

Florida B.E.S.T. AUTHOR'S PURPOSE & PERSPECTIVE



- ...to include some of the following
- I respectfully disagree with you because I feel _____
 - I understand _____ is important to you. On the other hand, _____ is important to me.
 - I think it was a great point when you said _____. I think _____
 - You said _____. Another point to consider is _____

Dear Author,

I believe the Astros
held accountable

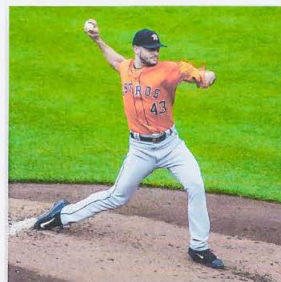
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Author's Purpose & Perspective

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Tarnished Legacy

In 2017, the Houston Astros impressed the world and became World Series Champions. Two years later, their legacy is tarnished. In November of 2019, two reporters published a report that explained how the team had cheated during their World Championship Season.



Astros pitcher, Lance McCullers, throws the ball during a game from the 2017 season.

The team installed a camera in the outfield that was trained on the catcher of the opposing teams. That camera led to a video feed just outside the Astros' dugout, where team personnel would watch and decode the catchers' signs. This is known as sign-stealing, and it's against the rules. Then, the team would bang on trash cans loudly to signal to Astros hitters what type of pitch was coming. They did this all season, including during the World Series.

Major League Baseball investigated this and found that the Astros were guilty of cheating. They didn't take away their championship title but were given several major penalties. Manager A.J. Reich and General Manager Jeff Luhnow were suspended for the 2020 season, and the Astros' owner later fired them both. The MLB also took the Astros' first and second round draft picks for 2019 and 2020 seasons. The team was further fined \$5 million. While some think the punishment is harsh, others say it's not enough.

Have other teams tried to cheat the system? Probably. But the message here is clear. If you cheat to win, you aren't really a winner. The Astros should accept any punishment they are given.



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Name: _____ Date: _____

The Unlucky Team



The 2017 Astros team at the White House with President Donald Trump, March 2018.

Yes, the Astros were caught sign-stealing. But the whole thing has been completely blown out of proportion. Stealing signs in baseball is nothing new. Literally all teams try to do it. And yes, the Astros were wrong to use electronic means to steal signs, but they certainly aren't the only team who's tried.

As a matter of fact, the team that won the World Series in 2018 after the Astros, the Red Sox, have been accused of electronic sign stealing, too! And it isn't just baseball. Earlier last year, the International Olympic Committee banned the entire country of Russian athletes from competing. This was punishment for years of performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs). The New England Patriots have been caught up in several scandals where they were accused of cheating. Even a horse who won the Triple Crown tested positive for PEDs. For some, winning is worth the risk.



Let's face it. Cheating is just part of the game. If everyone's doing it, that means the playing field is already level. So, give the Astros a break. They were just trying to outsmart their opponents.

The Commissioner's Trophy is awarded to the winning team of the World Series

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Mag
CORE

AUTHOR'S PURPOSE & PERSPECTIVE

4th & 5th grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 12 Lexile® leveled stories in the 4th-5th Grade Florida B.E.S.T. Text Complexity Band (the range for 4th-5th grade is 740L-1010L).

1. How to Teach Forming Opinions
2. Forming Opinions Anchor Chart
3. Understanding Viewpoints Graphic Organizer
4. Forming Opinions Bookmark
5. A Tarnished Legacy - 880L / The Unlucky Team - 720L
6. Plastic Bags Should Be Banned - 890L / Plastic Bags Aren't to Blame - 850L
7. Social Media is Hurting Society - 930L / Social Media Increases Social Interaction - 940L
8. Eating Meat Hurts the Environment - 910L / Eating Meat is No Worse than Veggies - 920L
9. Self-Driving Cars Are Genius! - 930L / Dangerous Driverless Cars - 960L
10. Students Should Be Taught Cursive - 940L / No More Cursive - 970L
11. Your Friendly Neighborhood Skatepark - 950L / Not So Stoked About Skateparks - 980L
12. My Viewpoint Prompt and Stationery

Each story includes:

- 1 page of multiple choice and short response questions



ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS



MagiCore is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Florida B.E.S.T. uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure students are college and career ready by the end of 12th grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Florida B.E.S.T. Expectations
K-1	N/A
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	1185L-1385L

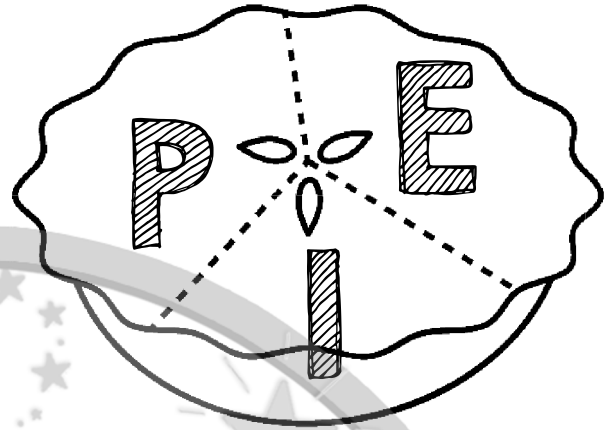
Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Florida B.E.S.T. Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."



Author's Purpose

Authors write to:

- Persuade
- Inform
- Entertain



- When authors want to **persuade** their readers, they are trying to convince the readers to believe something. They explain why they feel the way they do.
- When authors want to **inform** their readers, they are trying to teach their readers something.
- When authors want to **entertain** their readers, they are writing for the readers to enjoy the texts.

WRITING TO PERSUADE



When an author writes to persuade, they are sharing their perspective. It is important that readers recognize an author's perspective and consider multiple perspectives before forming an opinion on a topic.

Author's Perspective

An author's perspective is their attitude toward or way of regarding something. A person's perspective is formed based on their opinion.

An opinion is what someone **thinks, feels, or believes**.

Sometimes people think, feel, or believe different things about topics. You may agree or disagree with the author's perspective.

While reading, it is important the reader is aware of the author's perspective. They need to be aware of other perspectives as well.

Finally, the reader should form their own opinion based on their personal thoughts, feelings, and beliefs.



Zoos are cruel to animals. The animals suffer because they are kept in small habitats, as opposed to their natural habitat. Many are forced to live in drastically different climates than they are adapted for. Many species of animals, such as monkeys are very intelligent and do not deserve this cruel treatment.



Zoos are beneficial to both animals and humans. Animals who are injured and could not survive in the wild are able to be cared for in zoos. Many zoos also have programs to breed endangered species. Humans benefit from learning about animals in zoos. People visit zoos and can experience animals up close, which makes them learn to love and care for nature.

What is your viewpoint of zoos? Back your opinion up with details about what you think, feel, or believe.

The Unlucky Team



The 2017 Astros team at the White House with President Donald Trump, March 2018.

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Astros pitcher, Lance McCullers, throws the ball during a game from the 2017 season.

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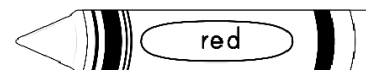
Major League Baseball investigated this and found that the Astros were guilty of cheating. They didn't take away their championship title but were given several major penalties. Manager A.J. Hinch and General Manager Jeff Luhnow were suspended for the 2020 season, and the Astros' owner later fired them both. The MLB also took the Astros' first and second round draft picks for the 2019 and 2020 seasons. The team was further fined \$5 million. While some think the punishment was harsh, others say it's not enough.

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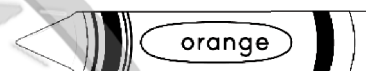
Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color shown.

1. What is the author's purpose for writing "The Unlucky Team"?



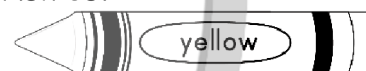
- a. The author wrote this article to persuade the reader to cheer for the Astros at the next World Series.
- b. The author wrote this article to convince the reader that the Astros did not cheat but used strategy to win the World Series.
- c. The author wrote this article to give the reader information about the Astros baseball team.
- d. The author wrote this article to get readers excited about the World Series.

2. What is the author's purpose for writing "A Tarnished Legacy"?



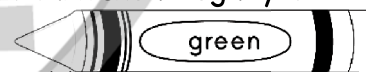
- a. The author wrote this article to persuade the reader to cheer for other baseball teams.
- b. The author wrote this article to inform the reader of the events that took place during the 2017 Baseball World Series.
- c. The author wrote this article to get readers excited about baseball.
- d. The author wrote this article to convince the reader that the Astros cheated and should be held responsible for their actions.

3. What does the author of "The Unlucky Team" most likely believe about the Astros?



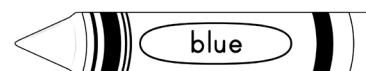
- a. The Astros are not cheaters.
- b. The Astros should be punished for their actions.
- c. Major League Baseball needs to change its rules.
- d. Cheating is widespread among all sports.

4. Which of the following would be an opposing perspective of the author of "A Tarnished Legacy"?



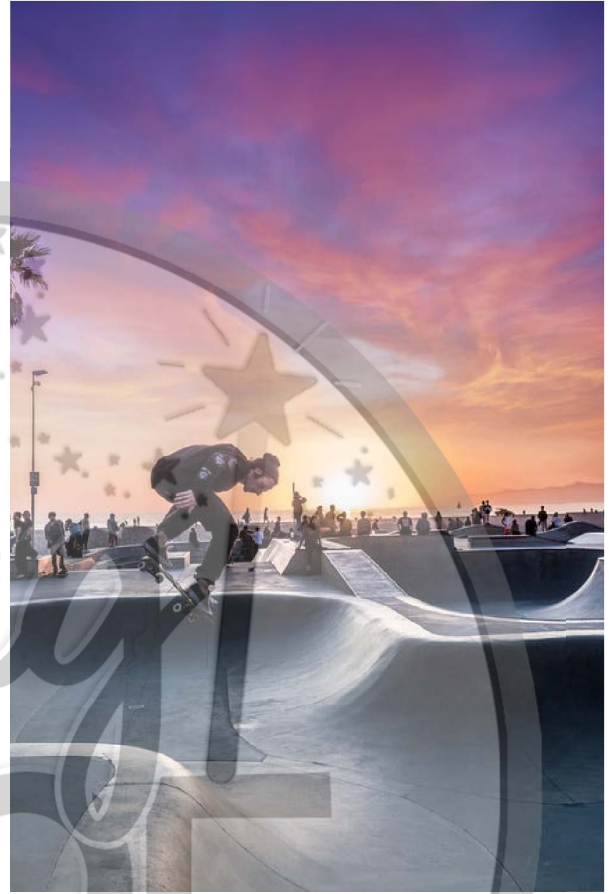
- a. Sign-stealing shouldn't be allowed.
- b. The Astros may have not played by all of the rules, but they still should be the champions because they were the best team.
- c. The opposing team was cheating, too.
- d. The Astros should be stripped of their World Series title.

5. Which author do you agree with more? Why?



Your Friendly Neighborhood Skatepark

Skateboarding is a popular activity among today's youth. With creative designs on boards and flashy tricks, skateboarders know how to draw attention. The problem is that not everyone who is interested in skateboarding has a place to practice and gather with other skateboarders. Every neighborhood should have a skatepark for its residents to enjoy. Skateparks help to lower childhood obesity rates. They provide a sense of belonging and community to youngsters. They also train aspiring Olympic athletes.



Roughly one in six youths are obese according to data from the National Survey of Children's Health. Children need consistent exercise. Skateboarding can provide that. Riding a skateboard is a full-body activity. It requires muscle work, respiratory fitness, cardiovascular endurance, and balance. Engaging in this kind of workout by skateboarding on a regular basis reduces weight gain. It leads to lower obesity levels in young people. More children would get involved in this healthy exercise if they had access to a nearby skatepark.

Having a skatepark in the neighborhood can also help young people feel a sense of belonging. Being around other people who are interested in the same activity makes it easier to create meaningful friendships. When people don't feel like they are part of a group, they can suffer from depression. According to Mental Health America, over 2.3 million youths

coped with severe depression in 2021. We could reduce that number if more young people felt connected to others and felt as if their interests were valued. A neighborhood skatepark would give youths a place to gather with like-minded people and form healthy, long-lasting bonds.

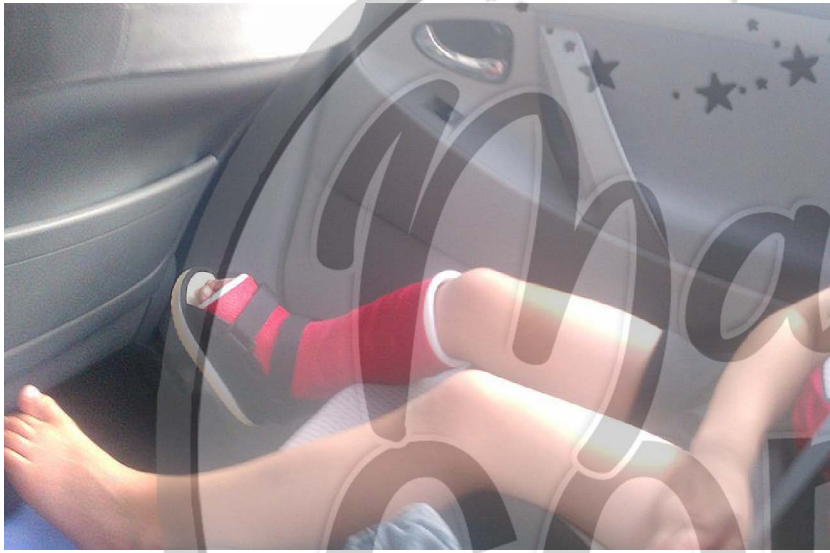
Neighborhoods often have baseball fields, ice hockey rinks, and soccer fields so residents can enjoy these sports. Why should skateboarders be left out? Skateboarding became an official Olympic sport in the 2020 Summer Olympic Games. An Olympic sport deserves some respect. More neighborhood skateparks would allow the next generations of athletes to develop their skills. Maybe you or someone who lives right next door will become the next Olympic Skateboarding Gold Medalist!

It's easy to think skateparks are too dangerous and costly, but it is time for skateboarding to get the recognition it is owed. Building more community skateparks will bring many benefits to people interested in the sport. They will make youths healthier, happier, and more talented athletes.



Not So Stoked About Skateparks

Many people enjoy skateboarding both as a recreational and competitive activity. While it can be fun to watch skateboarders perform their tricks on halfpipes, building more skateparks is not something communities should explore. Skateparks are unsafe, expensive, and only give young people another way to waste time.



All sports carry some risk. Even with proper safety equipment and regulations in place, participants still suffer injuries. Skateboarding is no exception. In fact, an estimated 64,000 children aged 5-19 are treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for skateboarding injuries each year

according to Nationwide Children's Hospital. Putting additional skateparks for young people to toss themselves about on tiny, wheeled boards is asking for trouble. Communities need to take steps to *protect* their youngsters, not put them in more danger.

Constructing skateparks is not a cheap project, either. On average, a 10,000 square foot skatepark costs \$500,000. That's half a million dollars! Neighborhoods have many other expenses when maintaining their communities. Spending such a large sum of money on something that the entire neighborhood won't use is frivolous. Cities and towns have better ways of adding value to their locations such as investing in litter cleanup or additional emergency services.

Another thing that skateparks waste is time. Young people in the United States already spend more than 7 hours on screen media according to a report by Common Sense Media. That's

time they could be using to do something productive such as schoolwork, helping their families, or in the case of older teenagers, working a paying job. Do we really want to give young people another way to chew up the minutes of their lives by building skateparks? Picture groups of children just milling about these skateparks and doing nothing but tricks. There are far more meaningful activities that children can participate in.

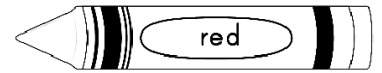
Some supporters of skateparks might say giving young people a place to gather and get physical activity is beneficial. Neighborhoods already have places where active sports are enjoyed, though, such as baseball fields. Also, a sport like baseball requires a team effort. Skateboarding is a solo activity, requiring no collaboration between participants. Shouldn't we be fostering cooperation and teamwork? Those are skills that will help young people become successful adults. Handplanting and kickflipping will not.



Skateparks should not be added to neighborhoods. They put young people at risk for injury. The cost of new skateparks is too high. Lastly, young people have more important ways to spend their time rather than skateboarding.

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color shown.

1. What does the author of "Your Friendly Neighborhood Skatepark" most likely believe about skateboarding?



- a. Skateboarding can cause kids to get injured.
- b. Skateboarding is great exercise.
- c. Skateboarding is not a very popular sport, but it is a fun hobby.
- d. Skateboarding is expensive and damages local parks.

2. What is the author's purpose for writing "Not So Stoked About Skateparks"?

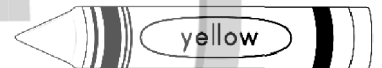


- a. To explain the recent popularity of skateboarding as an Olympic sport.
- b. To teach readers that skateboarding is excellent physical exercise.
- c. To convince readers that having skateparks is unsafe, expensive, and a waste of time.
- d. To show readers that skateparks would give kids a place to work together on something they enjoy doing.

3. Reread the following statement.

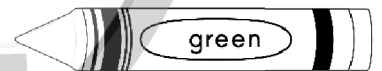
"Having a skatepark in the neighborhood can also help young people feel a sense of belonging."

What is the impact of this statement on the first article?



- a. It proves the author's point.
- b. It strengthens the author's argument by addressing a counterargument.
- c. It weakens the author's argument by discussing the other side of the issue.
- d. It is irrelevant to the author's claim.

4. Read the following point from "Not So Stoked About Skateparks:"



"Some supporters of skateparks might say giving young people a place to gather and get physical activity is beneficial."

Why did the author make this point?

- a. To tell the reader they should gather at skateparks.
- b. To address the opposing opinion and give a counterargument.
- c. To prove the point that skateparks are a place for wasting time.
- d. To argue why we should build more skateparks.



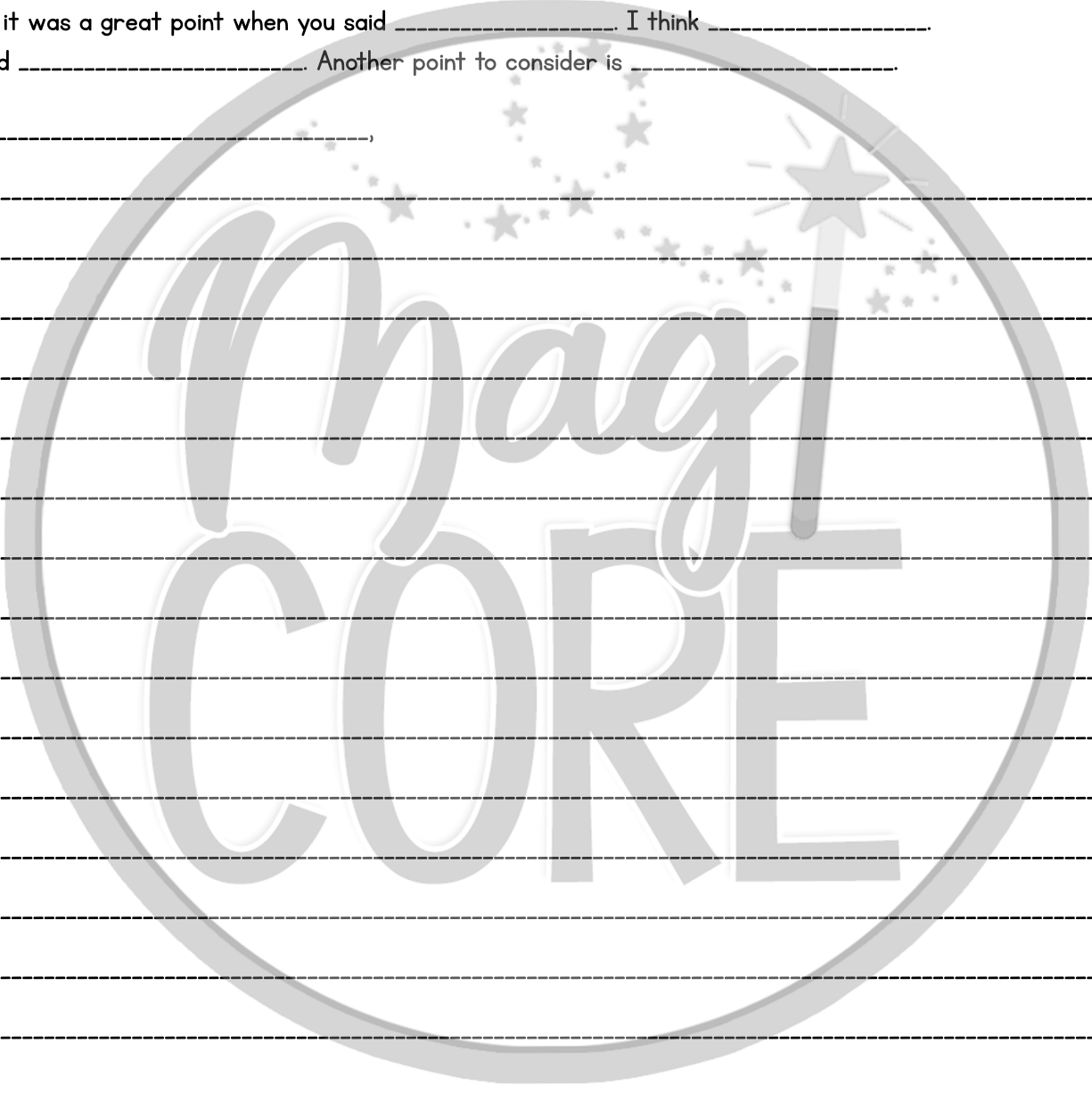
5. How could the author of the first article convince you your neighborhood should build a skatepark?

My Viewpoint

Directions: Write a letter to one of the authors of the articles. Explain your stance on the topic. Be sure to include examples, facts, and details about your thoughts, feelings, and beliefs about the topic. Be sure to include some of the following prompts in your letter:

- I respectfully disagree with you because I feel _____.
- I understand _____ is important to you. On the other hand, _____ is important to me.
- I think it was a great point when you said _____. I think _____.
- You said _____. Another point to consider is _____.

Dear _____,



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Good to Go



Not O.K.

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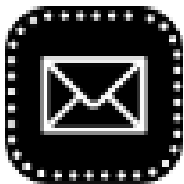
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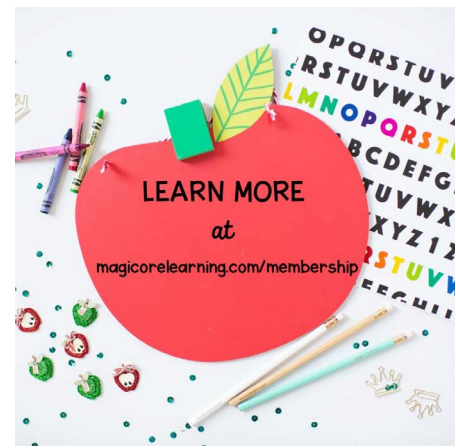
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