

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

GENRE SPECIFIC READING PASSAGES

Includes 6 fun and engaging reading passages & a variety of reading response activities!

The Four Leaf Clover

Morgan was worried. A big shoe department store had moved to town. Her father's shoe repair store was losing business, and now the rent was due. Morgan wanted to help, but she didn't know how... until she found a note in her shoe.

*I have a soft spot
I can spare
I've laid out.
It begins when*

"A shoemaker? With gold coins? the note into her pocket and ran to it counting the leaves of every shamrock as she said this, a dragonfly flitted green shimmer. She jumped up and sat down, panting. Beside her stood a trail appeared leading into the forest. Morgan followed the trail for just as suddenly as it had started, a babble of water nearby and red to a rushing green river. Morgan knew the current suddenly swept her unsuccessfully to grab onto a branch. Morgan closed her eyes to rest.

"A snake!" Morgan cried as she thought St. Patrick drove all the snakes to follow it or run in the forest. She disappeared into the bushes. "I must have been there for hours," she thought through the tall plants. She checked her watch. "Well now what?" sighed Morgan. She stretched through the sky.

Morgan practically flew to a shimmering pot of gold. "Let me see that pot of gold," she said. "It's yours if you can get it," said a voice. Morgan also knew she was in luck. She wrote a note. "Thank you, St. Patrick. I'll keep your gold coin safe. I'll keep your shoe store open for you. Then she began the journey home.

St. Patrick's Day Goes Green

You may think of St. Patrick's Day as a holiday for wearing green, watching for leprechauns, and celebrating an Irish guy named St. Patrick. Believe it or not, green was not always the color associated with the holiday. Not only that, St. Patrick was not Irish, was not really a saint, and may not have even been named Patrick!

Little about St. Patrick is known for sure, but historians believe that he was actually born in Britain with the name Maewyn Succat in the late 4th century. After the Romans ended their rule in Britain, the Irish came and kidnapped people. When Maewyn was 16 years old, the Irish took him into slavery. After more than ten years there, he escaped to a monastery in France. There, he became a priest and changed his name to Patricius, the Latin version of Patrick that means "father figure." He returned to Ireland to convert people from their pagan culture to Christianity. He built monasteries, churches, and schools, and there are legends that he used the three leaves of the shamrock to teach people about the Christian father, son, and holy spirit. There are also legends that he drove all the snakes out of Ireland, when in fact snakes have never lived there.

After Patrick died on March 17, 461 A.D., he was considered the patron saint of Ireland, but the Catholic church did not yet have a process to officially make him a saint. The Irish celebrated St. Patrick on the anniversary of his death for hundreds of years. On 1631, the Church officially declared March 17 Feast Day in his honor. People took a break from the rules of Lent to dance and feast.

In 1903, it became Ireland's National Holiday, although many of the traditions we know today began in the United States. Irish soldiers and immigrants celebrated St. Patrick's Day as a day of Irish pride. The first holiday parade in Boston was held in 1737. Today, New York's St. Patrick's Day parade is the largest parade in the U.S., with over 3 million people coming to watch Irish step-dancing, listen to Celtic music, and eat traditional food like corned beef and cabbage. And nearly everyone there wears green. Some say this tradition is because leprechauns, the tiny tricksters of Irish folklore, will pinch you if you do not wear green. However, the holiday was once associated with blue, a color in the original Irish flag. After the Irish wore green to stand out from the British during the Irish Rebellion of 1798, it replaced blue as the color of Irish pride worn on St. Patrick's Day. Now the color is so important to the holiday that the city of Chicago dyes its river green. In 1962, city workers had to use green vegetable dye to detect illegal waste in the river and decided to save it for the holiday. Since then, the green river has become an annual tradition.

St. Patrick's Day Talent Show

(page 1 of 2)

decorated with a banner that reads O'Malley's Middle down.

if for the St. Patrick's Day talent show tomorrow I've down.

ng is going to blow everyone away.

nging all week. I hope I don't choke!

even care who wins the trophy. I'm just you tomorrow!

and walk off stage right. Leprechaun enters

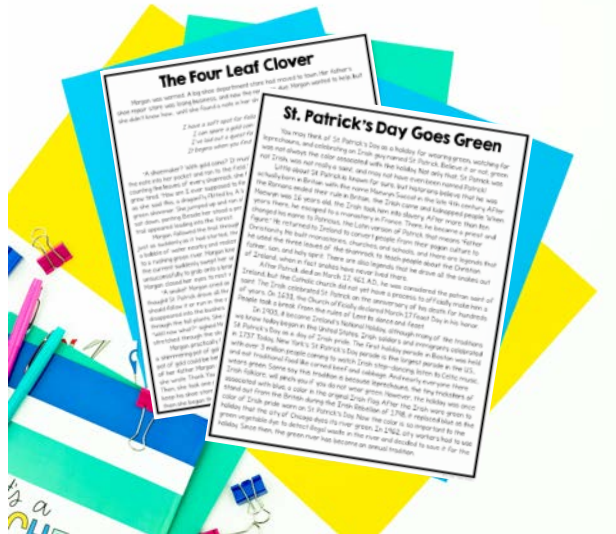
each or looked in a case) Well, isn't that my collection, truth be told. [Tries to I must have it in my hands to hold... ld.

School St. Patrick's Day Talent case put your hands together

text up, lend your ear to

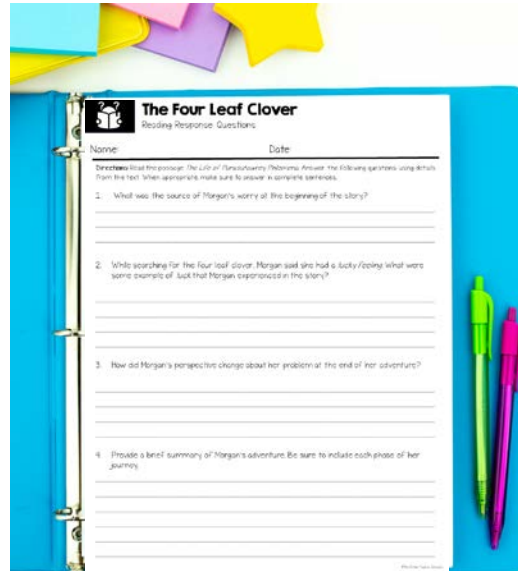
WHAT'S INCLUDED?

This resource includes 6 reading passages, text-based comprehension questions for each passage, a skill-based graphic organizer for each passage, AND a variety of reading response activities.

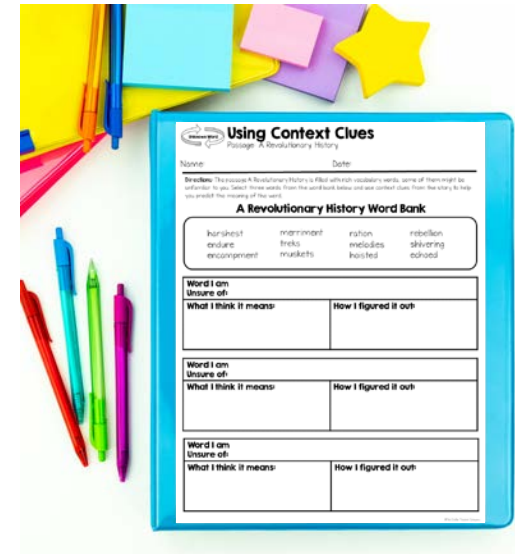


Genres Included:

Informational
Realistic Fiction
Drama
Fairy Tale
Adventure
Historical Fiction



Each passage includes a response sheet with four text-based comprehension questions.



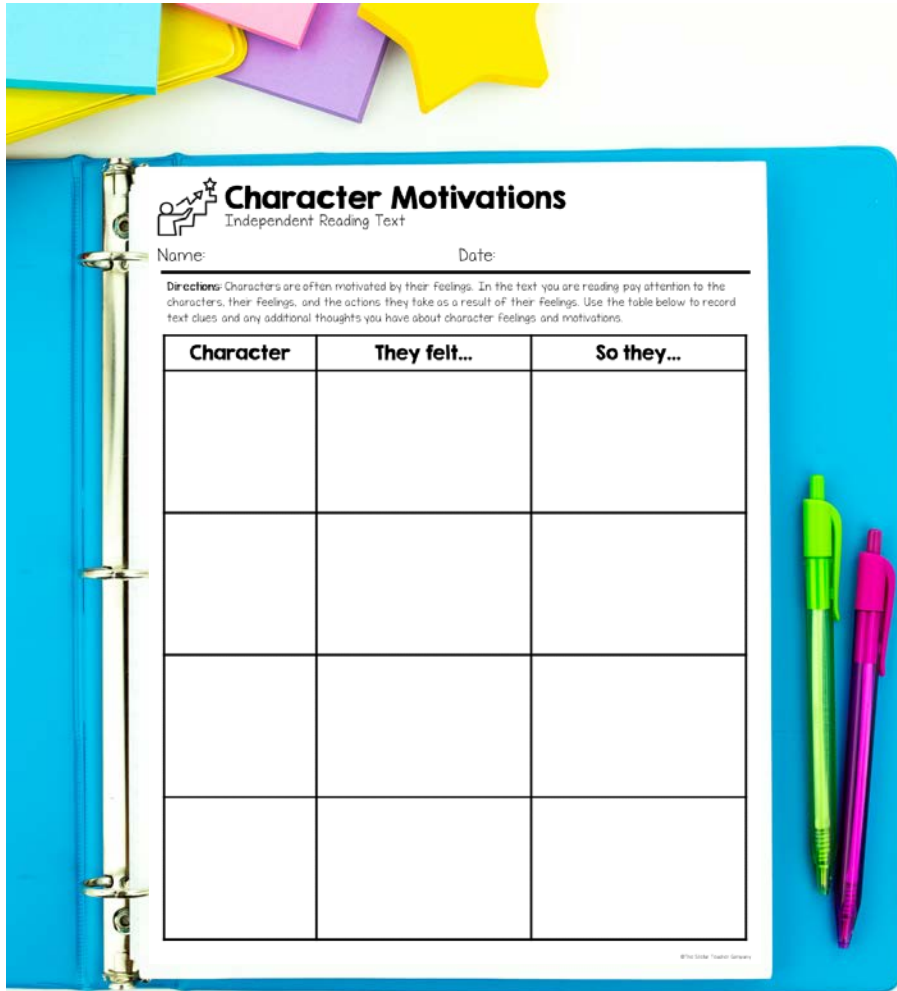
Each passage includes a graphic organizer to focus on a specific skill:

Context Clues
Theme
Synthesize
Story Mountain/Plot
Summarize
Key Details

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

IN ADDITION...

Each graphic organizer also includes a generic template that students can apply to their independent reading text. So after they have fun using that skill with the holiday passages, they can continue to practice that skill in their own texts.



Character Motivations
Independent Reading Text

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Characters are often motivated by their feelings. In the text you are reading pay attention to the characters, their feelings, and the actions they take as a result of their feelings. Use the table below to record text clues and any additional thoughts you have about character feelings and motivations.

Character	They felt...	So they...

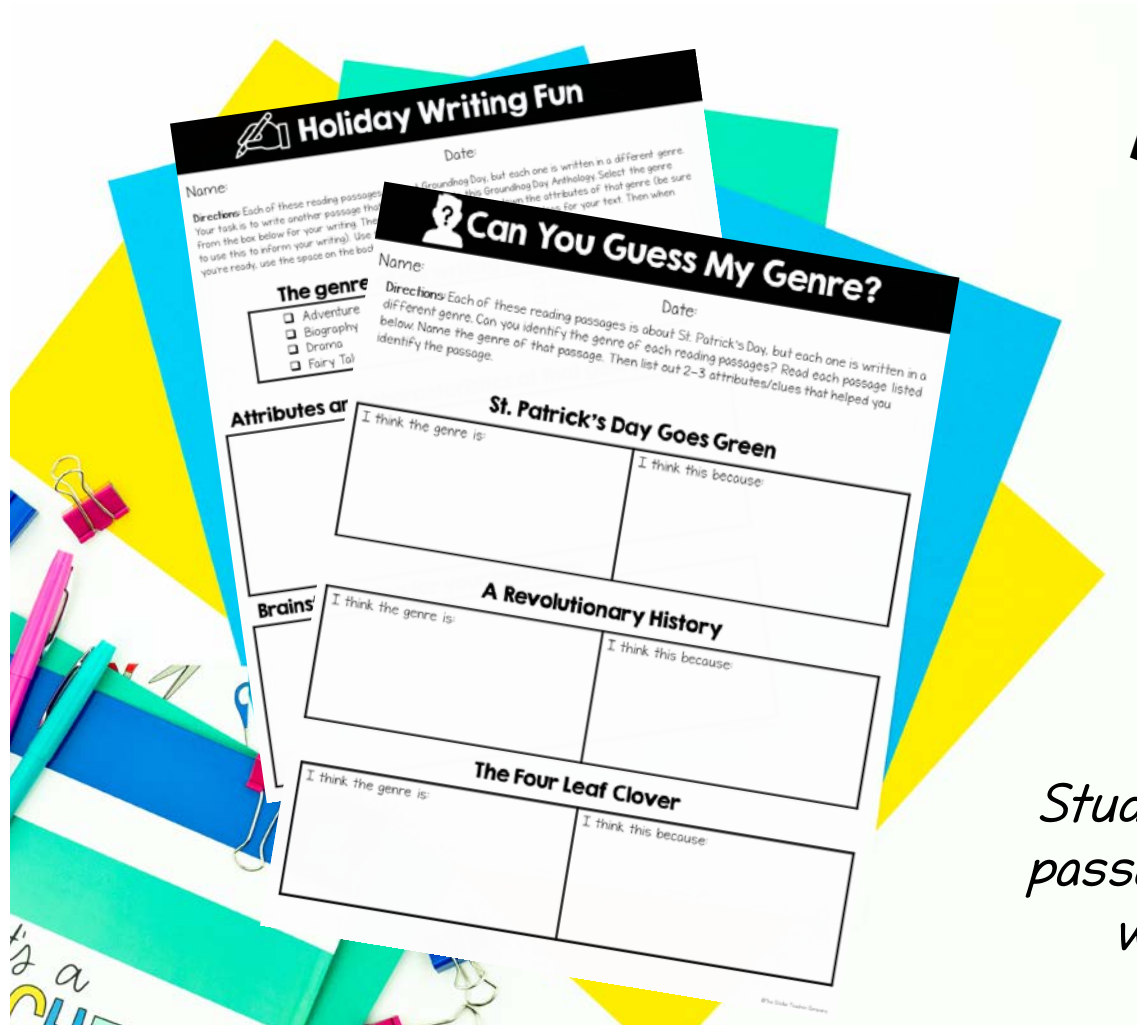
This is what it could look like in your classroom:

- **Step 1:** Students read holiday reading passage
- **Step 2:** Students answer comprehension questions
- **Step 3:** Students use graphic organizer to organize their thinking about the holiday passage
- **Step 4:** Students use the generic graphic organizer to help transfer that skill to their independent reading.

Digital versions are included for all templates.

THERE'S MORE...

In addition to the reading passages, comp questions, and graphic organizer there is also a variety of fun and engaging student response activities to help your students extend their thinking and get creative with how they respond to the text.



Additional Response Activities:

- Guess My Genre
- Holiday Writing Fun
- Design a Book Cover
- My Holiday Comic
- Social Media Profile

Students will have so much fun with the passages and activities in this resource, it won't even feel like work to them.

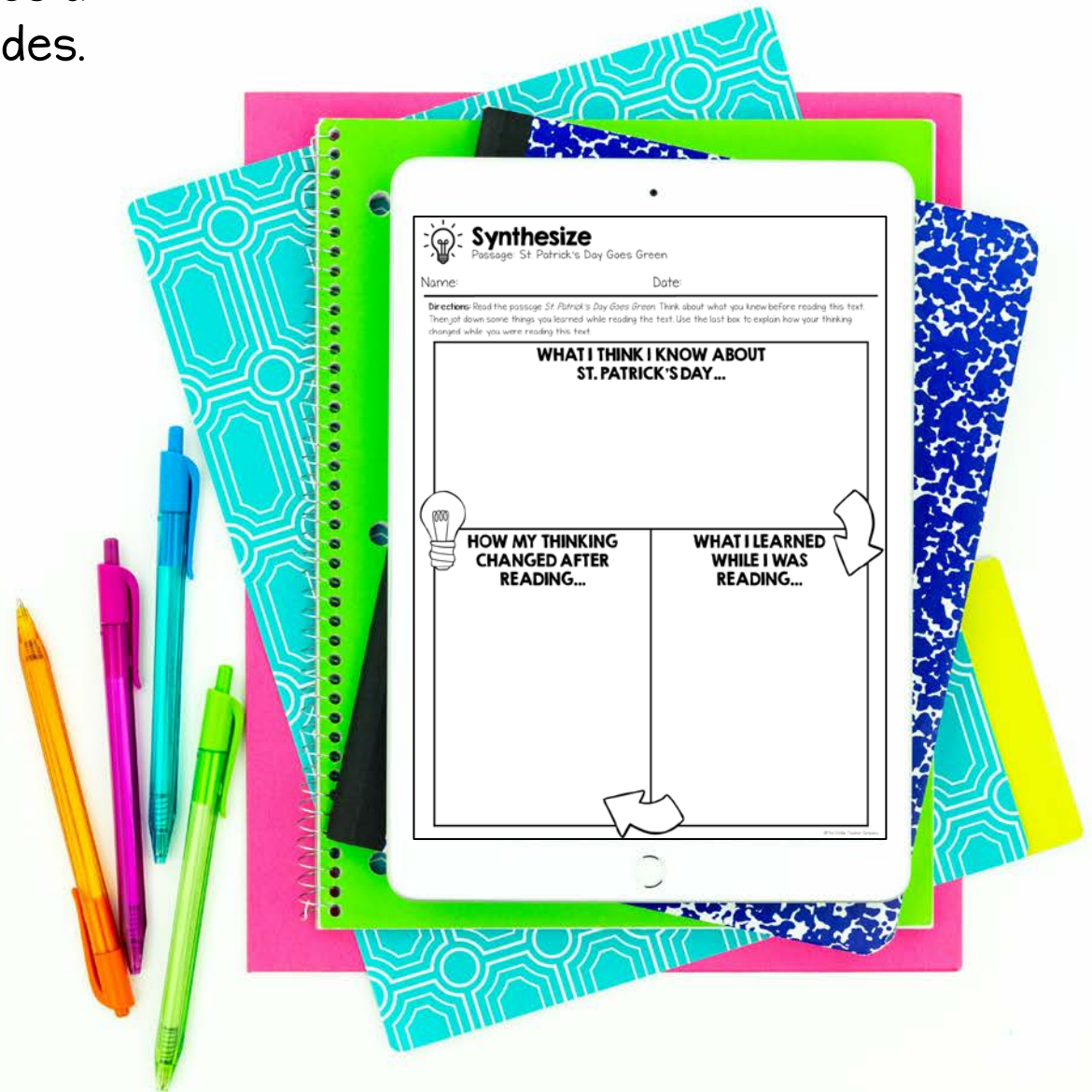
Digital versions are included for all templates.

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 the reading passages and ALL response templates available in Google Slides (text boxes already added).

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



A LOOK INSIDE...

St. Patrick's Day Talent Show

(page 1 of 2)

Scene 1

Setting: Students on stage decorated with a banner that reads O'Malley's Middle School Talent Show.

Taylor: *[stretching]* I can't wait for the St. Patrick's Day talent show tomorrow! I've finally got all my dance moves down.

Andrew: Just wait, my violin playing is going to blow everyone away.

Melanie: I've been working on my singing all week. I hope I don't choke!

Taylor: I'm sure you'll do great! I don't even care who wins the trophy, I'm just excited to see everyone perform. See you tomorrow!

[Students put on their backpacks, wave, and walk off stage right. Leprechaun enters from left stage.]

Leprechaun: *[eyeing trophy, which is out of reach or locked in a case]* Well, isn't that the prettiest bit of gold? It would look nice in my collection, truth be told. *[Tries to jump and reach trophy or open case but fails.]* I must have it in my hands to hold. I shall return tomorrow before the sun grows cold.

St. Patrick's Day Talent Show

Reading Response Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read the passage *St. Patrick's Day Talent Show*. Answer the following questions using details from the text. When appropriate, make sure to answer in complete sentences.

- How many scenes are in this play? _____
- Who are the characters in this play? _____
- What is an example of a stage direction in this play? _____
- _____
- What are some of the puns that the principal uses as the MC of the talent show? _____


Identify Key Details

Passage: St. Patrick's Day Talent Show


Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read the passage *St. Patrick's Day Talent Show*. In this text, the author shares a story about a school-wide talent show. In the space below, jot down key details that took place in each scene. Then think about what extra details we learned from the stage directions. Share your favorite part of the end.

Key Details/Events in Scene 1:

 _____

Key Details/Events in Scene 2:

 _____

Key Details/Events We Learn From Stage Directions:

Scene 2

Principal: Welcome to the Show! May the luck of the Irish be with you for our student performers!

[Taylor comes center stage.]

Principal: Wow, Taylor. The talent show is off to a great start. Andrew.

The Four Leaf Clover

Morgan was worried. A big shoe department store had moved to town. Her father's shoe repair store was losing business, and now the rent was due. Morgan wanted to help, but she didn't know how... until she found a note in her shoe.

*I have a soft spot for fellow makers of shoes.
I can spare a gold coin if you come over.
I've laid out a quest for you if you choose.
It begins when you find the four-leaf-clover.*

"A shoemaker? With gold coins? It must be a leprechaun!" Morgan shouted. She tucked the note into her pocket and ran to the field. Morgan got down on her hands and knees, counting the leaves of every shamrock she found. Soon, her wrists felt sore and her eyes grew tired. "How am I ever supposed to find the four-leaf-clover? This field is huge!" Just as she said this, a dragonfly flitted by. A lucky feeling came over Morgan as she watched its green shimmer. She jumped up and ran after it. When the dragonfly finally landed, Morgan sat down, panting. Beside her stood a proud four-leaf-clover. She plucked it, and as she did, a trail appeared leading into the forest.

Morgan followed the trail through the dark forest, stumbling over rocks and roots. Then, just as suddenly as it had started, the trail ended. "Now what?" Morgan wondered. She heard a bobble of water nearby and realized how thirsty she had become. She followed the sound to a rushing green river. Morgan knew what she needed to do. She started wading across, but the current suddenly swept her up and carried her downstream. Morgan gasped, trying unsuccessfully to grab onto a branch or swim across. Finally, the river washed her onto shore. Morgan closed her eyes to rest when she heard a rustle in the leaves.

"A snake!" Morgan cried as the green scales slithered past. "What are you doing here? I thought St. Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland!" Morgan wasn't sure whether she should follow it or run in the opposite direction. It flicked its tongue at Morgan, then disappeared into the bushes. "Wait!" Morgan ran after the snake, trying to keep sight of it through the tall plants. She chased it all the way out of the forest, and then, it was gone. "Well now what?" sighed Morgan. When she looked up, she found her answer. A rainbow stretched through the sky.

Morgan practically flew across the field until to the bottom of the rainbow. There stood a shimmering pot of gold. "Leprechaun?" Morgan called out, but no one answered. The whole pot of gold could be hers if she wanted it. She pulled the note out of her pocket and thought of her father. Morgan also had a soft spot for makers of shoes. On the bottom of the note, she wrote Thank You. She folded it around the four-leaf-clover and tucked it into the pot. Then, she took one gold coin from the pile. It would be enough for her father to pay rent and keep his shoe store open for a while longer. Morgan smiled as she looked up at the rainbow, then she began the journey home.

The Four Leaf Clover

Reading Response Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read the passage *The Life of Funnelweave Philomena*. Answer the following questions using details from the text. When appropriate, make sure to answer in complete sentences.

- What was the source of Morgan's worry at the beginning of the story? _____
- While searching for the four leaf clover, Morgan said she had a *lucky feeling*. What were some examples of *luck* that Morgan experienced in the story? _____
- How did Morgan's perspective change about her problem at the end of her adventure? _____
- Provide a brief summary of Morgan's adventure. Be sure to include each phase of her journey. _____

Identifying Theme

Passage: The Four Leaf Clover

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Most stories, regardless of the genre, have a theme. The theme is the big idea or the message that the author wants you to take away from the text. Read *The Four Leaf Clover*. Think about some of the lessons that Morgan might have learned in her adventure. What message can you take away from her adventure. Use your thinking to help you come up with a possible theme for this story.

What are some lessons that Morgan learned?	What message can you take away?
_____	_____

I think the theme of this story is...

A LOOK INSIDE...

Can You Guess My Genre?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Each of these reading passages is about St. Patrick's Day, but each one is written in a different genre. Can you identify the genre of each reading passage? Read each passage listed below. Name the genre of that passage. Then list out 2-3 attributes/clues that helped you identify the passage.

St. Patrick's Day Goes Green

I think the genre is: _____ I think this because: _____

A Revolutionary History

I think the genre is: _____ I think this because: _____

Can You Guess My Genre?

When Aunt Marnie Came to Visit

I think the genre is: _____ I think this because: _____

The King and The Leprechaun

I think the genre is: _____ I think this because: _____

St. Patrick's Day Talent Show

I think the genre is: _____ I think this because: _____

Holiday Writing Fun

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Each of these reading passages is about St. Patrick's Day, but each one is written in a different genre. Your task is to write another passage that could be added to this St. Patrick's Day Anthology. Select the genre from the box below for your writing. Then spend some time writing down the attributes of that genre (be sure to use this to inform your writing). Use the box at the bottom to brainstorm ideas for your text. Then when you're ready, use the space on the back to write your Groundhog Day piece.

The genre of my writing piece will be:

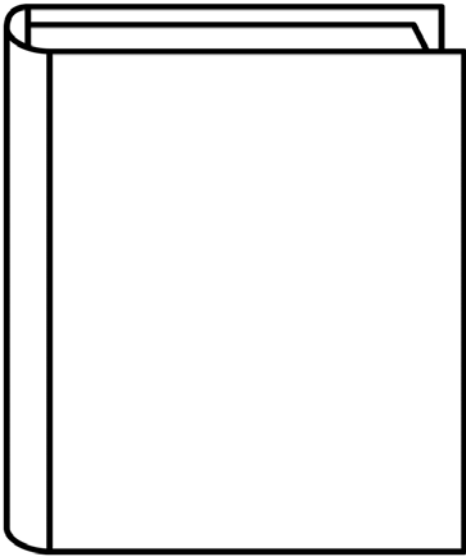
<input type="checkbox"/> Adventure	<input type="checkbox"/> Fantasy	<input type="checkbox"/> Mystery
<input type="checkbox"/> Autobiography	<input type="checkbox"/> Folktale	<input type="checkbox"/> Myth
<input type="checkbox"/> Biography	<input type="checkbox"/> Humor	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Fiction
<input type="checkbox"/> Fable	<input type="checkbox"/> Horror	<input type="checkbox"/> Tall Tale

Attributes and characteristics of that genre:

Design a Book Cover

Name: _____ Date: _____

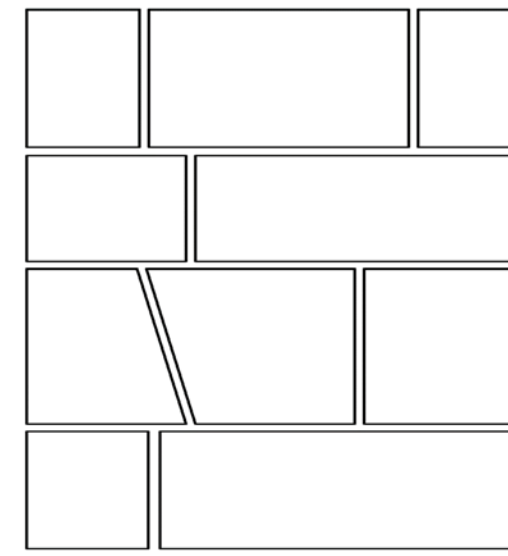
Directions: Pick your favorite passage and design a book cover for that specific passage. Think about the genre of the text, the author's purpose, and some of the key details in the text. Make sure your cover design is reflective of what you know about the genre and text.



My St. Patrick's Day Comic

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Use one of the passages that you read to help you create a groundhog day comic. Maybe you turn that text into a comic, or maybe you use the information you learned about St. Patrick's Day to come up with your own original comic. Just make sure you include both images and speech bubbles.



Create A Social Media Profile

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Pick one of the characters from the passages you read. Think about what you learned about that character from the story. Use that information to help you create a social media profile for that character.

@ _____

profile picture

My Profile

Name: _____

Interests: _____

Friends: _____

What's on your mind? _____

My Recent Posts

Hey! Let's be friends!

Click the icon below to follow me on social media.



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Click [HERE](#) to listen!