

5 Reading Passages & Response Pages

UNDERSTANDING SETTING

★ Easy to Follow
4 Step Reading
Process



INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Understanding Setting

Step 1: Read the Passage

Truth or Dare

Silas stood at the end of the cracked sidewalk in front of the house. The sky was dark and gloomy while black clouds sailed by in front of him. The sound of rain falling into each other sounded like the bones of a skeleton tapping together.

Silas and his friends were obsessed with the creature that lived in the abandoned house at the end of the block where they all lived. They liked to play Truth or Dare there, though as far as everyone knew it was abandoned. They had been playing Truth or Dare. Silas was regretting choosing to play there. He had been choosing himself a pep talk.

"It's not haunted. It's just an empty old house with a chest. 'You can do this! Everyone is watching.' Well, everyone is watching. The boys' active imaginations had imparted a sense of foreboding exterior.

Silas started down the walk. Reaching the street, he took the first one. "CREEEEAAAACK!" The step was so rickety that he almost fell. He continued up the weathered stairs to the second floor. The inky darkness was impossible. Silas walked carefully, committing his full weight.

Finally, he reached the front door. Silas wrapped his hand around the knob and turned it. The knob turned and he pulled to open the door. The door was difficult to open. He pushed it open, making the door difficult to open.

"IS SOMEONE THERE?" someone called from the bushes across the street. Forgetting his safety of the bushes across the street. Forgetting his safety of the bushes across the street.

Step 2: Think About the Passage

THINK ABOUT:

- Where and when does the story take place?
- What descriptive details does the author include to help you visualize the setting?

Add a post-it note or jot down directly in this box.

Step 3: Organize Your Thinking

TIME



What time of day? What is the season? What is the year?

PLACE



What is the physical location of the story? (Is it a specific building? city? outdoor location?)

ENVIRONMENT



What's the weather like? How does it make the characters feel?

Step 4: Respond to the Text

1. What kinds of language does the author use to set the mood of this passage?
2. Based on the description of the setting, what time of day and time of year is it?
3. Who do you think was inside the house calling out to Silas?

4 STEP READING PROCESS

Each passages and response questions follow the same 4 Step Process.

Step 1: Read the Passage

Students can read the short reading passage.

Step 2: Think About the Passage

Students can use sticky notes or the blank squares to jot down their thoughts or questions about the text.

Step 3: Organize Your Thinking

Students can organize their thinking around the focus skill with the graphic organizer template.

Step 4: Respond to the Text

Students can answer 3 comprehension questions about the text.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Understanding Setting

Step 1: Read the Passage

Getting to the Meadow

Young Bear gulped as he regarded the stream to the meadow." he said to his dad, a bit of worry in his voice. "The meadow is a magical place, with a stream full of the best trout." Daddy Bear had waited to share its abundance with his son. "Come on, Young Bear, let's go fishing!"

Daddy Bear ambled up the steep trail with a heavy pack on his back. Young Bear followed in ease. Young Bear tried to keep up, feeling like he was being pulled back. After what seemed like forever, the pair reached the meadow.

Sparkling sunlight filtered through the trees. Flowers bobbed in the breeze. Butterflies were going on their way. Young Bear could hear the sound of water in the stream.

"Wow!" he exclaimed, panting a little. "I told you, son, I came here as a reward. The way is hard, but sometimes the hard way is the best way."

"There's no one else here! Why not?"

"The way here is hard, so many people don't come. But the meadow is still perfect. We can eat our fill, and bring home some for the family."

"Balance of nature," Daddy Bear answered. "Come on, dad, let's go fishing!"

Daddy Bear's gentle breeze ruffle his fur.

Step 2: Think About the Passage

THINK ABOUT:

- Where and when does the story take place?
- What descriptive details does the author include to help you visualize the setting?

Add a post-it note to this page.

Step 3: Organize Your Thinking

TEXT CLUE

Specific words or phrases the author used to describe the setting.

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Specific words or phrases the author used to describe the setting.

HOW I VISUALIZE THE SETTING

Step 4: Respond to the Text

1. What lesson was Daddy Bear trying to teach his son?
2. How does the author describe the trail and the meadow? How does this help you visualize the setting?
3. How do you think the meadow would be different if the path to the meadow was easier to navigate?

SETTING FOCUS

Each text is written with a focus on the setting in the story. Students will be able to read the texts and then spend time practicing the skills and strategies that will help them understand and describe the setting in the story.

Passages Focus On:

- Story Setting
- Visualize the Setting
- Impact of Setting on Characters/Events
- Settings Change
- Setting Impacts Mood

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Name: _____
Understanding Setting Date: _____

Step 1: Read the Passage

Truth or Dare

Silas stood at the end of the cracked sidewalk in front of the old Victorian house and shivered. The sky was dark and gloomy while black clouds sailed by in front of a pale, full moon. Bare tree limbs blowing into each other sounded like the bones of a skeleton tapping together. Maybe this wasn't such a good idea.

Silas and his friends were obsessed with the creepy old mansion that stood on the corner lot at the end of the block where they all lived. They liked to make up stories about it being haunted, even though as far as everyone knew it was abandoned. Tonight, while camping in Silas's backyard, they had been playing Truth or Dare. Silas was regretting choosing a dare. He squared his shoulders and gave himself a pep talk.

"It's not haunted. It's just an empty old house." Tell that to his heart trying to beat right out of his chest. "You can do this! Everyone is watching." Well, everyone was watching from behind the bushes across the street. The boys' active imaginations had imported the house with untold mysteries inside its forbidding exterior.

Silas started down the walk. Reaching the stairs to the front porch, he hesitantly put his foot on the first one. "CREEEEAAAK!" The step was so rickety it moaned. Silas was terrified but couldn't back out now. He continued up the weathered stairs to the front porch. Inspecting the boards of the porch in the inky darkness was impossible. Silas walked carefully across the porch, testing each step before committing his full weight.

Finally, he reached the front door. Silas wrapped his trembling hand around the old brass knob and turned it. The knob turned and he pulled to open the door. The wooden door was so old it had swelled inside the doorway, making the door difficult to open. Silas pulled with all of his might.

"IS SOMEONE THERE?" someone called from inside the house. Silas turned and bolted back to the safety of the bushes across the street. Forget this dare.

Step 2: Think About the Passage

THINK ABOUT:

- Where and when does the story take place?
- What descriptive details does the author include to help you visualize the setting?
- How do the characters respond to the setting?
- How does the setting make you feel as a reader?

Add a post-it note or jot down your thoughts directly in this box.

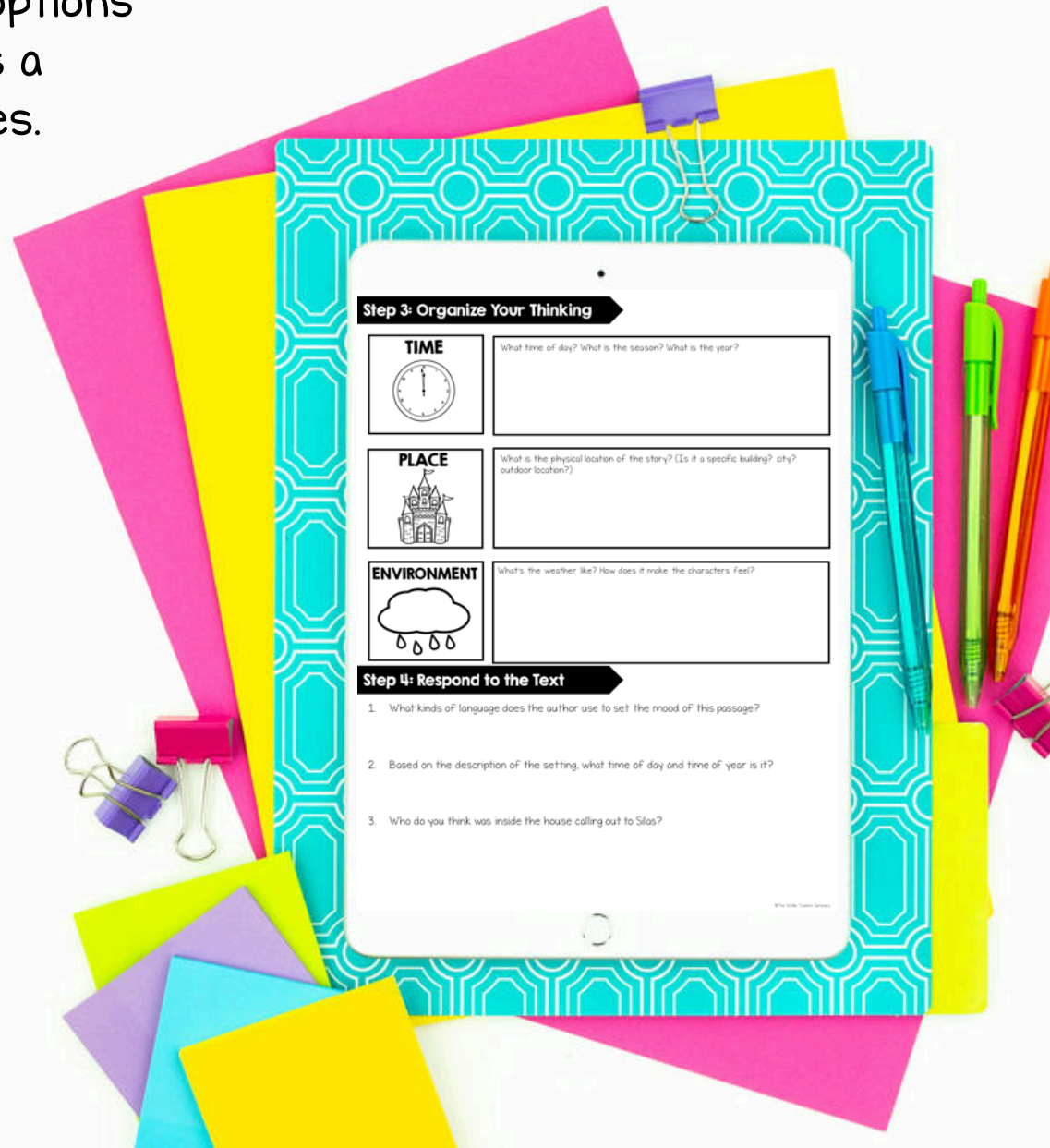
Add a post-it note or jot down your thoughts directly in this box.

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.

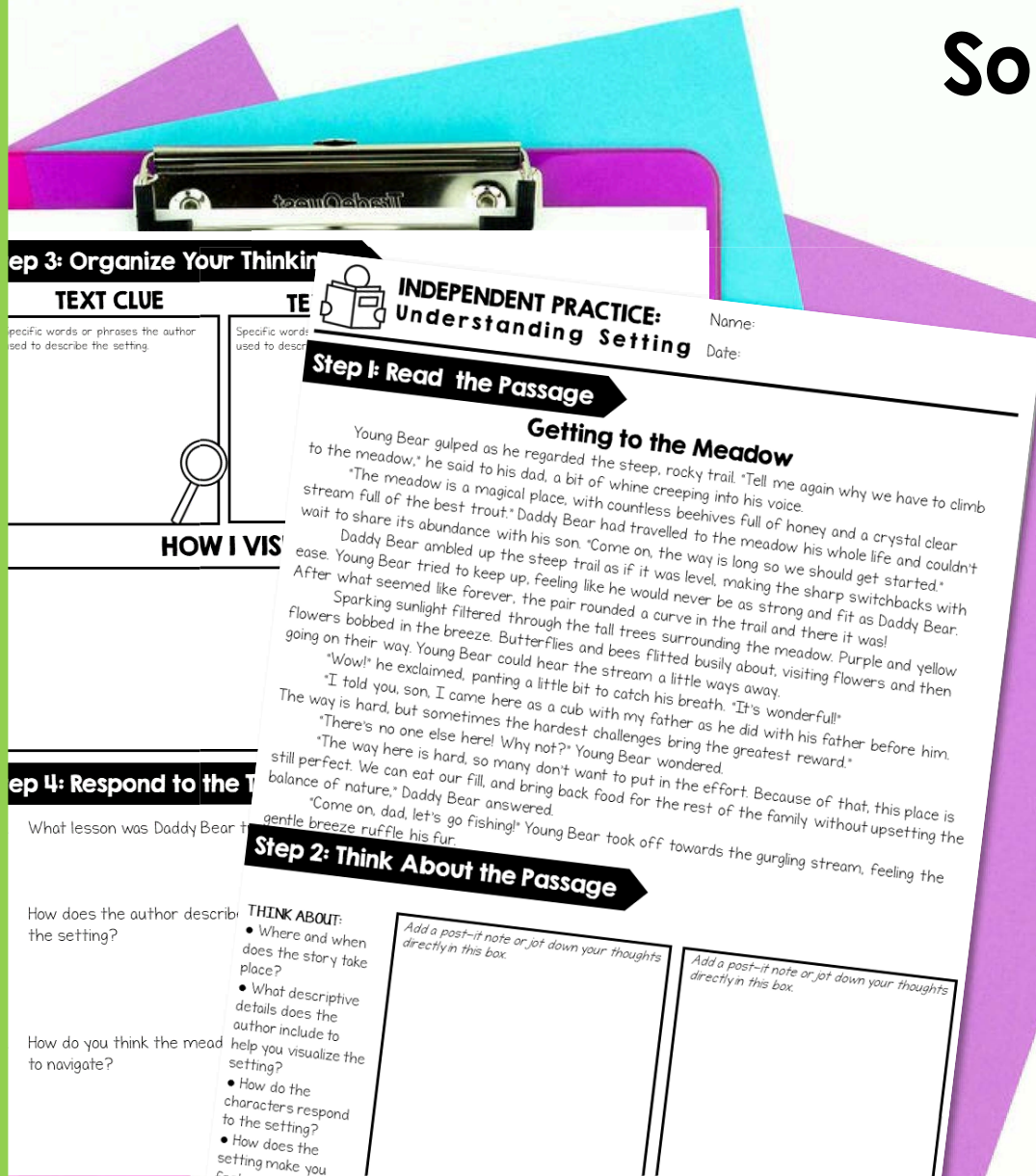


STUDENT & TEACHER FRIENDLY

These passages are easy for students and teachers to use. There are so many different ways you can use these passages in your classroom.

So Many Classroom Uses:

- Homework
- Independent Practice
- Assessment
- Strategy Lessons
- Small Group Instruction
- Test Prep/Review
- Model
- Partner Practice



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