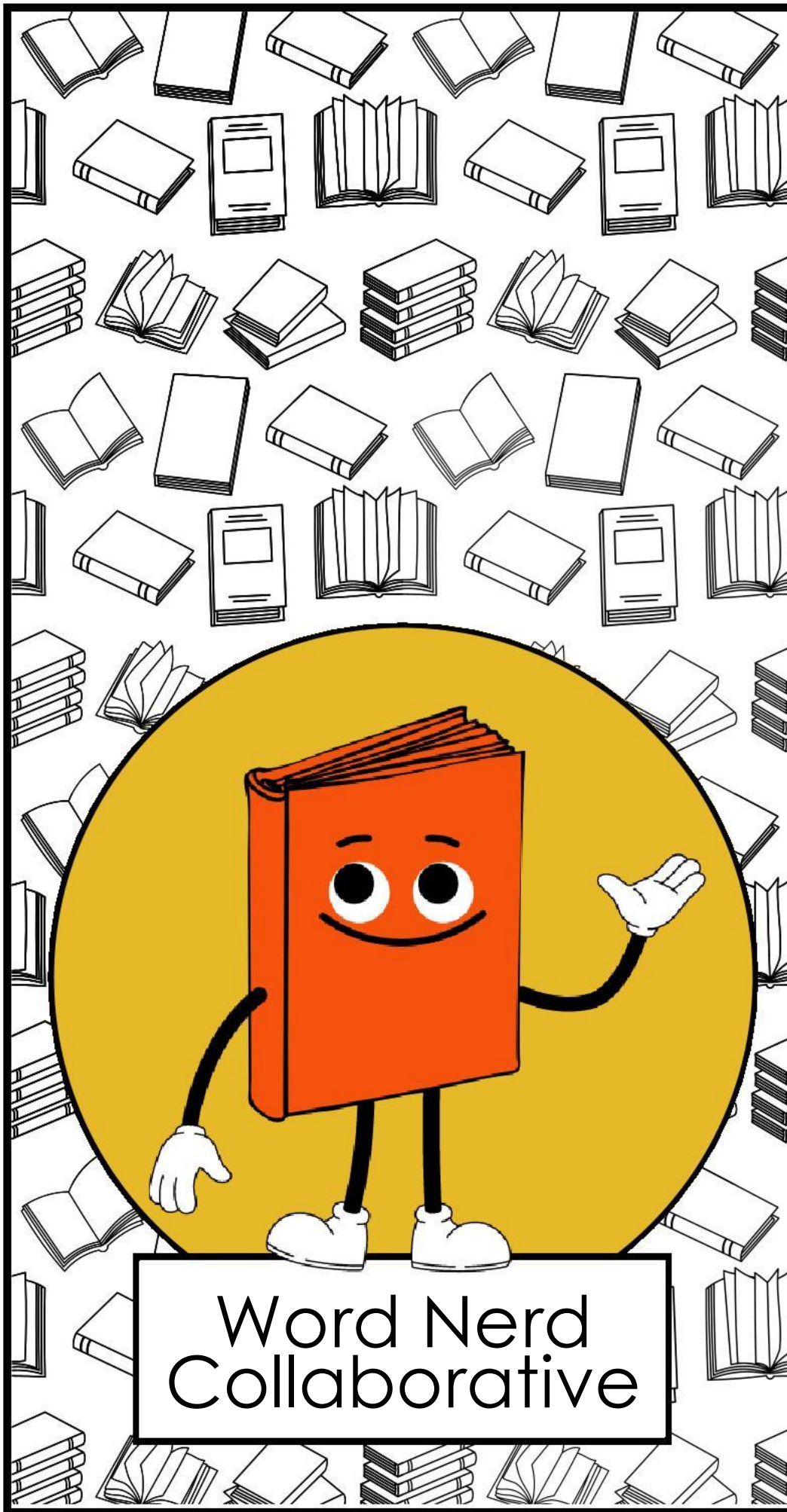
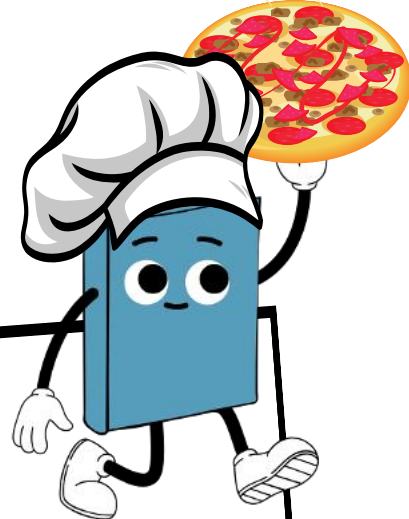




Word Nerd
Collaborative

AUGUST
ELA ENGAGEMENT GAME PLAN

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS



I am not a fancy chef. But give me a fun cooking competition show in the background, a simple recipe to follow, and the right ingredients on the counter, and I can pull together something pretty darn good.

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

Teaching is a lot like that.

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

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

Think of these monthly Engagement Game Plans as your sous-chef and your stack of easy-to-follow recipes. I'm here to hand you a prepped ingredient (a ready-to-use lesson), toss you a time-saving tip (a brain break video or resource you didn't know you needed), and cheer from the sidelines when the pressure is on.

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

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

— AMANDA



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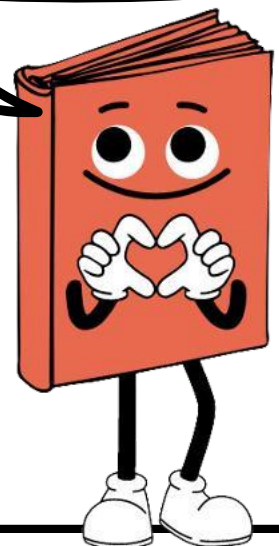
Writing Prompts ... 60

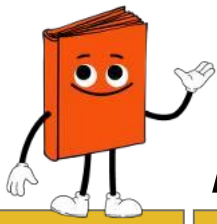
Lessons ... 93

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WATCH A WALK THROUGH
VIDEO OF THIS ELA
ENGAGEMENT PLAN HERE.

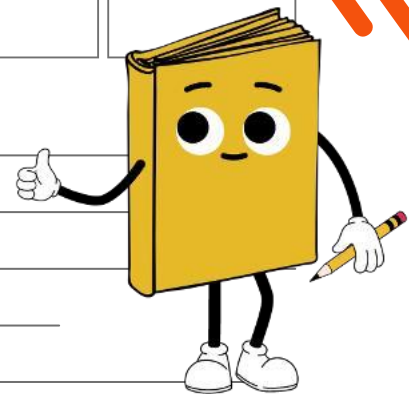




AUGUST

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wednes.	Thurs.	Friday	Satur.

Notes:





FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAYS

Wonder



Wonder
by
RJ Palacio

Realistic
Fiction/Prose

Gamerville

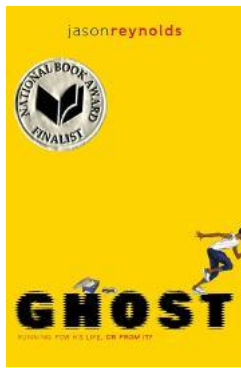


Gamerville
by
Johnnie
Christmas

Realistic Fiction/
Graphic Novel



Ghost



Ghost
by
Jason Reynolds

Realistic Fiction/
Sports Story / Prose

War Games

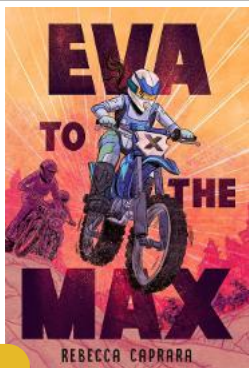


War Games
by
Alan Gratz

Historical
Fiction/Prose



Eva to the Max

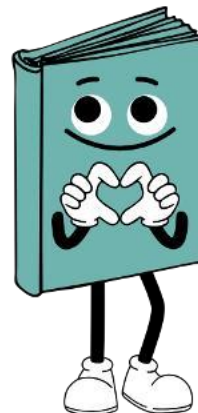


Eva to the Max
by
Rebecca Caprara

Realistic Fiction/
Novel in Verse

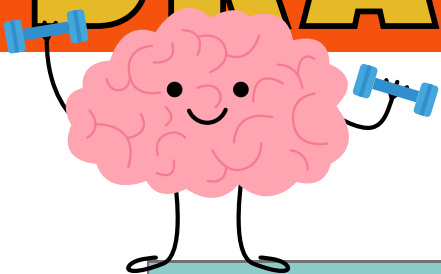


Check out the app for even more reading
recommendations and FCF videos!



Search: WORD NERD DAILY in the app store

BRAIN BREAKS

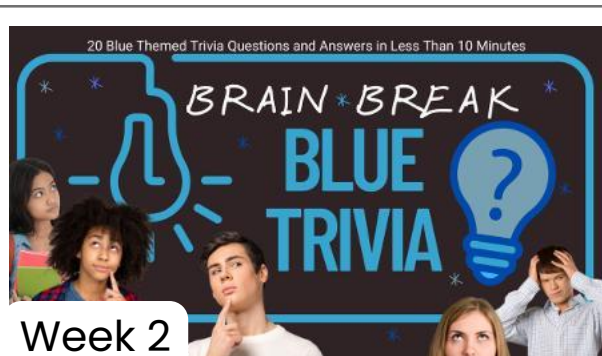


Help your students reset their brains and moods with a little break. Try a fun trivia game! Totally optional, but you can use the LEADERBOARD on page 19 to keep track of student teams and scores throughout the month.

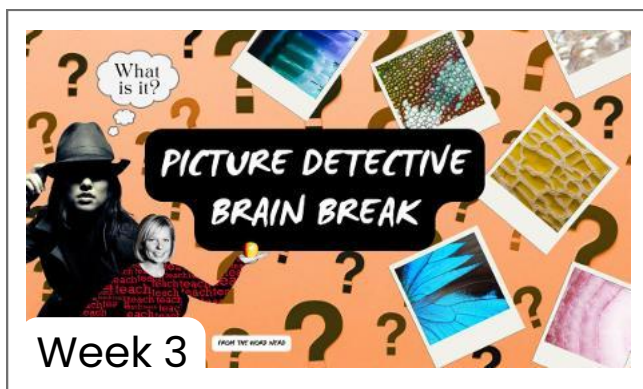
Guess the Logo



Blue Trivia



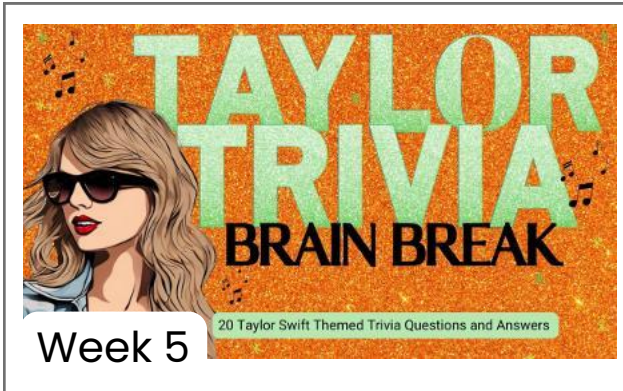
Picture Detective



Animal Name Trivia



Taylor 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
Space Secrets

Tuesday
The Treat Thief

Wednesday
The Locker Lottery

Thursday
The Flawless Plan

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 2

Monday
My Name Is...

Tuesday
Name a Pet

Wednesday
Prank War

Thursday
Time Travel

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 3

Monday
Someone Famous is Coming to Dinner!

Tuesday
I Found a Fairy House

Wednesday
Design a Robot

Thursday
Create a Friend Recipe

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 4

Monday
A Whole New Ending

Tuesday
Step into the Portal

Wednesday
Emotional Armor

Thursday
3 Unknown Facts

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 5

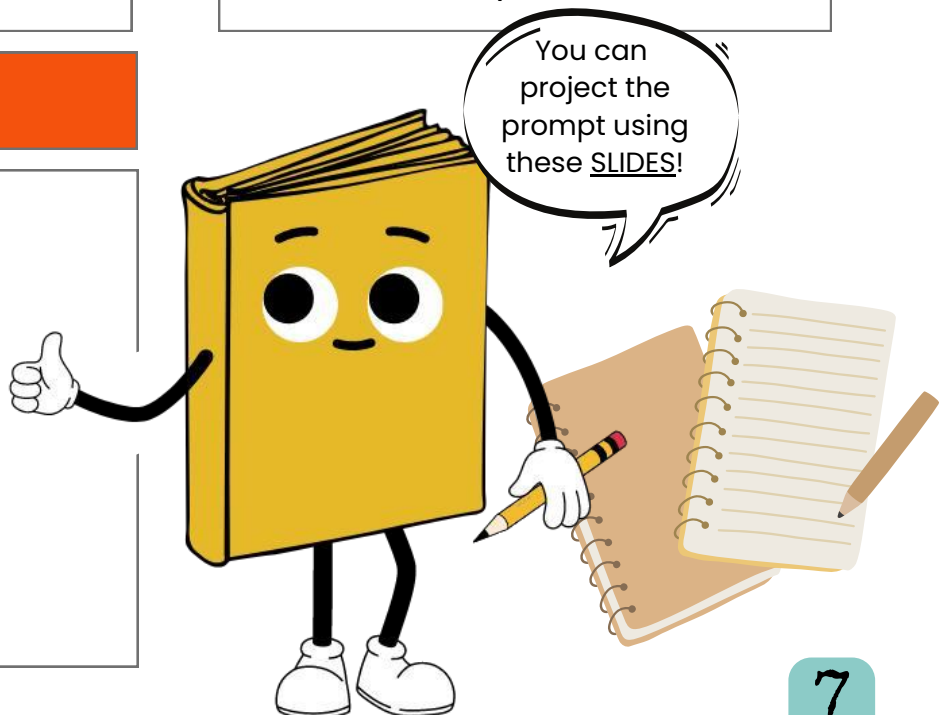
Monday
An Epic Sleepover

Tuesday
A Story in the Sky

Wednesday
A Personal Pep Talk

Thursday
A Birthday Present

Friday
Free Write Friday





LESSONS

AUGUST

1 STORY ELEMENT ROUND UP

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

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

2 GENRE RESOURCES

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

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

3 WOULD YOU RATHER: BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

This no-prep resource includes a series of fun, school-friendly Would You Rather? questions with paired silent movement responses (like "pose like a ballerina or a weightlifter" or "tap your nose or tap your toes"). After the interactive brain break, students choose a prompt and use the included writing organizer to craft a persuasive or argumentative response

STANDARDS: CCSS: W 6.1



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

AUGUST

1 ORIGIN STORY INTRODUCTION

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

2 WHAT SHOULD I READ NEXT? (FLOW CHARTS)

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

3 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PLAYLISTS

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

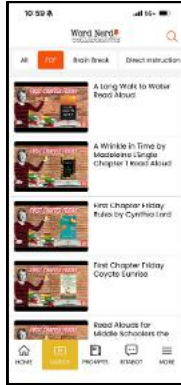
4 GO-TO RECIPES

The most annoying thing to me... is that even when I’m beyond busy... I still need to eat, and so does my family. Here are a few of our favorite, quick and easy go-to meal recipes!

MUST TRY!

Word Nerd Daily

an app from Amanda Zieba



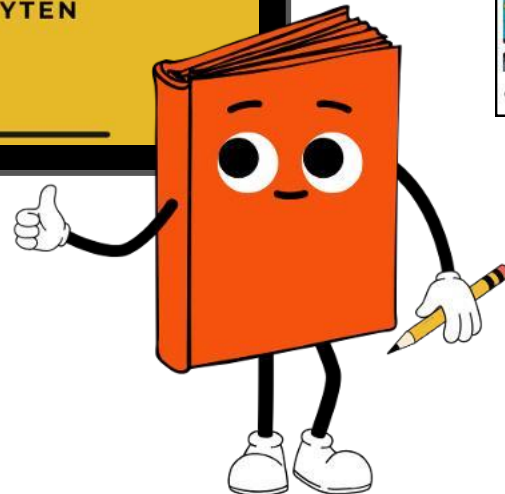
First Chapter
Friday Videos

ChatBot for
Reading Recs and
Lesson Planning



Writing Prompt
Library

Brain Break Videos



AVAILABLE FOR APPLE AND ANDROID DEVICES



AUGUST

11

FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY SELECTIONS

Name _____

Date _____



Wonder

by R.J. Palacio



Read Aloud Video

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

What's It About?

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

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

This book is now also a movie!

Who Wrote It?

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



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

AR Reading Level: 4.8

Lexile Level: 790L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

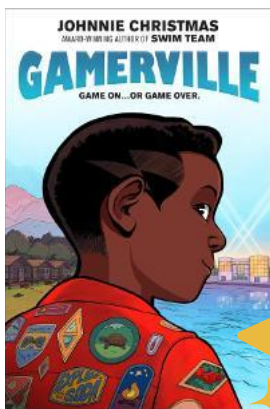
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



Gamerville

by Johnnie Christmas



Read Aloud Video

Includes
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?

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

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

Who Wrote It?

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



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

AR Reading Level: Unavailable

Lexile Level: Unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

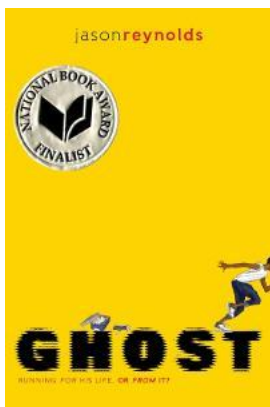


WHAT I THINK





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



Name _____

Date _____

Ghost

by Jason Reynolds



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?

Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves. Running. That's all Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons—it all started with running away from his father, who, when Ghost was a very little boy, chased him and his mother through their apartment, then down the street, with a loaded gun, aiming to kill. Since then, Ghost has been the one causing problems—and running away from them—until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medalist who sees something in Ghost: crazy natural talent. If Ghost can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed, or will his past finally catch up to him?

Who Wrote It?

So, I'm a writer. And when I say I'm a writer, I mean it in the same way a professional ball player calls himself an athlete. I practice everyday and do the best I can to be better at this writing thing, while hopefully bringing some cool stories to the world. The stories are kinda like my slam dunks. Except, I'm dunking words. In your FACE! Ha! I graduated from the University of Maryland. Here's what I know: I know there are a lot of young people who hate reading. I know that many of these book haters are boys. I know that many of these book-hating boys, don't actually hate books, they hate boredom. If you are reading this, and you happen to be one of these boys, first of all... you're reading this so my plan is already working (muaahhaaha!)



Second of all, know that I feel you. I REALLY do. Because even though I'm a writer, I hate reading boring books too.

Learn more about Jason @ www.jasonreynolds.com

AR Reading Level: 4.6

Lexile Level: 730L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

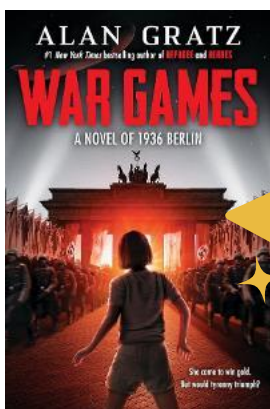
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



War Games

by Alan Gratz



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 1936 Berlin, nothing is what it seems... Evie Harris can't believe her luck: She's competing in the Olympics, along with fellow American athletes like Jesse Owens. True, there's something creepy about Germany's leader, Adolf Hitler, who watches over the games with his Nazi henchmen. But Evie's just here to win a gold medal in gymnastics. Until she discovers a horrible secret. Behind all the Olympic fanfare, the Nazis have Berlin in an iron grip of terror and violence--and war is brewing. When Evie becomes embroiled in a mysterious plot to help steal Nazi gold, she must navigate the city's darkest corners and hidden passageways, never knowing who she can trust. With lives on the line and her family's future at stake, Evie has to choose between following her Olympic dreams and standing up to evil... before it's too late. #1 New York Times bestselling author Alan Gratz is back and better than ever with this heart-racing, plot-twisting story about the roots of World War II and the sacrifices we make for what matters most.

Who Wrote It?

Alan was born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee, home of the 1982 World's Fair. After a carefree but humid childhood, Alan attended the University of Tennessee, where he earned a College Scholars degree with a specialization in creative writing, and, later, a Master's degree in English education. A member of the East Tennessee Writers Hall of Fame, Alan now lives with his family in Portland, Oregon, where he enjoys playing games, eating pizza, and, perhaps not too surprisingly,



reading books. You can learn more about Alan and his work (20 and counting!) at www.alangratz.com

AR Reading Level: 4.9

Lexile Level: N/A

I want to read this book: YES / NO

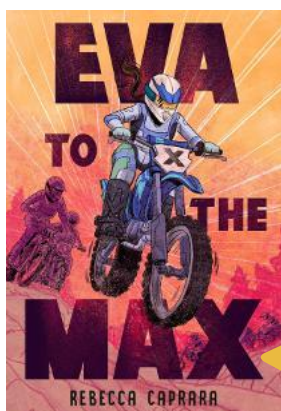
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



Eva to the Max

by Rebecca Caprara

Includes
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?

Motocross is Eva's life. Nothing beats the rush she feels ripping it up on the course—except maybe the moment just after the race when she removes her helmet, and the other riders realize they just got smoked by a twelve-year-old girl.

While fear of bullying leads Eva to keep her passion a secret at school, she's known in the local racing circuit as 'Eva Knievel,' a brazen competitor willing to risk it all to win. But when her daredevil behavior leaves her with a bruised ego and a busted bike, Eva is forced to reckon with the high costs of her beloved sport—financial, physical, and emotional.

As if that reality check weren't harsh enough, there's a new girl at school whose arrival not only threatens Eva's carefully crafted school persona, but her place on the podium, too.

Who Wrote It?

Rebecca Caprara is an author who loves creating stories that make readers laugh, think, and feel deeply. Before becoming a writer, she studied architecture and designed buildings—but eventually traded blueprints for books! Rebecca enjoys writing everything from picture books and poetry to middle grade and young adult novels. She's also an artist who loves to travel and has lived in Italy, Singapore, Canada, and the United States, giving her plenty of adventures to inspire her stories. Today she lives in Massachusetts with her family, where she hosts a book club for young readers at a local bookstore.



Rebecca believes stories can help us better understand ourselves and each other, and she loves visiting schools to encourage young people to read, write, and share their own ideas with the world. Learn more at: www.rebeccacaprara.com/

AR Reading Level: 5.0

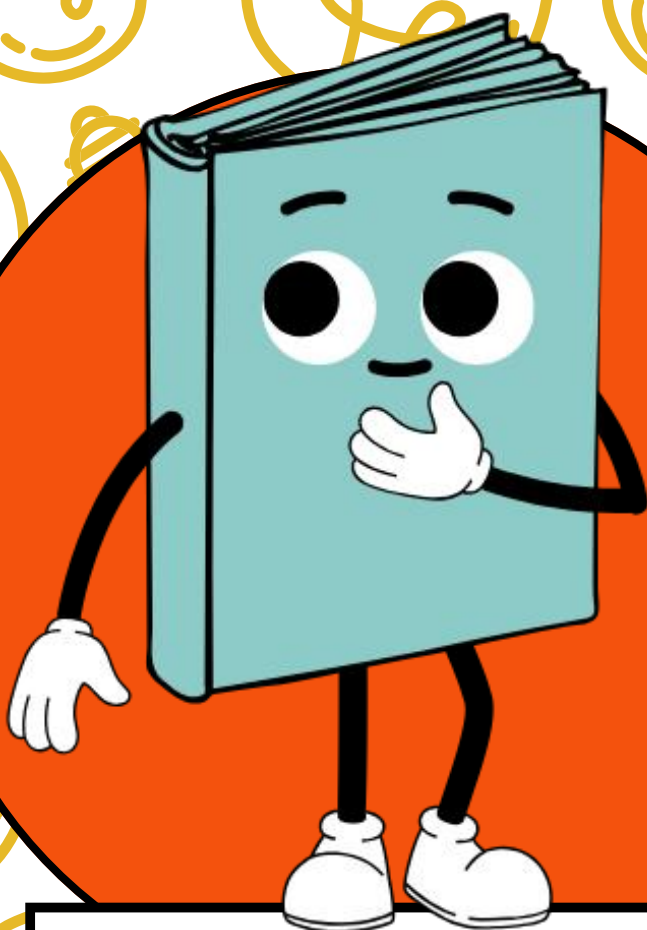
Lexile Level: 690L

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.



AUGUST

17

BRAIN BREAKS

LINKS + ANSWER SHEETS/KEYS

How to do TRIVIA

FOR EACH BRAIN BREAK YOU WILL FIND:

1. Link to the YouTube video version (all around 8-11 minutes)
2. Student answer sheets
3. Modified student answer sheets for students of different ages/abilities
4. Printable question and answer sheets (to use with or without the video)
5. Answer key
6. List of additional considerations, applications and implementation ideas
7. ALL SORTS OF FUN!! :)

DIRECTIONS

1. Play the video showcasing 20-30 themed trivia questions.
2. Using the the provided printable worksheets, or scratch paper, have students record their guesses.
3. During the answer portion of the slideshow/video pause to allow students to share out or discuss their ideas/guesses with the whole class, in small groups or in partnerships.
 - a. This step is optional, but I find that if you want to get your students talking, it works great. If you need a few minutes of silence... you can ban conversation and it works just fine that way too!
4. Reveal final answers.
5. Total up scores
6. Record scores on the leaderboard (page 18)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/IDEAS

1. This activity can be used as a brain break, ice breaker or fun game.
2. In my classes we keep our teams the same for an entire quarter. We have a "leader board" where we keep a running score for all of our brain break games. This is great for team building or creating comradery in a classroom learning environment. :)
3. You can assign this to individuals (ie: in Google Classroom) to do on their own, or complete the challenge as a whole class activity using a screen and projector.
4. This activity can work well in person or via distanced learning.
5. Because the videos are on YouTube, this is an activity that students can easily try/repeat at home with family members. :)
6. Consider letting a classroom helper or leader be the "game show host" and call on classmates to share their ideas and reveal the answers.

Tired of the same old Brain Breaks? I've got you covered.



August Brain Break LEADERBOARD

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

TEAM #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 or QR code to access the video for this activity. Click the title, image or link to get to the video!

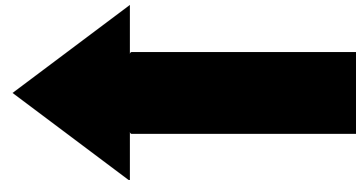
GUESS THE LOGO TRIVIA



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



Trivia
Video





Guess the Logo Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

Name/Team Name: _____

Round 1

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

Round 2

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

Round 3

21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____
26. _____
27. _____
28. _____
29. _____
30. _____



Trivia
Video

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



Guess the Logo Trivia Game



Trivia
Video

Name: _____



1 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



2 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



3 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



4 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



5 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



6 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



7 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



8 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



9 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



10 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____

Score for this page: __/10



Guess the Logo Trivia Game



Trivia
Video

Name: _____



11 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



12 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



13 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



14 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



15 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



16 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



17 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



18 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



19 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



20 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____

Score for this page: ___/10



Guess the Logo Trivia Game



Trivia
Video

Name: _____



21 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



22 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



23 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



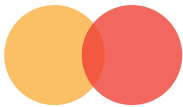
24 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



25 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



26 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



27 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



28 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



29 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____



30 What company is represented by this logo?

Answer: _____

Total Score: ____/30

Score for this page: ____/10



Guess the Logo Trivia Answer Key

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

Name/Team Name: _____

Round 1

1. Taco Bell
2. Walmart
3. YouTube
4. Batman
5. Olympics
6. Target
7. Starbucks
8. Instagram
9. McDonald's
10. Nike

Round 2

11. Pizza Hut
12. Microsoft
13. Monster
14. NBA (National Basketball Association)
15. Playstation
16. Pringles
17. New Orleans Saints (NFL)
18. Pepsi
19. Gatorade
20. Golden State Warriors (NBA)

Round 3

21. Tesla
22. LG (Life's Good)
23. Goodyear
24. Adidas
25. PBS (Public Broadcasting System)
26. Mastercard
27. Expedia
28. World Wildlife Fund
29. Unilever
30. Rolex

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



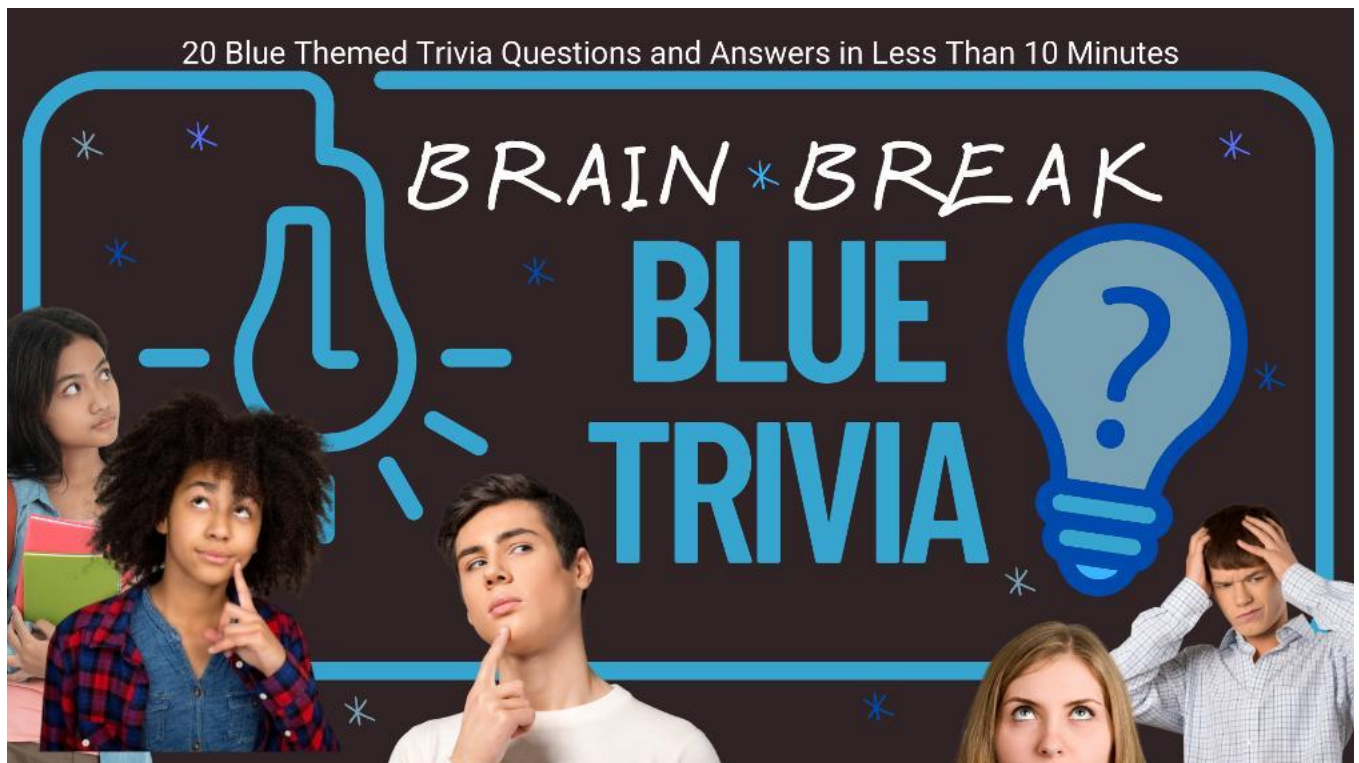
Trivia
Video



Trivia Game Video Link

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

BLUE TRIVIA BRAIN BREAK GAME



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



Trivia
Video

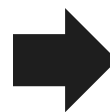




Blue Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

Trivia
Video



Name/Team Name: _____

1. _____

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 Picasso
when it comes to BLUE TRIVIA?!?!



Blue Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for
each question below.

Trivia
Video



Name/Team Name: _____

1: A B C D

11. yogurt or blue cheese

2: A B C D

12: True or False

3: A B C D

13: A B C D

4: A B C D

14: Jazz or Beat

5: A B C D

15: A B C D

6: A B C D

16: A B C D

7: good time or blue moon

17: Blue Gill or Blue Fish

8: True or False

18: A B C D

9: A B C D

19: A B C D

10: Blue Whale or Blue Rhino

20: A B C D

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



Score: ____/20

The Word Nerd Collaborative



Blue Trivia Brain Break Game

Name: _____

Trivia
Video



1 Name the leader of this blue skinned cartoon troop.

- a) Papa Smurf
- b) Dada Smurf
- c) Poppy Smurf
- d) Grampa Smurf



2 What type of animal is Paul Bunyan's faithful companion?

- a) Babe the Big Blue Bison
- b) Babe the Big Blue Baboon
- c) Babe the Big Blue Ox
- d) Babe the Big Blue Buffalo

3 The State flower of Texas is called the blue _____.

- a) lilac
- b) berry
- c) bell
- d) bonnet

4 How many white dots can be seen on the blue dice?

- a) 11
- b) 18
- c) 7
- d) 45



5 In the movie Avatar, where do the blue skinned people live?

- a) Pangea
- b) Middle Earth
- c) Pandora
- d) Animal Kingdom

6 The famous blue lagoon is located in which island country?

- a) Norway
- b) Iceland
- c) Greenland
- d) Sweden



7 If something happens rarely, it is said it happens once in a ...

— — — — —

8 True or False: Blueberries protect against memory loss.

- a) True
- b) False

9 Which country considers blue bad luck?

- a) India
- b) Japan
- c) Argentina
- d) Norway

10 Which animal is the largest on earth, weighing in at over 441,000 pounds, with a tongue heavier than an elephant?

— — — — —



Blue Trivia Brain Break Game

Name: _____

Trivia
Video



- 11** What dairy product is used to make this popular salad topper?

Blue

— — — — —



- 12** True or False: Blue is the rarest eye color.

- a) True
- b) False

- 13** Which is the only bird that can see the color blue?

- a) Ostrich
- b) Penguin
- c) Sparrow
- d) Owl

- 14** What is another name for the music style called "the blues"?

— — — —

- 15** The Blue Angels' planes are called...

- a) Torpedoes
- b) Blue Jackets
- c) Hornets
- d) Wizards

- 16** How many wishes does a genie grant the holder of the lamp?

- a) two
- b) infinity
- c) zero
- d) three

- 17** What is the name of this fish?

Blue _ _ _ _



- 18** Which country has a flag that is half blue and half yellow?

- a) Uzbekistan
- b) Uruguay
- c) Ukraine
- d) Uganda

- 19** Which American political party is represented by the color blue?

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

- 20** Which civilization was the first to create the color blue?

- a) Chinese
- b) Egyptian
- c) Roman
- d) Aztec

Score: __/20



Blue Trivia AnswerKey

Directions:

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

Trivia
Video



ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. A) Papa Smurf | 11. Cheese |
| 2. C) Babe the Blue Ox | 12. True |
| 3. D) Bonnet | 13. D) Owl |
| 4. B) 18 | 14. Jazz |
| 5. C) Pandora | 15. C) Hornets |
| 6. B) Iceland | 16. D) three |
| 7. blue moon | 17. Gill |
| 8. A) True | 18. C) Ukraine |
| 9. A) India | 19. B) Democratic |
| 10. Blue Whale | 20. B) Egyptian |

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

PICTURE DETECTIVE

BRAIN BREAK



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



PICTURE DETECTIVE

BRAIN BREAK



INCLUDED IN THIS RESOURCE

- 1 Canva Slide Show including all four rounds of the brain break/ice breaker/game
- Link to the YouTube video version of the game (all 4 rounds in one video). Link: <https://youtu.be/wmbuIETuXfY>
- Student answer sheets
- Modified student answer sheets for students of different ages/abilities
- Printable answer sheets to use with or w/o the video
- Answer keys
- List of additional considerations, applications and implementation ideas
- ALL SORTS OF FUN!! :)

**UPDATED
AS OF
AUGUST
2024!!!**



BRAIN BREAK



TIRED OF THE SAME OLD BRAIN BREAKS? I'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

DIRECTIONS

1. For each round, play the slideshow or video showcasing 10 super close up images of everyday objects.
2. Using the the provided printable worksheets, or scratch paper, have students record their guesses.
3. During the answer portion of the slideshow/video pause to allow students to share out or discuss their ideas/guesses with the whole class, in small groups or partnerships. (This step is optional, but I find that if you want to get your students talking, it works great. If you need 6 minutes of silence... you can ban conversation and it works just fine that way too!)
4. Reveal final answers.



BRAIN BREAK



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. This activity can be used as a brain break, ice breaker or fun game.
2. In the video, each image initially shows for 10 seconds.
3. If you are in a writing unit that requires thesis statements and evidence, you could have student work to verbally support their ideas/guesses using a similar format. (I believe the object is ____ based on ____, ____ and ____.)
4. This activity can work well in person or via distanced learning.
5. Because the videos are on YouTube, this is an activity that students can easily try at home with family members. :)
6. Modified answer guessing sheets available for younger students or those with differing abilities.
7. Printable answer sheets that you can use with or without the video are included as well.
8. Consider letting a classroom helper or leader be the "game show host" and click through the slides/press play & pause, and call on classmates to share their ideas and reveal the answers.
9. In my classes we keep our teams the same for an entire quarter and have a "leader board" where we keep a running score for all of our brain break games. This is great for team building or creating comradery in a classroom learning environment. :)



Picture Detective Links

Use the below links to access this activity in a variety of ways.



PICTURE DETECTIVE CANVA SLIDES

This link will take you to a single Canva Slides show that contains all four rounds of the game.



YOUTUBE VIDEO



Find more activities like this at:
www.wordnerdcollaborative.com



Round 1 Answer Sheet

What everyday item is pictured
in each close up photograph?

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



Round 1 Answer Sheet

What everyday item is pictured
in each close up photograph?

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

MODIFIED ANSWER SHEET



Round 1 Answer Sheet

What everyday item is pictured
in each close up photograph?

1. snake skin or butterfly wing
2. strawberry or ladybug shell
3. toothbrush or rug
4. planet in space or egg
5. apple stem or cinnamon stick
6. cereal (corn flakes) or scab
7. polluted lake or cup of coffee
8. flower petal or onion
9. soap foam or cloud
10. crocodile or algae (weeds)



Round 1 Answer Sheet

What everyday item is pictured
in each close up photograph?

1. snake skin or butterfly wing
2. strawberry or ladybug shell
3. toothbrush or rug
4. planet in space or egg
5. apple stem or cinnamon stick
6. cereal (corn flakes) or scab
7. polluted lake or cup of coffee
8. flower petal or onion
9. soap foam or cloud
10. crocodile or algae (weeds)

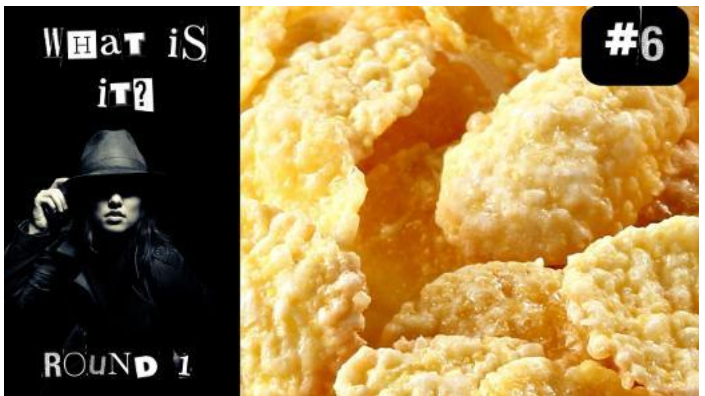


Video



Picture Detective Round #1

Name: _____





Video



Picture Detective Round #1

Name: _____



Record Your Answers Here:

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

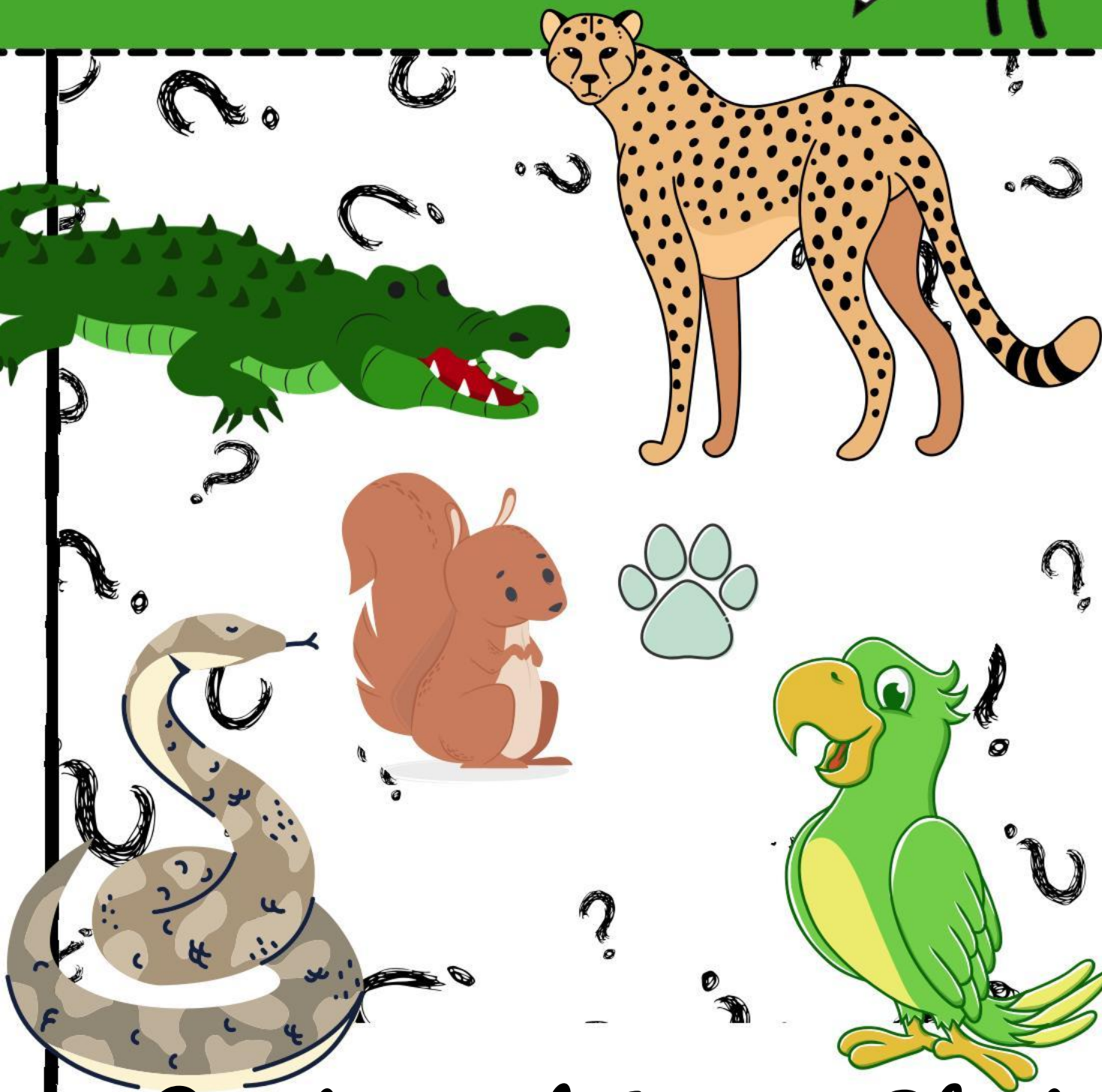
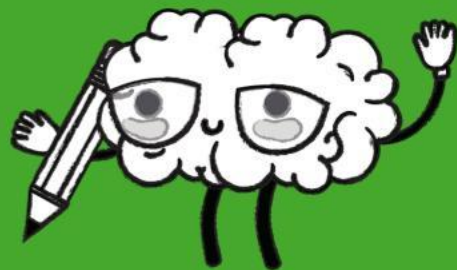


Round 1 Answer Sheet

What everyday item is pictured in each close up photograph?

1. Butterfly Wing
2. Strawberry
3. Toothbrush
4. Egg
5. Apple Stem
6. Cereal (Corn Flakes)
7. Cup of Coffee
8. Onion
9. Soap Foam
10. Crocodile

ANIMAL GROUP NAMES TRIVIA



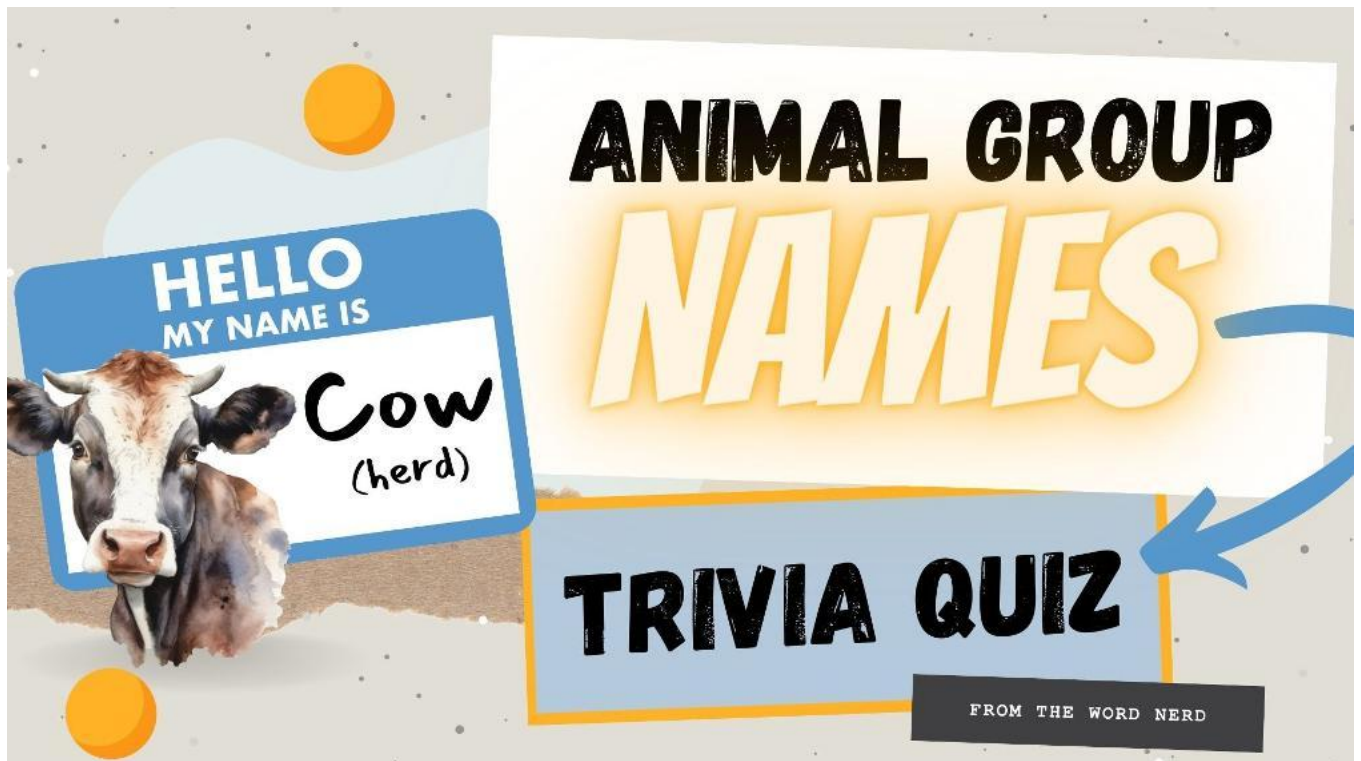
Question and Answer Sheets



Trivia Game Video Link

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

ANIMAL GROUP NAME TRIVIA VIDEO



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

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



Animal Group Name Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

Name/Team Name: _____

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 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 an expert when it comes to
Animal Group Names?



Animal Group Name Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

Name/Team Name: _____

1: A B C D

11: A B C D

2: A B C D

12: A B C D

3: A B C D

13: A B C D

4: A B C D

14: A B C D

5: A B C D

15: A B C D

6: A B C D

16: A B C D

7: A B C D

17: A B C D

8: A B C D

18: A B C D

9: A B C D

19: A B C D

10: A B C D

20: A B C D



Animal Group Name Trivia Game



Trivia
Video

Name: _____

1 A group of ELEPHANTS is called a

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

2 A group of CAMELS is called a

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

3 A group of GORILLAS is called a

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

4 A group of HORSES is called a

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

5 A Group of KANGAROOS is called a

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

6 A Group of BUFFALO is called a

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

7 A group of JAGUARS is called a

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

8 A group of BEAVERS is called a

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

9 A group of FROGS is called a

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

10 A group of OWLS is called a

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



Animal Group Name Trivia Game



Trivia
Video

Name: _____

11 A group of PARROTS is called a

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

12 A group of PORCUPINES is called a

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

13 A group of COBRAS is called a

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

14 A group of WOMBATS is called a

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

15 A Group of WASPS is called a

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

16 A Group of CHEETAHS is called a

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

17 A group of STINGRAYS is called a

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

18 A group of EMUS is called a

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

19 A group of GIRAFFES is called a

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

20 A group of SQUIRRELS is called a

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



Animal Group Names Trivia Answer Key

Directions:

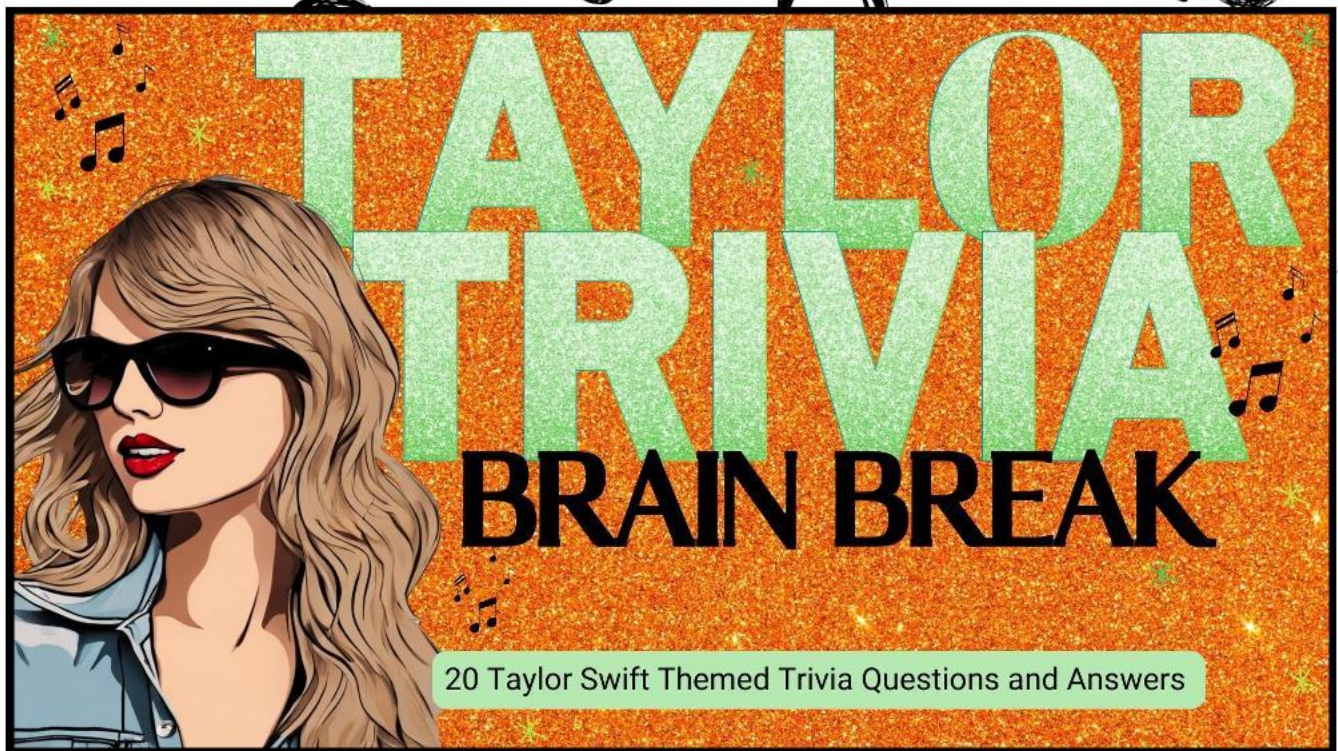
If you'd like to check
student answers without
the video, here is the
answer key.

ANSWER KEY

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

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

TAYLOR SWIFT TRIVIA



Question and Answer Sheets

TAYLOR SWIFT TRIVIA



INCLUDED IN THIS RESOURCE

- [Link](#) to the Taylor Trivia YouTube video quiz game (20 questions)
- Student answer sheets
- Modified student answer sheets for students of different ages/abilities
- Printable question and answer sheets (to use with or without the video)
- One page nonfiction reading sheet (Optional to practice revision/test taking skills)
- Answer key
- List of additional considerations, applications and implementation ideas
- ALL SORTS OF FUN!! :)



TAYLOR SWIFT TRIVIA



TIRED OF THE SAME OLD BRAIN BREAKS?
I'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

DIRECTIONS

1. Play the video showcasing 20 themed trivia questions.
2. Using the the provided printable worksheets, or scratch paper, have students record their guesses.
3. During the answer portion of the slideshow/video pause to allow students to share out or discuss their ideas/guesses with the whole class, in small groups or in partnerships.
 - a. This step is optional, but I find that if you want to get your students talking, it works great. If you need a few minutes of silence... you can ban conversation and it works just fine that way too!
4. Reveal final answers.
5. Total up scores

Alternative Activity:

Play the first half of the trivia video game and have students make their guesses. Then, before showing the answers, ask them to read the nonfiction one pager and make revisions with the new information they learned. Then, reveal the correct answers.

** For your planning purposes, this trivia video is 9 minutes long.



TAYLOR SWIFT TRIVIA



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/IDEAS

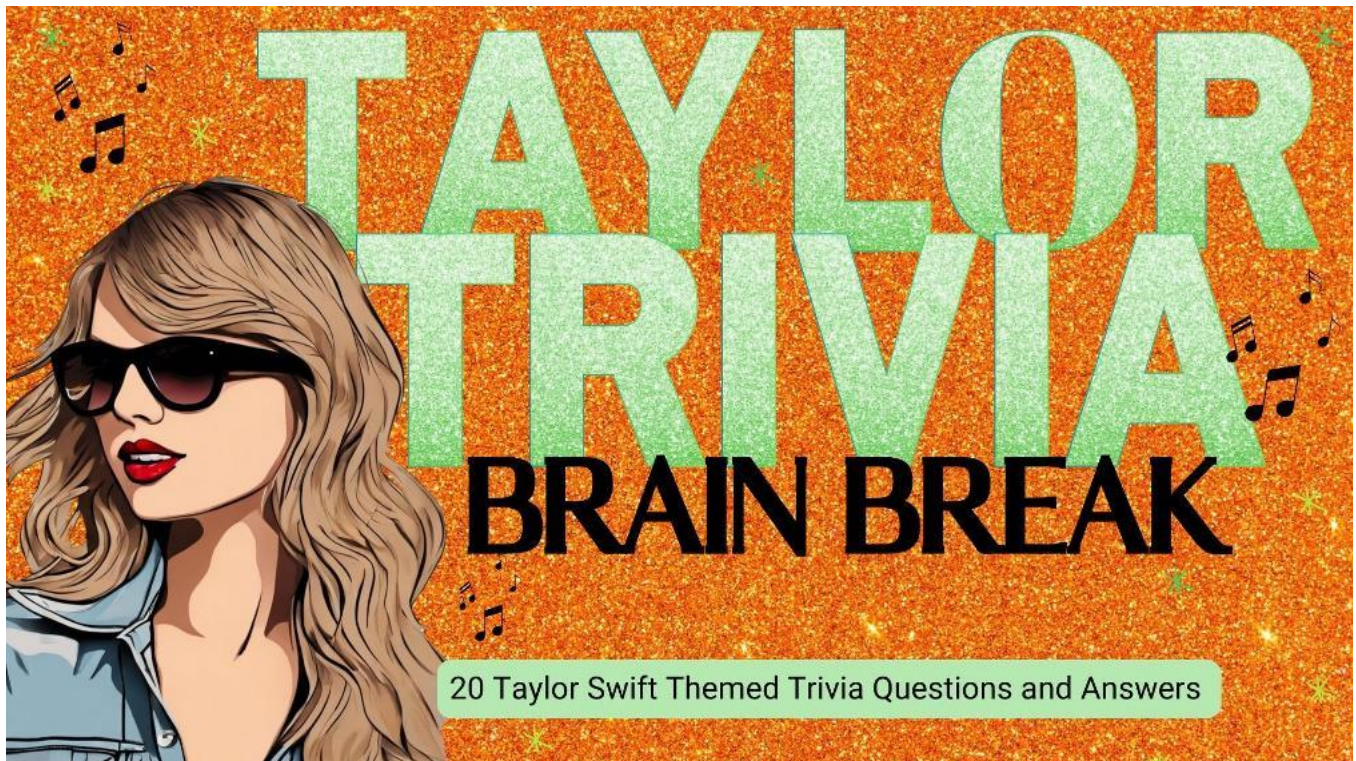
1. This activity can be used as a brain break, ice breaker or fun game.
 - a. In my classes we keep our teams the same for an entire quarter. We have a "leader board" where we keep a running score for all of our brain break games. This is great for team building or creating comradery in a classroom learning environment. :)
2. You can assign this to individuals (ie: in Google Classroom) to do on their own, or complete the challenge as a whole class activity using a screen and projector.
3. This activity can work well in person or via distanced learning.
4. Because the videos are on YouTube, this is an activity that students can easily try/repeat at home with family members. :)
5. Consider letting a classroom helper or leader be the "game show host" and call on classmates to share their ideas and reveal the answers.



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!

TAYLOR TRIVIA VIDEO



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

[https://youtu.be/CHX0fpnVGf4?
sub_confirmation=1](https://youtu.be/CHX0fpnVGf4?sub_confirmation=1)

All content creation done by Amanda Zieba using Canva and Clip Art purchased from Etsy (TheCraftyElfStore & Purfectlycozypngs).

Song Credit: Suno Pro + Amanda Zieba

AI Transparency: ChatGPT was used to help research questions/answers, clarify question phrasing, and write summary bio.



Taylor Swift - A Brief Bio

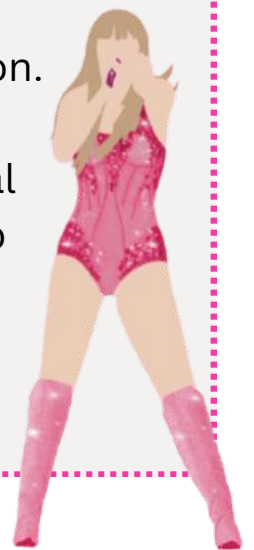
Taylor Swift is one of the most famous singers and songwriters in the world. She was born on December 13, 1989, in Pennsylvania, where she grew up on a Christmas tree farm. From the time she was young, Taylor loved writing and music. Her grandmother was an opera singer, and Taylor herself was named after the musician James Taylor. She even has a family connection to the famous poet Emily Dickinson—they are distant cousins!

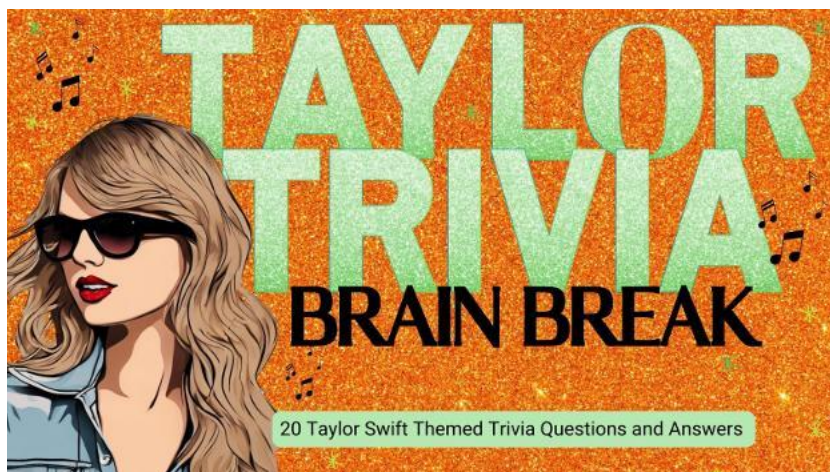
Taylor's big break came in country music, but she quickly grew into a pop superstar. She has released many albums, including *Fearless*, 1989, *Reputation*, *Lover*, and *Midnights*. As of 2024, her music has won her 14 Grammy Awards, including four Album of the Year wins—more than any other artist. She also holds over 100 Guinness World Records and has sold more than 600 million albums worldwide. Some of her songs even include her own heartbeat as part of the music, like *Wildest Dreams* and *You're Losing Me*.

Fans know Taylor for her catchy songs, emotional lyrics, and amazing concerts. She is also famous for hosting Secret Sessions—special parties where a small group of fans got to hear her albums before they were released.

Outside of music, Taylor has acted in a few movies, including *Valentine's Day* and *Cats*. In *Cats*, she played the character Bombalurina and even co-wrote a song called *Beautiful Ghosts*. She is also known for her three cats: Meredith Grey, Olivia Benson, and Benjamin Button.

Taylor Swift has become more than just a singer—she is a cultural icon. She inspires fans with her creativity, kindness, and ability to reinvent herself again and again. From writing hit songs to breaking records, Taylor Swift continues to be one of the most important artists of her generation.





Taylor Swift Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

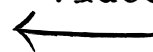
Name/Team Name: _____

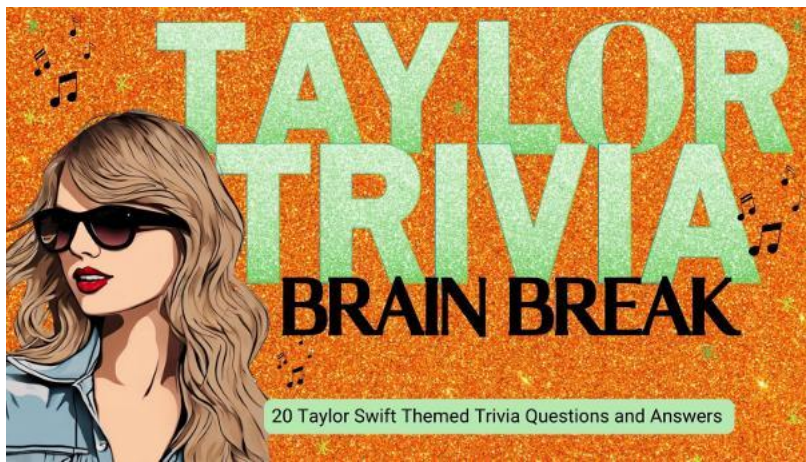
- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ |

Are you a Taylor Trivia Rockstar?



Trivia
Video





Taylor Swift 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. True or False
13. A B C D
14. A B C D
15. A B C D
16. A B C D
17. G_____ P_____ B_____ U_____
18. A B C D
19. A B C D
20. A B C D

Score:

____/ 20



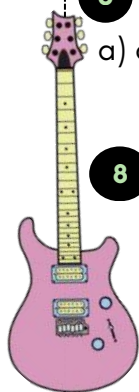
Trivia
Video

Taylor Trivia



Are you a Taylor Trivia Rockstar?
Take this Trivia quiz and find out!

- 1 **What year was Taylor born? (Hint, it's the name of one of her albums!)**
a) 1982 b) 1989 c) 1991 d) 1998
- 2 **Who did Taylor's parents name her after? (Hint, it is another singer/songwriter!)**
a) James Taylor
b) Roger Meddows Taylor (Queen)
c) Chip Taylor
d) Andy Taylor (Duran Duran)
- 3 **On what kind of farm did Taylor grow up?**
a) Dairy Farm
b) Livestock Ranch
c) Christmas Tree Farm
d) Wild Flower Farm
- 4 **How many feature-length movies include Taylor Swift in an acting role (not as herself)?**
a) 2
b) 3
c) 4
d) 5
- 5 **As a child, what was Taylor's first CD purchase?**
a) Ace of Base - The Sign b) LeAnn Rimes - Blue
c) Mariah Carey - Daydream d) Whitney Houston - The Bodyguard
- 6 **What was Taylor's debut (first) ERA?**
a) country b) folk c) pop d) theatrical
- 7 **Taylor is a "pet-mom" to what kind of animal?**
a) dog b) duck c) cat d) pig
- 8 **For which accomplishment does Taylor Swift hold a Guinness World Record?**
a) Most listens on Spotify
b) First act to occupy the entire Top 10 on the Billboard Hot 100
c) Highest grossing music tour
d) All of the Above
- 9 **What is Taylor Swift's middle name?**
a) Lynn b) Jo c) Marie d) Alison
- 10 **In 2008, what milestone event did Taylor skip in order to attend the Grammy's for her first time?**
a) Her 18th birthday party b) Her senior prom
c) Her high school graduation d) None of the above



11 What is the name of Taylor Swift's Netflix documentary? (Released in 2020)

- a) Miss Americana b) Radio Princess
c) Country Roots d) Tear Drops On My Guitar

12 True or False: Taylor Swift launched a perfume called Wonderstruck.

- a) True b) False

13 What day of the month is Taylor's birthday on? (Hint, it's also her favorite number!)

- a) 03 b) 13 c) 23 d) 30



14 Taylor Swift hosted top-secret listening parties for 1989, Reputation, and Lover where fans got to hear the songs before anyone else. What were these exclusive events called?

- a) Pre-Release Parties b) Secret Sessions c) Swiftie Sessions d) Taylor's Vault Time

15 Taylor has double jointed -

- a) Thumbs b) Shoulders c) Elbows d) Knees

16 What 2 Taylor Swift album covers use black and white photography? (Choose 2)

- a) Reputation
b) Evermore
c) Fearless
d) Folklore

17 Taylor Swift is known to be able to play what 4 instruments?

G_____ P_____ B_____ U_____

18 What unique sound did Taylor Swift record and layer into the tracks Wildest Dreams and You're Losing Me?

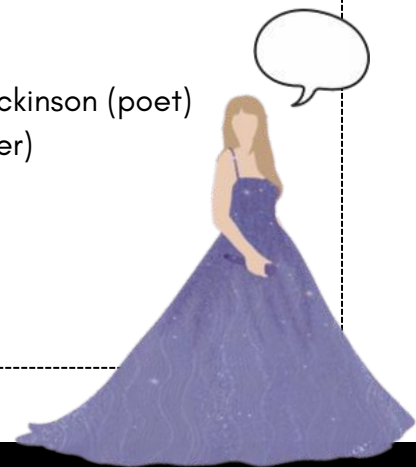
- a) Meows from her cats b) Footsteps c) Whispered secret messages d) Her own heartbeats

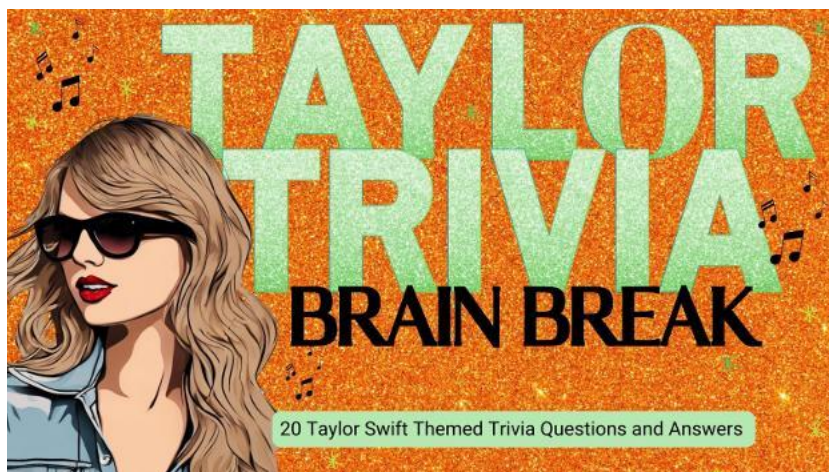
19 Taylor Swift has two famous relatives in her family tree—one from literature and one from music. Who are they? (choose 2)

- a) Louisa May Alcott (writer) b) Aretha Franklin (singer) c) Emily Dickinson (poet)
d) Dolly Parton (singer/philanthropist) e) Judy Garland (actress/singer)
f) Marjorie Finlay (an opera singer)

20 What year was Taylor Swift Time Magazine's Person of the Year?

- a) 2009 b) 2016 c) 2021 d) 2023





Taylor Swift Trivia Answer Key

Directions:

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

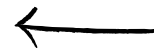
ANSWER KEY

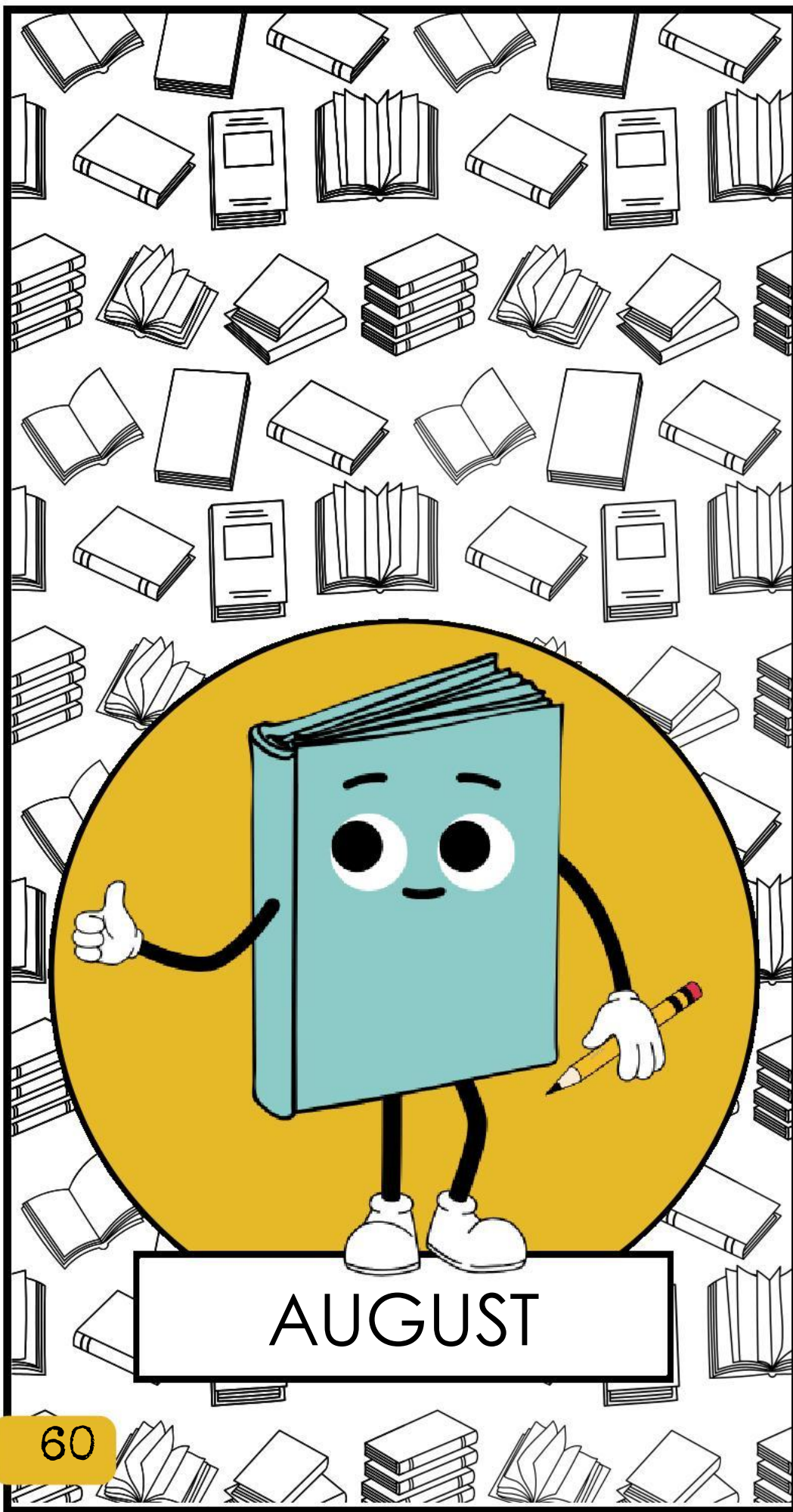
- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. B) 1989 | 11. A) Miss Americana |
| 2. A) James Taylor | 12. True |
| 3. C) Christmas Tree Farm | 13. B) 13 |
| 4. D) 5 | 14. B) Secret Sessions |
| 5. B) LeAnn Rimes - Blue | 15. C) Elbows |
| 6. A) Country | 16. A) Reputation D) Folklore |
| 7. C) Cat | 17. Guitar, Piano, Banjo, Ukulele |
| 8. D) All of the Above | 18. D) Her own heartbeats |
| 9. D) Alison | 19. C) Emily Dickinson
F) Marjorie Finlay |
| 10. B) Her Senior Prom | 20. D) 2023 |

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



Trivia
Video





AUGUST

WRITING PROMPTS



HOW TO USE THE WRITING PROMPTS

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

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

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

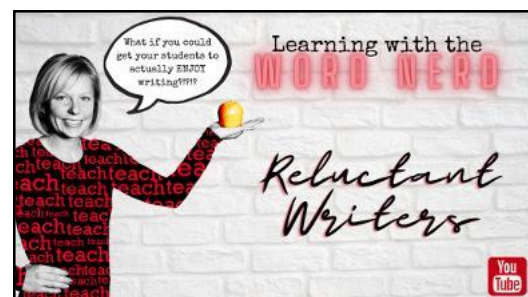
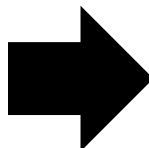
If you want, keep these “curriculum and standard” pieces of information to yourself, go for it! There is no need to let the kids know we have a secret plan to trick them into being better writers and hating it a little bit less each day!

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

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

Happy Writing!

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



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




MULTI-USE FORMS

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

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

Free Write Friday

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

Choice B:
Write about a topic of your choice.





GEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES



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

Title of Piece/Date Written: _____



GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITERS 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:



GEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

My Name:

Name of classmate I am reviewing:

Date:



GEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

My Name:

Name of classmate I am reviewing:

Date:

Title of Piece/Date Written



GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITERS DOES WELL

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•

OPPORTUNITIES



LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE

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FINAL COMMENTS

WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:

Title of Piece/Date Written



GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITERS DOES WELL

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OPPORTUNITIES



LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE

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FINAL COMMENTS

WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:



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

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

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

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

Total Points = ____/10

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

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

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

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

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

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

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

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS

Week 1

Monday

Space Secrets

Style/Skills:
Narrative Writing
Suspense

Genre:
Science Fiction

Tuesday

The Treat Thief

Style/Skills:
POV
Chronological Plotting

Genre: Mystery

Wednesday

The Locker Lottery

Style/Skills:
Narrative Writing

Genre:
Realistic Fiction

Thursday

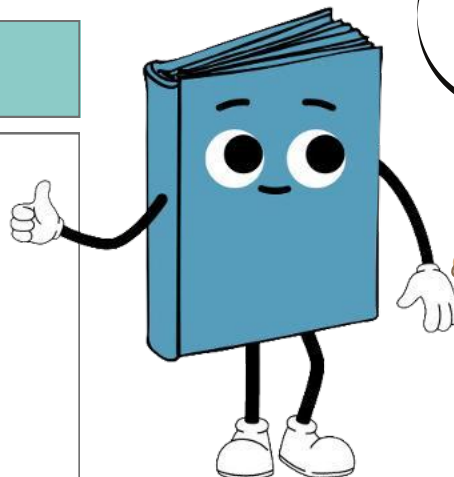
A Flawless Plan

Style/Skills:
Narrative Writing
Suspense
Mystery Plotting

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

“I need to tell you a secret.”

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 or other markings on the paper.

Total Points = ____ /10

Rubric

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

Thousands of bars are missing.

WHO TOOK THE CHOCOLATE? WHERE? WHY? WERE THEY CAUGHT? WHO WAS TASKED WITH INVESTIGATING THIS CRIME? HOW DID FORMULA 1 AND KITKAT REACT?

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

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

One day at school, your locker won't open. When it finally does... it's filled with items that don't belong to you. At the bottom is a note: "You're welcome."



you're
welcome!

What is in the locker? What happens next?

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, brilliant-cut diamond is shown from a top-down perspective, resting on a red surface with white speckles. The diamond's facets are highly reflective, creating a complex pattern of light and shadow. The red background has a fine, white, star-like pattern, reminiscent of a night sky or a textured surface.

The timing. The disguises. The inside information. The crew was seconds away from pulling off the most unbelievable heist when...

[illegible]

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

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS

Week 2

Monday

My Name is...

Style/Skills:
Expository Writing/
Personal Narrative

Tuesday

Name a Pet!

Style/Skills:
Creative Writing
Contemporary/Realistic
Fiction

Wednesday

Prank War

Style/Skills:
Creative Writing
Contemporary/Realistic
Fiction

Thursday

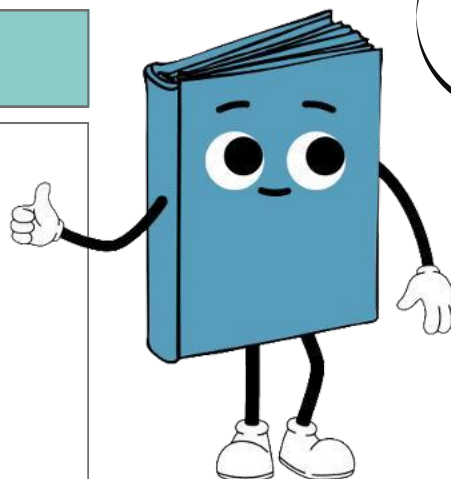
Time Travel

Style/Skills:
Personal Reflection
Science Fiction

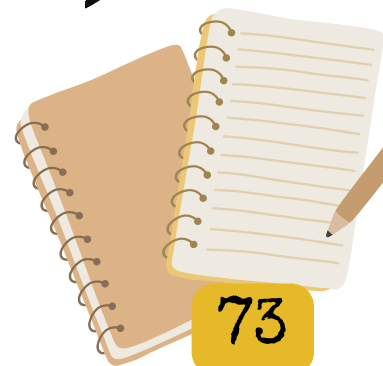
Friday

Free Write Friday

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



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



NAME: _____

Write About Your Name

HELLO MY NAME IS

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

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

▼ Rubric

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

Total Points = ___/10

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

הכנסת

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			

Created by the Word Nerd

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS

FROM THE WORD NERD

Each summer at
Camp Shenanigans
there is a week
completely devoted
to chaos. It is called
Prank War Week.

It is boys against
girls, counselors
against campers,
cabin against cabin.
This year...



Rubric

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

Total Points = ___/10

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

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

Week 3

Monday

Someone Famous is Coming to Dinner!

Style/Skills:
Creative Writing
Contemporary/Realistic Fiction
Personal Reflection

Tuesday

I Found a Fairy House

Style/Skills:
Creative Writing
Fantasy

Wednesday

Design a Robot

Style/Skills:
Design and Describe
STEM Connections

Thursday

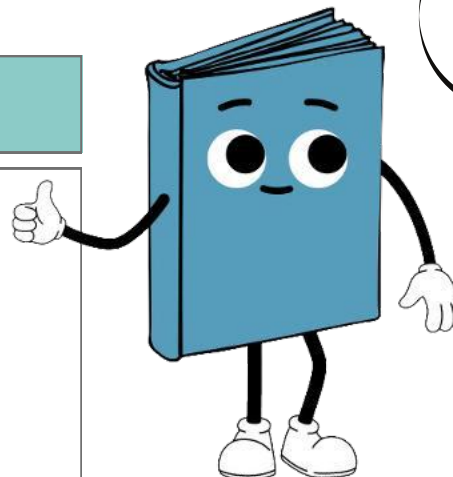
Create a Friend Recipe

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

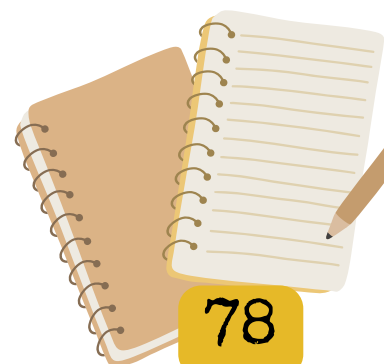
Friday

Free Write Friday

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



You can project the prompt using these SLIDES!



NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS

FROM THE WORD NERD

If you could invite a famous person to dinner, who would you choose? Tell about the meal and the time you share together.

1. Where do you eat?
2. What do you eat?
3. What do you talk about?
4. Is anyone else invited to the meal?
5. Why do you want to spend time with this person?



Rubric

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

Total Points = ___/10

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

Who lives here? Are they home? What happens next?

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

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

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

What chore would you like it to do and why?



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

Week 4

Monday

A Whole New Ending

Style/Skills:
Creative Writing
Conclusions
Revision

Tuesday

Step into the Portal

Style/Skills:
Science Fiction
Creative Writing

Wednesday

Emotional Armor

Style/Skills:
Word Choice
Metaphor

Thursday

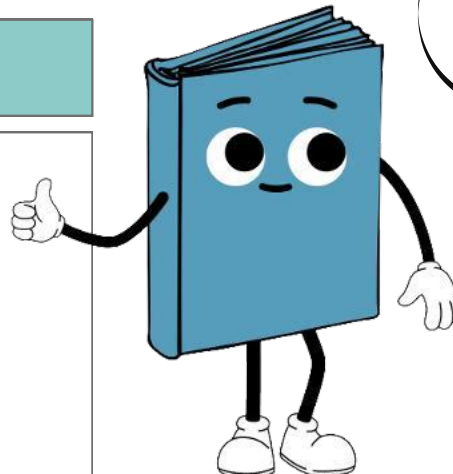
3 Unknown Facts

Style/Skills:
Personal Reflection
List Making

Friday

Free Write Friday

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



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



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.

Total Points = ____/10

Rubric

NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS

FROM THE WORD NERD

Tell This Story...

Questions to Consider:

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

Words/Phrases you could use:

Emergency	Levels of oxygen
Time portal	Disaster
Electromagnetic field	Future
Mission success	Goal
Running out of time	Commander
Returning to Earth	Ancient ruins

Artist Credit: BP Kelsey



Rubric

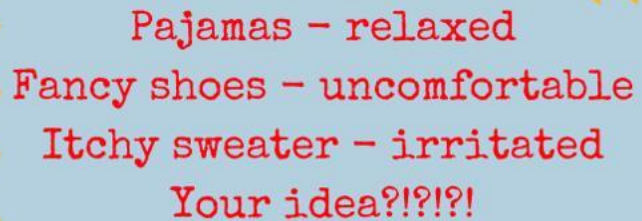


Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ___/10

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.

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

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

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

Total Points = ____/10

Rubric

WRITING PROMPTS

Week 5

Monday

An Epic Sleepover

Style/Skills:
Personal Reflection

Tuesday

A Story in the Sky

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

Wednesday

A Personal Pep Talk

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

Thursday

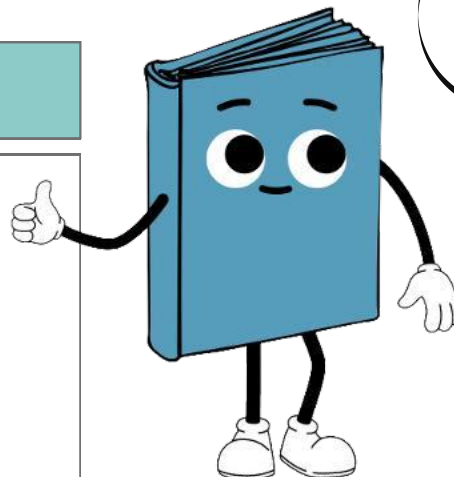
A Birthday Present

Style/Skills:
Connection to
Literature
Characterization

Friday

Free Write Friday

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



You can project the prompt using these SLIDES!

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD



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

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

[illegible]

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

Teacher Comments:

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

Write a motivational speech about achieving your goals and dreams.

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 woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue top, is looking up and to the right with a thoughtful expression, her hand resting on her chin. Behind her is a large, colorful pile of wrapped gifts in various patterns and colors, including red with polka dots, orange, and green. The background is a solid red color.

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.

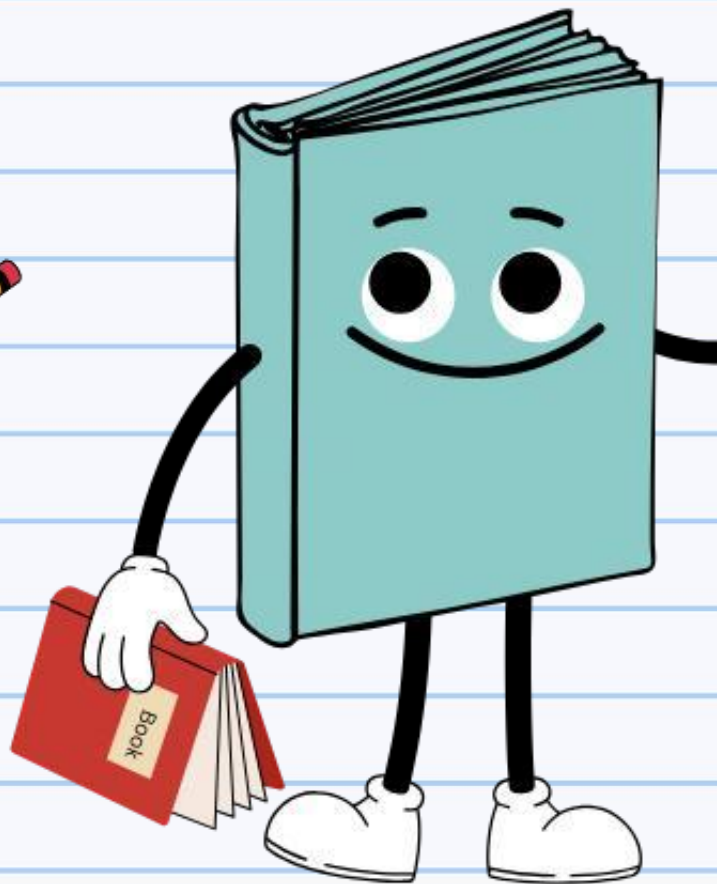
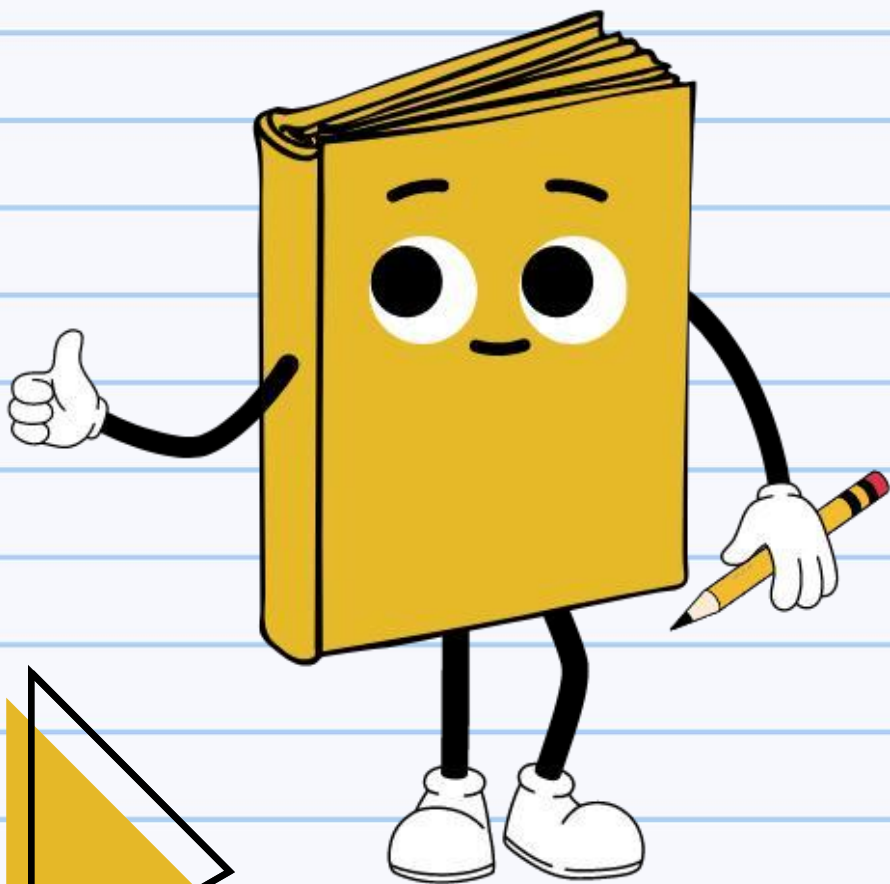
Rubric	Task	0	1	2
	Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
	Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
	Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
	Length is appropriate			
	Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
	Total Points = /10			

Created by the Word Nerd



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STORY ELEMENT Lessons



Story Elements

An overview for the following elements is included:

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

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

- Character
- Setting
- Point of View

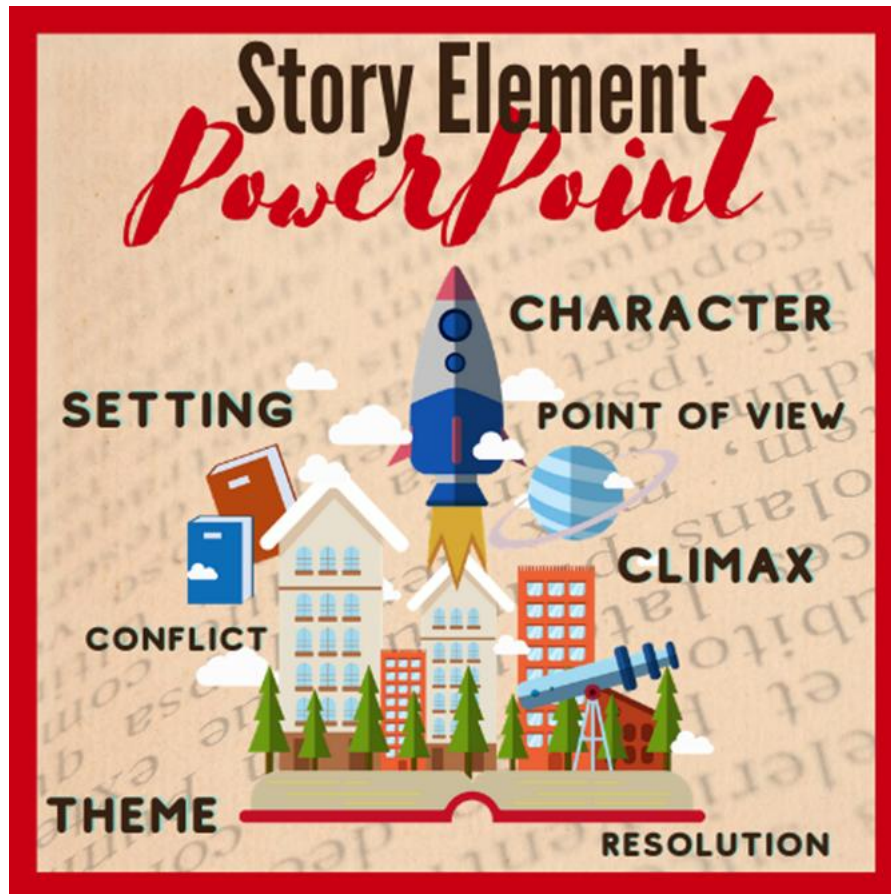
The following elements will be covered in depth in the future:

- Theme
- Conflict
- Climax
- Resolution



STORY ELEMENTS

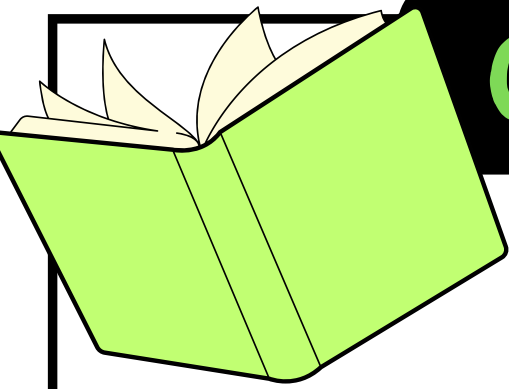
Story Element Power Point



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

Click image above or this link to access:

<https://1drv.ms/p/s!Ar2GkmuzY8ip3nSivw1AhFeBsw2E?e=dSp9iE>



C C C S P T R

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

C C C S P T R

3C Story Parts To Remember

C

Character

C

Conflict

C

Climax

S

Setting

P

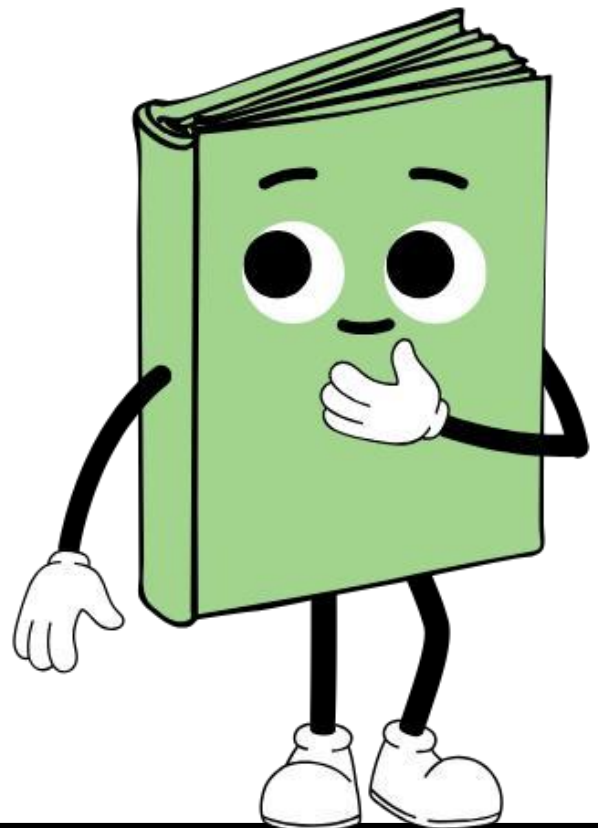
Point of View

T

Theme

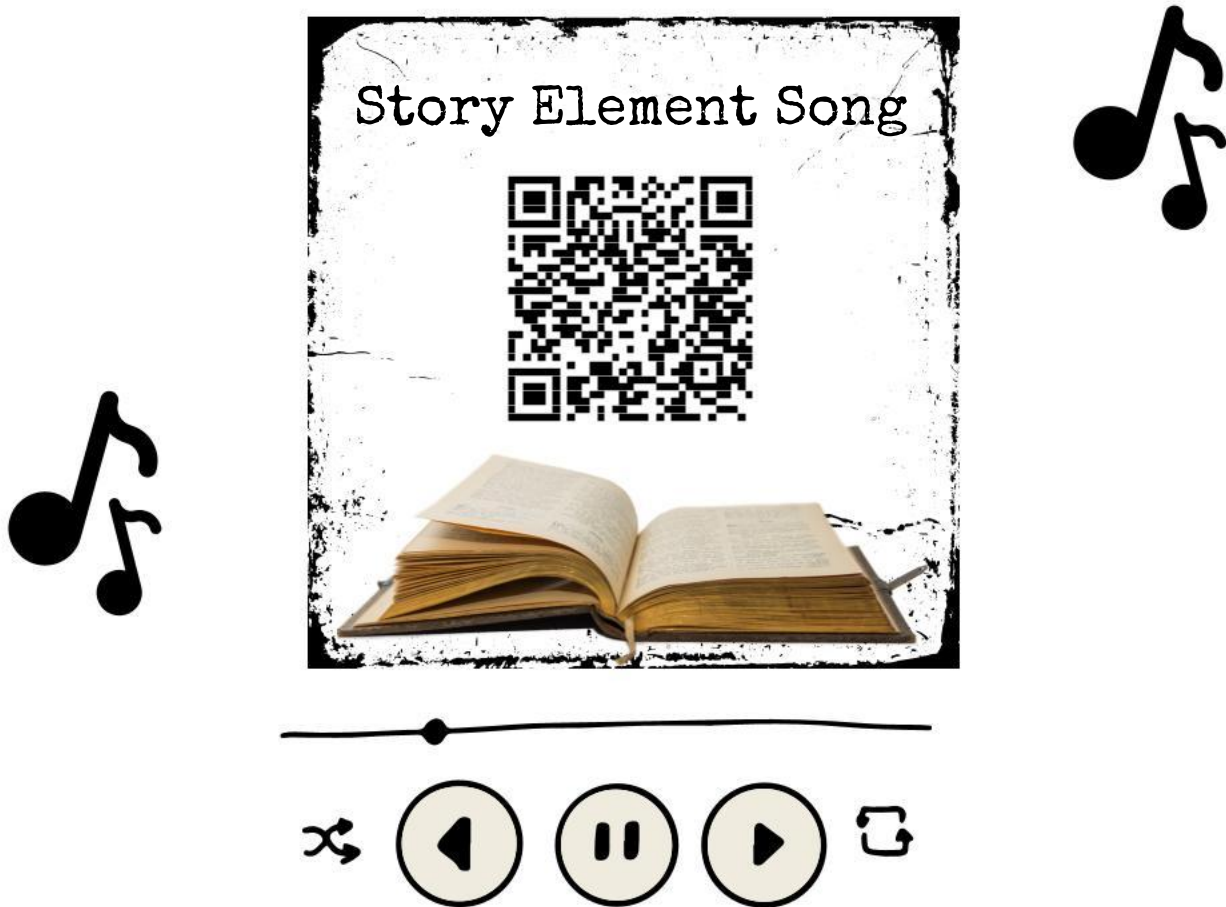
R

Resolution



STORY ELEMENTS

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



<https://suno.com/s/HdvjAACqTwhbLnvJ>

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



C3STPR STORY ELEMENT SONG LYRICS



Room for
Annotations



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

[Verse 1]

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

[Chorus]

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

[Verse 2]

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

[Chorus]

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

[Verse 3]

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





Story Element Song

C3STPR STORY ELEMENT SONG LYRICS



Room for
Annotations



[Chorus]

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

The building blocks of stories, here's what they are!

Character, Conflict, Climax too

Setting, Theme, and Point of View.

Don't forget Resolution, the element at the end

A good story needs them all, my reading friend.

[Verse 4]

Now for the setting—where and when,

In a spooky forest or way back when.

It sets the mood, it lights the stage,

It's the backdrop of each written page.

[Chorus]

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

The building blocks of stories, here's what they are!

Character, Conflict, Climax too

Setting, Theme, and Point of View.

Don't forget Resolution, the element at the end

A good story needs them all, my reading friend.

[Verse 5]

Theme is the message the author tells,

About kindness, courage, or wishing wells.

Look past the plot to what's inside,

A truth or lesson you can't hide.

[Bridge]

Point of view shows who's telling the tale,

"I" for first, or "he" and "she" for third detail.

It colors the story, it shapes what you see,

It decides how close to the heart you'll be.



C3STPR STORY ELEMENT SONG LYRICS



Room for Annotations



[Verse 6]

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

[Final Chorus]

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

DISCUSS!

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



Original Version



Female Pop

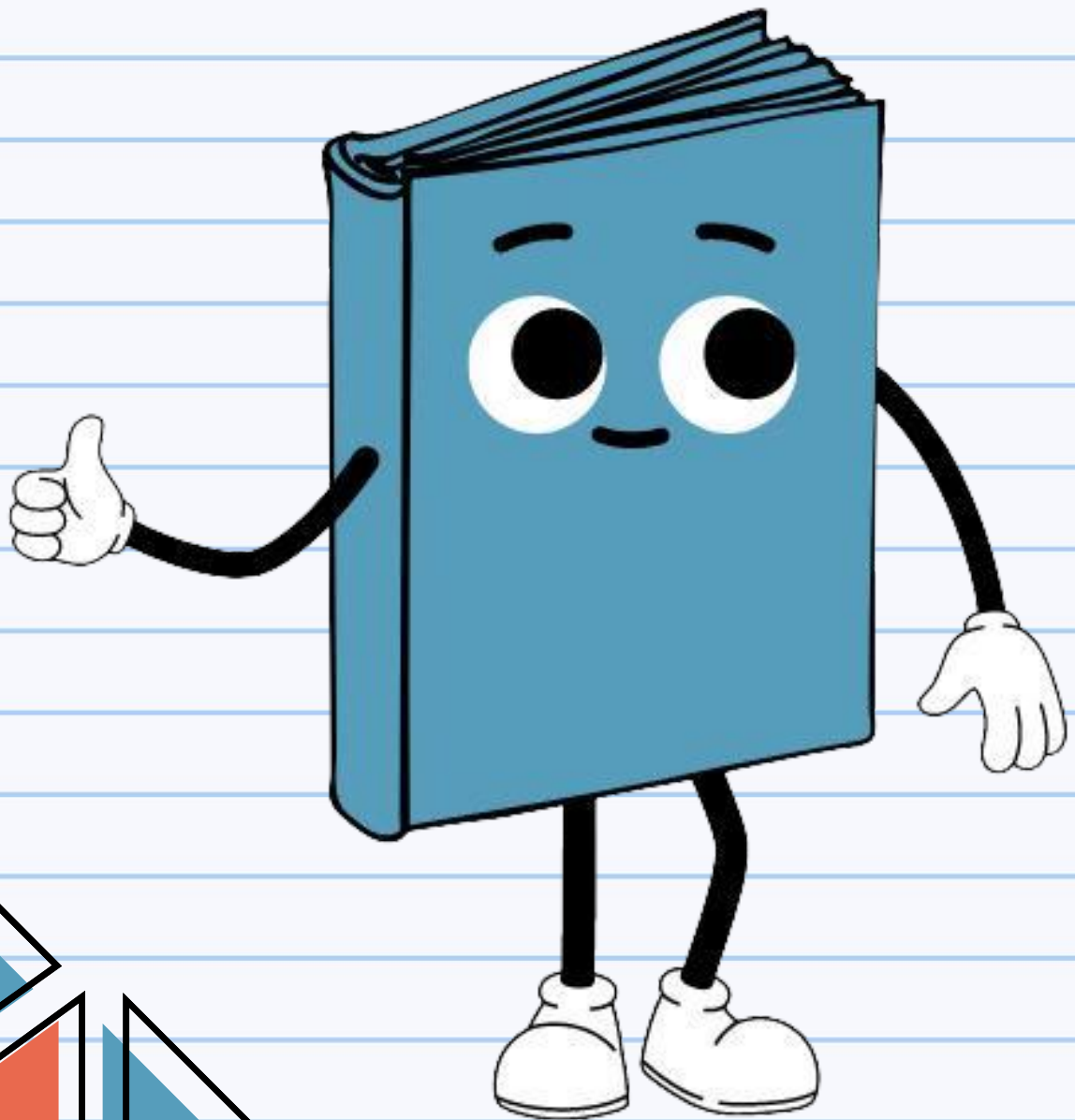


Guy + Guitar



Anthem-Style

The Story Element of CHARACTER

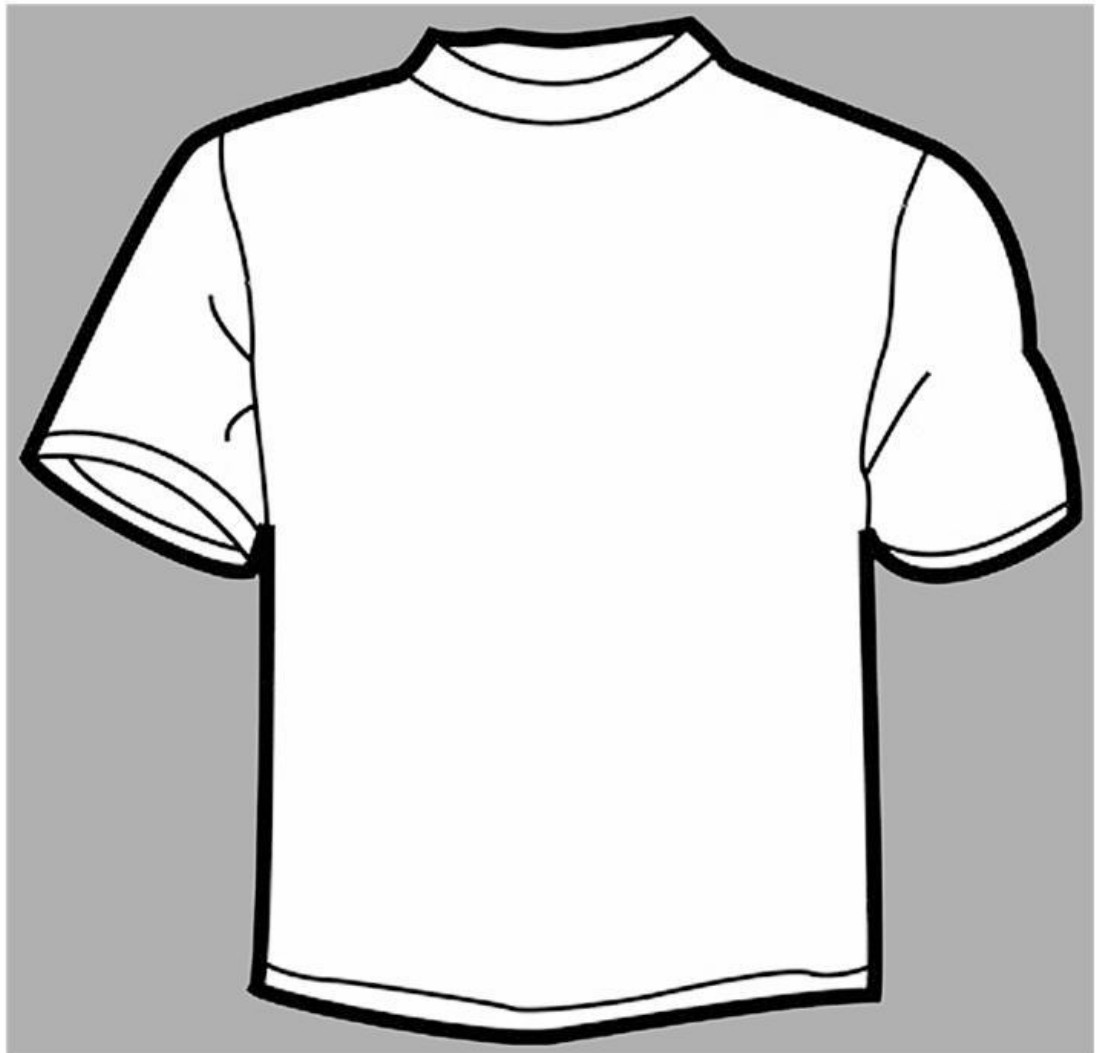


Character

T-Shirt Time!

Your job is to design a t-shirt for your main character.

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



Poster



The T-Shirt

A short story by: _____

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.

character

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



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

Character



Missing Person!

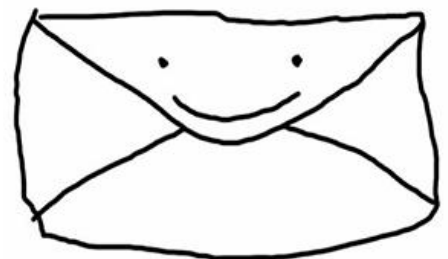
Using your list of character words from the previous page, create a missing person ad describing your character so that if they were lost, this ad could be used to help find them. Remember to include physical traits, personality traits and character preferences. Locations and talents might also be helpful in finding your character.

Draw a picture of your character here

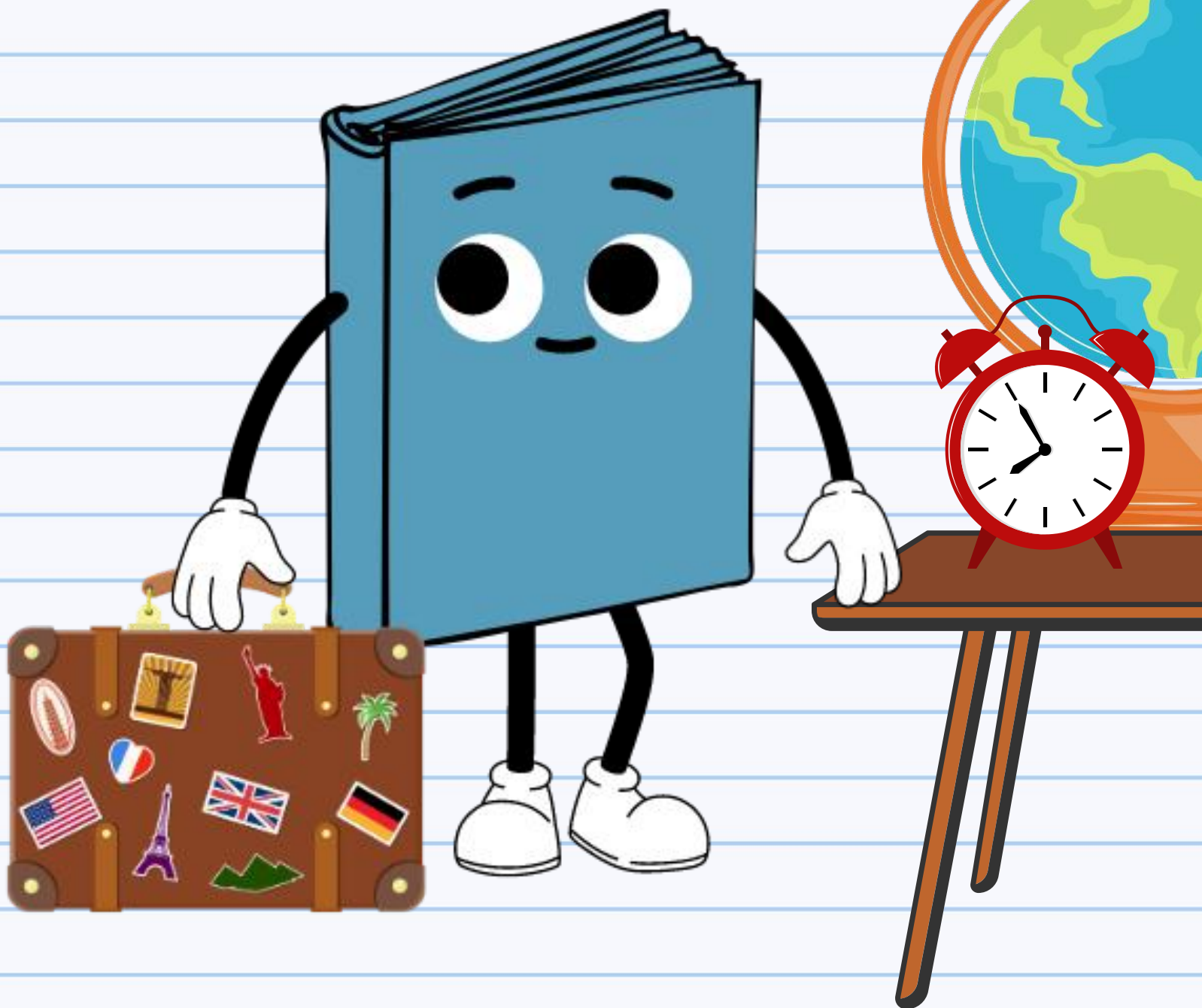
Character + Conflict

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

Dear _____,



The Story Element of SETTING





Setting

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

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

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

Setting

Setting

Place	Details	Story Idea



Setting

Setting the Scene



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

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

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

Setting

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

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

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

WHEN/TIME

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

WHERE/LOCATION

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

Setting

Let's practice!

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

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



PLACE: Campsite

Time: Midnight

PLACE: The Mall

TIME: Holiday Shopping Rush

Setting

PLACE: Football Field

TIME: Friday Night

PLACE: Battlefield

TIME: Revolutionary War

PLACE: The White House

TIME: Election Day

Setting

PLACE: Football Field

TIME: Friday Night

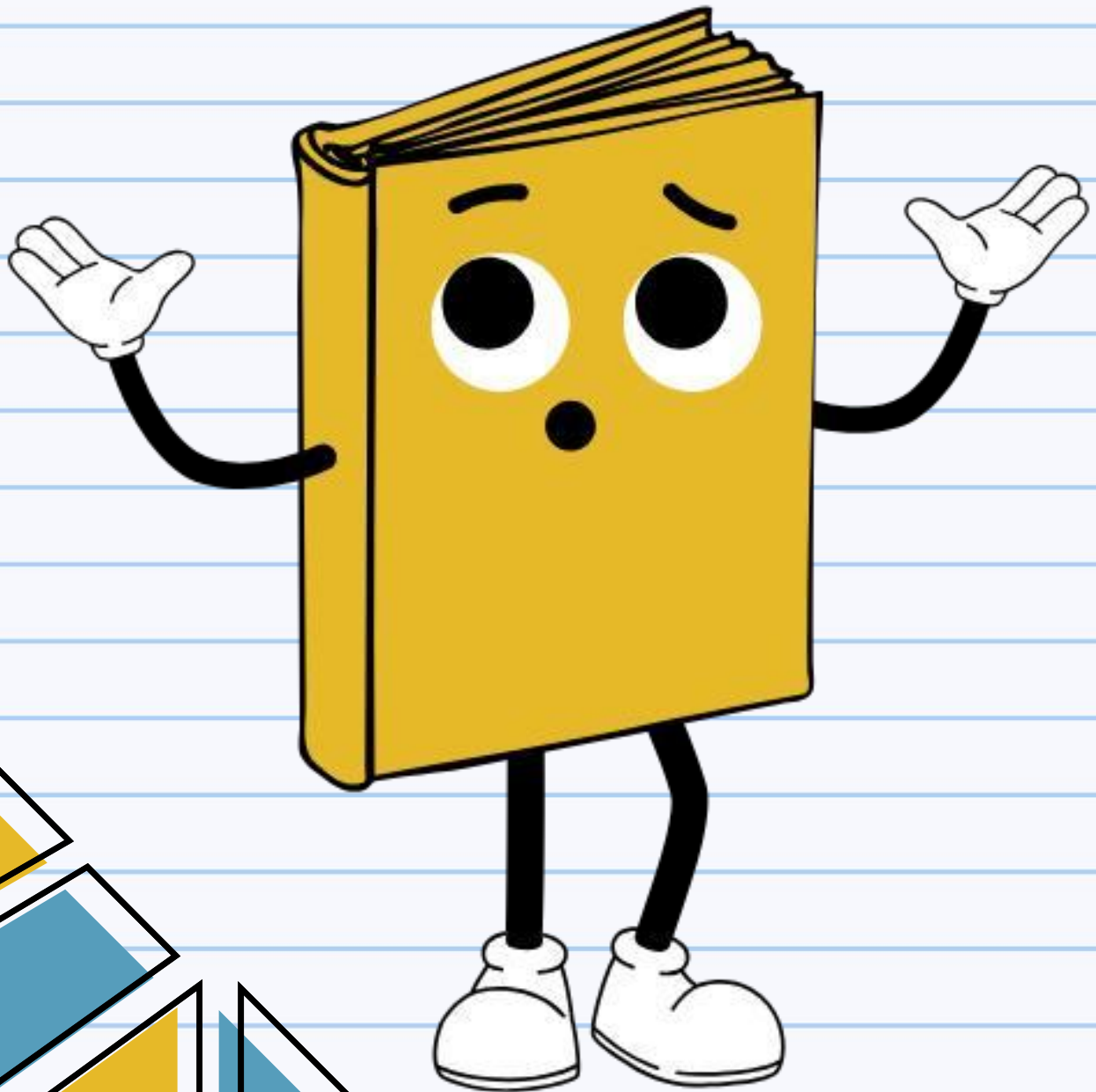
PLACE: Battlefield

TIME: Revolutionary War

PLACE: The White House

TIME: Election Day

The Story Element of POINT OF VIEW



Point of View VS. Perspective

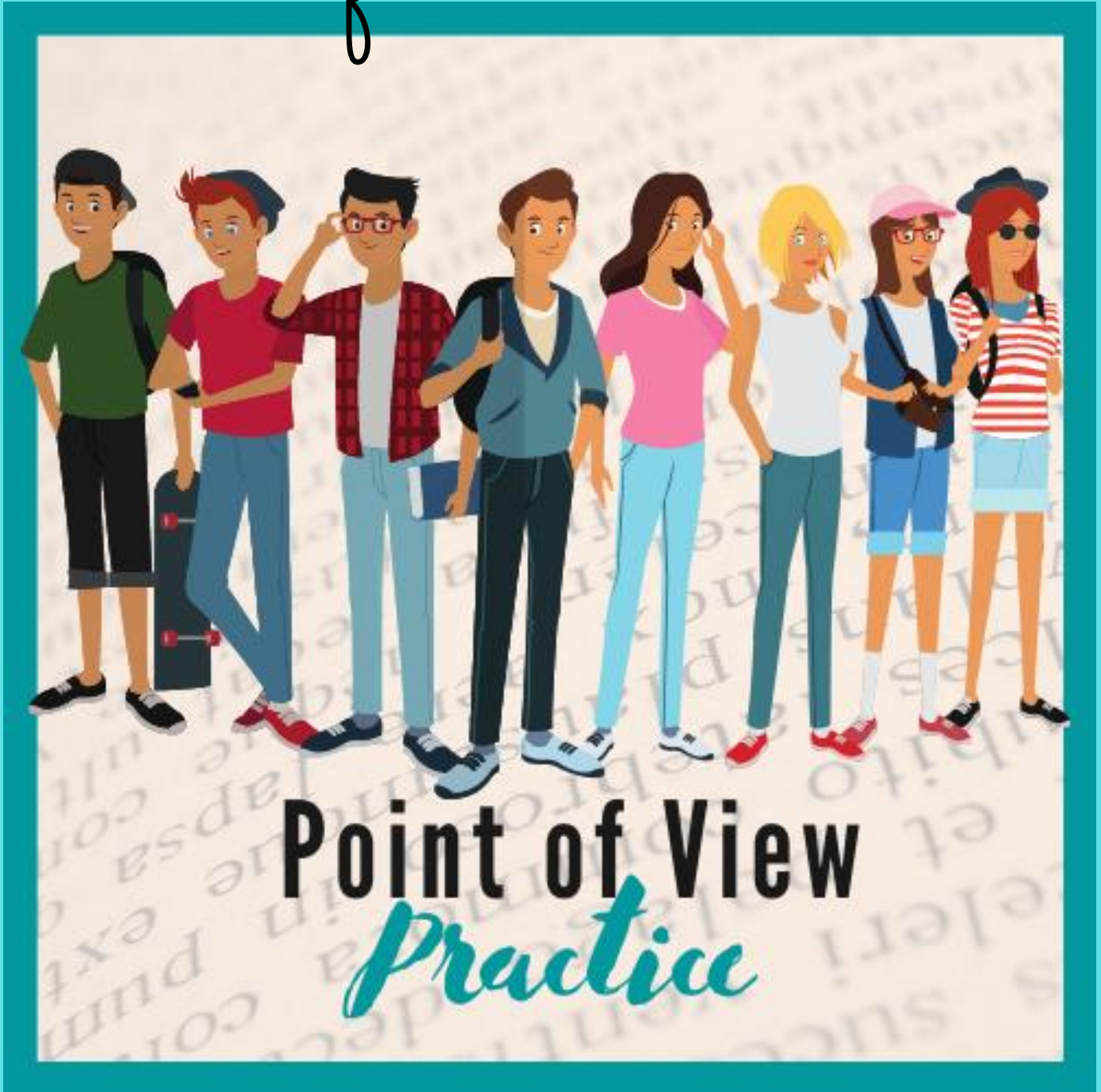
Sometimes students confuse Point of View and Perspective, and I can't blame them. They are pretty similar.

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



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

Point of View Practice



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

Created by the Word Nerd

Name: _____

Point of View Practice



Point of View - the person telling the story

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

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

- [Video 1](#)
- [Video 2](#)
- [Video 3](#)

Created by the Word Nerd

Name: _____

Point of View Practice



DIRECTIONS

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

Video Clip #1: Flipped 1st person 3rd Person

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

Video Clip #3: Brave 1st Person 3rd Person

Video Clip #4 D2 The Mighty Ducks 1st person 3rd Person

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

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

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

Score: __/10

Created by the Word Nerd

Name: _____

Point of View Practice



ANSWER KEY

Video Clip #1: Flipped **1st person** 3rd Person

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

Video Clib #3: Brave **1st Person** 3rd Person

Video Clib #4 D2 The Mighty Ducks 1st person **3rd Person**

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

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

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

Points Possible = 10

Created by the Word Nerd

Name: _____



Point of View Practice

DIRECTIONS

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

_____ "She thought she saw car headlights come on where the drive disappeared into the trees, and an engine started. Meggie ran that way. She tripped and fell, grazing her knee on the gravel, which was wet with dew. Warm blood trickled down her leg but she took no notice. She ran on and on, limping and sobbing, until she had reached the big wrought iron gate. The road beyond it was empty. Mo was gone." (from Inkheart by Cornelia Funke.)

_____ "Stubbornly I shook my head. I would not give up the earrings. As long as I had them, I could keep my dream of running away. I knew if I simply refused, Sass would find a way to make me give them up. So I lied. 'I have lost them.' I said." (from Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan)

_____ "I felt oddly buoyant as I walked from Spanish toward the cafeteria, and it wasn't just because I was holding hands with the most perfect person on the planet, though that was certainly part of it." (from Eclipse by Stephanie Meyer)

_____ "He had never disobeyed an order to hide. Even as a toddler, barely able to walk in the backyard's tall grass, he had somehow understood the fear in his mother's voice. But on this day, the day they began taking the woods away, he hesitated. He took one extra breath of fresh air, scented with clover and honeysuckle, and coming from far away – pine smoke. He laid his hoe down gently, and savored one last moment of feeling warm soil beneath his bare feet. He reminded himself, 'I will never be allowed outside again. Maybe never again as long as I live.' He turned and walked into the house silently as a shadow." (from Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix)

_____ "Two of them came at me. I backed up toward the creek, tried to raise my shield, but Clarisse was too fast. Her spear stuck me straight in the ribs. If I hadn't been wearing an armored breastplate, I would've been shish-ke-babbed. As it was, the electric point just about shocked my teeth out of the mouth. One of her cabin mates slashed his sword across my arm, leaving a good size cut." (from The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan)

Score: __/10

Created by the Word Nerd

POV Practice

Answer Key



___3___ “**She** thought **she** saw car headlights come on where the drive disappeared into the trees, and an engine started. **Meggie** ran that way. **She** tripped and fell, grazing **her** knee on the gravel, which was wet with dew. Warm blood trickled down **her** leg but **she** took no notice. **She** ran on and on, limping and sobbing, until **she** had reached the big wrought iron gate. The road beyond it was empty. **Mo** was gone.” (from Inkheart by Cornelia Funke.)

___1___ “Stubbornly **I** shook **my** head. **I** would not give up the earrings. As long as **I** had them, **I** could keep **my** dream of running away. **I** knew if **I** simply refused, Sass would find a way to make me give them up. So **I** lied. ‘**I** have lost them.’ **I** said.” (from Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan)

___1___ “**I** felt oddly buoyant as **I** walked from Spanish toward the cafeteria, and it wasn’t just because **I** was holding hands with the most perfect person on the planet, though that was certainly part of it.” (from Eclipse by Stephanie Meyer)

___3___ “**He** had never disobeyed an order to hide. Even as a toddler, barely able to walk in the backyard’s tall grass, **he** had somehow understood the fear in **his** mother’s voice. But on this day, the day they began taking the woods away, **he** hesitated. **He** took one extra breath of fresh air, scented with clover and honeysuckle, and coming from far away – pine smoke. **He** aid **his** hoe down gently, and savored one last moment of feeling warm soil beneath his bare feet. **He** reminded himself, ‘I will never be allowed outside again. Maybe never again as long as I live.’ **He** turned and walked into the house silently as a shadow.” (from Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix)

___1___ “Two of them came at **me**. **I** backed up toward the creek, tried to raise my shield, but Clarisse was too fast. Her spear stuck **me** straight in the ribs. If **I** hadn’t been wearing an armored breastplate, **I** would’ve been shish-ke-babbed. As it was, the electric point just about shocked **my** teeth out of the mouth. One of her cabin mates slashed his sword across **my** arm, leaving a good size cut.” (from The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan)

Genre



Includes

- Power Point
- Quick Quiz



GENRE

Genre Power Point



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

[PowerPoint Link](#)

Genre-ally Speaking



THE PODCAST



Listen Here!



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

1. What do you understand more clearly after listening to the hosts discuss the concept of genre?

2. What is the benefit of listening to and reflecting on another person's thoughts, ideas and analysis? Do you think this was a helpful exercise, why or why not?

3. After listening to this podcast, which genre do you think you are most interested in checking out next? Please explain your choice.



Let's Practice!

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



Link: https://www.canva.com/design/DAEHcQs6eZg/-irceyrJEdMut5xFgQyjlQ/edit?utm_content=DAEHcQs6eZg&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

QR Code →



Created by the Word Nerd

??? Guess the Genre ???



Student Answer Sheet

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Choose from:

Realistic Fiction
Historical Fiction

Fantasy
Science Fiction

Created by the Word Nerd

??? Guess the Genre ???



Student Answer Sheet

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Choose from:

Realistic Fiction
Historical Fiction

Fantasy
Science Fiction

Created by the Word Nerd



Name: _____

Quick Genre Quiz

DIRECTIONS

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

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

A. A book telling facts and information about a specific topic.

B. Short stories for children with magical creatures and characters.

C. The story of someone's own life.

D. Fiction stories that involve strange or other worldly settings and characters.

E. A story with futuristic elements that can take place on other planets.

F. A fiction story that is handed down by word of mouth about a folk hero.

G. A fiction story that evokes a feeling of fear in the characters and reader.

H. The story of someone's life, as told by another person.

I. A story in the present, that could happen, but didn't.

J. Fiction full of fun, comedy and excitement, written to entertain you.

K. A story or information written in verse, frequently using rhyme and imagery.

L. A story about a portion of one person's own life.

M. A humorous story that is too far-fetched to be true. Often includes exaggerations.

N. A fiction story that involves the solution of a crime or discovering of clues.

O. A story that takes place in the past involving historical characters and settings.

P. A story that belongs to a group of people that tells about history, heroes and gods.

Score: __/16



Quick Genre Quiz

Answer Key

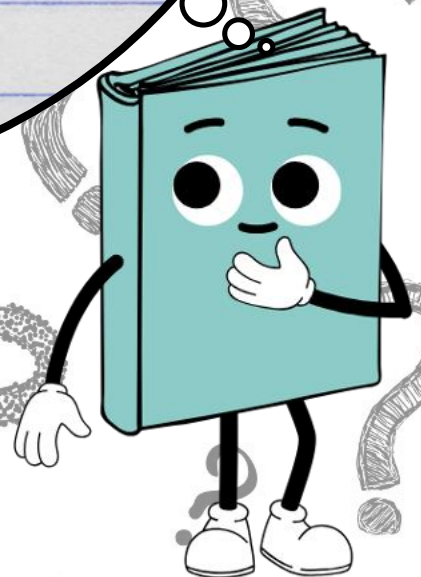
1. Biography: H
2. Autobiography: C
3. Memoir: L
4. Informational: A
5. Poetry: K
6. Realistic Fiction: I
7. Historical Fiction: O
8. Science Fiction: E
9. Fantasy: D
10. Mythology: P
11. Tall Tale: M
12. Folklore: P
13. Fairy Tale: B
14. Humor: J
15. Mystery: N
16. Horror: G

Possible Points: 16

Would You Rather...

PERSUASIVE WRITING WORKSHEETS

**BACK
TO
SCHOOL**
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:

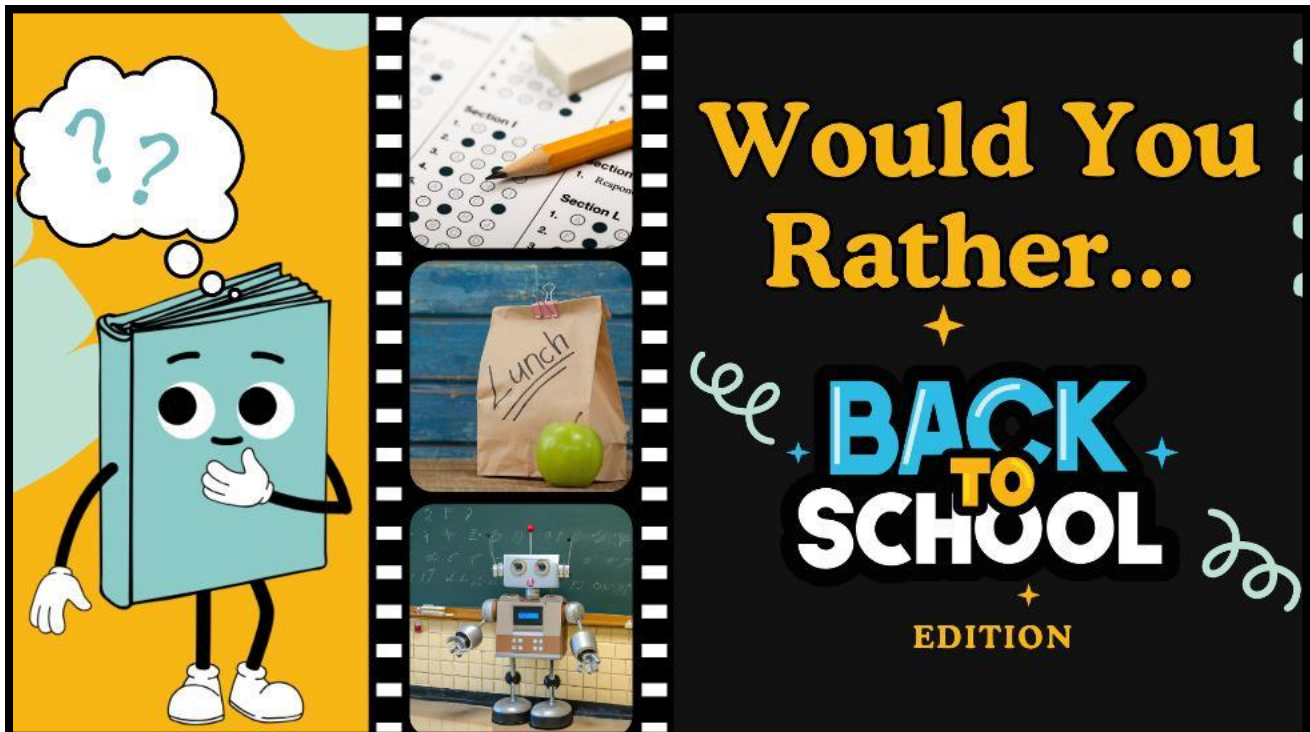
- Choose a side → Make a clear claim.
- Back it up → Give 2-3 strong reasons with evidence or examples.
- Use transitions → Show relationships between ideas.
- Acknowledge the other side → Strengthen their argument.
- Conclude clearly → Wrap up their reasoning in a persuasive way.



**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.

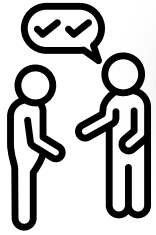
- Skill Focus: Use transition words like for example, in addition, because, however, and therefore to guide readers.

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.

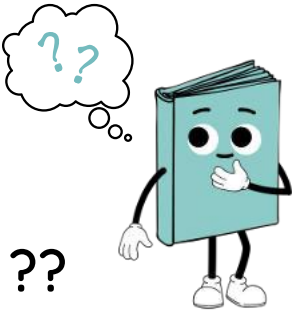
Example: That's why I would definitely rather live in a treehouse!

Name: _____

Date: _____

Back to School 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:

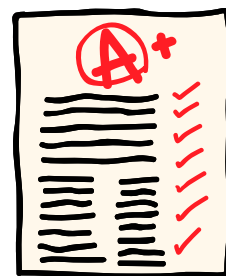
Name: _____

Date: _____

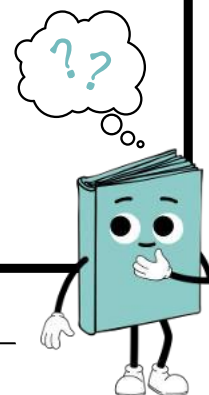
Back to School Edition

Would You Rather...

never have homework or never have tests?



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



▼ Rubric

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

Comments:

Name: _____

Date: _____

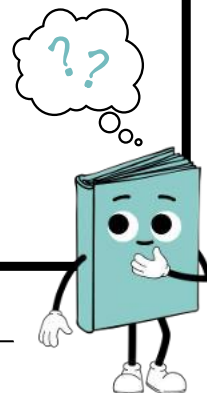
Back to School Edition

Would You Rather...

eat cold lunch or eat hot lunch?



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:

Name: _____

Date: _____

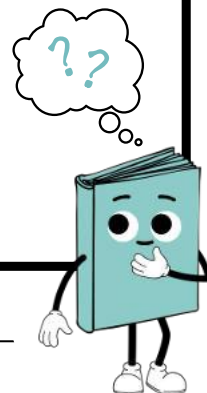
Back to School Edition



Would You Rather...

have class on a cruise ship or class on a space ship?

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:

Name: _____

Date: _____

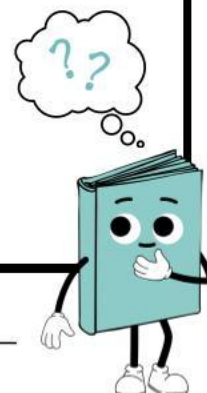
Back to School Edition

Would You Rather...

have indoor recess or outdoor recess?



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:

Name: _____

Date: _____

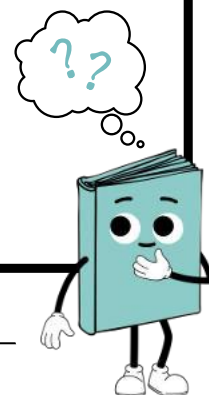
Back to School Edition

Would You Rather...



have a longer winter break or longer summer break?

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:

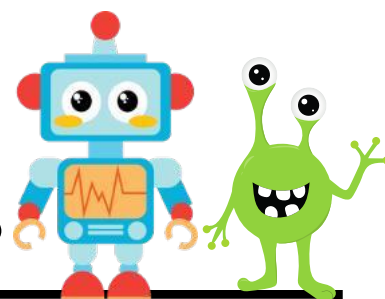
Name: _____

Date: _____

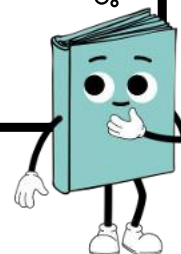
Back to School Edition

Would You Rather...

have a robot teacher or an alien teacher?



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



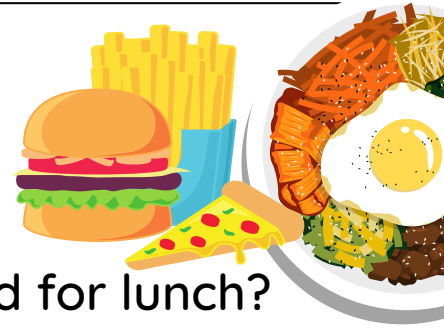
▼ Rubric

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

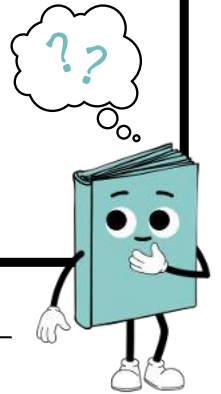
Comments:

Date: _____

Would You Rather...



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



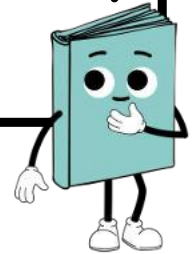
▼ Rubric

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.)			

Comments:

Date: _____

attend day school starting at 7 am or night school starting at 7 pm?



▼ 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.)			

Comments:

Name: _____

Date: _____

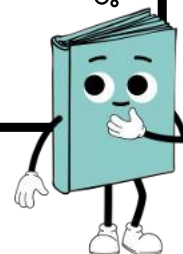
Back to School Edition

Would You Rather...



have PE taught by pro athletes or PE taught by college athletes?

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



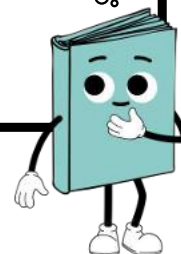
▼ Rubric

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

Comments:

Date: _____

Would You Rather...



▼ 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.)			

Comments:



AUGUST

146

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
BECAUSE YOU DESERVE THEM!**

SUPERHERO ORIGIN STORY INTRO ACTIVITY



FROM THE WORD NERD
COLLABORATIVE



SUPERHERO ORIGIN STORY INTRO

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

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

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

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

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

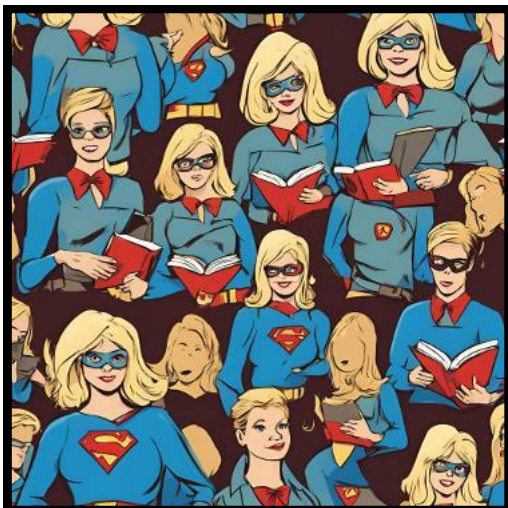
Click here to see a VIEW ONLY DOCUMENT, and then FILE MAKE A COPY to be able to add in your superhero details/make it your own.

A FEW CONSIDERATIONS...

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

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

HERE ARE SOME OF THE IMAGES CANVA CREATED FOR ME...



PRETTY NEAT,
HUH?!?!

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



INTRODUCING THE WORD WEAVER!



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

**"UNLOCKING MINDS,
ONE SYLLABLE AT A TIME!"**

MY ORIGIN STORY

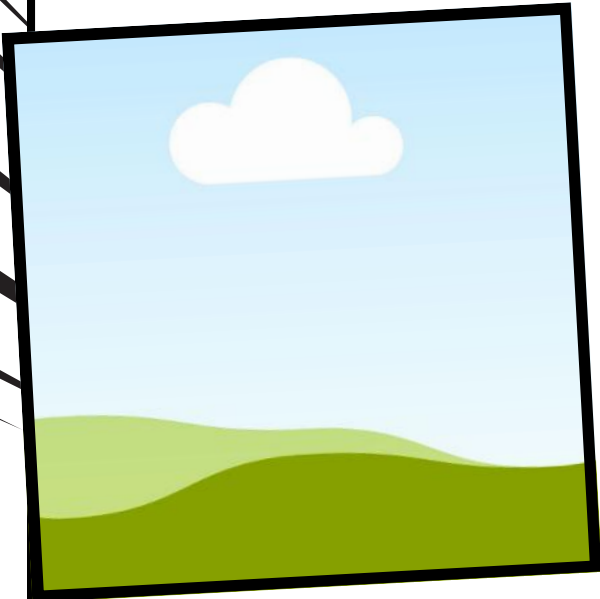
AMANDA ZIEBA, ONCE A MIDDLE SCHOOL ELA TEACHER, DISCOVERED HER POWERS DURING A LATE-NIGHT GRADING SESSION. HER RED PEN GLOWED, AND ESSAYS TRANSFORMED INTO RIVETING TALES. REALIZING HER DESTINY, SHE FOUNDED THE WORD NERD COLLABORATIVE—A SANCTUARY FOR EDUCATORS SEEKING INSPIRATION AND PRACTICAL TOOLS.

MY SUPER POWERS

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

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

INTRODUCING YOUR SUPERHERO NAME



YOUR ELEVATOR PITCH

*
*
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*
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*
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*

YOUR CATCH PHRASE HERE

MY ORIGIN STORY

YOUR ORIGIN STORY HERE...

*
*
*

MY SUPER POWERS

YOUR SUPER POWERS HERE..

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



SUPERHERO ORIGIN STORY STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

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

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

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

First Name: _____

3 things I'm good at: _____

3 positive traits: _____

3 hobbies: _____

A time when I helped someone: _____

Hidden Talent: _____

Greatest accomplishment: _____

Something I am proud of: _____

Hometown/Where you live now: _____

I take care of: _____

I love to: _____

My favorite food is: _____

Something special about me is: _____

My personal Kryptonite (weakness): _____

NEXT STEPS:

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

INTRODUCING

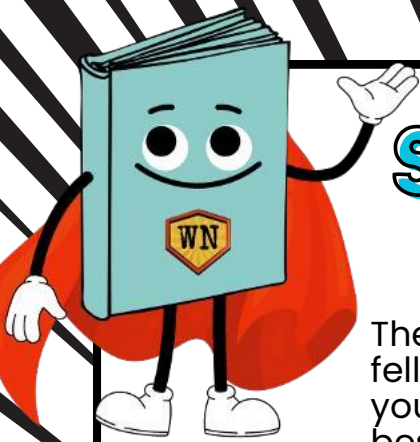
USING THE IDEAS FROM CHATGPT, WRITE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR SUPER-SELF HERE.

PICTURE OF ME

CATCH PHRASE:

MY SUPER POWERS

LIST/EXPLAIN YOUR SUPER POWERS HERE:



SUPERHERO ORIGIN STORY STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

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

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

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

Frist Name: _____

3 things I'm good at: _____

3 positive traits: _____

3 hobbies: _____

A time when I helped someone: _____

Hidden Talent: _____

Greatest accomplishment: _____

Something I am proud of: _____

Hometown/Where you live now: _____

I take care of: _____

I love to: _____

My favorite food is: _____

Something special about me is: _____

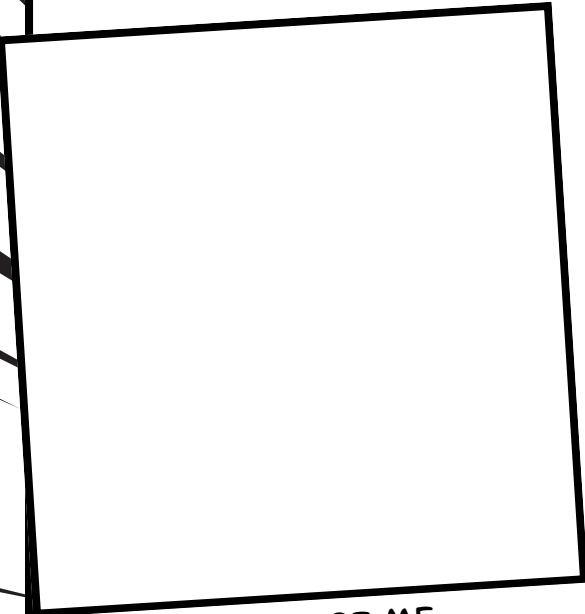
My personal Kryptonite (weakness): _____

NEXT STEPS:

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

INTRODUCING

USING THE IDEAS FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE, WRITE
A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR SUPER-SELF HERE.

[illegible]

PICTURE OF ME

CATCH PHRASE:

[illegible]

MY SUPER POWERS

LIST/EXPLAIN YOUR SUPER POWERS HERE:

[illegible]

A FEW MORE THINGS...

Use these additional resources to level up this activity.



SLIDES

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



A FEW PARTING THOUGHTS/IDEAS...

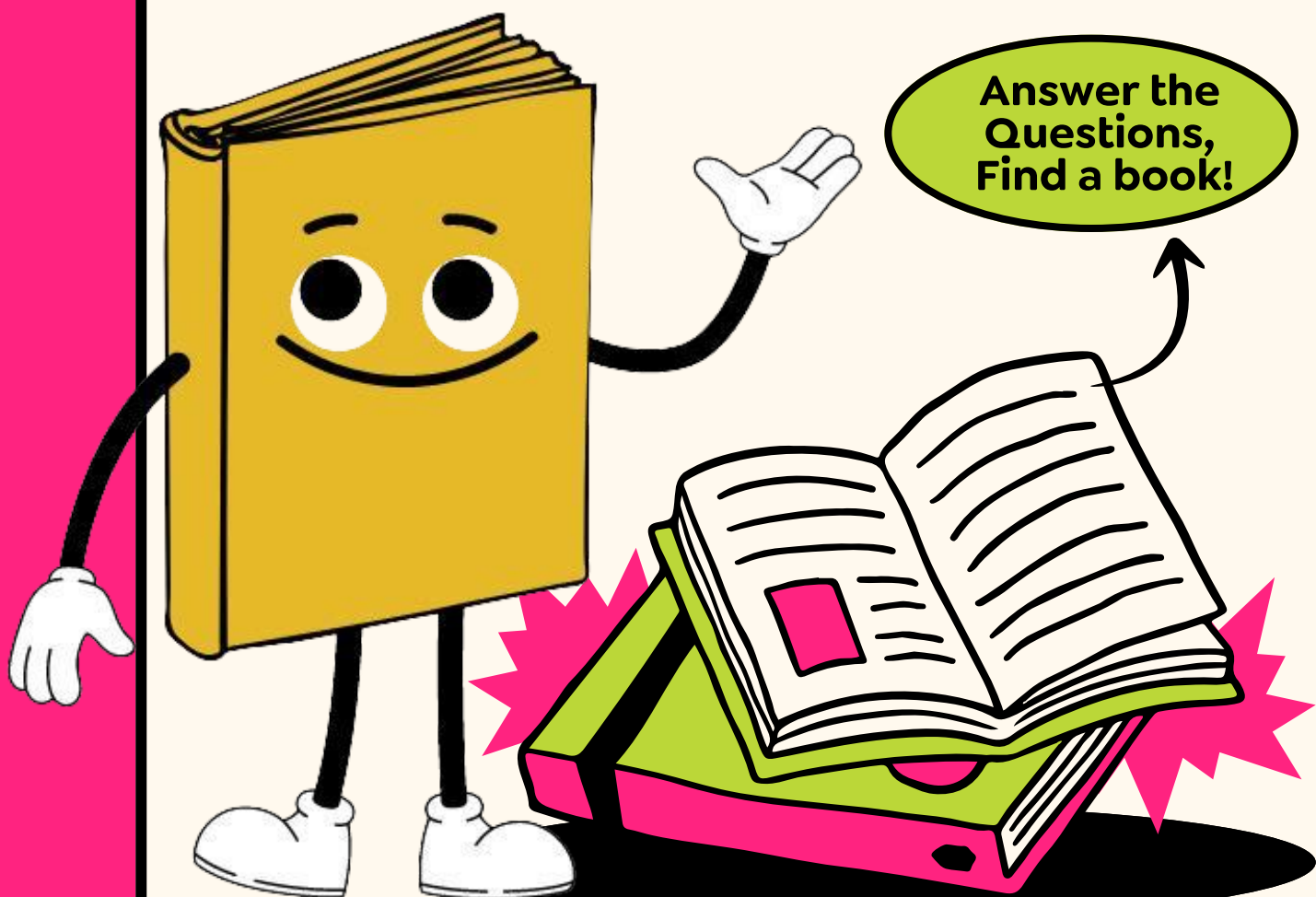
- This is currently a VIEW ONLY document. The same is true with the slides above. To make this activity your own, or to give students access to the templates, just **click here** and then, FILE MAKE A COPY. Then, once you have your own version, you'll be able to modify and share it as you see fit.
-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

FINALLY,

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

WHAT SHOULD I READ *Next?*

Book Recommendation Flow Charts



From the Word Nerd

WHAT SHOULD I READ NEXT?

BOOK RECOMMENDATION FLOW CHARTS

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

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

Here's how it works:

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

Recommendation Flow Chart Topics/Genres

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

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



WHAT SHOULD I READ NEXT?

BOOK RECOMMENDATION FLOW CHARTS

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

A Few Implementation Ideas/Tips

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

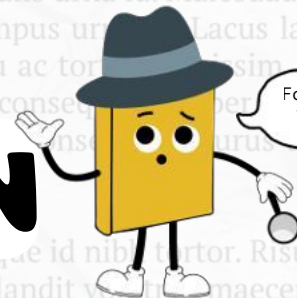
P.S. There are 190 (and counting) First Chapter Friday Read Aloud videos on my YouTube channel, this resource is an effort to prevent time wasted scrolling and increase the chances students will quickly find a right-for-them book!



What should I read next?

MYSTERY EDITION

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



1

Do you want to read a book with a mystery that revolves around a murder?

YES

NO

Do you want to read a story set in a current-day time period?

YES

NO

Coop Knows the Scoop



Capture the Flag



A Northern Light



2

Do you want to read a book with a mystery that features puzzles and riddles?

YES

NO

Do you want a story with romantic relationship tension?

YES

NO

The Inheritance Games



The Last Shot



The Westing Game



3

Do you want to read a mystery that takes place in the United States?

YES

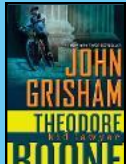
NO

Do you want to read about a mystery with a lawyer?

YES

NO

Theodore Boone Kid Lawyer



Thirst



Doll Bones



4

Do you want to read a story that takes place in a fancy location?

YES

NO

Do you want your story to include sports?

YES

NO

Vanishing Act



When You Reach Me



From the Mixed Up Files

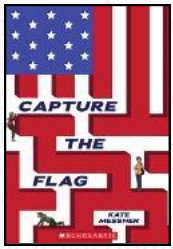


What should I read next?

MYSTERY EDITION



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



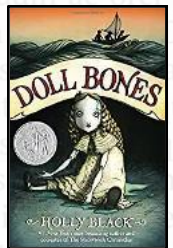
Capture the Flag by Kate Messner

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



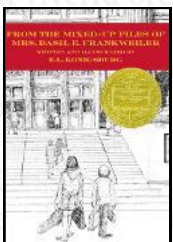
Coop Knows the Scoop by Taryn Souders

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



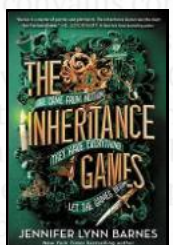
Doll Bones by Holly Black

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



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

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



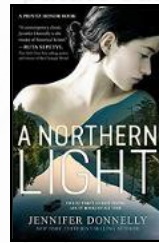
The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

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



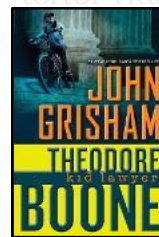
The Last Shot by John Feinstein

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



A Northern Light by Jennifer Donnelly

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



Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer by John Grisham

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



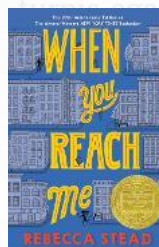
Thirst by Varsha Bajaj

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



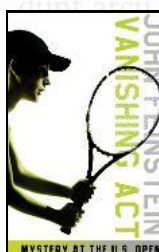
The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

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



When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

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

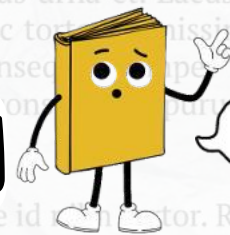


Vanishing Act by John Feinstein

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

What should I read next?

SURVIVAL EDITION



Follow the trail to help you decide!

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

1

Do you want to read a person vs. nature survival story?

YES

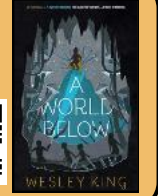
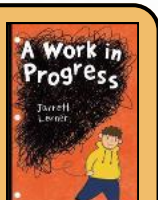
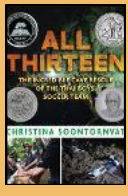
NO

Do you want it to be a true, happened in real life, story?

YES

NO

All Thirteen



2

Do you want to read a book with a survival story that takes place during a war?

YES

NO

Do you want a story that happened in the past? (Historical Fiction)

YES

NO

Life Boat 12



3

Do you want to survival story that has deals with addiction?

YES

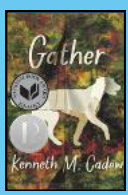
NO

Do you want a book with a dog in it?

YES

NO

Gather



4

Do you want to read a story that includes an epic (long) journey?

YES

NO

Do you want your story to take place outside the United States?

YES

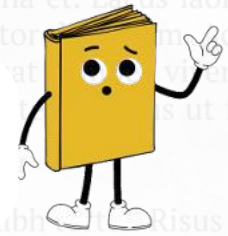
YES

A Long Walk to Water

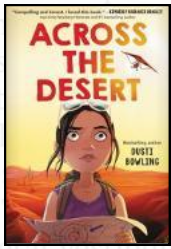


What should I read next?

SURVIVAL EDITION



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



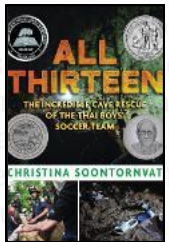
Across the Desert by Dusti Bowling

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



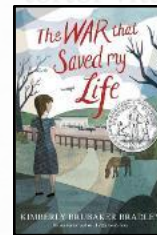
Muhammad Najem: War Reporter by Muhammad Najem

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



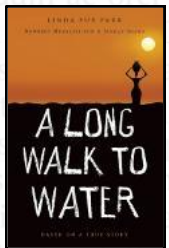
All Thirteen by Christina Soontornvat

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



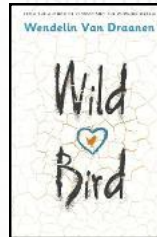
The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

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



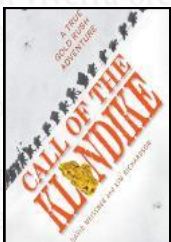
A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park

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



Wild Bird by Wendelin Van Draanen

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



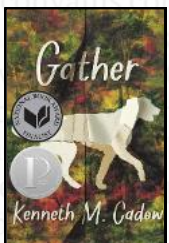
Call of the Klondike by David Meissner

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



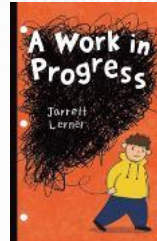
The Wild Robot by Peter Brown

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



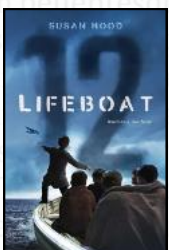
Gather by Kenneth M. Cadow

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



A Work in Progress by Jarrett Lerner

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



Lifeboat 12 by Susan Hood

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



A World Below by Wesley King

A class field trip turns into an underground quest for survival

What should I read next?

ROMANCE EDITION



Follow the trail to help you decide!

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

1

Do you want to read a romance book that includes royalty?

YES

NO

Do you want to read a book that takes place in the past? (Historical Fiction)

YES

NO

A Lady's Guide to Fortune Hunting



The Selection



American Royals



2

Do you want to read a paranormal romance book?

YES

NO

Do you want a book with werewolves?

YES

YES

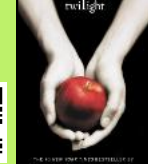
Shiver



Red Queen



Twilight



3

Do you want to read a romance that involves a competition?

YES

NO

Do you enjoy reality cooking shows?

YES

NO

Batter Royale



The Selection



Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants



Matched



4

Do you want to read a fairy tale retelling romance?

YES

NO

Which accessory would you choose? Shoes or a Sword?

SHOES

SWORD

Step-sister



Talk Santa to Me

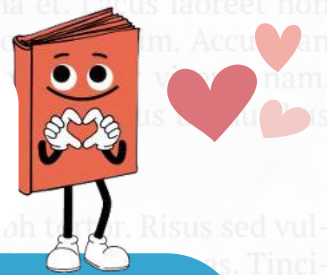


The Other Merlyn

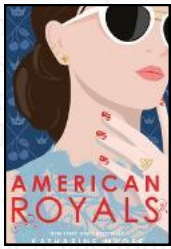


What should I read next?

ROMANCE EDITION



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



American Royals by Katharine McGee

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



The Selection by Kiera Cass

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



Batter Royale by Leisl Adams

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



Shiver by Maggie Stiefvater

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



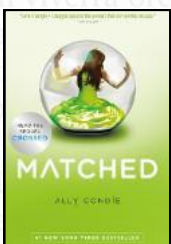
A Lady's Guide to Fortune Hunting by Sophie Irwin

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



The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares

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



Matched by Ally Condie

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



Stepsister by Jennifer Donnelly

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



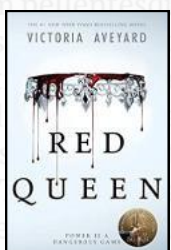
The Other Merlin by Robyn Schneider

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



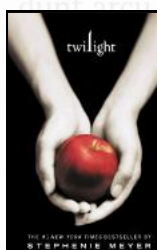
Talk Santa to Me by Linda Urban

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



The Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard

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



Twilight by Stephenie Meyer

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

What should I read next?

SPORTS EDITION

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



Follow the trail to help you decide!

1

Do you want to read a book that features the sport of basketball?

YES

NO

Do you want to read a FICTIONAL basketball story?

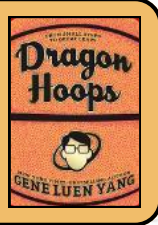
YES

YES

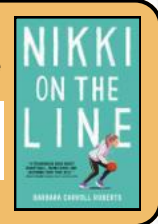
The Last Shot



Dragon Hoops



Nikki on the Line



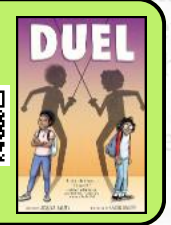
2

Do you want to read a book a sporty graphic novel?

YES

FENCING

Which sport are you most interested in?



CHEERLEADING

FOOTBALL

SWIMMING

The Tryout



Change the Game



Swim Team



3

Do you want to read a sports book about overcoming challenges?

YES

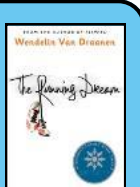
GYMNASTICS

Which sport interests you most?

RUNNING

BASEBALL

The Running Dream



Chirp



Stealing Home



4

Do you want to read a novel in verse sports book?

YES

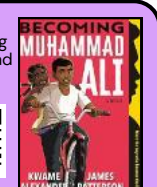
NO

Do you want your story to be about a famous person?

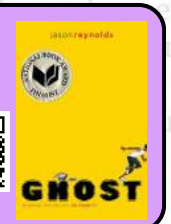
YES

NO

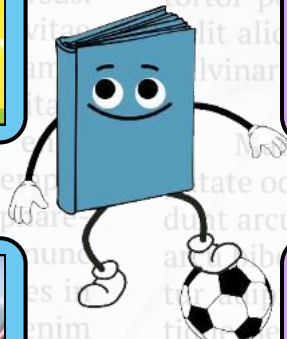
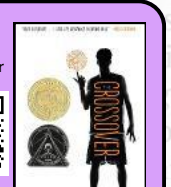
Becoming Muhammad Ali



Ghost

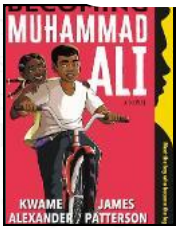


The Crossover



What should I read next?

SPORTS EDITION



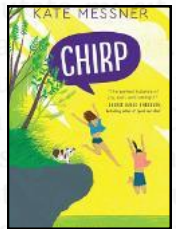
Becoming Muhammad Ali by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander

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



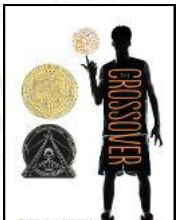
Change the Game by Colin Kaepernick

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



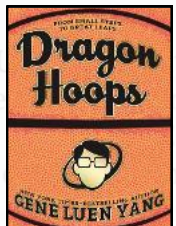
Chirp by Kate Messner

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



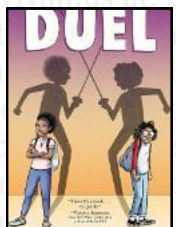
The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

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



Dragon Hoops by Gene Luen Yang

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



Duel by Jessixa Bagley

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



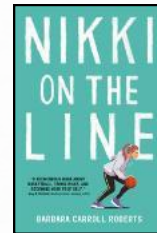
Ghost by Jason Reynolds

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



The Last Shot by John Feinstein

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



Nikki on the Line by Barbara Carroll Roberts

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



The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen

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



Stealing Home by J. Torres

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



Swim Team by Johnnie Christmas

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



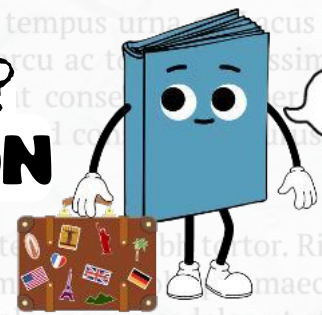
The Tryout by Christina Soontornvat

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

What should I read next?

FAR AWAY PLACES EDITION

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



1

Do you want to read a book in which the character travels by choice?

CHOICE

FORCED

Do you want to read a story that is in the format of a graphic novel?

YES

NO

A First Time for Everything



The House Swap



Nowhere Boy



2

Do you want to read book that takes place far away AND a long time ago?

YES

NO

Do you want your story to take place during a war?

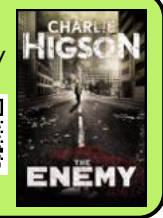
YES

NO

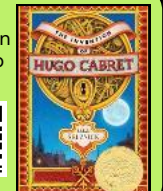
A Night Divided



The Enemy



The Invention of Hugo Cabret



3

Do you want to read a book about a true story?

YES

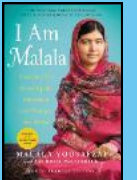
NO

Do you want the story to take place during current, modern day times?

YES

NO

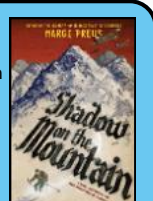
I Am Malala



Thirst



Shadow on the Mountain



4

Do you want to read a story about survival?

YES

NO

Do you want your story to include an animal main character?

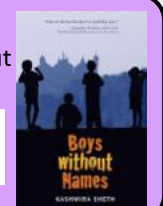
YES

NO

Endangered



Boys Without Names

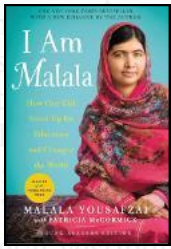
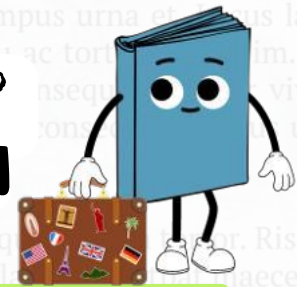


The Lost Year



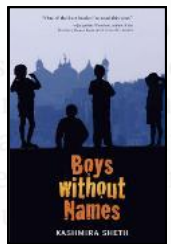
What should I read next?

FAR AWAY PLACES EDITION



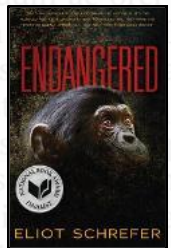
I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

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



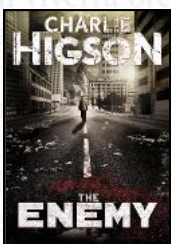
Boys Without Names by Kashmiri Sheth

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



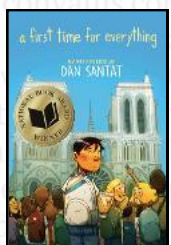
Endangered by Eliot Schrefer

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



The Enemy by Charlie Higson

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



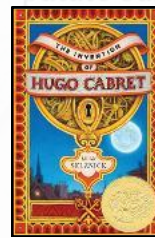
A First Time for Everything by Dan Santat

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



House Swap by Yvette Clark

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



The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick

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



The Lost Year by Katherine Marsh

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



A Night Divided by Jennifer A. Nielsen

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



Nowhere Boy by Katherine Marsh

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



Shadow on the Mountain by Margi Preus

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



Thirst by Varsha Bajaj

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

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PLAYLIST

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

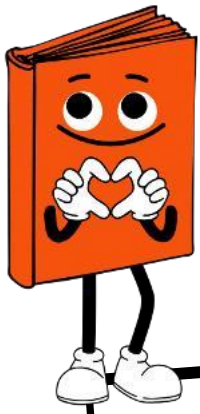


FIVE 30-60 MINUTE INSTRUMENTAL PLAYLISTS

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

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpVe6VlpCwJbnJwJsASvvKvkxsMsW6UNw>





WHEW! YOU DID IT !

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

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

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

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

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

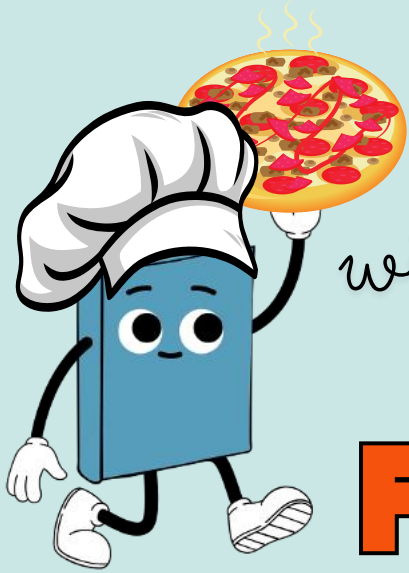
Let’s call this a successful first round, and remember—we’re just getting started. I’ll see you back here soon with your September ingredients prepped and ready to go.

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

You’ve got this teacher-bestie!!

— AMANDA

P.S. If you want support like this
EVERY MONTH, head to
www.wordnerdcollaborative.com
to learn more!



Quick Dinners

with left overs for lunch!

FIESTA CHICKEN

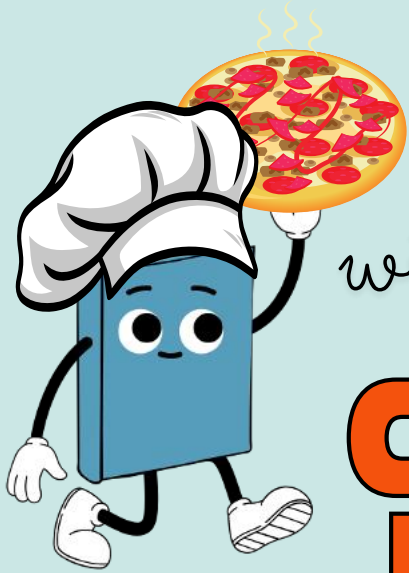
Ingredients (per person):

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

Instructions:

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

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



Quick Dinners

with left overs for luck!

CHEESY HAM & POTATO SOUP

Ingredients:

- 6-8 large potatoes (peeled and diced)
- 1 package diced ham
- 1 can potato soup
- 1 can cream of onion soup
- ½ onion, diced
- 1 bag shredded carrots
- 3 tsp celery salt
- 3 tsp onion salt
- 1 lb bag shredded cheese (cheddar works great!)

Optional: bread, rolls, or corn muffins for serving

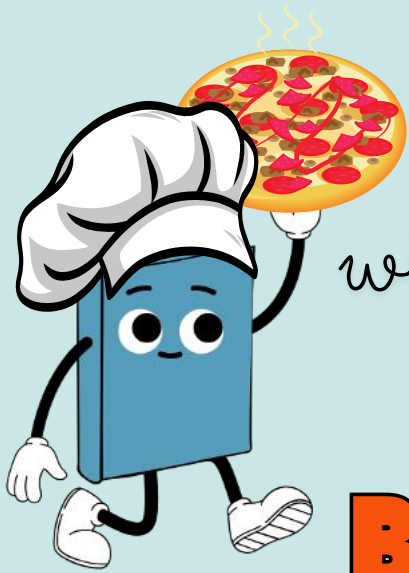
Instructions:

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

Heat & Garnish:

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

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



Quick Dinners

with left overs for lunch!

HAMBURGER BISCUIT POCKETS

Ingredients:

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

Instructions:

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

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

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