

KWANZAA

DIFFERENTIATED PASSAGES & ACTIVITIES



DIFFERENTIATED PASSAGES FOR GRADES 1–5

- Three Lexile-measured passages:
- 420L, 680L, 860L
- Meets the 2nd-5th grade Common Core Text Complexity Band (450-980)
- Allows teachers to easily differentiate for readers at multiple levels
- Perfect for whole-group, small-group, or independent reading



OFFICIAL LEXILE® CERTIFIED TEXTS

- All passages are officially measured and approved by Lexile® & MetaMetrics®
- Ensures appropriate rigor and supports true complexity-based instruction
- Ideal for monitoring reading growth and scaffolding challenging text



HIGH-QUALITY NONFICTION CONTENT

- Clear, accurate history of Kwanzaa's origins & cultural significance
- Engaging explanations of the Seven Principles
- Student-friendly descriptions of Kwanzaa

Name: Julie Bachese Date: 11/27

Prereading

Look at this photograph. What do you notice in this photograph? Write your response in blue. After you have completed the readings, go back and add to your response in green, based on what you read.



I notice there is a family of African Americans standing around candles. They are wearing yellow scarves with patterns. Some of the people in the photo look happy, while others look pensive.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS THAT PROMOTE CLOSE READING

- Includes text-dependent questions for each passage
- Mix of multiple choice & short-response
- Built-in underline-the-text-evidence prompts to support mastery

The Seven Days of Kwanzaa

Name: _____ Date: _____

Habari Gani! That's Swahili for *What's the news?* It's a Kwanzaa greeting. Even the word *Kwanzaa* is Swahili. It means *first fruits*. Kwanzaa is a seven-day holiday. It begins December 26th. It starts on January 1st. It's not a religious holiday. Instead, it celebrates African-American culture. Kwanzaa was created in 1966. A professor wanted to build African-American community. He looked at the ways Africans celebrate the holidays. He combined them to create a new holiday.

The Kwanzaa Flag

This flag, called the *lupatole*, has three horizontal stripes. The top stripe is red, the middle stripe is black, and the bottom stripe is green. Black represents the struggle, and the red and green represent the blood of the ancestors and the land of the living.

Family Traditions

Many families tell stories and dance around the candles. Each day's traditions are different.

The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa

unity, self-determination, collective work, cooperative economics, purpose, faith, ?

Kwanzaa

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is not a crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

- How do the Kwanzaa gifts, or *zawadi*, support the principles of the holiday?
a. The gifts are food that will be eaten at the Karamu feast.
b. The gifts reinforce the values of African-American culture.
c. The gifts are purchased with money from community businesses.
d. The gifts are only given from parents to children to represent the future of the community.
- Which Kwanzaa symbol represents the history and culture of Africa?
a. the kinara and seven candles
b. the unity cup
c. the ear of corn
d. the mekeka placemat
- Which principle completes the web?
a. creativity
b. community
c. religion
d. togetherness
- Which of these is most similar to a Kwanzaa tradition?
a. hanging ornaments on a Christmas tree
b. lighting candles on a Hanukkah menorah
c. baking a birthday cake
d. marching in a Flag Day parade
- What does the author do to help readers understand Swahili words? Use details from the text to support your answer.
First, the author puts the first instance of any Swahili word or phrase in italics. Examples of this are (kinara) and (mekeka). The italics make the words stand out to the reader.

FOLDABLE ACTIVITY

- Hands-on foldable graphic organizer for principles & symbols
- Perfect for interactive notebooks or literacy centers
- Reinforces key concepts through writing and reflection



WRITING PROMPTS WITH TOPPERS

- **Two meaningful writing prompts about identity, values, and traditions**
- **Printable craft toppers add creativity and engagement**
- **Great for hallway displays and holiday learning celebrations**

