

Read the Story: "The Last Day of Second Grade"

Maya woke up early, her heart beating fast. Today was the last day of second grade! She put on her favorite yellow dress and ran downstairs.

"Slow down, Maya!" her mom laughed. "School isn't going anywhere."

At school, Mrs. Chen had a surprise. The classroom was decorated with streamers and balloons. Each student found a letter on their desk.

Maya opened hers. It read: "Dear Maya, You have grown so much this year. You started shy and quiet, but now you raise your hand every day. I am so proud of you. Love, Mrs. Chen."

Maya felt tears in her eyes — happy tears. She hugged her teacher tight.

Comprehension Questions:

1. Who is the main character? _____
2. What is the setting of this story? _____
3. How did Maya change from the beginning to the end of the year?

4. How did Maya feel when she read the letter? How do you know?

5. What would you write in a letter to your teacher?

Part A: Story Map

Complete the story map for "The Last Day of Second Grade."

Characters: _____

Setting: _____

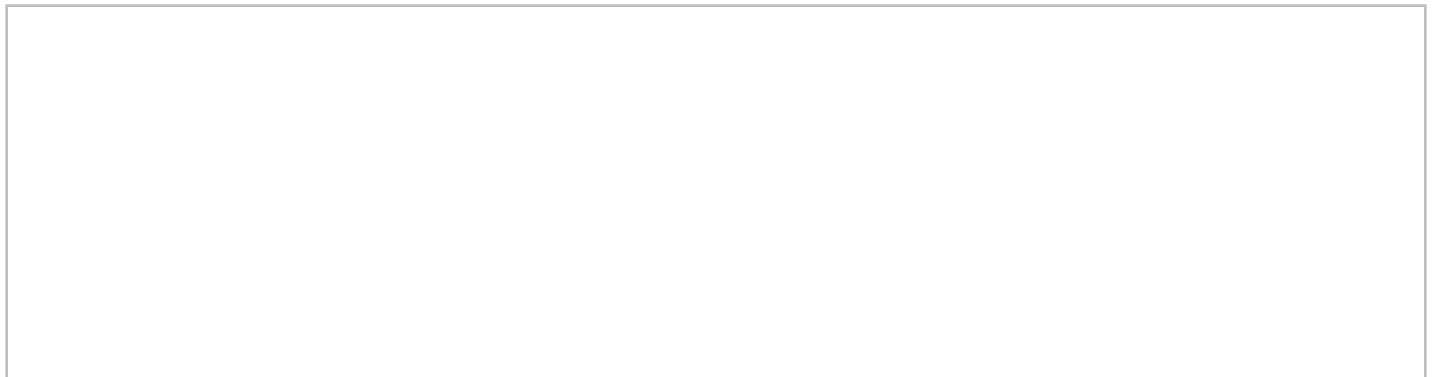
Problem or Event: _____

How It Was Resolved: _____

Theme / Lesson: _____

Part B: Draw an Illustration

Draw a picture of your favorite moment from the story.



Explain how your illustration helps a reader understand the story:

Read the Passage: "Amazing Octopuses"

Octopuses are some of the most amazing animals in the ocean. They have eight arms, three hearts, and blue blood! Each arm has suckers that help the octopus taste and grab things.

Octopuses are very smart. Scientists have watched them open jars, solve puzzles, and even escape from tanks! They can also change color in less than a second to hide from predators or sneak up on prey.

When an octopus is scared, it squirts a cloud of dark ink into the water. This confuses the predator and gives the octopus time to swim away. Some octopuses can even squeeze through tiny spaces because they have no bones!

Comprehension Questions:

1. What is the main topic of this passage? _____

2. List two amazing facts about octopuses:

a. _____

b. _____

3. Why does an octopus squirt ink?

4. What is the author's purpose? (to inform, persuade, or entertain?)

5. Write one question you still have about octopuses:

Part A: Text Features — Match Them!

Heading	-->	Tells what a section is about
Caption	-->	Describes what a photo shows
Bold Words	-->	Highlights important vocabulary
Glossary	-->	Defines important words at the back
Table of Contents	-->	Lists sections and page numbers
Index	-->	Alphabetical list of topics with pages

Part B: Write an Informational Paragraph

Choose an animal you find interesting. Write a paragraph with at least 3 facts.

My animal: _____

Writing Checklist:

- ☐ Topic sentence that introduces my animal
- ☐ At least 3 interesting facts or details
- ☐ A closing sentence that wraps up my paragraph
- ☐ Complete sentences with correct punctuation

Part A: Nouns, Verbs, and Adjectives

Read each sentence. Underline the noun, circle the verb, draw a box around the adjective.

1. The fluffy kitten played with the yarn.

2. A tall boy climbed the big tree.

3. The happy girl sang a beautiful song.

4. Three tiny birds flew over the old barn.

Part B: Irregular Plural Nouns

Write the plural form of each noun.

child → _____

mouse → _____

tooth → _____

foot → _____

goose → _____

man → _____

Part C: Commas and Apostrophes

Add commas or apostrophes where they belong.

1. I packed apples grapes and crackers for lunch.

2. The dogs bone was under the table.

3. "Wait for me" said Marcus.

4. We visited Dallas Texas last summer.

Part A: Opinion Writing

What is your favorite season? Write your opinion with at least 2 reasons.

Remember: State your opinion, give reasons, write a conclusion!

Part B: Narrative Writing

Write a short story about a summer adventure. Include characters, setting, a problem, and a solution.

Story Elements: Who? Where? What happened? How did it end?

Part C: Self-Edit Checklist

- ☐ I used capital letters at the start of sentences and for proper nouns.
- ☐ I used periods, question marks, or exclamation points correctly.
- ☐ I checked my spelling of grade-level words.
- ☐ My sentences make sense when I read them aloud.
- ☐ I indented the first line of each paragraph.

Part A: Context Clues

Use context clues to figure out the meaning of the underlined word.

1. The enormous elephant was the biggest animal at the zoo.

enormous means: _____

2. Maya was exhausted after running, so she took a long nap.

exhausted means: _____

3. The fragile vase broke when it fell off the table.

fragile means: _____

Part B: Prefixes and Suffixes

Add the prefix or suffix to make a new word. Write the meaning.

un- + happy = _____

meaning: _____

re- + read = _____

meaning: _____

kind + -ness = _____

meaning: _____

hope + -ful = _____

meaning: _____

Part C: Shades of Meaning

Put the words in order from weakest to strongest.

1. furious angry annoyed upset → ____, ____, ____, ____

2. whisper yell talk shout → ____, ____, ____, ____

3. warm hot boiling toasty → ____, ____, ____, ____

My Second Grade Reading & Writing Journey

My favorite book this year was:

I liked it because:

One thing I learned about reading this year:

One thing I got better at in writing:

A goal I have for third grade reading/writing:

Letter to My Future Self

Write a letter to yourself in third grade. What advice would you give?

Start with: "Dear Third-Grade Me, ..."

Congratulations!

You completed second grade ELA! You are ready for third grade!

Keep reading, keep writing, and keep being amazing!