

FEBRUARY

Differentiated Passages



SEQUENCE

Sequence the story by recording major events in the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

Beginning

Middle

February Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

780L

The Judgment


Aphrodite was the goddess of love and beauty and was beautiful herself. She attended a wedding with other gods and goddesses. Eris, the goddess of disagreement, had brought a golden apple as a present. Eris had not been invited to the wedding and was only there to start trouble.

The words *to the fairest* were written on the apple. It was thrown on the banquet table in the middle of the wedding guests. Instantly, Aphrodite and two other goddesses, Hera and Athena, thought the apple was meant for them. They fought about who was the fairest and most beautiful. Even Zeus, the god of all gods, couldn't choose. Finally, it was decided that someone else should make the judgment instead.

Paris, a mortal prince, was chosen to make the decision, for he was known to be fair in his judgments. Each of the goddesses tried to bribe Paris to choose her as the apple's owner, and therefore, name her the fairest and most beautiful.


"I will give you wealth and power if you choose me," Hera said. "You shall never need anything."

"I will give you knowledge and skills if you choose me," Athena said. "You shall be a great and smart warrior."




Color the crayon indicated. If there is no crayon next to the question, you may use any color to help you infer.


Who was invited?




Who threw the apple?




Who was the fairest?



Who was the most beautiful?



Who was the smartest?



4th & 5th Grade



FEBRUARY PASSAGES

4th & 5th grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 6 differentiated leveled passages in the 4th-5th Grade Text Complexity Band (the range for 4th-5th grade is 740-1010). Each passage is available on two levels and comes with general comprehension questions, a skill-based activity, and a reading response activity.

1. The Judgment - *Focus on Sequence* (780L, 950L)
2. Black History Month - *Focus on Key Details* (800L, 1030L)
3. Heart Sail - *Focus on Poetry Elements* (Poem)
4. Oceans in Trouble - *Focus on Cause and Effect* (790L, 970L)
5. To the Rescue - *Focus on Predicting/Inferring* (760L, 890L)
6. Jackie Robinson - *Focus on Sequence* (770L, 990L)



ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS



MagiCore Learning, LLC 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.

Common Core State Standards 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 Common Core Expectations
K-1	N/A
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	925L-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 Common Core 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."



Oceans in Trouble

Water covers about three-fourths of planet Earth. Our oceans are becoming more polluted every day, though. Plants, animals, and humans depend on water to survive. Without clean water, living things suffer.

Pollution of Earth's water is caused mainly by humans in a number of ways. Ships that move goods harm our oceans if they leak oil into the water. Fur and feathers are damaged by oil spills. Oil is toxic for marine animals. Oil spills destroy marine food sources and habitats. These disasters are also very difficult to clean up. Being more careful with ocean travel and having safety laws can help lower the threat of an oil spill.



Aftermath of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Runoff is another pollution problem for our waterways. This happens when rain and snow carry pollutants from the ground into the water. For example, people often spray chemicals on their lawns to prevent weeds. A rainstorm washes all those harmful chemicals right into our water. Humans can reduce the effects of runoff by using more natural products instead of poisons.

Another cause of water pollution is the burning of fossil fuels for energy. Fossil fuels such as coal release carbon dioxide into the air. This speeds up climate change. They also put ash into the atmosphere. The ash mixes with water vapor in clouds. This creates acid rain. Acid rain then makes the waterways more acidic. That can harm marine life. Fish eggs can't hatch, and adult fish die in oceans with high levels of acid. Finding other sources of energy instead of burning fossil fuels can help to solve this problem.

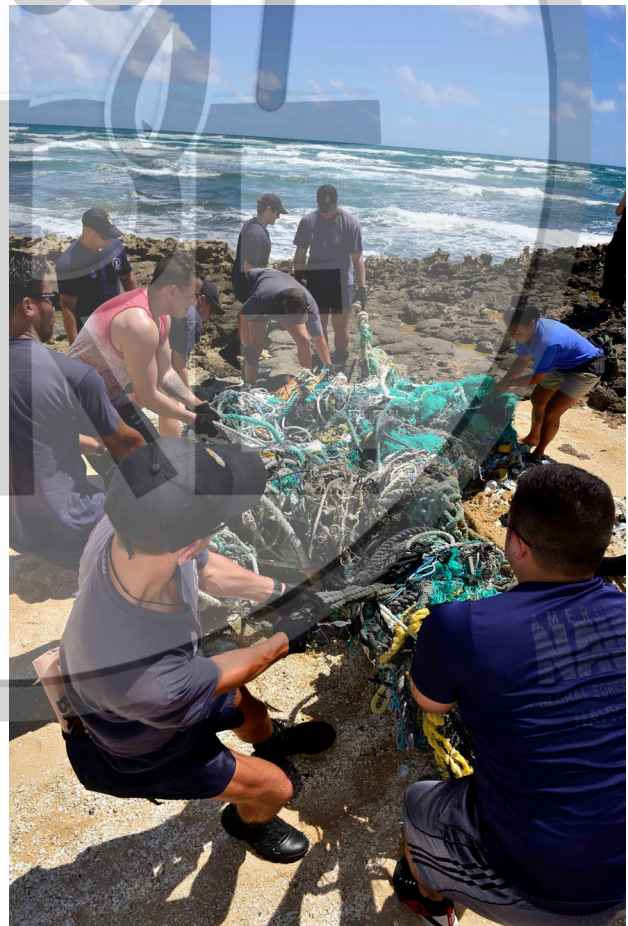
February Passages

A final issue humans create that puts our oceans in danger is litter. Plastics such as bags and bottles are the main type of trash found in the oceans. These plastics build up in the water. They don't break down. Many marine animals and birds mistake plastic garbage for food. It is estimated that 60% of all seabird species have eaten plastic. Dead seabirds are often found with bellies full of plastic pieces. Plastic can't be digested. Eating it can keep an animal from feeding. That will cause it to starve to death. Chemicals in plastic are also poisonous. They can weaken or kill marine animals. Getting tangled in this plastic debris also harms sea animals. They can't come up to the surface to breathe. Escaping from predators and feeding themselves become problems, too. Reducing our use of plastics and getting rid of them properly are ways to limit this type of water pollution.

Our oceans are in trouble unless humans take action to stop these forms of pollution. We made the mess, but we also have the power to clean it up. All we have to do is make better choices.



Seal entangled in plastic netting.



2016 beach cleanup at the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge at Haleiwa, Hawaii.

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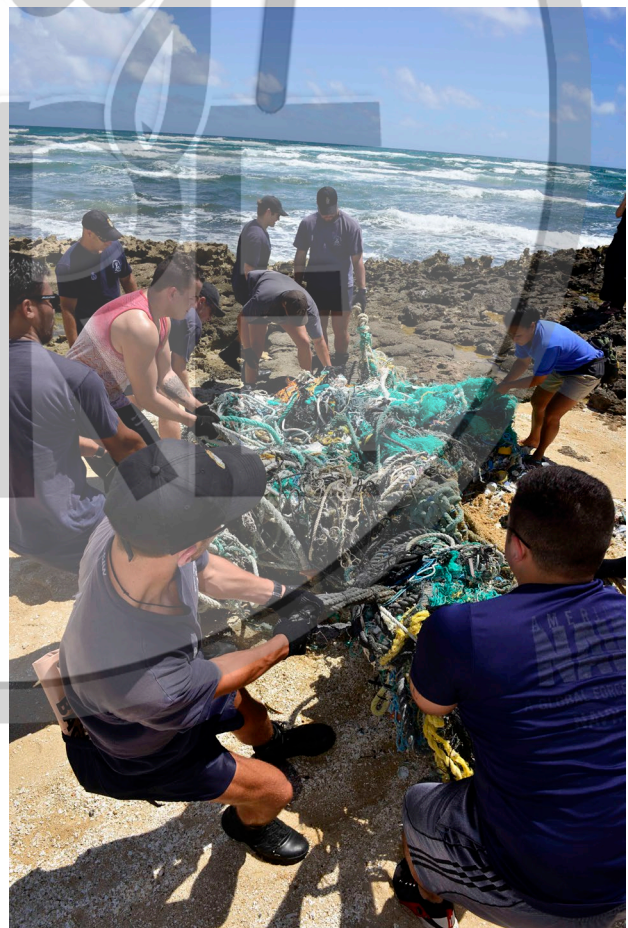
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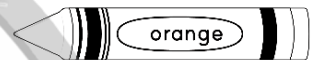
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Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is no crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

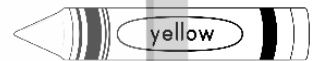
1. How does oil contribute to the pollution of the oceans?



2. What is "runoff" and what, specifically, does it pollute with?

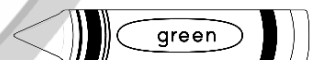


3. Who is the largest contributor to the pollution of our oceans?

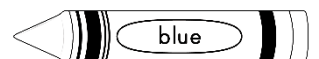


- a. Fish
- b. Plants
- c. Humans
- d. Natural processes

4. What causes oceans to develop high levels of acid?



5. Why does plastic build up in the water?

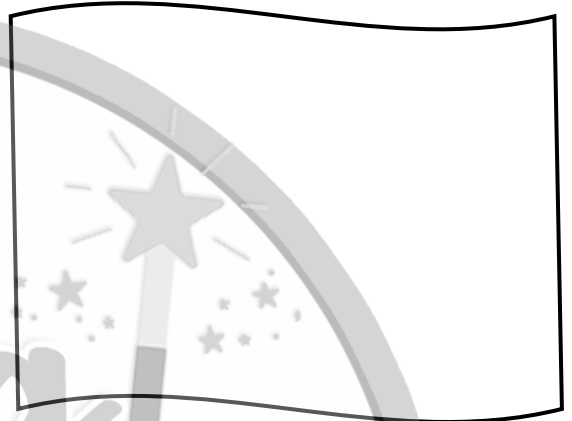
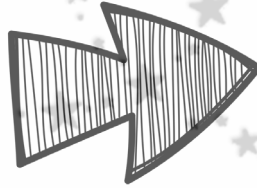


CAUSE AND EFFECT

Cause

Effect

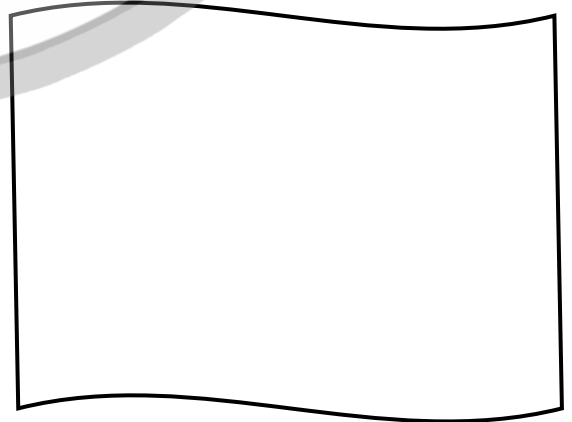
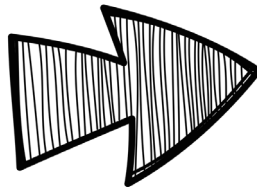
Ships leaking oil into the water as they transport goods.



Humans spraying harmful chemicals on their lawns.

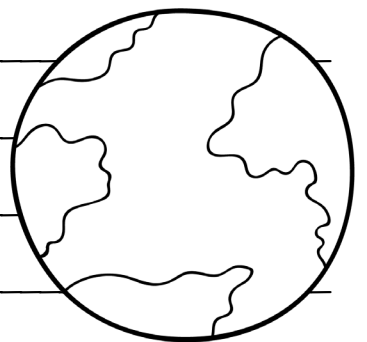
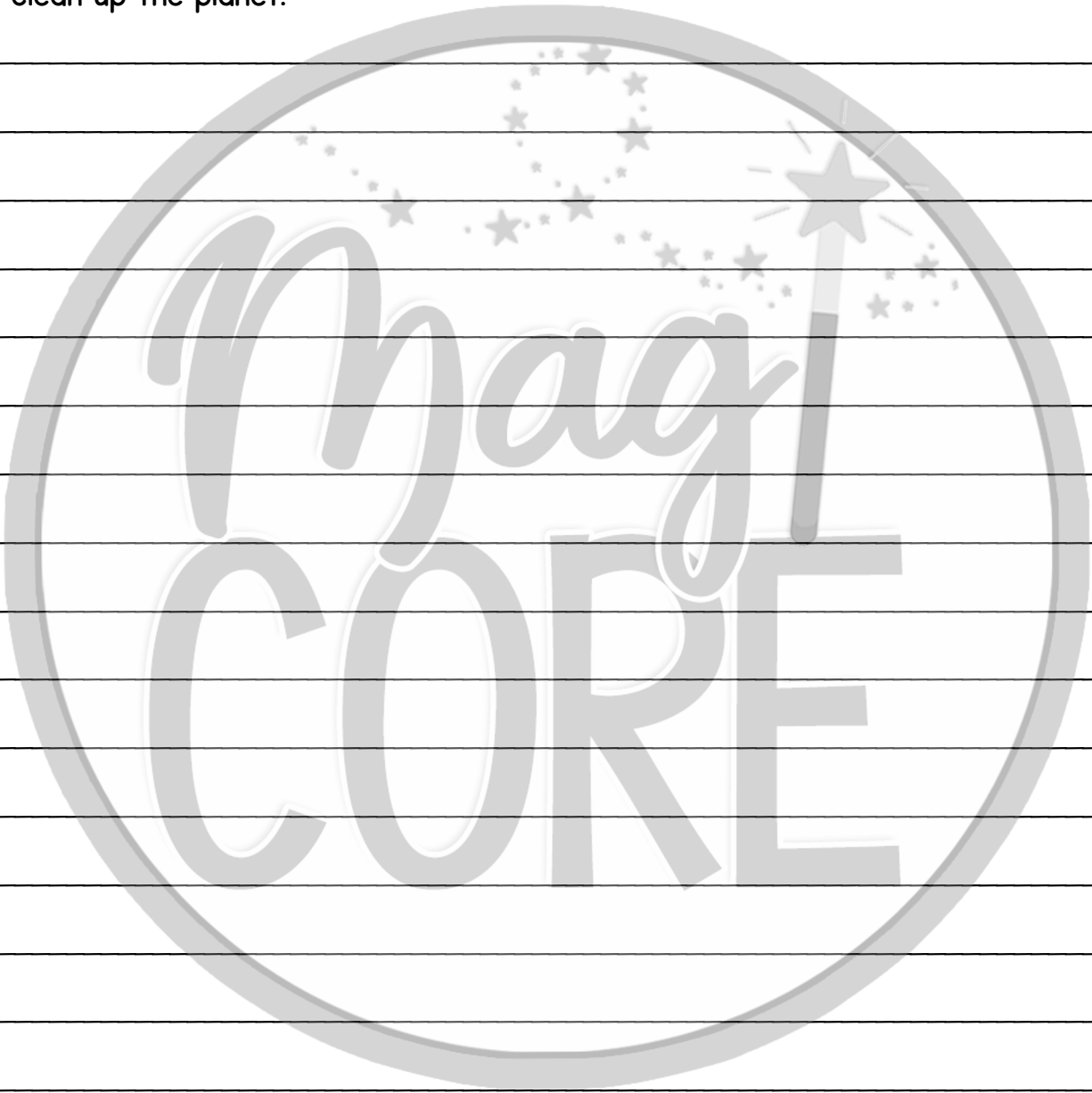


Humans consistently littering.



OCEANS IN TROUBLE RESPONSE

Our oceans are in trouble and are threatened by pollution. Most of the pollution is directly caused by humans. Write a response detailing ways that humans could reduce their pollution and help clean up the planet.



To the Rescue

Jayda's arms shook as she held onto the controls of her TR-89 mini-ship. She was taxing the limits of the small craft by flying this far out, but what else was she supposed to do? When her camp on Mars had been attacked, there hadn't been time to think of a *good* plan. Fleeing was the *only* plan.

Now she was far away from the chaos on Mars, but her ship might just be ripped apart by space debris.

No biggie.

"C'mon, c'mon." She steered around the remains of a satellite as a beeping sounded from her dashboard. Risking a peek down, she saw the warning light blinking back at her and groaned. "Low charge."

Jayda squinted at the digital map to her right, just making out a nearby planet. It would have to do. She angled her ship in that direction. With a final blast of power, she rocketed toward that destination.

Her landing was rough. The bottom of her ship scraped along some rocky hilltops on the planet. She found a flat piece of land and brought her ship to a stop there. The stabilizers took a few moments to level out the craft then every piece of electronics on the ship went dead.



Jayda looked out the front window. She was not encouraged by the lack of civilization. How was she supposed to charge her ship if there was nothing on this planet?

She slipped into her eco-suit, feeling a burst of luck that it was powered up. She tested the oxygen valve and ran a diagnostic to check for leaks. Satisfied that she'd be protected outside the ship, Jayda opened the hatch and jumped out.

Only to find she was not alone.

February Passages

A humanoid a little taller than her stood a few feet away from her ship. Its skin was a pale purple. Its black, shoulder-length hair was straight and shiny, the left side hooked behind a pointed ear. The being's eyes glowed a bright yellow, and it was dressed in a dark gray jumpsuit.

Jayda had never seen a creature like this. From the way it stood there looking at her, she assumed it had never seen a human before either. But the two of them just staring at each other wasn't going to accomplish anything, so Jayda took a few steps closer. When the being didn't shy away - or produce a weapon - Jayda continued walking until she was an arm's length away.

"I'm Jayda," she said, hoping her eco-suit's translator would know which language this being spoke. After a few moments of data flying by the screen in her helmet as it scanned the being and her surroundings, the words *Briniter, Yazlu Galaxy* flashed. Next, a map came up, showing Jayda how far Briniter was from Mars. "Not that I can go back to Mars. It's probably destroyed by now."

The being in front of Jayda angled its head and nodded. That was when Jayda saw the small earpiece wedged in the being's ear. It was no doubt a translator like Jayda's suit.



"You are Jayda from Mars," it said in an unexpectedly deep, male voice.

Jayda nodded. "And who are you?"

"I'm Malson from Skaturi."

Jayda's helmet map showed her that Skaturi wasn't that far from Briniter. "Did you crash land here, too?"

February Passages

“My ship was hit by an asteroid and crashed on the other side of that ridge.” Malson raised his right arm to point to a line of blue hills behind him, and Jayda noticed something red crusted on his forearm. He didn’t look like a human, but he bled like one. “The ship is not operational. I have been here much too long, and my people must be worried.” The light in his eyes dimmed significantly.

“Well, I’d love to help you out.” Because Malson didn’t seem like a threat. “But my ship doesn’t have any power.”

Malson’s gaze shifted to look at Jayda’s ship. “I can power it.” He held up his left hand and extended two, long fingers. Energy crackled between them as Malson’s eyes glowed brightly once again.

“Is Skaturi friendly to homeless travelers?” Jayda asked.

“My planet is a safe haven for all,” Malson said, his voice comforting. “You will be welcomed there, especially if you help me return.”

“Let’s do it then.”

Jayda led Malson to her ship, and they both climbed in. With a single touch to her power supply, Malson had her TR-89 back up and running. He punched in the coordinates to Skaturi, and they were off. The journey was tricky, but Malson’s quiet presence kept Jayda calm as she piloted them through asteroid fields.

When they finally landed on Skaturi, Malson introduced Jayda as his rescuer. She quickly learned that Malson was a leader on his planet, and his people were overjoyed to have him back. They tended to his wounds then Jayda was treated like royalty for coming to Malson’s aid, and her old life on Mars became nothing but a memory. She may have saved Malson but being allowed to stay on Skaturi had saved her.

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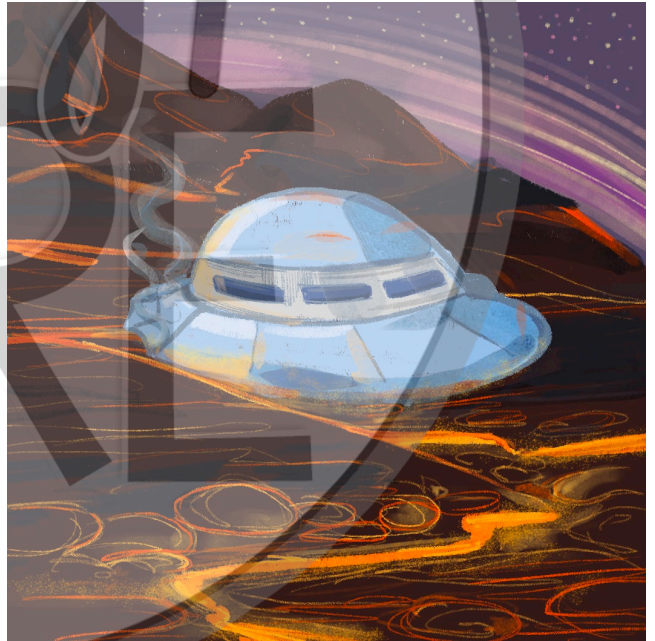
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Her landing was rough as the bottom of her ship scraped along some rocky hilltops on the planet. She found a flat stretch of land and brought her ship to an emergency stop there. The stabilizers took a few moments to level out the craft then every piece of electronics on the ship went dead. The absolute silence and haunting darkness inside her ship filled Jayda with hopelessness.



She peered out the front window, not encouraged one bit by the total lack of civilization. How was she supposed to charge her ship if there was nothing on this planet?

She slipped into her eco-suit, feeling a burst of luck that it was fully powered up. She tested the oxygen valve and ran a diagnostic to check for leaks. Satisfied that she'd be protected from the conditions outside the ship, Jayda opened the hatch and jumped out.

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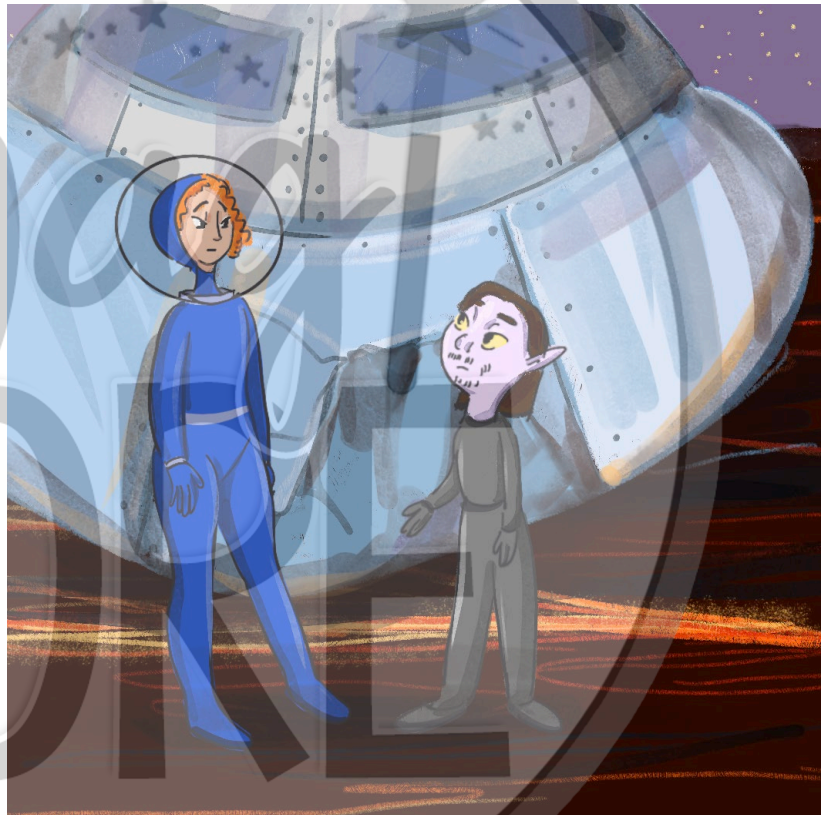
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“Let’s do it then.”

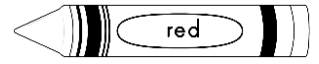
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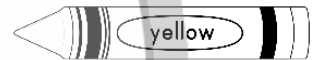
1. Why did Jayda flee from her home planet of Mars?



2. Why was Jayda able to determine that Malson was friendly?

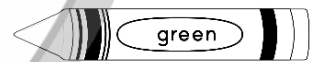


3. What are the "stabilizers" responsible for on Jayda's spacecraft?

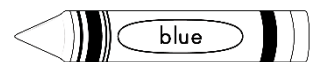


- They level out the spacecraft.
- They provide the spacecraft with an extra speed boost.
- They help the spacecraft become invisible.
- They provide oxygen to the passengers.

4. Why would Malson's people from his planet be worried about him being gone?



5. How did Jayda get her spacecraft up and running again?



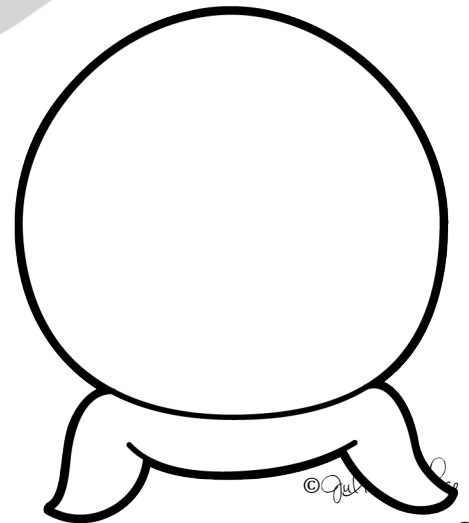
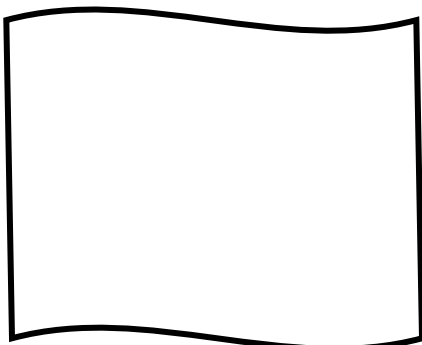
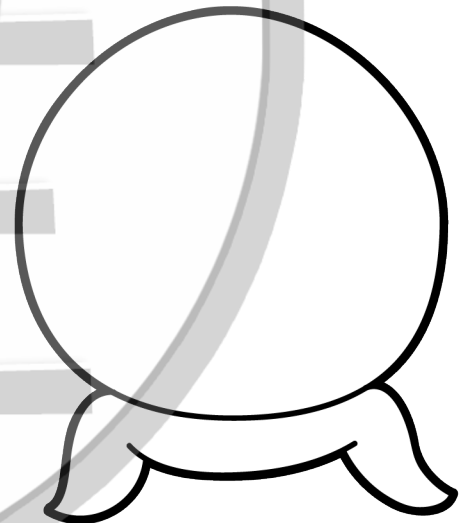
PREDICTIONS

Write down details from the text, what they make your brain think, and then write a prediction of what you think will happen if there was another story written after.

Text Details

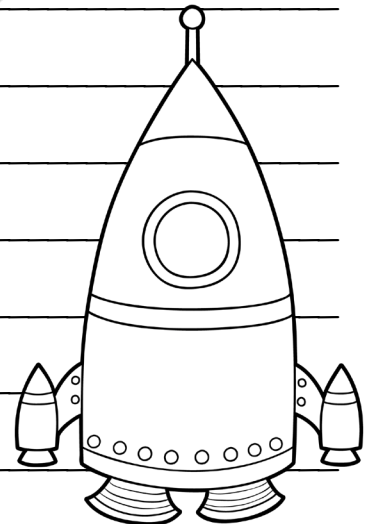
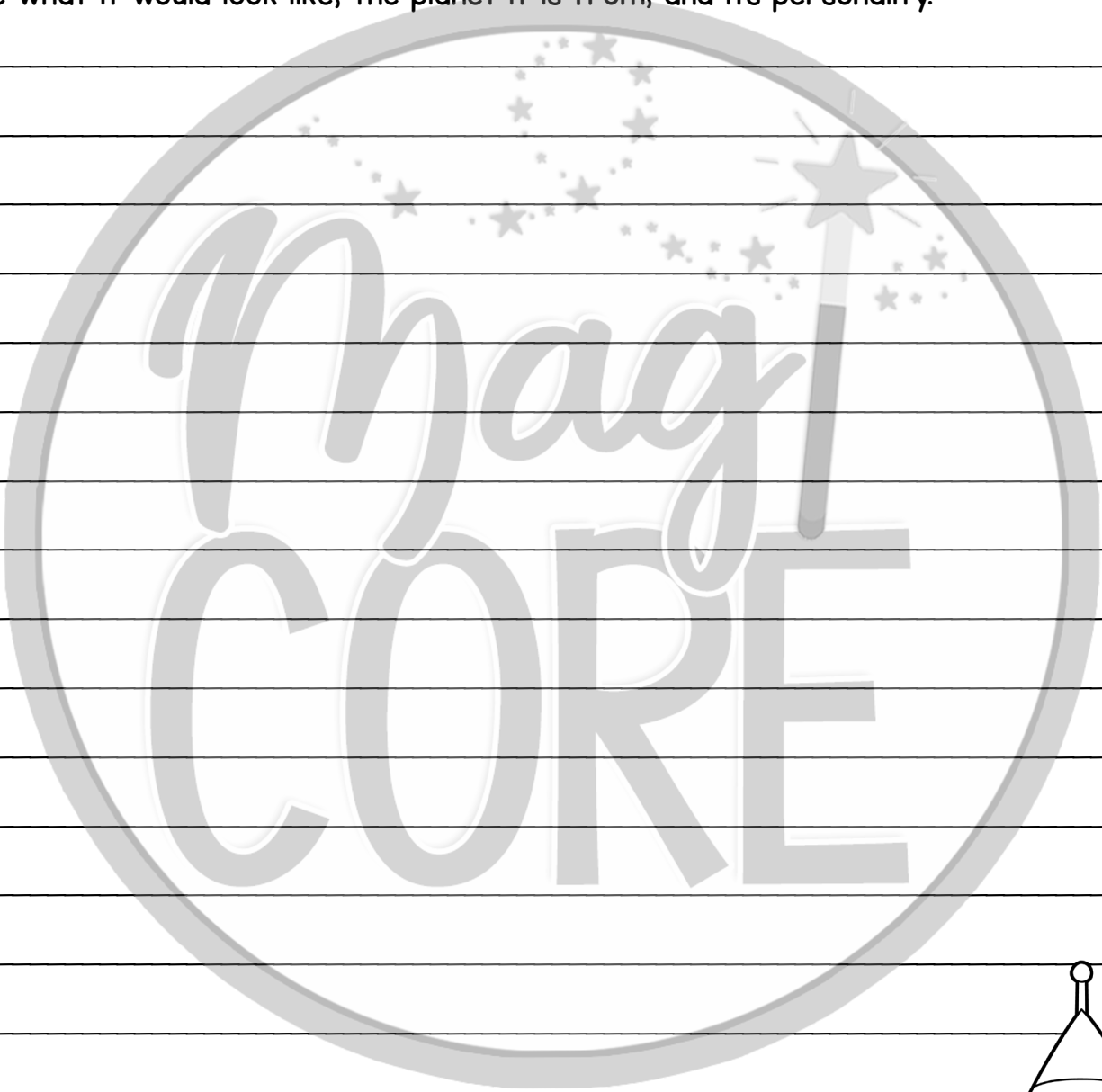
Your Ideas

PREDICTION



TO THE RESCUE RESPONSE

The story does a great job describing the humanoid, Malson. His appearance is described, as well as his personality. Write a paragraph describing a humanoid of your own invention. Describe what it would look like, the planet it is from, and its personality.



Jackie Robinson

Jackie Robinson changed major league baseball for African Americans. He was born on January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia. His mother raised him and his four siblings on her own in Pasadena, California. In school, Jackie Robinson was a superstar athlete. He won varsity letters in baseball, basketball, football, and track. He had to leave college early. He then enlisted in the Army where he faced prejudice against African Americans.

After his time in the Army ended, Jackie Robinson joined the Negro Baseball League in 1945. He played one season with the Kansas City Monarchs. He traveled all over the Midwest. In 1947, the president of the Brooklyn Dodgers, Branch Rickey, asked Jackie Robinson to join the team. No African Americans had been on a major league baseball team since 1889. This was because major league baseball was segregated. Only white players were allowed on major league teams.

Jackie Robinson accepted the invitation to join the Dodgers. He was extremely successful right from his first season. He became the National League Rookie of the Year with 12 home runs, 29 steals, and a .297 batting average. He was chosen as Most Valuable Player of the Year in 1949. He won the Silver Bat Award that same year. Jackie Robinson continued to play well. He helped the Brooklyn Dodgers win a World Series title in 1955. He played his final game on September 30, 1956. Jackie Robinson was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962. He was the first African American player to have this honor.

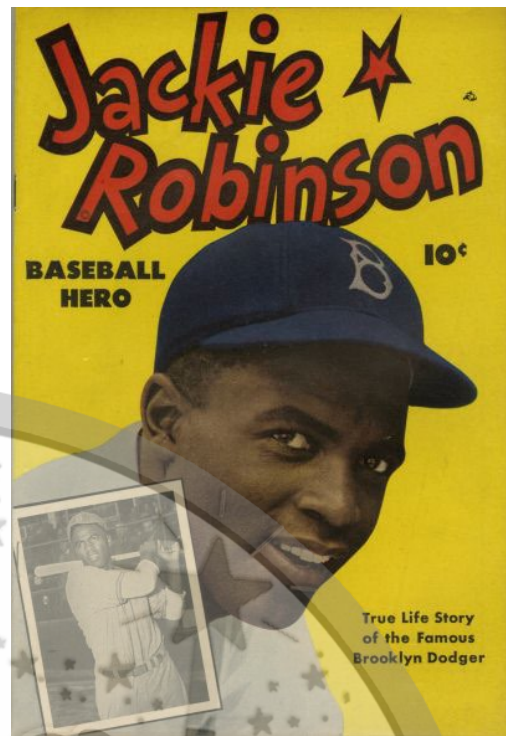


Jackie Robinson as a member of the Brooklyn Dodgers, circa 1954.

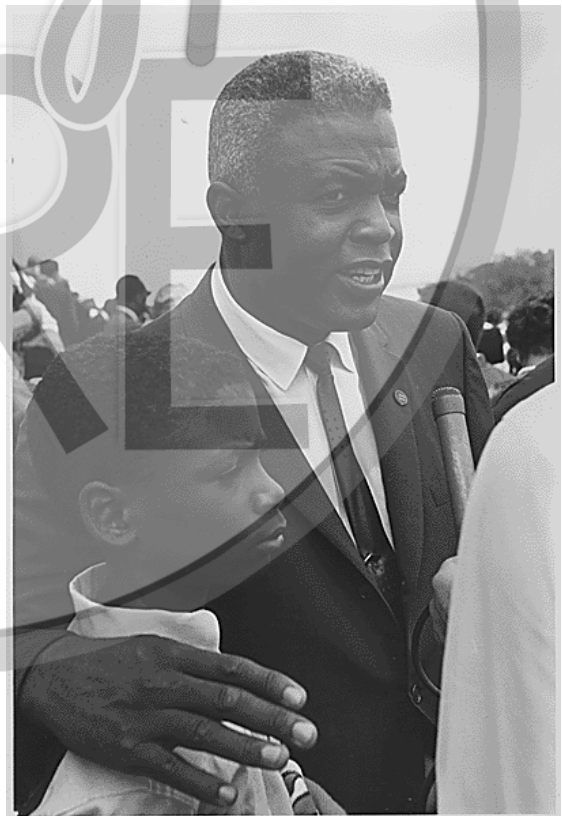
February Passages

Though he was successful, Jackie Robinson's career as a major league baseball player was not always easy. Other players and baseball fans often shouted words of hate at him. Pitchers from opposing teams sometimes purposely threw the ball at him. His wife, Rachel, and their three children were there to support him, though. Jackie Robinson didn't give up when things were difficult.

Jackie Robinson became a businessman and worked for civil rights later in his life. He wanted other African Americans to have equal rights. His baseball fame made people listen to him. He raised money for civil rights groups and participated in marches. He also wrote newspaper articles. He died from a heart attack on October 24, 1972, in Stamford, Connecticut. His impressive baseball career and his dedication to civil rights keep his memory alive.



Cover of *Jackie Robinson* comic #1, published by Fawcett in 1949.



Robinson and his son David are interviewed during the March on Washington, August 28, 1963.

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Jackie Robinson changed major league baseball for African Americans. He was born on January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia. His mother raised him and his four siblings on her own in Pasadena, California. In school, Jackie Robinson was a superstar athlete, winning varsity letters in four sports - baseball, basketball, football, and track. He had to leave college early and enlisted in the Army where he faced prejudice against African Americans.

After his time in the Army ended, Jackie Robinson joined the Negro Baseball League in 1945. He played one season with the Kansas City Monarchs and traveled all over the Midwest. In 1947, the president of the Brooklyn Dodgers, Branch Rickey, asked Jackie Robinson to join the team. No African Americans had been on a major league baseball team since 1889. This was because major league baseball was segregated. Only white players were allowed on major league teams.

Jackie Robinson accepted the invitation to join the Dodgers. He was extremely successful right from his first season. He became the National League Rookie of the Year with 12 home runs, 29 steals, and a .297 batting average. He was chosen as Most Valuable Player of the Year in 1949 and won the Silver Bat Award that same year. Jackie Robinson continued to play well and helped the Brooklyn Dodgers win a World Series title in 1955. He played his final game on September 30, 1956, and he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962. He was the first African American player to have this honor.

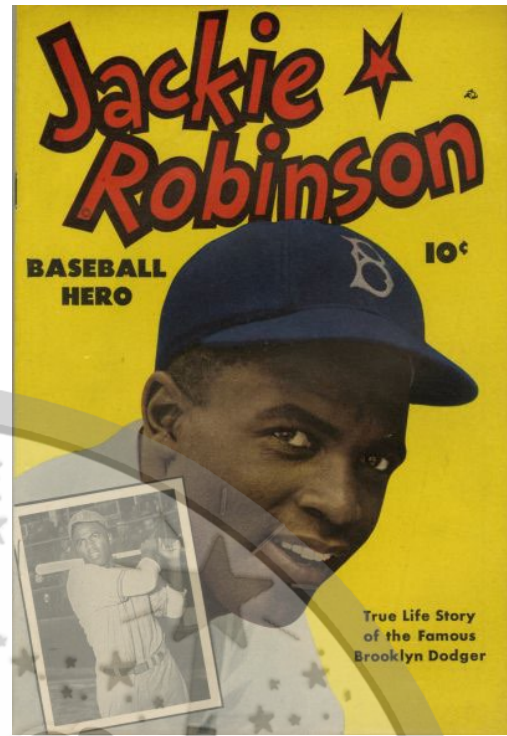


Jackie Robinson as a member of the Brooklyn Dodgers, circa 1954.

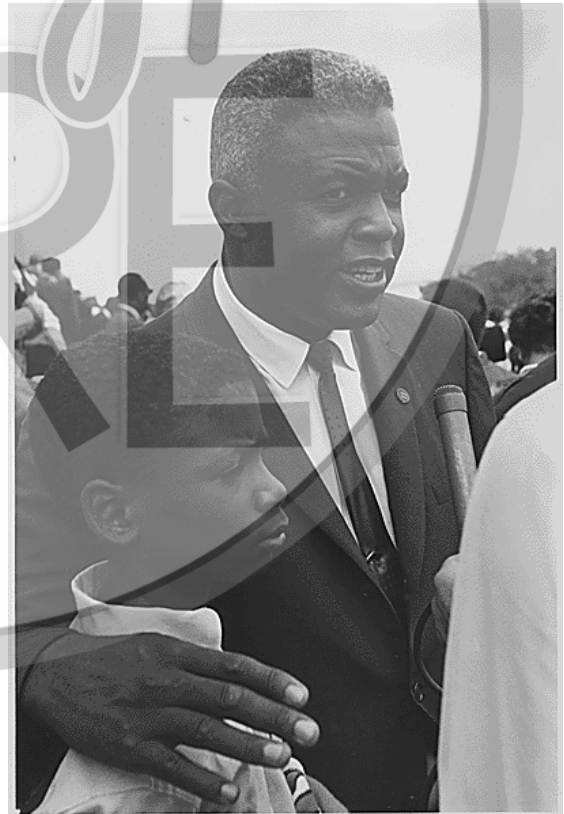
February Passages

Despite all his success, Jackie Robinson's career as a major league baseball player was not always easy. Other players and baseball fans often shouted words of hate at him. Pitchers from opposing teams sometimes purposely threw the ball at him. Fortunately, his wife, Rachel, and their three children were there to support him, and Jackie Robinson didn't give up when things were difficult.

Later in life, Jackie Robinson became a businessman and worked for civil rights. He wanted other African Americans to have equal rights, and his baseball fame made people listen to him. He raised money for civil rights groups and participated in marches. He also wrote newspaper articles. He died from a heart attack on October 24, 1972, in Stamford, Connecticut, but his impressive baseball career and his dedication to civil rights keep his memory alive.



Cover of *Jackie Robinson* comic #1, published by Fawcett in 1949.



Robinson and his son David are interviewed during the March on Washington, August 28, 1963.

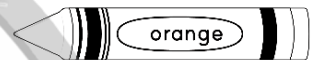
February Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is no crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

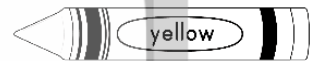
1. What kind of athlete was Jackie Robinson growing up? How do you know?



2. Based on the text context, what does the word "segregation" mean?

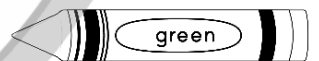


3. What else did Jackie Robinson champion, besides baseball?

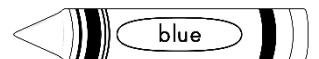


- a. He loved basketball as well and was a champion of that sport.
- b. Jackie only supported baseball, he did not champion anything else.
- c. He championed women being able to play in Major League Baseball.
- d. He championed civil rights and advocated for desegregation.

4. Why was Jackie Robinson's career not always easy?



5. Why do people remember Jackie Robinson?



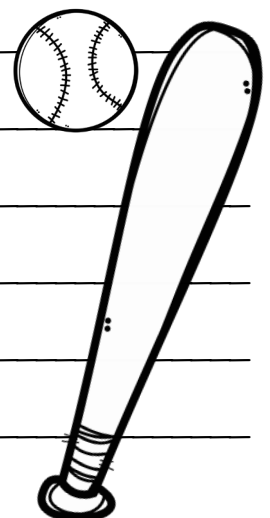
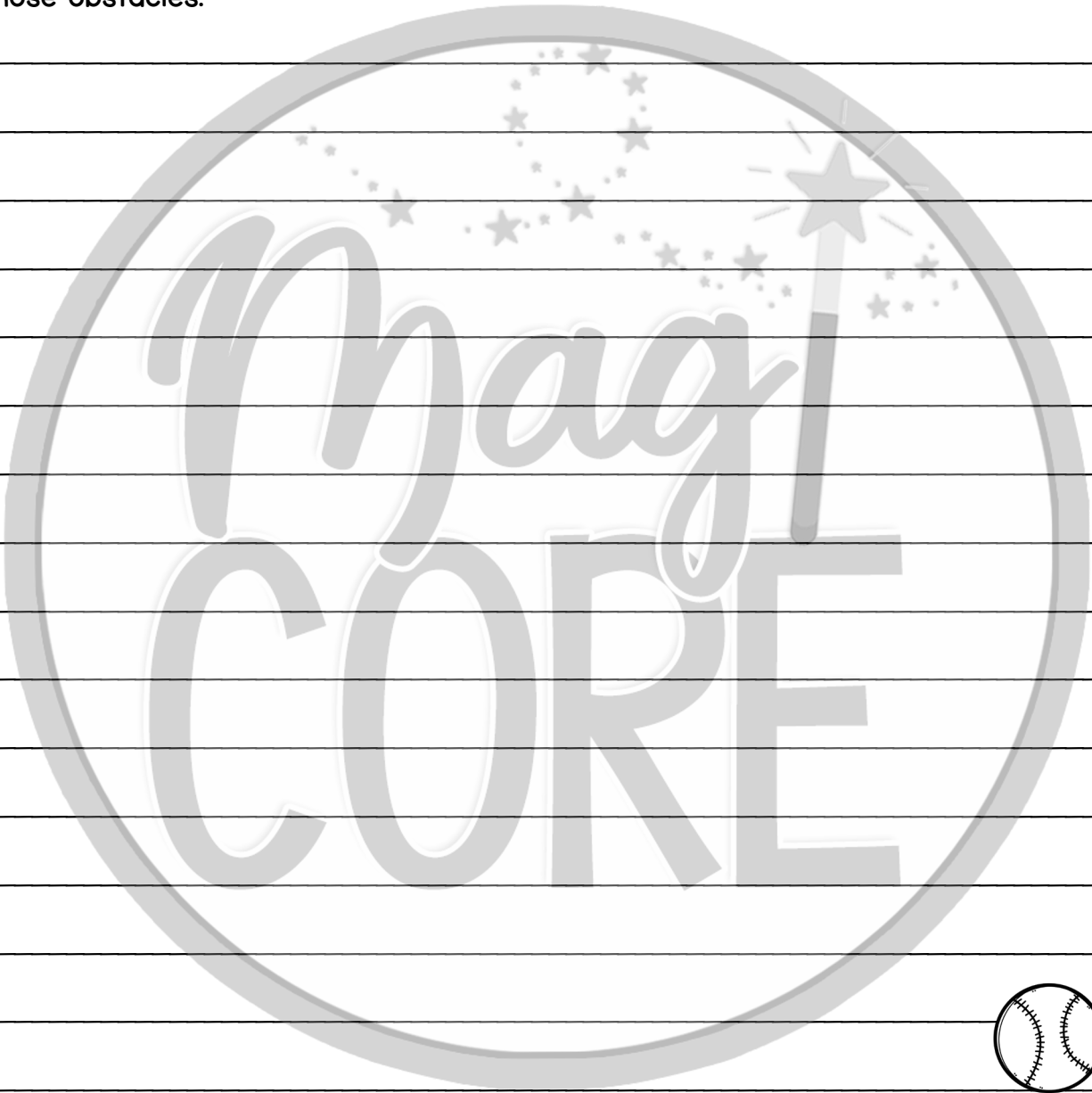
THE LIFE OF JACKIE ROBINSON

Fill out the sequence of Jackie Robinson's life. Start at the beginning and sequence out the important events throughout his life and his accomplishments, until his death..

The diagram consists of six blank, wavy-edged rectangular boxes arranged in two rows of three. The top row has three boxes, and the bottom row has three boxes. Arrows indicate a sequence: the first box in the top row has an arrow pointing down to the first box in the bottom row; the second box in the top row has an arrow pointing down to the second box in the bottom row; the third box in the top row has an arrow pointing down to the third box in the bottom row. Additionally, the first box in the bottom row has an arrow pointing up to the second box in the bottom row, and the second box in the bottom row has an arrow pointing up to the third box in the bottom row. A large, faint watermark in the background reads "Magi CORE" with a starburst graphic.

JACKIE ROBINSON RESPONSE

Jackie had big dreams for his life, and he accomplished many things. Jackie Robinson worked very hard and demonstrated perseverance, even in the face of adversity. Write a paragraph about a dream you have and obstacles you might face. Include how you might tackle those obstacles.



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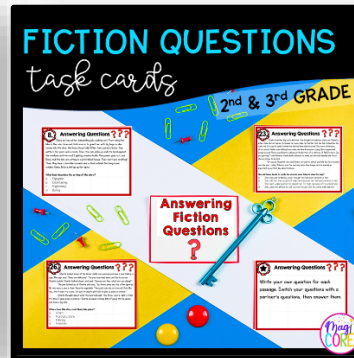
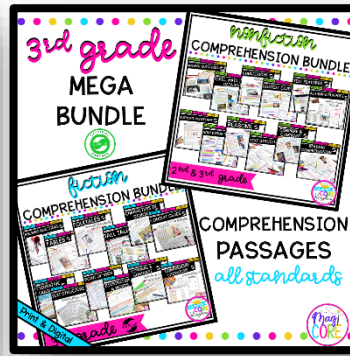


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