

Hello There!

I am so excited to be bringing you this set of inspired writers' passages, where everything you and your students need to practice understanding the reading and writing connection is included.

The best way to become a better writer is to spend time reading. Students need to think like writers as they read texts. After reading, they can apply the writing strategy into their own work.

This resource was designed to spotlight the power of the reading and writing connection. Students will read a short passage while thinking like writers. They will then apply that skill in their own writing work!

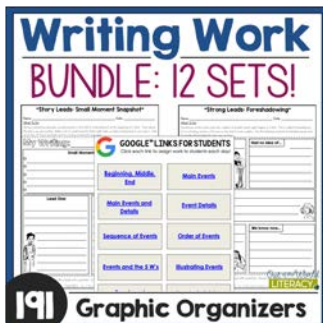
What Is Included:

1. 120 fiction and NF passages with a focus on a writing skill.
2. Google Drive digital version
3. Draft writing paper

Ideas to Use the Passages:

1. As a mentor text during a whole group writing lesson on developing characters.
2. In a small guided writing group.
3. In a writing center.
4. As independent practice after a writing lesson on developing characters.
5. As a homework review.
6. At the start of a writing unit to practice developing characters.

CLICK THE IMAGES BELOW to See More Writing Work!



Thank you so much to these amazing artists, whose work is found in this resource!



Inspired Writers: Character Traits

Name: _____ Date: _____

Think Like a Writer! Writers identify the traits of characters as they read so that they can create their own characters with similar traits. As you are reading, ask yourself, "what kind of character does this character have in the story?" Be thinking about how you can create characters with the same traits.

One Dollar Winner

Lydia and Henry were excited to try out their new fishing poles. When they arrived at the pond, they had a contest. Whoever could catch the most fish in one hour would win a dollar from their dad.

"You can't beat me! I'm a professional," teased Lydia.

Henry just shrugged and baited his hook. He cast his line into the deep water and waited. At the other end of the pond, Lydia was very busy. She was wildly casting her pole without giving it a chance to settle.

After thirty minutes of fishing Henry already had five fish in his bucket. Lydia's bucket was empty. Lydia's face grew red each time Henry pulled in another fish.

"Time's up kids! Bring over your fish," Dad yelled.

Lydia and Henry carried over their buckets. Henry pulled out nine and Lydia had none. It was a contest! His dad handed him four shiny quarters. Lydia was feeling sad and embarrassed. Henry decided to cheer her up by splitting his money with her. They all left the pond with smiles.



Get Inspired! Make a list of character traits for each character in the story. Use the character traits to create a new character. Use your new character in your own short story on a clean sheet of writing paper.

Lydia's Character Traits:	Henry's Character Traits:	Dad's Character Traits:
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

My Character's Name: _____

Description of My Character: _____

READING & WRITING CONNECTION

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1. CHARACTERS
2. WORD CHOICE
3. VOICE
4. TRANSITIONS
5. SENTENCE FLUENCY
6. LEADS
7. NONFICTION
8. PROBLEM & SOLUTION
9. SETTING
10. EVENTS
11. AUDIENCE & PURPOSE
12. NARRATOR

12 WRITING
SKILLS INCLUDED

Inspired Writers: Character Actions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Think Like a Writer! Writers identify how characters act and speak in a story so they can identify important parts of each character's personality. As you are reading, pay attention to what each character does and says in the story. Be thinking about how you can create a character with the same type of personality.

My Buddy

My little brother Ben is my buddy. He follows me around like he is my shadow. He eats, plays and sometimes sleeps with me. He usually asks me to help him with EVERYTHING. But lately, he has been acting very independent.

This morning, I went into his room to get him dressed. I took his clean clothes over to his bed and asked him to stand up.

"Lexi, me do it! You go bye bye," he firmly stated.

"Benny Boy, let me help," I replied.

"No! ME DO, you go!" he insisted.

He was so serious that I decided to let him try to dress himself. About five minutes passed before he bashfully peeked around the corner. He had his head through the arm hole of his shirt and his pants on backwards.

"Lexi, you help me?" he asked.

"Oh Buddy, you almost did it." I giggled to myself as I helped him rearrange his clothes. His self-determination was so cute. But, I was secretly happy that he still needed me.



Get Inspired! Describe what Ben did and said in the story. Think like a writer and create your own character. Tell what your character will do and say in your own story. Write a story with your new character.

What Ben Did:

What Ben Said:

My Character's Name:

What My Character Will Do:

What My Character Will Do:

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3 STEPS:

1. READ & THINK LIKE A WRITER.
2. REFLECT ON GOOD WRITING.
3. TRY WRITING ON YOUR OWN!

SO MUCH ON ONE PAGE!

120 CUSTOM ILLUSTRATIONS!

CHARACTER ACTIONS

Inspired Writers: Character Actions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Think Like a Writer! Writers identify how characters act and speak in a story so they can identify important parts of each character's personality. As you are reading, pay attention to what each character does and says in the story. Be thinking about how you can create a character with the same type of personality.

My Buddy

Lydia and Henry carried over their buckets. Henry pulled out nine and Lydia had none. Henry won the contest! His dad handed him four shiny quarters. Lydia was feeling sad and embarrassed that she lost. Henry decided to cheer her up by splitting his money with her. They all left the pond with smiles on their faces.



Get Inspired! Describe what Ben did and said in the story. Think like a writer and create your own character. Tell what your character will do and say in your own story. Write a story with your new character.

What Ben Did:	What Ben Said:

My Character's Name:	
What My Character Will Do:	What My Character Will Do:

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READING & WRITING CONNECTION

Inspired Writers: Characters

Below is a list of titles included in the bundle of Inspired Writers

Passage	Passage Title	Writing Skill
1	One Dollar Winner	Character Traits
2	The Great Divide	Character Traits
3	SUPER Hero	Character Actions
4	My Buddy	Character Actions
5	Beached	Characters and Events
6	Cannonball	Characters and Events
7	Dreamland	Make-Believe Characters
8	Blending In	Make-Believe Characters
9	Roses For Ma	Characters and Word Choice
10	Market Day	Characters and Word Choice

Inspired Writers Sets Coming Soon:

When the bundle is finished, there will be 12 sets of Inspired Writers for a total of 1200 passages and writing activities!

ALREADY PUBLISHED:

1. Characters

PUBLISHING SOON:

1. Word Choice
2. Voice
3. Transitions
4. Sentence Fluency
5. Leads
6. Nonfiction
7. Problem and Solution
8. Setting
9. Events
10. Audience and Purpose
11. Narrator

The Standards: Grade 2

	Common Core State Standard	TEK Standard
Passage 1: One Dollar Winner	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.	2.8b Describe the main character's (characters') internal and external traits.
Passage 2: The Great Divide	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.	2.8b Describe the main character's (characters') internal and external traits.
Passage 3: SUPER Hero	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.	2.8b Describe the main character's (characters') internal and external traits.
Passage 4: My Buddy	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.	2.8b Describe the main character's (characters') internal and external traits.
Passage 5: Beached	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.	2.8b Describe the main character's (characters') internal and external traits.
Passage 6: Cannonball	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.	2.8b Describe the main character's (characters') internal and external traits.
Passage 7: Dreamland	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.	2.8b Describe the main character's (characters') internal and external traits.
Passage 8: Blending In	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.	2.8b Describe the main character's (characters') internal and external traits.
Passage 9: Roses For Ma	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.	2.8b Describe the main character's (characters') internal and external traits.
Passage 10: Market Day	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.	2.8b Describe the main character's (characters') internal and external traits.

The Standards: Grade 3

	Common Core State Standard	TEK Standard
Passage 1: One Dollar Winner	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.	3.8b Explain the relationships among the major and minor characters.
Passage 2: The Great Divide	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.	3.8b Explain the relationships among the major and minor characters.
Passage 3: SUPER Hero	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.	3.8b Explain the relationships among the major and minor characters.
Passage 4: My Buddy	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.	3.8b Explain the relationships among the major and minor characters.
Passage 5: Beached	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.	3.8b Explain the relationships among the major and minor characters.
Passage 6: Cannonball	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.	3.8b Explain the relationships among the major and minor characters.
Passage 7: Dreamland	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.	3.8b Explain the relationships among the major and minor characters.
Passage 8: Blending In	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.	3.8b Explain the relationships among the major and minor characters.
Passage 9: Roses For Ma	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.	3.8b Explain the relationships among the major and minor characters.
Passage 10: Market Day	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.	3.8b Explain the relationships among the major and minor characters.

The Standards: Grade 4

	Common Core State Standard	TEK Standard
Passage 1: One Dollar Winner	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).	4.8b Explain the interactions of the characters and the changes they undergo.
Passage 2: The Great Divide	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).	4.8b Explain the interactions of the characters and the changes they undergo.
Passage 3: SUPER Hero	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).	4.8b Explain the interactions of the characters and the changes they undergo.
Passage 4: My Buddy	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).	4.8b Explain the interactions of the characters and the changes they undergo.
Passage 5: Beached	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).	4.8b Explain the interactions of the characters and the changes they undergo.
Passage 6: Cannonball	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).	4.8b Explain the interactions of the characters and the changes they undergo.
Passage 7: Dreamland	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).	4.8b Explain the interactions of the characters and the changes they undergo.
Passage 8: Blending In	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).	4.8b Explain the interactions of the characters and the changes they undergo.
Passage 9: Roses For Ma	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).	4.8b Explain the interactions of the characters and the changes they undergo.
Passage 10: Market Day	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).	4.8b Explain the interactions of the characters and the changes they undergo.

The Standards: Grade 5

	Common Core State Standard	TEK Standard
Passage 1: One Dollar Winner	<u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3</u> Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).	5.8b Analyze the relationships of and conflicts among the characters.
Passage 2: The Great Divide	<u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3</u> Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).	5.8b Analyze the relationships of and conflicts among the characters.
Passage 3: SUPER Hero	<u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3</u> Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).	5.8b Analyze the relationships of and conflicts among the characters.
Passage 4: My Buddy	<u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3</u> Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).	5.8b Analyze the relationships of and conflicts among the characters.
Passage 5: Beached	<u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3</u> Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).	5.8b Analyze the relationships of and conflicts among the characters.
Passage 6: Cannonball	<u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3</u> Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).	5.8b Analyze the relationships of and conflicts among the characters.
Passage 7: Dreamland	<u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3</u> Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).	5.8b Analyze the relationships of and conflicts among the characters.
Passage 8: Blending In	<u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3</u> Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).	5.8b Analyze the relationships of and conflicts among the characters.
Passage 9: Roses For Ma	<u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3</u> Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).	5.8b Analyze the relationships of and conflicts among the characters.
Passage 10: Market Day	<u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3</u> Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).	5.8b Analyze the relationships of and conflicts among the characters.

The Standards: Grade 6

	Common Core State Standard	TEK Standard
Passage 1: One Dollar Winner	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.	6.7b Analyze how the characters' internal and external responses develop the plot
Passage 2: The Great Divide	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.	6.7b Analyze how the characters' internal and external responses develop the plot
Passage 3: SUPER Hero	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.	6.7b Analyze how the characters' internal and external responses develop the plot
Passage 4: My Buddy	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.	6.7b Analyze how the characters' internal and external responses develop the plot
Passage 5: Beached	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.	6.7b Analyze how the characters' internal and external responses develop the plot
Passage 6: Cannonball	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.	6.7b Analyze how the characters' internal and external responses develop the plot
Passage 7: Dreamland	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.	6.7b Analyze how the characters' internal and external responses develop the plot
Passage 8: Blending In	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.	6.7b Analyze how the characters' internal and external responses develop the plot
Passage 9: Roses For Ma	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.	6.7b Analyze how the characters' internal and external responses develop the plot
Passage 10: Market Day	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.	6.7b Analyze how the characters' internal and external responses develop the plot

Inspired Writers: Make-Believe Characters

Name: _____ Date: _____

Think Like a Writer! Writers pay attention to make believe characters in a story so they can think about creating their own fantasy characters. As you are reading, ask yourself, “what do I notice about *character*? What traits does the *character* have that cannot be true in real life?” Be thinking about how you can create a fantasy character.

Blending In

Gloria the giraffe is very different than the rest of the animals on the savannah. Her family calls her, “one of a kind.” Others just call her, “different.” Gloria is an albino giraffe. That means, she was born without any color or pattern. That sure makes blending into the trees and grasses of the savannah difficult.

Gloria can’t play hide and seek with the other animals because they can find her right away. The cheetah has spots and blends into the trees. The zebra has stripes and blends into the grass. Gloria just doesn’t blend. So, she decides to go to art school to learn how to blend in.

She learns about lines and shapes. She learns how to mix and paint. Soon, Gloria learns how to paint her body to look like a giraffe. She realizes that the thing that makes her “different,” is actually a gift. She was born with a blank canvas...ready to paint!

Gloria decides to get painting. She doesn’t paint giraffe patches. She doesn’t paint cheetah spots. She doesn’t paint zebra stripes. Gloria decides to paint herself into a masterpiece. She covers herself from head to toe with HER favorite colors, lines, and shapes. She makes sure that she *doesn’t* blend in. Gloria sure is “one of a kind.” She definitely is “different.” Gloria is exactly who SHE wants to be!



Get Inspired! Think about the characters from the story to help you create your own make-believe character. Give your character a name and fill in the chart below. Use your ideas to create a fantasy story about your new character on a clean piece of writing paper.

My Character's Name: _____

Description of My Character: _____

Make-Believe Character Traits:	What My Character Will Do:
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____