

Sherlock Homeschooling

ALL-IN-ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE

PARENT GUIDE

LEVELS 1 - 12



Hannah Ward, M.Ed.

INTRODUCTION

As an educational designer, homeschooling mom, and former classroom teacher, I spent years searching for ways to improve education. I studied the research and found something surprising: much of what will prepare kids for the future comes from the past. Today's world demands lifelong learning. It demands self-paced, flexible systems that adjust to changing needs. Our kids need to adapt, think for themselves, interpret information, and communicate clearly. But the current system isn't preparing them for that future. Illiteracy is on the rise, and we're facing an uncertain future.

Many parents, like me, turned to homeschooling. Like all parents, I am my children's first teacher. It is my responsibility to build a foundation they could carry for life. My research led me to a tried-and-true method: the one-room schoolhouse. For generations, this approach worked. Teachers, many of them young, taught all ages and skill levels in a single classroom. Kids learned to read, write beautifully, and do math in their heads. They weren't grouped by age; they advanced at their own pace. They learned from each other, helped each other, and grew together.

The one-room schoolhouse put kids first. It gave them what they needed to succeed. We can bring that back. It is the perfect solution for homeschool families.

That's why I created this curriculum. It's a plan for my family and yours, built from the lessons of the past, and enhanced by modern research.

INTRODUCTION

This curriculum has 12 levels. By the end, students are prepared for college or any path they choose. I designed it to be simple and rigorous, a program that any parent can use. And it's free. All the resources are public domain books. This curriculum isn't tied to screens or software. It's resilient and timeless, like the one-room schoolhouses.

Here's how it works: Each level has 10 curated living books. These are "readers" like the one-room schoolhouses used. Only now, we have more access to full-length texts. These books cover English, science, and history. They're all free, so every family can use them. Students use the reading list to build writing skills. They'll practice narration, copy work, dictation, transcription, and, eventually, essays and research papers. The goal? To help them communicate clearly in writing and speaking.

Add a math program that's a good fit for your child. You can use the Ray's Arithmetic series for a classic option without screen use. If you're okay with limited screen time you can use Khan Academy online or download the offline version of Khan Academy from Kolibri.

After the core work is complete, students are encouraged to read about their own interests. Families are encouraged to read aloud together daily. There's still time for other pursuits. That's the beauty of this curriculum. It builds a strong foundation and leaves space for passion projects, outdoor time, music, art, and anything else that fuels your child's curiosity.

Happy learning,
Hannah Ward, M.Ed.

START GUIDE

Everyone starts at Level 1. Age doesn't matter. Parents read all the books too. This builds knowledge and leads to real family discussions. Students move through one book at a time, at their own pace. After each reading, students complete a narration and a writing prompt. Math is done daily, also at their own pace.

Before starting Level 1, students need to know how to read using phonics. A lack of phonics skills puts kids at a disadvantage, adding to our national illiteracy crisis. Phonics is essential. While teaching reading, read aloud to them every day from a mix of fiction and non-fiction. Reading fluently is key before Level 1.

Students also need to be emotionally ready to learn on their own. Most kids reach this stage around ages 6-8. Resources to help your kids get prepared for Level 1 are found at the Level 0 page of this website.

Everyone, no matter their age or experience, starts with Level 1. Parents, dive in. Lead by example. Level 1 isn't babyish. It's interesting for all ages. Older students ready for higher levels will move through quickly. There's no wasted time here. No fluff. No busy work. Every book builds essential knowledge.

What do you need to get started? Level 1 books. Paper. Pencil. That's it. At higher levels, when students are writing research papers, they'll need internet or library access. Other than that, you can do this entire program at home, for free.

If you can, get printed copies of the books. Holding a book in your hand is better than reading on a screen.

START GUIDE

Don't rely on books always being accessible online. Plan ahead. Download the books you need. Build a digital library for your family. Websites go down. Things happen. The Internet Archive was recently hacked, and many books are now temporarily unavailable. Public domain sources have these books. Download them. Stock up. Don't be dependent on websites or internet access.

What if your child has read a book on the list before? Good. It's beneficial to read books again. What if they don't like a book? Good. This will lead to valuable discussions. What if they disagree with something in a book? Good. Learning to think for themselves is part of the process.

Do parents really need to read the books? Yes. You need to stay one book ahead of your child to have meaningful discussions. It's good for you, and it's good for your family. I've chosen the best living books I could find, but these books are old. They sometimes use outdated language, express offensive ideas, or may be confusing. That's why you read ahead. Use this as a chance for discussion. These books give you a safe way to bring up heavy topics before your child encounters them in the real world. As the parent, you assign each reading based on your family's personal standards and your child's needs. Read ahead so you can make an informed decision. If words used in a classic book seem strange, look up their meaning through time. There might have been a change in meaning that you will need to explain to your child.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Here's how the schedule works for your child's daily learning, broken down in simple steps:

1. Minutes based on age: To figure out how long your child will work on each subject daily, you multiply their age by 5. The goal is to make sure the workload is just right for their age.
 - Math: Your child's age multiplied by 5. If your child is 10 years old, that's $10 \times 5 = 50$ minutes of math each day.
 - Assigned reading: Your child's age multiplied by 5. So, a 10-year-old will do $10 \times 5 = 50$ minutes of assigned reading each day.
 - Interest-based reading: Also your child's age multiplied by 5. That same 10-year-old will have $10 \times 5 = 50$ minutes to dive into reading about topics they enjoy.
2. Writing (for assigned reading): Writing is not timed. It's all about when they finish a chapter or a book. Here's how it works:
 - Formative assessment: When they finish a chapter, have them pause the reading timer and do some writing, narration, or discussion based on their level. This checks how well they understood the chapter.
 - Summative assessment: When they finish the whole book, they do a final piece of writing or discussion to wrap up everything they've learned. Again, pause the reading timer for this.
3. After writing, start the reading timer again and keep going with their assigned reading.
4. Interest-based reading: There's no assigned writing for interest-based reading. However, they can keep a commonplace book to write down quotes, notes, or thoughts on what they find interesting. This is optional but a great way for them to reflect.
5. Read aloud together: Every day, make time to read aloud for at least 20 minutes, no matter your child's age. This builds family learning and keeps things fun.

Example:

Let's say your child is 12 years old. Here's their daily plan:

- Math: $12 \times 5 = 60$ minutes.
- Assigned reading: $12 \times 5 = 60$ minutes.
- Interest-based reading: $12 \times 5 = 60$ minutes.

They'll pause the assigned reading timer whenever they finish a chapter or book to do their writing, then restart the timer when they're done. No need to rush the writing; it just depends on when they hit those milestones.

That's the plan. Simple. Clear. It keeps learning structured while giving them flexibility to explore what they love.

MATHEMATICS

Option 1: Ray's Arithmetic

For math, one option is to use Ray's New Arithmetic series for Levels 1 through 12. This traditional, mastery-based curriculum has been trusted for over a century, rooted in the classic one-room schoolhouse approach. Developed in the 1800s by Dr. Joseph Ray, it emphasizes mental math, practical problem-solving, and a strong foundation in arithmetic, with a natural progression to high school topics like Algebra, Geometry, and Trigonometry. Ray's Arithmetic lets students progress at their own pace until they master each skill, building rigorous math abilities that apply directly to real-life situations. Best of all, it's in the public domain, making it accessible and affordable for homeschool families looking for a no-nonsense, classical approach.

Some books cover multiple levels. Don't be fooled by their small size—they're full of comprehensive content. Students advance through the books at their own pace, ensuring they fully understand the material before moving on. The recommended daily math time is calculated as 5 minutes per day multiplied by the student's age. For example, a ten-year-old would spend 50 minutes per day on math. Do not move on to the next lesson until they've mastered the one before.

Digital copies and teacher's guides for these books are available in the public domain. For help with lesson planning, refer to *The Eclectic Manual of Methods for the Assistance of Teachers* by J. T. Stewart, which provides practical guidance for teaching with Ray's series. Below is a breakdown of the levels and the corresponding sections per level.

- Level 1:** Ray's New Primary Arithmetic | *Addition and Subtraction Sections*
- Level 2:** Ray's New Primary Arithmetic | *Multiplication and Division Sections*
- Level 3:** Ray's New Intellectual Arithmetic | *Review and Fraction Sections*
- Level 4:** Ray's New Intellectual Arithmetic | *Ratio, Percentage, and Problems Sections*
- Level 5:** Ray's New Practical Arithmetic | *Begin with Addition, end with Fractions*
- Level 6:** Ray's New Practical Arithmetic | *Complete the rest of the book.*
- Level 7:** Ray's New Higher Arithmetic | *Complete up to Section XI (Compound #s)*
- Level 8:** Ray's New Higher Arithmetic | *Complete the rest of the book.*
- Level 9:** Ray's New Elementary Algebra | *All Sections*
- Level 10:** Ray's New Higher Algebra | *All Sections*
- Level 11:** Ray's New Geometry and Trigonometry | *Geometry Section*
- Level 12:** Ray's New Geometry and Trigonometry | *Trigonometry Section*

MATHEMATICS

Option 2: Khan Academy

For math levels 1-12, Khan Academy is an option for screen-based learning. Khan Academy is a free learning platform that helps you learn almost anything, anytime, anywhere. It's packed with video lessons, practice exercises, and quizzes that break things down step-by-step. Khan Academy is 100% free. No hidden costs, no limits. Just sign up, and you can start learning. You can take things slow or speed through—there's no pressure. You get to choose what and when to study. With an internet connection, you can jump right into lessons on their website or app. Videos explain everything clearly, and practice exercises test what you've learned. No internet? No problem. You can use the Kolibri app to download Khan Academy lessons and work offline. It's perfect if you don't always have a stable connection but still want to keep learning. From kindergarten to advanced math, from history to coding, Khan Academy offers a ton of subjects. There's something for everyone. You can see how far you've come, which helps you stay on top of your goals and keeps you motivated.

Online or offline, Khan Academy is like having a personal tutor, available 24/7. Simple. Free. And it works.

- Level 1:** Khan Academy | *1st Grade Mathematics*
- Level 2:** Khan Academy | *2nd Grade Mathematics*
- Level 3:** Khan Academy | *3rd Grade Mathematics*
- Level 4:** Khan Academy | *4th Grade Mathematics*
- Level 5:** Khan Academy | *5th Grade Mathematics*
- Level 6:** Khan Academy | *6th Grade Mathematics*
- Level 7:** Khan Academy | *7th Grade Mathematics*
- Level 8:** Khan Academy | *8th Grade Mathematics*
- Level 9:** Khan Academy | *Algebra 1*
- Level 10:** Khan Academy | *Algebra 2*
- Level 11:** Khan Academy | *Geometry*
- Level 12:** Khan Academy | *Trigonometry*

READING

Here's how your child will handle daily reading:

1. Two books at a time: Your child will always be independently reading two books—one assigned from the booklist and one they choose (interest-based).
2. Assigned reading:
 - They'll focus on one assigned book at a time, reading it chapter by chapter.
 - After each chapter, they'll do a formative assessment. This could be writing, narration, or discussing the chapter with you based on their level. It helps them solidify what they've learned.
 - Encourage them to read aloud their favorite part from each chapter. It could be a few sentences or a page, something that stood out to them. This builds confidence in reading aloud and improves their diction.
 - Vocabulary work: Have your child pick unfamiliar or interesting words from the chapter—one word per level. So, a Level 5 student would pick 5 words. They'll write each word in a notebook, define it, and use it in a sentence (either from the book or one they make up).
3. Interest-based reading:
 - This is a book they choose for themselves and read daily.
 - There's no formal assignment with this book, but they can keep a commonplace book to jot down favorite quotes or ideas. This lets them track what stands out to them from their personal reading.

Books talk to each other. The assigned books in this curriculum are designed to connect across subjects like English, literature, science, and history. You'll be amazed at how much your child picks up and how these readings relate to each other in surprising ways. Every day, make time to read aloud for at least 20 minutes, no matter your child's age. This builds family learning and keeps things fun. Choose books that are interesting and meaningful to your family for daily read alouds.

That's the reading routine—structured but with room for your child to explore what they love.

WRITING

Writing skills grow best with a step-by-step approach. As your child's teacher, break writing tasks into manageable parts. This helps them master each skill without getting overwhelmed. The goal is for students to think independently and clearly express their unique ideas.

By Level 12, students will master formal writing, including creative writing, essays, and research papers. They'll be prepared for college-level work and lifelong learning. Below is a breakdown of each level, with what to expect:

Level 1: Students start with copy work. This means they copy a passage, letter by letter, under your example. Write the passage on the line above, leaving space on the next line for your child to copy. This way they can learn spelling, grammar, and punctuation directly from what they're reading. They'll pick a passage they like and copy 1-3 sentences per assignment. They'll also provide oral narrations, retelling the reading in their own words, using visual aids if desired. Listen without interrupting, and save questions for after.

Level 2: Copy work continues, now 2-4 sentences per assignment. Oral narrations continue as well, with one or two follow-up questions for extra detail.

Level 3: Students move on to transcription. Here they will write passages on their own paper after reading them in the book. This helps them memorize spelling and sentence structure. They'll complete at least one paragraph per assignment. Oral narrations also continue, with prompts to think about the who, what, when, where, why, and how of each reading.

Level 4: Transcription work increases to two paragraphs per assignment. Students continue oral narrations and start written narrations. They'll use a chart to answer the who, what, when, where, why, and how questions. Complete sentences aren't required, but correct spelling is encouraged.

Level 5: Students begin dictation. They choose a 2-3 sentence passage, read it, and then write it as it's read aloud to them. Afterward, they compare their work to the original and make corrections. Written narrations progress to full sentences with correct capitalization and punctuation.

WRITING

Level 6: Dictation continues with 3-4 sentence passages. Written narrations continue. Students check their work for spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Students will also start writing 5-paragraph essays after finishing each book, organized as follows:

- Introduction – Hook, topic, and thesis statement.
- Body Paragraphs – Three paragraphs, each supporting the thesis with examples and details.
- Conclusion – Summarize points, restate thesis, and leave the reader with a final thought.

Level 7: Dictation focuses on full paragraphs. Students write both essays and creative assignments as final projects for each book. Written narrations remain a key part of the process, with extra focus on clear sentence structure and punctuation.

Level 8: Dictation continues. Students write essays that extend beyond five paragraphs. Creative assignments and written narrations deepen their understanding.

Level 9: Students complete two-paragraph dictations, along with essays and creative writing. Written narrations become more detailed, allowing for reflection on each reading.

Level 10: In addition to essays and creative writing, students will write their first research papers. They'll research a topic, outline their main points, and structure papers with an introduction, body, and conclusion. Encourage them to find reliable sources and cite them. Afterward, they'll edit for clarity.

Level 11: Dictation moves to three paragraphs per assignment. Students will complete essays, creative writing, and research papers based on their reading.

Level 12: Dictation continues. Students will produce three paragraphs per assignment. They'll write essays, creative pieces, and APA-style research papers. This final level includes a works cited page, preparing them for college standards.

Each level builds on the last. This method ensures students grow their writing skills thoughtfully, preparing them for whatever comes next.

COMPLETE BOOK LIST

Level 1

Old Mother West Wind by Thornton W. Burgess

Holidays and Happy-Days by Hamish Hendry

Among the Meadow People by Clara Dillingham Pierson

Understood Betsy by Dorothy Canfield Fisher

Viking Tales by Jennie Hall

Beatrix Potter Treasury by Beatrix Potter (*the following stories are assigned: The Tale of Peter Rabbit, The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin, The Tailor of Gloucester, The Tale of Benjamin Bunny, The Tale of Two Bad Mice, The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle, The Tale of the Pie and the Patty-Pan, The Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher, The Story of Miss Moppet, The Tale of Tom Kitten, The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck, The Tale of Samuel Whiskers or The Roly-Poly Pudding, The Tale of the Flopsy Bunnies, The Tale of Ginger and Pickles, The Tale of Mrs. Tittlemouse, The Tale of Timmy Tiptoes, The Tale of Mr. Tod, The Tale of Pigling Bland, The Tale of Johnny Town-Mouse*)

The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner

Winnie-the-Pooh and The House at Pooh Corner by A.A. Milne

Five Little Peppers and How They Grew by Margaret Sidney

Louisa May Alcott Reader by Louisa May Alcott

COMPLETE BOOK LIST

Level 2

The Blue Fairy Book by Andrew Lang

Ways of the Wood Folk by William J. Long

The Burgess Animal Book for Children by Thornton W. Burgess

50 Famous Stories Retold by James Baldwin

The King of the Golden River by John Ruskin

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

The Princess and the Goblin by George MacDonald

The Little Duke by Charlotte Yonge

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood by Howard Pyle

COMPLETE BOOK LIST

Level 3

Jack and Jill by Louisa May Alcott

Wilderness Ways by William J. Long

The Burgess Bird Book for Children by Thornton W. Burgess

An Island Story by H.E. Marshall

King Arthur and His Knights by Howard Pyle

The Bears of Blue River by Charles Major

Men of Iron by Howard Pyle

Children of the New Forest by Frederick Marryat

Heidi by Johanna Spyri

A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett

COMPLETE BOOK LIST

Level 4

The Story of the Greeks by H.A. Guerber

The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling

Unknown to History by Charlotte Yonge

Five Children and It by E. Nesbit

Otto of the Silver Hand by Howard Pyle

The Story Book of Science by Jean-Henri Fabre

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

A Wonder Book for Girls and Boys by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Tales from Shakespeare by Charles and Mary Lamb

Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi

COMPLETE BOOK LIST

Level 5

Andersen's Fairy Tales by Hans Christian Andersen

The Story of My Life by Helen Keller

Red Fox by Charles G.D. Roberts

Great Inventors and Their Inventions by Frank P. Bachman

The Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie

The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells

Hans Brinker; or, The Silver Skates by Mary Mapes Dodge

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Rip Van Winkle by Washington Irving

COMPLETE BOOK LIST

Level 6

Grimm's Fairy Tales by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

The Great Astronomers by Robert S. Ball

A Little Brother to the Bear by William J. Long

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm by Kate Douglas Wiggin

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

The Loss of the S.S. Titanic by Lawrence Beesley

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

A Girl of the Limberlost by Gene Stratton-Porter

COMPLETE BOOK LIST

Level 7

Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen

Philip K. Dick Collection by Philip K. Dick (*the following stories are assigned: The Defenders, Beyond Lies the Wub, Mr. Spaceship, The Eyes Have It, Second Variety, Piper in the Woods, The Gun, The Crystal Crypt, Tony and the Beetles, and Adjustment Team*)

Sailing Alone Around the World by Joshua Slocum

Wild Animals at Home by Ernest Thompson Seton

Ivanhoe by Sir Walter Scott

The Scarlet Pimpernel by Baroness Orczy

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne

Tales of the Alhambra by Washington Irving

COMPLETE BOOK LIST

Level 8

Ben-Hur by Lew Wallace

In the Days of Queen Elizabeth by Eva March Tappan

The Land of Little Rain by Mary Austin

Walden by Henry David Thoreau

Journey to the Center of the Earth by Jules Verne

The Moonstone by Wilkie Collins

To Have and to Hold by Mary Johnston

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

COMPLETE BOOK LIST

Level 9

Wild Animals I Have Known by Ernest Thompson Seton

Rural Hours by Susan Fenimore Cooper

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin by Benjamin Franklin

The Life of Black Hawk by Black Hawk

The Complete Tales by Edgar Allan Poe (*the following stories are assigned: The Tell-Tale Heart, The Cask of Amontillado, The Fall of the House of Usher, The Masque of the Red Death, The Black Cat, The Pit and the Pendulum, The Gold-Bug, The Murders in the Rue Morgue, The Purloined Letter, The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar, The Oval Portrait, The System of Doctor Tarr and Professor Fether, A Descent into the Maelström, The Oblong Box, The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket*)

Anthem by Ayn Rand

Lorna Doone by R.D. Blackmore

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

COMPLETE BOOK LIST

Level 10

My First Summer in the Sierra by John Muir

Travels in Alaska by John Muir

Narrative of Sojourner Truth by Sojourner Truth

Moby-Dick by Herman Melville

American Indian Stories by Zitkala-Sa

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

The Autobiography of Andrew Carnegie by Andrew Carnegie

The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

The Jungle by Upton Sinclair

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

COMPLETE BOOK LIST

Level 11

A Brief History of Element Discovery, Synthesis, and Analysis by
Glen W. Watson

The Chemical History of a Candle by Michael Faraday

Plutarch: Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romans by Plutarch

Memoirs of Catherine the Great by Catherine the Great

The Iliad by Homer

The Odyssey by Homer

Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse

The Arabian Nights by Andrew Lang

Macbeth by William Shakespeare

The Aeneid by Virgil

COMPLETE BOOK LIST

Level 12

Relativity: The Special and General Theory by Albert Einstein

Experiments with Alternate Currents of High Potential and High Frequency by Nikola Tesla

Ancient and Modern Physics by Thomas Edgar Wilson

South by Ernest Shackleton

The Bride of Lammermoor by Sir Walter Scott

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

Dracula by Bram Stoker

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle

The House of the Seven Gables by Nathaniel Hawthorne

LEVEL 1 INSTRUCTIONS

After each chapter students will complete a **formative assessment**. They will complete **copy work** after each chapter. This means they copy a passage, letter by letter, under your example. Write the passage on the line above, leaving space on the next line for your child to copy. This way they can learn spelling, grammar, and punctuation directly from what they're reading. They'll pick a passage they like from the reading and copy **1-3 sentences** per assignment. After copying the passage, have them read it out loud. They'll also provide **oral narrations**, retelling the reading in their own words, using visual aids if desired. Listen without interrupting, and save questions for after. Finally, they will select **1 vocabulary word** from each chapter. Have them write down the vocabulary word, look up and write down the definition, and then use the word to write a sentence (either from the book or a sentence they make up).

At the end of the book students will complete a **summative assessment**. Summative assessments for level 1 are completed as **family discussions**. You ask the questions, and your child answers them. There are no wrong answers with summative assessments. This is a time for your child to discuss what they took from the reading.

Book 1: Old Mother West Wind by Thornton W. Burgess

Summative assessment discussion prompt: If you could meet one of the animals, who would it be, and what would you ask them?

Book 2: Holidays and Happy-Days by Hamish Hendry

Summative assessment discussion prompt: Which of the holidays sounded like to most fun to celebrate? What did you like about it?

LEVEL 1 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 3: Among the Meadow People by Clara Dillingham Pierson

Summative assessment discussion prompt: Which meadow animal's story did you enjoy the most, and what did it teach you?

Book 4: Understood Betsy by Dorothy Canfield Fisher

Summative assessment discussion prompt: What was the most important change you saw in Betsy throughout the story, and why do you think it mattered?

Book 5: Viking Tales by Jennie Hall

Summative assessment discussion prompt: If you could ask one of the Vikings a question about their journey, who would it be, and what would you want to know?

Book 6: Beatrix Potter Treasury by Beatrix Potter (the following stories are assigned: The Tale of Peter Rabbit, The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin, The Tailor of Gloucester, The Tale of Benjamin Bunny, The Tale of Two Bad Mice, The Tale of Mrs. Tiggly-Winkle, The Tale of the Pie and the Patty-Pan, The Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher, The Story of Miss Moppet, The Tale of Tom Kitten, The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck, The Tale of Samuel Whiskers or The Roly-Poly Pudding, The Tale of the Flopsy Bunnies, The Tale of Ginger and Pickles, The Tale of Mrs. Tittlemouse, The Tale of Timmy Tiptoes, The Tale of Mr. Tod, The Tale of Pigling Bland, Appley Dapply's Nursery Rhymes, The Tale of Johnny Town-Mouse)

Summative assessment discussion prompt: Which story or character from Beatrix Potter's tales did you enjoy the most, and what did you like about them?

LEVEL 1 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 7: The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner

Summative assessment discussion prompt: What creative ways were the children able to survive on their own?

Book 8: Winnie-the-Pooh and The House at Pooh Corner by A.A. Milne

Summative assessment discussion prompt: How did the friends solve problems together, and what can we learn from their teamwork?

Book 9: Five Little Peppers and How They Grew by Margaret Sidney

Summative assessment discussion prompt: What challenges did the Pepper family face, and how did they handle them?

Book 10: Louisa May Alcott Reader by Louisa May Alcott

Summative assessment discussion prompt: Which of the stories did you relate to the most? How did it remind you of your own life?

LEVEL 2 INSTRUCTIONS

After each chapter students will complete a **formative assessment**. They will complete **copy work** after each chapter. This means they copy a passage, letter by letter, under your example. Write the passage on the line above, leaving space on the next line for your child to copy. This way they can learn spelling, grammar, and punctuation directly from what they're reading. They'll pick a passage they like from the reading and copy **2-4 sentences** per assignment. After copying the passage, have them read it out loud. They'll also provide **oral narrations**, retelling the reading in their own words, using visual aids if desired. Listen without interrupting, and ask one or two follow-up questions for extra detail. Finally, they will select **2 vocabulary words** from each chapter. Have them write down the vocabulary word, look up and write down the definition, and then use the word to write a sentence (either from the book or a sentence they make up).

At the end of the book students will complete a **summative assessment**. Summative assessments for level 2 are completed as **family discussions**. You ask the questions, and your child answers them. There are no wrong answers with summative assessments. This is a time for your child to discuss what they took from the reading.

Book 11: The Blue Fairy Book by Andrew Lang

Summative assessment discussion prompt: If you could step into one of the stories, which one would you choose and why? Which story would you not like to step into?

Book 12: 50 Famous Stories Retold by James Baldwin

Summative assessment discussion prompt: Which story stood out to you the most, and what did you learn from it?

LEVEL 2 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 13: Ways of the Wood Folk by William J. Long

Summative assessment discussion prompt: How did the author describe the different animals and their behaviors? Which animal did you find most fascinating?

Book 14: The King of the Golden River by John Ruskin

Summative assessment discussion prompt: What lessons about kindness and generosity did you learn from the story?

Book 15: The Burgess Animal Book for Children by Thornton W. Burgess

Summative assessment discussion prompt: How do the animals in the book interact with each other and their environment?

Book 16: The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

Summative assessment discussion prompt: If you could join the characters on one of their adventures, which one would it be, and what would you want to do?

Book 17: The Princess and the Goblin by George MacDonald

Summative assessment discussion prompt: If you were in Irene's place, how would you have handled the situations she faced?

Book 18: The Little Duke by Charlotte Yonge

Summative assessment discussion prompt: How did the Little Duke face challenges, and what can we learn from his actions?

LEVEL 2 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 19: The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Summative assessment discussion prompt: What role did the garden play in transforming the characters, and what lessons about nature and healing did you learn?

Book 20: The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood by Howard Pyle

Summative assessment discussion prompt: What qualities make Robin Hood a good leader, and how does he inspire others?

LEVEL 3 INSTRUCTIONS

After each chapter students will complete a **formative assessment**. They will complete transcription after each chapter. **Transcription** is when they write passages on their own paper after reading them in the book. This helps them memorize spelling and sentence structure. They'll complete **at least one paragraph** per assignment. After copying the passage, have them read it out loud. **Oral narrations** also continue, with prompts to think about the who, what, when, where, why, and how of each reading. Finally, they will select **3 vocabulary words** from each chapter. Have them write down the vocabulary word, look up and write down the definition, and then use the word to write a sentence (either from the book or a sentence they make up).

At the end of the book students will complete a **summative assessment**. Summative assessments for level 3 are completed as **family discussions**. You ask the questions, and your child answers them. There are no wrong answers with summative assessments. This is a time for your child to discuss what they took from the reading.

Book 21: Jack and Jill by Louisa May Alcott

Summative assessment discussion prompt: What did you learn about friendship and family from the adventures of Jack and Jill?

Book 22: Wilderness Ways by William J. Long

Summative assessment discussion prompt: What new things did you learn about the wilderness and the animals that inhabit it, and which animal intrigued you the most?

LEVEL 3 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 23: An Island Story by H.E. Marshall

Summative assessment discussion prompt: Which historical event or person from the book did you find most interesting, and why?

Book 24: Heidi by Johanna Spyri

Summative assessment discussion prompt: What did you admire most about Heidi's character, and how did her kindness impact those around her?

Book 25: The Bears of Blue River by Charles Major

Summative assessment discussion prompt: If you could go on an adventure in the wilderness what would you hope to discover?

Book 26: King Arthur and His Knights by Howard Pyle

Summative assessment discussion prompt: If you could ask King Arthur one question about his reign, what would it be?

Book 27: The Burgess Bird Book for Children by Thornton W. Burgess

Summative assessment discussion prompt: Which bird character did you find most interesting, and what new things did you learn about its habits and behaviors?

Book 28: Men of Iron by Howard Pyle

Summative assessment discussion prompt: If you could participate in one of the tournaments or adventures from the book, which would it be and why?

LEVEL 3 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 29: A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Summative assessment discussion prompt: If you were in Sara's position, what would you do to maintain your spirit during tough times?

Book 30: Children of the New Forest by Frederick Marryat

Summative assessment discussion prompt: If you could spend a day in the forest with the children, what activities would you want to help with and why?

LEVEL 4 INSTRUCTIONS

After each chapter students will complete a **formative assessment**. They will complete transcription after each chapter. **Transcription** is when they write passages on their own paper after reading them in the book. This helps them memorize spelling and sentence structure. They'll complete **at least two paragraphs** per assignment. After copying the passage, have them read it out loud. **Written narrations** begin, with prompts to write down the who, what, when, where, why, and how of each reading. This can be written in a list or in a chart the student makes. Complete sentences aren't required at this level for written narrations, but correct spelling is encouraged. Finally, they will select **4 vocabulary words** from each chapter. Have them write down the vocabulary word, look up and write down the definition, and then use the word to write a sentence (either from the book or a sentence they make up).

At the end of the book students will complete a **summative assessment**. Summative assessments for level 4 are completed as **written answers**. Your child answers a particular question after each book in any way that is meaningful to them. There are no wrong answers with summative assessments. This is a time for your child to discuss what they took from the reading.

Book 31: The Story of the Greeks by H.A. Guerber

Written summative assessment: If you could visit ancient Greece, what event or person would you want to see or meet, and why?

Book 32: The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling

Written summative assessment: Which animal character in the stories was your favorite, and what did you like about them?

LEVEL 4 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 33: Unknown to History by Charlotte Yonge

Written summative assessment: If you could ask one of the characters a question about their journey, who would it be and what would you ask?

Book 34: Five Children and It by E. Nesbit

Written summative assessment: Which wish did you find the most interesting or amusing, and what lesson did the children learn from it?

Book 35: Otto of the Silver Hand by Howard Pyle

Written summative assessment: What qualities did you admire in Otto, and how did his bravery and kindness influence the people around him?

Book 36: The Story Book of Science by Jean-Henri Fabre

Written summative assessment: What scientific concepts or discoveries from the book fascinated you the most, and how did Fabre explain them in a way that made them interesting?

Book 37: Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

Written summative assessment: If you could search for treasure like Jim, what kind of treasure would you hope to find?

Book 38: A Wonder Book for Girls and Boys by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Written summative assessment: Which myth or story in the book resonated with you the most, and what moral or lesson did you take away from it?"

LEVEL 4 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 39: Tales from Shakespeare by Charles and Mary Lamb

Written summative assessment: Which character did you relate to the most, and why? What qualities did they display that you admire?

Book 40: Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi

Written summative assessment: If you could give Pinocchio one piece of advice at the beginning of his story, what would it be and why?

LEVEL 5 INSTRUCTIONS

After each chapter students will complete a **formative assessment**. They will complete dictation after each chapter. **Dictation** is when they write passages as they are being read aloud to them. This helps them memorize spelling and sentence structure. They choose a **2-3 sentence** passage, read it, and then write it as it's read aloud to them. Afterward, they compare their work to the original and make corrections. After writing the passage, have them read it out loud. **Written narrations** continue, progressing to full sentences with correct capitalization and punctuation. Finally, they will select **5 vocabulary words** from each chapter. Have them write down the vocabulary word, look up and write down the definition, and then use the word to write a sentence (either from the book or a sentence they make up).

At the end of the book students will complete a **summative assessment**. Summative assessments for level 5 are completed as **written answers**. Your child answers a particular question after each book in any way that is meaningful to them. There are no wrong answers with summative assessments. This is a time for your child to discuss what they took from the reading.

Book 41: Andersen's Fairy Tales by Hans Christian Andersen

Written summative assessment: If you could rewrite one of the stories with a different ending, which one would it be, and how would you change it?

Book 42: The Story of My Life by Helen Keller

Written summative assessment: If you could ask Helen Keller one question about her experiences, what would it be and why?

LEVEL 5 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 43: Red Fox by Charles G.D. Roberts

Written summative assessment: What qualities of the red fox did you find most fascinating, and how did they help it survive in the wild?

Book 44: Great Inventors and Their Inventions by Frank P. Bachman

Written summative assessment: Which inventor or invention from the book inspired you the most, and what impact did it have on society?

Book 45: The Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum

Written summative assessment: Which character did you connect with the most, and what qualities did they bring to the journey?

Book 46: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Written summative assessment: If you could enter a fantastical world like Alice did, what kind of adventures would you hope to have?

Book 47: Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie

Written summative assessment: If you could visit Neverland for a day, what would you want to do and see?

Book 48: The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells

Written summative assessment: If you were faced with a similar invasion, what qualities or skills would you rely on to survive?

LEVEL 5 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 49: Hans Brinker; or, The Silver Skates by Mary Mapes Dodge

Written summative assessment: If you could participate in a winter sport like ice skating, what would it be, and why?

Book 50: The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Rip Van Winkle by Washington Irving

Written summative assessment: Which story was the most memorable, and why do you think it stuck with you?

LEVEL 6 INSTRUCTIONS

After each chapter students will complete a **formative assessment**. They will complete dictation after each chapter. **Dictation** is when they write passages as they are being read aloud to them. This helps them memorize spelling and sentence structure. They choose a **3-4 sentence** passage, read it, and then write it as it's read aloud to them. Afterward, they compare their work to the original and make corrections. After writing the passage, have them read it out loud. **Written narrations** continue with full sentences, correct capitalization, and punctuation. Finally, they will select **6 vocabulary words** from each chapter. Have them write down the vocabulary word, look up and write down the definition, and then use the word to write a sentence (either from the book or a sentence they make up).

At the end of the book students will complete a **summative assessment**.

Summative assessments for level 6 are completed as **written essays**.

Students will also start writing 5-paragraph essays after finishing each book, organized as follows:

1. Introduction – Hook, topic, and thesis statement.
2. Body Paragraphs – Three paragraphs, each supporting the thesis with examples and details.
3. Conclusion – Summarize points, restate thesis, and leave the reader with a final thought. Written narrations continue. Students check their work for spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Book 51: Grimm's Fairy Tales by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

Essay prompt: In Grimm's Fairy Tales, many stories feature lessons about morality, bravery, and the consequences of actions. Choose one fairy tale from the collection and explain what lesson it teaches. Do you agree or disagree with this lesson? Use examples from the story to support your opinion.

LEVEL 6 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 52: The Great Astronomers by Robert S. Ball

Essay prompt: In The Great Astronomers, Robert S. Ball shares the lives and discoveries of famous astronomers who changed our understanding of the universe. Choose one astronomer from the book and explain why their work is important. Use examples from the book to support your opinion.

Book 53: A Little Brother to the Bear by William J. Long

Essay prompt: In A Little Brother to the Bear, William J. Long shares stories about various animals and their relationships with each other and their environments. Choose one animal from the book and explain why you think its behavior is important for understanding nature. Use examples from the book to support your opinion.

Book 54: Black Beauty by Anna Sewell

Essay prompt: In Black Beauty, Anna Sewell tells the story of a horse and the various experiences he encounters throughout his life. Choose one event from the book that had a significant impact on Black Beauty's life. Explain why you believe this event is important for understanding the treatment of animals. Do you agree or disagree with the message conveyed about kindness and compassion toward animals? Use examples from the book to support your opinion.

LEVEL 6 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 55: Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm by Kate Douglas Wiggin

Essay prompt: In Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, Kate Douglas Wiggin tells the story of a young girl named Rebecca and her adventures as she grows up. Choose one challenge that Rebecca faces in the book and explain why it is important for her character development. Do you agree or disagree with how Rebecca handles this challenge? Use examples from the book to support your opinion.

Book 56: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

Essay prompt: In The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain explores the life and adventures of a young boy growing up in the American South. Choose one adventure or event from the book that you think is significant in shaping Tom's character. Explain why you believe this event is important for his development. Do you agree or disagree with Tom's choices during this adventure? Use examples from the book to support your opinion.

Book 57: The Loss of the S.S. Titanic by Lawrence Beesley

Essay prompt: In The Loss of the S.S. Titanic, Lawrence Beesley describes the experiences of various passengers and crew members during the sinking of the ship. Choose one example of how people were treated during this disaster, either positively or negatively. Explain why you believe this treatment is significant for understanding human behavior in crises. Do you agree or disagree with how individuals responded to the situation? Use examples from the book to support your opinion.

LEVEL 6 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 58: Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery

Essay prompt: In Anne of Green Gables, L.M. Montgomery tells the story of Anne Shirley, a spirited orphan who is mistakenly sent to live with Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert. Choose one event in Anne's life that you think is significant in shaping her character. Explain why you believe this event is important for her development. Do you agree or disagree with how Anne handled the situation? Use examples from the book to support your opinion.

Book 59: The Call of the Wild by Jack London

Essay prompt: In The Call of the Wild, Jack London explores the themes of survival and instinct through the character of Buck, a domesticated dog who returns to his wild roots. Choose one example of how Buck is treated by humans throughout the story. Explain why you believe this treatment is significant for understanding the relationship between humans and animals. Do you agree or disagree with how Buck responds to the people in his life? Use examples from the book to support your opinion.

Book 60: A Girl of the Limberlost by Gene Stratton-Porter

Essay prompt: In A Girl of the Limberlost, Elnora Comstock faces many obstacles as she pursues her education and dreams in a challenging environment. Choose one moment when Elnora experiences kindness or cruelty from someone in her life. Explain why you believe this moment is important for understanding her character and determination. Do you agree or disagree with how she reacts to this treatment? Use examples from the book to support your opinion.

LEVEL 7 INSTRUCTIONS

After each chapter students will complete a **formative assessment**. They will complete dictation after each chapter. **Dictation** is when they write passages as they are being read aloud to them. This helps them memorize spelling and sentence structure. They choose a **full paragraph** passage, read it, and then write it as it's read aloud to them. Afterward, they compare their work to the original and make corrections. After writing the passage, have them read it out loud. **Written narrations** continue with full sentences, correct capitalization, and punctuation. Finally, they will select **7 vocabulary words** from each chapter. Have them write down the vocabulary word, look up and write down the definition, and then use the word to write a sentence (either from the book or a sentence they make up).

At the end of the book students will complete a **summative assessment**. Summative assessments for level 7 are completed as **written essays and creative writing assignments**.

Book 61: Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen

Essay prompt: In Northanger Abbey, Jane Austen explores themes of imagination, romance, and the contrast between reality and fiction. Choose a moment in the story where Catherine Morland's imagination influences her thoughts or actions. How does this affect her understanding of the world around her? Use examples from the text to support your ideas. Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are Catherine Morland, visiting Northanger Abbey for the first time. Write a letter to your friend, describing your thoughts and feelings about the abbey and the people you meet there. Include details about what you see, how the place makes you feel, and any exciting or mysterious events that happen. Use your imagination to express Catherine's curiosity and how the stories she has read influence her perspective on her new surroundings.

LEVEL 7 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 62: Philip K. Dick Collection by Philip K. Dick (*the following stories are assigned: The Defenders, Beyond Lies the Wub, Mr. Spaceship, The Eyes Have It, Second Variety, Piper in the Woods, The Gun, The Crystal Crypt, Tony and the Beetles, and Adjustment Team*)

Essay prompt: Philip K. Dick writes stories that often explore interesting ideas about reality, technology, and what it means to be human. Choose one short story from his collection that you find exciting or thought-provoking. What is the main idea of the story, and how does it make you think about the world differently? Use examples from the story to explain your thoughts.

Creative writing prompt: Write a newspaper article reporting on an extraordinary event inspired by one of Philip K. Dick's stories. Imagine that a person in your town has experienced a strange phenomenon, like seeing a different reality or communicating with a robot. Include details about what happened, quotes from witnesses, and the reactions of people in the community. Make your article engaging and informative, as if it's being published in a real newspaper.

Book 63: Sailing Alone Around the World by Joshua Slocum

Essay prompt: In Sailing Alone Around the World, Joshua Slocum shares his adventures as the first person to sail solo around the globe. Choose a specific part of his journey and discuss what challenges he faced and how he overcame them. What lessons does he learn along the way? Use examples from the book to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Assignment: Imagine you are Joshua Slocum during your solo sailing journey. Write a diary entry for one day at sea, describing your experiences, thoughts, and feelings. Include details about the weather, any challenges you encounter, and the beauty of the ocean around you. Reflect on what it means to be alone on the water and how the adventure is changing you. Use vivid descriptions to bring your experience to life.

LEVEL 7 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 64: Wild Animals at Home by Ernest Thompson Seton

Essay prompt: In Wild Animals at Home, Ernest Thompson Seton shares fascinating stories about different animals and their behaviors. Choose one animal from the book and explain its unique characteristics and habits. Why do you think these traits are important for the animal's survival? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are creating a sign for a wildlife area to educate visitors about a specific animal featured in Wild Animals at Home. Design a colorful and informative sign that includes the following: the animal's name, a brief description of its habitat, interesting facts about its behavior, and tips for how people can help protect this animal. Use engaging language and visuals to make your sign appealing and informative.

Book 65: Ivanhoe by Sir Walter Scott

Essay prompt: In Ivanhoe, Sir Walter Scott tells a story of chivalry, loyalty, and adventure set in medieval England. Choose a character from the book, such as Wilfred of Ivanhoe, Rebecca, or Cedric the Saxon, and discuss their role in the story. What challenges do they face, and how do they demonstrate bravery or loyalty? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are a character in Ivanhoe, living in medieval England. Write a short story from your character's point of view, describing a day in their life. Include details about the challenges they face, their thoughts on the conflicts between Saxons and Normans, and any adventures or noble deeds they might undertake. Use vivid descriptions to bring the medieval setting to life and express your character's emotions and motivations.

LEVEL 7 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 66: The Scarlet Pimpernel by Baroness Orczy

Essay prompt: In The Scarlet Pimpernel, Baroness Orczy tells the exciting story of a mysterious hero who helps save French aristocrats during the Reign of Terror. Choose a key event from the story that highlights the bravery and cleverness of the Scarlet Pimpernel. How does this event reveal his character? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are a reporter in Paris during the French Revolution, trying to uncover the identity of the Scarlet Pimpernel. Write a newspaper article detailing your investigation. Include descriptions of the daring rescues he has accomplished, the rumors surrounding his identity, and the reactions of both the French authorities and the aristocrats he saves. Use dramatic language to capture the excitement and tension of this dangerous time.

Book 67: Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Essay prompt: In Little Women, Louisa May Alcott portrays the lives and challenges of the four March sisters—Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy. Choose one event from the story that affects all four sisters and discuss how each sister's personality influences her response to that event. Explain why their different perspectives are significant for understanding their characters and the themes of the novel. Use examples from the book to support your opinion.

Creative writing prompt: Write a short journal entry from the perspective of each of the four March sisters—Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy—reflecting on the same event in the story (such as the Christmas they had little money to spend or the girls' first experience at a ball). Each entry should express their unique thoughts and feelings about the event, highlighting their different personalities and viewpoints. Be creative and use their distinct voices to bring the sisters' perspectives to life.

LEVEL 7 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 68: A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Essay prompt: In A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge and his transformation after being visited by three spirits. Choose one of the spirits—the Ghost of Christmas Past, Present, or Future—and discuss its significance in Scrooge's journey toward redemption. Explain how this spirit influences Scrooge's character development and the overall message of the story. Use examples from the text to support your opinion.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine that you have been taken back in time to experience a Christmas from the past, present, or future as depicted in A Christmas Carol. Write a descriptive piece about what you see, hear, and feel in that time. Describe the setting, the people you encounter, and the emotions surrounding the Christmas celebration. Reflect on how this experience impacts your understanding of the holiday spirit and the importance of kindness and generosity. Be creative and use vivid details to make your writing come alive.

Book 69: Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne

Essay prompt: In Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea, Jules Verne takes readers on an incredible underwater adventure with Captain Nemo and the Nautilus. Choose a specific part of the journey and discuss how Verne describes the ocean and its creatures. What does this reveal about the wonders and dangers of the sea? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are a crew member on the Nautilus, exploring the depths of the ocean. Write a journal entry describing a day on board the submarine. Include details about what you see, such as underwater landscapes and marine life, and your thoughts on Captain Nemo's adventures. Reflect on how being underwater changes your perspective on the world and any challenges you face during your journey. Use vivid descriptions to bring the underwater experience to life.

LEVEL 7 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 70: Tales of the Alhambra by Washington Irving

Essay prompt: In Tales of the Alhambra, Washington Irving shares stories inspired by the beautiful Alhambra palace in Spain. Choose one story from the collection and discuss how Irving describes the setting and its influence on the characters. Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are a visitor exploring the Alhambra palace during the time Washington Irving wrote Tales of the Alhambra. Write a letter to a friend describing your visit. Include details about the architecture, the gardens, and any stories you hear about the palace's history and legends. Share your thoughts and feelings about the beauty of the place and how it inspires your imagination. Use descriptive language to make your friend feel as if they are experiencing the Alhambra with you.

LEVEL 8 INSTRUCTIONS

After each chapter students will complete a **formative assessment**. They will complete dictation after each chapter. **Dictation** is when they write passages as they are being read aloud to them. This helps them memorize spelling and sentence structure. They choose a **full paragraph** passage, read it, and then write it as it's read aloud to them. Afterward, they compare their work to the original and make corrections. After writing the passage, have them read it out loud. **Written narrations** continue with full sentences, correct capitalization, and punctuation. Finally, they will select **8 vocabulary words** from each chapter. Have them write down the vocabulary word, look up and write down the definition, and then use the word to write a sentence (either from the book or a sentence they make up).

At the end of the book students will complete a **summative assessment**. Summative assessments for level 8 are completed as **written essays and creative writing assignments**. Students write essays that extend beyond five paragraphs.

Book 71: Ben-Hur by Lew Wallace

Essay prompt: In Ben-Hur, Lew Wallace tells the story of Judah Ben-Hur, a Jewish prince who faces many challenges and adventures in ancient Rome. Choose a significant event in the story that changes Ben-Hur's life. How does this event shape his character and influence his journey? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are Judah Ben-Hur during a pivotal moment in the story, such as the chariot race or his encounter with Jesus. Write a letter to a close friend or family member reflecting on your thoughts and emotions during this moment. Describe the intensity of the experience, your hopes and fears, and how it influences your perspective on life, honor, and faith. Use descriptive language to convey your feelings and the significance of this moment in your journey.

LEVEL 8 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 72: In the Days of Queen Elizabeth by Eva March Tappan

Essay prompt: In In the Days of Queen Elizabeth, Eva March Tappan explores the life and times during Queen Elizabeth I's reign. Choose a specific event or person from the book that you found interesting. How does this event or person reflect the culture and challenges of that time period? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are a young person living in England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Write a letter to a friend describing your daily life. Include details about what you see around you, the people you meet, and the events happening in your town or city. Reflect on your thoughts about Queen Elizabeth's rule, any important events you've heard about, and how they affect you and your family. Use descriptive language to bring the time period to life.

Book 73: The Land of Little Rain by Mary Austin

Essay prompt: In The Land of Little Rain, Mary Austin describes the landscapes and people of the American Southwest. Choose a chapter or story from the book that you like and explain how Austin describes the environment. What details help you picture the area? Why do you think these details are important? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are a tour guide leading visitors through the beautiful places described in The Land of Little Rain. Write a script for your tour, pointing out interesting features like plants, animals, and rocks. Describe what visitors will see and hear, and share a fun story or fact about the area. Use colorful language to make the tour exciting and help your audience connect with the beauty of the Southwest.

LEVEL 8 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 74: Walden by Henry David Thoreau

Essay prompt: In Walden, Henry David Thoreau reflects on his experiences living simply in nature. Choose a specific chapter or idea from the book and discuss how Thoreau describes the importance of nature in his life. What lessons does he learn during his time at Walden Pond, and how do these lessons apply to our lives today? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are Henry David Thoreau, living alone by Walden Pond. Write a journal entry describing a day in your life. Include details about your surroundings, the animals and plants you encounter, and your thoughts on solitude and simplicity. Reflect on what you learn from nature and how it influences your perspective on life. Use vivid descriptions to convey the beauty and tranquility of your environment.

Book 75: Journey to the Center of the Earth by Jules Verne

Essay prompt: In Journey to the Center of the Earth, Jules Verne takes readers on an incredible adventure filled with scientific discovery and danger. Choose a specific moment from the story that showcases the excitement of exploration. How does this moment reveal the characters' motivations and their relationship with nature? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are a member of Professor Lidenbrock's expedition to the center of the Earth. Write a diary entry describing one day of your journey. Include details about what you see, the challenges you face, and your thoughts on the mysterious world beneath the surface. Describe the strange creatures, landscapes, and discoveries you encounter, and reflect on how this adventure changes your understanding of the Earth and its wonders. Use vivid descriptions to bring your experiences to life.

LEVEL 8 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 76: The Moonstone by Wilkie Collins

Essay prompt: In The Moonstone, Wilkie Collins tells a captivating story about a stolen diamond and the mystery surrounding it. Choose a character from the book, such as Franklin Blake, Rachel Verinder, or Sergeant Cuff, and discuss their role in solving the mystery. What are their motivations, and how do they contribute to the unfolding of the plot? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are a detective investigating the theft of the Moonstone. Write a report detailing your findings after interviewing several suspects. Include descriptions of the suspects, their alibis, and any clues you discover. Reflect on your thought process as you try to piece together the mystery and decide who you believe is guilty. Use engaging language to capture the tension and excitement of your investigation.

Book 77: To Have and To Hold by Mary Johnston

Essay prompt: In To Have and To Hold, Mary Johnston explores themes of love, loyalty, and adventure during the early days of the American colonies. Choose a key moment in the story that highlights these themes. How do the characters' decisions during this moment reflect their values and relationships? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are one of the characters in To Have and To Hold, living in the early American colonies. Write a letter to a friend describing a significant event in your life, such as a battle, a wedding, or a moment of conflict. Include details about your feelings, the challenges you face, and your hopes for the future. Use vivid descriptions to bring your experiences to life and express the emotions involved in this important moment.

LEVEL 8 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 78: The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

Essay prompt: In The Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde explores themes of beauty, morality, and the consequences of a life dedicated to hedonism. Choose a key scene in the book that illustrates Dorian's transformation. How does this scene reflect the central themes of the story? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are Dorian Gray, and you have just seen the changes in your portrait. Write a diary entry reflecting on your feelings about your appearance, your lifestyle, and the choices you've made. Consider the contrast between your outward beauty and the changes in your painting. What are your thoughts on morality and the pursuit of pleasure? Use expressive language to convey your inner conflict and emotions as you grapple with the consequences of your actions.

Book 79: Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

Essay prompt: In Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Robert Louis Stevenson explores the duality of human nature through the characters of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Choose a specific event in the story that highlights the conflict between these two identities. How does this event reveal the struggle between good and evil within Jekyll? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are Dr. Jekyll, writing a letter to a close friend about your experiments and the transformations into Mr. Hyde. Describe your thoughts and feelings about the changes you experience and your struggle to control them. Reflect on the moral implications of your actions and what it means for your identity. Use vivid descriptions to express the tension between your two selves and the impact of your experiments on your life and relationships.

LEVEL 8 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 80: Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

Essay prompt: In Great Expectations, Charles Dickens tells the story of Pip and his journey from a humble upbringing to becoming a gentleman. Choose a pivotal moment in the story that significantly impacts Pip's character development. How does this moment shape his understanding of wealth, friendship, and personal values? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine a key event in Great Expectations changed. For example, what if Pip never received his "great expectations," or if he chose to stay loyal to Joe instead of pursuing wealth? Write an alternate ending or a new chapter that explores how Pip's life and relationships would be different as a result. Consider the impact on his character, his friendships, and his view of what it means to be successful. Use descriptive language to illustrate the new path Pip takes and how it affects those around him.

LEVEL 9 INSTRUCTIONS

After each chapter students will complete a **formative assessment**. They will complete dictation after each chapter. **Dictation** is when they write passages as they are being read aloud to them. This helps them memorize spelling and sentence structure. They choose a **three-paragraph** passage, read it, and then write it as it's read aloud to them. Afterward, they compare their work to the original and make corrections. After writing the passage, have them read it out loud. **Written narrations** continue with full sentences, correct capitalization, and punctuation. Finally, they will select **9 vocabulary words** from each chapter. Have them write down the vocabulary word, look up and write down the definition, and then use the word to write a sentence (either from the book or a sentence they make up).

At the end of the book students will complete a **summative assessment**. Summative assessments for level 9 are completed as **written essays and creative writing assignments**. Students write essays that extend beyond five paragraphs.

Book 81: Wild Animals I Have Known by Ernest Thompson Seton

Essay prompt: In Wild Animals I Have Known, Ernest Thompson Seton shares stories of various animals and their behaviors. Choose one animal from the book and discuss how Seton describes its character and habitat. How does his portrayal help readers understand the challenges the animal faces in the wild? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are a wilderness guide leading a group of adventurers through the forest. Write a guidebook entry for one of the animals featured in Wild Animals I Have Known. Describe the animal's appearance, habitat, and behaviors, as well as any fascinating stories or facts you've learned about it. Include tips for observing the animal in the wild safely and respectfully. Use vivid language to bring the animal and its environment to life, making your readers feel like they are part of the wilderness experience.

LEVEL 9 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 82: Rural Hours by Susan Fenimore Cooper

Essay prompt: In Rural Hours, Susan Fenimore Cooper describes the beauty of nature and the changing seasons in a rural setting. Choose a specific chapter or passage that highlights her observations. How does Cooper use her experiences to convey the importance of nature and its connection to human life? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are Susan Fenimore Cooper, spending a day in the countryside. Write a reflective journal entry describing your observations of the natural world around you. Include details about the sights, sounds, and smells you experience, as well as any animals or plants you encounter. Reflect on how these experiences make you feel and what they teach you about the importance of nature in our lives. Use descriptive language to create a vivid picture of your rural surroundings and convey your appreciation for the beauty of the natural world.

Book 83: The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Essay prompt: In The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne explores themes of sin, guilt, and redemption through the characters of Hester Prynne, Arthur Dimmesdale, and Roger Chillingworth. Choose a specific event or character that illustrates these themes. How does this event or character reveal the societal pressures of Puritan New England? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are Hester Prynne, reflecting on your life after the events of The Scarlet Letter. Write a letter to a close friend explaining your feelings about wearing the scarlet letter "A" and how it has shaped your identity. Describe your experiences in the community, your thoughts on love and forgiveness, and your hopes for the future. Use expressive language to convey the complexity of your emotions and the impact of societal judgment on your life.

LEVEL 9 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 84: The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin by Benjamin Franklin

Essay prompt: In The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin, Franklin reflects on his life, achievements, and personal philosophy. Choose a specific lesson or principle that Franklin emphasizes in his writings. How does this lesson reflect his character and influence his decisions throughout his life? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are Benjamin Franklin, writing a letter to a young person seeking advice on how to live a good life. Share some of the key lessons you've learned from your experiences, such as the importance of hard work, self-improvement, or community service. Use personal anecdotes to illustrate these lessons and encourage the reader to apply them in their own life. Make your letter inspiring and relatable, using Franklin's wit and wisdom to engage your audience.

Book 85: The Life of Black Hawk by Black Hawk

Essay prompt: In The Life of Black Hawk, Black Hawk shares his experiences and perspectives as a leader of the Sauk tribe during a time of conflict with American settlers. Choose a specific event from his life that illustrates the struggles faced by Native Americans during this period. How does Black Hawk's account reflect his views on leadership, culture, and resistance? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are creating a guided tour at a museum describing the life of Black Hawk. What do you mention? What historical artifacts would you want to include in the museum? What are the key takeaways that you hope people from your presentation have after going on the tour you designed?

LEVEL 9 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 86: The Complete Tales by Edgar Allan Poe (*the following stories are assigned: The Tell-Tale Heart, The Cask of Amontillado, The Fall of the House of Usher, The Masque of the Red Death, The Black Cat, The Pit and the Pendulum, The Gold-Bug, The Murders in the Rue Morgue, The Purloined Letter, The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar, The Oval Portrait, The System of Doctor Tarr and Professor Fether, A Descent into the Maelström, The Oblong Box, The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket*)

Essay prompt: In The Complete Tales, Edgar Allan Poe explores themes of madness, death, and the supernatural through his unique storytelling style. Choose one story from the collection that exemplifies these themes. How does Poe use elements like setting, character, and mood to create a sense of fear or unease? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are a character in one of Edgar Allan Poe's tales, experiencing a moment of terror or revelation. Write a short story that captures the atmosphere of dread typical of Poe's works. Focus on the details of your surroundings, your emotions, and the events unfolding around you. Use descriptive language to create suspense and immerse the reader in the eerie world you inhabit. Consider how the story might explore themes of fear, obsession, or the unknown, in true Poe style.

LEVEL 9 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 87: Anthem by Ayn Rand

Essay prompt: In Anthem, Ayn Rand presents a dystopian society where individualism is suppressed, and the concept of "I" is forbidden. Choose a specific scene that highlights the struggle between individuality and conformity. How does this scene illustrate the importance of self-identity and personal freedom? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are the protagonist, Equality 7-2521, writing a journal entry after discovering the meaning of individuality. Describe your feelings about your newfound identity and the world around you. Reflect on the significance of your experiences, the importance of freedom, and your hopes for the future. Use expressive language to convey the emotions of breaking free from a society that values conformity over individuality. Consider what it means to truly be yourself in a world that discourages it.

Book 88: Lorna Doone by R.D. Blackmore

Essay prompt: In Lorna Doone, R.D. Blackmore weaves a tale of love, adventure, and conflict set against the backdrop of the English countryside. Choose a specific character or event that significantly influences the story's themes of love and loyalty. How does this character or event shape the relationships and outcomes for the main characters? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are John Ridd, writing a letter to Lorna Doone about your feelings and experiences throughout the story. Share your thoughts on the challenges you've faced, your loyalty to your family, and your love for Lorna. Describe a memorable moment from your adventures together and how it has shaped your view of love and honor. Use vivid descriptions and heartfelt emotions to express the depth of your feelings and the importance of your journey in a world filled with danger and uncertainty.

LEVEL 9 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 89: A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

Essay prompt: In A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens explores themes of sacrifice, resurrection, and the impact of social injustice during the French Revolution. Choose a specific character or event that embodies these themes. How does this character's journey or this event reflect the broader societal changes of the time? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are Charles Darnay, reflecting on your life and the events that led you to your current situation in revolutionary France. Write a letter to a friend in England describing your experiences, feelings about the revolution, and the sacrifices you've made for love and family. Share your thoughts on the challenges ahead and your hopes for the future. Use expressive language to convey the tension of living in a time of chaos and the impact of your choices on your identity and relationships.

Book 90: Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Essay prompt: In Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen explores themes of love, social class, and individual growth through the lives of her characters. Choose a specific event from the novel that significantly impacts the relationships among the characters. How does this event highlight the societal norms of the time and the personal struggles of the characters involved? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine a major event from Pride and Prejudice, such as the ball at Netherfield or Elizabeth's visit to Pemberley. Write two journal entries from the perspectives of two different characters involved in that event. Use descriptive language to capture the atmosphere of the event and convey the characters' unique viewpoints, allowing readers to see how their individual experiences shape their understanding of love and social dynamics.

LEVEL 10 INSTRUCTIONS

After each chapter students will complete a **formative assessment**. They will complete dictation after each chapter. **Dictation** is when they write passages as they are being read aloud to them. This helps them memorize spelling and sentence structure. They choose a **three-paragraph** passage, read it, and then write it as it's read aloud to them. Afterward, they compare their work to the original and make corrections. After writing the passage, have them read it out loud. **Written narrations** continue with full sentences, correct capitalization, and punctuation. Finally, they will select **10 vocabulary words** from each chapter. Have them write down the vocabulary word, look up and write down the definition, and then use the word to write a sentence (either from the book or a sentence they make up).

At the end of the book students will complete a **summative assessment**. Summative assessments for level 10 are completed as **written essays and creative writing assignments**. Students write essays that extend beyond five paragraphs. In addition to essays and creative writing, students will write their first **research papers**. They'll research a topic, outline their main points, and structure papers with an introduction, body, and conclusion. Encourage them to find reliable sources and cite them. Afterward, they'll edit for clarity.

LEVEL 10 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 91: My First Summer in the Sierra by John Muir

Essay prompt: In My First Summer in the Sierra, John Muir describes his experiences in the Sierra Nevada mountains, focusing on the beauty of nature and its impact on the human spirit. Choose a specific passage or event that highlights Muir's connection to nature. How does his writing reflect his views on the importance of preserving the wilderness? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are John Muir, reflecting on your first summer in the Sierra Nevada mountains. Write a journal entry describing a memorable day spent in the wilderness. Detail the sights, sounds, and feelings you experience as you explore the natural surroundings. Reflect on how this experience deepens your appreciation for nature and your desire to protect it. Use vivid imagery and descriptive language to immerse the reader in the beauty of the landscape and your emotions.

Research paper prompt: The role of John Muir in the establishment of national parks in the United States.

LEVEL 10 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 92: Travels in Alaska by John Muir

Essay prompt: In Travels in Alaska, John Muir shares his observations and experiences as he explores the natural beauty of Alaska. Choose a specific chapter or event that captures Muir's relationship with the landscape. How does Muir's writing convey his admiration for the wilderness, and what insights does he offer about the environment? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are John Muir, documenting your adventures in Alaska. Write a journal entry describing a particularly awe-inspiring moment during your travels, such as witnessing a glacier, encountering wildlife, or meeting local people. Detail your thoughts and feelings as you experience the beauty of Alaska, and reflect on how this journey influences your understanding of nature. Use rich, descriptive language to bring your surroundings to life and convey your deep connection to the wilderness.

Research paper prompt: The influence of indigenous cultures on Muir's understanding of nature and conservation.

LEVEL 10 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 93: Narrative of Sojourner Truth by Sojourner Truth

Essay prompt: In Narrative of Sojourner Truth, Sojourner Truth shares her life story, emphasizing her experiences as an enslaved woman and her journey toward freedom. Choose a specific moment in her narrative that illustrates her resilience and strength. How does this moment reflect the broader themes of justice, equality, and empowerment? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are curating a museum exhibit to educate people about Sojourner Truth. Create a presentation that highlights her life, struggles, and victories.

Research paper prompt: The significance of Sojourner Truth's speech "Ain't I a Woman?" in the context of both the abolitionist and women's rights movements.

LEVEL 10 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 94: Moby-Dick by Herman Melville

Essay prompt: In Moby-Dick, Herman Melville explores complex themes such as obsession, revenge, and the struggle between man and nature. Choose a specific character or event that embodies these themes. How does this character's journey or this event reflect the broader conflicts within the novel? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are Ishmael, writing a letter to a friend about your experiences aboard the Pequod. Describe a significant event or encounter with Captain Ahab and the crew, focusing on the atmosphere, emotions, and relationships among the crew members. Reflect on your thoughts about the mission to hunt Moby Dick and your feelings about the captain's obsession. Use vivid descriptions to convey the tension and excitement of life at sea.

Research paper prompt: The impact of 19th-century whaling practices on the themes of the novel and Melville's portrayal of the industry.

LEVEL 10 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 95: American Indian Stories by Zitkala-Sa

Essay prompt: In American Indian Stories, Zitkala-Sa shares personal narratives that highlight the experiences and challenges faced by Native Americans. Choose a specific story or theme from the collection that illustrates the cultural identity and struggles of Native Americans. How does Zitkala-Sa's writing reflect her perspective on these issues? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are curating a museum exhibit based on American Indian Stories by Zitkala-Sa. Create a presentation that highlights key themes, stories, and cultural elements from her work.

Research paper prompt: The impact of assimilation policies on Native American communities, as reflected in Zitkala-Sa's writings.

LEVEL 10 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 96: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

Essay prompt: In The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain addresses themes of friendship, freedom, and moral growth. Choose a specific event in the novel that demonstrates Huck's development as a character. How does this event challenge his views on society and morality? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are a journalist reporting on a major event from The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. Write a newspaper article covering a significant incident in the story.

Research paper prompt: The significance of the Mississippi River in American history.

Book 97: The Autobiography of Andrew Carnegie by Andrew Carnegie

Essay prompt: In The Autobiography of Andrew Carnegie, the author reflects on his life, business practices, and beliefs about wealth and philanthropy. Choose a specific event or philosophy from Carnegie's life that illustrates his views on success and responsibility. How does Carnegie's perspective on wealth differ from other contemporary views? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are a journalist covering a major event from Andrew Carnegie's life, such as the expansion of his steel empire, his philanthropic efforts, or the Homestead Strike. Write a newspaper article that captures the essence of this event.

Research paper prompt: A comparison of Carnegie's business strategies to those of other industrialists of his time, such as John D. Rockefeller or J.P. Morgan.

LEVEL 10 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 98: The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

Essay prompt: In The Red Badge of Courage, Stephen Crane explores the theme of courage and the psychological struggles of a young soldier, Henry Fleming, during the Civil War. Choose a specific moment in the story that highlights Henry's internal conflict about bravery and fear. How does this moment contribute to his development as a character? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are Henry Fleming, the protagonist of The Red Badge of Courage. Write a diary entry from his perspective after a significant battle. In your entry, reflect on his feelings about courage, fear, and the realities of war.

Research paper prompt: The psychological effects of war on soldiers.

Book 99: The Jungle by Upton Sinclair

Essay prompt: In The Jungle, Upton Sinclair exposes the harsh realities of the meatpacking industry and the struggles of immigrant workers in early 20th-century America. Choose a specific scene that illustrates the challenges faced by the main character, Jurgis Rudkus, or another immigrant. How does this scene reflect the broader themes of exploitation and the American Dream? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are Jurgis Rudkus, the protagonist of The Jungle. Write a letter to a local politician expressing your frustrations and hopes regarding the working conditions in the meatpacking industry.

Research paper prompt: The theme of the American Dream in The Jungle and how it contrasts with the reality faced by immigrant workers.

LEVEL 10 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 100: The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Essay prompt: In The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald explores themes of wealth, love, and the American Dream through the lives of its characters, particularly Jay Gatsby and Daisy Buchanan. Choose a specific scene or character interaction that highlights the complexities of Gatsby's pursuit of love and the idealized version of the American Dream. How does this moment reveal the underlying social issues of the 1920s? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are a reporter covering the extravagant parties at Jay Gatsby's mansion in West Egg. Write a newspaper article detailing one of Gatsby's famous parties, focusing on the atmosphere, the guests, and the rumors surrounding Gatsby himself.

Research paper prompt: A comparison of the settings in The Great Gatsby (West Egg, East Egg, and New York City) and what they reveal about class and social status during the 1920s.

LEVEL 11 INSTRUCTIONS

After each chapter students will complete a **formative assessment**. They will complete dictation after each chapter. **Dictation** is when they write passages as they are being read aloud to them. This helps them memorize spelling and sentence structure. They choose a **three-paragraph** passage, read it, and then write it as it's read aloud to them. Afterward, they compare their work to the original and make corrections. After writing the passage, have them read it out loud. **Written narrations** continue with full sentences, correct capitalization, and punctuation. Finally, they will select **11 vocabulary words** from each chapter. Have them write down the vocabulary word, look up and write down the definition, and then use the word to write a sentence (either from the book or a sentence they make up).

At the end of the book students will complete a **summative assessment**. Summative assessments for level 11 are completed as **written essays, research papers, and creative writing assignments**.

Book 101: A Brief History of Element Discovery, Synthesis, and Analysis by Glen W. Watson

Essay prompt: In A Brief History of Element Discovery, Synthesis, and Analysis, Glen W. Watson discusses the significant milestones in the discovery and synthesis of chemical elements. Choose one element and explore its historical context, the key scientists involved in its discovery, and the methods used to isolate or synthesize it. How did this discovery impact the field of chemistry or society at large? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are a scientist in the midst of discovering a new element. Write a journal entry documenting your thoughts, feelings, and experiences during this groundbreaking moment.

Research paper prompt: The impact of the periodic table on the organization and understanding of chemical elements.

LEVEL 11 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 102: The Chemical History of a Candle by Michael Faraday

Essay prompt: In The Chemical History of a Candle, Michael Faraday explores the science behind the burning of a candle, examining its chemical reactions and the principles of combustion. Choose a specific aspect of candle combustion that Faraday discusses, such as the role of wax, the production of heat and light, or the byproducts of burning. Explain how Faraday's analysis enhances our understanding of chemical reactions and their relevance to everyday life. Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are Michael Faraday, conducting an experiment to study the combustion of a candle. Write a journal entry documenting your observations, thoughts, and feelings during this experiment.

Research paper prompt: The process of combustion and its applications in everyday life, such as in engines, cooking, and heating.

Book 103: Plutarch: Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romans by Plutarch

Essay prompt: In Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romans, Plutarch provides biographies of key figures in ancient Greece and Rome, exploring their virtues, vices, and the historical context of their lives. Choose one of the figures Plutarch examines and analyze their character traits and actions. How did these traits influence their success or failure? What lessons can we learn from their lives that are relevant today? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are one of the historical figures featured in Plutarch's Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romans. Write a journal entry from their perspective, reflecting on a significant event in their life.

Research paper prompt: An exploration of the historical context of the Greco-Roman world during the lives of the figures Plutarch wrote about, including social, political, and cultural factors.

LEVEL 11 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 104: Memoirs of Catherine the Great by Catherine the Great

Essay prompt: In Memoirs of Catherine the Great, Catherine shares her experiences, thoughts, and insights from her life as a ruler of Russia. Choose a specific event or decision from her reign that she discusses in her memoirs. Analyze how this event reflects her leadership style and political philosophy. What can we learn from her approach to governance, and how does it relate to modern leadership? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are a tour guide leading a group of visitors through St. Petersburg, Russia, during the reign of Catherine the Great. As you walk through the city, share fascinating insights about her life, her accomplishments, and her influence on Russia.

Research paper prompt: A comparative study of Catherine the Great and other influential female rulers in history, exploring their similarities and differences in governance.

LEVEL 11 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 105: The Iliad by Homer

Essay prompt: In The Iliad, Homer explores themes of honor, fate, and the human condition through the experiences of its characters during the Trojan War. Choose a character, such as Achilles, Hector, or Agamemnon, and analyze their motivations and actions throughout the epic. How do these motivations shape their destiny and the outcome of the war? What does their story reveal about the nature of heroism and the impact of personal choices on broader events? Use examples from the text to support your analysis.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are a warrior in the Trojan War, writing a journal entry during a pivotal moment in the conflict. Choose a specific event or battle to focus on.

Research paper prompt: An exploration of the historical and cultural context of the Trojan War and how it is depicted in The Iliad.

LEVEL 11 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 106: The Odyssey by Homer

Essay prompt: In The Odyssey, Homer tells the story of Odysseus's long journey home after the Trojan War, exploring themes of adventure, loyalty, and the struggle against fate. Choose a significant episode from Odysseus's journey, such as his encounter with the Cyclops, the Sirens, or his time with Circe. Analyze how this episode reflects Odysseus's character and the challenges he faces. What lessons can we learn from his experiences about perseverance, cleverness, and the importance of home? Use specific examples from the text to support your analysis.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are Penelope, the wife of Odysseus, writing a journal entry while waiting for his return. Your entry should reflect your thoughts, feelings, and the challenges you face during his absence.

Research paper prompt: An analysis of the concept of hospitality (xenia) in The Odyssey and its impact on the story and characters.

LEVEL 11 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 107: Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse

Essay prompt: In Siddhartha, Hermann Hesse tells the story of a young man's journey to find enlightenment and self-discovery. Choose a key moment in Siddhartha's journey, such as his time with the Samanas, his love for Kamala, or his experiences as a merchant. Analyze how this moment shapes his understanding of life and spirituality. What lessons does Siddhartha learn about himself and the nature of happiness? Use specific examples from the text to support your analysis.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine you are Siddhartha, writing a reflection after a significant event in your journey.

Research paper prompt: The cultural experience of Siddhartha.

Book 108: The Arabian Nights by Andrew Lang

Essay prompt: The Arabian Nights is a collection of stories featuring themes of adventure, magic, and morality. Choose one story from the collection, such as "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" or "The Fisherman and the Jinni," and analyze the moral lessons it conveys. How do the characters' choices reflect these lessons? Discuss the importance of storytelling within the narrative and how it influences the characters' lives and decisions. Use specific examples from the text to support your analysis.

Creative writing prompt: Choose one of the stories from The Arabian Nights and discuss how you would adapt it to a new art form, such as a play, a movie, a song, or a video game.

Research paper prompt: An analysis of the cultural and historical context of The Arabian Nights and how it reflects the values and beliefs of the time.

LEVEL 11 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 109: Macbeth by William Shakespeare

Essay prompt: In Macbeth, Shakespeare explores themes of ambition, power, and guilt. Choose a key moment in the play, such as Macbeth's encounter with the witches or Lady Macbeth's descent into madness. Analyze how this moment reveals the characters' motivations and the consequences of their actions. What does it teach us about the nature of ambition and morality? Use specific examples from the text to support your analysis.

Creative writing prompt: Write a brief letter from Macbeth to Lady Macbeth after he becomes king. In your letter, express his feelings about their actions and the consequences they are facing. Consider how his ambition and guilt are affecting him.

Research paper prompt: Explore the historical context of the Elizabethan era and how it influenced Shakespeare's writing.

Book 110: The Aeneid by Virgil

Essay prompt: In The Aeneid, Virgil tells the story of Aeneas and his journey to find a new homeland for the Trojans. Choose a significant episode from the epic, such as Aeneas's encounter with Dido or his descent into the Underworld. Analyze how this episode reveals Aeneas's character and the themes of duty, fate, and sacrifice. What does this tell us about the values of Roman society? Use specific examples from the text to support your analysis.

Creative writing prompt: Write a brief letter from Aeneas to his father, Anchises, after he has arrived in Italy. In your letter, describe his thoughts on the challenges he has faced, his feelings about leaving Dido, and his hopes for the future of the Trojans.

Research paper prompt: Greek mythology expressed in art throughout history.

LEVEL 12 INSTRUCTIONS

After each chapter students will complete a **formative assessment**. They will complete dictation after each chapter. **Dictation** is when they write passages as they are being read aloud to them. This helps them memorize spelling and sentence structure. They choose a **three-paragraph** passage, read it, and then write it as it's read aloud to them. Afterward, they compare their work to the original and make corrections. After writing the passage, have them read it out loud. **Written narrations** continue with full sentences, correct capitalization, and punctuation. Finally, they will select **12 vocabulary words** from each chapter. Have them write down the vocabulary word, look up and write down the definition, and then use the word to write a sentence (either from the book or a sentence they make up).

At the end of the book students will complete a **summative assessment**. Summative assessments for level 12 are completed as **written essays, creative writing assignments, and APA style research papers**. This final level includes a works cited page, preparing them for college standards. You can learn to write an APA-style research paper by following the APA guidelines, which are the standard format used in many college courses for organizing, citing, and presenting academic research. You can find detailed information about APA guidelines on the official APA website or in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.

LEVEL 12 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 111: Relativity: The Special and General Theory by Albert Einstein

Essay prompt: In Relativity: The Special and General Theory, Albert Einstein presents complex ideas about space, time, and gravity in a way that changed our understanding of the universe. Choose one of the main concepts discussed in the book, such as the relativity of simultaneity or the curvature of space-time. Explain this concept in your own words and discuss its significance. How does this concept challenge our everyday understanding of reality? Use examples from the book to support your explanation.

Creative writing prompt: Write a newspaper article reporting on the groundbreaking theories presented by Albert Einstein in his book on relativity. Imagine you are a journalist in the early 20th century. Your article should cover the main ideas of special and general relativity, explain why they are significant, and include reactions from scientists and the public. Keep the article to one page, focusing on making the complex ideas accessible and engaging for your readers.

Research paper prompt: The life and accomplishments of Albert Einstein.

LEVEL 12 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 112: Experiments with Alternate Currents of High Potential and High Frequency by Nikola Tesla

Essay prompt: In Experiments with Alternate Currents of High Potential and High Frequency, Nikola Tesla explores groundbreaking ideas about electricity and its potential applications. Choose one experiment or concept presented in the book, such as the principles of alternating current (AC) or wireless energy transmission. Explain the significance of this concept and how it contributed to the development of modern electrical systems. Discuss its impact on technology today and the way we use electricity in our daily lives. Use examples from the text to support your analysis.

Creative writing prompt: Write a newspaper article reporting on Nikola Tesla's revolutionary experiments with alternating currents. Imagine you are a journalist in the late 19th or early 20th century covering a demonstration of one of Tesla's inventions. Your article should describe the experiment, explain its significance, and include reactions from scientists, inventors, and the general public.

Research paper prompt: A biographical study of Nikola Tesla: His life, challenges, and the legacy of his inventions.

LEVEL 12 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 113: Ancient and Modern Physics by Thomas Edgar Wilson

Essay prompt: In Ancient and Modern Physics, Thomas Edgar Wilson examines the evolution of physical theories from ancient times to the present. Choose one specific concept or development discussed in the book, such as the transition from classical mechanics to quantum mechanics or the impact of ancient philosophies on modern physics. Explain the significance of this concept and how it has shaped our current understanding of the physical world. Use examples from the text to support your explanation.

Creative writing prompt: Write a newspaper article about a major breakthrough in physics as discussed in Thomas Edgar Wilson's Ancient and Modern Physics. Imagine you are a journalist covering a scientific conference where key findings are being presented. Your article should summarize the breakthrough, explain its historical context, and discuss its implications for the future of science.

Research paper prompt: The evolution of a specific physical theory, such as the development of the atomic model from ancient Greece to modern times.

LEVEL 12 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 114: South by Ernest Shackleton

Essay prompt: In South, Ernest Shackleton recounts his incredible journey and the challenges faced during his Antarctic expedition. Choose one key moment from the book, such as the crew's struggle for survival or Shackleton's leadership qualities. Analyze how this moment reflects the themes of perseverance, teamwork, and courage. Discuss the lessons that can be learned from Shackleton's experiences and how they relate to challenges we face today. Use examples from the text to support your analysis.

Creative writing prompt: Write a journal entry from the perspective of Ernest Shackleton during a critical moment of the expedition. Consider how he might have felt as he faced the challenges of the harsh Antarctic environment, the struggles of his crew, and the weight of leadership. Describe his thoughts, emotions, and hopes for survival, as well as any decisions he made that impacted the journey.

Research paper prompt: The historical context of Shackleton's expedition: What motivated this journey, and what were the goals of early Antarctic explorations?

LEVEL 12 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 115: The Bride of Lammermoor by Sir Walter Scott

Essay prompt: In The Bride of Lammermoor, Sir Walter Scott explores themes of love, betrayal, and family loyalty through the tragic story of Lucy Ashton and Edgar Ravenswood. Choose one character from the novel and analyze their motivations and actions throughout the story. How do their choices impact the events that unfold? Discuss how the themes of the novel are reflected in this character's journey, using specific examples from the text to support your analysis.

Creative writing prompt: Pick a pivotal scene from the novel and rewrite it from the point of view of a different character, such as Edgar Ravenswood or a family member of Lucy's, to explore their thoughts and emotions.

Research paper prompt: An analysis of the historical and cultural context of the novel and how it influences the characters and themes.

LEVEL 12 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 116: Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Essay prompt: In Frankenstein, Mary Shelley explores complex themes such as creation, responsibility, and the consequences of unchecked ambition through the story of Victor Frankenstein and his monstrous creation. Choose one theme and analyze how it is developed throughout the novel. Consider the actions of Victor and the creature, and how their relationship reflects this theme. Use specific examples from the text to support your analysis and discuss the relevance of this theme in today's world.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine a scene where Victor meets the creature for the first time, but instead of reacting with fear and rejection, he chooses to engage with him. Write this scene, focusing on their conversation and how it changes their fates.

Research paper prompt: Analyze how the Year Without a Summer impacted societal views on science, nature, and humanity, and how these themes manifest in the novel.

LEVEL 12 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 117: Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

Essay prompt: In Jane Eyre, Charlotte Brontë explores themes of social class, gender roles, and the quest for identity through the experiences of the protagonist, Jane. Choose one theme and analyze how it is developed throughout the novel. Discuss how Jane's relationships and experiences shape her understanding of herself and her place in the world. Use specific examples from the text to support your analysis and reflect on the relevance of this theme in today's society.

Creative writing prompt: Rewrite a pivotal scene from the novel, such as Jane's confrontation with Mr. Rochester, from Mr. Rochester's perspective. Explore his thoughts and feelings during the encounter.

Research paper prompt: Examine how Charlotte Brontë portrays the challenges women faced during this time, particularly in terms of independence and societal expectations, and how Jane defies these norms.

LEVEL 12 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 118: Dracula by Bram Stoker

Essay prompt: In Dracula, Bram Stoker explores themes of fear, the clash between modernity and tradition, and the battle between good and evil. Analyze how Stoker uses these themes to reflect the concerns of Victorian society. Consider how the characters, particularly Jonathan Harker, Mina Harker, and Count Dracula, embody these themes. Use specific examples from the text to support your analysis and discuss how these themes are still relevant today.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine that Dracula never leaves Transylvania and decides to stay hidden. Write a short story that explores how this affects the lives of the main characters and the events of the novel.

Research paper prompt: Investigate how Dracula reflects the anxieties of the Victorian era regarding science, technology, and the supernatural. Discuss how Stoker portrays the conflict between traditional beliefs and modern science.

LEVEL 12 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 119: The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle

Essay prompt: In The Hound of the Baskervilles, Arthur Conan Doyle weaves a tale of mystery and suspense featuring the legendary detective Sherlock Holmes and his faithful companion, Dr. John Watson. Analyze how Doyle uses atmosphere, setting, and character development to create tension and intrigue throughout the novel. Discuss how the moorland setting contributes to the story's overall themes and how Holmes and Watson's contrasting personalities enhance the narrative. Use specific examples from the text to support your analysis.

Creative writing prompt: Imagine that the curse of the Baskervilles is real, and the hound truly exists. Write a short story detailing how the characters respond to this supernatural threat and what the consequences are for them.

Research paper prompt: Investigate how the methods of deduction used by Sherlock Holmes reflect the growing interest in forensic science during the Victorian era. Discuss how Holmes embodies the rational approach to crime-solving.

LEVEL 12 INSTRUCTIONS

Book 120: The House of the Seven Gables by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Essay prompt: In The House of the Seven Gables, Nathaniel Hawthorne explores themes of guilt, redemption, and the impact of history on individuals and families. Analyze how the ancestral curse affects the Pyncheon family and how it shapes their lives and relationships throughout the novel. Discuss the significance of the house itself as a symbol of the family's past and its influence on the characters' fates. Use specific examples from the text to support your analysis.

Creative writing prompt: Write a journal entry from the perspective of Hepzibah Pyncheon as she reflects on her life in the house. Explore her feelings about the family legacy, her struggles with poverty, and her hopes for the future.

Research paper prompt: The history of Salem, Massachusetts.

WHAT'S NEXT

After Level 12, they'll be ready for college level work. At any age. Look into online competency-based credit options. By now, they'll be pros at mastery-based, self-paced learning.

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For other options, look into MOOCs like Coursera or edX—free courses from top universities where they can build skills or even earn certificates. Platforms like Sophia Learning and StraighterLine offer online, ACE-approved courses for college credit at a low cost. If they're ready for more, CLEP exams let them earn credits by passing tests in 34 different subjects, accepted at thousands of colleges. And don't forget dual enrollment with local community colleges—often at reduced rates—where students can earn college credits while finishing high school.

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