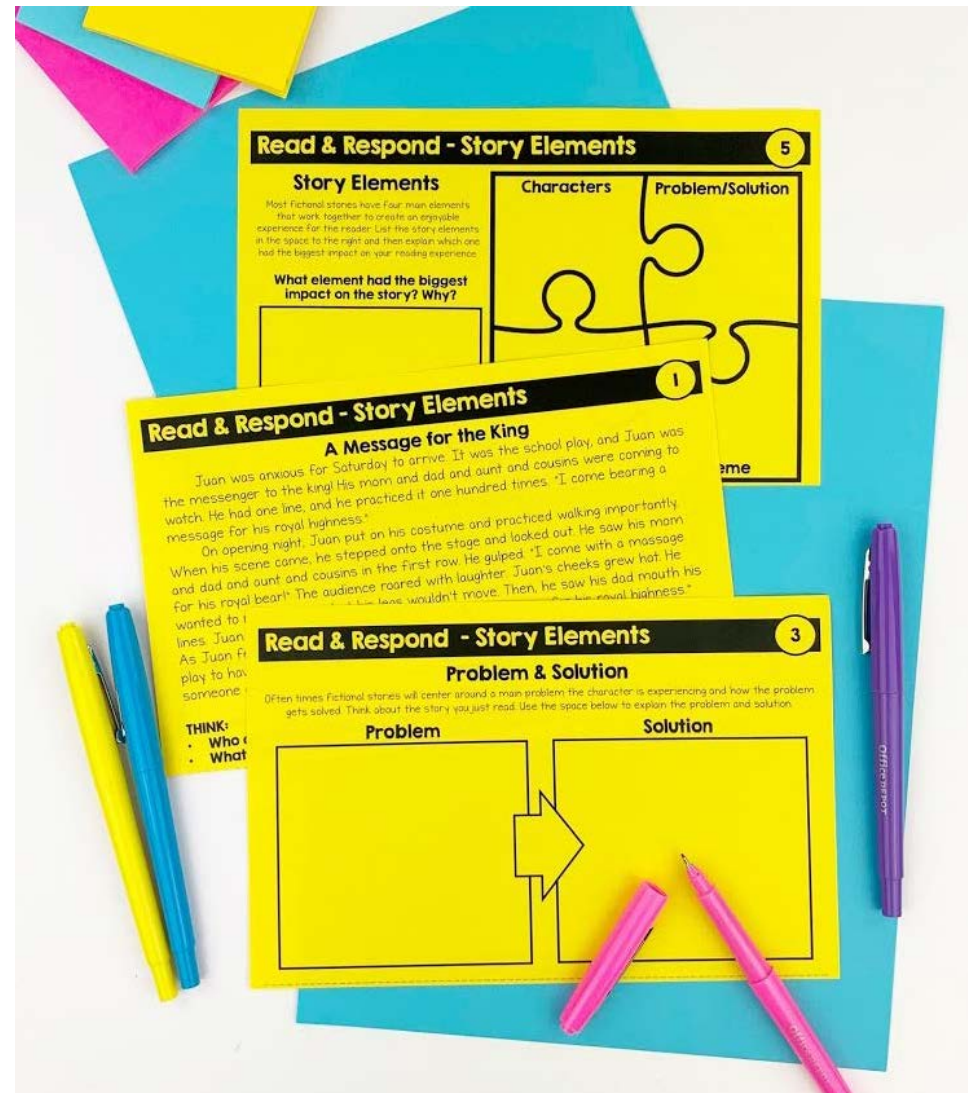
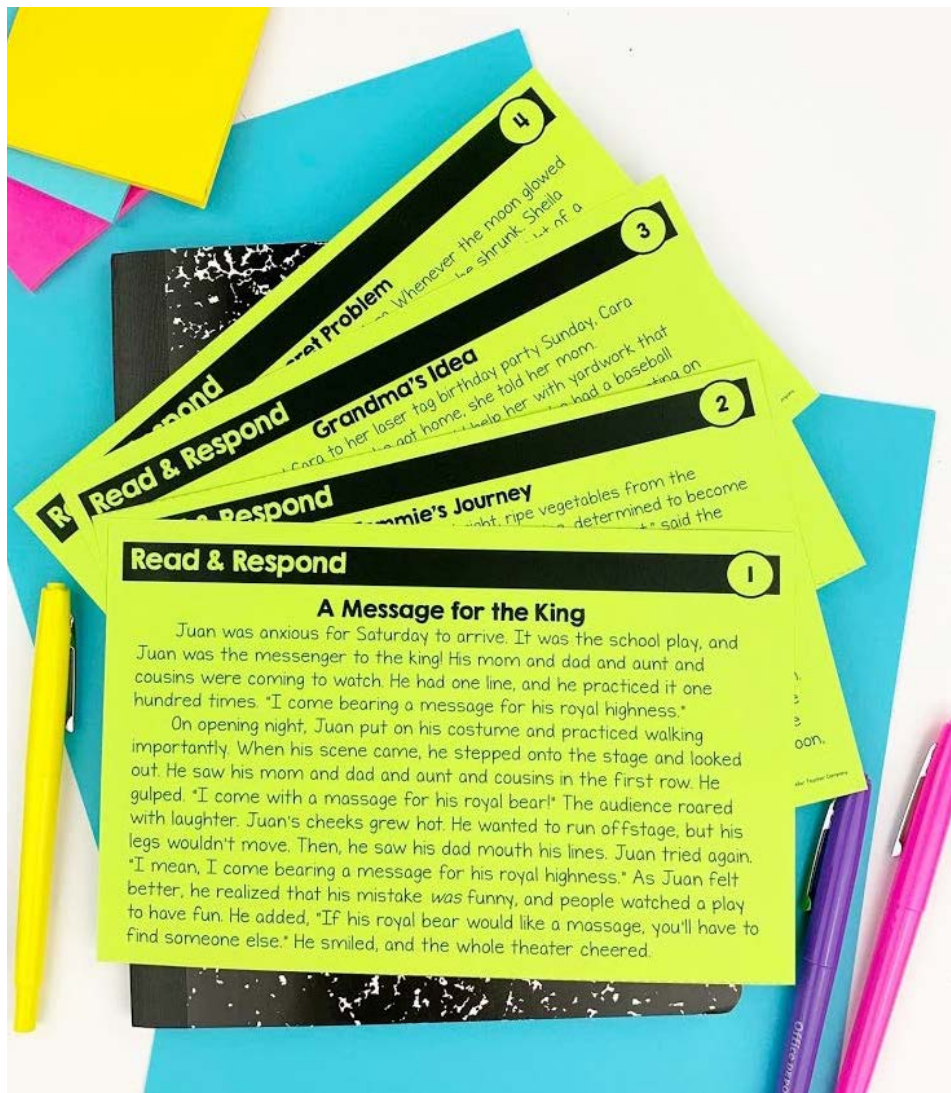


STORY ELEMENTS

READ & RESPOND TASK CARDS



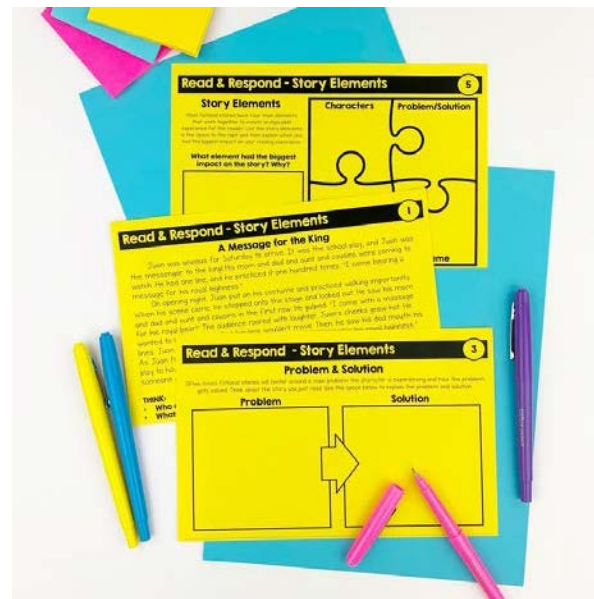
WHAT'S INCLUDED?

This resource includes 20 reading task cards that contain short fiction passages that will help you teach your students to identify and connect story elements.

Task cards can be printed in three different ways.



Option #1 - Just the text



Option #2 - Text and Graphic Organizer Template



Option #3 - Text and Response Questions

Digital versions are included for all three sets of task cards.

Option #1 - Just the Text

One of the printing options for the task cards is to print JUST the text. Each task card has a short fiction reading passages (takes up half a page). The passages include all the basic story elements (character, setting, problem/solution, theme).

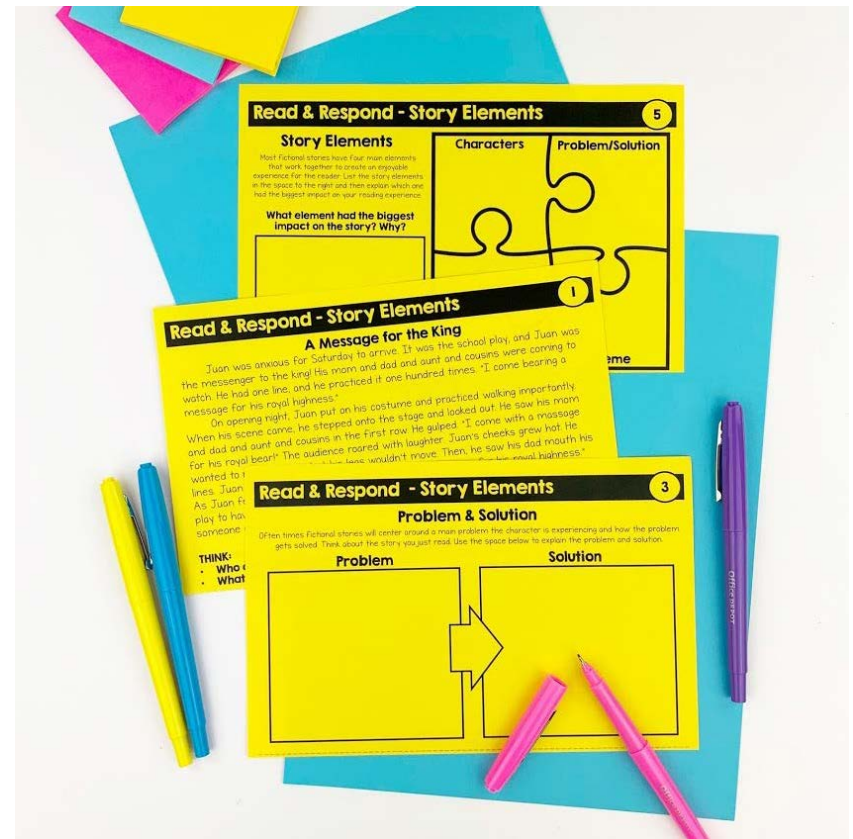


- This set of task cards is ideal if you want to use them in the “traditional” task card way.
- I suggest printing them on cardstock and either putting them all on a book ring or in a photo box.
- There are 3 options of reading response sheets included so students can read the passages and respond on a separate page.

Option #2 - Passage & Graphic Organizer

One of the printing options includes the passage and a graphic organizer template. These task cards can be printed front and back and work great in a center, as part of your small group instruction, or even for guided practice.

- On the front of each task card is a short reading passage (the same numbers and titles as option #1).
- The bottom of each task card includes a few questions to prompt students to think about how the author described the story elements.
- On the back, there is a graphic organizer template that will help students focus on how the story elements connect together.



Digital versions are included for all three sets of task cards.

Option #3 - Passage & Response Questions

One of the printing options includes the passage and reading response questions. These task cards can be printed front and back and work great in a center, as part of your small group instruction, or even for guided practice.



- On the front of each task card is a short reading passage (the same numbers and titles as option #1).
- The bottom of each task card includes a few questions to prompt students to think about how the author described the story elements.
- On the back, there is space for a sticky note so students can illustrate the story elements or jot down their thoughts. There are also two text-based comprehension questions.

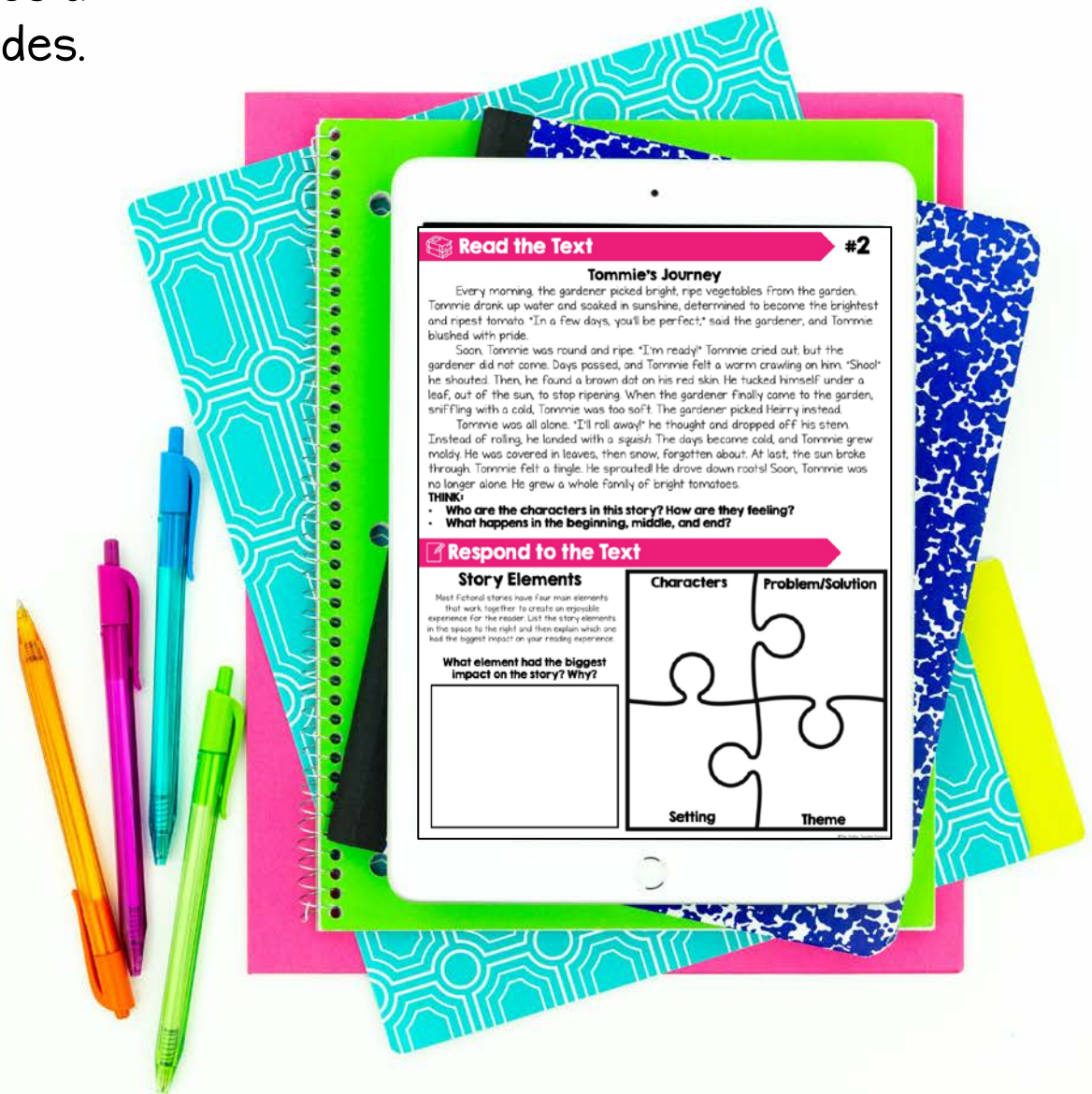
Digital versions are included for all three sets of task cards.

Includes Digital Versions

I love to provide both print and digital options in my resources. This resource includes a digital version created using Google Slides.

There are three different digital versions included (to match the three different printing options).

- **Option 1:** The text with a generic space for student response.
- **Option 2:** The text with the graphic organizer at the bottom (this one is pictured to the right)
- **Option 3:** The text with the text-based comprehension questions on the bottom.



A LOOK INSIDE...(option 1)

Read & Respond

1

A Message for the King

Juan was anxious for Saturday to arrive. It was the school play, and Juan was the messenger to the king! His mom and dad and aunt and cousins were coming to watch. He had one line, and he practiced it one hundred times. "I come bearing a message for his royal highness."

On opening night, Juan put on his costume and practiced walking importantly. When his scene came, he stepped onto the stage and looked out. He saw his mom and dad and aunt and cousins in the first row. He gulped. "I come with a message for his royal bear!" The audience roared with laughter. Juan's cheeks grew hot. He wanted to run offstage, but his legs wouldn't move. Then, he saw his dad mouth his lines. Juan tried again. "I mean, I come bearing a message for his royal highness." As Juan felt better, he realized that his mistake was funny, and people watched a play to have fun. He added, "If his royal bear would like a message, you'll have to find someone else." He smiled, and the whole theater cheered.

Read & Respond

2

Tommie's Journey

Every morning, the gardener picked bright, ripe vegetables from the garden. Tommie drank up water and soaked in sunshine, determined to become the brightest and ripest tomato. "In a few days, you'll be perfect," said the gardener, and Tommie...

Soon, Tommie was a gardener did not come. "Shoo!" he shouted. The himself under a leaf, and came to the garden, snickered Heiry instead.

Tommie was all alone. Instead of rolling, he lay grew moldy. He was covered sun broke through. Tommie was no longer d...

Read & Respond

7

Owen's Birthday

Owen woke up, panicked. His throat burned. He couldn't be sick - his birthday was tomorrow! He had been planning his superhero party for weeks. Maybe his dad wouldn't notice. At breakfast, when Owen said good morning, only a scratchy whisper came out. He wiped the sweat off his forehead, but it was too late. "You have a fever," said his dad. "You'd better stay in bed."

Owen was a perfect patient. He drank a whole carton of orange juice, took a nap every hour, and put cool cloths on his head, to help his fever go away in time. The next morning, though, it was worse. "Could we still have the party? I can make a mask even though I'm sick." His dad shook his head. "It wouldn't be fair to get his friends sick, and besides, he would have more fun if he waited until he was better. Owen decided this was the worst birthday ever. Just then, he heard singing. Outside his window, he saw six superheroes. Instead of cake, they carried soup. His friends held up a sign that said: Happy birthday and feel better soon! Owen smiled. "I already do."

Read & Respond

8

You Can't Fool Martin

Marvin had been fooled once. A salesman had sold him shampoo to make his hair shinier, but instead it had turned his hair purple. Marvin would not be fooled again. When Troy invited Marvin to his birthday party, Marvin said, "How do I know you won't just jump out and scare me?" Corina was running for mayor and promised to build a park if she won. "How can I be sure?" asked Marvin, and he did not vote. When he refused Mr. Wumpler's pie, Mr. Wumpler told him he was missing out by always saying no. Marvin shrugged. "I can't risk it."

Walking home, Marvin heard a tiny voice. A fairy was tied to a fence! She offered Marvin a wish if he set her free. Marvin squinted. "How do I know? Maybe someone tied you up because you tricked them. Grant me the wish, then I'll free you." But the fairy could not reach her fairy dust, so Marvin walked away. Then, he heard the fairy's small sobs. Perhaps there were worse things than being fooled. He gently untied the fairy. When she pulled out her fairy dust, Marvin said, "Keep it. You've already given me just what I needed."

Read & Respond

3

Grandma's Idea

When Lyric invited Cara to her loser tag birthday party Sunday, Cara squealed, "Definitely!" As soon as she got home, she told her mom.

"Honey, you promised Grandma you would help her with yardwork that day." Cara asked if she could do yardwork Saturday, but she had a baseball game. She suggested skipping it, but her mom said, "Your team is counting on you to pitch. It's important to keep your commitments." Cara thought and thought about what to do. Finally, she called Grandma for advice. Grandma had an idea.

On Saturday, Cara pitched for her baseball game. She broke her strikeout record. Afterward, she bought a gift for Lyric. Sunday morning, Cara woke up early. She and Grandma got busy pruning bushes and raking leaves. Cara didn't even stop to jump in them. When she called for a ride to the party, her mom said, "You didn't spend much quality time with Grandma."

"Not a problem," said Cara. Grandma climbed into the car with her. At the loser park, Grandma strapped on a vest and ran through the course, laughing.

Read & Respond

4

A Secret Problem

Sheila was a nice kid with a secret problem. Whenever the moon glowed round and full, she sprouted fur and sharp claws. Then, she shrunk. Sheila was a were-rat. So, when Chloe invited her to a sleepover on the night of a...

either to vent, or to work on the squ...

Read & Respond

9

Moonbeam

Something seems unusual about Haley's new guppy. She names him Moonbeam and fills a bowl with pebbles, water, and a castle for him to hide in. In the morning, Haley goes to feed Moonbeam. He is stuck inside his castle! "Did you grow overnight?" she wonders, replacing the castle with a plant. Within a week, Moonbeam is too big to turn around in his bowl. Haley asks her parents to buy a tank. They did not think a guppy would be so high maintenance. In just one month, Moonbeam grows so big the tank can't even hold him. Haley fills the bathtub and wonders what to do. Moonbeam looks at her with pleading eyes.

Haley sighs. "I love having you for a pet, but my house can't hold you." Her friend brings a pickup truck, and they place a wading pool in the back. Four people lift the heavy fish into the pool. They drive Moonbeam to a lake, where Haley pats him goodbye and promises to visit. As Moonbeam splashes into the water, another huge fish swims up beside him. Haley knows Moonbeam is right where he belongs.

Read & Respond

10

Quinn's New Game

Everybody in Quinn's class was talking about Phantom Racecar. Quinn asked her mom if she could get the new video game, but her mom said she would have to wait until her birthday. Her birthday was nine months away. "I'll raise the money myself!" Quinn thought, but she wasn't sure how. It wasn't the right season to rake leaves or shovel snow, and she wasn't good at baking or gardening. She decided to learn something new. She checked out books, watched how-to videos, and filled recycling bins with crumpled paper until she mastered origami wallets. Every day, she folded dozens of wallets in every color. She added origami boxes and fortune tellers, then she opened for business.

Quinn made flyers and set up a stand on the sidewalk. It didn't take long to sell every item. Quinn proudly took her money to the game store, then finally played Phantom Racecar. It was fun for about an hour, but Quinn got bored. She had a better idea. She pulled up a video and began folding an origami racecar.

Read & Respond

5

World's Finest Pie

To make the world's finest pie, Riku knew he needed the very best fruit. These were the wild cherries of Mount Sora. So, Riku packed his basket, pulled on his boots, and hiked through fields until he reached a raging river. The current knocked him over and sucked his boot downstream. A fisherman saw and rowed Riku across the river. Climbing the steep Mount Sora with one boot was difficult. Riku slipped and tumbled halfway down. A boy playing nearby offered Riku his shoe, and although it was very tight, it kept Riku from slipping. Suddenly, a growl blocked Riku's path. Riku did not see anyone to help him. "Please, Lion," he said. "Let me pass, and I will bring you the world's finest pie." Whether or not the lion understood, it wandered into its lair. Riku reached the peak where, at the edge of the cliff, grew the sweetest wild cherries. Riku filled his basket, then filled his belly. The next day, Riku made the whole journey once more. This time, he carried a piece of pie for everyone who helped him along the way.

Read & Respond

6

"Where's Lola?"

Carina went outside to feed the chickens and collect eggs. "1, 2, 3," she counted the hens, but someone was missing. Where was Lola? Carina searched the henhouse and around the coop. Then, she noticed a hole in the...

Read & Respond

11

Sir Huffsalot and Crimson the Dragon

Sir Huffsalot and Crimson the Dragon are friends. But one of them has an anger problem. *Clank!* Sir Huffsalot kicks the door when he loses to Crimson at chess. *En garde!* He points his sword at the tree when he accidentally trips on a root. "When I'm upset, I count backwards from ten," says Crimson. "If you don't learn to calm down, your anger will get you in trouble." Sir Huffsalot doesn't have time to count backwards, though. The archery contest is coming, and it's his chance to meet the princess.

When the contest arrives, Sir Huffsalot pulls back his arrow and - *snap!* - his bowstring breaks. Sir Huffsalot's cheeks burn. He wants to stomp and kick, but the princess is watching. The world's biggest shout is about to burst from his mouth when Crimson soars down. She tells him to take a deep breath. Sir Huffsalot closes his eyes and counts backwards from ten, and as he does, his body calms. He opens his eyes when he hears a voice. "Can I pet your dragon? She seems really nice."

Sir Huffsalot smiles at the princess. "She is."

Read & Respond

12

Baby Otter

The mother sea otter was worried about her baby. He didn't float like the other otters. Even though he loved to splash and swim, he sank to the bottom, so she kept him in shallow water. When she drifted deeper, she hugged him tight on her tummy and told him not to roll off. She tried licking his fur to fluff it up with air bubbles, but that didn't help him float. She fed him extra clams to fatten him up like a pelican, and she taught him to paddle with his tail like a beaver, but nothing could keep him from sinking.

The baby otter grew bigger, and his mother knew that soon she would not be able to carry him around on her stomach any longer. She thought that maybe some otters needed a little extra help, and just then she saw a strand of kelp floating on a wave. She gathered the long seaweed and wove it into a float. After she wrapped it around her baby, he floated all on his own, kicking and splashing with joy. The mother otter felt much lighter.

A LOOK INSIDE...(option 2)

Read & Respond - Story Elements 1

A Message for the King

Juan was anxious for Saturday to arrive. It was the school play, and Juan was the messenger to the king! His mom and dad and aunt and cousins were coming to watch. He had one line, and he practiced it one hundred times. "I come bearing a message for his royal highness."

On opening night, Juan put on his costume and practiced walking importantly. When his scene came, he stepped onto the stage and looked out. He saw his mom and dad and aunt and cousins in the first row. He gulped. "I come with a message for his royal bear!" The audience roared with laughter. Juan's cheeks grew hot. He wanted to run offstage, but his legs wouldn't move. Then, he saw his dad mouth his lines. Juan tried again. "I mean, I come bearing a message for his royal highness." As Juan felt better, he realized that his mistake was funny, and people watched to have fun. He added, "If his royal bear would like a message, you'll have to find someone else." He smiled, and the whole theater cheered.

THINK:

- Who are the characters in this story? How are they feeling?
- What happens in the beginning, middle, and end?

Read & Respond - Story Elements 2

Tommy's Journey

Every morning, the gardener picked bright, ripe vegetables from the garden. Tommy drank up water and soaked in sunshine, determined to become the brightest and ripest tomato. "In a few days, you'll be perfect," said the gardener, and Tommy blushed with pride.

Soon, Tommy was ready to be picked, but the gardener did not come. Days passed. Then, he found a brown dot to stop ripening. When the gardener came, Tommy was too soft. The gardener said, "Tommy was all alone of rolling, he landed with a covered in leaves, then sprouted a single. He sprouted! He drew a whole family of bright tomatoes."

THINK:

- Who are the characters in this story? How are they feeling?
- What happens in the beginning, middle, and end?

Read & Respond - Story Elements 3

Grandma's Idea

When Lyric invited Cara to her laser tag birthday party Sunday, Cara squealed, "Definitely!" As soon as she got home, she told her mom.

"Honey, you promised Grandma you would help her with yardwork that day." Cara asked if she could do yardwork Saturday, but she had a baseball game. She suggested skipping it, but her mom said, "Your team is counting on you to pitch. It's important to keep your commitments." Cara thought and thought about what to do. Finally, she called Grandma for advice. Grandma had an idea.

On Saturday, Cara pitched for her baseball game. She broke her strikeout record. Afterward, she bought a gift for Lyric. Sunday morning, Cara woke up early. She and Grandma got busy pruning bushes and raking leaves. Cara didn't even stop to jump in them. When she called for a ride to the party, her mom said, "You didn't spend much quality time with Grandma."

"Not a problem," said Cara. Grandma climbed into the car with her. At the laser park, Grandma strapped on a vest and ran through the course, laughing.

THINK:

- Who are the characters in this story? How are they feeling?
- What happens in the beginning, middle, and end?

Read & Respond - Story Elements 4

A Secret Problem

Sheila was a nice kid with a secret problem. Whenever the moon glowed round and full, she sprouted fur and sharp claws. Then, she shrank. Sheila was a were-rat. So, when Chloe invited her to a sleepover on the night of a Full moon, Sheila either had to find an excuse or a solution.

Read & Respond - Story Elements 5

World's Finest Pie

To make the world's finest pie, Riku knew he needed the very best fruit. These were the wild cherries of Mount Sara So, Riku packed his basket, pulled on his boots, and hiked through fields until he reached a raging river. The current knocked him over and sucked his boot downstream. A fisherman saw and rowed Riku across the river. Climbing the steep Mount Sara with one boot was difficult. Riku slipped and tumbled halfway down. A boy playing nearby offered Riku his shoe, and although it was very tight, it kept Riku from slipping. Suddenly, a growl blocked Riku's path. Riku did not see anyone to help him. "Please, Lion," he said. "Let me pass, and I will bring you the world's finest pie." Whether or not the lion understood, it wandered into its lair. Riku reached the peak where, at the edge of the cliff, grew the sweetest wild cherries. Riku filled his basket, then filled his belly. The next day, Riku made the whole journey once more. This time, he carried a piece of pie for everyone who helped him along the way.

THINK:

- Who are the characters in this story? How are they feeling?
- What happens in the beginning, middle, and end?

Read & Respond - Story Elements 6

"Where's Lola?"

Carina went outside to feed the chickens and collect eggs. "1, 2, 3," she counted the hens, but someone was missing. Where was Lola? Carina searched the henhouse and around the coop. Then, she noticed a hole in the chicken wire where Lola might have escaped.

Read & Respond - Story Elements 1

Story Mountain

Authors often use a story mountain to help them map out the plot of the story. Use the story mountain template below to show the plot structure of this story. Make sure you put the climax of the story at the very top.

THINK:

- Who are the characters in this story? How are they feeling?
- What happens in the beginning, middle, and end?

Read & Respond - Story Elements 3

Problem & Solution

Often times fictional stories will center around a main problem the character is experiencing, and how the problem gets solved. Think about the story you just read. Use the space below to explain the problem and solution.

Read & Respond - Story Elements 5

Story Elements

Most fictional stories have four main elements that work together to create an enjoyable experience for the reader. List the story elements in the space to the right and then explain which one had the biggest impact on your reading experience.

What element had the biggest impact on the story? Why?

Read & Respond - Story Elements 2

Story Elements

Most fictional stories have four main elements that work together to create an enjoyable experience for the reader. List the story elements in the space to the right and then explain which one had the biggest impact on your reading experience.

What element had the biggest impact on the story? Why?

Read & Respond - Story Elements 4

Describe the Key Story Elements

While you are reading a fictional story, you want to look for clues that will help you describe (in detail) the main story elements. Use the space below to identify and describe the characters, setting, and main event.

Characters:

Setting:

Beginning:

Middle:

End:

Read & Respond - Story Elements 6

Story Mountain

Authors often use a story mountain to help them map out the plot of the story. Use the story mountain template below to show the plot structure of this story. Make sure you put the climax of the story at the very top.

A LOOK INSIDE...(option 3)

Read & Respond 1

A Message for the King

Juan was anxious for Saturday to arrive. It was the school play, and Juan was the messenger to the king! His mom and dad and aunt and cousins were coming to watch. He had one line, and he practiced it one hundred times. "I come bearing a message for his royal highness."

On opening night, Juan put on his costume and practiced walking importantly. When his scene came, he stepped onto the stage and looked out. He saw his mom and dad and aunt and cousins in the first row. He gulped. "I come with a message for his royal bear!" The audience roared with laughter. Juan's cheeks grew hot. He wanted to run offstage, but his legs wouldn't move. Then, he saw his dad mouth his lines. Juan tried again. "I mean, I come bearing a message for his royal highness." As Juan felt better, he realized that his mistake was funny, and people watched a play to have fun. He added, "If his royal bear would like a message, you'll have to find someone else." He smiled, and the whole theater cheered.

THINK:

- Who are the characters in this story? How are they feeling?
- What happens in the beginning, middle, and end?

Read & Respond 2

Tommie's Journey

Every morning, the gardener picked bright, ripe vegetables from the garden. Tommie drank up water and soaked in sunshine, determined to become the brightest and ripest tomato. "In a few days, you'll be perfect," said the gardener, and Tommie blushed with pride.

Soon, Tommie was ready to be picked, but it did not come. Days passed. Then, he found a brown dot to stop ripening. When the Tommie was too soft. The gardener picked him. Tommie was all alone of rolling, he landed with a covered in leaves, then sprang a tingle. He sprouted! He drew the whole family of bright tomatoes.

THINK:

- Who are the characters in this story?
- What happens in the beginning, middle, and end?

Read & Respond 3

Grandma's Idea

When Lyric invited Cara to her laser tag birthday party Sunday, Cara squealed. "Definitely!" As soon as she got home, she told her mom. "Honey, you promised Grandma you would help her with yardwork that day." Cara asked if she could do yardwork Saturday, but she had a baseball game. She suggested skipping it, but her mom said, "Your team is counting on you to pitch. It's important to keep your commitments." Cara thought and thought about what to do. Finally, she called Grandma for advice. Grandma had an idea.

On Saturday, Cara pitched for her baseball game. She broke her streakout record. Afterward, she bought a gift for Lyric. Sunday morning, Cara woke up early. She and Grandma got busy pruning bushes and raking leaves. Cara didn't even stop to jump in them. When she called for a ride to the party, her mom said, "You didn't spend much quality time with Grandma."

"Not a problem," said Cara. Grandma climbed into the car with her. At the laser park, Grandma strapped on a vest and ran through the course, laughing.

THINK:

- Who are the characters in this story? How are they feeling?
- What happens in the beginning, middle, and end?

Read & Respond 4

A Secret Problem

Sheila was a nice kid with a secret problem. Whenever the moon glowed round and full, she sprouted fur and sharp claws. Then, she shrunk. Sheila was a were-rat. So, when Chloe invited her to a sleepover on the night of a full moon, Sheila either had to find an excuse or a solution.

Read & Respond 5

World's Finest Pie

To make the world's finest pie, Riku knew he needed the very best fruit. These were the wild cherries of Mount Sora. So, Riku packed his basket, pulled on his boots, and hiked through fields until he reached a raging river. The current knocked him over and sucked his boot downstream. A fisherman saw and rowed Riku across the river. Climbing the steep Mount Sora with one boot was difficult. Riku slipped and tumbled halfway down. A boy playing nearby offered Riku his shoe, and although it was very tight, it kept Riku from slipping. Suddenly, a growl blocked Riku's path. Riku did not see anyone to help him. "Please, Lion," he said. "Let me pass, and I will bring you the world's finest pie." Whether or not the lion understood, it wandered into its lair. Riku reached the peak where, at the edge of the cliff, grew the sweetest wild cherries. Riku filled his basket, then filled his belly. The next day, Riku made the whole journey once more. This time, he carried a piece of pie for everyone who helped him along the way.

THINK:

- Who are the characters in this story? How are they feeling?
- What happens in the beginning, middle, and end?

Read & Respond 6

"Where's Lola?"

Carina went outside to feed the chickens and collect eggs. "1, 2, 3..." she counted the hens, but someone was missing. Where was Lola? Carina searched the henhouse and around the coop. Then, she noticed a hole in the chicken wire. Lola had squeezed through. So, Carina looked all around the yard.

Read & Respond - Story Elements 1

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

What element had the biggest impact on the story? _____

Where does this story take place? How do you know? _____

How did Juan change throughout the story? Why? _____

Use this space or a sticky note to jot down your thoughts about how different story elements impact the story.

Read & Respond - Story Elements 3

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

What element had the biggest impact on the story? _____

Why did Cara almost have to miss her friend's party? _____

What was the solution to Cara's problem? _____

Use this space or a sticky note to jot down your thoughts about how different story elements impact the story.

Read & Respond - Story Elements 5

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

What element had the biggest impact on the story? _____

What obstacles did Riku have to overcome to get to the cherries? _____

Give three words to describe Riku's personality. Give reasons for why you picked each word. _____

Use this space or a sticky note to jot down your thoughts about how different story elements impact the story.

Read & Respond - Story Elements 2

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

What element had the biggest impact on the story? _____

Who is Tommie? What clues help you know that? _____

What is happening to Tommie in this story? _____

Use this space or a sticky note to jot down your thoughts about how different story elements impact the story.

Read & Respond - Story Elements 4

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

What element had the biggest impact on the story? _____

How does the author describe Sheila's secret problem? _____

What do you think would've happened if her friends didn't also have a secret? _____

Use this space or a sticky note to jot down your thoughts about how different story elements impact the story.

Read & Respond - Story Elements 6

Use the space below to respond to the text you just read.

What element had the biggest impact on the story? _____

How do Carina's feelings change throughout the story? _____

What would you do if you found Lola on your couch? _____

Use this space or a sticky note to jot down your thoughts about how different story elements impact the story.

Hey! Let's be friends!

Click the icon below to follow me on social media.



Looking for more stellar resources?

Click the photos below to check out some of my other resources.

