

INCLUDED INSIDE:

# 10 READING COMPREHENSION PASSAGES

# HIGH-INTEREST TOPICS FOR KIDS!



# 1 PAIRED PASSAGE



## LEONARDO DA VINCI

April 15, 1452-May 2, 1519

Leonardo da Vinci lived over six centuries ago. It is hard to imagine that someone born that long ago is still well-known today. Da Vinci is probably best known for his paintings, but this man of many talents is still an icon today for more than just his art. Most of Leonardo Da Vincis

### GROWING UP

Leonardo da Vinci was born on April 15, 1452, in Vinci, Italy. Although we do not know much about Leonardo's childhood, we do know that Leonardo lived with his father, Piero, and his mother, Caterina. Leonardo's father died at a young age.

Leonardo received little education. He was a self-taught man. His father was a sculptor. He spent the next six years studying painting, architecture, and engineering. He was interested in many things, including painting, bronze, sculpting marble, and anatomy.

### ARTWORK

The Mona Lisa is one of Leonardo's most famous works of art. Today it hangs in the Louvre Museum in Paris. The painting is a portrait of a woman. Some say the woman is his mother, Caterina. Another theory says she is the merchant's wife who lived in Italy. It has been called the "Mona Lisa" because she has a mysterious smile. Leonardo da Vinci died of old age on May 2, 1519.

### LATER YEARS

Da Vinci was a slow painter, much of his work was never completed, too. While painting her, Da Vinci died of old age on May 2, 1519.

### FUN FACTS

- Da Vinci loved birds. He used to buy caged birds and study their flight.
- The artist used to write backward on purpose to keep his ideas secret.

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

### THE LIFEBOATS ON THE TITANIC:

64- Lifeboats were the total the boat could carry.

20- Were the total lifeboats on the Titanic.

28- The number of people in the first boat? The boat could have held 65.



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

The *Titanic* is one of the most well-known ships in history. It was a British passenger liner that sank in the North Atlantic Ocean on April 15, 1912, after colliding with an iceberg during her maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to New York City, United States. Over 1,500 people died.

### SETTING SAIL

The *Titanic* set sail on April 10, 1912, leaving England for New York City, but the ship didn't reach its destination. The vessel, the passengers, and the crew onboard were worth \$5 million dollars.

Journey about the iceberg. No one knows for sure what happened. Captain Smith went to the bridge.



How cold was it?  
 • The night of the sinking was in the middle of winter.  
 • When water temperature was below freezing, it caused hypothermia.

### HITTING THE ICEBERG

Around 11:40 pm, the ship hit the iceberg. The crew members quickly tried to change course, but the ship was too large to turn. The ship struck the iceberg on the starboard side, causing a hole in the hull. Water rushed into the ship, and the ship began to sink.

### THE SHIP SINKS

About three hours after hitting the iceberg, the ship sank. Approximately 700 survivors were rescued. The ship sank in the North Atlantic Ocean, about 370 miles south of Newfoundland, Canada.

### Albert Einstein: A Brilliant Mind from Childhood to Greatness

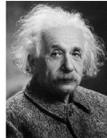
Albert Einstein, one of the most renowned scientists in history, was born on March 14, 1879, in Ulm, Germany. Even as a child, Einstein was curious and imaginative, but he was not a fluent speaker until around 9. This caused his parents and teachers to be concerned. Little did they know that later in life, he would be considered one of the greatest minds in history.

Growing up in a middle-class Jewish family, Einstein's early years were filled with exploration and questions. He often puzzled his teachers with his unconventional thinking and relentless questioning. However, despite his curious mind, Einstein struggled in the traditional school environment. He preferred to learn at his own pace, often diving deep into subjects that interested him most.

One pivotal moment in Einstein's childhood was receiving a compass from his father at five. No matter how he turned it, he was mesmerized by how the needle always pointed north. This simple gift sparked his lifelong passion for understanding the forces of nature.

As Einstein grew older, he continued to pursue his love for science. He attended the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, where he excelled in mathematics and physics. After graduation, Einstein worked as a patent clerk while conducting research in his spare time.

In 1905, Einstein published four groundbreaking papers that revolutionized the field of physics. These papers introduced his theories of special relativity, explaining how time and space are interconnected, and the famous equation  $E=mc^2$ , which relates mass and energy. These discoveries earned him widespread recognition and forever changed our understanding of the universe. Although Albert was as sharp as a tack, he could also be absentminded. He was known for forgetting everyday tasks like wearing socks. Whatever Albert was working on could sometimes completely captivate him. He sometimes would be so engrossed in everyday tasks that he would quickly lose track of time.



Throughout his life, Einstein remained deeply committed to his principles and values. He passionately advocated for peace, using his influence to promote nuclear disarmament and international cooperation. He was also a celebrity in his community. Albert was considered an icon for his appearance, wild hair, and playful demeanor. Despite facing many challenges and setbacks, Einstein's perseverance and dedication to his work made him one of the most influential figures of the 20th century.

**A True Music Lover:** Einstein was a talented violinist and had a deep appreciation for music. He often turned to music as a source of inspiration and relaxation while working on complex scientific problems. In fact, during an interview in 1929, he said that if he had not been a scientist, he would have been a musician.



### Lucky Life

## SALLY K. RIDE

Sally Karen Ride was born on May 26, 1931, in Los Angeles, California, to Dale and Carol Ride. She grew up in the Encino area in California and had a younger sister named Karen, who they called Bear. Dale Ride was a political science professor, and her mother volunteered at a local prison as a counselor. Their parents encouraged the sisters to study hard and do their best in school. Sally's father has been quoted to say, "We might have encouraged, but mostly we just let them explore." Sally was great at many things growing up. She was an outstanding athlete and excelled at playing tennis. It wasn't long before Sally began to question her choice. She felt that she was missing out on something else. Always having a strong interest in science, Sally enrolled at Stanford University, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in English and physics. Even from childhood, Sally K. Ride is probably best known for being the first woman to travel to space. Her journey was not easy and required hard work and determination.

### Joining NASA

Sally Ride grew up with many interests, and space travel was one of them. Unfortunately, space travel was not open to women until 1983. Sally was finishing her Ph.D. when she saw an advertisement recruiting astronauts for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in her school newspaper. Sally felt this would be an opportunity of a lifetime and was one of 8,000 that applied for the position with the new space shuttle program. Shortly after applying, Sally was astonished that she was one out of 25 people accepted into the program. Only six of the accepted applicants were women.

Sally went immediately to intensive training, including parachute jumping, water survival, weightless training, and radio communications. After training that Sally was required to do was flight instruction. She enjoyed flying so much that it became a lifelong hobby of hers. After space training was completed, Sally became communications officer for relaying radio messages to the mission control team. Sally was also on the team that helped to develop a mechanical arm for the space shuttle. Eventually, Sally's dreams of space travel came true when she was chosen to be part of the shuttle mission STS-7. Sally K. Ride would be the first American woman to travel to space.

### GOING TO SPACE

Sally boarded the Challenger space shuttle on June 8, 1983, with a crew total of five. The group's mission was to use the mechanical arm to retrieve a satellite from orbit, release another satellite, and conduct various experiments. The crew completed all their tasks, and the space mission was considered a success. The Challenger landed six days later at Edwards Air Force Base in California.



One morning while sitting scrambled eggs in the school cafeteria, Sally read about NASA looking for astronauts for the first time. Women could apply. Sally decided in that instant that she would apply to the program.

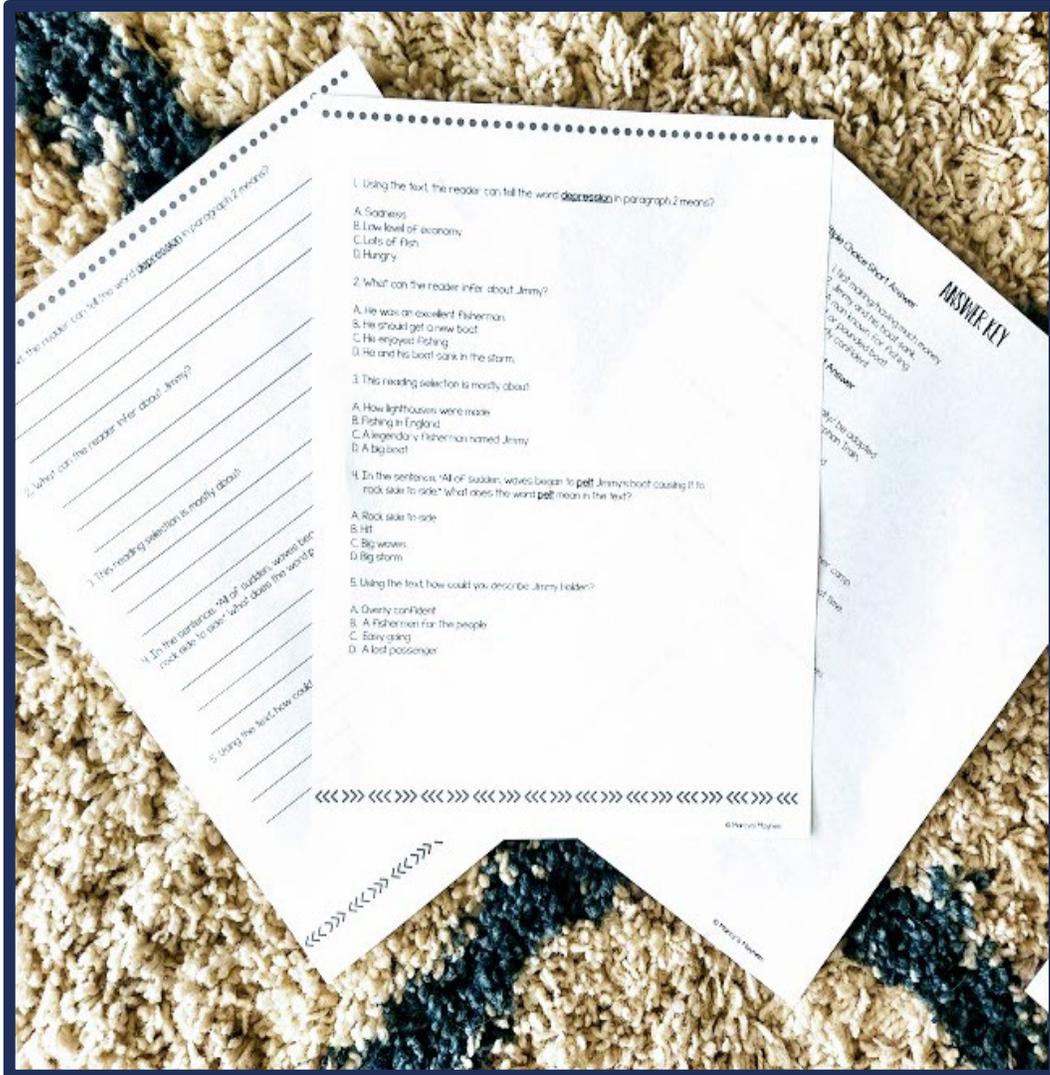
### Chasing a Dream

Wanda sat down at the table and sighed. She looked in the door and slammed her backpack on the table. She sighed. "I'm tired of carrying all this stuff." Wanda said. "Mom cut the potatoes into chunks and began putting them in the pot." Wanda said. "Wanda said after a few minutes..."



# 3 NONFICTION PASSAGES

EACH PASSAGE HAS SHORT ANSWERS &  
MULTIPLE CHOICE (**SAME QUESTIONS**)  
PLUS DIGITAL USING GOOGLE FORMS



PRACTICE THESE SKILLS:

- 🌸 context clues/new vocabulary
- 🌸 make predictions
- 🌸 find the main idea
- 🌸 infer within the text
- 🌸 text evidence and more!

# ECR- Extended Constructed Reply Included

Use to help students find text evidence when they read.



- Worksheets are editable
- Sticky Note template and printable examples to practice finding text evidence
- Text Evidence examples to use when stated directly in the text and when students need to infer.

# Dig deeper into reading!

**ECR- Extended Constructed Reply**

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

TEXT EVIDENCE 1

TEXT EVIDENCE 2

REASON 1

REASON 2

EXPLAIN 1

EXPLAIN 2

What is the central idea of the question you need to answer? (Write it below.)

Find proof of text evidence to support your answer.

Where in the text did you find a reason to support your question?

Explain why this reason can support your answer.

Write a conclusion stating why your answer is correct using the text evidence above.

**USING TEXT EVIDENCE PROVE IT!**

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

Directions for use:

1. Print the Sticky Note Template (next page).

When you find proof DIRECTLY stated in the text.

- I inferred that....
- For example....
- From reading \_\_\_\_ I know that....
- After I read \_\_\_\_\_, I concluded that.....
- I think \_\_\_\_\_ because...
- I know \_\_\_\_\_ because....

**STICKY NOTE TEMPLATE**

Find proof of text evidence to support your answer.

Where in the text did you find a reason to support your question?

Explain why this reason can support your question.

Write a conclusion stating why your answer is correct using the text evidence above.

**STICKY NOTE TEMPLATE**

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

**ECR- Extended Constructed Reply Sticky Notes**

Layer your sticky notes below.

Find proof of text evidence to support your answer.

Where in the text did you find a reason to support your question?

Explain why this reason can support your question.

Write a conclusion stating why your answer is correct using the text evidence above.

CONCLUSION:

It can help with reading comprehension understanding.

# WRITING REFLECTION PAGES AFTER EACH PASSAGE

Reflection Page  
What is something that you learned from the reading passage?

What is something that you would like to know more about orphan trains?

© Marcy's Math

The image shows a reflection page template with a dark blue border. It contains two sections for writing, each with a question and several horizontal lines for text. The first section asks 'What is something that you learned from the reading passage?' and the second asks 'What is something that you would like to know more about orphan trains?'. A small copyright notice '© Marcy's Math' is visible at the bottom right of the page.

**USE FOR EARLY FINISHERS,  
WRITING PRACTICE, AND  
ADDITIONAL COMPREHENSION  
GRADE**

**FOR MORE RESOURCES LIKE THIS, CLICK  
ON ANY OF THE LINKS BELOW** 

• **READING COMPREHENSION BUNDLE  
(FICTION, NONFICTION, POETRY &  
DRAMA)**

• **READING COMPREHENSION PASSAGE  
BUNDLE (OVER 60 PASSAGES)**

• **GOOGLE CLASSROOM READING  
COMPREHENSION (DIGITAL FICTION &  
NONFICTION)**