

RELUCTANT READERS

Differentiated Passages Bundle



FICTION

Robot Red Riding Hood
Gran was sick with a cold, and nothing she did could help. Someone had to take care of her.

FUNNY FAIRYTALES
Differentiated Passages
RELUCTANT READERS

COMPARE AND CONTRAST
Compare and contrast the fairy tale for girls with the original for boys.

Part of the Pod
Fin swam away from his family pod of dolphins to inspect something different. When he got close to it, he realized it was a floor.

UNDER THE SEA
Differentiated Passages
RELUCTANT READERS

PIRATE QUESTS
Differentiated Passages
RELUCTANT READERS

The Fart Symphony: Stinky Ode to Flatulence
Name: Mathias Date: _____

Fried Chicken with Aliens
Name: _____ Date: _____

GALACTIC ADVENTURES
Differentiated Passages
RELUCTANT READERS

SPOOKY STORIES
Differentiated Passages
RELUCTANT READERS

TREASURES BELOW RESPONSE
What is the cause-and-effect relationship between our narrator's underwater discovery and the conclusion of the passage? Write a response analyzing this relationship and draw an inference about what might have happened in the story if our narrator had discovered the treasure. Use details from the passage to inform your response.

2nd - 5th Grade

Mag CORE

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 10 passages per topic set, differentiated on three levels to span readers from 2nd-5th grade*
- Wide variety of fiction interest driven topics to get students excited about reading
- Comprehension questions for each passage set
- Color coding of answers to encourage students to use text evidence
- Standard driven graphic organizers for each passage set

*Silly Poems passages are not leveled or lexile certified as Lexile does not certify poetry.

FUNNY FAIRYTALE PASSAGES

2nd-5th grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 10 differentiated leveled passages in the 2nd-3rd and 4th-5th Grade Text Complexity Bands (the range for 2nd-3rd is 420-820 and 4th-5th grade is 740-1010). Each passage is available on three levels and comes with general comprehension questions, a skill-based activity, and a reading response activity.

This product line, Reluctant Readers, is designed to foster an interest in reading, even your most resistant readers. With interest based topics, these passages can help build excitement and investment around reading.

1. The Artist and the Paintbrush (420L, 770L, 970L)
2. Coyote and the Three Little Sheeps (430L, 770L, 970L)
3. The Handsome Swan (430L, 770L, 970L)
4. Robot Red Riding Hood (480L, 830L, 970L)
5. Who Wants to Wear Glass Slippers (480L, 830L, 970L)
6. No Apples, Please (460L, 800L, 970L)
7. A New Look (460L, 810L, 940L)
8. Jack and the Wonderful Tree (460L, 810L, 940L)
9. Callista and the Beasts (480L, 760L, 970L)
10. No More Tangles (470L, 800L, 970L)

SPOOKY STORIES PASSAGES

2nd-5th grade

Table of Contents

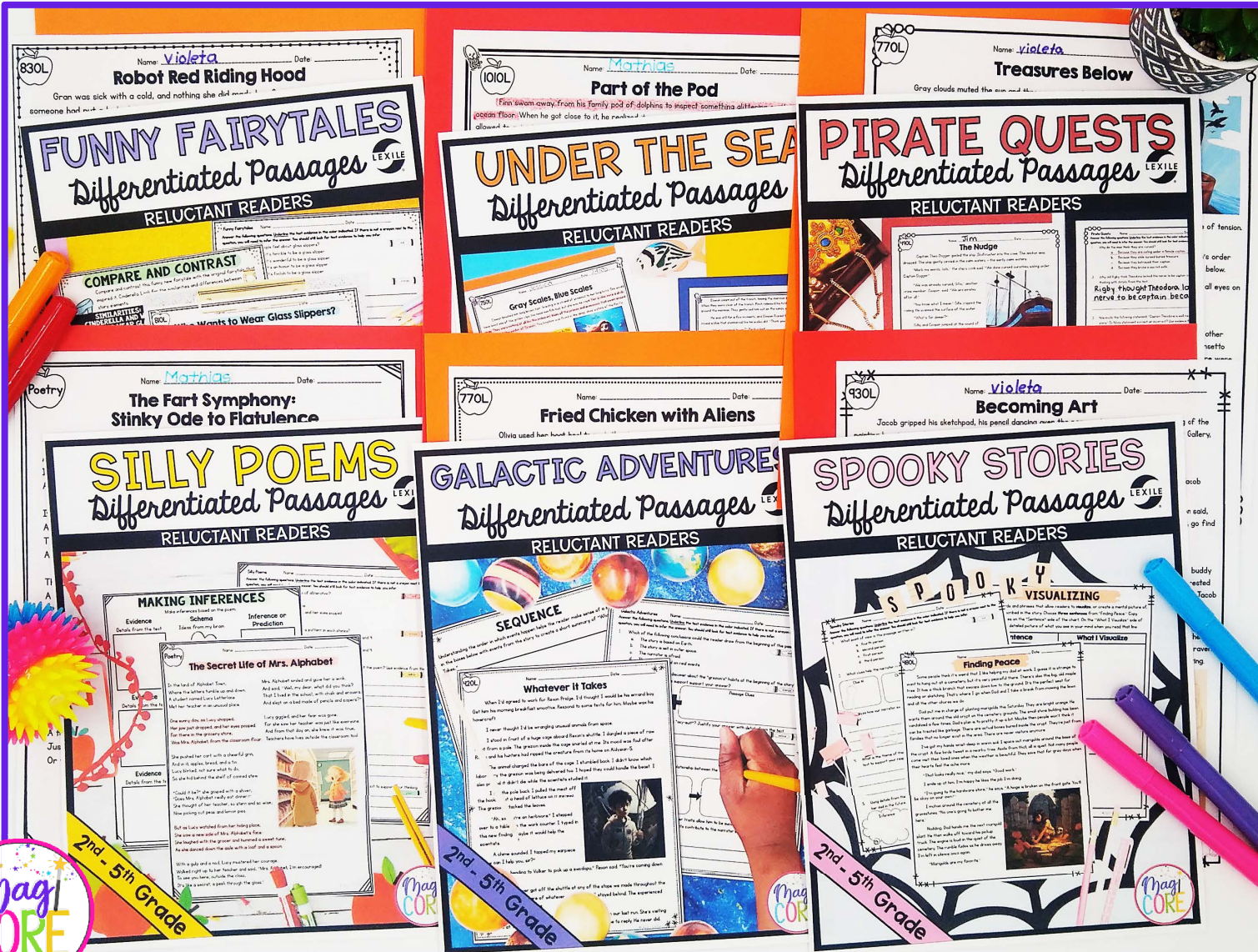
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1. Not-So-Silly String (530L, 790L, 970L)
2. Undead History (500L, 760L, 930L)
3. Becoming Art (440L, 750L, 950L)
4. Road Trip Gone Wrong (530L, 770L, 980L)
5. Buzz Off! (510L, 790L, 950L)
6. Girls' Night (500L, 770L, 930L)
7. Going Live (490L, 780L, 930L)
8. Don't Lead the Neighborhood (510L, 740L, 950L)
9. For a Spin (450L, 730L, 970L)
10. Finding Peace (490L, 790L, 950L)

INTEREST DRIVEN TOPICS

- 6 Interest Driven Topics
- Topics targeting a wide range of student interests
- Designed to get students engaged in reading!



DIFFERENTIATED LEVELS

- Passages are Lexile leveled and differentiated on 3 levels.
- Passages span 2nd – 5th Complexity bands.
- Levels span 420L-1010L



480L Name: _____ Date: _____

A Pirate's Advice

"Excuse me?" I called up to the man applying fresh stain to a large ship. It was tied to the dock.

He glared down at me. His brush halted over the wood. "Aye, what do you want, boy?"

I had been hoping for a friendlier greeting, but I could not let his tone put me off in my mission. "I should like to conduct business with you."

760L Name: _____ Date: _____

A Pirate's Advice

"Excuse me?" I called up to the man applying fresh stain to the gunwales of a large ship tied to the dock.

He glared down at me, his brush poised over the wood. "Aye, what do you want, boy?"

I had been hoping for a friendlier greeting, but I could not let his unfriendly tone make me abandon my important mission. "I should like to conduct business with your captain and wondered if he was aboard?"

"Aye." The man just stared down at me, his face weathered from his time at sea.

"Might I be given permission to come aboard and converse with him right now?"

The man disappeared without answering, but I heard his boot echoing off the wooden deck as I waited on the dock. A few moments later, a ramp was lowered, and I took that as the invitation I needed. Slowly, I climbed up and the man was there to greet me...with a dagger.

"If you have any weapons on your person, now is the time to leave 'em with me," he said, brandishing the dagger at me.

I put my hands out to either side of me, expecting this from a pirate's crew who was known not to trust anyone. "I have no weapons because I do not wish to harm your captain, but I have a proposition for him instead."

The man gave me a squinty-eyed look as if he was not convinced I was unarmed, but then he swiveled on his boot heel. "This way."

I followed him to the captain's quarters where a grizzly, bearded man sat at a desk staring at some maps and nautical charts. He was angled in his seat so his right side was in the shadows behind him.

"Captain, this fellow wishes to speak to you."

The captain looked up from the charts and frowned. "That does not mean I have to listen."

"Oh, but I will make it well worth your time to hear me," I said, quickly taking a few steps toward the desk before someone tried to make me leave the captain's quarters. "I want to charter you, your crew, and your fine ship for a fishing expedition."

940L Name: _____ Date: _____

A Pirate's Advice

"Excuse me, sir?" I called up to the man applying fresh stain to the gunwales of a large ship tethered to the dock.

He glared down at me, his brush poised over the wood and not at all happy about my interruption of his work. "Aye, what do you want, boy?"

I had been hoping for a more cordial greeting, but I could not let his unfriendly tone make me abandon my important mission. "I should like to conduct business with your captain and wondered if he was aboard?"

"Aye." The man just stared down at me, his face weathered from his time at sea.

"Might I be given permission to come aboard and converse with him right now?"

The man disappeared without answering, but I heard his boot echoing off the wooden deck as I waited on the dock. A few moments later, a ramp was lowered, and I took that as the invitation I needed. Slowly, I climbed up and the man was there to greet me...with a dagger.

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450L Name: _____ Date: _____

Off Course

Captain Simone DuPrelle entered the cockpit. It was time to take her shift piloting the shuttle *Curiosity*. The shuttle was full of passengers, but none of them were awake. They were all in a frozen state. This made traveling to the Umbria Galaxy easier. The journey was five years long. The passengers aboard had all agreed to sacrifice five years of their lives sleeping in order to be guaranteed a safe life on a planet full of resources. Other people would make the same journey once the new planet was properly established.

"She's all yours," Captain Timothy Minnow told Simone as he got up from the pilot's chair. There were ten pilots on board the shuttle who were taking turns navigating. They flew and slept in shifts, and so far, that system appeared to be working well.

810L Name: _____ Date: _____

Off Course

Captain Simone DuPrelle entered the cockpit to take her shift piloting the shuttle *Curiosity*. The shuttle was full of passengers, but none of them were currently awake. They were all in a frozen state to make traveling to the faraway Umbria Galaxy easier for them. The journey was five years long, and the passengers aboard had all agreed to sacrifice five years of their lives sleeping in order to be guaranteed a safe life on a planet with abundant resources. Other people would make the same journey once the new planet was properly established by these first travelers.

"She's all yours," Captain Timothy Minnow told Simone as he vacated the pilot's chair. There were ten pilots on board the shuttle who were taking turns navigating. They flew and slept in shifts, and so far, that system appeared to be working well.

"Thanks," Simone said as she slid into the pilot's chair and adjusted the seat to her liking. "Any problems I need to know about?"

"Not a single one," Timothy said, stretching his arms over his head, rolling his neck side to side, and yawning. "We're on course and the flying was easy through this bit of space."

"Excellent. Have a good snooze." She gave Timothy a wave as he exited the cockpit, then turned all her attention to the dashboard of controls in front of her. Simone made small course corrections occasionally, but for the most part, it was just as Timothy had said. Easy flying.

With the shuttle on autopilot for the next few hours and no large masses detected in their path, Simone tapped her tablet and brought up videos of her family. She missed them and was certain they missed her, too, but at least she knew they were all proud of her for becoming a pilot and taking on this important mission to save humanity.

Seeing her family made her feel homesick and incredibly lonely, though, especially on a shuttle full of sleeping people. Simone shut down the tablet and tucked it away, the hum of the shuttle's engine the only noise now. It was strange that hundreds of people were on board with her, but it was as quiet as a tomb with all of them asleep. She almost forgot what it was like to have long conversations with people, to hear laughter, and to be in the company of friends and family.

1010L Name: _____ Date: _____

Off Course

Captain Simone DuPrelle entered the cockpit to take her shift piloting the shuttle *Curiosity*. The shuttle was full of passengers, but none of them were currently awake. They were all in a frozen state to make traveling to the faraway Umbria Galaxy easier for them. The journey was five years long, and the passengers aboard had all agreed to sacrifice five years of their lives sleeping in order to be guaranteed a safe life on a planet with abundant resources. Other people would make the same journey once the new planet was properly established by these first travelers.

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QUESTIONS

- Scaffolded questions increase in complexity
- Multiple choice, short answer, and graphic organizer-based questions
- Variety of comprehension skills
- Rigorous and research-based approach to questioning
- Color Coded answers encourage students to use text evidence

Under the Sea Name: _____ Date: _____
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.

1. Which of the following conclusions could the reader draw from the beginning of this passage?
a. The story is set underwater.
b. The story is set on the beach.
c. This story is based on real events.
d. The story is based on real events.

2. Read this sentence from the passage. What is the author's purpose for including it?
The pod of good job of

Silly Poems Name: _____ Date: _____
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.

1. Which phrase is an example of a simile?
a. So let it rip, with all your might
b. A seismic event that could rock the land
c. It stinks like rotten eggs
d. It's a smelly thunderstorm

2. Examine the many similes in the poem. Write 2 similes of your own that would fit into another verse of this poem.
1. As loud as a firecracker
2. As bad as a smell as a sulfur

TREASURES BELOW RESPONSE
What is the cause-and-effect relationship between our narrator's underwater discovery and the conclusion of the passage? Write a response analyzing this relationship and draft an inference about what might have happened in the story if our narrator had not made his discovery. Use details from the passage to inform your response.
At the end of the story, the pirates live their lives like kings because they found the Veiled City. If they don't find the ancient city...

CAUSE AND EFFECT
A cause is something that makes something else happen. An effect is the result of a cause. Cause-and-effect relationships keep a story flowing from one event to the next. Fill in the blank spaces below with details from the story to show cause-and-effect relationships in "Becoming Art."

CAUSE
Jacob separates from his field trip buddy

EFFECT
He saw a series of paintings all done by the same artist and each one had a huge raven in it

Funny Fairytales Name: _____ Date: _____
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.

1. What are Gran's symptoms from her cold?
a. stuffy nose, rash, sore throat, dizziness, fever
b. fever, upset stomach, cough, stuffy nose, dizzy
c. runny nose, headache, lizzy, upset stomach, cough
d. stuffy nose, headache, upset stomach, dizziness, cough

2. Why does Gran download the Robot Red Riding Hood app?
She craved chicken soup but couldn't go outside to get it.
Cold.

3. Why is it so cold?
It's a robot.

THE FIVE WS
When readers try to understand a story, they often answer these five questions:
1. What happened?
2. Where did the event happen?
3. When did the event happen?
4. Why did the event happen?
5. Who was involved in the event?
Fill in the map below to answer The Five Ws for "Fried Chicken with Aliens."

WHAT HAPPENED?
the alien abducted clivia

WHERE DID IT HAPPEN?
In the barn

WHEN DID IT HAPPEN?
it happened when she was finishing her work just as the sun was setting

WHY DID IT HAPPEN?
the aliens need help because their ship crashed and got stuck

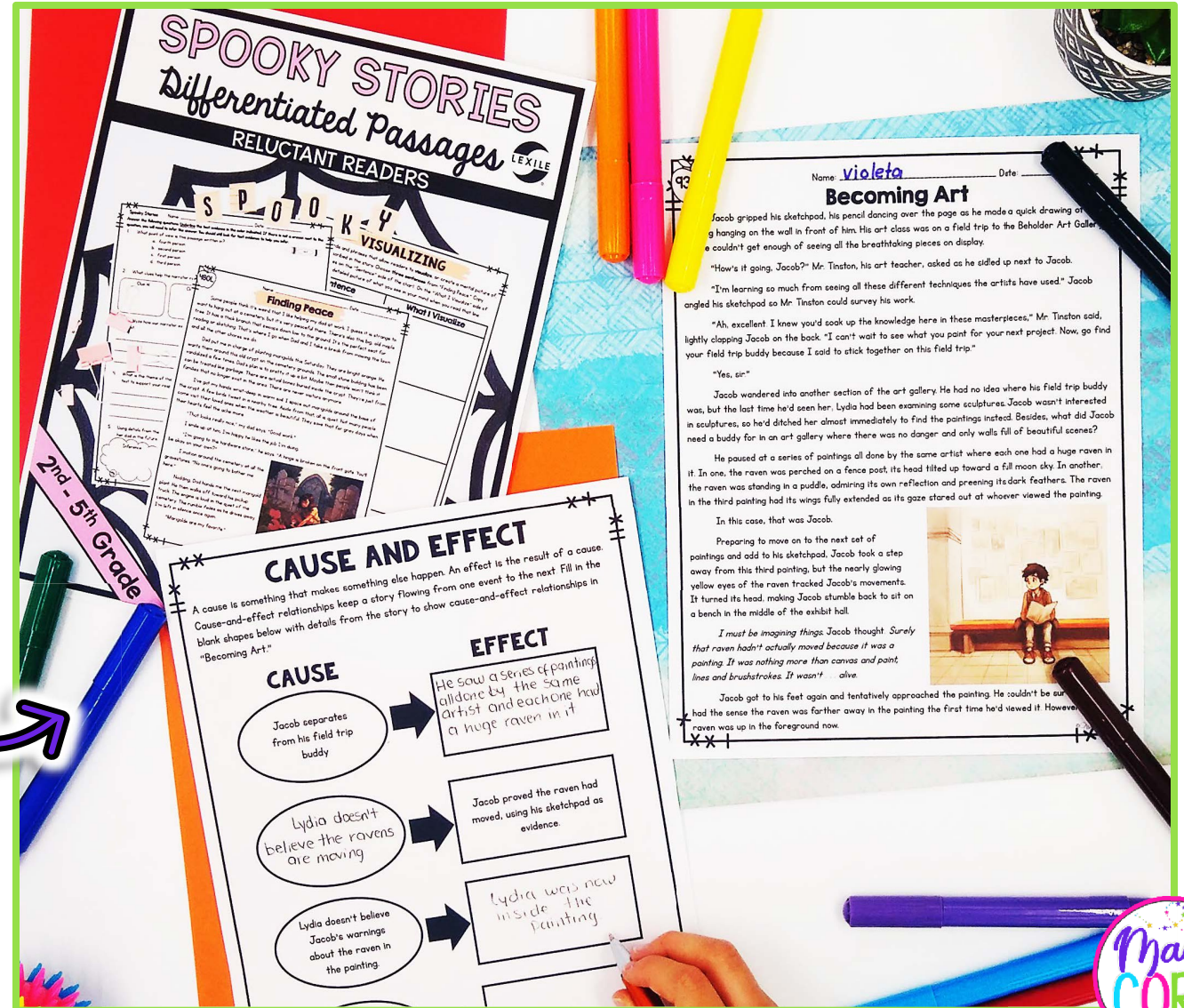
WHO WAS INVOLVED?
The aliens and Clivia

FRIED CHICKEN WITH ALIENS

Magi CORE

GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

- Graphic organizers paired with each passage set
- Challenges students to go beyond the text



OPEN RESPONSE

- Students analyze the text.
- Students use a variety of comprehension skills to respond to text-based tasks.
- Targets a range of standards-based skills.
- Pushes students to go beyond the text.

The collage features several educational materials for 'Pirate Quests' by Lexia. At the top, a red banner reads 'PIRATE QUESTS Differentiated Passages LEXIA'. Below this, a section titled 'RELUCTANT READERS' includes a passage titled 'The Nudge' and a comprehension task titled 'CAUSE AND EFFECT'. A red banner with '2nd - 5th' is placed over the 'CAUSE AND EFFECT' section. To the right, a worksheet titled 'TREASURES BELOW' is shown, with a student's name 'violeta' and date '770L' written at the top. The worksheet includes a passage about a ship's crew and a response section. A hand is writing in the response section: 'At the end of the story, the pirates live their lives like kings because they found the Veiled City. If they don't find the ancient city...'. The collage also includes a small potted plant, several colored markers, and a black pen.

PIRATE QUESTS
Differentiated Passages
LEXIA

RELUCTANT READERS

The Nudge

CAUSE AND EFFECT

2nd - 5th

TREASURES BELOW RESPONSE

What is the cause-and-effect relationship between our narrator's underwater discovery and the conclusion of the passage? Write a response analyzing this relationship and draft an inference about what might have happened in the story if our narrator had not made his discovery. Use details from the passage to inform your response.

At the end of the story, the pirates live their lives like kings because they found the Veiled City. If they don't find the ancient city...

Treasures Below

Name: violeta Date: 770L

Gray clouds muted the sun and three ravens circled over our ship, their caws sounding like a warning. Still, Captain Darkthorn urged us all to man our posts as we sailed closer to an outline on the near horizon. As I was in the crow's nest high above the ship's deck, I had a first view of everything. I did not mind carrying out my duties. The crow's nest allowed me a break from the constant teasing of the other crew members.

Being the youngest aboard the ship made me the target of every prank imaginable. My boots had been filled with fish innards. My hammock had been tied in knots. My prized books had been hidden numerous times. These jokes were meant in good fun, but I existed in a constant state of tension. I was always wondering what new bit of nonsense the crew had dreamed up for me.

This morning had been no exception. I had climbed up to the crow's nest on the captain's order only to find chicken bones and apple cores lining the bottom of it. The crew had laughed from below.

"Leave him be," Captain Darkthorn had roared. "Get to your posts, all of you. We need all eyes on the water if we are to find what we are searching for."

The Veiled City

The captain had been in a tavern at our last stop in port. During a game of chance with other sailors, most of them pirates like us, he had heard a tale of a city hidden on the shores of Quinsetto Island. Said to once have been the thriving empire of an ancient people, legends hinted that there were many treasures still buried in its capital city.

Treasures that we, of course, all wanted to claim.

If the stories were true, we could be sailing off with more riches than all the royalty in Europe.

I focused on the ever-growing dark shape ahead of us. Fog blurred its edges. This made it hard for me to see even with a spyglass up to my eye. Then a loud scraping ripped through the otherwise quiet hush of the ship cutting through the water.

"Captain!" a crew member named Kaz called from the bow of the ship. "Something is poking up from the sea!"

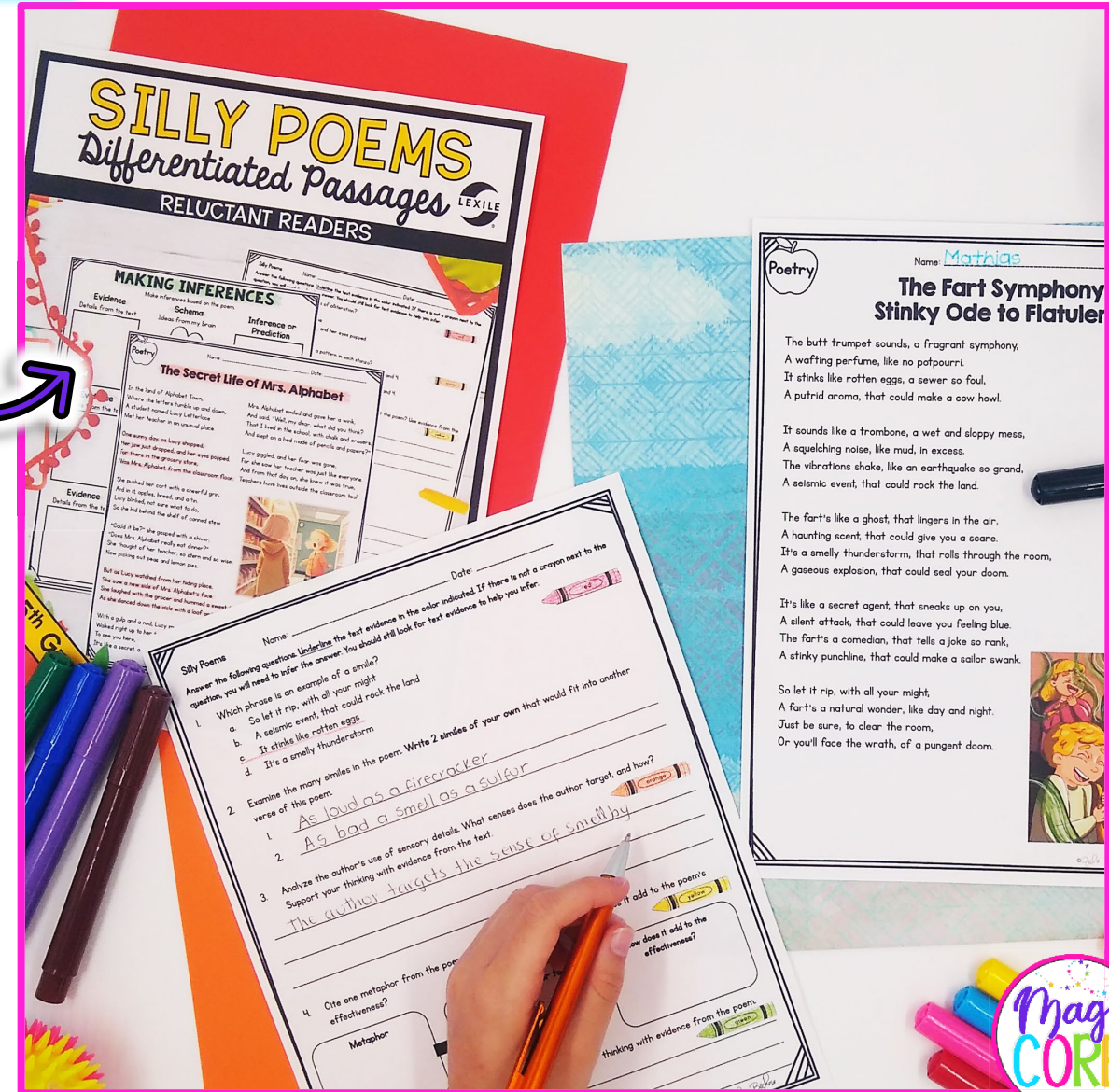
I angled the spyglass to the waters closer to us. True enough, a rocky pillar pointed upward. Bits of broken wood floated around it.

Bits of the ship.

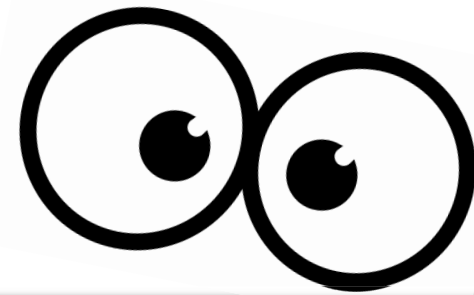
Mag CORE

WHY IT WORKS

- Engages even your most reluctant readers.
- Fosters excitement and investment around reading.
- Differentiated to meet all students' needs.
- Hits reading and writing standards.
- Can be used to supplement a topic specific unit or research project.
- Use reading passages throughout the year to reinforce reading comprehension skills.



TAKE A PEEK



460L

Name: _____ Date: _____

A New Look

"Who's your next customer?" Esmerelda swept the hair from the last cut and style she'd done. She was half-owner of a salon called Prettily Ever After.

Her partner, Jesabelle, checked her schedule. "My next appointment is for Goldilocks."

"Wasn't she on the run from some bears or something?" Esmerelda dumped the hair clippings into the trashcan. She put the broom away.

"Isn't Goldilocks always on the run?" Jesabelle shook her head. "I keep telling her that she's got to quit nosing around in other people's houses. She just can't help herself, though. She's got to see who has the best porridge. She's curious about who has the best chairs." She waved a hand. "That girl needs to find a new hobby."

The bells above the salon's front door jingled. Both hairstylists stopped their conversation. A woman walked in. She swiftly closed the door behind her. She wore a knit hat. Dark sunglasses hid her eyes. A long raincoat covered her from neck to ankles.

Esmerelda and Jesabelle raised their eyebrows at each other.

Jesabelle said, "Hi, and welcome to Prettily Ever After. You usually need an appointment. You're in luck, though. My partner happens to be free."

Esmerelda glared at Jesabelle. It was true, though. Her next customer wasn't due in until later in the afternoon. Still, she didn't want to work with this strange woman.



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810L

Name: _____ Date: _____

A New Look

"Who's your next customer?" Esmerelda swept the hair from the last cut and style she'd done at her salon, Prettily Ever After.

Her partner, Jesabelle, checked her schedule. "My next appointment is for Goldilocks."

"Wasn't she on the run from some bears or something?" Esmerelda dumped the hair clippings into the trashcan and put the broom away.

"Isn't Goldilocks always on the run from someone?" Jesabelle shook her head. "I keep telling her that she's got to quit nosing around in other people's houses, but she just can't help herself. She's got to see who has the best porridge, who has the best chairs, who has the best whatever." She waved a hand. "That girl needs to find a new hobby."

The bells above the salon's front door jingled, and both hairstylists stopped their conversation when a woman walked in, swiftly closing the door behind her. She wore a knit hat, and dark sunglasses hid her eyes. A long raincoat covered her from neck to ankles.

Esmerelda and Jesabelle raised their eyebrows at each other before Jesabelle said, "Hi, and welcome to Prettily Ever After. We usually require appointments, but my partner happens to be free at the moment."

Esmerelda glared at Jesabelle, but it was true. Her next customer wasn't due in until later in the afternoon. Still, she didn't want to work with this strange woman.

The woman turned from where she'd been peeking through the blinds on one of the salon's front windows. "I do have an appointment, Jesabelle." She pulled down her sunglasses. "It's me. Goldilocks."



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940L

Name: _____ Date: _____

A New Look

"Who's your next customer this afternoon?" Esmerelda asked as she swept the hair from the last cut and style she'd done at her salon, Prettily Ever After.

Her partner, Jesabelle, checked her schedule, an index finger running along her planner. "My next appointment today is for Goldilocks."

"Wasn't she on the run from some bears or something?" Esmerelda dumped the hair clippings into the trashcan, put the broom away, and reorganized some supplies because a tidy salon was a successful salon. That was what her mother had always told her anyway.

"Isn't Goldilocks constantly on the run from someone?" Jesabelle shook her head as she folded some towels and stashed them above the sinks. "I keep telling her that she's got to quit nosing around in other people's houses, but she simply can't help herself. She's got to see who has the best porridge, who has the best chairs, who has the best whatever." She waved a hand as she came back toward Esmerelda. "That girl needs to find a new hobby if she wants to stop making all her neighbors mad at her."

The bells above the salon's front door jingled, and both hairstylists stopped their conversation when a woman walked in, swiftly closing the door behind her. She wore a knit hat, and dark sunglasses hid her eyes while a long raincoat covered her from neck to ankles.

Esmerelda and Jesabelle raised their eyebrows at each other before Jesabelle said, "Greetings and welcome to Prettily Ever After. We usually require appointments in advance, but my partner happens to be free at the moment."

Esmerelda glared at Jesabelle, but it was true. Her next customer wasn't due in until later in the afternoon. Still, she wasn't keen on working with this strange woman she didn't know.

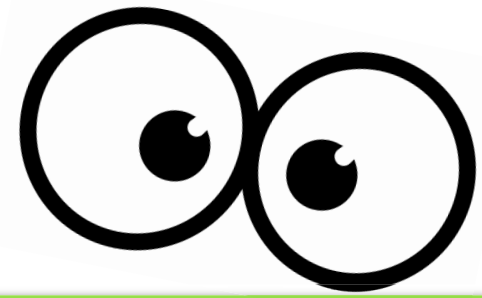
The woman turned from where she'd been peeking through the blinds on one of the front windows at the street outside. "I do have an appointment for today, Jesabelle." She pulled down her sunglasses. "It's me. Goldilocks."



©Julie Becker



AND ANOTHER PEEK



500L

Name: _____ Date: _____

Part of the Pod

Finn swam away from his family pod of dolphins. He got closer to something shining on the sandy ocean floor. It was just another piece of trash. The humans had allowed it to get into the water. There was a great deal of garbage in this part of the ocean lately. Finn had heard the adult dolphins talking about something called a *resort*. It had been built on the shore. They said lots of humans visited the resort every day. The humans running the resort weren't doing a good job of controlling their garbage.

Seeing trash in his beautiful ocean home upset Finn. These waters were so important to him. They were important to his family and all the other sea creatures that lived there too. He swam the junk he found to Crescent Island. The seagulls and other birds added it to the growing pile. What they were going to do with that pile was anyone's guess. At least that pile meant less junk in the ocean anyway.

Finn wandered a bit farther from his pod. He came upon a human wearing a diving mask. She had flippers on her feet. A small tank was strapped to her back. His mom had explained the gear was so humans could swim better.

His mom had also warned him to stay away from humans.

"Don't trust them, Finn," Mama had said. "They'll be friendly at first. Then you'll find yourself caught in a net. You'll be off to the nearest aquarium. You'll have to put on shows. The humans will love it. You'll be miserable, though. Better to keep away from them." She'd told him a tale of her brother getting taken. He'd gotten too close to a boat. She'd never seen him again. She missed her brother every day.

This human Finn saw now, however, didn't look mean. She didn't look as if she'd cause trouble. She had long hair. It rippled in the water like seaweed. Finn followed her. She paused to watch a school of fish swim by. She held something up to her face. She appeared to be looking through whatever the device was.



©Julie Buckner

Under the Sea Name: _____ Date: _____

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.

1. Which of the following conclusions could the reader draw from the beginning of this passage?
- a. The story is set underwater.
 - b. The story is set on the beach.
 - c. This story is told from the point of view of a human diver.
 - d. The story is based on real events.

2. Read this sentence from the passage. What can you determine about Finn and his pod of dolphins based on these details? "The humans running the resort weren't doing a good job of controlling their garbage."

- a. Finn and his pod wish they could join the resort.
- b. Finn and his pod aren't concerned about the cleanliness of their ocean home.
- c. Finn and his pod are frustrated by the amount of garbage the humans are leaving in the ocean.
- d. Finn and his pod are confused about where all this garbage is coming from.

3. What clues did Finn pick up on that made him feel safe around the human diver?

Clue #1

Clue #2

Clue #3

Clue #4

4. Why did Finn stop to show the diver the polluted section of his home? What details from the story support your inference?

5. Examine the title of this passage, "Part of the Pod." Is this a fitting title for this passage? Why or why not? If not, what would be a new title you think would fit better?

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CAUSE AND EFFECT

Cause-and-effect relationships keep a story flowing from one event to the next. Fill in the blank shapes below with details from the story to show cause-and-effect relationships in "Part of the Pod."

CAUSE

A new resort was built on the shore near Finn's home.

EFFECT

Finn became unafraid of the human diver.

Mag
CORE

