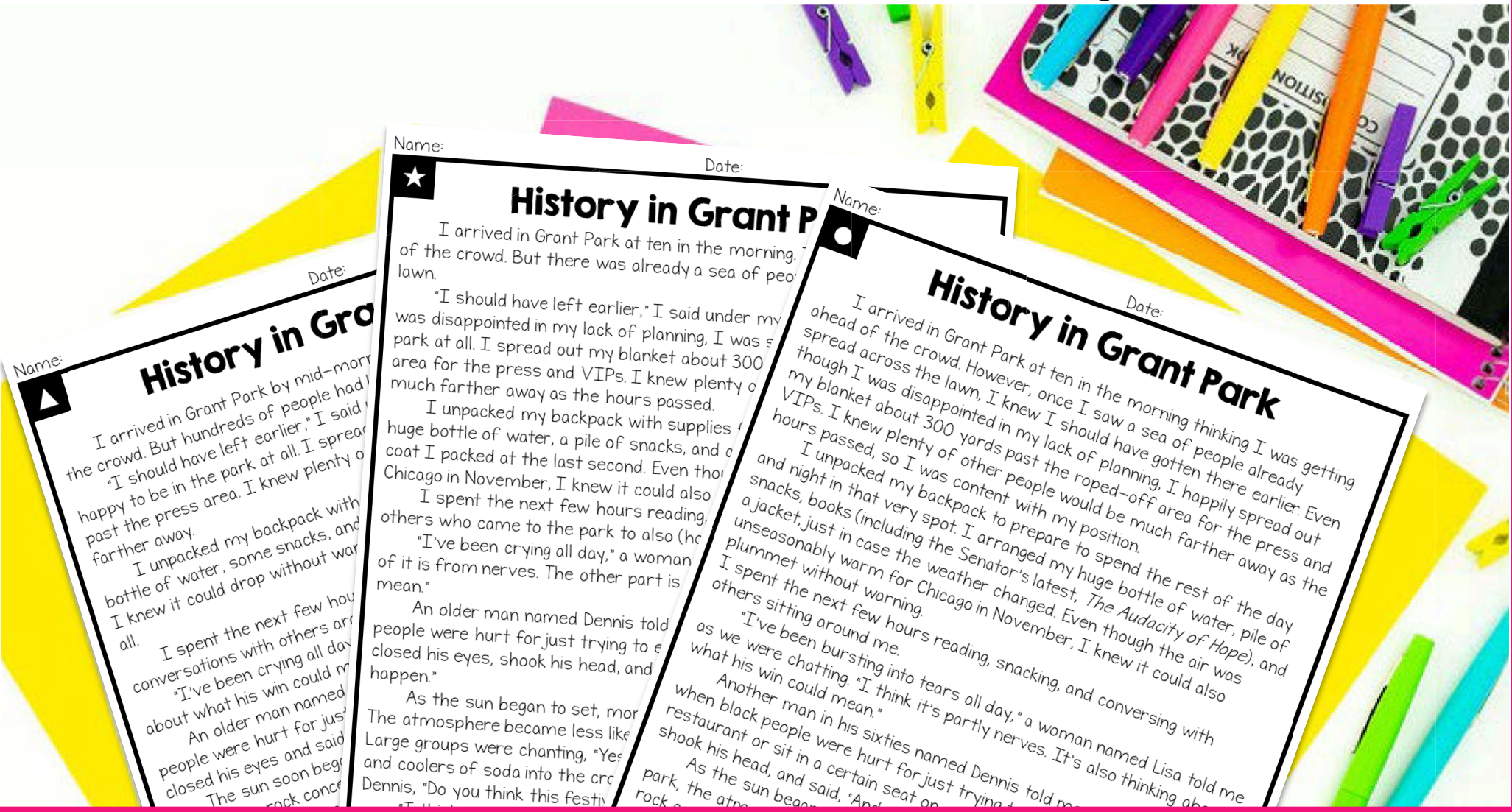


# Differentiated Reading Passages

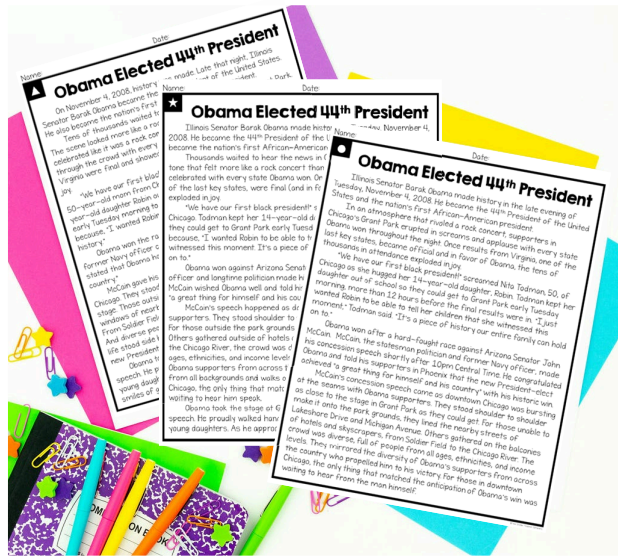
## FIRSTHAND VS SECONDHAND

Same Text, 3 Different Reading Levels



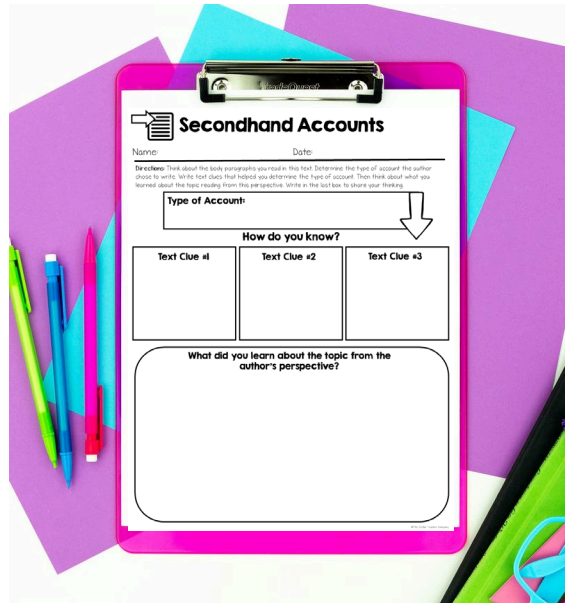
# WHAT'S INCLUDED?

This resources includes differentiated reading passages, skill-based graphic organizers, and comprehension passages based on the passages.



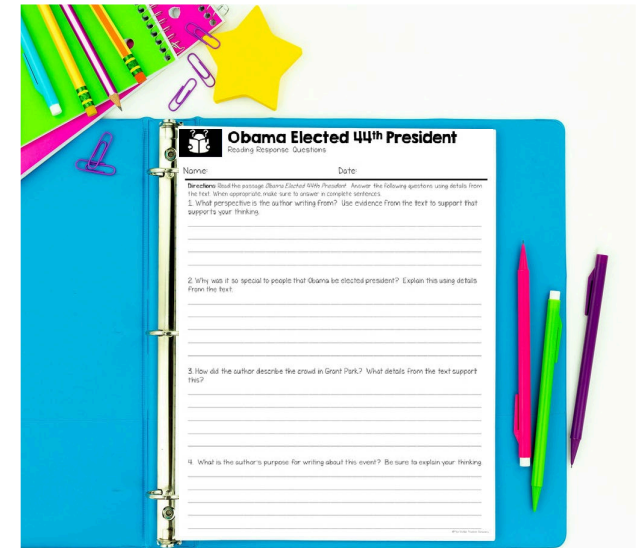
## 3 Sets of Differentiated Reading Passages

Each set includes the same text written at three different levels for a total of 9 passages.



## Graphic Organizer

Each text has a graphic organizer students can use in response to that story, OR, it can be used with any text to practice the same skill.



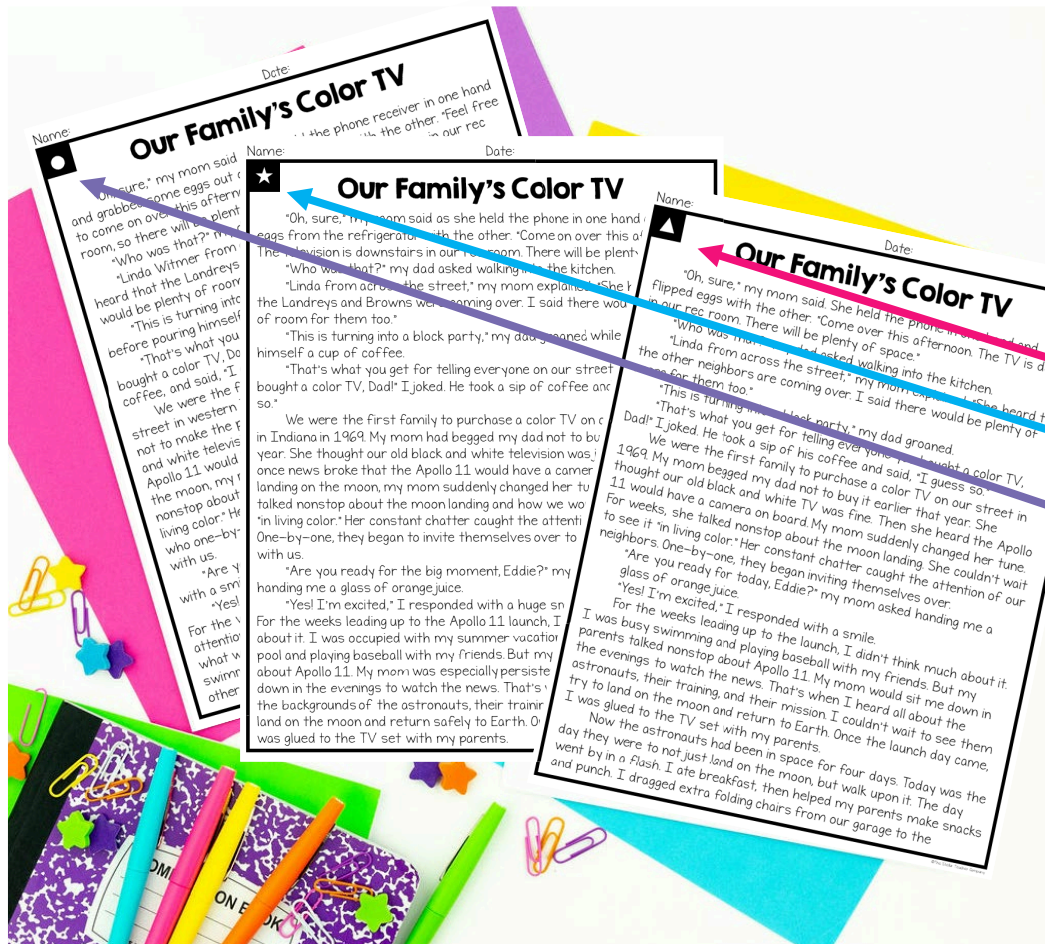
## Reading Response Questions

Each text also includes a set of reading response questions that could be answered using any level of passages, so it doesn't matter if your students are reading level A, B, or C, the answer to the questions will still be the same.

**\* Digital versions are included for all templates. \***

# EASY TO DIFFERENTIATE

Each text is written at three different levels. You can select the level that is best for your entire class, or you can let students choose the level they want to read. This makes discussing the same text whole group so much easier.



Each text is written at 3 different levels to make it easy to differentiate.

- ▲ Level A: 420L - 610L
- ★ Level B: 6:10L - 810L
- Level C: 810L - 1100L

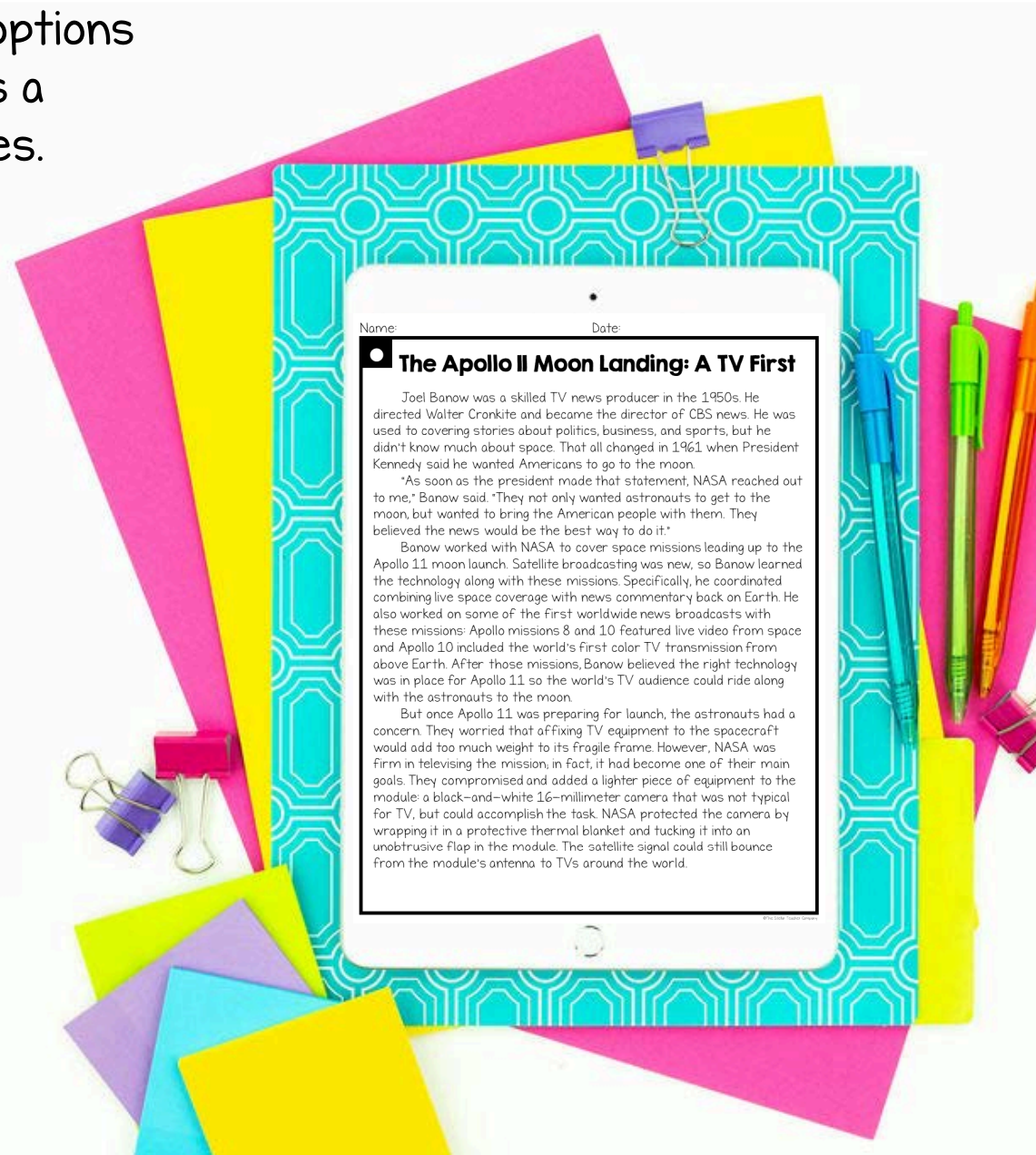
\* Digital versions are included for all passages and response pages.\*

# Includes Digital Versions

I love to provide both print and digital options in my resources. This resource includes a digital version created using Google Slides.

In addition to the print version, you get a digital version created using Google Slides for all the passages, response pages, and graphic organizers.

Rest assured, you can use this resource in both face-to-face and virtual classrooms.



# A LOOK INSIDE... Text #1

Passage A - Level 420L - 610L

Passage B - Level 610L - 810L

Passage C - Level 810L - 110L

When I looked up again, the screen said BREAKING NEWS. For the first time, the crowd was quiet. Then the anchor said, "Barack Obama will become the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States."

Downtown Chicago exploded in a scream of joy. I hugged both Lisa and Dennis. We were strangers that morning. But now we were connected in a moment of history. The party didn't stop for the next ninety minutes. Then the crowd was pushed again by the man of the hour. The

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 "If the place where I was standing was any other place, I would have been crushed."

## History in Grant Park

I arrived in Grant Park by mid-morning. I thought I was ahead of the crowd. But hundreds of people had beat me there.

"I should have left earlier," I said under my breath. But I was still happy to be in the park at all. I spread out my blanket about 300 yards past the press area. I knew plenty of others would end up much farther away.

I unpacked my backpack with my supplies for the day. I had a bottle of water, some snacks, and a coat. Even though the air was warm, I knew it could drop without warning. It was Chicago in November after all.

I spent the next few hours reading and snacking. Then I struck up conversations with others around me.

"I've been crying all day," a woman named Lisa said. "I'm so excited about what his win could mean."

An older man named Dennis told me, "I remember when black people were hurt for just trying to sit at the front of a bus." Then he closed his eyes and said, "And now, look at what might happen."

The sun soon began to set. The scene became less like a picnic and more like a rock concert. Groups chanted, "Yes we can!" as they entered the park. Others sang and danced. I looked down at my watch. It was twelve hours. But it felt like

Dennis, "Do you think this is the end of the world?"

"I think it will last for a long time."

Then I noticed a huge screen next to the stage. It was showing the election results. As states started to report, I found myself standing shoulder to shoulder with thousands more who were

"Are you still crying?"

"Not now," she said. "I looked down at my watch. It was twelve hours. But it felt like

## History in Grant Park

Reading Response Questions

Directions: Read the passage *History in Grant Park*. Answer the following questions using details from the text. When appropriate, make sure to answer in complete sentences.

1. What perspective is the author writing from? Use evidence from the text to help you determine the type of account.

2. How would you describe the emotions of people in Grant Park? Use examples from the text to support your answer.

3. Why did so many people want to be at Grant Park to hear the election results? Explain your thinking using evidence from the text.

4. Why do you think the author chose to write this text? Explain your thinking.

Soon, the event organizers increased the volume on the jumbo TV. States were reporting their results, with far more blue checkmarks than red. With every blue checkmark that appeared on the screen, the crowd erupted in more cheers and chants. As the park continued to fill, I realized I was standing shoulder to shoulder with both Lisa and Dennis...with thousands more behind us.

"Are you still crying?" I asked Lisa with a wink.

"Not now," she said. "I looked down at my watch. It was twelve hours. But it felt like

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## History in Grant Park

I arrived in Grant Park at ten in the morning. I thought I was ahead of the crowd. But there was already a sea of people spread across the lawn.

"I should have left earlier," I said under my breath. Even though I was disappointed in my lack of planning, I was still happy to be in the park at all. I spread out my blanket about 300 yards past the roped-off area for the press and VIPs. I knew plenty of other people would be much farther away as the hours passed.

I unpacked my backpack with supplies for the rest of the day: a huge bottle of water, a pile of snacks, and a few books. I also unfolded a coat I packed at the last second. Even though the air was quite warm for Chicago in November, I knew it could also drop without warning.

I spent the next few hours reading, snacking, and talking with others who came to the park to also (hopefully) be a part of history.

"I've been crying all day," a woman named Lisa told me. "I think part of it is from nerves. The other part is excited about what his win could mean."

An older man named Dennis told me, "I remember when black people were hurt for just trying to eat in a certain restaurant." Then he closed his eyes, shook his head, and said, "And now, look at what might

happen."

The sun began to set, more people made their way to the park. The atmosphere became less like a picnic, and more like a rock concert. Groups were chanting, "Yes we can!" while carrying boxes of pizza and bottles of soda into the crowd. I wondered out loud to Lisa and

"Do you think this festive attitude will last all night?"

"I think it will last the next four years!" Dennis shouted back.

Finally, I packed up my books, coat, and remaining snacks before the event. As I did, a huge screen next to the stage fired on with the election coverage. Before any results were in, the Chicago skyline enhanced the scene. Several skyscrapers arranged their lights to spell out "USA, VOTE 2008."

I packed up my books, coat, and remaining snacks before taking to my feet. As I stood, a huge screen next to the stage illuminated to show national news coverage. Before any results were in, the Chicago skyline enhanced the ambiance: several skyscrapers configured their lights to spell out "USA" and "VOTE 2008."

Finally, event organizers increased the volume on the jumbo TV to reveal the first results were in. Not long after, more states reported

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## History in Grant Park

I arrived in Grant Park at ten in the morning thinking I was getting ahead of the crowd. However, once I saw a sea of people already spread across the lawn, I knew I should have gotten there earlier. Even though I was disappointed in my lack of planning, I happily spread out my blanket about 300 yards past the roped-off area for the press and VIPs. I knew plenty of other people would be much farther away as the hours passed, so I was content with my position.

I unpacked my backpack to prepare to spend the rest of the day and night in that very spot. I arranged my huge bottle of water, pile of snacks, books (including the Senator's latest, *The Audacity of Hope*), and a jacket, just in case the weather changed. Even though the air was unseasonably warm for Chicago in November, I knew it could also plummet without warning.

I spent the next few hours reading, snacking, and conversing with others sitting around me.

"I've been bursting into tears all day," a woman named Lisa told me as we were chatting. "I think it's partly nerves. It's also thinking about what his win could mean."

Another man in his sixties named Dennis told me, "I remember when black people were hurt for just trying to eat in a certain

restaurant. Then he closed his eyes, shook his head, and said, "And now, look at what might

happen."

The sun began to set, more people made their way to the park. The atmosphere became less like a picnic, and more like a rock concert. Groups were chanting, "Yes we can!" while carrying boxes of pizza and bottles of soda into the crowd. I wondered out loud to Lisa and

"Do you think this festive attitude will last all night?"

"I think it will last the next four years!" Dennis shouted back.

## Firsthand Accounts

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Think about the body paragraphs you read in this text. Determine the type of account the author chose to write. Write text clues that helped you determine the type of account. Then think about what you learned about the topic reading from this perspective. Write in the last box to share your thinking.

Type of Account:

How do you know?

Text Clue #1

Text Clue #2

Text Clue #3

What did you learn about the topic from the author's perspective?

The Response Sheet and Graphic Organizer work with ALL 3 Passages!



# A LOOK INSIDE... Text #2

## Passage A - Level 420L - 610L

sight of their new President. Many waved American flags and wept. Others hugged strangers next to them.

Once the crowd hushed, Obama delivered comments the crowd could already feel. He stated, "Change has come to America." He proved this by speaking about a voter in Atlanta, 106-year-old Ann Nixon Cooper was the daughter of slaves. She faced an America where she could not vote because of her race and gender. Obama said that in her lifetime, "a

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Obama Elected 44<sup>th</sup> President**

On November 4, 2008, history was made. Late that night, Illinois Senator Barack Obama became the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. He also became the nation's first African-American president.

Tens of thousands waited to hear the news in Chicago's Grant Park. The scene looked more like a rock concert than a voter rally. They celebrated like it was a rock concert too. Screams and cheers shot through the crowd with every state Obama won. Once the results from Virginia were final and showed Obama had won, supporters exploded in joy.

"We have our first black president!" screamed Nita Todman. The 50-year-old mom from Chicago held back tears. Todman kept her 14-year-old daughter Robin out of school that day. They arrived at the park early Tuesday morning to claim a spot at the park. She said she did it because, "I wanted Robin to be able to tell her children about this. It's history."

Obama won the race against Arizona Senator John McCain. The former Navy officer congratulated Obama in a speech at 10pm. McCain stated that Obama had achieved "a great thing for himself and his country."

McCain gave his speech... Obama took the stage at Grant Park about an hour after McCain's concession speech. He proudly walked hand in hand with his wife, Michelle, and their young daughters. As he smiled of gratitude. The crowd

## Passage B - Level 610L - 810L

gratitude. While the crowd took in the sight of their new President, they became emotional. Many waved handheld flags with tears streaming down their faces. Others hugged those around them, even if they were strangers.

Once the crowd hushed, Obama delivered remarks that the crowd already felt. He stated, "Change has come to America." He proved this point by speaking of a voter in Atlanta, 106-year-old Ann Nixon Cooper was born in 1902. She could not vote because of her race and gender. A world was different in her lifetime, "a

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Obama Elected 44<sup>th</sup> President**

Illinois Senator Barack Obama made history on Tuesday, November 4, 2008. He became the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. He also became the nation's first African-American president.

Thousands waited to hear the news in Chicago's Grant Park. With a tone that felt more like a rock concert than a voting party, supporters celebrated with every state Obama won. Once results from Virginia, one of the last key states, were final (and in favor of Obama), the crowd exploded in joy.

"We have our first black president!" screamed Nita Todman, 50, of Chicago. Todman kept her 14-year-old daughter Robin out of school so they could get to Grant Park early Tuesday morning. She said she did it because, "I wanted Robin to be able to tell her children that she witnessed this moment. It's a piece of history our entire family can hold on to."

Obama won against Arizona Senator John McCain. The former Navy officer and longtime politician made his concession speech at 10pm. McCain wished Obama well and told his supporters that he had achieved "a great thing for himself and his country" with his historic win.

McCain's speech happened as downtown Chicago burst with Obama supporters. They stood shoulder to shoulder to be near the park stage. Outside the park grounds, they lined the nearby streets, gathered outside of hotels and skyscrapers. From Soldier Field to the Chicago River, the crowd was diverse. It was full of people of all ethnicities, and income levels. They reflected the diversity of supporters from across the country. Voters for Obama came from all backgrounds and walks of life. And for those in downtown Chicago, the only thing that matched the hope of Obama's win was to hear him speak.

Obama took the stage at Grant Park about an hour after McCain's concession speech. He proudly walked hand in hand with his wife, Michelle, and their young daughters. As he approached the crowd, he couldn't hide his

## Passage C - Level 810L - 110L

Obama emerged onstage at Grant Park a little under an hour after McCain's concession. Walking hand in hand with his wife, Michelle, and their young daughters, he couldn't hold back smiles of gratitude and appreciation. As the crowd saw the new President-elect in person, they turned from energetic to emotional. Many waved handheld flags with tears streaming down their faces. Others hugged those around them, even if they were strangers before meeting in the park that night.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Obama Elected 44<sup>th</sup> President**

Illinois Senator Barack Obama made history in the late evening of Tuesday, November 4, 2008. He became the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States and the nation's first African-American president.

In an atmosphere that rivaled a rock concert, supporters in Chicago's Grant Park erupted in screams and applause with every state Obama won throughout the night. Once results from Virginia, one of the last key states, became official and in favor of Obama, the tens of thousands in attendance exploded in joy.

"We have our first black president!" screamed Nita Todman, 50, of Chicago as she hugged her 14-year-old daughter, Robin. Todman kept her daughter out of school so they could get to Grant Park early Tuesday morning, more than 12 hours before the final results were in. "I just wanted Robin to be able to tell her children that she witnessed this moment," Todman said. "It's a piece of history our entire family can hold on to."

Obama won after a hard-fought race against Arizona Senator John McCain. McCain, the statesman politician and former Navy officer, made his concession speech shortly after 10pm Central Time. He congratulated Obama and told his supporters in Phoenix that the new President-elect achieved "a great thing for himself and his country" with his historic win.

McCain gave his speech... Obama took the stage at Grant Park about an hour after McCain's concession speech. He proudly walked hand in hand with his wife, Michelle, and their young daughters. As he approached the crowd, he couldn't hide his

**Obama Elected 44<sup>th</sup> President**  
 Reading Response Questions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read the passage *Obama Elected 44<sup>th</sup> President*. Answer the following questions using details from the text. When appropriate, make sure to answer in complete sentences.

1. What perspective is the author writing from? Use evidence from the text to support that supports your thinking.
2. Why was it so special to people that Obama be elected president? Explain this using details from the text.
3. How did the author describe the crowd in Grant Park? What details from the text support this?
4. What is the author's purpose for writing about this event? Be sure to explain your thinking.

**Secondhand Accounts**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Think about the body paragraphs you read in this text. Determine the type of account the author chose to write. Write text clues that helped you determine the type of account. Then think about what you learned about the topic reading from this perspective. Write in the last box to share your thinking.

Type of Account:		
↓		
How do you know?		
Text Clue #1	Text Clue #2	Text Clue #3
<p><b>What did you learn about the topic from the author's perspective?</b></p>		

The Response Sheet and Graphic Organizer work with ALL 3 Passages!

# A LOOK INSIDE... Text #3

## Passage A - Level 420L - 610L

"I was very focused on this," Banow said. "I had to fly my mission the same way the astronauts were flying theirs."

Apollo 11 lifted off from Kennedy Space Center on July 16, 1969. Banow televised the live in 33 countries. Around 25 million viewers watched in just the United States. But Banow's work was not over. It would take a few more days before the moon landing. In the meantime, he arranged all the news coverage. He compared it to conducting an orchestra.

Apollo 11 people went into the centers, into the d... The Walter Cr... his glasses has chan... cheered. "I h... about m... Look proud, su... off with

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Apollo 11 Moon Landing: A TV First

Joel Banow was a TV news producer in the 1950s. He directed Walter Cronkite. He was also the director of CBS news. He covered many stories about business and politics. He even covered stories about sports. But he didn't know much about space. That all changed in 1961. That's when President Kennedy said he wanted Americans to go to the moon.

"As soon as the president said that, NASA reached out to me," Banow said. "They wanted astronauts to get to the moon. And they wanted Americans to go with them. They thought the news would be the best way."

Banow worked with NASA from then on. They covered space missions leading up to the Apollo 11 moon launch. Satellites were new, so Banow learned about them along with these missions. He worked on combining live pictures from space with news reporting back on Earth. He also worked on some of the first worldwide news broadcasts. Apollo missions 8 and 10 showed live space videos. Apollo 10 had the world's first color TV coverage from space. After those missions, Banow was ready for Apollo 11. He could not wait for the world's TV viewers to ride along to the moon.

But when Apollo 11 was on its way to launch, the astronauts got worried. They thought a TV signal could still bounce off the moon. NASA had to plan main goals. They decided to use a 16-millimeter film camera. To protect it, NASA wrapped it in a flap of aluminum. When launch day came, the Americans were ready to go. It was serious. His one goal was to ride.



### Our Family's Color TV

Reading Response Questions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read the passage *Our Family's Color TV*. Answer the following questions using details from the text. When appropriate, make sure to answer in complete sentences.

1. What perspective is the author sharing of this event? Use examples from the text.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why were neighbors excited to come to the author's house? Use examples from the text.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do you think the author wrote this text?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Based on what you read, how would you feel watching the moon landing in 1969? Explain your thinking.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Passage B - Level 610L - 810L

Now the astronauts had been in space for four days. They were preparing to not just land on the moon, but step foot upon it. The rest of the day went by in a flash. After eating breakfast, I helped my parents make snacks and punch. Then I dragged extra folding chairs from our garage to the basement. By the time we were done setting up the rec room, cleaning, and arranging the food, the doorbell rang with the first of the neighbors. Soon, the entire rec room was full of people who chatted away as the evening news came on.

As time went on, I heard a pin drop on the surface of the moon. No one made a sound. Neil Armstrong said, "That's one small step for man... one giant leap for mankind." "Perfect!" "Can you hear me now, America?" The kids between my hands and my mom's hands were cheering.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Our Family's Color TV

"Oh, sure," my mom said as she held the phone in one hand and got eggs from the refrigerator with the other. "Come on over this afternoon. The television is downstairs in our rec room. There will be plenty of space."

"Who was that?" my dad asked walking into the kitchen. "Linda from across the street," my mom explained. "She heard that the Landreys and Browns were coming over. I said there would be plenty of room for them too."

"This is turning into a block party," my dad groaned while pouring himself a cup of coffee.

"That's what you get for telling everyone on our street that you bought a color TV, Dad!" I joked. He took a sip of coffee and said, "I guess so."

We were the first family to purchase a color TV on our small street in Indiana in 1969. My mom had begged my dad not to buy it earlier that year. She thought our old black and white television was just fine. However, once news broke that the Apollo 11 would have a camera to capture its landing on the moon, my mom suddenly changed her tune. For weeks, she talked nonstop about the moon landing and how we would be able to see it "in living color." Her constant chatter caught the attention of our neighbors. One-by-one, they began to invite themselves over to watch the moment

Are you ready for the big moment, Eddie?" my mom asked while handing me a glass of orange juice. "I'm excited," I responded with a huge smile. "I didn't think much of it weeks leading up to the Apollo 11 launch, I didn't think much of it. I was occupied with my summer vacation swimming at the lake and playing baseball with my friends. But my parents talked nonstop about Apollo 11. My mom was especially persistent. She would sit me down in the evenings to watch the news. That's when I heard all about the backgrounds of the astronauts, their training, and their mission to the moon and return safely to Earth. Once the launch day came, I sat in the rec room with my parents.

The Response Sheet and Graphic Organizer work with ALL 3 Passages!

## Passage C - Level 810L - 110L

down in the evenings to watch the news, and I learned all about the backgrounds of the astronauts, their training, and their historic mission to land on the moon and return safely to Earth. Once the launch day came, I was glued to the TV set with my parents.

Now the astronauts had been in space for four days and were preparing to not just land on the moon, but step foot upon it. The rest of the day went by in a flash. After eating breakfast, I helped my parents make snacks and punch.

From our garage to the basement, I cleaned and arranged the food. The doorbell rang with the first of the neighbors. Soon, the entire rec room was full of people who chatted away as the evening news came on.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Our Family's Color TV

"Oh, sure," my mom said as she held the phone receiver in one hand and grabbed some eggs out of the refrigerator with the other. "Feel free to come on over this afternoon. The television is downstairs in our rec room, so there will be plenty of space."

"Who was that?" my dad asked walking into the kitchen. "Linda Witmer from across the street," my mom explained. "She heard that the Landreys and Browns were coming over. I said there would be plenty of room for them too."

"This is turning into a neighborhood block party," my dad groaned before pouring himself a cup of coffee.

"That's what you get for telling everyone on our street that you bought a color TV, Dad!" I joked. He shrugged, took a sip of his black coffee, and said, "I guess so."

We were the first family to purchase a color TV on our small street in western Indiana in 1969. My mom had pleaded with my dad not to make the purchase earlier that year. She thought the old black and white television we had was just fine, but once news broke that the Apollo 11 would be outfitted with a camera to capture its touchdown on the moon, my mom suddenly changed her tune. For weeks, she talked nonstop about the moon landing and how we would be able to see it "in

living color." Her constant chatter caught the attention of our neighbors. One-by-one, they began to invite themselves over to watch the moment. My mom asked me to sit on the floor with her. She didn't pay much attention to the importance of my summer vacation. My friends like most of them, she would sit me

### Facts and Opinions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read the passage. Jot down facts and opinions the author shares, and then combine them to write a summary of what you read.

Opinions

Jot down some opinions you identified from the text.

Facts

Jot down some facts you identified from the text.

Write a summary of what you read in the space below.

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