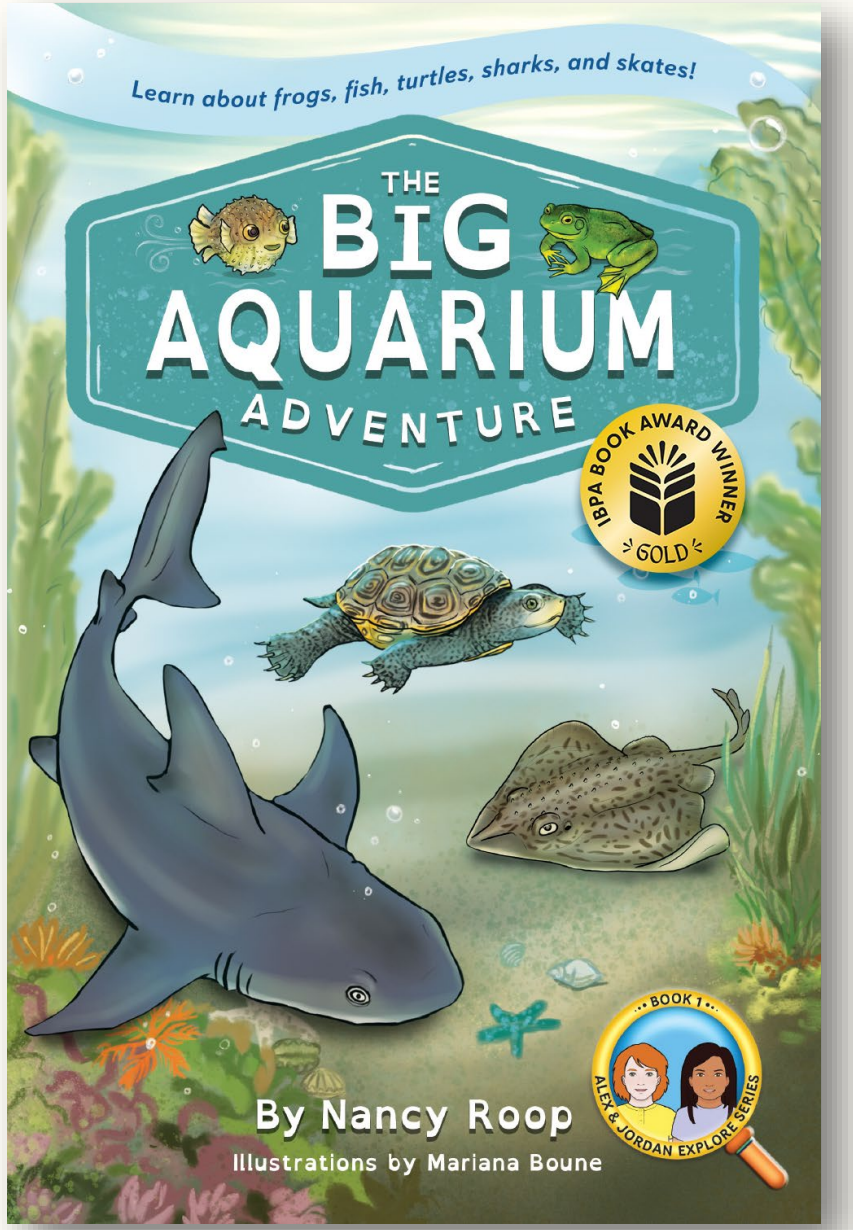


MASL
Michigan Association of School Librarians
Author Speed Dating

KIRKUS

"An interactive, fact-filled book for early and reluctant readers with an interest in marine life."

Foreword

"Clarion Rating: 5 out of 5 The Big Aquarium Adventure centers marine life and its allure."

booklife

"Each character provides young readers with a new lesson."



developmental texts

para to para



Nancy Roop

Author Publisher

Developmental Texts

Paraeducator Coach and Trainer

Para to Para

Special Education Substitute Teacher

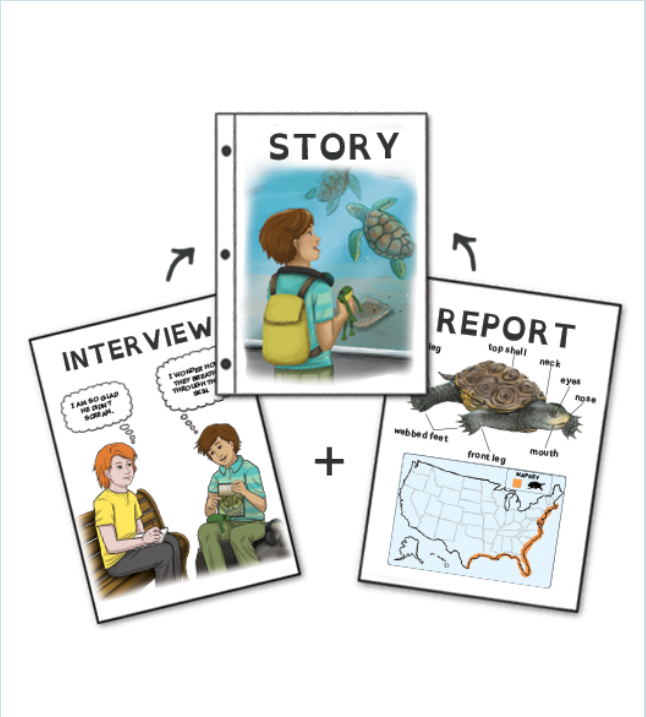
Former Paraeducator

Education

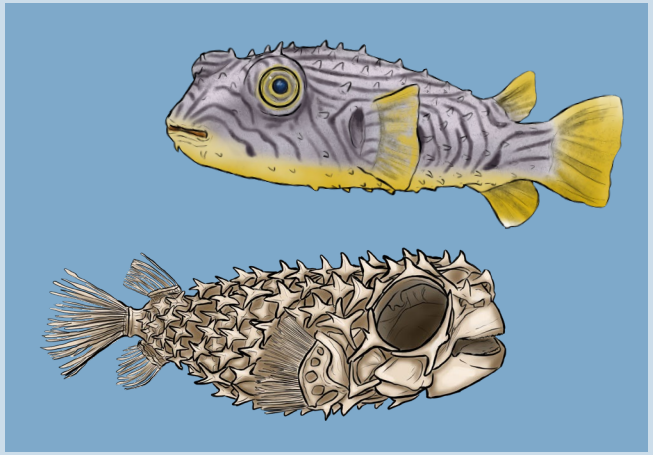
BA in Integrative Studies,

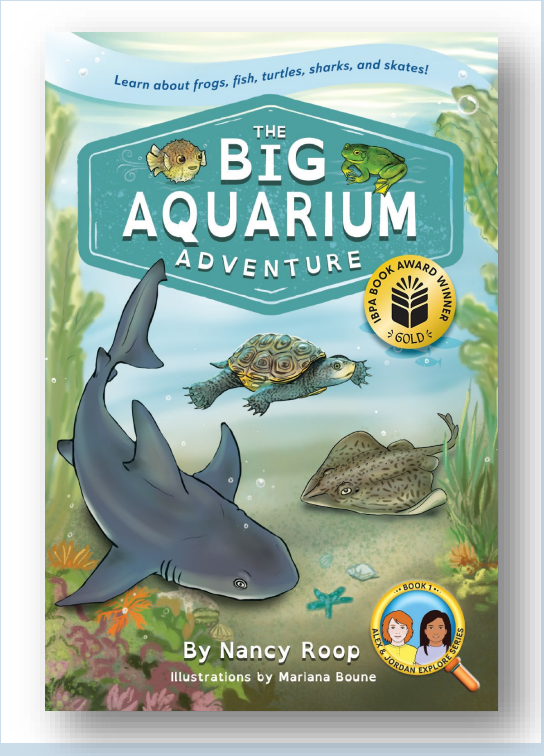
Oakland University





developmental texts





Nancy Roop
Author

Evidence-based comprehension strategies

Builds background knowledge

Beautiful illustrations

Designed for neurodivergent readers

Real, relatable, and relevant!

Lexile level 3.6

· CHAPTER ONE ·

ALEX'S QUESTIONS

CHAPTER PREVIEW

1. Keywords
2. Pause and think ahead
3. The Interview
4. Pause and think back



Alex talks with his friend, Stephen, after school.

KEYWORDS

These words are important in this chapter. If they are new to you, the definitions are in the glossary on pages 94-95.

aquarium
interview
overwhelmed
vacation
prediction
predator
reporter

PAUSE AND THINK AHEAD

Think about the title, keywords, and pictures. Ask yourself these questions:

- ✔ Have I been to an aquarium?
- ✔ What animals might live in an aquarium?



- ✔ Make a prediction, or guess, about this chapter.

And then what?

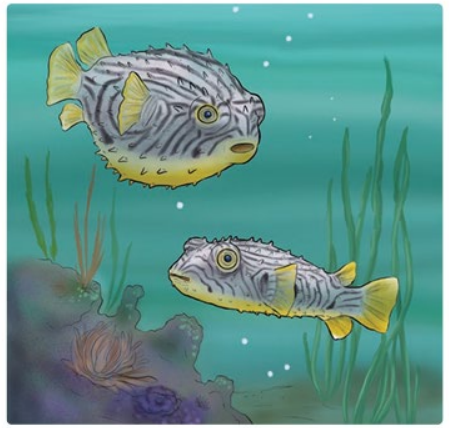
The tank was about 3 feet tall, and it was open on top. The expert held up 2 fingers and said, "Reach into the tank and lightly touch the skate's back with 2 fingers."





4th and 5th grade Common Core Standards

FISH

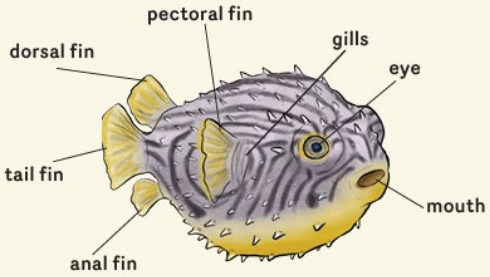


STRIPED BURRFISH

Striped burrfish live in the ocean and breathe oxygen through their gills.

46

STRIPED BURRFISH: BODY PARTS



Their scaly skin is expandable; water inflates their body when they fear predators.

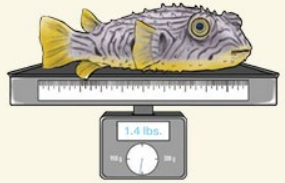
BONY SKELETON



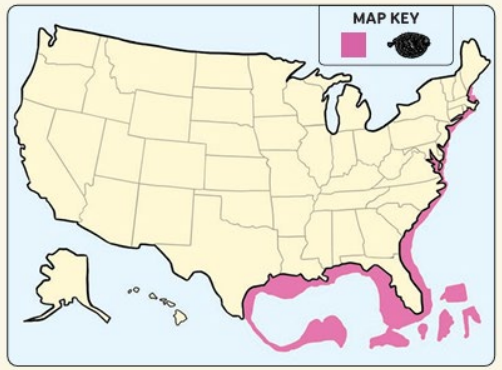
48

STRIPED BURRFISH: SIZE

They grow up to 10 inches long (25 centimeters). Their average weight is 1.4 pounds (630 grams.)

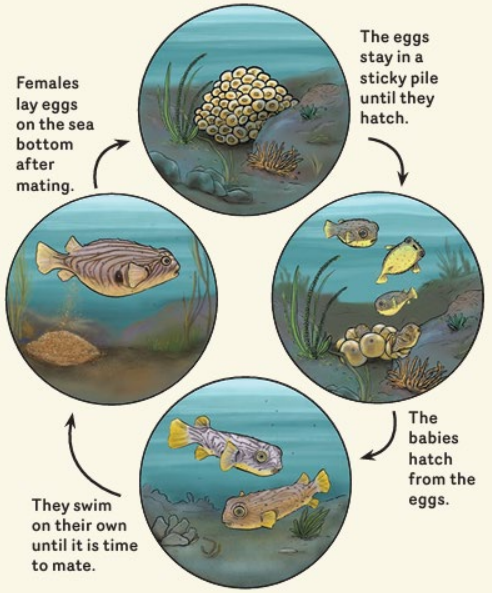


STRIPED BURRFISH: HABITAT



47

STRIPED BURRFISH: LIFE CYCLE



Adults lay many small eggs in a pile on the soft sea bottom at night.

49

Reflections, Resources, and Quick Tips

PAUSE AND THINK BACK

1. Think back, or reflect, about the interview.
2. Then ask yourself these questions:
   - Have I been to an aquarium?
     Yes or No
     
   - Have I seen turtles?
     Yes or No
     
   - Have I seen fish?
     Yes or No
     
   - Have I seen sharks?
     Yes or No
     
   - Have I touched sea life?
     Yes or No
     
3. One thing I am really wondering about at the aquarium is...



RESOURCES



— CONTENTS —

A Letter from Alex & Jordan 84
Story Mountain 85
My Story Summary 86
My Look-Back Questions 87
Alex's How To Interview Guide 89
Nancy Roop's Quick Tips for Adults 91
What's Next for Alex and Jordan? 93
Glossary 94
Stephen's Quick Tip for Staying Calm 96



STEPHEN'S QUICK TIP FOR STAYING CALM

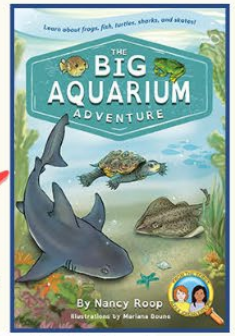
When I start to feel too much in my body, I can take deep breaths.
I breathe in with a deep belly-breath and count to five: 1 2 3 4 5.
I focus on the numbers and remember to go slowly.
Then, I exhale slowly and count backwards from five: 5 4 3 2 1.
I repeat these two more times.
I look at frogs, squeeze a toy, or listen to music.



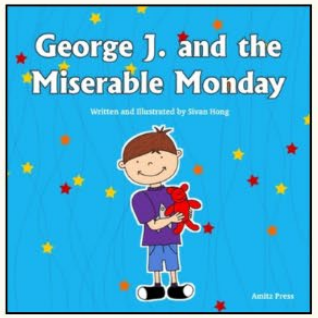
To download more strategies, go to DevelopmentalTexts.com/AlexAndJordan

NEURODIVERSE INCLUSIVE BOOKS

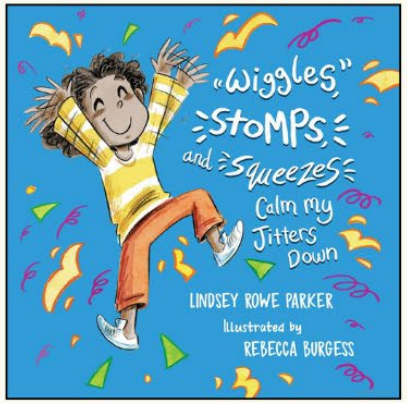
A Novel Mind

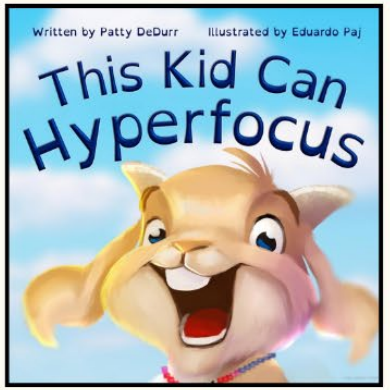


anovelmind.com

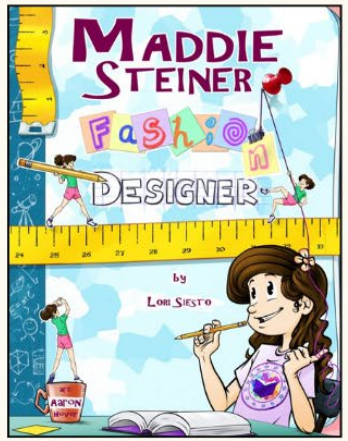


#SPDAuthor

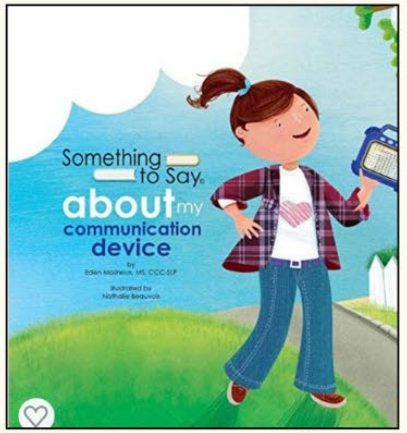




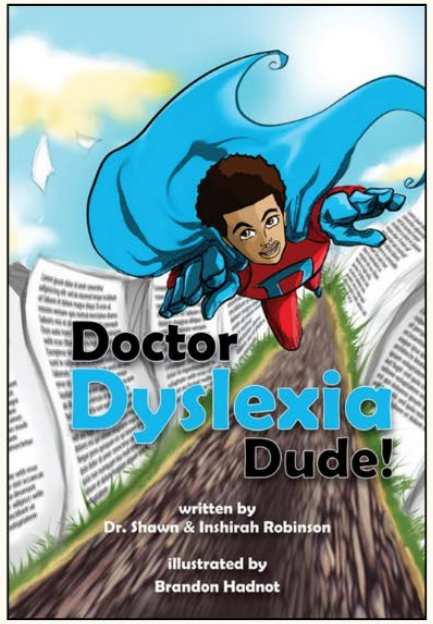
#ADHDAuthor



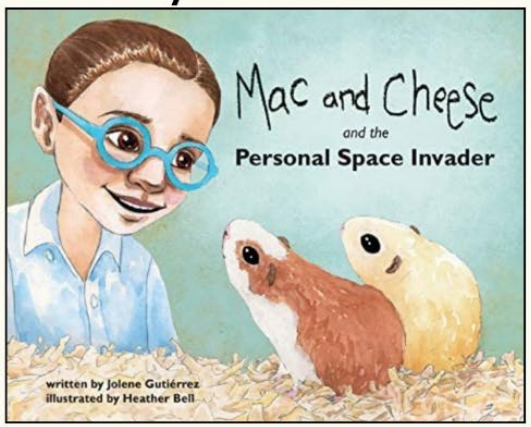
#ASDAuthor



#AACAuthor



#DyslexiaAuthor



#proprioceptionauthor

Neurodivergent Database

Independent Publishing Resources

MIPA
MIDWEST INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

Midwest Book Award Recipients

ibpa
Independent Book Publishers Association

- Black/African American Communities
- Disabled Communities
- First Nations/Indigenous Communities
- Latina/o/e Communities
- LGBTQIA2+ Communities
- Neurodivergent Communities

SCBWI
SCBWI·MICHIGAN

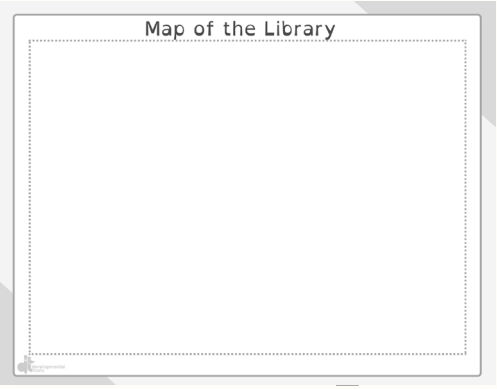
[Local Authors]

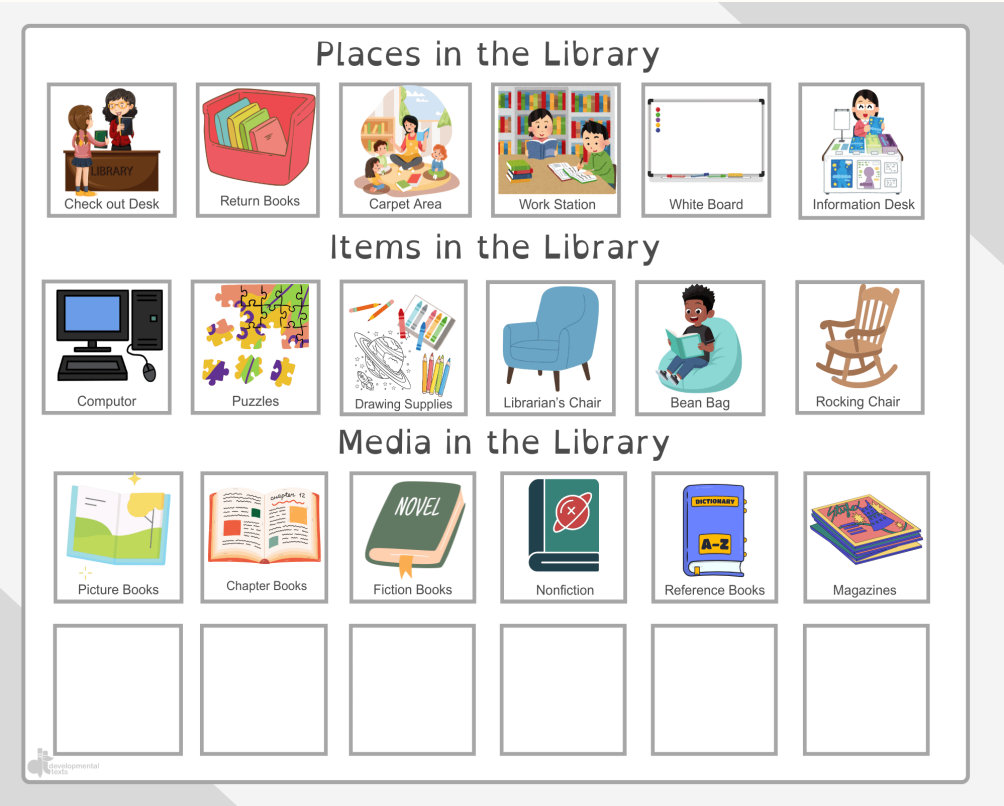
[The Mitten Blog]

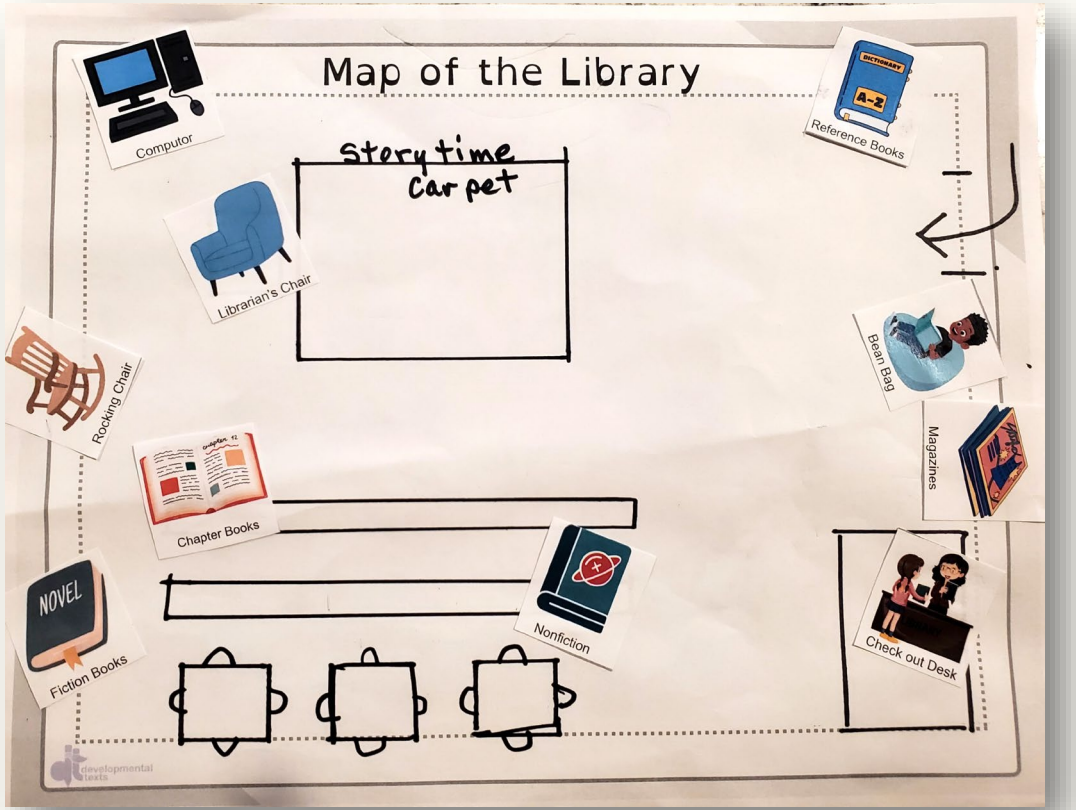
Map Activity

Students get to know the library with a map

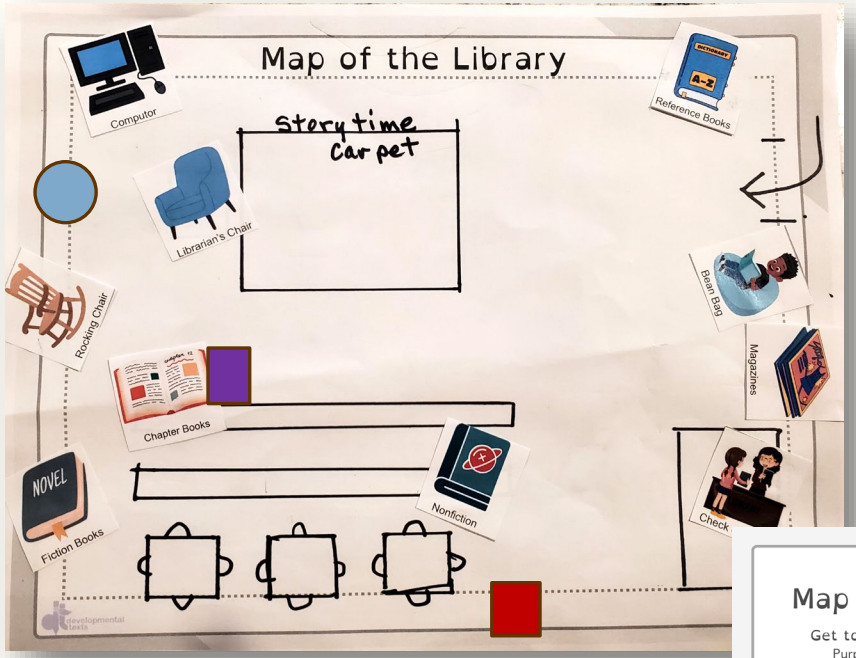
- **Draw the floor plan**
- **Students cut & glue icons**







Scavenger Hunt





Map Activity:

Get to know the library

Purpose: to familiarize students with places, items, and media in the library.

Preparation:

- On the "Map of the Library" page, use a straight-edge and draw the perimeter of the library. Include walls and doors. Maybe draw an arrow pointing in the door, to show the starting point.
- Make one copy of the map and one of the places, items, and media page.
- In the blank boxes sketch any items that are unique to your library.
- Gather supplies: scissors and glue.

Discussion:

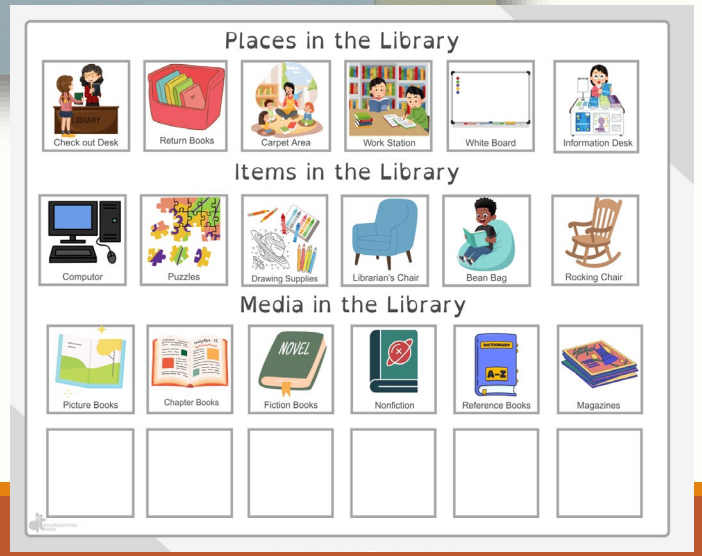
- Discuss areas of your library.
- Discuss that libraries are similar, but they may have some different features.
- Have students put an X over items that you do not have in your library.
- Depending on age and skill levels, model where the locations go on a map sample.
- Optional: cut apart the rows, and complete them over three sessions.

Scaffold:

- 1:1 support: adults can color code. Put a small colored dot on the front or back of the square. Then put the same color where it goes on the map.
- Color coding could also be done prior to making copies for multiple students, or all students.
- Glue each place, item, or media card to a larger colored page and put them around the library. You can also use a different color for the places, items, and media. Keep these up indefinately.

Scavenger Hunt:

Glue each place, item, or media card to a larger colored page and put them around the library. You can also use a different color for the places, items, and media.

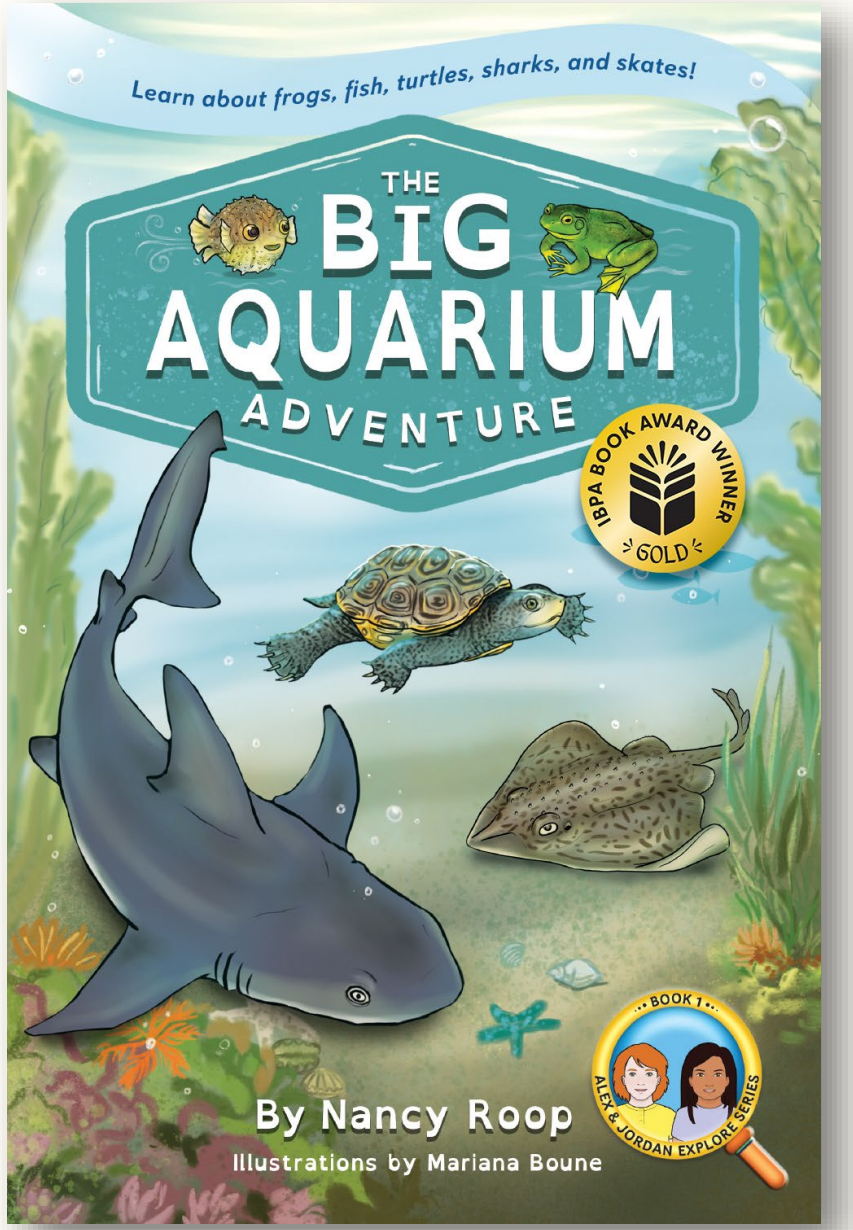


Download Instructions:

Accommodations:

- Color code
- Do one row per week

Nancyroop.com/resources



MASL
Michigan Association of School Librarians
Author Speed Dating

KIRKUS

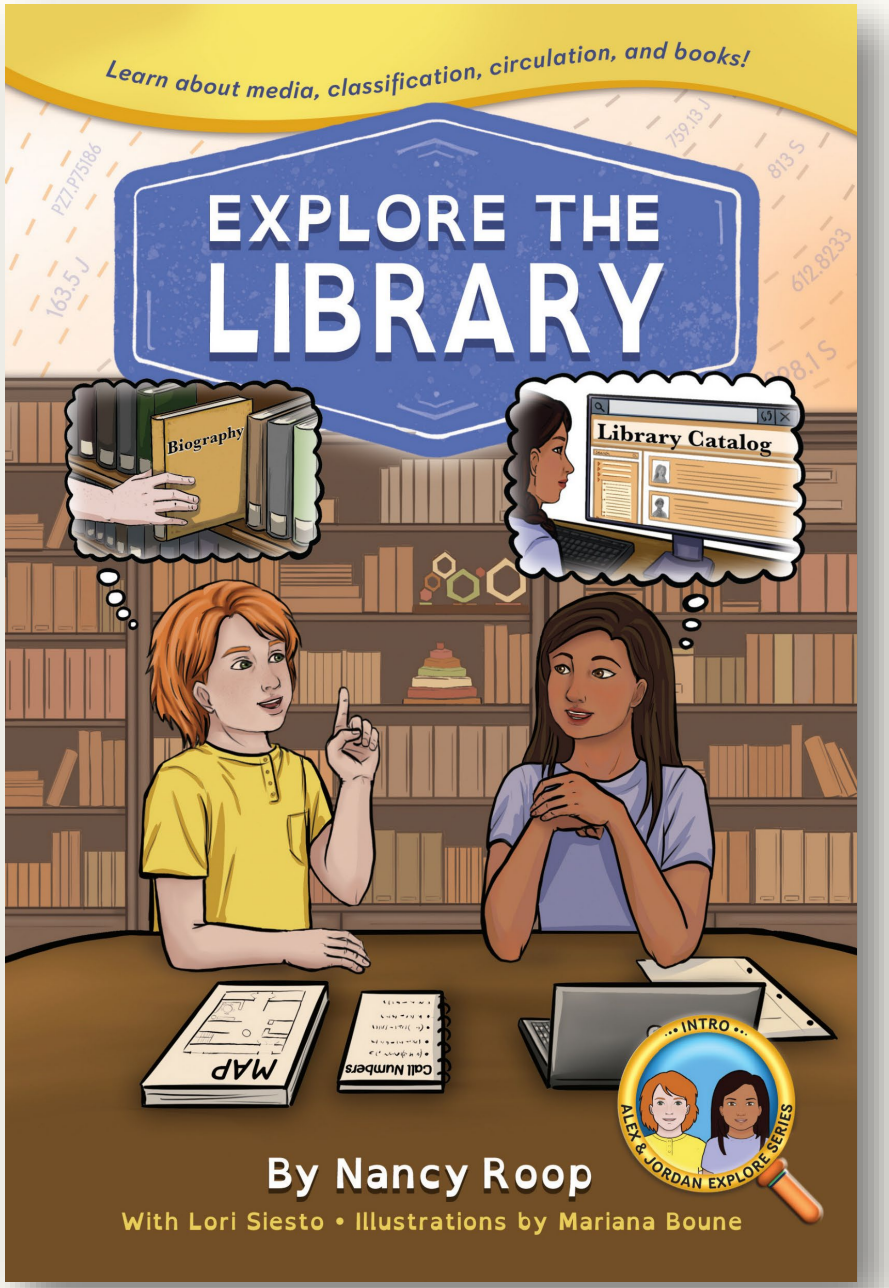
"An interactive, fact-filled book for early and reluctant readers with an interest in marine life."

Foreword

"Clarion Rating: 5 out of 5 The Big Aquarium Adventure centers marine life and its allure."

booklife

"Each character provides young readers with a new lesson."



The Big Aquarium Adventure en Espanol!



Coming in 2027

Explore the Library

Learn about media, classification, circulation, and books!

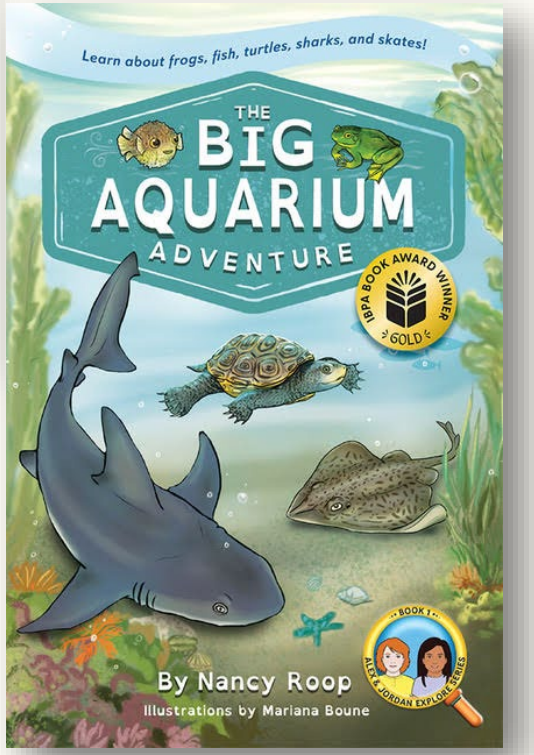
Resources

Nancy@DevelopmentalTexts.com

Get an Occasional newsletter

- Quick Tips for ND Readers
- Advance reader copies of new books





Access Slide Deck (including 16 bonus slides—*all grades*), Accommodation Guide, and More!

- nancyroop.com/resources

Thank you for being here!

MASL
Michigan Association of School Librarians

Student-led Bookmaking

Use topics of interest or common items at school.
Use a binder, lined paper, and plain white paper

Create a picture book—one page a day

1. Write a word, phrase, or a sentence on lined paper
2. Draw an illustration on plain paper
3. Put pages in binder
4. Read the book after new pages are added
5. Create cover page when book is complete.



Scaffold as needed: sentence choices or outline illustration

Notetaking Templates
Support Reading Initiative and Comprehension

1. Listen while librarian reads a book
2. As a Class, record literacy details of the book in each section.

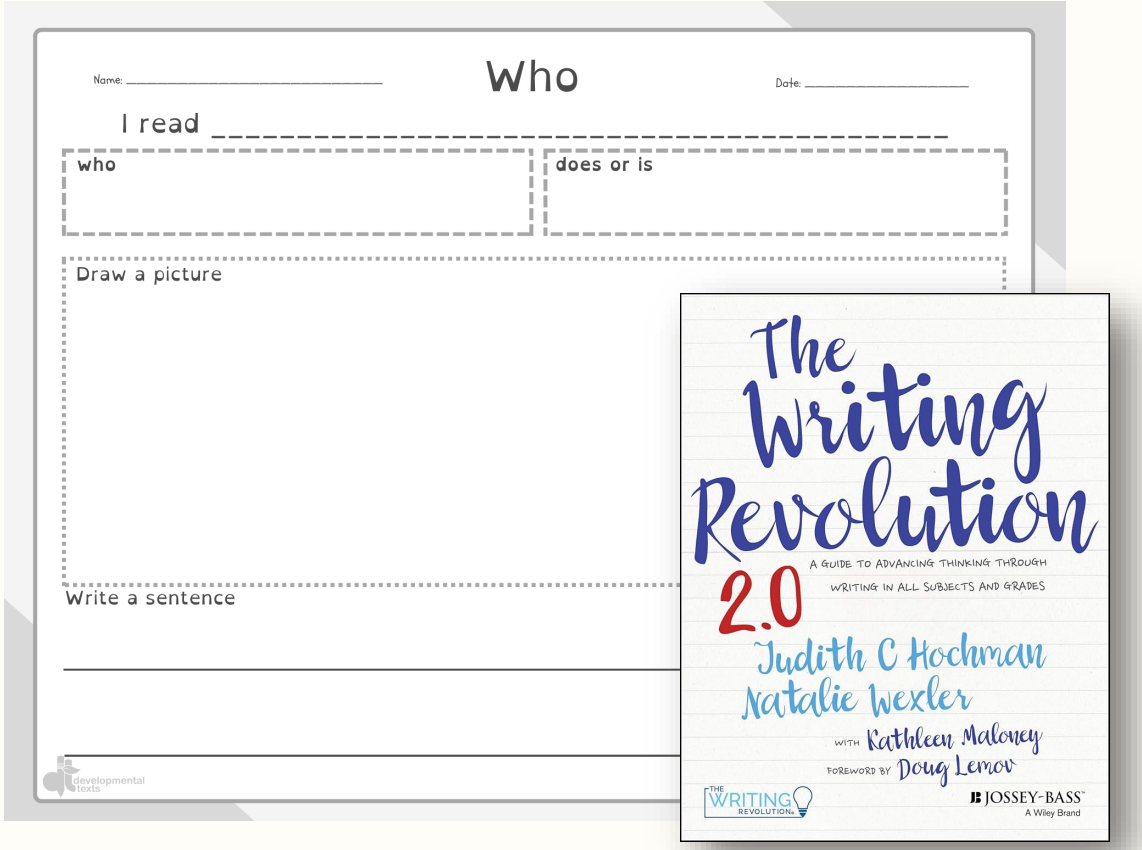
   Who or What does or is

   (Subject/verb page creates base sentence)

3. Write a sentence about the favorite part of the story. May include details such as:

   When, Where, Why, or How

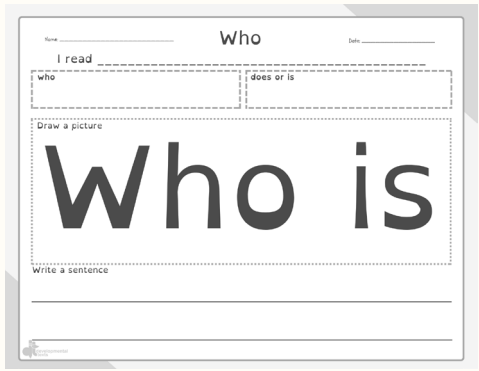
4. Put pages in a library folder



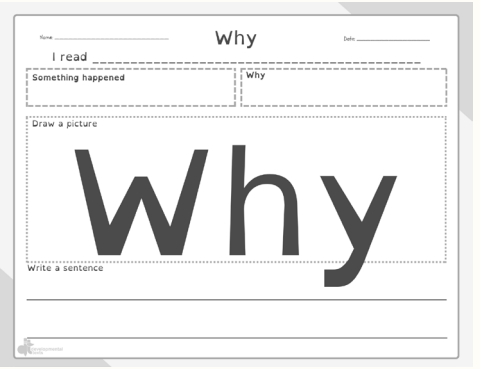
Notetaking Templates
for Teaching Writing Strategies

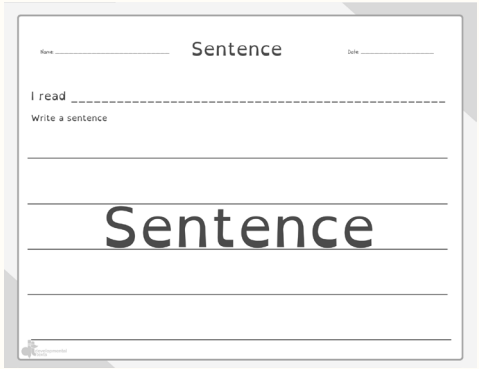
Combine sentences from two + templates with writing strategies:

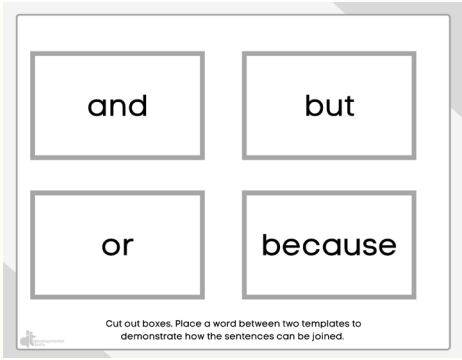
1. Subject/verb page
   Who or What
2. Description page
   When, Where, Why, or How
3. Compound sentence with appositives, conjunctions, transitions, and dependent clauses



because







Use templates to organize information across all subject lessons.

Accommodation Toolkit to Supports Executive Functions

Organization

Planning

Task Initiation

Working Memory

Impulse Control

Emotional Control

Self Monitoring

Flexible Thinking



Tip 4: Explore a Variety of Learning Ideas!

What's in a Year-Long Library Plan for Special Education Classes?



Angela Durham
B.S.B.A. M.L.I.S.
Ph.D. Candidate
University of South Carolina

Read Alouds with Kinesthetic or Art Activities:

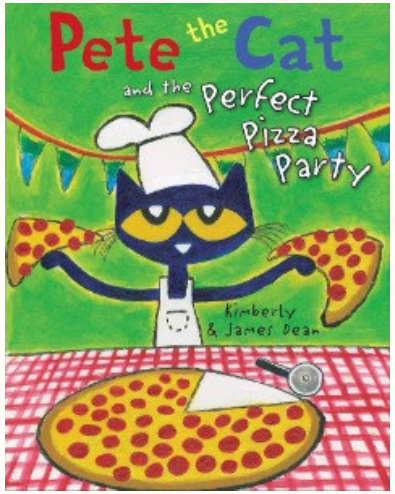
hand gestures, body movement, or songs.

- *Goin' on a Bear Hunt*
- *The Wheels on the Bus*
- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*
- *I Want Slop*
- Article by Angela Durham available at https://schoollibraryconnection.com/

Pizza Sequencing Activity

Students build a pizza with Pete the Cat's friends.





1. Read "Pete the Cat's Pizza Party" book
2. Students add felt or paper pizza ingredients in a sequence

   cheese, pepperoni, sausage, mushroom, bell peppers

Free paper pieces are available at
[Mrs. Merry Printable Pizza]

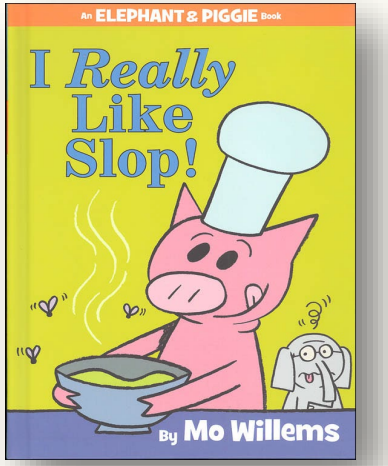




Level 3: Activity for Elementary

Student Participation Activity

1. Show the video or read the book
2. Fill the pot with multiple items and strings of yarn & stir
3. Complete the sensory pot activity:
   - one item from the pot
   - Keep eyes One student at a time
   - Remove closed
   - Feel the object & guess what it is



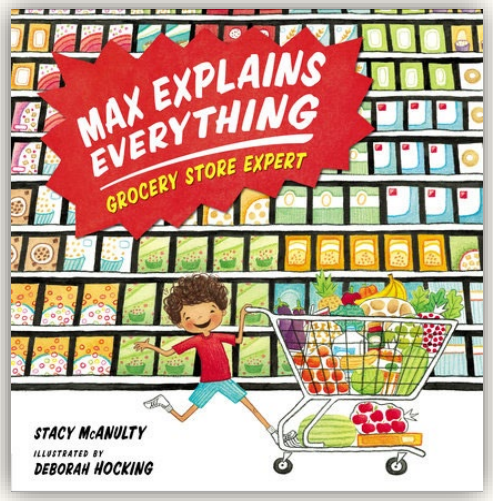
Elephant and Piggie's
I Really Like Slop
Video with Mo Willems



Level 3: Activity for Elementary

Read Aboud Activity

- Use scavenger/bingo cards and dry eraser markers
- Read the story while students mark the grocery store items on the card

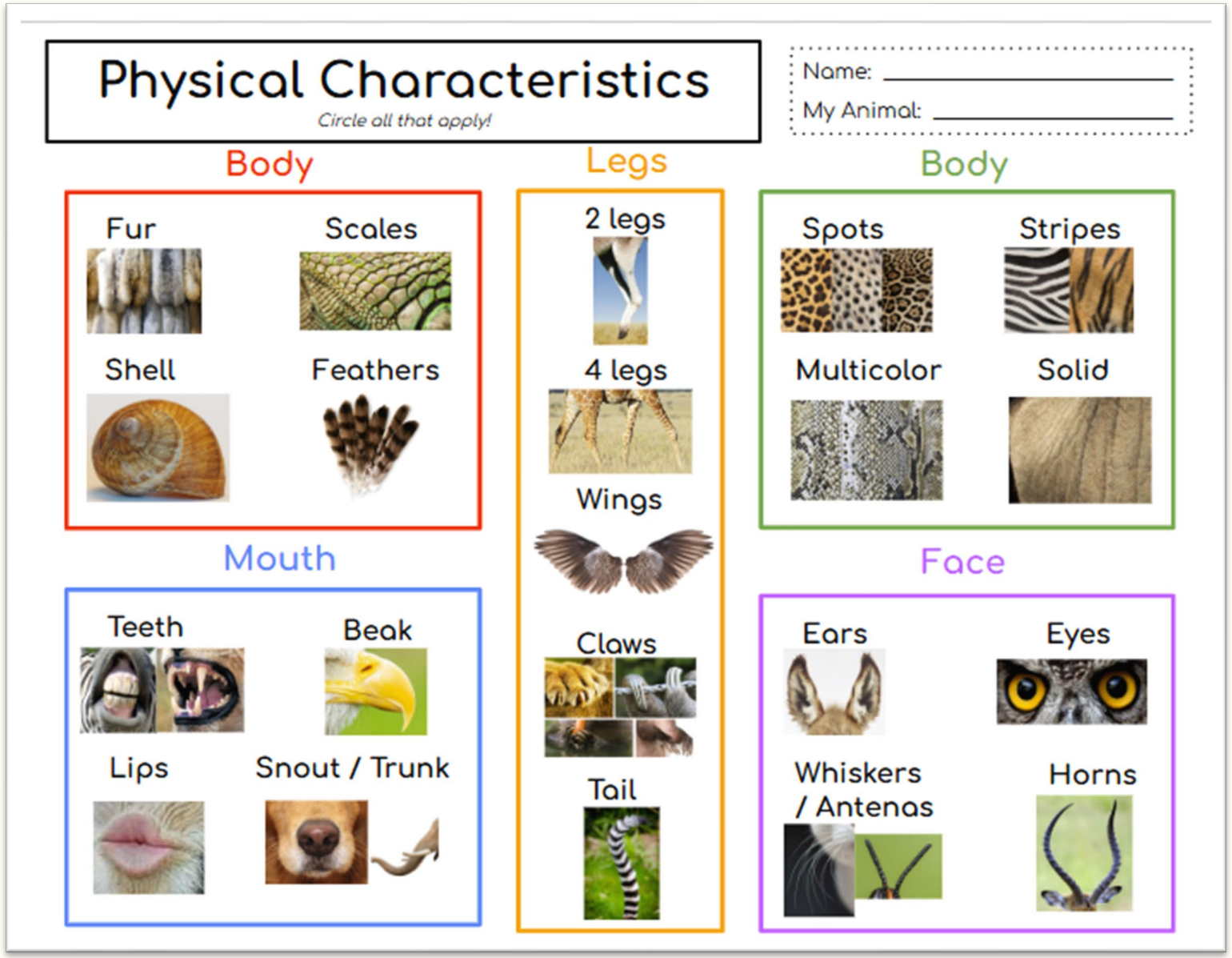


Max Explains Everything; Grocery Store Expert

Red Wolf

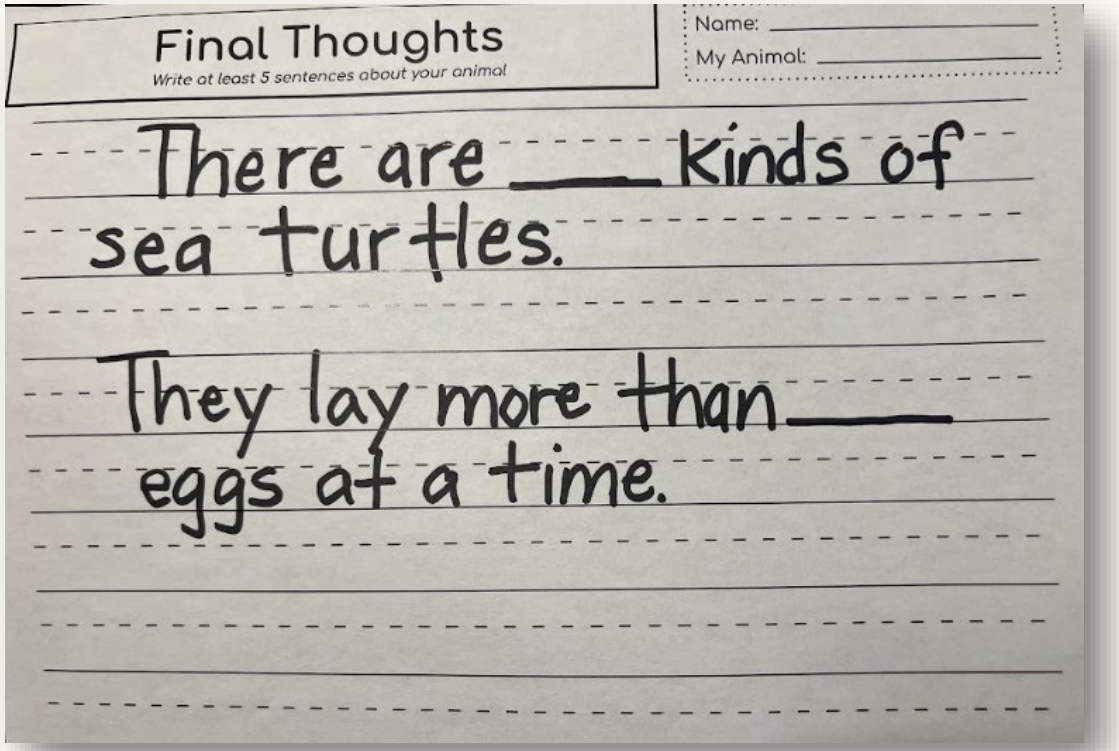
Endangered Animal Research project:

- Go to PebbleGo and Enchanted Learning for learning facts
- Distribute animal features page(s) from Teachers Pay Teachers ($6.50)
- Have students circle their answers
- Have students use the Enchanted Learning facts to fill in the blank and complete a sentence about their chosen animal.



Sea Turtle

Endangered Animal Research project:

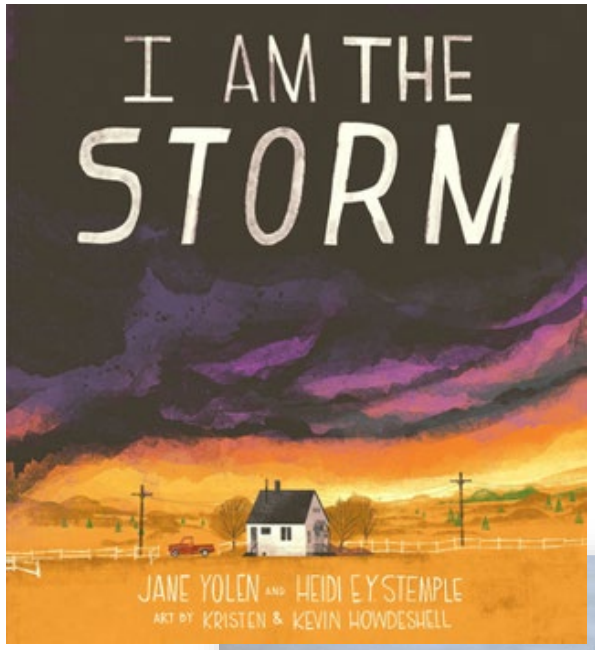


- Student choose an animal from a preselected group
- Use the Enchanted Learning & Teachers Pay Teachers website (re: embracing special) to create a "Read and Response Booklet"
- Print out basic facts of the animal.
- Read animal facts and student fills in the blanks using the facts.

A Port in a Storm

Extreme weather and STEM activity
***I Am the Storm* by Jane Yolen with building the sturdy storm shelter**

- Read the printed or show E-book (video)
- Pass out the keva planks to groups
- Build a sturdy shelter
  (build towers if extra time)





Lincoln's Pockets

What Did Lincoln Have in His Pockets the Night of His Assassination?

(primary Source lesson)

- Create a worksheet to match the items
- show the revealing video from the Library of Congress

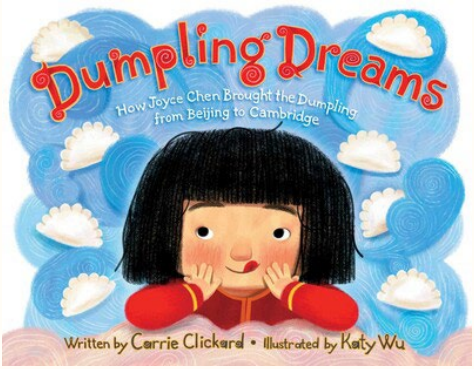


Level 3: Activity for Middle/High



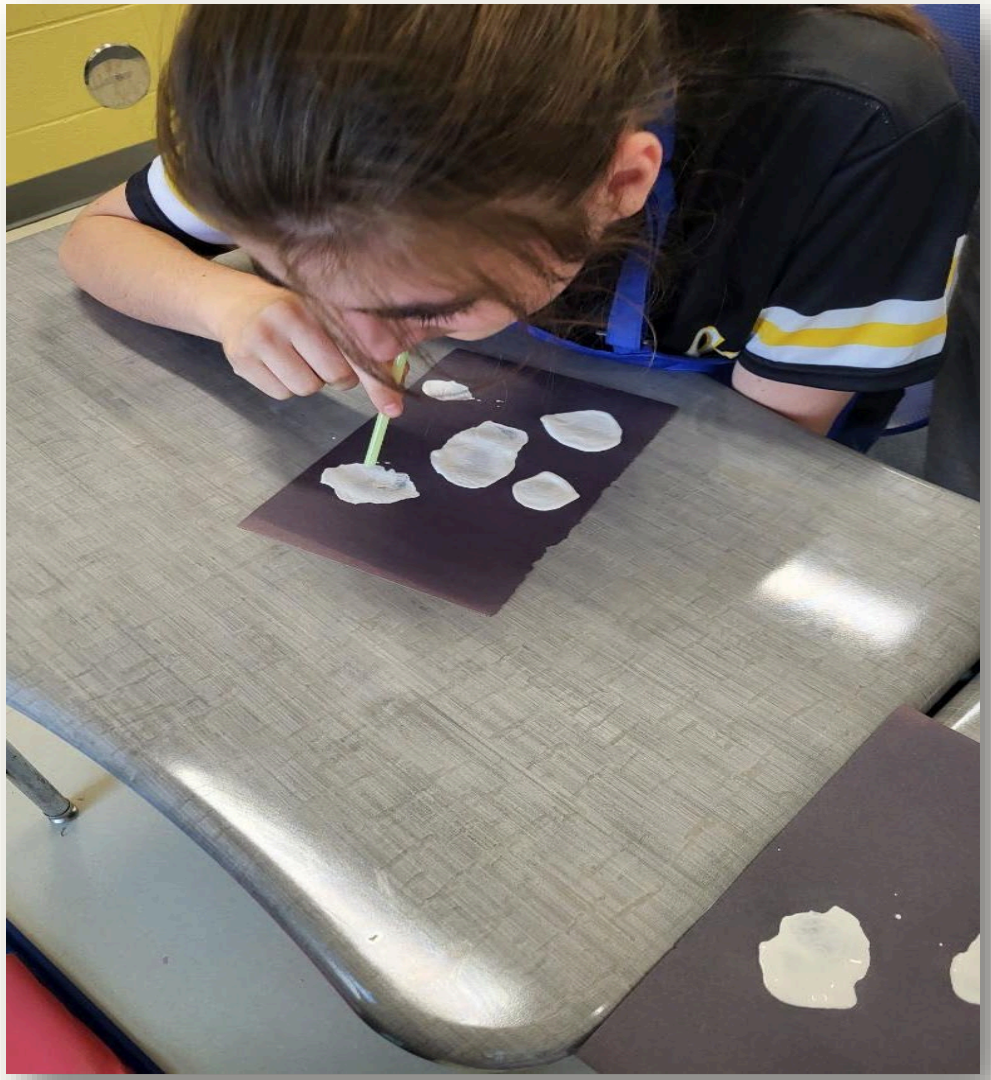
Student Craft Activity

- Show the video or read the book
- Use Coffee filters, cotton or pompom balls & glue
- Students will scoop cotton balls into filters and glue them closed



Dumplings Dreams

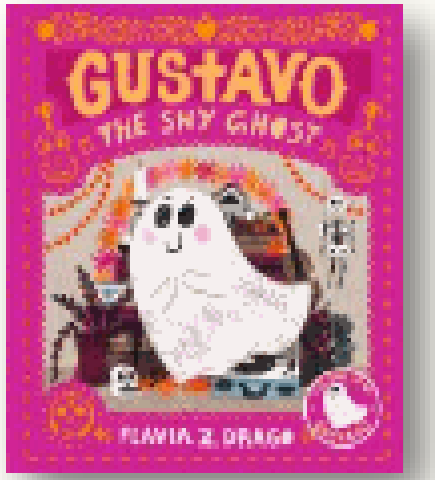
(Diversity and Lunar New Year)



Level 3: Activities for Middle/High

Student Art Activity

- Use white (nontoxic) paint, black card stock paper and large holed straws
- Students will blow a circle of paint into a ghostly form and let them dry



Gustavo the Shy Ghost
(Spooky Fun)

Teen Story and Activities



Helen Prince
2025-26 SC School Librarian of the Year

Scan or click this link for more ideas!

Lesson Time:	What Should I Read?
--30 minute lesson --Folktales --Music & Dancing --Adulting Vocation stations (salesclerk, interview skills & online forms)	--Informational books --Superhero & Action stories --Fantasy and Science Fiction Stories --Graphic Novels --Ebooks (EPIC!) --Audiobooks --Tumblebooks (SC DISCUS) --Storyline Online --Real true stories

Teen Story and Activities



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Technology Fun!

QuiverVision 3D Augmented Coloring

-Autistic Gaming Initiative website



--Trivia Games
--Legos, Code.org and Ozobots (builds sequential thinking)

Group Activites:

--Book Club
--Pi Day (Circles with Compass)
--Board & Card Games
--Makerspace Salt Art



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