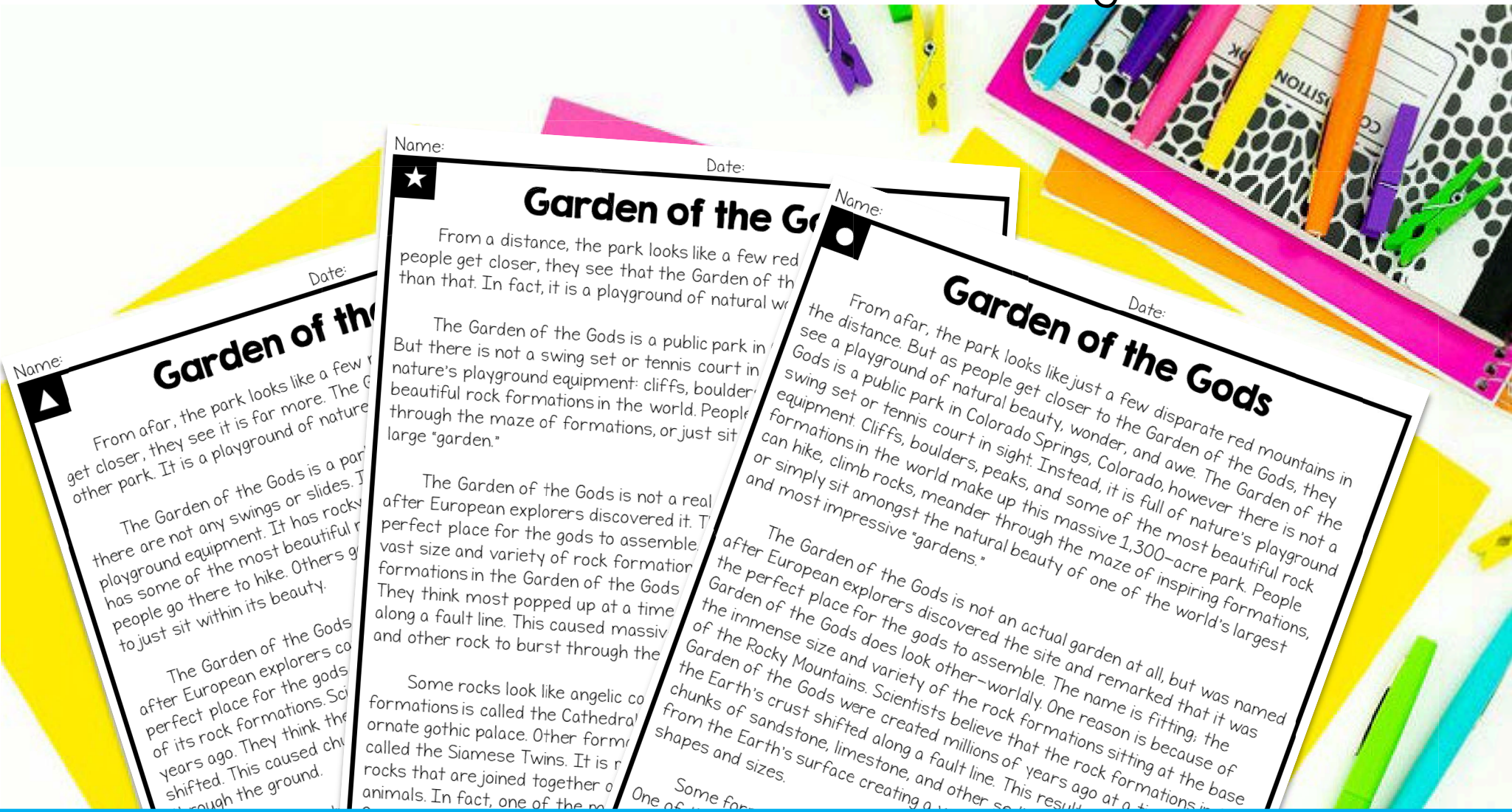


Differentiated Reading Passages

AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

Same Text, 3 Different Reading Levels



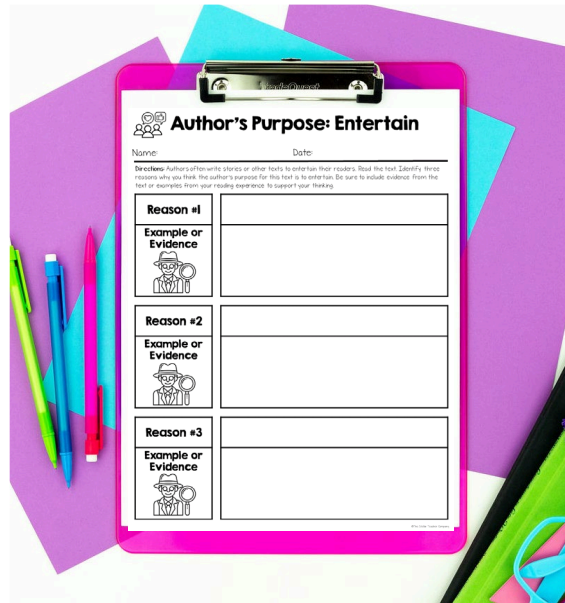
WHAT'S INCLUDED?

This resource includes differentiated reading passages, skill-based graphic organizers, and comprehension passages based on the passages.



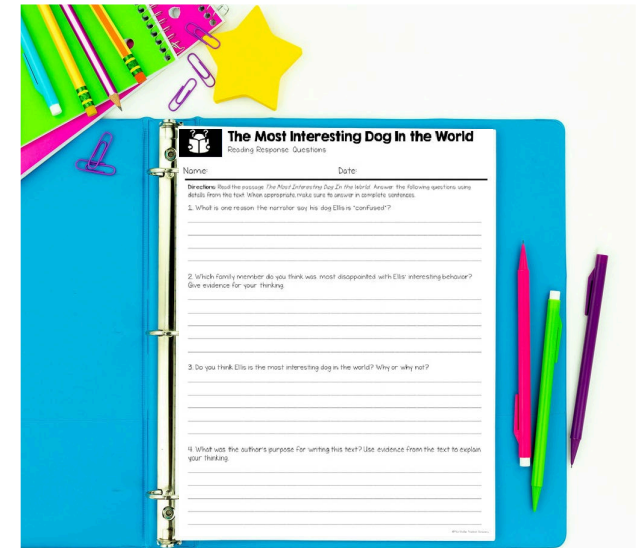
3 Sets of Differentiated Reading Passages

Each set includes the same text written at three different levels for a total of 9 passages.



Graphic Organizer

Each text has a graphic organizer students can use in response to that story, OR, it can be used with any text to practice the same skill.



Reading Response Questions

Each text also includes a set of reading response questions that could be answered using any level of passages, so it doesn't matter if your students are reading level A, B, or C, the answer to the questions will still be the same.

*** Digital versions are included for all templates. ***

EASY TO DIFFERENTIATE

Each text is written at three different levels. You can select the level that is best for your entire class, or you can let students choose the level they want to read. This makes discussing the same text whole group so much easier.



Each text is written at 3 different levels to make it easy to differentiate.

- ▲ Level A: 420L - 610L
- ★ Level B: 6:10L - 810L
- Level C: 810L - 1100L

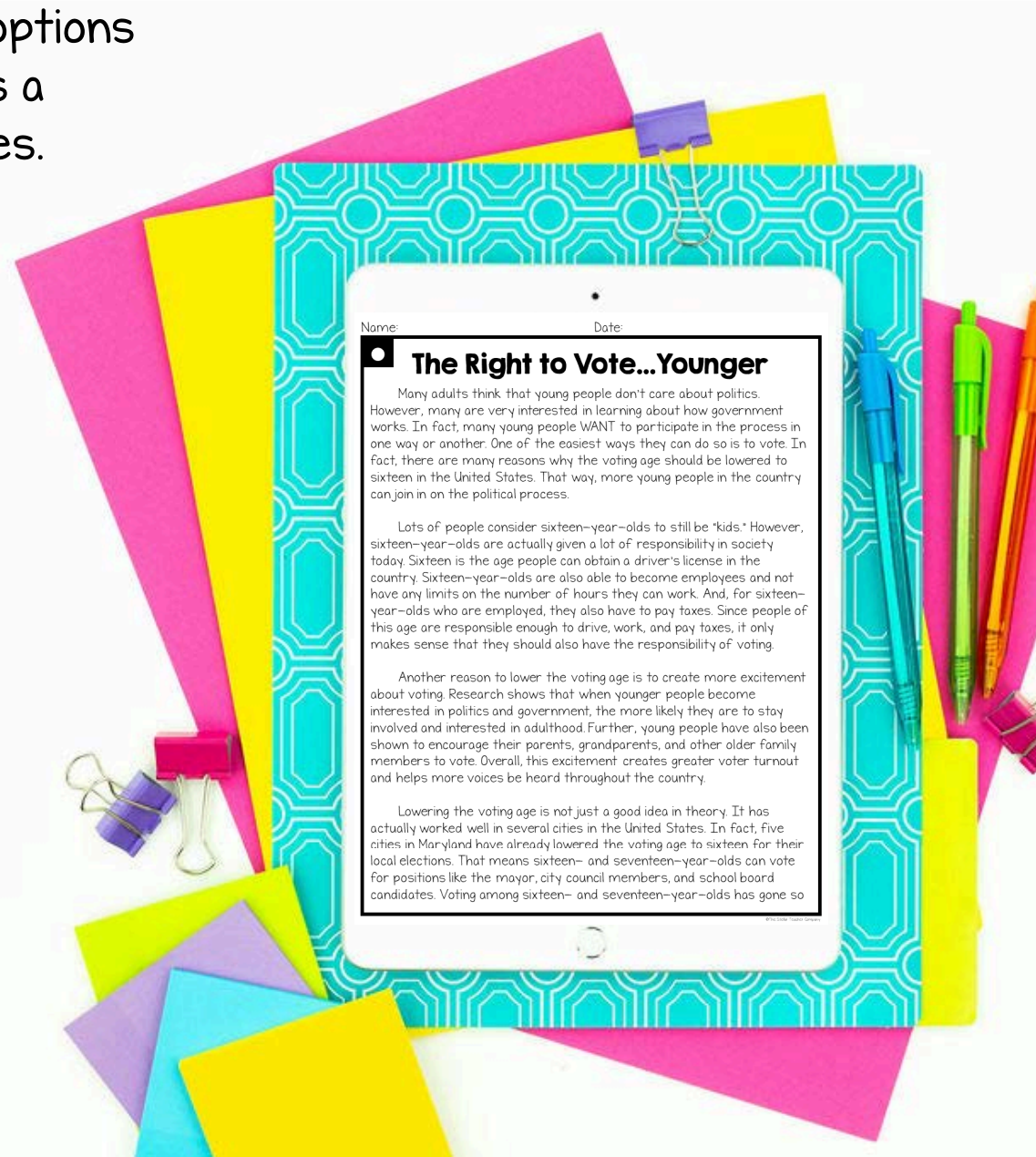
Digital versions are included for all passages and response pages.

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.

In addition to the print version, you get a digital version created using Google Slides for all the passages, response pages, and graphic organizers.

Rest assured, you can use this resource in both face-to-face and virtual classrooms.



A LOOK INSIDE... Text #1

Passage A - Level 420L - 610L

Passage B - Level 610L - 810L

Passage C - Level 810L - 110L

It looks just like the toe of a dancing ballerina. And just like a graceful dancer, the rock does not fall over. It stays balanced on a flat rock below it.

Not only are the formations striking because they are big. They are also beautiful because of their colors. The beauty of the Garden of the Gods is boosted by the red, orange, pink, and white rocks. They create a scene that is more beautiful than any other park. Rocky Mountain formations look like old castles. One of the most popular formations is called the Cathedral Spires. The rocks look just like a gothic palace. Other formations look like giants. One in particular is called the Siamese Twins. It is made up of two identical stacks of rock that are joined together at the "hip." Other formations resemble the Siamese Twins. In fact, one of the most popular formations is called the Kissing Camels. As the name implies, an opening in a ridge line creates the shape of two camels sharing a kiss. There are even formations that appear to defy gravity. The most famous is called Balanced Rock. It is a boulder over 30 feet high that weighs over a million pounds. But it does not sit on the ground. In fact, the base of the rock is not even flat. It is actually

Name: _____ Date: _____

Garden of the Gods

From afar, the park looks like a few red mountains. But as people get closer, they see it is far more. The Garden of the Gods is not like any other park. It is a playground of nature.

The Garden of the Gods is a park in Colorado Springs, Colorado. But there are not any swings or slides. Instead, it is full of nature's playground equipment. It has rocky cliffs. It has huge boulders. Plus, it has some of the most beautiful rock formations in the world. Some people go there to hike. Others go to climb rocks. But plenty of people go to just sit within its beauty.

The Garden of the Gods is not a real garden at all. It was named after European explorers discovered it. They stated that it was the perfect place for the gods to meet. One reason is because of the size of its rock formations. Scientists believe they were formed millions of years ago. They think they popped up at a time when the Earth's crust shifted. This caused chunks of sandstone and other rock to burst through the ground.

There are plenty of formations in the Garden of the Gods that look like old castles. One of the most popular formations is called the Cathedral Spires. The rocks look just like a gothic palace. Other formations look like giants. One in particular is called the Siamese Twins. It is made up of two identical stacks of rock that are joined together at the "hip." Other formations resemble the Siamese Twins. In fact, one of the most popular formations is called the Kissing Camels. As the name implies, an opening in a ridge line creates the shape of two camels sharing a kiss. There are even formations that appear to defy gravity. The most famous is called Balanced Rock. It is a boulder over 30 feet high that weighs over a million pounds. But it does not sit on the ground. In fact, the base of the rock is not even flat. It is actually

Garden of the Gods

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read the passage *Garden of the Gods*. Answer the following questions using details from the text. When appropriate, make sure to answer in complete sentences.

1. What are some of the reasons why people go to visit the Garden of the Gods?

2. How does the author describe the formation referred to as Siamese Twins?

3. What are some of the details the author includes to describe the colors of the rock formations?

4. What was the author's purpose for writing this text? Use evidence from the text to explain your thinking.

It looks just like the toe of a dancing ballerina. And just like a graceful dancer, the rock does not fall over. It stays balanced on a flat rock below it.

Not only are the formations striking because they are big. They are also beautiful because of their colors. The beauty of the Garden of the Gods is boosted by the red, orange, pink, and white rocks. They create a scene that is more beautiful than any other park. Rocky Mountain formations look like old castles. One of the most popular formations is called the Cathedral Spires. The rocks look just like a gothic palace. Other formations look like giants. One in particular is called the Siamese Twins. It is made up of two identical stacks of rock that are joined together at the "hip." Other formations resemble the Siamese Twins. In fact, one of the most popular formations is called the Kissing Camels. As the name implies, an opening in a ridge line creates the shape of two camels sharing a kiss. There are even formations that appear to defy gravity. The most famous is called Balanced Rock. It is a boulder over 30 feet high that weighs over a million pounds. But it does not sit on the ground. In fact, the base of the rock is not even flat. It is actually

Name: _____ Date: _____

Garden of the Gods

From a distance, the park looks like a few red mountains. But as people get closer, they see that the Garden of the Gods is far more than that. In fact, it is a playground of natural wonder.

The Garden of the Gods is a public park in Colorado Springs, Colorado. But there is not a swing set or tennis court in sight. Instead, it is full of nature's playground equipment: cliffs, boulders, and some of the most beautiful rock formations in the world. People can hike, climb rocks, walk through the maze of formations, or just sit amongst the beauty of this large "garden."

The Garden of the Gods is not a real garden at all. It was named after European explorers discovered it. They stated that it was the perfect place for the gods to assemble. One reason is because of the vast size and variety of rock formations. Scientists believe that the rock formations in the Garden of the Gods were created millions of years ago. They think most popped up at a time when the Earth's crust shifted along a fault line. This caused massive chunks of sandstone, limestone, and other rock to burst through the Earth's surface.

two camels sharing a kiss. There are even formations that appear to defy gravity. The most famous is called Balanced Rock. It is a boulder over 30 feet high and weighing over one million pounds, but it does not sit flat on the ground. In fact, the base of the boulder is not flat at all. It is actually pointed, just like the toe of a dancing ballerina. And, in the same way that a graceful ballet dancer keeps her balance, the rock does not topple over. Instead, it remains perfectly poised on a flat base of rock beneath it.

Not only are the formations striking because they are big. They are also beautiful because of their colors. The beauty of the Garden of the Gods is boosted by the red, orange, pink, and white rocks. They create a scene that is more beautiful than any other park. Rocky Mountain formations look like old castles. One of the most popular formations is called the Cathedral Spires. The rocks look just like a gothic palace. Other formations look like giants. One in particular is called the Siamese Twins. It is made up of two identical stacks of rock that are joined together at the "hip." Other formations resemble the Siamese Twins. In fact, one of the most popular formations is called the Kissing Camels. As the name implies, an opening in a ridge line creates the shape of two camels sharing a kiss. There are even formations that appear to defy gravity. The most famous is called Balanced Rock. It is a boulder over 30 feet high that weighs over a million pounds. But it does not sit on the ground. In fact, the base of the rock is not even flat. It is actually

Name: _____ Date: _____

Garden of the Gods

From afar, the park looks like just a few separate red mountains in the distance. But as people get closer to the Garden of the Gods, they see a playground of natural beauty, wonder, and awe. The Garden of the Gods is a public park in Colorado Springs, Colorado, however there is not a swing set or tennis court in sight. Instead, it is full of nature's playground equipment. Cliffs, boulders, peaks, and some of the most beautiful rock formations in the world make up this massive 1,300-acre park. People can hike, climb rocks, meander through the maze of inspiring formations, or simply sit amongst the natural beauty of one of the world's largest and most impressive "gardens."

The Garden of the Gods is not an actual garden at all, but was named after European explorers discovered the site and remarked that it was the perfect place for the gods to assemble. The name is fitting, the Garden of the Gods does look other-worldly. One reason is because of the immense size and variety of the rock formations sitting at the base of the Rocky Mountains. Scientists believe that the rock formations in the Garden of the Gods were created millions of years ago at a time when the Earth's crust shifted along a fault line. This resulted in massive chunks of sandstone, limestone, and other sedimentary rock bursting up from the ground. The formations in diverse

ectural structures. Cathedral Spires. The other formations are the Siamese Twins. It is two rocks that are joined at the top. In this formation, it creates the shape of

Author's Purpose: Describe

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Think about the main topic of the text. What are all the ways the author described that topic? Use the space below to jot down some of the descriptive details the author used in the text. Be specific.

Descriptive Detail	Descriptive Detail
Descriptive Detail	Descriptive Detail

What is the topic?

The Response Sheet and Graphic Organizer work with ALL 3 Passages!



A LOOK INSIDE... Text #2

Passage A - Level 420L - 610L

Passage B - Level 610L - 810L

Passage C - Level 810L - 110L

My dad really wanted a guard dog. He really hoped Ellis would be good at letting us know if strangers were around. However, Ellis does not mind knocks at the front door. He doesn't care about loud cars driving past our house. He doesn't even make a sound when he sees the mailman. But there is one thing that makes Ellis bark louder than anything: TV commercials. You should see him anytime a spot for a restaurant, medicine, or cell phone company pops up on the TV screen. He growls like he's making sure the accountants are doing their job.

I thought the case never came to a conclusion.

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Most Interesting Dog In the World

All pets are special. In fact, no two of them are the same. Well, that's what I used to think. Then I got my dog, Ellis.

You see, Ellis is a very special dog. He is so special that he doesn't act like a dog at all. He is a very confusing animal. No one in my family is sure of what to make of him. However, my mom thinks Ellis is amazing. She says he's "the most interesting dog in the world." I say he's just a very confused pooch. Here's what I mean:

It all started with his food. When we brought Ellis home, he wouldn't go near his dog bowl. He didn't like the first kind of dog food we tried. Or the second. Or even the third. He would even turn up his nose at people food. He had no interest in our burgers or pork chops for dinner. Instead, he would stare at the refrigerator. Then he would bark at the pantry door. Soon, we figured out what Ellis wanted. You see, his favorite food is cereal. He can't get enough of it, especially with milk. You should see me try to keep him off the kitchen table in the morning when I eat breakfast!

Although Ellis has strange eating habits, I thought he would still become my best friend. I figured he has absolutely no interest in anything other than his food.

for nothing. However, he is not interested in me or my sister. In fact, there are some interesting eating habits, I figured he would still become my best friend. I figured he has absolutely no interest in anything other than his food.



The Most Interesting Dog In the World

Reading Response Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read the passage *The Most Interesting Dog In the World*. Answer the following questions using details from the text. When appropriate, make sure to answer in complete sentences.

1. What is one reason the narrator says his dog Ellis is "confused"?

2. Which family member do you think was most disappointed with Ellis' interesting behavior? Give evidence for your thinking.

3. Do you think Ellis is the most interesting dog in the world? Why or why not?

4. What was the author's purpose for writing this text? Use evidence from the text to explain your thinking.

driving past our house. He doesn't even make a sound when he sees a delivery driver or the mailman. But there is one thing that Ellis really feels we need to be protected from: TV commercials. Any time Ellis sees a 30-second spot for a fast-food restaurant, prescription medicine, or cell phone company pop up on the TV screen, he growls and snarls uncontrollably. I guess Ellis REALLY wants to make sure we spend our money responsibly. At least he's protecting our bank account!

I thought typical. Max realize he's he never d world!"

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Most Interesting Dog In the World

All pets are unique, right? They have interesting little quirks that make no two of them the same. Well, that's what I used to think. That is, until I got my dog, Ellis. You see, Ellis has so many quirks that he doesn't act like much of a dog at all. He confuses everyone who comes in contact with him, including most everyone in my family. But my mom thinks Ellis is amazing. She says he's "the most interesting dog in the world." I say he's just a very confused canine. Here's what I mean:

It all started with his food. When we brought Ellis home, he wouldn't go near his dog bowl. He didn't touch the first kibble we tried. Or the second. Or even the third. He wouldn't even beg at our feet when we would eat burgers or pork chops for dinner. Instead, he would only stare at the refrigerator and bark constantly at the pantry door. Soon we figured out that Ellis doesn't care much for meat. That's because, instead, his favorite food is cereal. He devours it, especially with milk. You should see me try to keep him off the kitchen table each morning when I eat breakfast!

Even though Ellis has some interesting eating habits, I figured he would still become my best friend. I mean dogs aren't nicknamed "man's best friend" for nothing. However, he has absolutely no interest in anything other than his food.

try to play with him, walk him, or just give him a pat on the back. He walks away from me. And it's the same with my mom, dad, and sister. In fact, there is only one other resident of our house who wants to hang out with the cat. Ellis naps with the cat, plays with the cat, and even uses the cat's scratching post. At least our cat is my best friend when we brought Ellis home.

One thing my dad wanted in a dog was a protector. He really hoped Ellis would be good at alerting us of strangers that may come around our house. However, Ellis isn't bothered by knocks at the front door or loud cars driving past our house.

One thing my dad wanted in a dog was a guardian and a protector. He really hoped Ellis would be good at alerting us of any strangers that may come around our home. However, Ellis isn't bothered by knocks at the front door or loud cars driving past our house. He doesn't even make a peep when he sees a delivery driver, meter reader, or the mailman. But there is one thing that Ellis really feels our family needs protection from: TV commercials. Any time Ellis sees a 30-second spot for a fast-food restaurant, prescription medicine, or cell phone company pop up on the TV screen, he growls and snarls uncontrollably. I guess Ellis REALLY wants to make sure we spend our money responsibly. At least he's protecting our bank account!

I thought typical. Max realize he's he never d world!"

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Most Interesting Dog In the World

All pets are unique, right? They have interesting little quirks and habits that make no two of them exactly the same. Well, that's what I used to think...that is, until I got my dog, Ellis. You see, Ellis has so many strange oddities about him that he doesn't act like much of a dog at all. He confuses everyone who comes in contact with him, including most everybody in my family. However, my mom thinks Ellis is absolutely amazing. She says we're the luckiest pet-owners because we have "the most interesting dog in the world." While my mom might call him interesting, I say he's just a very confused canine. Here's what I mean:

It all started with Ellis' diet. When we brought him home, Ellis wouldn't go near his dog bowl. He didn't touch the first kibble we tried...or the second...or even the third. He wouldn't even bother to beg at our feet when we would eat juicy hamburgers or pork chops for dinner. Instead, he would only stare at the refrigerator and bark constantly at the pantry door. Soon we discovered that Ellis doesn't care much for meat. That's because, instead, his favorite food is cereal. He devours it, especially with milk. You should see me try to keep him off the kitchen table each morning when I eat breakfast!

Although Ellis has strange eating habits, I figured he would still become my best friend. I mean dogs aren't nicknamed "man's best friend" for nothing. However, he has absolutely no interest in anything other than his food.

try to play with him, walk him, or just give him a pat on the back. He walks away from me. And it's the same with my mom, dad, and sister. In fact, there are some interesting eating habits, I figured he would still become my best friend. I figured he has absolutely no interest in anything other than his food.



Author's Purpose: Entertain

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Authors often write stories or other texts to entertain their readers. Read the text. Identify three reasons why you think the author's purpose for this text is to entertain. Be sure to include evidence from the text or examples from your reading experience to support your thinking.

Reason #1	
Example or Evidence	
Reason #2	
Example or Evidence	
Reason #3	
Example or Evidence	

The Response Sheet and Graphic Organizer work with ALL 3 Passages!



A LOOK INSIDE... Text #3

Passage A - Level 420L - 610L

Austria since 2007. Voting numbers in both countries are very high. Germany and England have also lowered their voting age to sixteen, but only for some elections.

Lots of research has been done about voting. It shows that when younger people can vote, they keep voting throughout their lives. They also inspire more people to vote. They urge people like their parents and grandparents to vote more.

Sixteen-year-olds are considered young people. And when they are voting as young people, they are not as responsible as older people now.

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Right to Vote...Younger

Lots of adults think young people don't care about voting. But this is not always the case. Many kids like learning about politics. Others like to learn about the people that run for office. More want to know about how government works. But they are not able to have their voices heard. That's because they can't vote. At least, not yet.

But what if younger people could vote? If so, only good things would happen. They would feel more connected to the country. They would feel like they have a say in decisions that are made in the United States. That's why younger people should be allowed to vote. The voting age should be lowered to sixteen in the country.

Lots of people think sixteen-year-olds are just kids. But many of them have a lot of responsibilities. They can get a driver's license. They can get a job. And if they have a job, they have to pay taxes. Since sixteen-year-olds are responsible enough to do these things, they should also be able to vote.

Lowering the voting age is not just a good idea. It has already worked well in some places. Five cities in Maryland allow sixteen-year-olds to vote in local elections. That's because the mayor, Lowering the voting age in Maryland is looking to make it easier for other states let seventeen-year-olds to run for the same positions as just one person. If younger people should be able to vote in other countries allow has been the voting age in



The Right to Vote...Younger

Reading Response Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read the passage *The Right to Vote...Younger*. Answer the following questions using details from the text. When appropriate, make sure to answer in complete sentences.

- According to the author, what are some of the positive things that would happen as a result of letting younger people vote?

- What are three of the reasons the author thinks that 16-year-olds should have the right to vote?

- List out the countries that have already allowed 16 or 17 year-olds to vote in some elections.

- What was the author's purpose for writing this text? Use evidence from the text to explain your thinking.

Passage B - Level 610L - 810L

to just one. If younger people can be trusted to help select a candidate, they should be able to vote in a general election too.

Some other countries already allow sixteen-year-olds to vote. Brazil lowered its voting age to sixteen over thirty years ago. Austria was the first country in Europe to do so in 2007. Their voter turnout rates have been very high ever since. Germany and England have also lowered their voting age.

Overall responsible to vote soon are also ob are also ob to sixteen-

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Right to Vote Younger

Lots of adults think young people don't care about politics. But many teenagers do care. They want to learn how government works. They also want to be involved in it. One of the easiest ways they can do this is to vote. That's why younger people should be allowed to vote in the United States. In fact, the voting age should be lowered to sixteen throughout the country.

Lots of people believe sixteen-year-olds are just "kids." But many of them have a lot of responsibilities. They are able to do a lot of things in today's society. Sixteen is the age people can get a driver's license. It is also the age when people can get a job and not have a limit on the hours they work. Plus, sixteen-year-olds who have a job must pay taxes. Since sixteen-year-olds are responsible enough to do these things, they should be able to vote as well.

Another reason to lower the voting age is to make voting more attractive. Research shows that when younger people become involved in politics, they continue to be involved as adults. Young people are also likely to encourage others to vote. They can inspire people like their parents to go to the polls. This helps more voices be heard in the voting process.

Lowering the voting age is not only a good idea. It has already worked well in some places in the country. Five cities in Maryland have lowered the voting age to sixteen for local elections. That means they are eligible for positions like the mayor and city council members. The voting age has gone so well in these cities that Maryland is looking to do it all over the state.

Other states allow seventeen-year-olds to vote in primary elections. Primary elections are held before general elections. That's why the American political parties narrow down their list of candidates

The Response Sheet and Graphic Organizer work with ALL 3 Passages!

Passage C - Level 810L - 110L

well in these cities that Maryland is investigating giving voting rights to this age group throughout the state.

In addition, over 15 states already allow seventeen-year-olds to vote in primary elections. Primary elections are the elections that are held before a general election takes place. The American political parties narrow down their list of candidates to just one in a primary election. If these young people make sense in a general election.


Voting other countries ago. Austria 2007. Their Germany a voting age Overall voting. The pay taxes. likely to cor should start soon as po


Overall voting. The pay taxes. likely to cor should start soon as po

Author's Purpose: Persuade


Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Authors can persuade readers with their text. Read the text. Jot down some ways your thinking has changed about the topic. Use the space at the bottom to share action steps you think the author wants you to take with your new way of thinking.

I used to think... 

But, now I think... 

Based on the text, I think the author would want me to...



Think about what the author is trying to persuade the reader to do. What action steps could you take based on what you read in this text?

Hey! Let's be friends!

Click the icon below to follow me on social media.



Looking for new ideas and easy-to-implement strategies?

Tune in to the [Stellar Teacher Podcast](#) each week to hear me share actionable strategies that will help take you to the next level of your teaching career!

Click [HERE](#) to listen!

