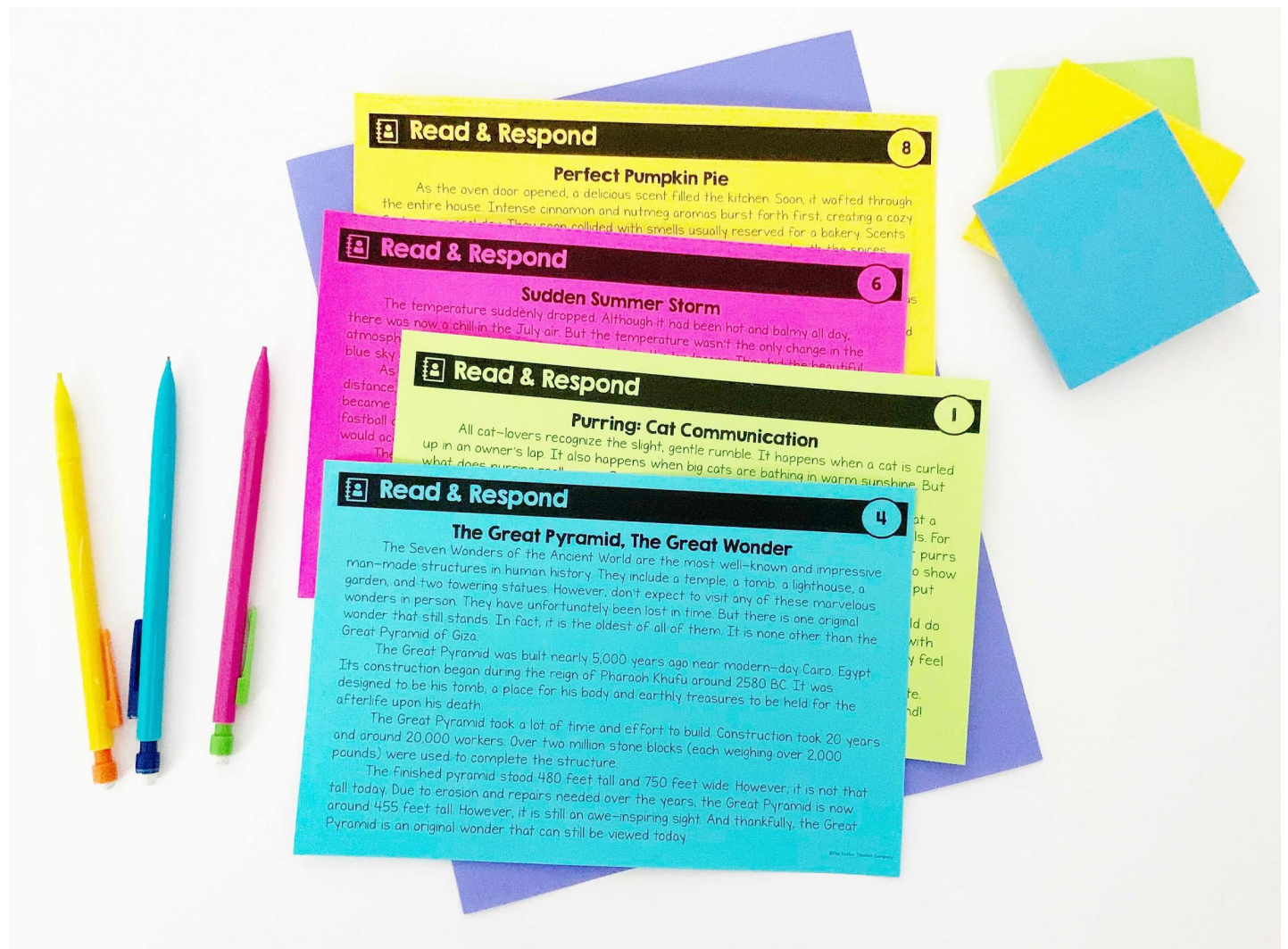
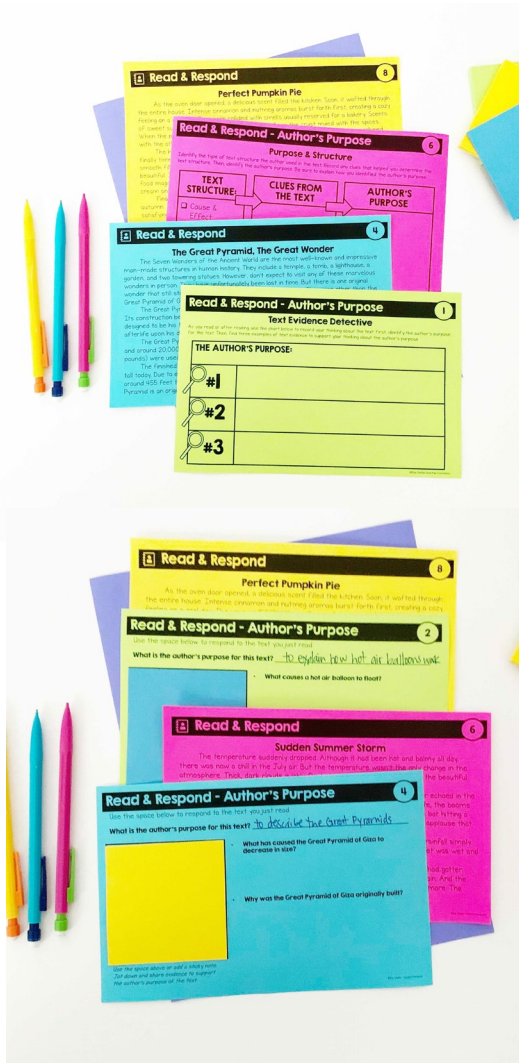


AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

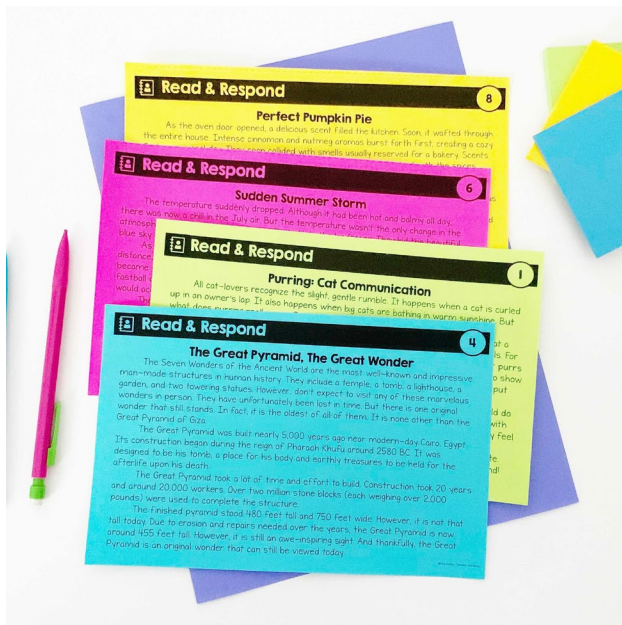
READ & RESPOND TASK CARDS



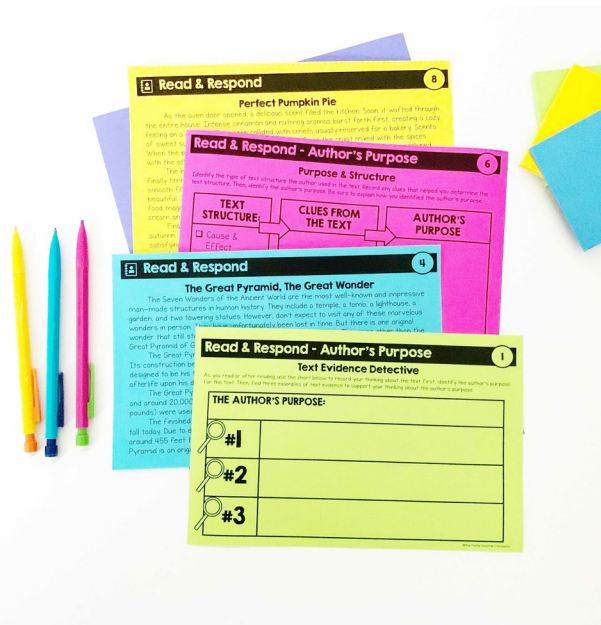
WHAT'S INCLUDED?

This resource includes 20 reading task cards that contain short reading passages that will help you teach and practicing finding the author's purpose of a text.

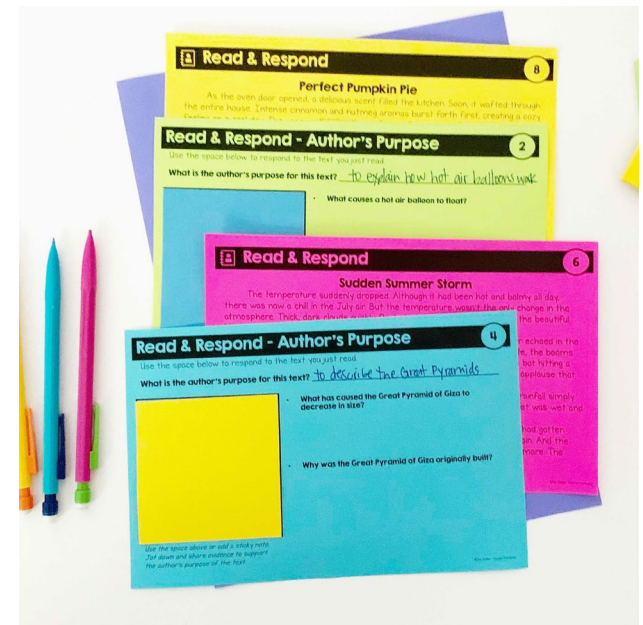
Task cards can be printed in three different ways.



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 reading passages (takes up half a page). The passages lend themselves to identifying author's purpose, but you really could use them to teach any reading skill.



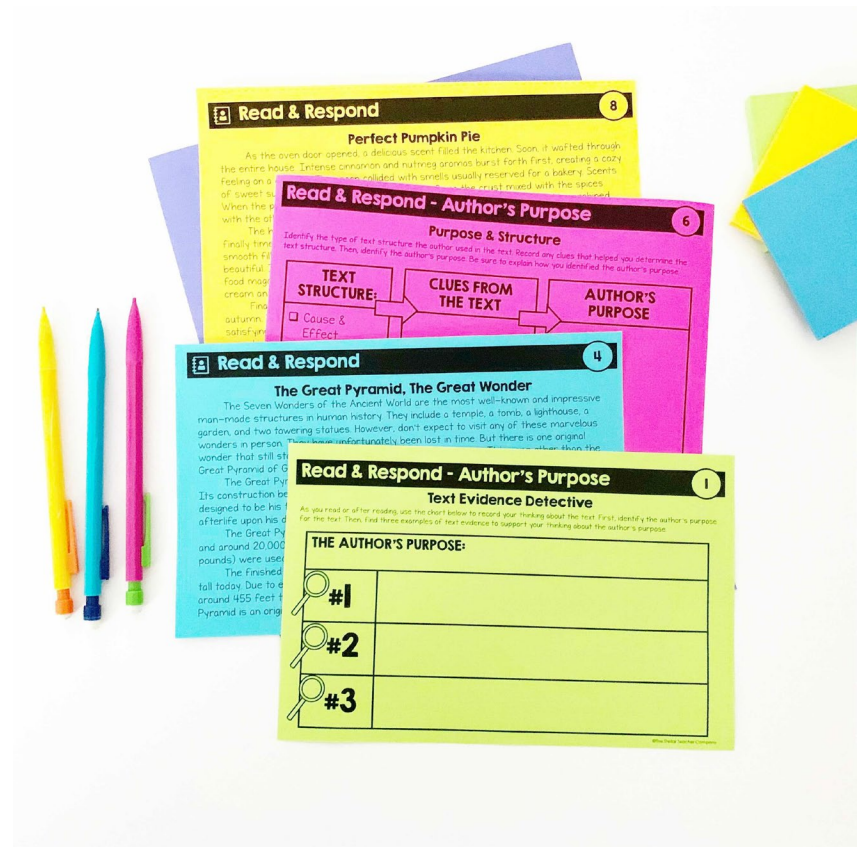
- This set of task cards is ideal if you want to use them in the “traditional” task card way.
- I suggest printing them on cardstock and either putting them all on a book ring or in a photo box.
- There are 3 options of reading response sheets included so students can read the passages and respond on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

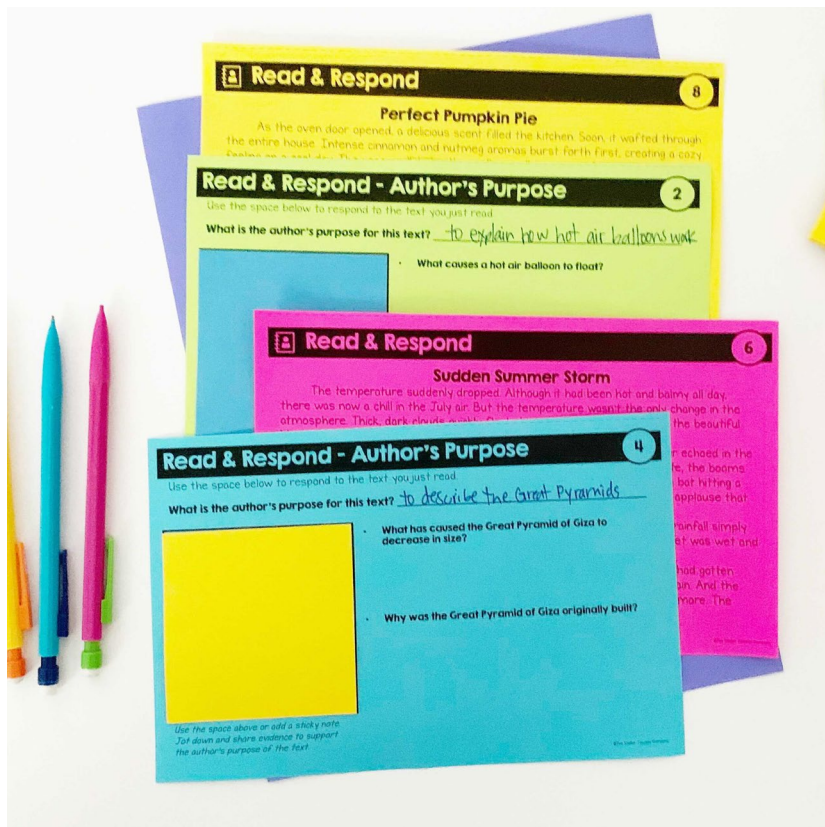
- On the front of each task card is a short reading passage (the same numbers and titles as option #1).
- On the back, there is a graphic organizer template that will help students think about the author's purpose of a text.
- Each text is written with a different purpose so students will get practice deciding if the purpose is to inform, describe, entertain, or persuade.



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).
- On the back, there is space for a sticky note so students can jot down their thinking about the text. There are also two text-based comprehension questions.

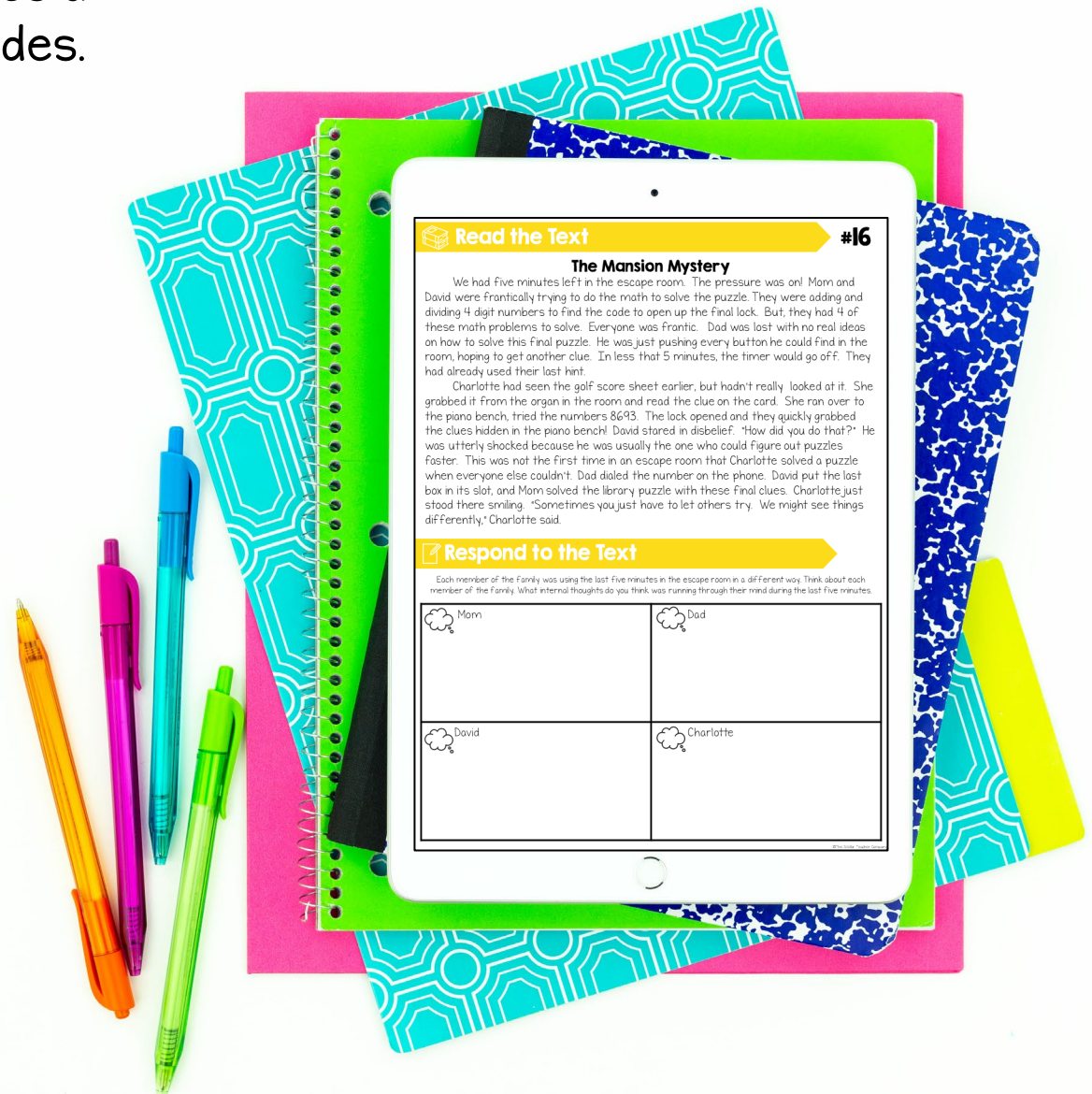
Digital versions are included for all three sets of task cards.

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

Purring: Cat Communication

All cat-lovers recognize the slight, gentle rumble. It happens when a cat is curled up in an owner's lap. It also happens when big cats are bathing in warm sunshine. But what does purring really mean?

Simply put, purring is a way for cats to communicate. Since cats can't purr at a loud volume, they tend to only do it when they are close to people or other animals. For example, purring is one of the first things that newborn kittens learn to do. Their purrs let the mother know that they are hungry. For older housecats, purring is a way to show appreciation. Purring often occurs when a human is stroking their fur or has just put out food or water.

But housecats are not the only ones that purr. Big cats in zoos and in the wild do as well. Cougars, bobcats, and lynxes purr when they want to play, relax, or bond with other cats. Some even purr to sooth themselves. Just like humans cry when they feel stress, cats purr to calm themselves down.

The next time you hear a cat purr, remember that it's trying to communicate. Maybe you'll be able to tell what your cat wants to say through this wonderful sound!

Read & Respond 2

Floating in the Sky

Hot-air balloons are the oldest flying machines. But they don't work in the same way other aircrafts do. In fact, they work much more like a boat than an airplane or helicopter. That's because both hot-air balloons and boats float!

A boat floats because the same is true for hot-air balloons. The air inside the balloon is hotter and denser than the air outside. This causes the balloon to rise. Likewise, hot-air balloons are the oldest flying machine, and they would you like to float in it?

Read & Respond 3

Marie Brown: The Mother of Home Security

Marie Brown was a young African-American woman in the 1940s. She lived in an area of New York City with a lot of crime. As a nurse, Marie worked long hours. Her husband, Albert, also worked late as an electronics technician. It wasn't unusual for Marie to be home alone at night.

Marie did not feel very safe in her neighborhood. She wanted to find a way to have more peace-of-mind at home. She spoke with her husband, who knew a lot about cameras and TVs because of his job. As a result, they created the first home security system.

The Brown's first system was nothing fancy. It was just a camera in the peep hole of their front door connected to a TV. It helped Marie feel better, but she wanted to expand the system. Soon, she created a microphone to hear people at her door. Then she made a lock that could be enabled from anywhere in her home. She even invented a device to contact the police with just the push of a button.

As Marie felt safer, she wanted to share that feeling with others. She began selling her inventions to home-builders, stores, and offices. Soon, Marie's cameras, locks, buttons, and microphones were being used all over New York City...and then the country!

Marie Brown passed away in 1999, but her legacy continues. Her inventions led to the modern security systems that so many rely on today.

Read & Respond 4

The Great Pyramid, The Great Wonder

The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World are the most well-known and impressive man-made structures in human history. They include a temple, a lighthouse, a garden, and two towering statues. However, don't expect to visit any of these marvelous wonders in person. They have unfortunately been lost in time. But there is one special

Read & Respond 5

Why Can't We Agree on What Tastes Good?

Have you ever thought about how you enjoy a certain food, but your best friend doesn't? Simply put, it's because every person's body creates different food experiences. Here's how:

Every human tongue is made up of bumps with taste buds inside. Taste buds shoot messages about food to the brain. The brain then records these messages so a person can tell if a food is sweet, salty, sour, or bitter. While all people have taste buds, they don't have the same amount. Some lose taste buds as they age. This is often the reason a certain food will taste different from person to person.

People also have different tastes because of their noses. Some people are born with a stronger sense of smell than others. They can usually notice more flavors in foods. That's because molecules go into the nose when a person chews their food. These molecules boost the taste sensation sent to the brain. So those with stronger noses tend to taste stronger flavors.

Another reason for food preferences has nothing to do with flavor at all. For some, if a food looks or feels a certain way, it can be a problem. Many people won't even try a food that looks lumpy or feels rubbery (even though it may taste delicious).

Many factors play a role in each person's unique food preferences. It is true that no two people are the same...even when it comes to enjoying food!

Read & Respond 6

Sudden Summer Storm

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Read & Respond 7

Labor Day Parade

Cheers rang out from the crowd as clowns cartwheeled and threw handfuls of candy. Children giggled as they picked up the treats from the hot cement. In the street, the smell of car exhaust lingered in the air from the convertibles that slowly passed by. Sitting on top of the back of the cars were various community members. Some were girls wearing tiaras and sashes. Others were local sports stars. Then there was the mayor who was smiling from ear to ear.

As the clowns and cars passed, a steady clong of drums became louder and louder. A high school marching band stepped in time with the beat. Then they raised their instruments to play. When the Saints Go Marching In, Members of the crowd clapped in time with the music as the band passed.

Inserted amongst the clowns, convertibles, and the band were first-responder vehicles. Firemen sat on top of their shiny red truck. Paramedics hung onto the back door of an ambulance, smiling at the excited audience. Policemen closed out the event. They waved from their squad cars and even briefly turned on their sirens, startling many of the kids. However, the candy they threw made things much better. Once the final squad car passed, the crowd parted, happy to be a part of the latest Labor Day parade.

Read & Respond 8

Perfect Pumpkin Pie

As the oven door opened, a delicious scent filled the kitchen. Soon, it wafted through the entire house. Intense cinnamon and nutmeg aromas burst forth first, creating a cozy feeling on a cool day. They soon collided with smells usually reserved for a bakery. Scents of sweet sugar from the filling and rich butter from the crust mixed with the spices. When the pie finally came out of the oven, the earthy fragrance of pumpkin combined with the others. It created a one-of-a-kind scent.

The heavenly fragrance lingered in the air for hours, creating anticipation. When it was finally time to cut into the pie, it was simple. The knife moved gracefully through the smooth filling and tender, flaky crust. Once the first slice emerged from the pan, it looked beautiful. It seemed as though it should be on the cover of the Thanksgiving issue of a food magazine. It was only enhanced by the final touches: a cloud-like dollop of whipped cream and a light dusting of cinnamon on top.

Finally, it was time for the first bite. The rich filling exploded with all the flavors of autumn. The cool whipped cream mellowed the spice. The buttery crust provided a satisfying finish to the bite. From the smell, to the sight, to the taste, it was the perfect pumpkin pie.

Read & Respond 9

Mia's First Basketball Practice

Mia felt anxious during her first basketball practice. Unfortunately, it showed. She already made mistakes during the first two drills, which were basic. During the dribbling drill, the ball flew off of Mia's sneaker. Then, she paired up with her friend Cora to practice passing. However, Mia couldn't get the ball to Cora's hands. When it was her turn to catch, Mia flinched as the ball flew towards her face. It whizzed over her shoulder.

Next it was time to shoot. As the rest of the players lined up near the basket, they smiled. But not Mia. She reluctantly walked to the back of the line. "What's wrong?" Cora asked. "I can't dribble or pass. There's no way I'll be able to shoot." Mia said looking down at the gym floor. "Don't give up before you try," Cora encouraged her. "Just remember what Coach Bowen showed us."

Each girl took a shot. Eve's was too short. Mary's flew too far right. Girl after girl missed. Even Cora, who was a skip player, couldn't get the ball through the hoop. Finally, it was Mia's turn. She quickly thought about what Coach Bowen said. She bent her knees, put the ball over her head, jumped, and flipped the ball towards the basket. SWISH! "Great shot, Mia!" Coach Bowen said.

Her teammates gathered around with high-fives. "See?" Cora whispered to Mia as they got back in line. "I knew you could do it!"

Read & Respond 10

Marty's Catnap

Marty the farm cat was sleepy. It was a gorgeous spring day and all Marty wanted to do was nap in the sunshine. He found his favorite spot behind the barn, yawned, and curled up in a ball. He was just about to close his eyes when he heard someone coming.

"Hi, Marty!" Harry the donkey shouted as he skipped towards the sleepy cat. "Want to play?"

"I'm not in the mood," Marty replied. "I'm in my napping spot."

"But it's a perfect day to skip around the barnyard," Harry argued. "Watch!"

Harry proceeded to prance in circles around Marty. As he did, he kicked up dust that immediately went into Marty's nose. Within moments, the sleepy cat was wide awake, sneezing uncontrollably. As he did, he shook and hopped, which Harry mistook for playing.

"That's it, Marty!" Harry joyfully shouted. "Isn't this fun?"

When his sneezing finally ceased, Marty was even more exhausted. But his favorite napping spot was now Harry's dance floor. Luckily, Marty had a backup plan. As Harry continued to frolic, Marty climbed the haystacks that were piled against the barn. Soon, he was twenty feet in the air, away from the dusty dancing donkey. He yawned, curled up in a ball, and finally closed his eyes for a perfect nap in the sun.

A LOOK INSIDE...(option 2)

Read & Respond 1

Purring: Cat Communication

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Simply put, purring is a way for cats to communicate. Since cats can't purr at a loud volume, they tend to only do it when they are close to people or other animals. For example, purring is one of the first things that newborn kittens learn to do. Their purrs let the mother know that they are hungry. For older housecats, purring is a way to show appreciation. Purring often occurs when a human is stroking their fur or has just put out food or water.

But housecats are not the only ones that purr. Big cats in zoos and in the wild do as well. Cougars, bobcats, and lynxes purr when they want to play, relax, or bond with other cats. Some even purr to sooth themselves. Just like humans cry when they feel stress, cats purr to calm themselves down.

The next time you hear a cat purr, remember that it's trying to communicate. Maybe you'll be able to tell what your cat wants to say through this wonderful sound!

Read & Respond 3

Marie Brown: The Mother of Home Security

Marie Brown was a young African-American woman in the 1960s. She lived in an area of New York City with a lot of crime. As a nurse, Marie worked long hours. Her husband, Albert, also worked late as an electronics technician. It wasn't unusual for Marie to be home alone at night.

Marie did not feel very safe in her neighborhood. She wanted to find a way to have more peace-of-mind at home. She spoke with her husband, who knew a lot about cameras and TVs because of his job. As a result, they created the first home security system.

The Brown's first system was nothing fancy. It was just a camera in the peep hole of their front door connected to a TV. It helped Marie feel better, but she wanted to expand the system. Soon, she created a microphone to hear people at her door. Then she made a lock that could be enabled from anywhere in her home. She even invented a device to contact the police with just the push of a button.

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Read & Respond 5

Why Can't We Agree on What Tastes Good?

Have you ever thought about how you enjoy a certain food, but your best friend doesn't? Simply put, it's because every person's body creates different food experiences. Here's how:

Every human tongue is made up of bumps with taste buds inside. Taste buds shoot messages about food to the brain. The brain then records these messages so a person can tell if a food is sweet, salty, sour, or bitter. While all people have taste buds, they don't have the same amount. Some lose taste buds as they age. This is often the reason a certain food will taste different from person to person.

People also have different tastes because of their noses. Some people are born with a stronger sense of smell than others. They can usually notice more flavors in foods. That's because molecules go into the nose when a person chews their food. These molecules boost the taste sensation sent to the brain. So those with stronger noses tend to taste stronger flavors.

Another reason for food preferences has nothing to do with flavor at all. For some, if a food looks or feels a certain way, it can be a problem. Many people won't even try a food that looks lumpy or feels rubbery (even though it may taste delicious).

Many factors play a role in each person's unique food preferences. It is true that no two people are the same...even when it comes to enjoying food!

Read & Respond 2

Floating in the Sky

Hot-air balloons are the oldest flying machines. But they don't work in the same way other aircrafts do. In fact, they work much more like a boat than an airplane or helicopter. That's because both hot-air balloons and boats float!

A boat floats because the same is true for hot air balloons. The air inside the balloon is hotter and denser than the air outside, so it lifts into the sky.

But what keeps the balloon from falling? It's the burner. It sits above the fabric of the balloon, and it heats the air inside. This causes the balloon to rise. Likewise, the air inside a boat is lighter than the water around it. Hot-air balloons are the oldest flying machine, and boats are the oldest watercraft. Would you like to float in a hot-air balloon or on a boat?

Read & Respond 4

The Great Pyramid, The Great Wonder

The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World are the most well-known and impressive man-made structures in human history. They include a temple, a tomb, a lighthouse, a garden, and two towering statues. However, don't expect to visit any of these marvelous wonders in person. They have unfortunately been lost to time. But there is one ancient wonder that still stands today. It's the Great Pyramid of Giza. It's the only one of the Seven Wonders that still exists. It's also the only one that was built by a single ruler. It's the only one that was built for a single purpose. It's the only one that was built to last. It's the only one that was built to be a wonder.

Read & Respond 6

Sudden Summer Storm

The temperature suddenly dropped. Although it had been hot and balmy all day, there was now a chill in the July air. But the temperature wasn't the only change in the atmosphere. Thick, dark clouds quickly floated into the landscape. They hid the beautiful orange sun behind their deep, gray curtains. The wind picked up, and the air turned from warm to cool. The ground was suddenly wet. The sky was a deep, dark gray. The air was thick with rain. The sun was hidden behind a thick layer of clouds. The wind was strong. The rain was heavy. The storm was here.

Read & Respond - Author's Purpose 1

Text Evidence Detective

As you read or after reading, use the chart below to record your thinking about the text. First, identify the author's purpose for the text. Then, find three examples of text evidence to support your thinking about the author's purpose.

THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE:

#1	
#2	
#3	

Read & Respond - Author's Purpose 7

Text Evidence Detective

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What is the author's purpose in writing this text?

Find three pieces of text evidence to support your thinking.

Read & Respond - Author's Purpose 15

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Read & Respond - Author's Purpose 2

What? & Why?

Identify the topic of the text, then determine the main idea. Use those details to help you answer the questions about the author's purpose.

TOPIC:

What is the main idea?

Why did the author write this text?
Use details from the text to support your thinking.

Read & Respond - Author's Purpose 8

Purpose & Structure

Identify the type of text structure the author used in the text. Record any clues that helped you determine the text structure. Then, identify the author's purpose. Be sure to explain how you identified the author's purpose.

TEXT STRUCTURE:	CLUES FROM THE TEXT	AUTHOR'S PURPOSE
<input type="checkbox"/> Cause & Effect <input type="checkbox"/> Compare & Contrast <input type="checkbox"/> Description <input type="checkbox"/> Sequence <input type="checkbox"/> Problem & Solution		

Read & Respond - Author's Purpose 16

Personal Opinions

As you read, identify personal opinions the author includes in the text. Look for any facts - or missing facts - and jot them down. Then, determine if the author's personal opinions influenced their writing on the topic.

PERSONAL OPINIONS
Look for personal opinions in the text - jot them down.

FIND THE FACTS
Look for any facts used in the text - jot them down.

AUTHOR'S PERSONAL OPINION:
Did the author's personal opinions influence how they wrote about the topic? Explain.

A LOOK INSIDE...(option 3)

Read & Respond 1

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A boat floats because it is lighter than the water it is in. The same is true for hot-air balloons. They are lighter than the air around them. This causes the balloon to rise. Like a boat, hot-air balloons are also affected by wind. Would you like to float in it?

Read & Respond 4

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Read & Respond 6

Sudden Summer Storm

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Read & Respond - Author's Purpose 1

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

What is the author's purpose for this text?

- Why do newborn kittens purr?
- Compare and contrast housecats to big zoo cats using the information in the text.

Use the space above or add a sticky note. Jot down and share evidence to support the author's purpose of the text.

Read & Respond - Author's Purpose 3

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

What is the author's purpose for this text?

- Why did Marie first create a home security system?
- What was Marie's first step to creating her home security system?

Use the space above or add a sticky note. Jot down and share evidence to support the author's purpose of the text.

Read & Respond - Author's Purpose 5

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

What is the author's purpose for this text?

- What role do taste buds play in tasting the flavors of different foods?
- Why does everyone have unique food preferences?

Use the space above or add a sticky note. Jot down and share evidence to support the author's purpose of the text.

Read & Respond - Author's Purpose 2

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

What is the author's purpose for this text?

- What causes a hot air balloon to float?
- How does the pilot land a hot air balloon?

Use the space above or add a sticky note. Jot down and share evidence to support the author's purpose of the text.

Read & Respond - Author's Purpose 4

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

What is the author's purpose for this text?

- What has caused the Great Pyramid of Giza to decrease in size?
- Why was the Great Pyramid of Giza originally built?

Use the space above or add a sticky note. Jot down and share evidence to support the author's purpose of the text.

Read & Respond - Author's Purpose 6

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

What is the author's purpose for this text?

- How did the author describe the thunder in the text?
- The author wrote "However, the sheet was wet and cold, completely drenching everything below within seconds." What does that word drenched mean in this sentence? What clues did the author give you about the meaning of the word?

Use the space above or add a sticky note. Jot down and share evidence to support the author's purpose of the text.