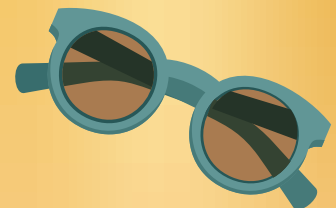


Summer

READING

**Resource
KIT
K-6**



10 Ways Parents Can Fight Summer Reading Loss

By Erin Lynch

1 Set a specific time for daily reading

When you set aside a specific time each day for reading, it becomes part of the daily routine. When something is done routinely it makes it less likely to be forgotten. I love that for my own children reading at night is as routine as putting on their pajamas and brushing their teeth.

2 Let your children see you reading

Literature-rich homes have a myriad of reading material around, from all sorts of books (picture, chapter, nonfiction, and fiction) to newspapers, magazines, and electronic reading materials, etc. Just last week as I was standing in the kitchen holding a book, my son Brady (age 4) said to my daughter Marykate (age 3), "Oh great, Mommy has another book she won't stop reading so she can feed us." I laughed because they were anxiously awaiting a snack, but what they were seeing instead was a true passion for reading that I hope will inspire them to be avid readers themselves. They were just going to have to wait!

3 Talk with your children about what they are reading

Letting your children know that you are interested in what they are reading can be very motivating for them. Even if you are not familiar with the book, you can ask about the characters, the problem, or have your kids share something new they learned. At this point in his reading life, my son starts answering questions (without me asking) as soon as we close a book we have read together. While I am thrilled that he knows that thinking and talking about books is important, I also try to make sure that I keep reading fun and don't turn it into a chore.

4 Have a reading area

Make a special place in your home that is a reading nook. Have a variety of books and periodicals available there. You do not need to buy these reading materials. Instead, borrow them from your local library. At my home, we seem to have books in every room of the house, but I also have a cozy pillow or chair next to my children's bookshelves in their playroom where they enjoy looking at books on their own.

5 Visit the library

Go to your local library regularly throughout the summer. Not only can you check out reading material, but most local libraries also have many fun reading programs and activities to encourage summer reading. My kids love to go to our library—honestly, it's mostly to do crafts—but we always get a stack of books while we are there, too.

6 Reading to your child

Reading to your child is so important. It is a great way to model fluency and enjoy a good book together. I personally love to act out the books with my children. (Sometimes, I am not sure if they are laughing at me or with me!) Children can also read aloud to their siblings or to the whole family—even to a patient family pet.

7 Have writing supplies available

Writing is an important part of the language arts. Additional practice with writing is beneficial to all children and manipulating the text they are reading helps them remember more of it. Keep the writing fun! Some ideas include writing a letter to your favorite character in a book, writing a "sequel" to a story you love, or drawing and writing a graphic novel version of a book. Younger kids could draw pictures or make collages of images that "go with" the books they are reading.

8 Get audio books or listen to books online

Your local library should have a variety of audio books available for children and adults. It can also be a nice change of pace to listen to and watch stories online. Several actors, actresses, sports heroes, and musicians have participated in websites that post celebrities reading books out loud. My children just love to listen to books. Their favorite is Click, Clack, Moo, by Doreen Cronin, as read by Randy Travis.

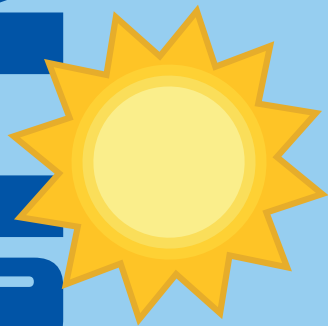
9 Start a book club

Get your child's friends together and pick a book they are all interested in reading. Have them meet once or twice a week to discuss what they have read—you may want to help them set reading targets if they are reading a chapter book. For example, they could aim to read two or three chapters a week. If they choose a book from their summer reading list, the discussion may also help them with comprehension. My own children are too young to be part of a book club, but I can't wait until they are old enough to have one of their own.

10 Carry books with you

Having books with you at all times is a great way to pass the time when you have a few unexpected minutes. Keep a supply in the car or in a tote bag. I have books in the pockets of the seats in my car. This way, when we're out on the road my kids can grab a book whenever they want.


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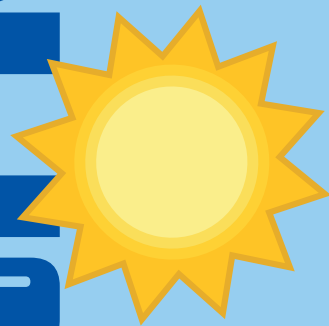
Summer Reading



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Summer Reading Questions

Predict what will happen next.

Do you know the problem?

Make a connection with another text.

What are you visualizing?

Notice what the main character says and does.

Look for the solution.

Are there emerging themes?

What is the lesson?

Describe the author's craft.

Do you like the book? Would you recommend it?



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Help Your Child Succeed In Their Summer Reading!

Experts agree that children of all ages need to read or be read to over summer break. Just as important, children should talk about the stories they read. When you read or talk to your child about books, he or she develops important language skills, understanding of a text or topic, and knowledge about how stories are constructed. Get in on the summer reading fun and discuss these 10 questions/phrases with your child throughout their reading.

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My Summer Reading Success Chart

Color a circle for every 20 minutes you read and after your 5th time, collect a coupon! When you reach a circle that includes a “bonus activity”, complete a *My Summer Reading Success* activity sheet.



COUPON

**20 Extra Minutes
Before Bedtime**



COUPON

**30 Minutes
Screen Time**



COUPON

**30 Extra Minutes
with Mom
or Dad**



COUPON

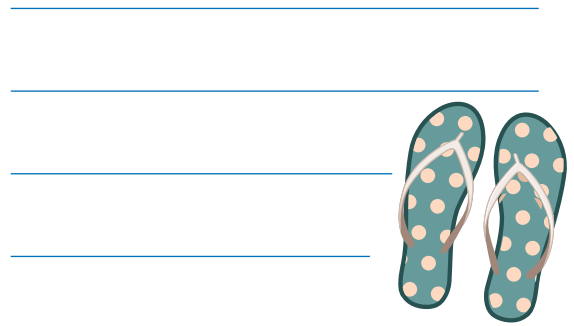
**Pick 1 Treat of
Your Choice**



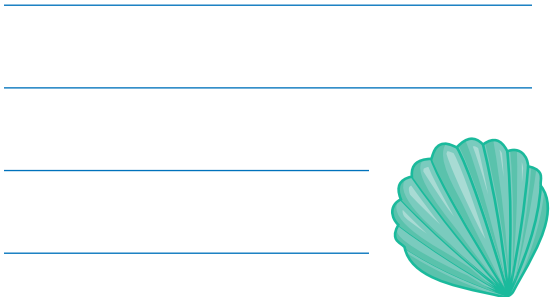
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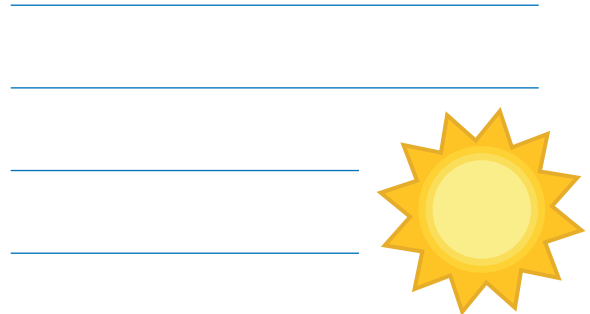
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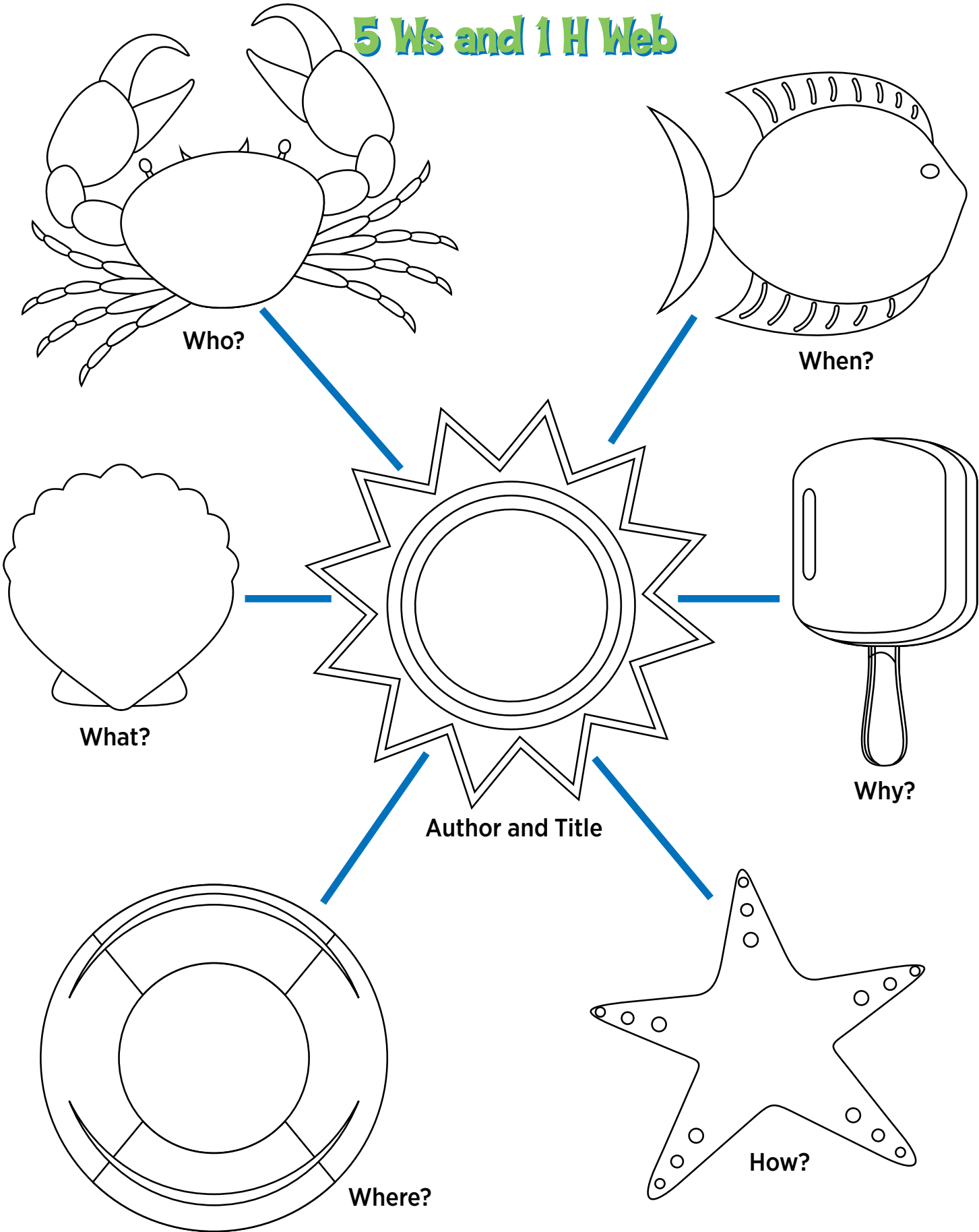


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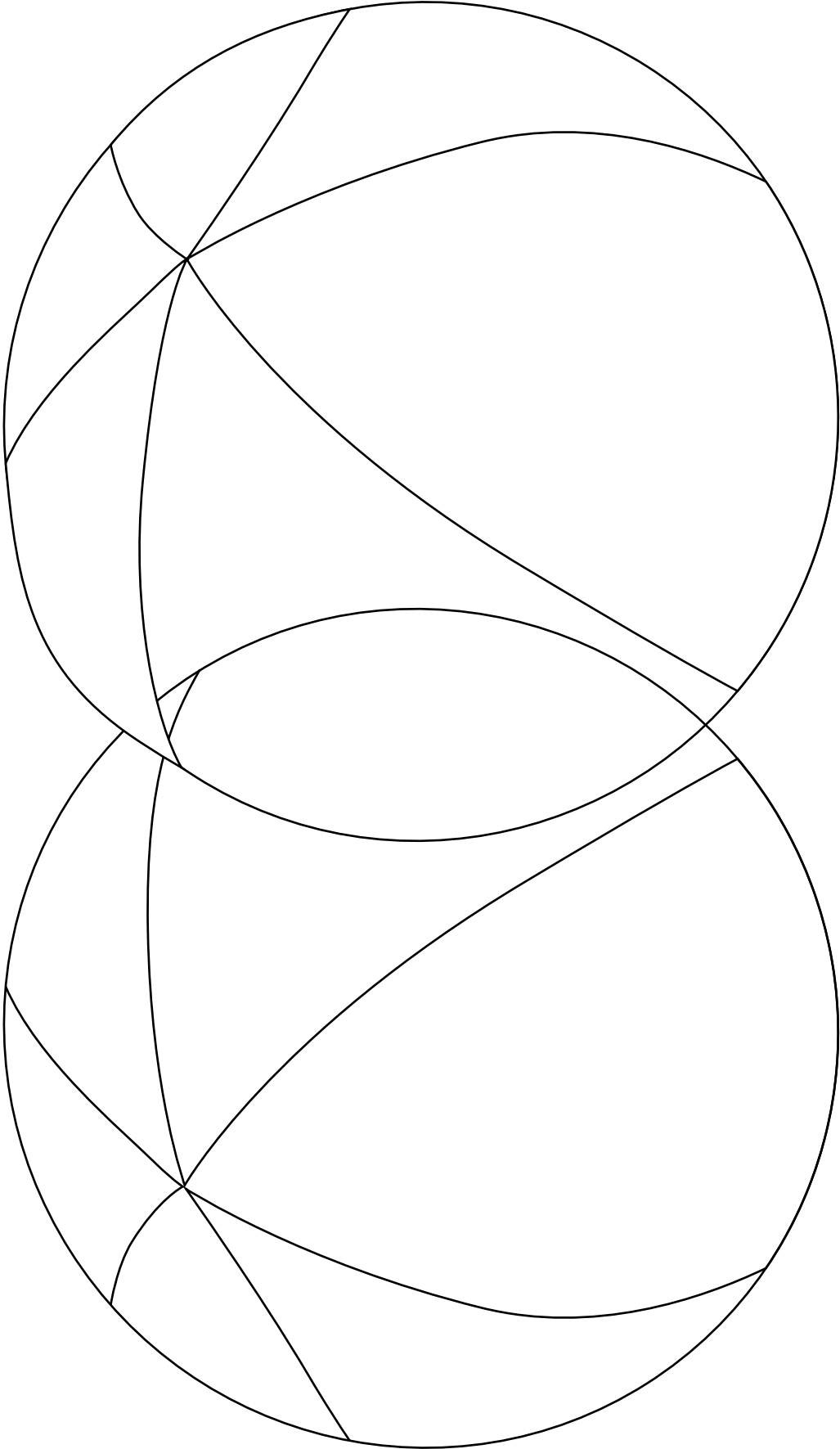
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Summer Reading Venn Diagram

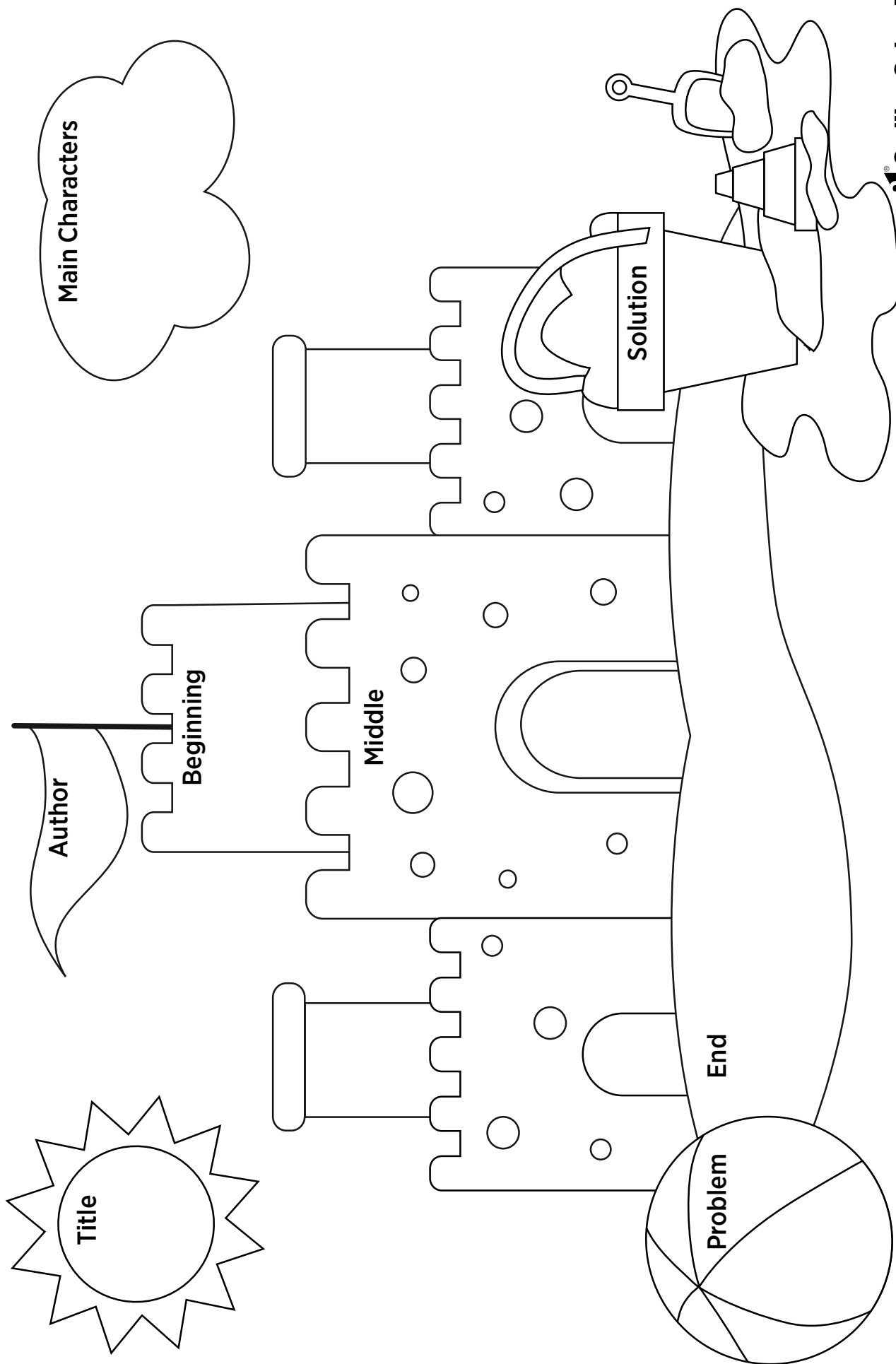


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Name _____ Date _____

Summer Reading Story Map

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Annotating Practice Worksheets

Annotating Practice: *Eagles*

Skillful readers annotate as they read. When you annotate a text, you mark the text and write notes or questions in the margins. Annotating will help you keep track of ideas and questions.

Just as you read with a purpose, you should annotate with a purpose. Use the following symbols to organize your annotations:

- **Underline** key ideas and major points.
- Write a **?** next to anything that is confusing, such as unfamiliar words or unclear information.
- **Circle** key words or phrases.
- Put an **!** next to surprising or important information or information that helps you make a connection.



Read this text three times, making appropriate annotations and notes for each read. Remember the purpose for each read while you read and annotate.

Purpose 1st READ: Determine what this text is about or what happens. Note the key ideas and details.

Purpose 2nd READ: Focus on the words and phrases used by the author. Look at the way the author structures the text.

Purpose 3rd READ: Make inferences. Connect the text to another text you read, Note inferences and connections.

Here are some questions to think about as you read to help you gain a deeper meaning from the text. Write down your answer on a separate piece of paper.

1st Read: What is the text mostly about?

2nd Read: How does paragraph 7 help you understand the word *fledgling*?

3rd Read: What conclusion can you make about how the author's experience with eagles. Cite evidence to support your answer.

A bald eagle soars in the sky! A bald eagle is a large bird. But it starts life as an egg.

The parents build a nest. The mother bird lays an egg in the nest. Sometimes she lays two eggs.

The parents sit on the egg. They take turns. They keep the egg warm and safe. They sit for 35 days. Then the baby is ready to come out! It hatches. The baby eagle is called a chick.

The baby eagle is wobbly. It cannot sit up or fly. It has downy feathers. They are white and gray and fuzzy.

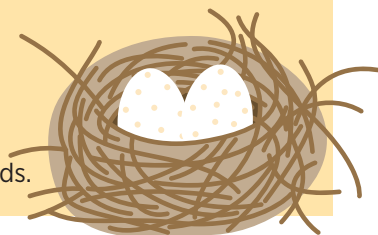
The parents take care of their baby. They bring it fish to eat. The chick eats and grows. After four weeks, the chick is stronger. It can sit up in the nest!

Now the chick is six weeks old. The downy baby feathers fall out. The chick grows dark feathers. It gets bigger.

At three months old, the baby has changed. It is almost as big as its parents. Now it is a fledgling. The fledgling gets ready to fly. It jumps up and down in the nest. It flaps its wings. Off it goes!

The fledgling lives in the nest. It gets better at flying. It learns to hunt. After a few months, the fledgling can live by itself. In four years, the young eagle is all grown up.

It has a white head and tail. It will find a mate. They will build a nest together. They will have their own baby birds.



Annotating Practice Worksheets

Annotating Practice: *The Dove and the Ant*

Skillful readers annotate as they read. When you annotate a text, you mark the text and write notes or questions in the margins. Annotating will help you keep track of ideas and questions.

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Purpose 1st READ: Determine what this text is about or what happens. Note the key ideas and details.

Purpose 2nd READ: Focus on the words and phrases used by the author. Look at the way the author structures the text.

Purpose 3rd READ: Make inferences. Connect the text to another text you read, Note inferences and connections.

Here are some questions to think about as you read to help you gain a deeper meaning from the text.

Write down your answer on a separate piece of paper.

1st Read: What is the main problem in this fable?

2nd Read: What words does the author use that help see the action in this fable?

3rd Read: How much time has passed from the beginning of the fable to the end? Cite evidence to support your answer.

The weather in the spring had been very hot and dry. An Ant dragged herself to the river, hoping to get a drink of water. However, weak from thirst, she fell into the water. As she struggled to get back to land, the current carried her away from shore.

High in a tree near the bank of the river sat a sharp-eyed Dove. Her strong eyes let her see the Ant splashing, and she knew the Ant was in trouble. She thought to herself, "What can I do?"

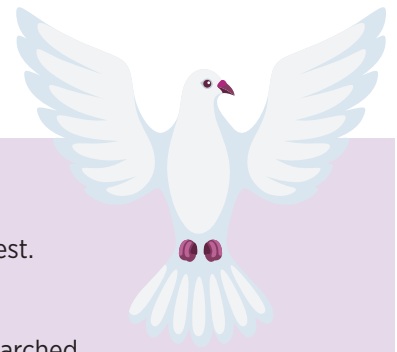
The Dove pitied the Ant's condition. She wanted to help. Spotting a small branch on the ground, she swooped down and grabbed it in her beak. She took a hop and flew out over the river.

Where was the Ant? The Dove saw the weakest of splashes. Zooming out of the sky, she dropped the branch right by the Ant.

The Ant felt the branch. She got one leg up on it, then another, and finally scrambled on top. She shook the water from her eyes. Seeing that the Ant was safe, the Dove flew away.

The branch floated to shore, and the Ant stepped off onto land. "I have to thank the Dove," she thought to herself.





“I don’t know how I will, but I have to.”

Spring turned to summer. The Dove’s hatchlings grew, and the young birds left the nest. The Dove forgot all about saving the Ant.

The Ant also had work to do. With her mates, she tunneled underground. She also searched for food above ground and brought it back to the nest.

The Ant sometimes talked to her friends about the Dove. “Why worry about that? You will never be able to thank her,” they said. “Now help me lift this blade of grass.”

By the fall, hunters started coming in the woods. Some were noisy and would crash through the trees, wearing bright red and yellow coats. The animals had an easy time avoiding loud hunters.

Other hunters were stealthy. They walked quietly, and wore green and brown clothes. The bushes did not rustle as the quiet hunters went past. The animals had to be on the lookout for these hunters.

One day, the Ant was alone near a clearing in the woods. A young man was lying on his stomach at the edge of the opening, looking as if he was enjoying the fine weather. But the Ant did not like something about him. It wasn’t just that he looked out of place there.

He had covered himself with leafy branches. He was holding two ropes in his hands, but he was not moving at all. And he was looking up into the branches of the tree above him.

The Ant understood. The ropes were a net, and the man had put bait in the net! The Ant looked up into the tree. Sitting on a branch eyeing the food on the ground was the Dove!

The Ant scrambled onto the man’s hand. As she did, the Dove fluttered to the ground. The Ant had to hurry.

The Ant bit the man hard on the hand. The man yelled and clapped his hand. The Dove heard the commotion and hopped to safety. As the Dove flew away, the Ant thought, “I did it. I saved my friend!”



Annotating Practice Worksheets



Annotating Practice: *Sea Otters!*

Skillful readers annotate as they read. When you annotate a text, you mark the text and write notes or questions in the margins. Annotating will help you keep track of ideas and questions.

Just as you read with a purpose, you should annotate with a purpose. Use the following symbols to organize your annotations:

- Underline key ideas and major points.
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Read this text three times, making appropriate annotations and notes for each read. Remember the purpose for each read while you read and annotate.

Purpose 1st READ: Determine what this text is about or what happens. Note the key ideas and details.

Purpose 2nd READ: Focus on the words and phrases used by the author. Look at the way the author structures the text.

Purpose 3rd READ: Make inferences. Connect the text to another text you read, Note inferences and connections.

Here are some questions to think about as you read to help you gain a deeper meaning from the text.

Write down your answer on a separate piece of paper.

1st Read: What is the text mostly about?

2nd Read: How does the author organize this text?

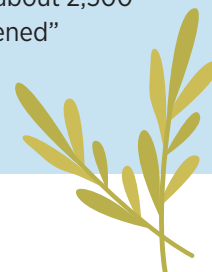
3rd Read: Why is it important to maintain the sea otter population? Cite evidence from the text.

About Sea Otters

Sea otters belong to the same family as weasels and skunks. But sea otters have adaptations that help them live almost all of their lives in the water. Their thick fur keeps them warm in chilly ocean waters. Their webbed hind feet and large lungs enable them to dive deep underwater in search of food. They hunt over 40 different kinds of prey, including sea urchins, clams, starfish, and lobsters. An adult sea otter weighs 45 to 70 pounds. A sea otter must eat nearly one-quarter of its weight in food every day to survive.

History of Southern Sea Otters

The southern sea otter is a California native. Scientists estimate that, historically, 16,000–20,000 sea otters lived off the coast of California. But the population decreased due to fur hunting in the 1700s and 1800s. By the early 1900s, very few people had ever seen a sea otter. In the 1940s, a small group of otters was spotted near Carmel, California. The government took action and declared the area a southern sea otter refuge. Today, there are about 2,500 southern sea otters living off the coast of California. Southern sea otters are still listed as “threatened” on the endangered species list. In 1986, the government decided to move a group of southern sea otters from Monterey Bay to San Nicolas Island. The goal was to start a separate group of



sea otters in a second location. This would prevent a dangerous event such as an oil spill in Monterey from wiping out the entire sea otter population.

Sea Otters in the Kelp Forest

In California's coastal waters, kelp forests are an important ecosystem. Long strands of seaweed, called kelp, stretch from the ocean floor to the surface. This forest of kelp creates a home for many ocean creatures. Scientists have identified southern sea otters as a keystone species within the kelp forest. Their role in the ecosystem has a huge impact on all the other organisms within the system. Sea otters eat sea urchins, and this helps the entire kelp forest survive since kelp is the sea urchins' favorite food. Without sea otters around to eat them, the sea urchin population would explode and the kelp forest would be destroyed.

