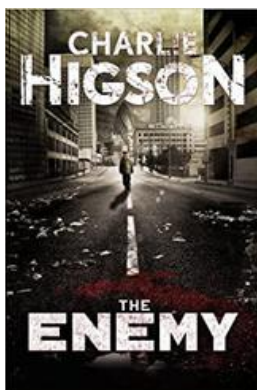
by Charlie Higson



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



The Enemy

by Charlie Higson



Read Aloud Video

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

What's It About?

In the wake of a devastating disease, everyone sixteen and older is either dead or a decomposing, brainless creature with a ravenous appetite for flesh. Teens have barricaded themselves in buildings throughout London and venture outside only when they need to scavenge for food. The group of kids living a Waitrose supermarket is beginning to run out of options. When a mysterious traveler arrives and offers them safe haven at Buckingham Palace, they begin a harrowing journey across London. But their fight is far from over—the threat from within the palace is as real as the one outside it. Full of unexpected twists and quick-thinking heroes, *The Enemy* is a fast-paced, white-knuckle tale of survival in the face of unimaginable horror.

**** Not for the faint of heart... gave me a nightmare or two! Grades 8 and up!****

Who Wrote It?

Charlie Higson is a successful author, actor, comedian and writer for television and radio. He wrote the phenomenally successful *Young Bond* series which has now sold over a million copies in the UK and has been translated into over 24 different languages. With three sons of his own, Charlie knows exactly how to terrify and captivate teenagers in equal measure. After leaving university, Charlie formed a band, *The Higsons*. He then became a decorator before



turning to the world of television. His television successes have included *Saturday Live*! You can learn more about Charlie and his books at <https://www.charliehigson.co.uk/>

AR Reading Level: 4.1

Lexile Level: 590L

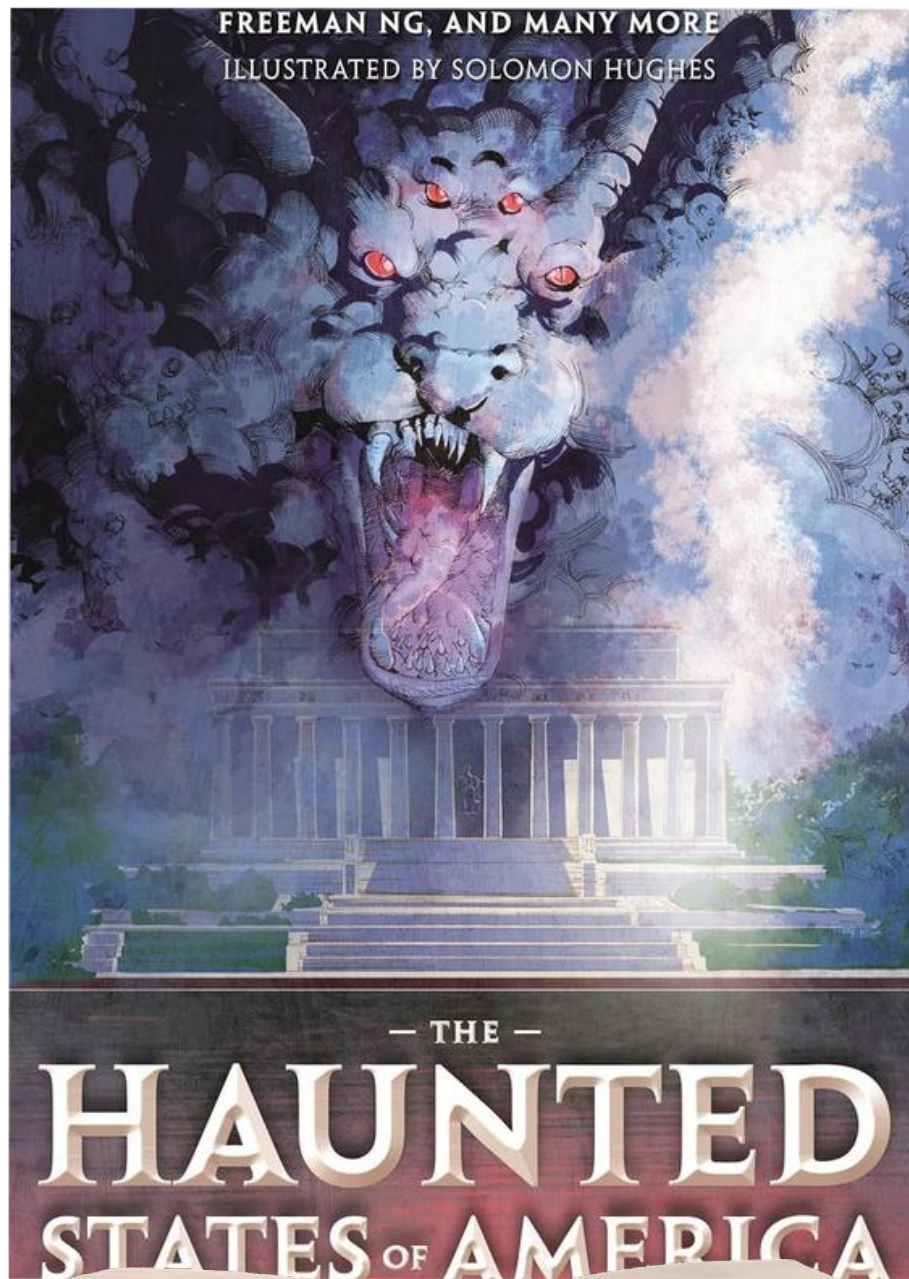
I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆

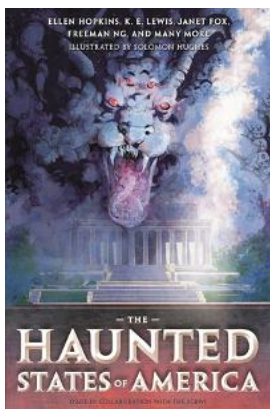


Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

THE HAUNTED STATES OF AMERICA



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY



Name _____

Date _____

The Haunted States of America by Many Authors



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?

Fifty two different stories. Fifty two different Authors. Endless fright for all ages. Every state has an urban legend that evokes fear and curiosity in equal parts, and we've chronicled all of these logic-defying horrors here in the Haunted States of America anthology. From the Jersey Devil to La Llorona, each story included introduces a new chill inducing, stomach churning monster, spectre, or poltergeist certain to keep you up at night. A broad ranging collection of authors, including seasoned veterans and some first timers making a fright-tastic debut, have all united to unearth the scariest lore from each state in the US, as well as D.C. and Puerto Rico. Make sure to strap in for this spooky cross country tour, but be extra careful not to let any of these terrors follow you home.

Who Wrote It?

What is an ANTHOLOGY?

An anthology is a collection of pieces put together in one book. In this case, it is an anthology of short stories. Sometimes people create anthologies of essays, poems, or even songs!

Usually all of the pieces in the collection are united by a common theme or topic. For example, this anthology is a collection of stories that are both **SHORT** and **SCARY**.

Guys Read: Funny Business and Half Minute Horrors are two more examples of an anthologies on the Word Nerd's channel.

AR Reading Level: N/A

Lexile Level: N/A

I want to read this book: YES / NO



WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

A cartoon character of a red book with a smiling face, large eyes, and a wide grin. It has black arms and legs, white gloves, and white shoes. The character is holding a glowing orange jack-o'-lantern with a carved face. The character is set against a yellow circular background. The entire scene is surrounded by a pattern of orange lightbulbs and squiggly lines on a white background.

October 2026

21

BRAIN BREAKS

LINKS + ANSWER SHEETS/KEYS

October Brain Break LEADERBOARD

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

TEAM #1

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total

TEAM #2

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total

TEAM #3

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total

TEAM #4

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total

TEAM #5

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total

TEAM #6

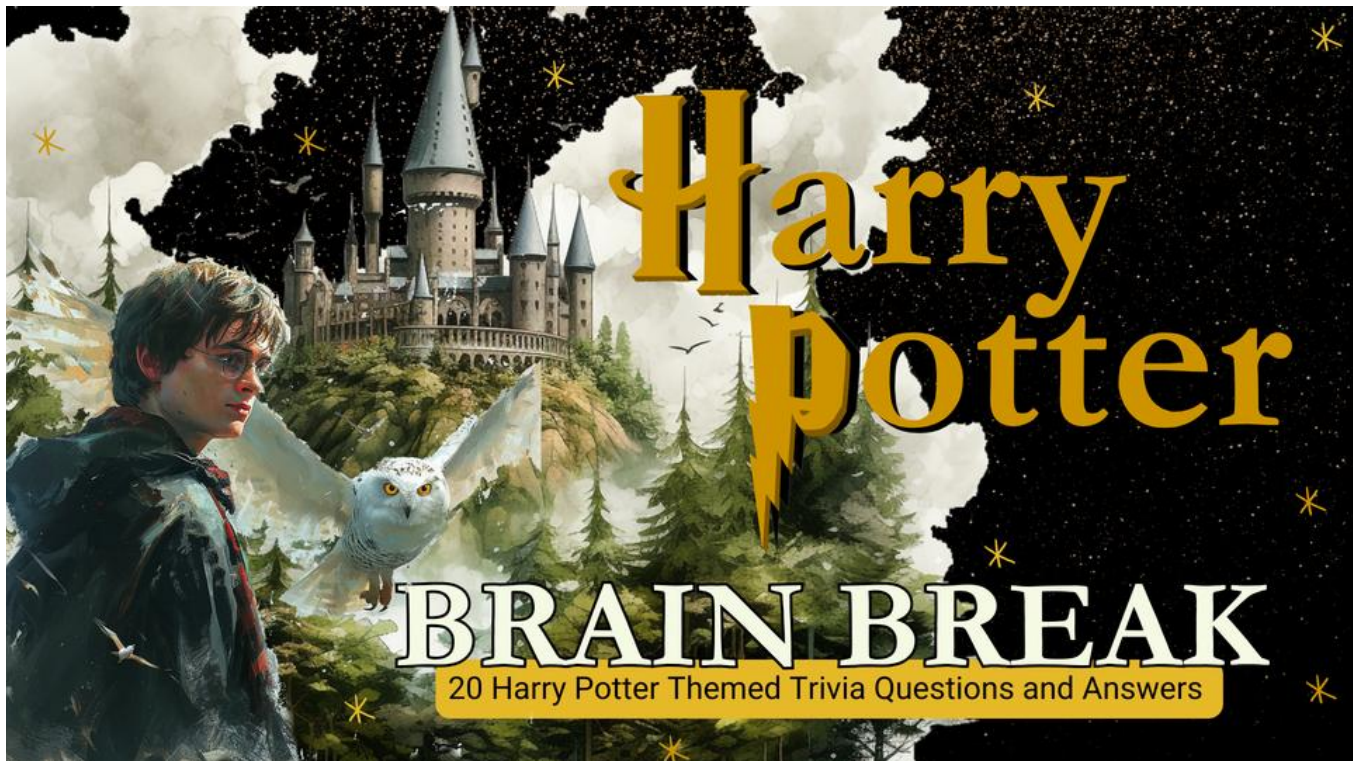
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total



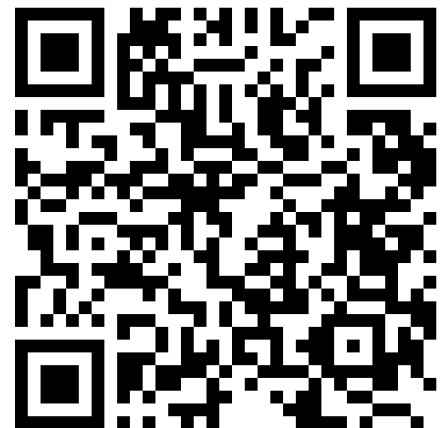
Trivia Game Video Link

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

HARRY TRIVIA VIDEO

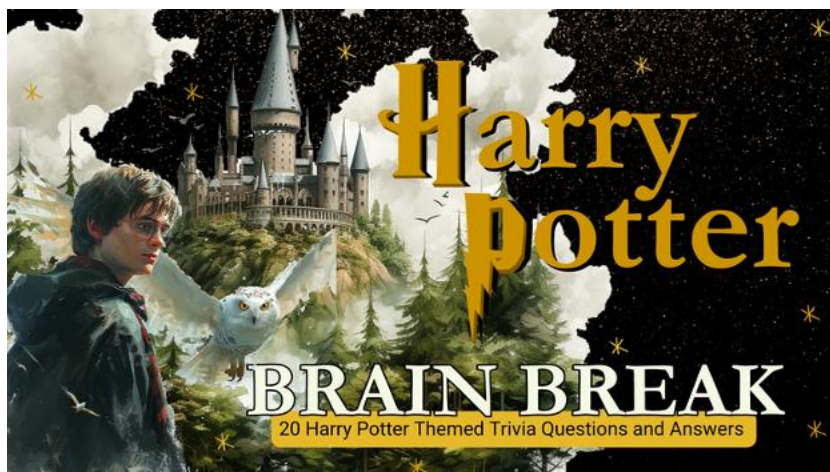


This link will take you to the YouTube
Video of Harry Potter Trivia questions:
https://youtu.be/mnyuM_ZEH0s



Song Credit: Suno Pro + Amanda Zieba

All content creation done by Amanda Zieba using Canva and Clip Art purchased from Etsy (Tysia Art Work)



Harry Potter Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

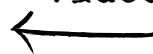
Name/Team Name: _____

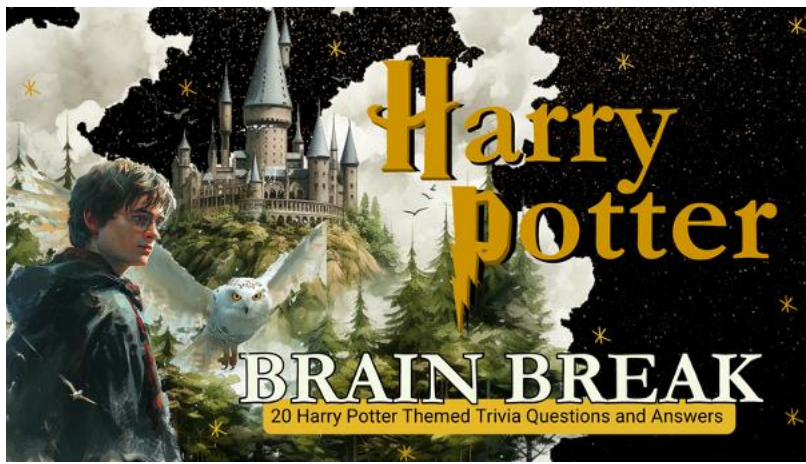
- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ |

Are you a WIZARD at
Harry Potter Trivia?



Trivia
Video





Harry Potter Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for
each question below.

Trivia
Video



Name/Team Name: _____

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

Are you a
WIZARD at
Harry Potter
Trivia?



Score:

____/ 20



Trivia
Video

Harry Potter Trivia



Who's the WIZARD when it comes to Harry Potter Trivia?

1 When Harry lived with his aunt and uncle, where was his bedroom located?

- a) In the garage
- b) Under the Stairs
- c) In the attic
- d) Basement

2 What is the name of Harry's Pet Owl?

- a) Hoodlum
- b) Golden Eyes
- c) Harold
- d) Hedwig

3 How many books are there in the original Harry Potter series?

- a) 5 b) 6 c) 7 d) 8



4 What wizarding sport did J.K. Rowling invent for this book series?

- a) Quidditch
- b) Sock-It-Ball
- c) Turf Battle
- d) Wandball



5 What position in this game did both Harry and his father play?

- a) Keeper
- b) Seeker
- c) Chaser
- d) Bludger

6 When Harry arrives at Hogwarts, what house is he sorted into?

- a) Gryffindor
- b) Hufflepuff
- c) Ravenclaw
- d) Slytherin

7 Where job did J.K. Rowling have while she was writing the first Harry Potter book?

- a) Secretary
- b) Barista
- c) Maid
- d) Teacher

8 How many total copies have the Harry Potter books been sold worldwide?

- a) 100 million
- b) 300 million
- c) 500 million
- d) 600 million



9 What color is associated with the house of Ravenclaw?

- a) Yellow
- b) Blue
- c) Red
- d) Green

10 How many siblings does Ron Weasley have?

- a) 4 b) 5 c) 6 d) 7

11 In the first Harry Potter book, what is the name of the 3 headed dog that guards the Philosopher's Stone?

- a) Fluffy b) The 3 Kings c) Fancy d) Thor

12 What is the shape of the scar Harry has on his forehead?

- a) Star b) Crescent c) Lightening Bolt d) Triangle

13 What spell is used to disarm another wizard?

- a) Expelliarmus b) Wingardium Leviosa
c) Lumos d) Expecto Patronum



14 What is the name of the magical map Harry and his friends use to sneak around the castle?

- a) Mischief Map b) Marauder's Map c) Hogwarts Hider
d) Enchanted Exits

15 What year was Harry Potter first published?

- a) 1994 b) 1997
c) 2000 d) 2001

16 In the third Harry Potter book, what color is the night bus?

- a) Orange
b) Purple
c) Green
d) White



17 In the Chamber of Secrets we meet Hagrid's giant spider friend. What is the spider's name?

- a) Arachniss
b) Spidey
c) Aragog
d) Harry

18 What animal is associated with the house of Slytherin?

- a) Shark
b) Salamander
c) Snake
d) Saber Tooth Tiger

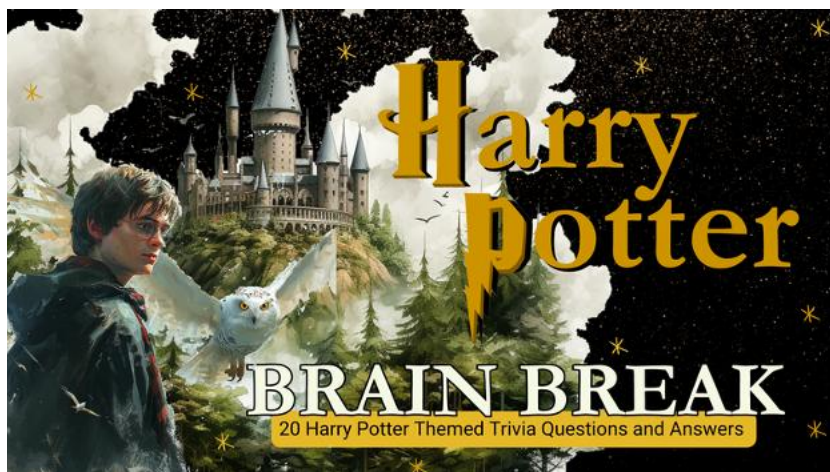
19 What is the name of the tree that protects the grounds of Hogwarts (and also prevents Harry and Ron from arriving to their Second Year on time)?

- a) Whomping Willow
b) Terrifying Tree
c) Banshee Branches
d) Lethal Leaves

20 Both Harry and Voldemort have the same wand core. What is it made of?

- a) Dragon Heart String b) Unicorn Hair c) Phoenix Feather d) Mermaid Fin





Harry Potter Trivia Answer Key

Directions:

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

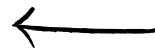
ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. B) Under the Stairs | 11. A) Fluffy |
| 2. D) Hedwig | 12. C) Lightning Bolt |
| 3. C) 7 | 13. A) Expelliarmus |
| 4. A) Quidditch | 14. B) Marauder's Map |
| 5. B) Seeker | 15. B) 1997 |
| 6. A) Gryffindor | 16. B) Purple |
| 7. D) Teacher | 17. C) Aragog |
| 8. D) 600 Million | 18. C) Snake |
| 9. B) Blue | 19. A) Whomping Willow |
| 10. C) 6 | 20. C) Phoenix Feather |

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



Trivia
Video

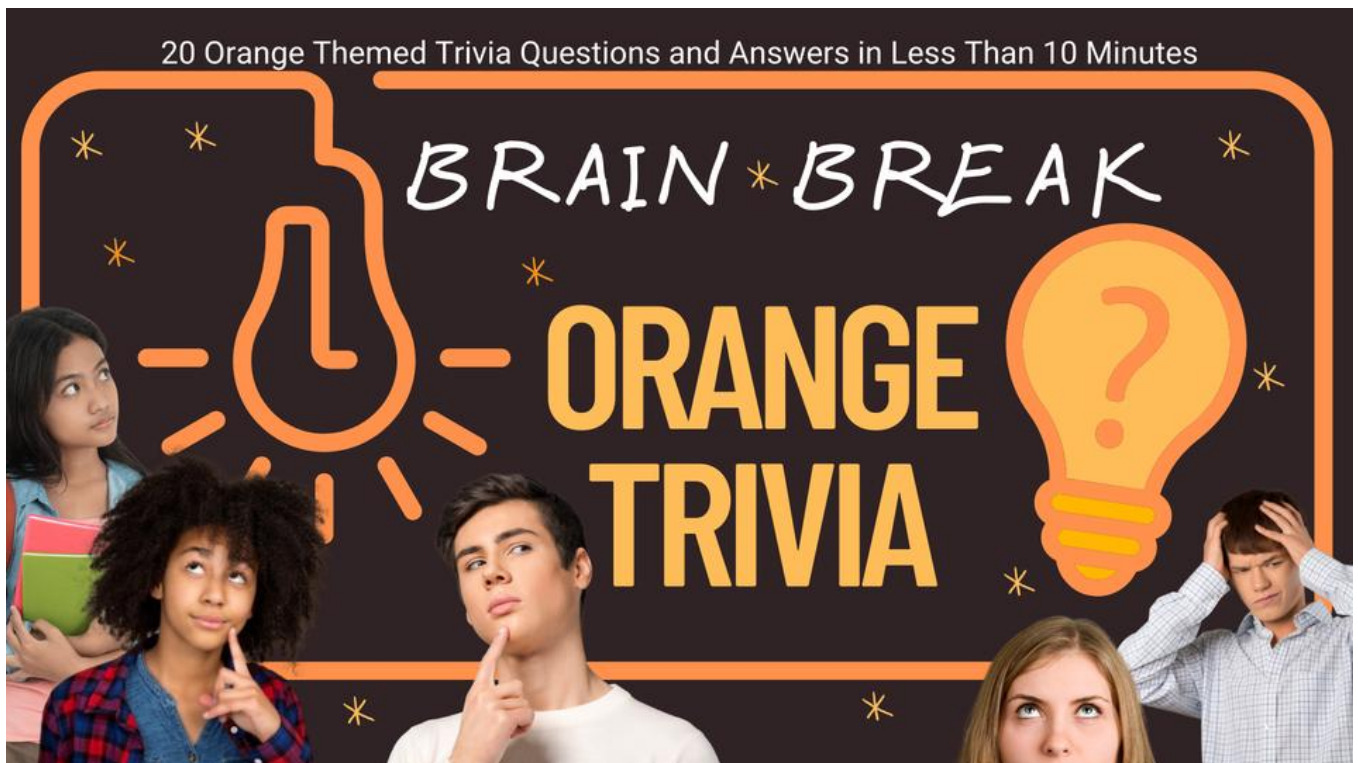




Trivia Game Video Link

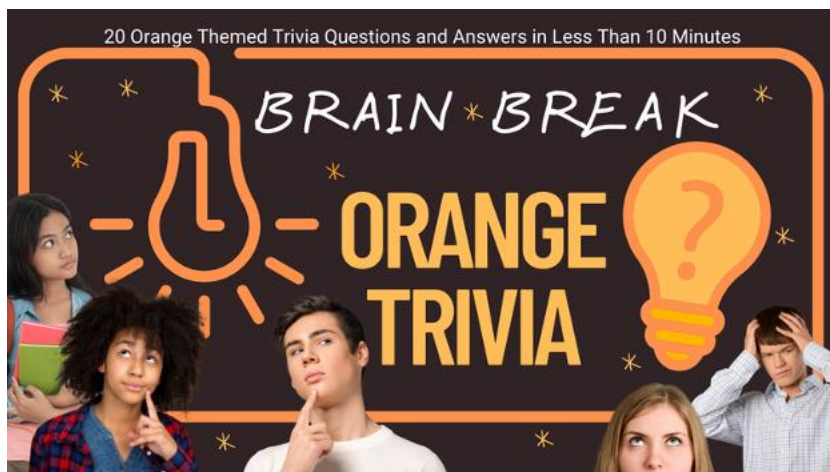
Use the below links to access the video for this activity.
Click the title, image or link to get to the video!

ORANGE TRIVIA BRAIN BREAK GAME



This link will take you to the YouTube Video of Orange Trivia questions: <https://youtu.be/14icZuv6Q!g>.





Orange Color-Themed Trivia Answer Sheet



Directions:
Write your
answers on the
lines below.

Name/Team Name: _____

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

How did you do?
Are you a ORANGE TRIVIA EXPERT?!?!



Orange Color-Themed Trivia Answer Sheet



Directions:
Write your
answers on the
lines below.

Name/Team Name: _____

1: Red and Yellow OR Red and Blue

2: A B C D

3: A B C D

4: San Francisco Bridge OR Golden Gate Bridge

5: Bright Orange OR Blaze Orange

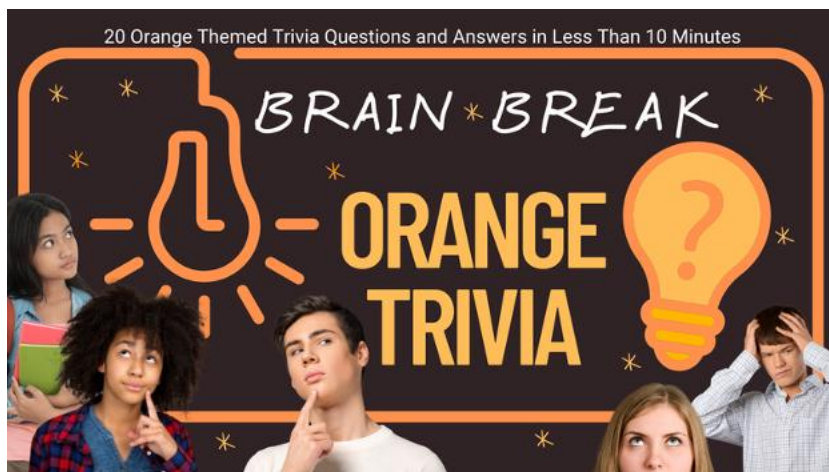
6: Nemo OR Goldy

7: 5 OR 7

8: Bears and Dolphins OR Colts and Jets

9: 21 or 15

10: Mister C OR Chester



Orange Color-Themed Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for
each question below.

13: A B C D

14: True OR False

15: Cheerios OR Lucky Charms

16: True OF False

17: Level 2 or Level 6

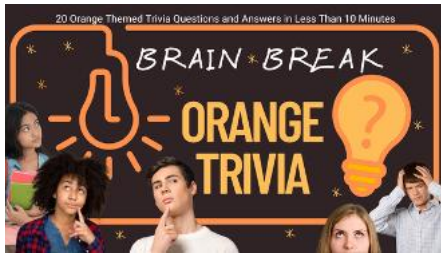
18: A B C D

19: Orange Julius OR McDonalds

20: A B C D

How did you do?
Are you a ORANGE TRIVIA EXPERT?!?!?

Score: ____ / 20



Orange Trivia Brain Break Game

Name: _____

Trivia
Video



1 Which two colors do you need to mix to create the color orange?

- a) red and yellow
- b) red and blue
- c) yellow and green

2 What is the most popular orange soda in the United States?

- a) Sunkist
- b) Fanta
- c) Orange Crush
- d) Orange Jarritos

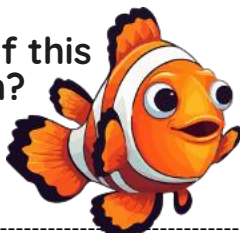
3 Which orange food was originally purple?!?!?

- a) pumpkin
- b) carrots
- c) apricots
- d) oranges

4 What is the name of this famous orange painted bridge?

5 What shade of orange is often worn by hunters?

6 What is the name of this famous orange fish?



7 What number is on an solid orange billiard ball?

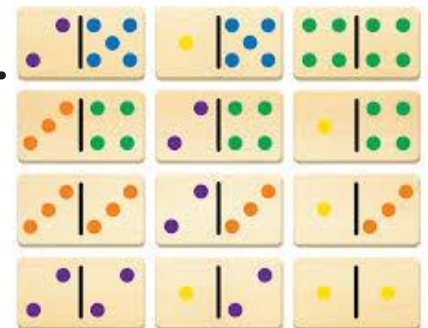


8 Name 2 NFL (National Football League) Teams that have orange as one of their team colors.

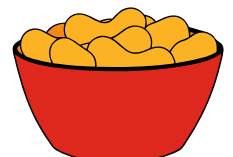
1) _____

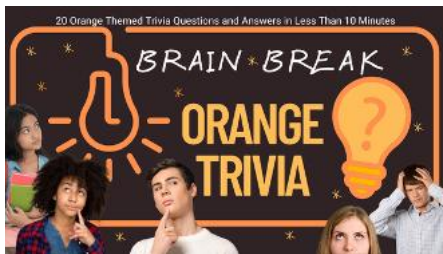
2) _____

9 How many orange dots are shown on these dominos?



10 What is the name of the orange, Cheeto loving cat?

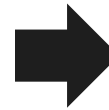




Orange Trivia Brain Break Game

Name: _____

Trivia
Video



- 11** British engineer David Morgan currently holds the Guinness World Record for largest collection of what orange rubber item? (Hint: This triangle shaped item is usually seen outside, while driving.)

- 12** True or False: There are over 600 varieties of oranges in the world.

a) True
b) False

- 13** This flag, 1/3 of which is orange, belongs to which country?

a) Nepal
b) Brazil
c) Ireland
d) Zambia



- 14** True or False: Basketballs have always been orange.

a) True
b) False

- 15** Circus Peanuts were the inspiration behind which magically delicious breakfast cereal?

- 16** True or False: 50% of all oranges are produced for juice.

a) True
b) False



- 17** What level of karate is designated by an orange belt? (#1-6)



- 18** How many pounds did the world's largest pumpkin (grown in 2020) weigh?

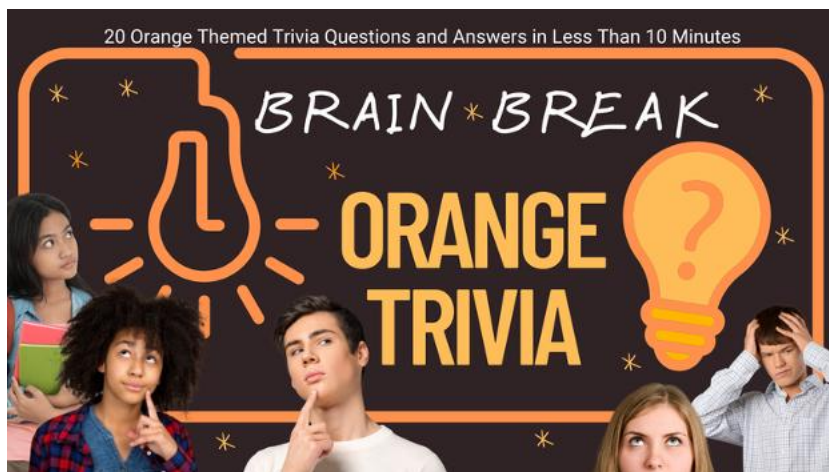
a) 1,200 pounds
b) 2,350 pounds
c) 999 pounds
d) 3,100 pounds

- 19** This cup wears the logo for which smoothie company?



- 20** On October 20, many staff and students in American schools are encourage to wear orange for what day designated to stand up against bullying?

a) Speak Up Day
b) Stand Out Day
c) Unity Day
d) Universal Kindness Day



Orange Color-Themed Answer Key



Directions:
Write your
answers on the
lines below.

ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Red and Yellow | 11. Traffic Cones |
| 2. A) Sunkist | 12. True |
| 3. B) Carrots | 13. C) Ireland |
| 4. Golden Gate Bridge | 14. False |
| 5. Blaze Orange | 15. Lucky Charms |
| 6. Nemo | 16. False |
| 7. 5 | 17. Level 2 |
| 8. Bears, Broncos, Dolphins,
Browns, and Bengals | 18. B) 2,350 pounds |
| 9. 15 | 19. Orange Julius |
| 10. Chester | 20. C) Unity Day |

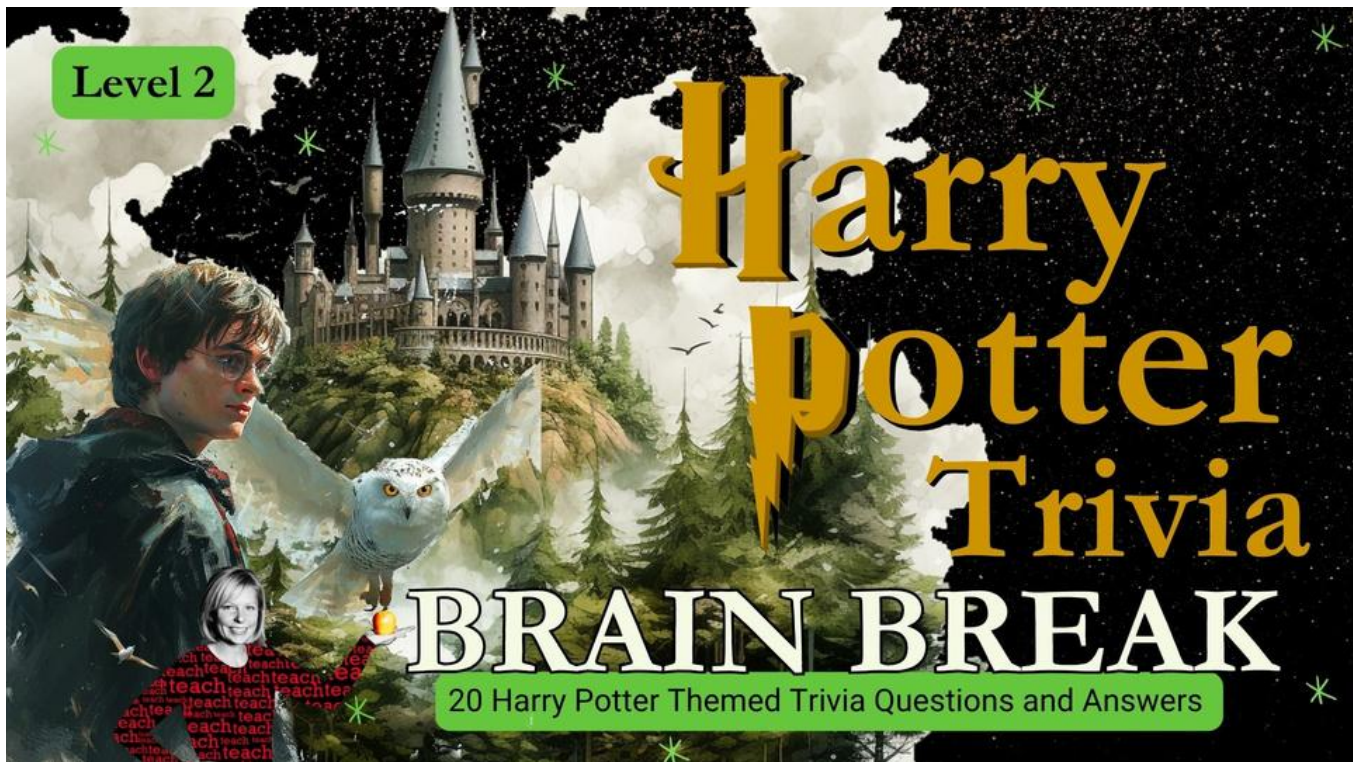
Thanks for playing!
Check out more Brain Breaks on YouTube!



Trivia Game Video Link

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

HARRY TRIVIA LEVEL 2 VIDEO

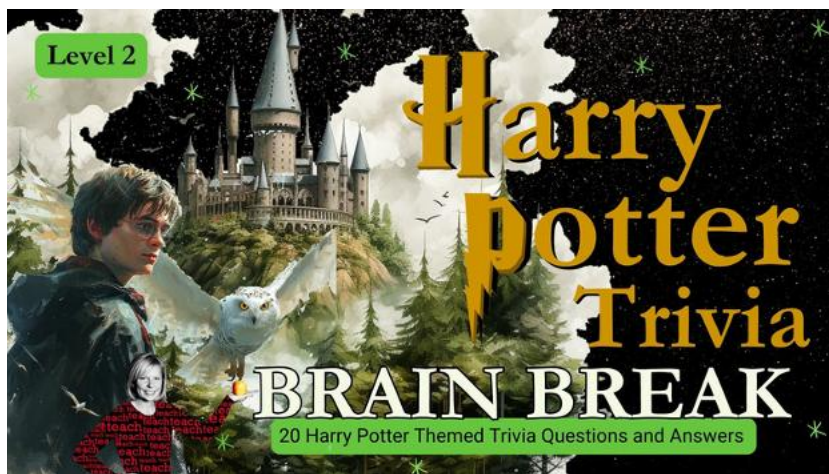


This link will take you to the YouTube
Video of Harry Potter Trivia questions:
<https://youtu.be/yHFInjm9ymk>



Song Credit: Suno Pro + Amanda Zieba

All content creation done by Amanda Zieba using Canva and Clip Art purchased from Etsy (Tysia Art Work)



Harry Potter Trivia Level 2 Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

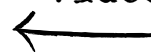
Name/Team Name: _____

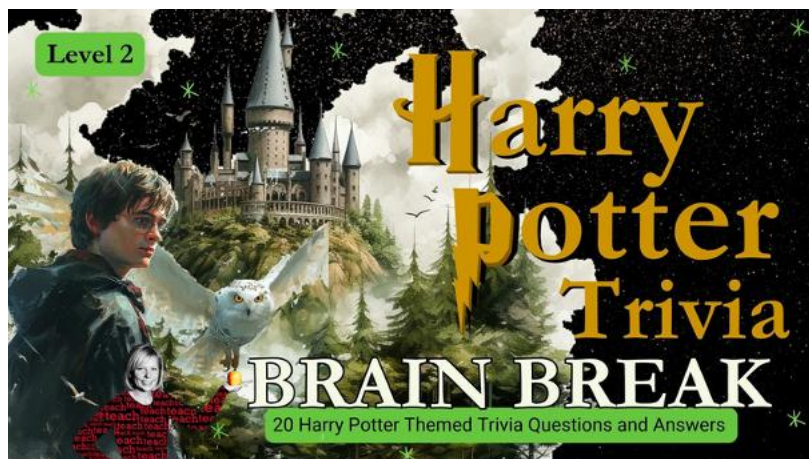
- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ |

Are you a WIZARD at
Harry Potter Trivia?



Trivia
Video





Harry Potter Trivia Level 2 Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for
each question below.

Trivia
Video



Name/Team Name: _____

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



Score:
____/ 20



Trivia
Video

Harry Potter Trivia: Level 2

Who's the WIZARD when it comes to Harry Potter Trivia?



1 What animal is associated with the house of Hufflepuff?

- a) Hippo
- b) Bison
- c) Gruffalo
- d) Badger

2 What treat does Harry eat on his first train ride to Hogwarts?

- a) Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans
- b) Pumpkin Pasties
- c) Chocolate Frogs
- d) All of the Above

3 What is the name of Hermione's cat?

- a) Polly
- b) Crookshanks
- c) Apollo
- d) Hex



4 What is Professor Umbridge's first name?

- a) Rita
- b) Nancy
- c) Delores
- d) Imogene



5 What 2 words do you say to make the Marauder's Map wipe clean?

- a) Mischief Managed b) Clean Sweep
- c) Map Trap d) Scourgify

6 Which creature's tears are the antidote the basilisk venom?

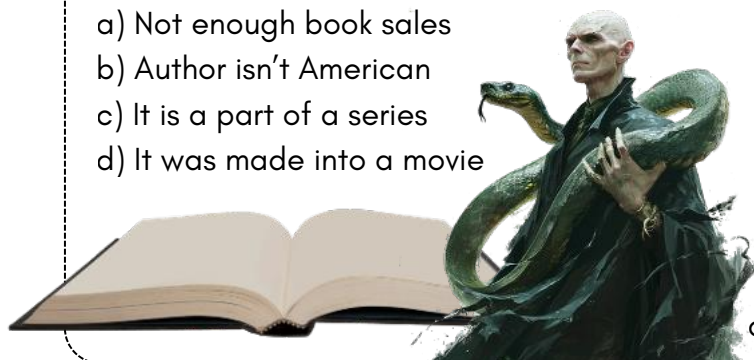
- a) Unicorn
- b) Phoenix
- c) Mermaid
- d) Griffin

7 Who was the first goblin to greet Harry Potter at Gringott's Bank?

- a) Bogrod
- b) Gornuk
- c) Griphook
- d) Gringot

8 Why couldn't Harry Potter ever win the Newbery Award?

- a) Not enough book sales
- b) Author isn't American
- c) It is a part of a series
- d) It was made into a movie



9 How many wands did Daniel Radcliffe break on set by using them as drumsticks?

- a) 20
- b) 40
- c) 60
- d) 80

10 What is the name of Voldemort's Snake?

- a) Nagini b) Vasuki c) Karkotaka d) Sicily



11 In Harry Potter #3 (The Prisoner of Azkaban) what is the name of the driver of The Night Bus?

- a) Stan b) Charlie c) Ernie d) Dwayne

12 What is the name of the Slytherin House ghost?

- a) Nearly Headless Nick b) The Bloody Baron c) The Fat Friar d) The Grey Lady

13 What kind of a pet does Neville Longbottom have?

- a) cat b) toad c) owl d) he doesn't have a pet

14 After leaving the train, 1st year students travel to the Hogwarts Castle by what magic-powered vehicle?

- a) Wagon b) Boat c) Broom d) Monorail

15 What keeps Fluffy, the 3 headed dog, asleep?

- a) Whistling b) A Potion
c) Magical Harp d) Enchanted Collar

16 What office does Ron's dad, Arthur Weasley, work in for the Ministry of Magic?

- a) Misuse of Muggle Artifacts
b) Department of Mysteries
c) Magical Law Enforcement
d) Department of Magical Games and Sports

18 What animal shape does Hermione's Patronus take?

- a) Rabbit
b) Cat
c) Otter
d) Horse

20 Fred and George Weasley leave Hogwarts before graduating to open what business?

- a) Bakery
b) Firework Factory
c) Joke Shop
d) Quidditch Training Gym



17 What is the name of Hagrid's Giant?

- a) Grawp
b) Morholt
c) Golgomath
d) Olimpe Maxime

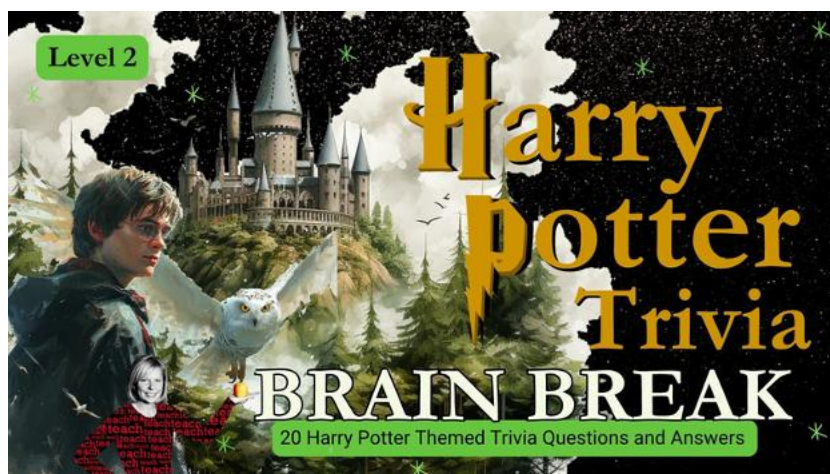
19 When was the first Harry Potter film/movie released?

- a) 2000
b) 2001
c) 2002
d) 2003



My Score:
___/20





Harry Potter Trivia Answer Key

Directions:

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

ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. D) Badger | 11. C) Ernie |
| 2. D) All of the Above | 12. B) The Bloody Baron |
| 3. B) Crookshanks | 13. B) Toad |
| 4. C) Delores | 14. B) Boat |
| 5. A) Mischief Managed | 15. C) Magical Harp |
| 6. B) Phoenix | 16. A) Misuse of Muggle Artifacts |
| 7. C) Griphook | 17. A) Grawp |
| 8. B) Author isn't American | 18. C) Otter |
| 9. D) 80 | 19. B) 2001 |
| 10. A) Naigini | 20. C) Joke Shop |

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



Trivia
Video
←



Trivia Game Video Link

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

HALLOWEEN IDIOM TRIVIA VIDEO



This link will take you to
the YouTube Video of
Halloween Idiom Trivia
questions:

<https://youtu.be/A3d5eC0hZEs>





Halloween Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

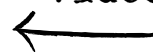
Name/Team Name: _____

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

How did you do? Are you a
Halloween Idiom ROCKSTAR?!?!



Trivia
Video





Halloween Idiom Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for
each question below.

Trivia Video -->



Name/Team Name: _____

1. A B C

11. A B C

2. A B C

12. A B C

3. A B C

13. A B C

4. A B C

14. A B C

5. A B C

15. A B C

6. A B C

16. A B C

7. A B C

17. A B C

8. A B C

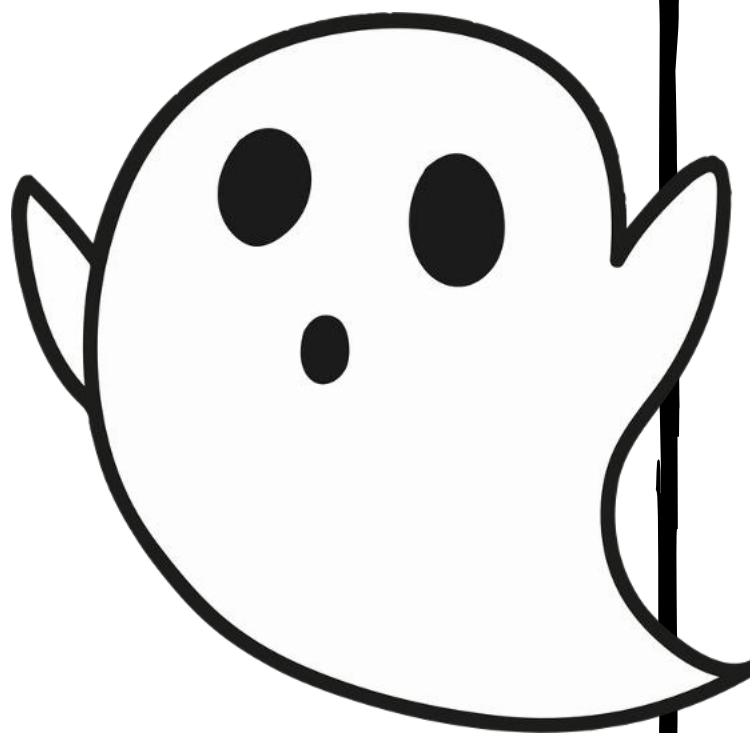
18. A B C

9. A B C

19. A B C

10. A B C

20. A B C



How did you do?
Are you an Idiom
Trivia ROCKSTAR?!?!?

Score: ____ / 20



Trivia
Video



Halloween Idiom Trivia Quiz

Name: _____

#1

OVER MY DEAD BODY

- a) used to express how tired you are
- b) used to emphasize that you dislike a suggestion
- c) used to show how frustrated you feel



#2

A SCAREDY-CAT

- a) someone who's easily frightened
- b) a frightening animal
- c) someone who likes to scare people



#3

THE WITCHING HOUR

- a) a time when witches and other supernatural beings are said to appear
- b) Halloween's Eve
- c) the time when Halloween parties usually finish



#4

A NIGHT OWNL

- a) a person who suffers from insomnia
- b) a person who guards a place at night
- c) a person who is more active at night



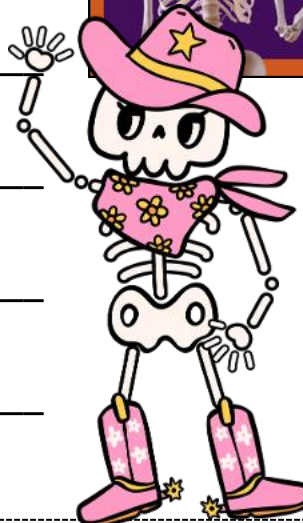
Record Your Answers Here:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

#5

A SKELETON IN THE CLOSET/CUPBOARD

- a) an old-fashioned piece of clothing
- b) a scary anecdote
- c) an embarrassing secret





Trivia
Video



Halloween Idiom Trivia Quiz

Name: _____

#6

A GHOST TOWN

a) a haunted town
b) a town where a tragedy occurred
c) a town where few or no people live

#7

TO DIG ONE'S GRAVE

a) to do something that causes you harm
b) to keep a secret hidden
c) to bury something dangerous

#8

COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU

a) to cause problems for the future
b) to make friends with the undead
c) to scare someone badly

#9

A WITCH HUNT

a) the searching out and harassment of people with unpopular views
b) the activity of chasing and killing wild animals at night
c) the research done to disprove widespread myths

Record Your Answers Here:

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

#10

TO BE SCARED STIFF

a) to be afraid because you can't move
b) to be very afraid
c) to be afraid because you can't breathe





Trivia
Video



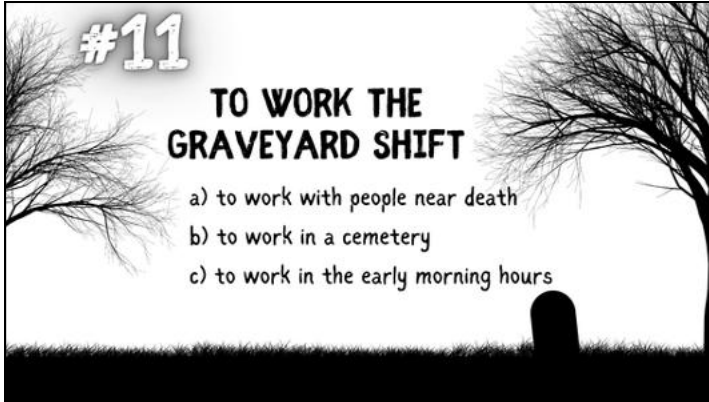
Halloween Idiom Trivia Quiz

Name: _____

#11

TO WORK THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT

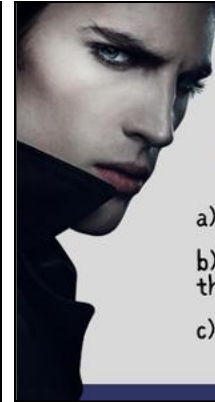
- a) to work with people near death
- b) to work in a cemetery
- c) to work in the early morning hours



#12

TO MAKE SOMEONE'S BLOOD RUN COLD

- a) to kill someone in a cruel way
- b) to see, hear or think of something that frightens you very much
- c) to make someone feel extremely cold



#13

SPILL YOUR GUTS

- a) be violently ill/sick
- b) tell all the details, even the secret ones
- c) make a mess



#14

NOT THE GHOST OF A CHANCE

- a) not scary at all
- b) unlikely to happen
- c) impractical to be done



**Record Your
Answers Here:**

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

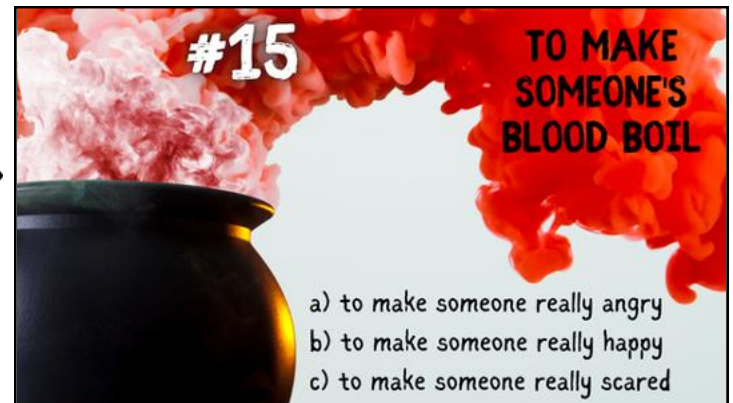
14. _____

15. _____

#15

TO MAKE SOMEONE'S BLOOD BOIL

- a) to make someone really angry
- b) to make someone really happy
- c) to make someone really scared





Trivia
Video



Halloween Idiom Trivia Quiz

Name: _____

#16 **TO SHAKE LIKE A LEAF**



- a) to be unable to control your body
- b) to shake a tree
- c) to shake uncontrollably because you are frightened or nervous

#17 **THE GREEN-EYED MONSTER**



- a) to feel jealous or envious
- b) to feel angry
- c) to feel embarrassed

#18 **TO PLAY THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE**



- a) to play tricks on people
- b) to pretend to be against an idea or plan to get people discussing it in detail
- c) to try to persuade people out of doing something harmful

#19 **SOMEBODY WOULDN'T SAY BOO TO A GOOSE**



- a) used to refer to a timid person
- b) used to refer to a scary person
- c) used to refer to a boring person

Record Your Answers Here:

16. _____

17. _____

18. _____

19. _____

20. _____

#20 **UNDER A SPELL**



- a) hiding beneath a blanket
- b) you are an exceptional writer
- c) a state of enchantment



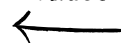


Halloween Idiom Trivia Answer Key

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



Trivia
Video



ANSWER KEY

1. b) used to emphasize that you dislike a suggestion
2. a) someone who's easily frightened
3. a) a time when witches and other supernatural beings are said to appear
4. c) a person who is more active at night
5. c) an embarrassing secret
6. c) a town where few or no people live
7. a) to do something that causes you harm
8. a) to cause problems for the future
9. a) the searching out and harassment of people with unpopular views
10. b) to be very afraid
11. c) to work in the early morning hours
12. b) to see, hear or think of something that frightens you very much
13. b) tell all the details, even the secret ones
14. b) unlikely to happen
15. a) to make someone really angry
16. c) to shake uncontrollably because you are frightened or nervous
17. a) to feel jealous or envious
18. b) to pretend to be against an idea or plan to get people discussing it in detail
19. a) used to refer to a timid person
20. c) a state of enchantment

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



Trivia Game Video Link

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

HALLOWEEN TRIVIA VIDEO



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





Halloween Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

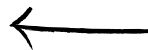
Name/Team Name: _____

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

How did you do? Are you a
Halloween Trivia ROCKSTAR?!?!



Trivia
Video





Trivia
Video

Halloween Trivia

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

1 How many pounds of candy corn are produced each year?

a) 1 million lbs. b) 14 million lbs. c) 27 million lbs. d) 35 million lbs.

2 Ichabod Crane, the headless horseman, was from which town?

S_____ H_____

3 True or False: Turnips were originally used to carve Jack-o'-lanterns.

a) True b) False

4 What Roman goddess is said to be honored on Halloween?

a) Persephone b) Pandora c) Luna d) Pomona

5 Which magician and entertainer died on Halloween in 1926?

a) Harry Kellar b) David Devant c) Harry Houdini d) Howard Thurston

6 What candy was given to soldiers at Halloween during the Korean War?

T_____ R_____

7 In 2004, What item was banned throughout the entire state of California ... but only on Halloween?

S_____ S_____

8 How many calories are in the average Trick or Treater's stash?

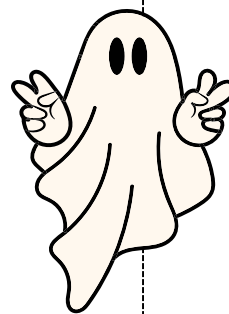
a) 675 b) 1,100 c) 950 d) 1,425

9 What was the original name of the movie Hocus Pocus?

a) Halloween House b) All Hallows Eve c) Get Hallow-even d) I Smell Children

10 In what US state is it illegal to dress as a priest or nun for Halloween?

a) Alabama b) Alaska c) Arizona d) Arkansas



11 True or False: Jack-o'-lanterns were originally carved out of watermelons and not pumpkins.

a) True b) False

12 Who was the first, First Lady to decorate the White House for Halloween?

- a) Rosalyn Carter (1981)
- b) Mamie Eisenhower (1958)
- c) Ida McKinley (1901)
- d) Dolly Madison (1812)

13 What were the first ever Fun-Sized Candy Bars? (List 2!)

1 - _____
2 - _____

14 Every Halloween, Charlie Brown's friend, Linus, waits for what character to appear?

The G_____ P_____

15 Transylvania is a region in which country?

- a) Romania b) Iceland c) Russia d) Syria

16 What do you call the irrational fear of clowns?

- a) Coimetrophobia b) Coulrophobia c) Clinophobia d) Cleithrophobia

17 What was candy corn was originally called?

C_____ F_____

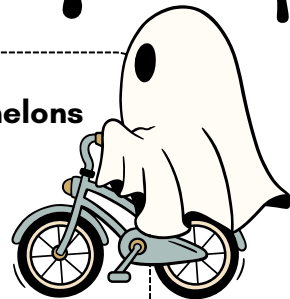
18 True or False: The band, The Beach Boys, loved to cover the famous Halloween Song, The Monster Mash.

- a) True b) False

19 What is the most financially successful horror movie of all time?

- a) IT b) The Shinning

20 Pumpkins can be orange, green, white and what other color?





Halloween Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for
each question below.

Trivia
Video



Name/Team Name: _____

1. A B C D
2. Snooze City or Sleepy Hollow
3. True or False
4. A B C D
5. A B C D
6. Tootsie Pops or Tootsie Rolls
7. Silly String or Face Masks
8. A B C D
9. A B C D
10. A B C D
11. True or False
12. A B C D
13. _____
14. The G_____ P_____
15. A B C D
16. A B C D
17. C_____ F_____
18. True or False
19. IT or The Shining
20. Purple or Blue

Score:
____/20



Halloween Trivia Answer Key

Directions:

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

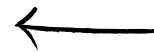
ANSWER KEY

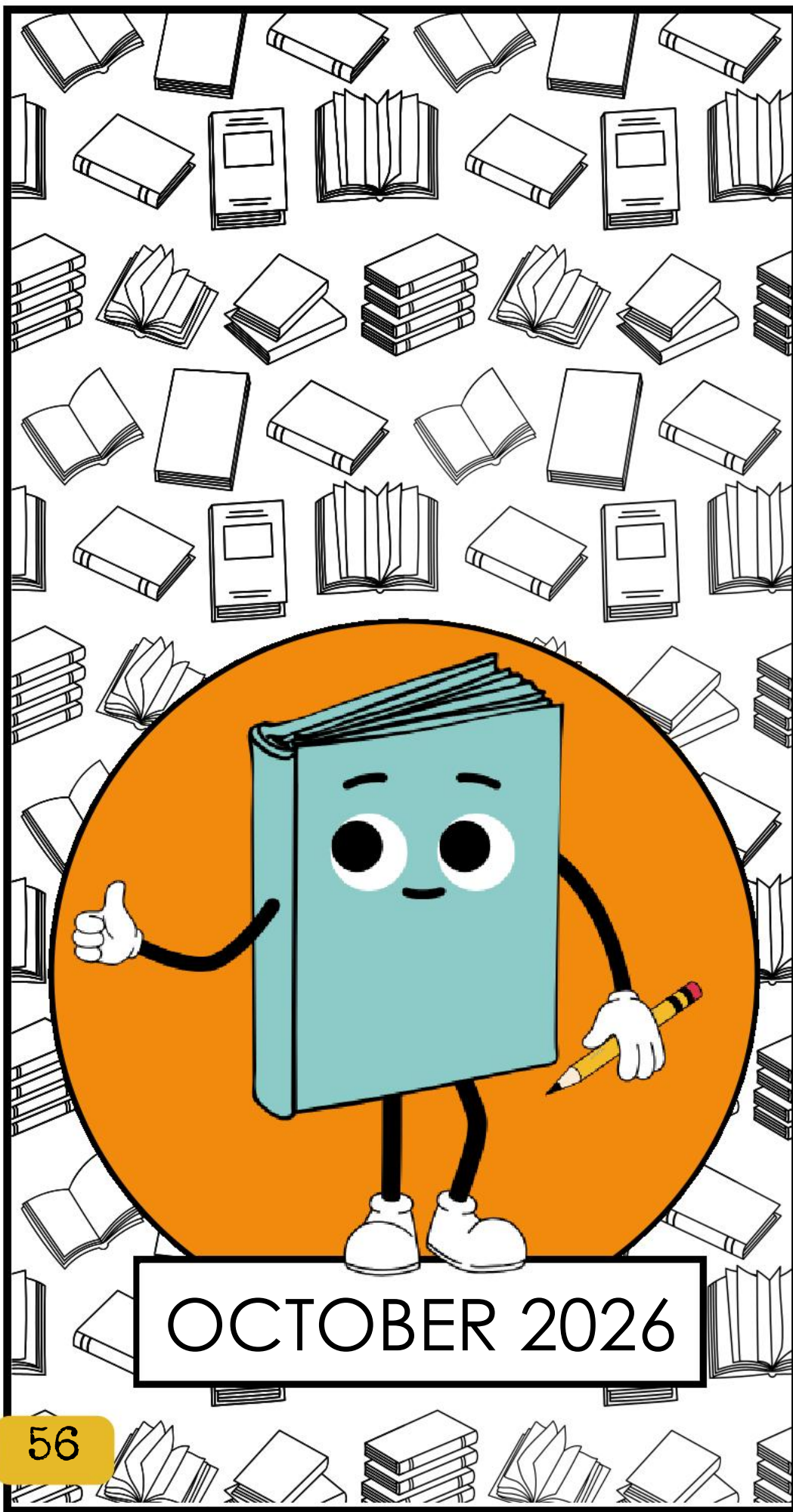
- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. D) 35 million pounds | 11. False |
| 2. Sleepy Hollow | 12. B) Mamie Eisenhower 1958 |
| 3. True | 13. Snickers and Milky Ways |
| 4. D) Pomona | 14. The Great Pumpkin |
| 5. C) Harry Houdini | 15. A) Romania |
| 6. Tootsie Rolls | 16. B) Coulrophobia |
| 7. Silly String | 17. Chicken Feed |
| 8. B) 1,100 | 18. True |
| 9. A) Halloween House | 19. IT |
| 10. D) Arkansas | 20. Blue |

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



Trivia
Video





OCTOBER 2026

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HOW TO USE THE WRITING PROMPTS

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

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

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

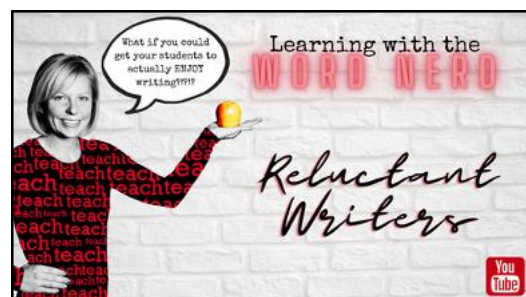
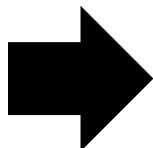
If you want, keep these “curriculum and standard” pieces of information to yourself, go for it! There is no need to let the kids know we have a secret plan to trick them into being better writers and hating it a little bit less each day!

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

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

Happy Writing!

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



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




MULTI-USE FORMS

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

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

Free Write Friday

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

Choice B:
Write about a topic of your choice.





GEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES



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

Title of Piece/Date Written: _____



GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITER DOES WELL.

-
-
-
-
-

OPPORTUNITIES

LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE

-
-
-
-
-

FINAL COMMENTS
WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:

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

WRITING PROMPTS

Write about a topic
of your choice.

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

Total Points = ____ /10

Rubric



GEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES



My Name:

Name of classmate I am reviewing:

Date:

Title of Piece/Date Written



GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE
WRITERS DOES WELL

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

OPPORTUNITIES



LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE
WRITER TO IMPROVE

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

FINAL COMMENTS

WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:



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



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

Title of Piece/Date Written



GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITERS DOES WELL

.....

OPPORTUNITIES



LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE

.....

FINAL COMMENTS

WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:

Title of Piece/Date Written



GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITERS DOES WELL

.....

OPPORTUNITIES



LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE

.....

FINAL COMMENTS

WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:



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

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

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

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

Total Points = ____/10

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

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

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

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

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

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

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

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

5

CREATIVE WRITING TIPS

- 1 Take a minute to think before you start writing. Jot down ideas, make a mind map, or just day dream!
- 2 Put your phone/chromebook/tablet away. Distractions can easily pull you out of the writing flow.
- 3 If you feel like you are stuck or have nothing else to say, but we still have writing time left, re-read what you have written. This might inspire more ideas. Or, you can go back and add in details to your response that you did not include the first time around.
- 4 Ask yourself, if I were the reader... "what kind of story would I like to experience?"
- 5 Before submitting your work, whisper read your work aloud to yourself. This will help you catch small, easy to fix errors.
- 6 Listen to an instrumental playlist to create a blanket of white noise that will help you focus on your task, rather than the distractions surrounding you. Try [this video](#)!



WRITING PROMPTS

~~Sept. 28-Oct. 2~~

Monday

September



Tuesday

September



Wednesday

September



Thursday

Scared?

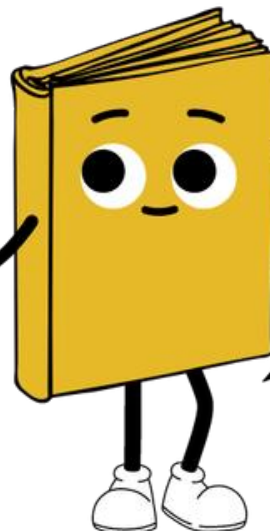
Style/Skills:

- Personal Reflection

Friday

Free Write Friday

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



You can project the prompt using these SLIDES!



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

Personal Reflection



What do you do to cope with this intense feeling/emotion?

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

Rubric

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

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS

October 5-9



Monday

Invent a Monster!

Style/Skills:

- Description
- Word Choice
- Adjectives

Tuesday

Tidal Wave

Style/Skills:

- Prediction
- Plotting (Plot points)
- Setting (Time)
- Genre: Survival Story

Wednesday

Fashionista

Style/Skills:

- Characterization
- Setting

Thursday

The Yellow Door

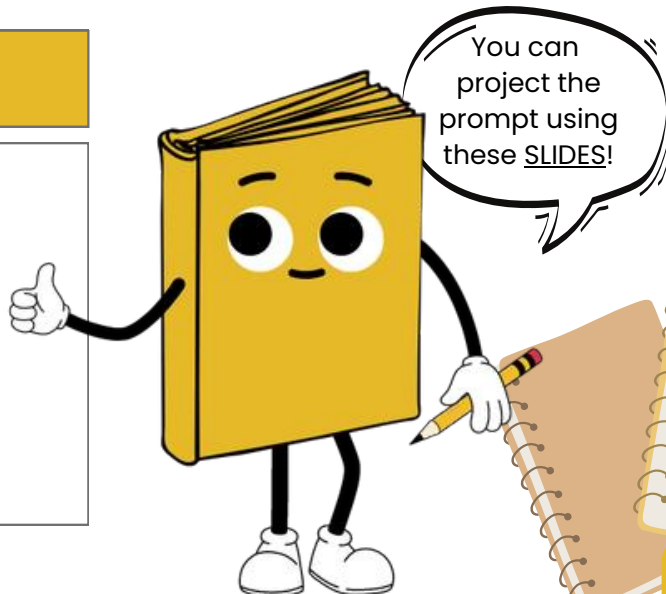
Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Prediction

Friday

Free Write Friday

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



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

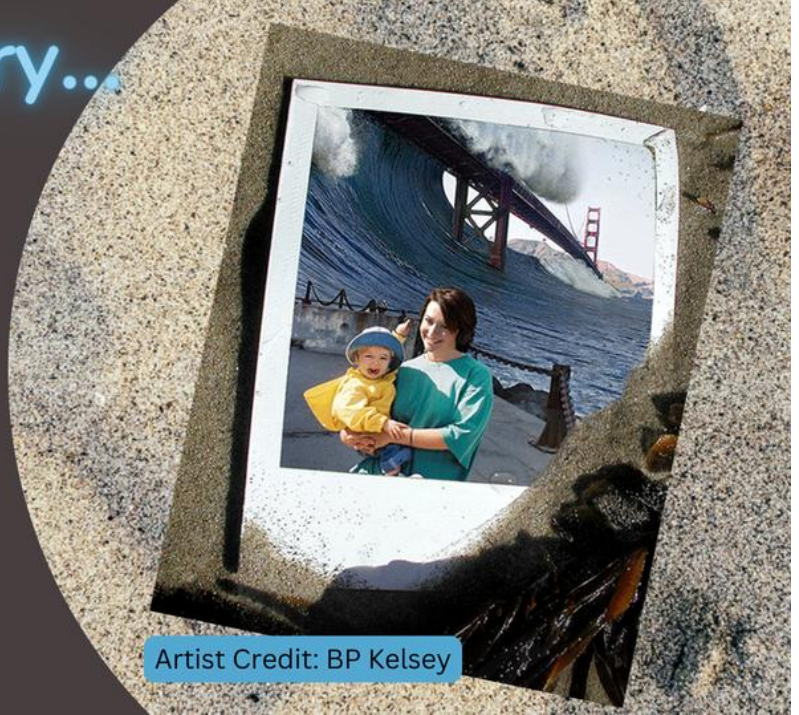
This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

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



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

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

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD



Teacher Comments:

Created by the Word Nerd

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

WRITE A STORY TO EXPLAIN...

what is
behind
the
yellow
door?

[illegible]

Rubric

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

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS

October 12-16



Monday

A Magical Night

Style/Skills:

- Connection to Literature
- Description
- Setting (Time)

Tuesday

Famous Parents

Style/Skills:

- Personal Reflection

Wednesday

Advice for a Friend

Style/Skills:

- Putting yourself in someone else's shoes
- Theme

Thursday

A Whale of a Tale

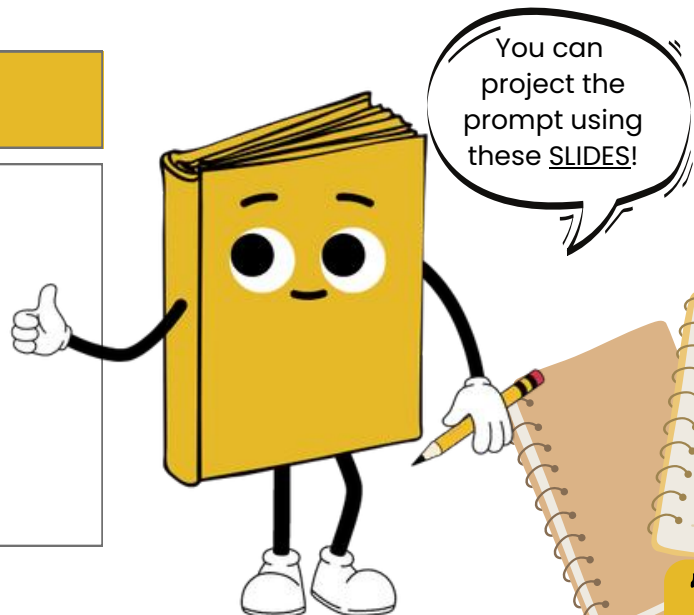
Style/Skills:

- Genre: Myths
- Creating Writing
- Theme

Friday

Free Write Friday

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



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

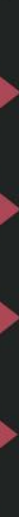
הכרזה

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

Total Points = ____ /10

Created by the Word Nerd

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

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

Total Points = ____ /10

Rubric

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

What advice would you give?

Advice. My best friend wanted advice. "Needed advice," she claimed. I sat for a solid minute. Thinking. What advice did I have to give? Then it came to me. I picked up my phone and sent her a text.

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

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

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

A circular image showing a whale breaching the ocean surface. The whale's head and back are visible above the water, surrounded by white foam and a blue sky. The whale's skin is dark and textured, and its blow is visible as a small spout of water. The image is framed by a dark circular border.

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical margin lines or other markings on the page.

Total Points = ____ /10

Rubric

WRITING PROMPTS

October 19-23



Monday

Cold Killer

Style/Skills:

- Setting
- Genre: Post-Apocalyptic

Tuesday

3 Wishes

Style/Skills:

- Personal Reflection
- Genre: Fantasy

Wednesday

Trick or Treat!

Style/Skills:

- Connection to Literature
- Characterization

Thursday

OWL: Caption This!

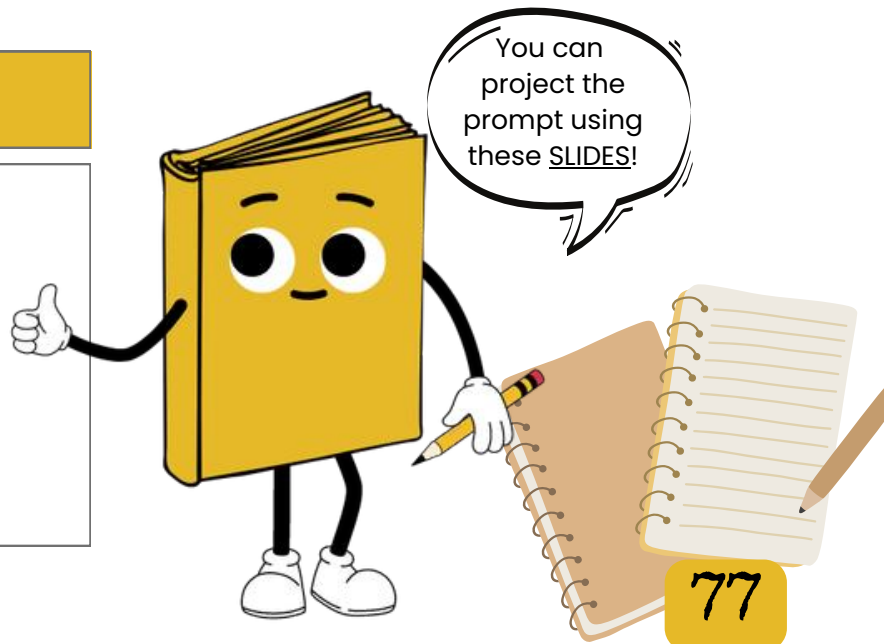
Style/Skills:

- Captions
- Point of View

Friday

Free Write Friday

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



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

"The virus can't live in that extreme cold," Otis explained. "Antarctica is the only place we will be able to outrun this killer. Antarctica is the only place we will be able to survive."

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

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

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page or a sheet of stationery.

Total Points = ____ /10

Rubric

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

Connect to your Reading...

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

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

▼ Rubric

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

- the owl
- a photographer
- a bird watcher
- a mouse

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

Teacher Comments:

Total Points = ____ /10

WRITING PROMPTS

October 26-30

Monday

The Discovery

Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Prediction

Tuesday

Name the Dragon

Style/Skills:

- Characterization
- Description
- Genre: Fantasy

Wednesday

Campfire Stories

Style/Skills:

- Creative Writing
- Genre: Horror

Thursday

The Pumpkin Carving Contest

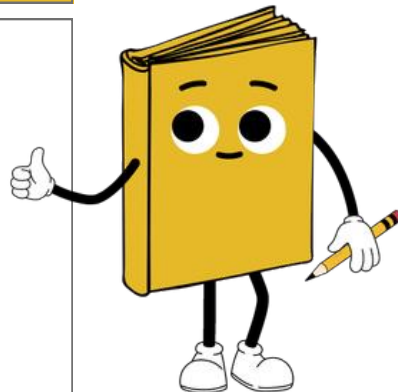
Style/Skills:

- Transition Words
- Tone/Mood

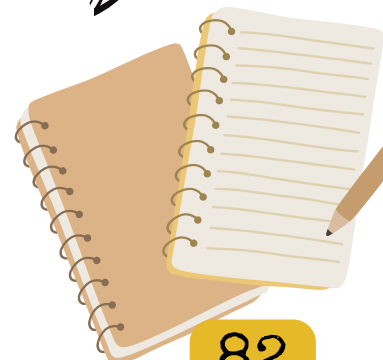
Friday

Free Write Friday

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



You can project the prompt using these SLIDES!



WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

Continue the Story

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

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

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

A large, detailed dinosaur sculpture, possibly a Tyrannosaurus Rex, is shown breathing a massive plume of fire. The dinosaur is positioned next to a building with a prominent dome, which appears to be part of a theme park attraction. The scene is set against a blue sky with some clouds. The image is framed by a circular border, and the word "on" is visible in the top left corner.

[illegible]

Total Points = ____ /10

Rubric

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

It was tradition to tell a ghost story on the first night of camp. However is was not tradition to...

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

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

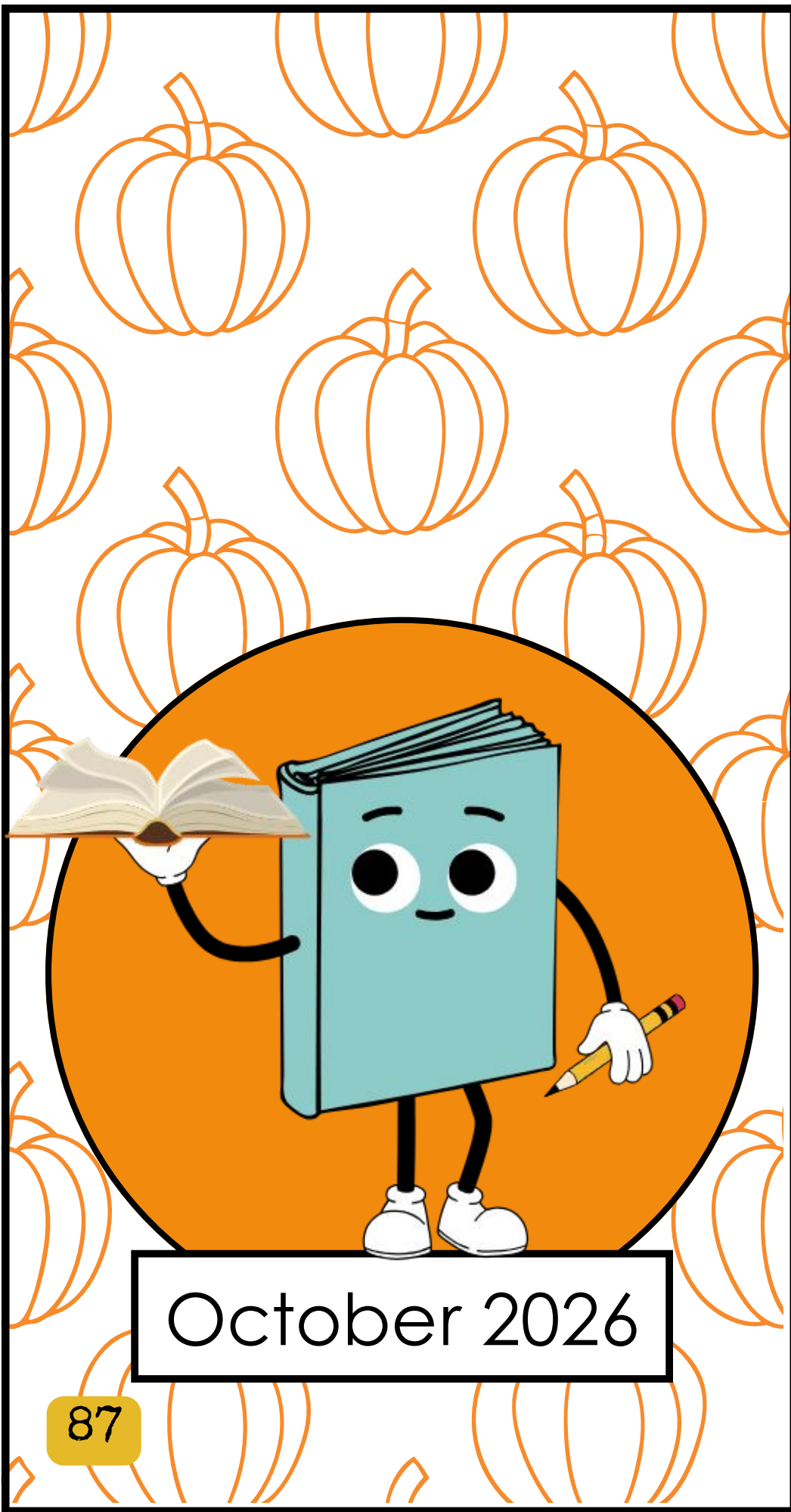
Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD



Teacher Comments:

Created by the Word Nerd



October 2026

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Library Scavenger Hunt



Link

Created by the Word Nerd



The Windup & the **STEAL**

BY AMANDA ZIEBA



[Link](#)



ELA Skills Brain Break

CANDY THEMED QUIZ GAME



CREATED BY THE WORD NERD

TAKEAWAYS

IN THIS ACTIVITY STUDENTS WILL WORK ON:

- Vocabulary
- Figurative language
- Author's purpose
- Argument/discussion
- Inference
- Word Choice & Tone
- Message / Claim



SPARK STUDENT
ENGAGEMENT -
START WITH THE VIDEO!



Video Link



CREATED BY THE WORD NERD

DIRECTIONS

Welcome to the Candy Slogan Showdown! In this activity, you'll watch a video and test your thinking skills by analyzing real candy slogans.



What to Do:

- Watch the video and read each question carefully.
- Each question will stay on the screen for about 15 seconds.
- Choose the best answer and record it on your answer sheet.
- Think about what the slogan is really saying—not just what it literally means!



Tips for Success:

- Use context clues to figure out meaning
- Think about the message or claim the slogan is making
- Pay attention to word choice and tone
- Ask yourself: What is this slogan trying to make me think or feel?



When You're Done:

- Check your answers as a class or with the answer key
- Total your score
- Be ready to discuss your thinking!

STANDARDS IN ACTION

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.6-8.4

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in context

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.6-8.5

Demonstrate understanding of figurative language and word relationships

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.6-8.3

Use knowledge of language and its conventions to make meaning

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6-8.4

Analyze the meaning of words and phrases in a text

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6-8.6

Determine an author's purpose and point of view

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6-8.1

Engage effectively in collaborative discussions

THINK LIKE A WORD NERD

Before You Play: Let's Think Like a Word Nerd! Candy slogans might seem simple, but they are actually powerful examples of how language works.

Before we start, let's review a few key ideas:

Author's Purpose

Slogans are designed to persuade you.

👉 Ask yourself:

- What is this slogan trying to make me think or feel?
- Why would this make me want the product?

Figurative Language

Slogans often don't mean exactly what they say.

👉 Example:

- "Taste the Rainbow" doesn't mean you are actually eating a rainbow!

👉 Look for:

- Metaphors
- Personification
- Exaggeration

Word Choice & Tone

Writers carefully choose words to create a feeling.

👉 Ask:

- Does this sound fun? exciting? silly?
- Why did they choose that word instead of a simpler one?

Inference (Reading Between the Lines)

Good readers figure out what is implied, not just what is stated.

👉 Ask:

- What is this slogan REALLY saying?
- What is left unsaid?

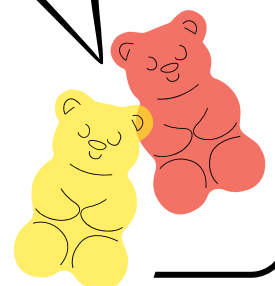
Claims & Messages

Slogans often make big claims in just a few words.

👉 Ask:

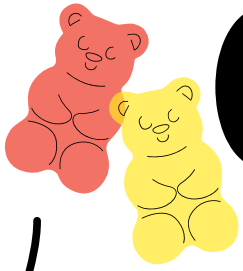
- What is the main idea or message?
- Do I believe it? Why or why not?

AS YOU WATCH
THE VIDEO, DON'T
JUST PICK AN
ANSWER—
THINK LIKE A
DETECTIVE AND
ANALYZE THE
LANGUAGE!



Name: _____

Date: _____



Candy Slogan SHOWDOWN



Watch the video and play along! Record your answers below.

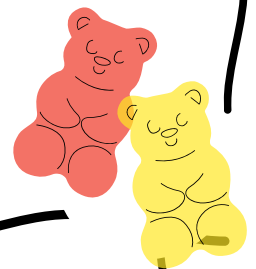
- 1 **"Crispety, cruchety, peanut-buttery!" Why does this slogan use made up sounding words?**
 - a) To confuse the audience
 - b) To make the candy sound more fun
 - c) To explain the ingredients
 - d) To make the slogan longer

- 2 **"Taste the rainbow" What does this slogan suggest?**
 - a) The candy is shaped like rainbows.
 - b) The candy is healthy.
 - c) The candy has many colorful flavors.
 - d) The candy controls the weather.

- 3 **"Melts in your mouth, not in your hands." What problem is this slogan trying to solve?**
 - a) The candy is too big.
 - b) The candy is too sweet.
 - c) The candy is messy.
 - d) The candy has too many colors.

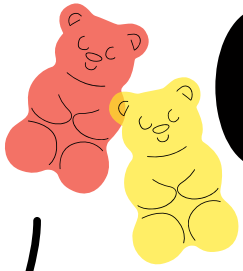
- 4 **"You're not you when you're hungry." What is the main message of this slogan?**
 - a) Hunger can change how you act.
 - b) Candy is only for hungry people.
 - c) People should eat less candy.
 - d) Hunger is not important.

- 5 **"First they're sour. Then they're sweet." Why is the sentence structure repeated?**
 - a) To make it longer.
 - b) To confuse the buyer.
 - c) To describe how the candy is made.
 - d) To emphasize the change in flavor.



Name: _____

Date: _____



Candy Slogan SHOWDOWN



Watch the video and play along! Record your answers below.

6 “Sometimes you feel like a nut, sometimes you don’t” What does this slogan suggest?

- a) Candy lovers are crazy (nuts).
- b) People have different preferences at different times.
- c) Nuts are better than chocolate.
- d) Candy should be eaten daily.

7 “There’s no wrong way to eat a Reese’s” What is the purpose of this slogan?

- a) To persuade people they can enjoy it however they want.
- b) To explain how Reese’s are made.
- c) To warn people about the danger of candy.
- d) To compare Reese’s to other candy.

8 “Makes mouths happy” What type of language is being used here?

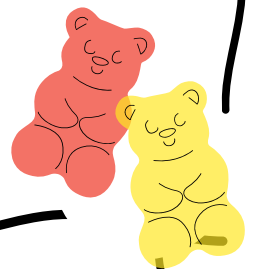
- a) Literal
- b) Scientific
- c) Figurative
- d) Historical

9 “Unwrap a smile” What does this slogan imply?

- a) The candy is hard to open.
- b) Eating the candy will make you feel happy.
- c) The wrapper is important.
- d) The candy is expensive.

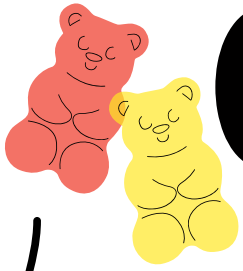
10 “Airheads have more fun” What is this slogan suggesting?

- a) Only certain people can eat this candy.
- b) Airheads are healthy.
- c) Eating Airheads makes life more fun.
- d) Candy is only for kids.



Name: _____

Date: _____



Candy Slogan SHOWDOWN



Watch the video and play along! Record your answers below.

11 "Gimme a break" What tone does this slogan use?

- a) Serious
- b) Confusing
- c) Angry
- d) Playful

12 "Unleash your senses" What does the word UNLEASH suggest?

- a) Holding back and not eating too many
- b) Letting go and enjoying the full experience
- c) Eating slowly and savoring the treat
- d) Ignoring your senses while eating

13 "Big on chocolate, not on fat" What is this slogan emphasizing?

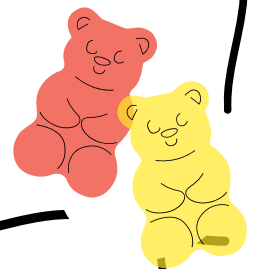
- a) The candy is large.
- b) The candy is healthier than expected.
- c) The candy is expensive.
- d) The candy had many flavors.

14 "Life's better the Milky Way" What is the claim being made in this slogan?

- a) This candy improves your life.
- b) Life is about outer space.
- c) Candy should be eaten daily.
- d) Milky Way is a planet.

How'd you do?
Are you a slogan superstar?

Score ___/15



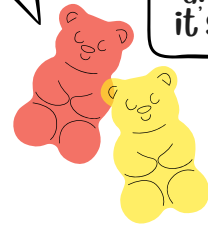
Date:

Candy Slogan SHOWDOWN

1. **Crispety, crunchety, peanut-buttery**
2. **Taste the rainbow**
3. **Melts in your mouth, not in your hands**
4. **You're not YOU when you're hungry**
5. **First they're sweet. Then they're sour.**
6. **Sometimes you feel like a nut, sometimes you don't.**
7. **There's no wrong way to eat a Reese's**
8. **Makes mouths happy**
9. **Unwrap a smile**
10. **Airheads have more fun**
11. **Gimmie a break**
12. **Unleash your senses**
13. **Big on chocolate, not on fat**
14. **Life's better the Milky Way**

Compare and Evaluate: Which slogan is the MOST convincing?

THEN,
design your
own candy
and write
it's slogan!

[illegible]

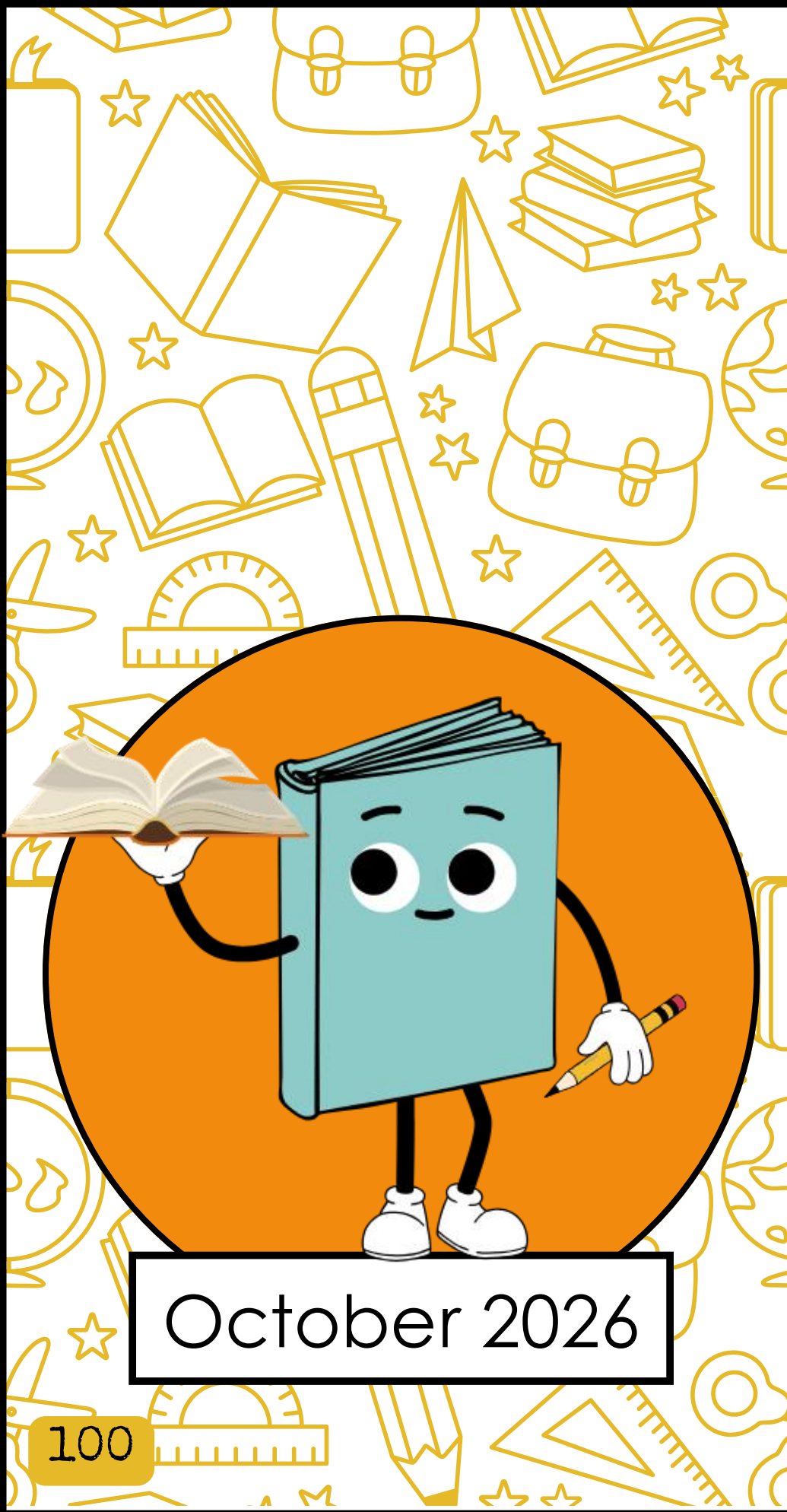
ANSWER KEY

1. **B – To make the candy sound more fun**
2. **C – The candy has many colorful flavors**
3. **C – The candy is messy**
4. **A – Hunger can change how you act**
5. **D – To emphasize the change in flavor**
6. **B – People have different preferences at different times**
7. **A – To persuade people they can enjoy it however they want**
8. **C – Figurative**
9. **B – Eating the candy will make you feel happy**
10. **C – Eating Airheads makes life more fun**
11. **D – Playful**
12. **B – Letting go and enjoying the full experience**
13. **B – The candy is healthier than expected**
14. **A – This candy improves your life**

Answers for #5 will vary. Feel free to use this rubric to evaluate student responses.

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



October 2026

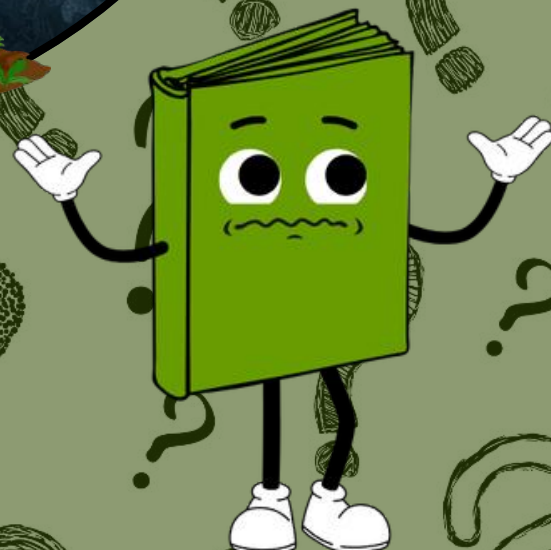
100

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
BECAUSE YOU DESERVE THEM!**

Would You Rather...

PERSUASIVE WRITING WORKSHEETS

SCARY EDITION



CREATED BY THE WORD NERD

TAKEAWAYS

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

WE WANT STUDENTS TO BE ABLE TO:

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



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



Video Link



STANDARDS IN ACTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

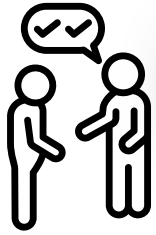
- Skill Focus: Use transition words like for example, in addition, because, however, and therefore to guide readers.

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

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

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

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



BUILD YOUR CASE

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

FOLLOW THESE STEPS!

✓ **Step 1: Make Your Claim**

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

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

✓ **Step 2: Give Your Reasons**

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

✓ **Step 3: Use Transitions**

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

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

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

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

✓ **Step 5: Wrap It Up**

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

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

WOULD YOU RATHER?

Name: _____



Video Link

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

1. Would you rather be lost in a cave or a forest?
2. Would you rather face a vampire or a werewolf?
3. Would you rather give a speech in front of your whole school or a room full of strangers?
4. Would you rather be locked in a room full of mice or snakes?
5. Would you rather be at the top of a cliff or the bottom of the ocean?
6. Would you rather experience a hurricane or a tornado?
7. Would you rather face a grizzly bear or a shark?
8. Would you rather face mom or dad when you are in trouble?
9. Would you rather sleep overnight in a haunted house or a graveyard?
10. Would you rather watch a horror movie or go on a scary roller coaster?

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

Name: _____

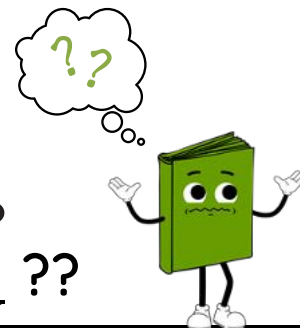
Date: _____

SCARY EDITION

Would You Rather...

or

??



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

▼ Rubric

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

Comments:

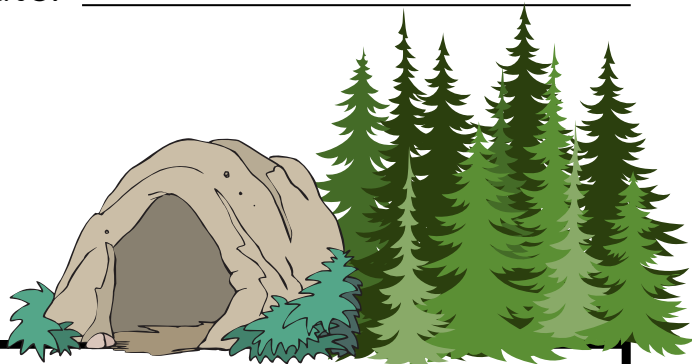
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Date: _____

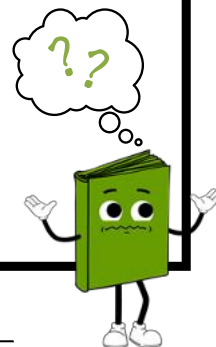
SCARY EDITION

Would You Rather...

be lost in a cave or in a forest?



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



▼ Rubric

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

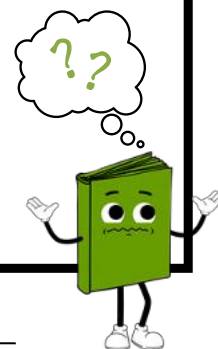
SCARY EDITION

Would You Rather...

face a vampire or a werewolf?



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



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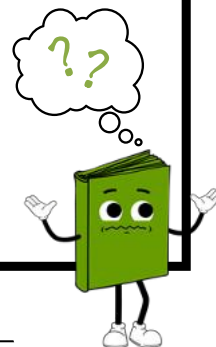
SCARY EDITION

Would You Rather...

give a speech in front of your whole school
or a room full of strangers?



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



▼ Rubric

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

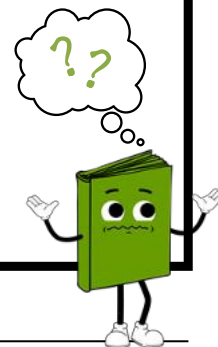
SCARY EDITION

Would You Rather...

be locked in a room full of mice or snakes?



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



▼ Rubric

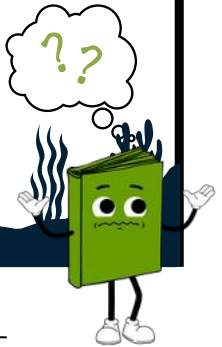
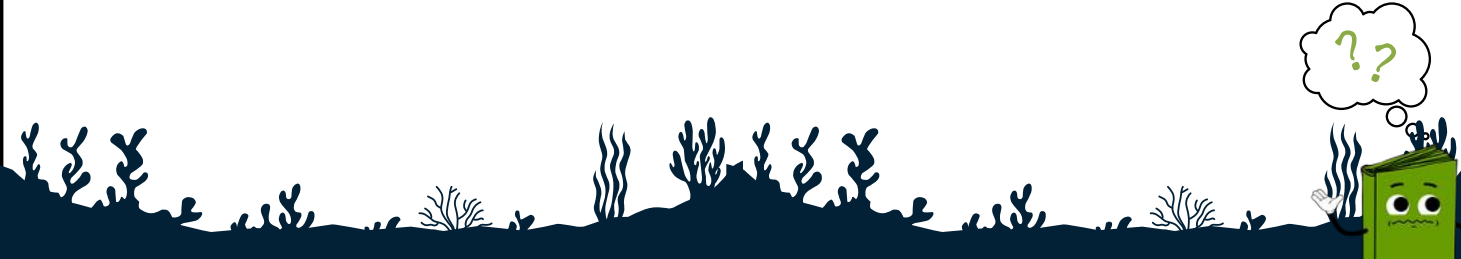
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Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
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Total Points = ___/10			

Comments:

Date: _____

be at the top of a cliff or the bottom of the ocean?

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

[illegible]

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
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Name: _____

Date: _____

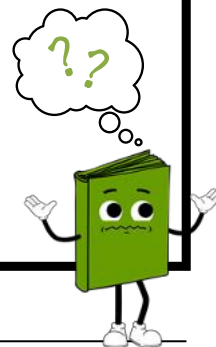
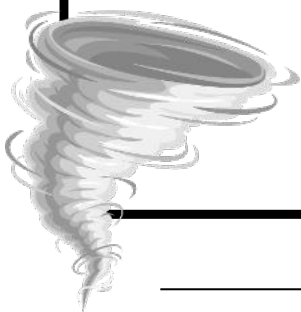
SCARY EDITION

Would You Rather...

experience a hurricane or a tornado?



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



▼ Rubric

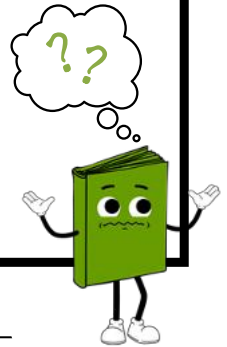
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Total Points = ___/10			

Comments:

Date: _____

A black and white line drawing of a bear's head, facing forward with its mouth wide open in a roar. The bear has thick fur, indicated by many short, curved lines. Its eyes are small and intense, and its teeth are sharp and prominent. The drawing is highly stylized and graphic.

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

[illegible]

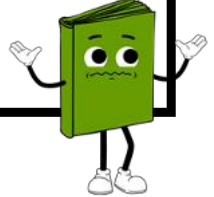
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Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
Total Points = /10			

Comments:

Date: _____



face mom or dad when you are in trouble?



▼ Rubric

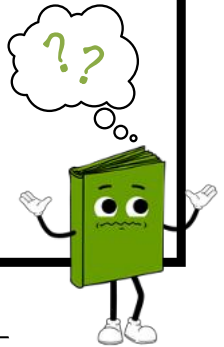
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Comments:

Date: _____

Would You Rather...

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



▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
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Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
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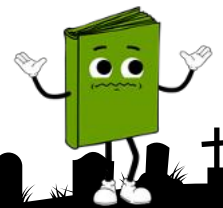
Comments:

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Comments:

Date: _____

Would You Rather...



▼ Rubric

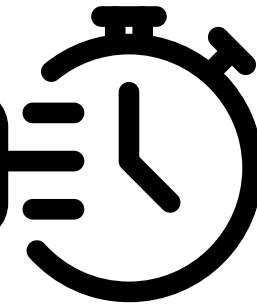
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Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Comments:

TIMER VIDEOS



Watch this video for a few quick tips on how to effectively incorporate timers into your classroom.



1 minute timer video



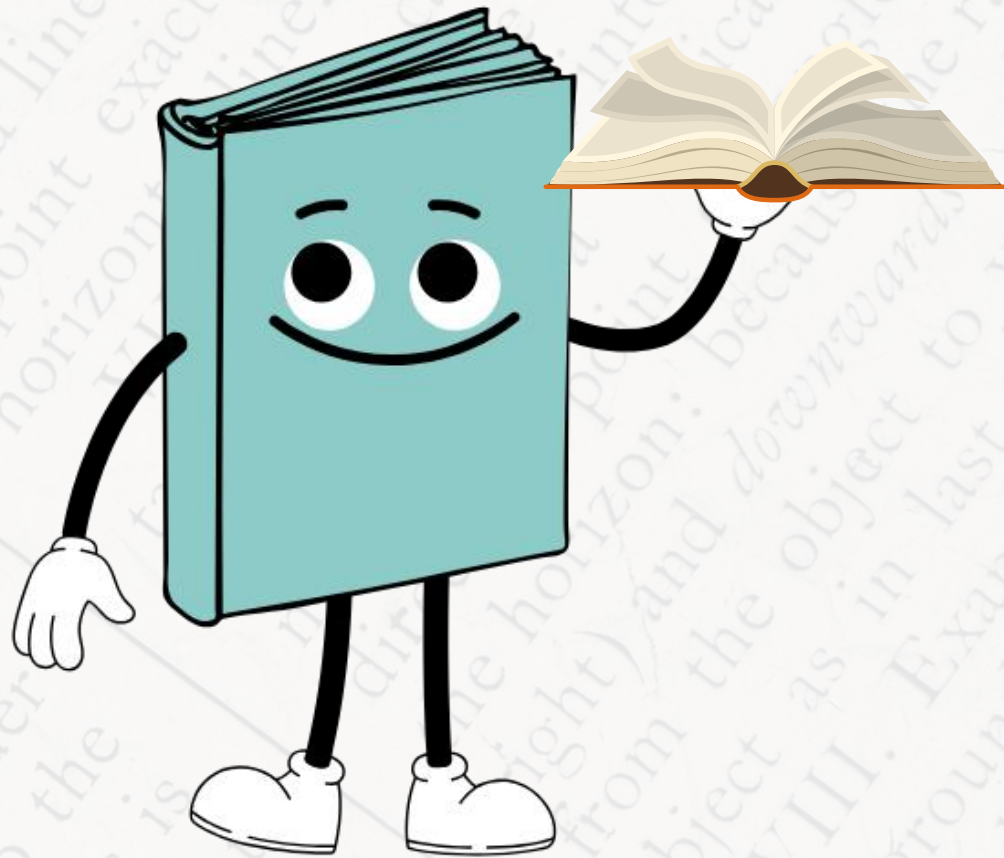
30 minute timer video

Links

6 Strategies: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhwXkP3hTzw>

1 Minute Timer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJn942usELA&t=0s>

30 Minute Timer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjzGPxbfQnk>



WNC BOOK LISTS

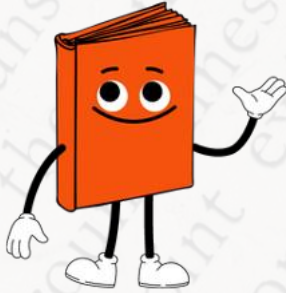
TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS



FOSTER CARE



The books on this list showcase characters who go through foster care experiences.



The Barren Grounds

by David Robertson

Closer to Nowhere

by Ellen Hopkins

Fighting Words

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Free Verse

by Sarah Dooley

Gather

by Kenneth M. Cadow

Greetings from Witness Protection

by Jake Burt

Life in the Passenger Seat

by Amanda Zieba

One for the Murphys

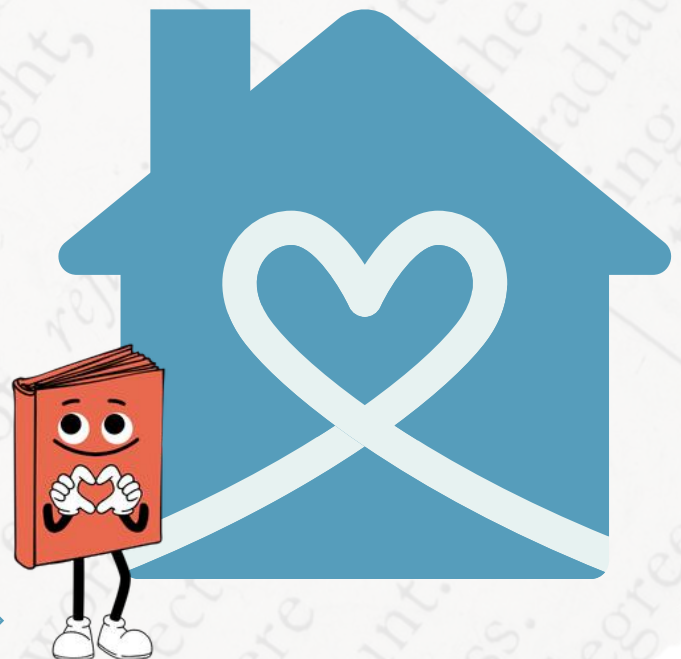
by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

The War That Saved My Life

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

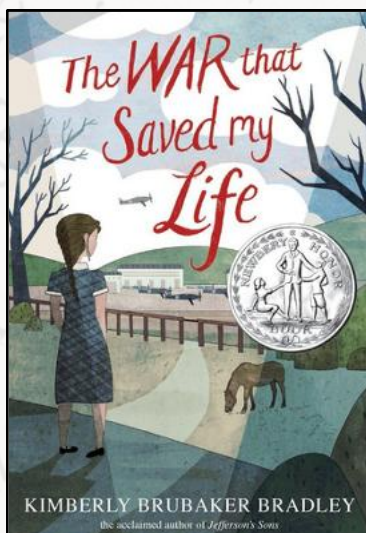
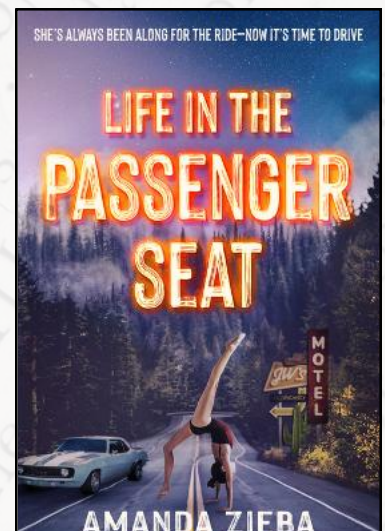
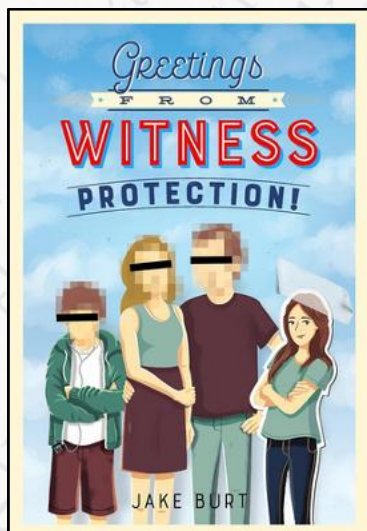
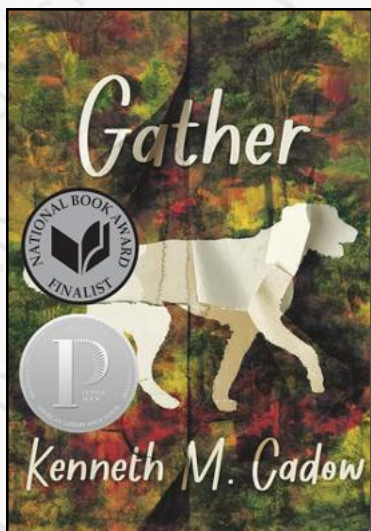
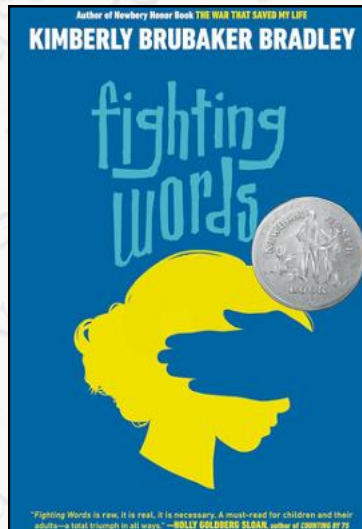
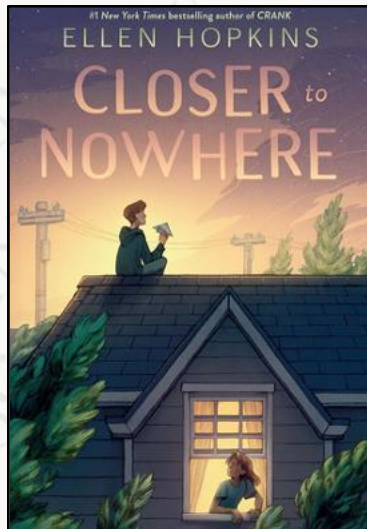
What I Carry

by Jennifer Longo



WNC BOOK LISTS * TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

BOOKS ABOUT: FOSTER CARE



WNC BOOK LISTS * TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS



SPORTS

WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

**WATCH THIS VIDEO FOR A QUICK RUN
DOWN... IN 9 MINUTES STUDENTS CAN LEARN
ABOUT 20 READING RECOMMENDATIONS.**



SPORTS

• • • • • WNC BOOK LIST • • • • •

SPORTS

While each of these books is about sports, they aren't all fun and games! You'll find some serious topics and mysteries, some facts and histories mixed in with the athletic competition.



Becoming Muhammad Ali

by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander (Boxing)

Change the Game by Colin Kaepernick (Football)

Chirp by Kate Messner (Gymnastics)

Chunky by Yehudi Mercado (Many sports)

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander (Basketball)

Dragon Hoops by Gene Luen Yang (Basketball)

Duel by Jessixa Bagley (Fencing)

Free Throws, Friendship and Other Things We Fouled Up

by Jenn Bishop (Basketball)

The Last Shot by John Feinstein (Basketball)

Legacy and the Queen by Kobe Bryant and Annie Matthew (Tennis)

Nikki on the Line by Barabara Carol Roberts (Basketball)

The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen (Track and Field)

Stealing Home by J. Torres (Baseball)

Swim Team by Jonnie Christmas (Swimming)

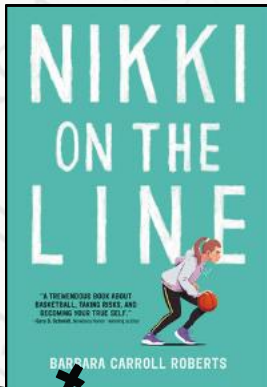
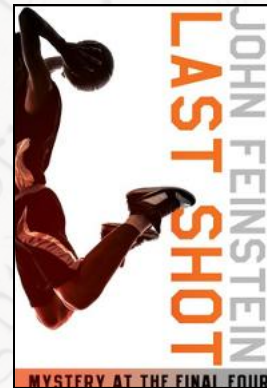
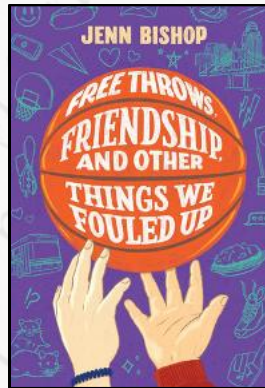
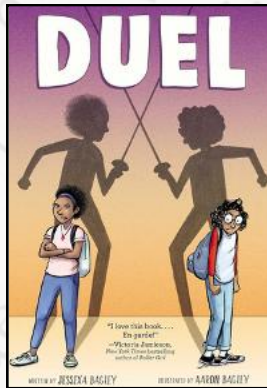
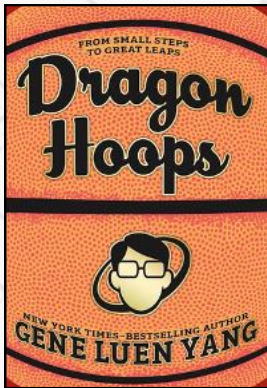
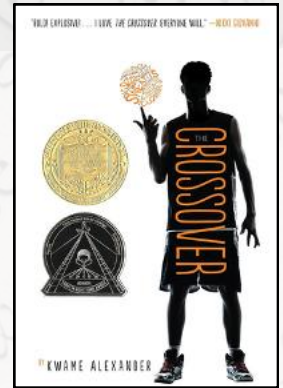
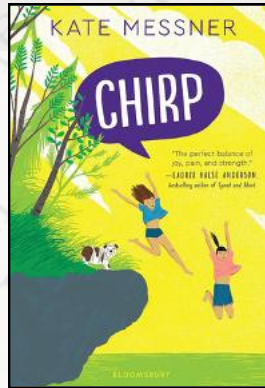
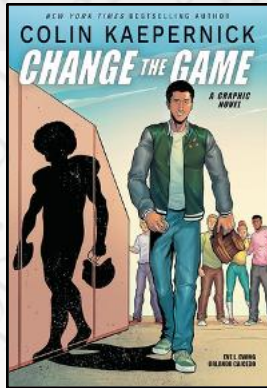
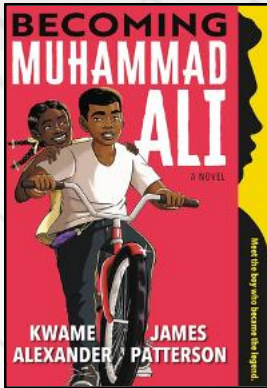
The Tryout by Christina Soontornvat (Cheerleading)

Vanishing Act by John Feinstein (Tennis)



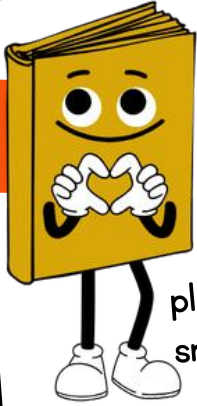
WNC BOOK LISTS * TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

S P O R T S



WNC BOOK LISTS * TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

YOU ARE MAGICAL.



Somewhere between the pumpkins and the parent-teacher conferences, you did it.

You made it through October—messy middle and all.

By now, you've got your "I swear this worked last year" backup plan ready to go. You've seen that quiet student finally crack a smile during a brain break. Maybe you've even caught a kid recommending a book you shared, unprompted, like a tiny little literary miracle. And somewhere along the way, you started calling them "my kids" without even thinking. That's magic.

Not wand-waving, spell-casting magic (though honestly, wouldn't that be nice?), but the real kind. The kind that turns chaos into connection. The kind that helps a hesitant student raise their hand. The kind that transforms that great IDEA for a lesson plans into something that actually sticks.

You don't need potions. You don't need glitter (I promise - it never works out well for you... or the custodian! Just don't, lol!).

This month's ELA Engagement Game Plan was never about doing it all—it was about giving you a few solid, ready-to-use moves that let you spend more time teaching and less time scrambling.

November's coming—with new challenges, but also with new lessons, writing prompts, and yes... definitely a turkey-themed brain break. But for now, take a moment to recognize what you've built so far this school year. Because teacher friend, you're not just doing the work—you're doing it with heart. And that's the real magic.

~ AMANDA