

BETTER Than BASAL:
Complete No Prep
 READING & WRITING UNITS
 for 40 Popular Mentor Texts
 grades 3-5

Volume 3

Common Core Aligned

100+ ORGANIZERS
 with Answer Keys!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Do Unto Others

Give evidence from the text to show how "Others" can practice the Golden Rule.

be friendly	say hello, smile, have good eye contact
be polite	say please, say thank you, say excuse me
be honest	keep promises, don't lie, don't cheat
be considerate	be a good listener, ask before borrowing, be patient, show respect, be on time
be kind	cooperate, play fair, share, don't tease others, apologize, forgive

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Do Unto Others

Describe the character traits of an older man with good manners.

considerate, friendly, kind, forgiving, respectful, helpful, honest, thankful, polite, apologetic

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Mr. Peabody's Apples

Summarize the story.

Beginning:
 Mr. Peabody enjoyed playing board games for the kids to play each Saturday. On his way home, he would stop at Mr. Funkadell's fruit market and put an apple in his bag. Tommy saw him one Saturday and told his friends Mr. Peabody took an apple without paying.

Middle:
 Tommy and his friends saw Mr. Peabody take another apple the next Saturday and decided that he was stealing. They following Saturday no one wanted to play board games except they saw Mr. Peabody buy everyone a drink in the store.

End:
 Mr. Peabody took Billy to the fruit stand to explain what he had paid for and of time. Billy told Tommy, and Tommy went to Mr. Peabody to apologize. Mr. Peabody helped Tommy realize how hard it would be to undo the damage of the notice.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Mr. Peabody's Apples

Give evidence to support the theme of the book.

Theme: Injustice

Tommy told his friends Mr. Peabody stole an apple, and his friends told family and neighbors.

Tommy realizes he was wrong, but he couldn't undo the damage.

No one came to the baseball game and Mr. Peabody didn't know why.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Mr. Peabody's Apples

Describe Tommy's character at the end of the story through his thoughts, words, and actions.

fruit: remorseful

thoughts: Tommy understands how it would be hard to undo his words.

words: "I can an sorry. What can I do to make things better, now?"

actions: Tommy out open the allow just as Mr. Peabody told him to and saw how all of the friends couldn't be picked up, just as he couldn't undo his words.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

The Keeping Quilt

Give evidence to show tradition is important to Anansi family.

Gold, bread, and quilt were used to represent the family.

The quilt is passed down through the family.

The quilt was used as a tablecloth at all the important events.

The quilt wrapped all the babies when they were born.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

The Keeping Quilt

Give evidence to support the theme of the book.

Theme: Family/Tradition

The quilt is passed down through generations in their family.

Gold, bread, and quilt were symbols of what belongs to the family.

The quilt is used at important events like weddings, births, and birthdays.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

The Keeping Quilt

Compare the two stories and what the quilts represent.

The Keeping Quilt

Anna left, Russia to come to America
 -Anna's mother and her neighbors made a quilt to remember family

Ona's Quilt

-The quilts are to remember the past
 -both have a place they love

Ona is moving to a new home
 -Ona is sad about leaving her home
 -Emily and her mother make Ona a quilt

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Name: _____ Date: _____

The Boy Who Loved Words

Give evidence to show Selig helped others with his word collection.

A poet found just the right words to use in his poem thanks to Selig.

A baker had more customers because of the way Selig described his pastries.

Selig helps his friends use kinder words with each other and stop fighting.

People who felt it was hard to find words knew Wordsworth (Selig) was around when they suddenly thought of just the right word to say.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

The Boy Who Loved Words

Describe Billy's character through his thoughts, words, and actions.

Thoughts: He didn't want to throw away the words even when his head was heavy.

Words: He proudly proclaimed, "They call me 'wordsworth'!"

Actions: He spread his words to others who needed them.

Character Traits: determined

Character Traits: generous

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Name: _____ Date: _____

The Boy Who Loved Words

Define unknown words in the story.

periphery (noun): what I think it means: outside edges

alibi (noun): what I think it means: actual meaning: none

alibi (noun): what I think it means: actual meaning: none

legions (noun): what I think it means: actual meaning: large numbers

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Dear Juno

Give evidence to show Juno and his grandmother have a close relationship, describe living far away.

Evidence	+ What I Know	= My Inference
Juno's grandmother writes him a letter and sends it far away.	People write letters and keep in touch.	Juno and his grandmother have a close relationship.
Juno's grandmother includes a photograph of her in her letter.	People are probably close to share special moments or memories.	
Juno shows his grandmother's picture and flower.	Children show others things they love.	
Juno drew pictures for his letter to show things he loved.	People share things they love with people who are close to them.	

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Dear Juno

Summarize the story.

Beginning: Juno receives a letter from his grandmother in Korea. It is written in Korean but includes a photograph of her with her cat and a dried flower, so Juno is able to "read" the letter without actually reading the words.

Middle: Juno's grandmother sends him a letter back by only drawing pictures of things that he loved at home.

End: Juno receives a package back from his grandmother with colored pencils, another photograph, and a toy plane. He knows she wanted more pictures from him, and also that she was getting to visit.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Dear Juno

Describe Juno's character at the beginning of the story through his thoughts, words, and actions.

Thoughts: Juno thought he could figure out what his grandmother had written, so he tried.

Words: "She wouldn't send me a picture of a steamboat!"

Words: "She wouldn't send me a flower from my grandma's garden!"

Actions: Juno was able to read the letter without reading the words his grandmother wrote.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Fireboat

Give evidence to show that the Harvey was a hero.

Evidence	+ What I Know	= My Inference
People said the Harvey could never be used to fight a fire.	People probably believed the boat was too old.	The John J. Harvey Fireboat was a hero.
The firetrucks could not pump water.	It is difficult to put out a fire without water.	
Firefighters attached their hoses to the Harvey.	Fires could be put out.	
Harvey pumped water for four days and nights.	A lot of water was needed to put out such a big fire.	

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Fireboat

Compare how people felt about the Harvey before and after September 11.

BEFORE: In 1915, the Harvey was considered old and useless. People believed it could be used to fight fires. People loved the Harvey. People thought the Harvey was hero (in early days and post-9/11).

AFTER: People needed the Harvey to help fight the fires. People were proud of the Harvey.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

In My Momma's Kitchen

List the evidence the author gives to show the kitchen is special close to the whole family.

twoness: Momma celebrated getting a computer to do laundry with her family.

evidence: Momma and all the nurla gather to cook and talk and laugh.

evidence: The stove in the kitchen is Momma's momma's old stove.

twoness: The man, momma and her Daddy dance in the kitchen while he makes corn pudding.

evidence: The whole family gathers there sometimes to tell tonight stories while eating snacks when they can't sleep.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

In My Momma's Kitchen

Give evidence to support the theme of the book.

Theme: Family Togetherness

twoness: Momma's family was proud of Momma - she cheered, danced, hugged, and even sat down with her and got into college.

twoness: Gran Lee was a stove that was passed down through generations in Momma's family.

twoness: The family shares meals and cooking time to spend quality time together.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

In My Momma's Kitchen

Describe Momma through her thoughts, words, and actions.

Thoughts: she doesn't want to replace the stove (Gran Lee).

Words: "I don't think I'll replace Daddy's, the stove's still broken?"

Actions: she uses a name for a stove (Gran Lee) and jiggles the handle of the stove.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Sadcrow

List the evidence the narrator gives to show the scarecrow enjoys his life.

Text Evidence	evidence
He has bees, and a love of silence and air.	He knows the wonder going on around him of seeds growing to plants.
Text Evidence	evidence
He doesn't mind what he is made of.	He doesn't mind being up high and staying there.
Text Evidence	evidence
He enjoys the changing of the seasons as a witness to life.	He doesn't mind being up high and staying there.



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Name: _____ Date: _____

Sadcrow

Summarize the story.

Beginning:
A scarecrow is created with a borrowed hat, suit, hands, and feet. He hangs around the garden all day and enjoys a slow life.

End:
As a new year begins, the scarecrow continues his love of a slow life and enjoying each moment, not knowing when it might end.



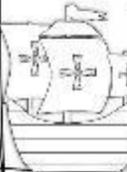
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Name: _____ Date: _____

Encounter

Make inferences about the evidence given from the book.

Evidence	+ What I Know	= My Inference
I watched how the dry sticks looked, but didn't know what they were. I pulled one out and found the flesh of an animal.	People who are interested in you as a person do not touch you, but will touch you if you are interested.	The men were greedy and wanted to kill me.
I watched their coat smelt. It was the smell of a dog.	A dog is an animal that is likely to be evil.	He believes the chief has a dog.
The great-willed prince left our boy, and the boy was the strongest man could be.	They were calling for the prince to lead them.	The prince had taken the boy as a slave.
We left our lives to the sinners from the sky. We gave our souls to their gods. We took their souls into our mouths, forgetting the work.	People come to America to start a new life and look over the land.	The natives lost their land, religion, and even language. They gave up their culture because of the Europeans coming in.



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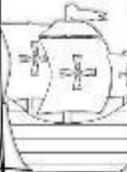
Name: _____ Date: _____

Encounter

Summarize the story.

Beginning:
A Tano boy dreamed of three ships coming, and the next day it happened. The men on the ships were not like any they had seen before. The boy tried to warn his chief, but no one would listen to him because his dream was a warning, but no one would listen to him.

End:
The boy was taken with some of his other tribe members on a boat, but he escaped by jumping overboard. He swam to a new shore where he tried to warn those people of the men coming but no one would listen.



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Name: _____ Date: _____

Encounter

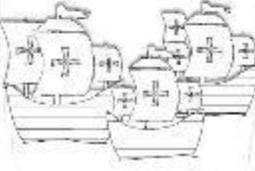
Write a direct quote from the book containing figurative language, then tell how it helps you understand the story.

Author's Language

We were pitted upon the head as if we were dogs and cats a yellow dog.

Helps Me Understand:

The men were not looking at the tribe as humans, but instead as pets or objects to be taken.



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Name: _____ Date: _____

Hello, Harvest Moon

List the evidence the narrator gives to show the harvest moon is bright.

Text Evidence	evidence
The moonlight makes you wince and wonder, "Who left that outside light on?"	You can read your favorite book without turning on a light.
Text Evidence	evidence
The yards and streets seem to be covered by a sparkling tablecloth.	
Text Evidence	evidence
A pilot, flunk with all the moonshine, it's like flying in broad daylight!	A night watchman thinks he might not need his flashlight tonight.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Hello, Harvest Moon

Write a direct quote from the book containing figurative language, then tell how it helps you understand the story.

Author's Language

Outside the yards and streets seem to be covered by a sparkling tablecloth.

Helps Me Understand:

Everything is shining and sparkling like a tablecloth. It's like a magical night.




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Name: _____ Date: _____

The Empty Pot

Give evidence to support the inferences you make about Ping.

Text Evidence

Ping was sure he could grow the most beautiful flowers for the emperor.

Text Evidence

He planted his seed very carefully and watered it every day.

Inference:

Ping was persistent.



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Name: _____ Date: _____

The Empty Pot

Give evidence to support the moral of the story.

Do the right thing, even when no one is looking.

Text Evidence

Ping's flower did not grow, and he was named the empty pot.

Text Evidence

Ping was named the successor because the emperor gave all of the children cooked seeds that could not grow. Ping was the only honest one.

All of the children rushed to the palace with beautiful flowers.



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Name: _____ Date: _____

The Empty Pot

Describe Ping through his thoughts, words, and actions.

Thoughts:

He was sure he could grow the most beautiful flower.

Words:

"I thought the other children would laugh at him because he had no flower."

Actions:

Ping took the emperor his empty pot while all the other children took beautiful flowers.



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Name: Possible Answers Date: _____

Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears

Make inferences about the animals' behaviors given from the book.

Evidence	+	What I Know	=	My Inference
The guard stuck two sticks in the ears and went off through the woods.		When someone doesn't want to hear someone or something they stick their ears.		The guard was tired of hearing the monkey.
The python said good morning, but the python did NOT answer the python, but lumbered on.		When someone does not say good morning back, they are not interested.		The python knew iguana was being rude to him or was mad at him.
The rabbit saw the big snake coming into her burrow and she scurried out the back way.		Snakes eat birds.		The rabbit thought the snake was coming to eat her.
Mother Owl's children told her the monkey killed one of her babies.		Killing is a very bad thing to do.		Mother Owl thought the monkey was mad.

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Name: Possible Answers Date: _____

Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears

Underline the words and give evidence from the story to support it.

Lies can cause a lot of trouble.

The Python scented a rabbit, which alerted the crow, which made the monkey leap. He crashed down onto a nest and killed a baby owl.

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Name: Possible Answers Date: _____

Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears

Define unknown words in the story.

lumbered
mischief
council

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Name: Possible Answers Date: _____

Thank You, Sarah

The pen is mightier than the sword.
—Edward Bulwer-Lytton

What do you think that means?
Writing is more effective than violence.

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Name: Possible Answers Date: _____

Thank You, Sarah

Describe Sarah's character, and give evidence to support your inferences.

Text Evidence: Sarah argued for things she believed in, like ending slavery and making Thanksgiving a national holiday.

Text Evidence: Sarah wrote thousands of letters to politicians and the president.

Text Evidence: Even when Sarah was told no, she didn't give up. She continued to write letters.

Inference: Sarah was persistent.

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Name: Possible Answers Date: _____

Thank You, Sarah

Look at the illustrations and describe how they help the author's words.

Look Closely At...	Illustration Description-how did it help?
The pages that say, "WE ALMOST LOST THANKSGIVING"	Authors will vary, might include: modern day Thanksgiving is mixed with history in the images, and happy turkeys, showing everyone's feelings about the Turkey.
The page that says, "When Sarah saw something she didn't like, she spoke up her non and wrote about it"	She wrote directly to the children and asked them to stop smoking because it was important to her.
The illustration of President James Buchanan	Thoughtful in how he decided the country fighting over slavery and states' rights. It showed he had been in a hurry about.
The pages displaying the North against the South.	Great states spell UNITED STATES and she makes battling on the words with two flags. Sarah is worried about the war.
The pages that say, "LINCOLN SAID 'YES'"	The country appears to have come together to celebrate the new holiday, even after fighting.

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Name: Possible Answers Date: _____

A Wish to be a Christmas Tree

Give evidence to show the tree was a good friend.

He helps keep animals safe and warm.

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Name: Possible Answers Date: _____

A Wish to be a Christmas Tree

Number the stanzas and draw a circle around these numbers.

Label the main stanzas.

How many verses does this poem have? 16

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Name: Possible Answers Date: _____

The Legend of the Poinsettia

List the evidence the author gives to show Lucinda is responsible.

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Name: Possible Answers Date: _____

The Legend of the Poinsettia

Summarize the story.

Beginning: Lucinda and her family live in a small village in the mountains of Mexico. She was very responsible and helped around the house as much as she could. Padre Alvarez asked Lucinda's mama to make a new blanket for the Christmas procession.

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Name: Date:

The Legend of the Poinsettia

Define unknown words in the story.

word: **shrine** → *shut I think it means a place marked as holy*

word: **procession** → *shut I think it means actual moving in an orderly fashion, usually a ceremony*

word: **loom** → *shut I think it means actual having a manual machine used to make fabric*

word: **weave** → *shut I think it means actual having being threads to form fabric*

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Name: Date:

Too Many Tamales

Make inferences about the character's feelings in their events in the book.

Evidence	+ What I Know	= My Inference
Maria was wearing her mother's apron. Her mom had even let her help her make tamales.	Children don't always get to wear their mother's apron.	Maria probably felt very special.
Maria was stepping on the picture of a child in her shoes, a shoe she had bought her for her birthday. She squealed.	When I feel a shock in my body, it usually means someone is touching me.	Maria stepped on her foot and she had a bad feeling.
How do you think Maria would feel if her mother told her that she should stop eating tamales?	Sometimes it's hard to refuse our mistakes.	Maria might feel sad and responsible. It would be hard to say she had done wrong.
Dolores, Teresa, and Danny heard Maria wore more tamales to eat, and they let out a groan.	I groan when I am upset about something.	They were upset they were going to have to eat more when they had already eaten so much.

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Name: Date:

Too Many Tamales

Summarize the story.

Beginning
 Maria helps her mother make tamales. Her mom takes off her ring to knead the masa and Maria puts it on because she thinks it's beautiful. They make 24 tamales with her dad's help and then she goes upstairs to let her cousins to play.

Middle
 Maria's mother never took the ring off and it must be in the tamales. She makes her cousins help her find all the tamales to find the ring. They don't find it and she knows she must tell her mom she lost the ring.

End
 Maria goes to tell her mother and sees that her mom has the ring on. She is relieved until her aunt, cousins they have to make another batch of tamales, and Maria and her cousins are too full to even look at another tamale!

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Name: Date:

Too Many Tamales

Describe Maria through her thoughts, words, and actions.

thought: **honest** → *She had to tell her mom what she had done.*

words: **"I did something wrong!"**

actions: **She worked up the nerve to tell her mom she had lost the ring.**

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Name: Date:

Each Kindness

Give evidence to support the inference.

Text Evidence
 Maya turned to me and smiled but I didn't smile back.

Text Evidence
 None of us wanted to play, so Maya played a game against herself.

Text Evidence
 Eventually, we whispered about Maya, laughing at her clothes, her shoes, and her food.

Inference
 Maya felt **rejected**.

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Name: Date:

Each Kindness

Describe Chloe's character in the beginning and middle of the story through her thoughts, words, and actions. Then tell how she changed.

thought: **unkind** → *Chloe didn't want to be friends with Maya.*

words: **"She's not my friend!"**

actions: **Chloe whispered and laughed at Maya with her friends.**

How do she change?
 Chloe realized she had not been kind at all and wished she had been a better friend to Maya.

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Name: Date:

Over and Under the Snow

Use the text to talk about animals that live over and under the snow.

Over the Snow
 A great horned owl keeps watch.

Under the Snow
 A fox prowls on its prey that is being under the snow.

A red squirrel says wife and warm.	A tiny shrew dodges through holes in the snow.
Deer mice huddle together in a nest.	Voles scratch through slippery tunnels searching for food.
A shrew digs into a shelter of leaves.	Ruffed Grouse.
Beavers gnaw on open bark.	A chipmunk wakes for a meal.
A black bear snores.	A queen hunklebee snoozes.

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Name: Date:

Over and Under the Snow

Define unknown words in the story.

word: **columns** → *shut I think it means actual having upright, vertical structures*

word: **gnaw** → *shut I think it means actual having chew on bite over and over*

word: **throws** → *shut I think it means actual having sleeps lightly*

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Name: Date:

Cherries and Cherry Pits

Choose one of Edie's stories to summarize.

Beginning
 Edie buys cherries out of the back of a truck, and the man fills up her bag with cherries even though it's more than what she paid for.

Middle
 She eats the cherries and saves the pits. She puts the pits in her pocket. When she gets home, she plants all of the pits in her yard.

End
 The pits sprout, and grow, and there are more cherries than anyone could ever eat. A whole forest of cherry trees grows right on her block.

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Name: Date:

Cherries and Cherry Pits

Write some of the colorful words Edie uses in her stories on the cherries.

fat wrinkle, pink is thick, dried blue and white ones, great big hands, ripe bag, really red cherries, black hat with pink flower, shiny green leaves, big black pocketbook, spout between his teeth, almost black, junky old yard.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

The Pain and the Great One

What would the Great One say about the Pain? Give evidence to prove it!

Evidence:

- He won't get out of bed in the morning so Pam has to carry him to the kitchen.
- He should get dressed himself but Daddy helps him.
- He cries if he has to go without him.

The Pain is such a big baby!

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Name: _____ Date: _____

The Pain and the Great One

Compare the two characters and their feelings.

The Pain:

- he cries his sister thinks she is so great.
- knocks over all the blocks when his sister and her friends play.
- acts like a baby.
- uses parents love (uses it to his advantage).
- they don't know how to deal with other there is nothing to do.
- she gets annoyed by her brother.
- she says her brother is a pain.
- she likes to be with her friends.
- she wants to ask more grown up.

The Great One:

- she says her brother is a pain.
- she likes to be with her friends.
- she wants to ask more grown up.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

The Pain and the Great One

What are the similarities between their two accounts or versions?

"The Pain"

- She wanted to stay up later than the Pain, but then got bored.
- The cat sleeps on the Pain's bed and she thinks that is mean!
- She wonders why the Pain always has to be the garbage man and knock down buildings.

"The Great One"

- He wanted to play blocks more but said it was no fun by himself when he did.
- The Great One feeds the cat and she thinks it likes more.
- He thinks "so what?" in the "strange man" and that's not the "Pain's" fault.

They BOTH think...

- Their parents love the other one more than them.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Salt in His Shoes

Provide evidence from the book that shows Michael overcoming obstacles.

Text Evidence:

- Mark made fun of Michael but he returned to play basketball with him again.
- Michael learned to let his Mama, his Aunt, prayer, and his vegetables.
- Mama stopped going to the park to play and instead stayed home and practiced.

Inference:

Michael persevered to achieve his goal.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Salt in His Shoes

Describe Michael through his thoughts, words, and actions.

Thoughts:

- He was disappointed in himself for losing the game and not being tall enough.

Words:

- Michael practiced and listened to his Mama.

Actions:

- Michael practiced and listened to his Mama.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Salt in His Shoes

Compare the book to the motivational video.

Salt in His Shoes:

- Michael lost a game and thought it was because he wasn't tall enough.
- His mother encouraged him.
- Michael practiced hard to where he is today.
- He had to fail to be able to win.

Motivational Video:

- Michael shares that people think what he does is easy.
- His pain was his motivation.

Michael Jordan Motivational Video

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch

Give evidence from the text to show how acts of kindness spread.

Beginning:

- Mr. Decker delivered Mr. Hatch a giant box of chocolates and it made him laugh and dance and clap, which he'd never done before.

Middle:

- Mr. Hatch watched the stand while Mr. Smith went to the doctor because he noticed Mr. Smith didn't look well.
- Mr. Hatch noticed Mr. Todd looked worried, and helped him by finding his daughter.

End:

- Mr. Hatch baked brownies and lemonade and had a picnic for the neighbors.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch

Describe Mr. Hatch's character traits through the story.

Beginning:

- Mr. Hatch was uncaring and indifferent. He didn't smile or talk to anyone and he ate alone.

Middle:

- Mr. Hatch was kind and loving. He smiled and talked to people, and shared with others. He also worried about others and helped take care of problems.

End:

- Mr. Hatch was indifferent again when he thought no one loved him. But when the community came together to make sure he felt loved, he was cheery and kind once again.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Amazing Grace

Make inferences about the character's feelings in these events in the book.

Evidence	+ What I Know	= My Inference
Grace wanted to be Peter Pan and she told her sister about it, she kept her secret.	When I read something scary, I don't listen to anyone else.	Grace felt that she could be Peter Pan no matter how others felt.
Grace told Nana and Nana told her that she should be a ballerina.	When I feel my family makes bad things others sad, I want them to help me.	Grace was feeling less confident and wanted insurance.
Grace went to school with Nana and she went home to play the part of Juliet like the ballerina.	Grace used to act out stories that she enjoyed.	she loved the ballet and it made her feel confident again.
Everyone voted for Grace to be Peter Pan and Nana told her that she was fantastic.	If everyone votes for someone, it means they really like them or think they did a good job.	Grace was ecstatic that she was accepted and loved.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Amazing Grace

Give evidence to support the theme of the book.

Theme:

Prejudice/Assumptions

Evidence:

- Grace and her family wanted to be Peter Pan, and all the Nana's told her she couldn't because she was a girl and she was black.
- Everyone voted for Grace to be Peter Pan because she was the best choice.
- Nana told Grace she could be anything she wanted if she put her mind to it, and took her to a ballet to see a young black girl playing Juliet.

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Name: Praxide Answers Date: _____

The Royal Bee

Give evidence to support the theme of the book.

Theme: Dedication

Song-to would do anything he could to make a better life for his mother and himself.

He listened and learned to be the best Bee.

Song to sat outside the door and listened to Master-Min every day, even in the cold winter with icicles on the trees.

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Name: Praxide Answers Date: _____

The Royal Bee

Define unknown words in the story.

scholars: well-learned educated people, students

privilege: an advantage, give special rights

escort: guide, walk with

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Name: Praxide Answers Date: _____

Hey, Little Ant

Compare the characters of the kid and the ant using evidence from the text.

Kid

- The kid's skin is going to scratch the ant.
- Ants can't feel because they are so tiny.
- The kid has a home and a family.
- The kid's mom says ants are rude because they steal food.
- All the kid's friends squish ants.

Ant

- The ant begs the kid not to make him die.
- Ants can't feel how it feels to be an ant.
- The ant has a nest and family baby ants.
- One chip can feed the ant's whole town.
- The ant wants the kid to think what would happen if the kid was so tiny.

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Name: Praxide Answers Date: _____

Hey, Little Ant

Draw one of the images in the book from the ant's point of view and label how it helps the reader understand the ant's emotions.

drawings will vary

picture could be of the baby ants eating

Showing the baby ants eating helps the reader see the ant has his own family and others to take care of.

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My Mama Had a Dancing Heart

Give evidence to show how the mother and daughter celebrated through the seasons.

Spring	Summer
They would dance in the rain.	They would dance on the beach with kites and balloons.
They would read rain poems and drink tea with lemon curd.	They would pick their strawberries and drink lemonade.
They would dance in the forests.	They would make snow angels.
They would press leaves and drink hot, spiced tea.	They'd dance in the snow.
	They would put out snowflakes and drink hot cocoa.
Autumn	Winter

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Up North at the Cabin

Make inferences about the evidence given from the book.

Evidence	+	What I Know	=	My Inference
I know the way by heart. Just the big yellow slide on Lake Nemo Lake, a few more miles to the Lake Dair Park...		You are very familiar with something if you know it by heart.		The lake is very big and has slide every summer.
I am a great grey dolphin. The lake is my ocean.		Dolphins are good swimmers.		She is a good swimmer.
"Huh, huh!" they scream. "How much? I think, then smirk the writer like an angry northern fox."		She is unsure. Something that is now doesn't always go so well the first time.		This was probably her first time winter skiing.
I am always brave even in the dark woods, when I hear thumps thump on my back like old Quibway drums.		When blood thunders through my head it's like I hear my heart beat. That happens when I'm nervous.		Even though she is being brave, she is still very nervous.

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Up North at the Cabin

Summarize the story.

Beginning

The little girl is taking her annual trip north to the cabin with her grandparents. They enjoy fishing and eating together on the porch.

Middle

The little girl realizes that the lake is not so fun. She gets up and dives at bubbles and comes through the water. They're boating and water skiing too with other family members. She doesn't know using through the dark woods.

End

The little girl makes sure to look in all the details to remember her summer when she leaves and will have good memories.

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Up North at the Cabin

Recognize figurative language from the book in the waves below.

Personification

The sunshine sits in my lap all morning. We watch the loons dance down the sun. I am over sand that swirls up behind me. The river spills over rocks and whispers to me. The boat roars forward.

Similes

The houses are made from logs and look like shiny pretzels. The forest is as quiet as a bull moose in the shadows. His chest heaves and rumbles, might as be a diesel engine. I smack the water like an angry northern fox.

Hyperbole

I am a smart angler. I am a great grey dolphin. The lake is my ocean. I am an aerobist in a perfect handstand. Rising in a sea of air bubble balloons, I float on a carpet of waves. I am a fearless voyager. I am a daredevil.

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Name: Praxide Answers Date: _____

Last Stop on Market Street

Provide evidence from the book that show CJ's mood changed.

Text Evidence

At the beginning of the book, CJ wondered why they had to wait for the bus at the rain and why they didn't have a car.

In the middle, CJ wished he had hands to hold on to make his way to the bus stop. Then he enjoyed the driver's attitude.

In the end, he was able to see the beauty around the city, and he decided to get used to the bus.

Inference:

CJ had a change of heart.

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Last Stop on Market Street

Give evidence to support the theme of the book.

Theme: Proximity/Obstacles

When I complain just for nothing, Mama reminds me that the bus is the only way to get to work.

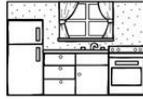
When CJ asks why everything is so dirty, Mama says it's so they can be a witness to what is beautiful.

When CJ felt sorry for himself that others get cars and brand new things, Mama says she feels sorry for them that three people never get to go anywhere like they want.

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EVERY BOOK HAS:

In My Momma's Kitchen By Jerdine Nolen



Mentor Sentence Focus Standard: L.1 (compound sentences)

Reading Lesson Ideas:

R.1: Students can give evidence from the story that shows Momma's kitchen is a special place to the whole family.

R.2: Have students find the theme.

R.3: Students tell about Momma's character (thoughts, words, actions).

R.4, L.5: Students identify phrases and verbs that add to the tone and visualize the story. (For example: "I think they cook like hummingbirds.")

R.5: Have students discuss/explain how the different stories within the book shape the idea of Momma's kitchen.

R.6: Students identify how the story might have been different told from the point of view of Momma.

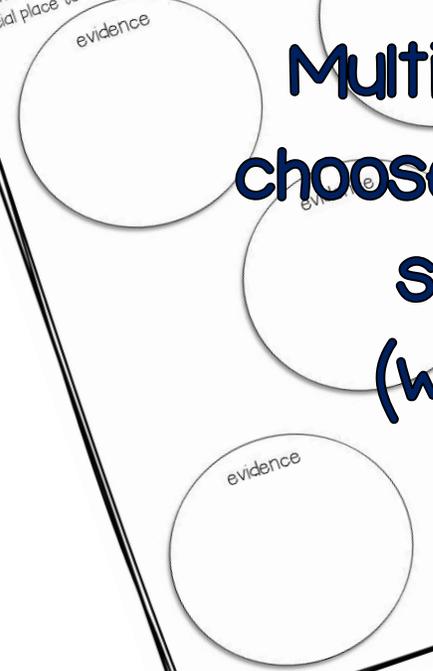
R.9: Read *All the Places to Love* by Patricia MacLachlan. Discuss the approaches the two authors take to share their favorite places and the memories they have there.

Writing Lesson Ideas:

W.3: Students write about a memory in a special place.

In My Momma's Kitchen

List the evidence the author gives to show the kitchen is a special place to the whole family.



Name: _____ Date: _____

In My Momma's Kitchen

Give evidence to support the theme of the book.

Theme: _____

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Multiple organizers you can choose from depending on the skill you are teaching (with ANSWER KEYS!)

In My Momma's Kitchen

Tell about a memory you have in a special place.



Name: _____ Date: _____

In My Momma's Kitchen

Tell about a memory you have in a special place.

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