

JANUARY

Winter Reading Comprehension



5 POETRY, 1 FICTION & 2 NONFICTION COMPREHENSION PASSAGES
WINTER, NYE, & MLK THEMES INSIDE

Test Prep, Independent Work, Small Group, Homework, Homeschool

Transform your January lesson plans with the **January Poems: Winter Reading Comprehension Passages for 4th and 5th Grades!** This versatile packet combines poetry, fiction, and nonfiction passages to engage students and strengthen their reading comprehension. With a seasonal focus on winter themes, New Year's resolutions, and a meaningful tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., these passages are perfect for teaching diverse text types. The resource is both **DIGITAL and PRINTABLE!**

What's included?

- ✓ 5 original poems
- ✓ 1 Fiction and 2 Nonfiction Passages
- ✓ Each printable passage is available in a multiple-choice or short-answer option.
- ✓ 5 questions for each passage.
- ✓ Digital self-grading links using Google Forms
- ✓ Writing reflection pages after every passage
- ✓ Answer keys are included

8 PRINTABLE READING COMPREHENSION PASSAGE WITH MULTIPLE CHOICE, SHORT ANSWER & WRITING REFLECTION PAGES INCLUDED.

Ideal for in-class activities, homework, or even tutoring.

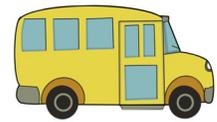
Spark critical thinking with built-in comprehension questions and enjoy the flexibility to adapt the materials to your students' needs.

Digital Self-Grading is Multiple Choice The teacher receives an instant grade.

Acrostic, Free Verse, Humorous, Narrative, and Rhyming

WINTER, NYE, & MLK POEMS INSIDE

BUS STOP



Oh, brrr, it's cold outside, I head to the bus stop after my winter break. The snow is piling around me, and I am being pounded by snowflakes. I shiver, and I quiver. Do I need to go to school? I wish I were warm and cozy in a blanket or a tepid, heated pool.

Oh, brrr, it's cold outside I stand and shiver. Try My teeth are chattering I need to get a ride to school.

Oh, brrr, it's cold outside I look again, blowing in. Maybe it turned the corner. There must be a new kid.

Oh, brrr, it's cold outside My hands are missing from my mittens. Where is the bus driver? I would love to sit in the back.

Oh, brrr, it's cold outside I pull up my sleeve to see if I can hear the engine roar. That doesn't look like a bus.

JANUARY



January is a time for many winter celebrations. It's a time to start fresh and make good resolutions. It's a time for wishes and intentions. It's a time to write them down. It's a time to make a New Year's resolution. It's a promise of a clean slate.

SNOWFLAKE WONDERS

Have you ever been amazed at the delicate beauty of a snowflake? Or maybe you have never seen one in real life. Snowflakes are truly beautiful and form high up in the atmosphere when water vapor freezes around tiny particles like dust. As **crystallization** occurs, ice crystals grow and develop into intricate, six-sided shapes. Even snowflake has a unique pattern, but all share this six-sided structure because of the way water molecules bond when they freeze.

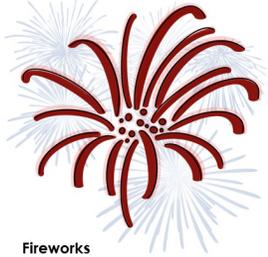



WHAT IS A RESOLUTION?

My family is making New Year's resolutions. I am told to make one too. But what is it, you may ask? I am going to explain it to you.

A resolution is like a wish, something you want to come true. It is also almost like a goal, and it is very important to you. But...

FIREWORKS



A New Year's resolution. A promise of a clean slate.

CLIMATE CHANGE?

Climate change is affected by the ongoing changes in our planet's temperatures rise. The conditions for snowfall are shifting. It can result in wetter, heavier snow because the air holds more moisture. In some regions, these warmer conditions can reduce snowfall. This change doesn't just alter the winter landscape; it has ripple effects on ecosystems and water supplies. Scientists are studying how climate change is altering weather patterns and how our planet's weather is changing. For instance, snowpacks in mountain regions act as natural water reservoirs. As snow melts in spring and summer, it slowly feeds rivers and streams. Without snow, these water sources can dry up, affecting plants, animals, and wildlife. By studying snowflakes, scientists can learn more about the atmosphere and how it's changing.

WINTER SURVIVORS: HOW ANIMALS ADAPT TO THE COLD

Surviving the Deep Freeze

When winter arrives, freezing temperatures, snowstorms, and shorter days can make survival challenging for many animals. To stay alive, they need to find food, stay warm, and avoid predators, all while facing harsh weather. Some animals migrate to warmer areas, while others remain in their habitats and rely on special **adaptations** to survive. From thick fur to clever camouflage, each species has its own unique strategy for coping with the challenges of winter conditions.

Snowshoe Hare: Master of Camouflage

One impressive winter survivor is the Snowshoe Hare. Its fur changes color with the seasons. In the summer, the hare's fur is brown, helping it blend into forests and bushes. When snow covers the ground, the hare's coat turns bright white, providing excellent **camouflage** that helps it disguise itself against predators such as foxes and owls. Snowshoe Hares also have extra-large back feet that work like natural snowshoes. These wide feet prevent the hare from sinking into deep snow, allowing it to hop quickly away from danger.

Fun Fact!
The snowshoe hare's feet spread out like paddles, perfect for running across powdery snow.

Arctic Fox: Winter Hunter

Another animal with amazing adaptations is the Arctic Fox. This fox has one of the warmest coats of any mammal. Its thick fur traps heat near its body, keeping the fox warm even when temperatures drop well below zero. In winter, the Arctic Fox's fur turns white, making it harder for predators to spot. Because food becomes **scarce** in winter, Arctic Foxes use their sharp hearing to detect small animals moving beneath the snow. Then, they leap into the air and dive headfirst to catch their prey.

GLOSSARY

WORD	DEFINITION
Adaptation	A physical or behavioral change that helps an animal survive in its environment.
Scarce	Hard to find or in short supply.
Glucose	A type of sugar that can protect the bodies of wood frogs when they freeze.

Continue Reading on the next Page

THE MAGIC OF SNOWFLAKE SYMMETRY

Carter was obsessed with math. She had been teaching at Oak Forest Elementary for a little over a decade. Her favorite topic to teach was the wonders of symmetry, and snowy days were the best time to do it. One chilly winter morning, her fifth class shuffled in. Their cheeks were still rosy from the frosty air outside. Snowflakes had past the windows, making the classroom feel like a cozy snow globe. Ms. Carter led as she picked up a box of folded paper and scissors.

"Today, we're going to talk about symmetry," she announced. "Can anyone tell me what symmetry is?"

Her students nodded thoughtfully, their eyes darting to the red paper on their desks as if imagining symmetrical shapes they could create. Some students furrowed their brows, trying to recall where they had seen symmetry in their lives. "Maybe in butterflies!" Carlos whispered to himself. Ms. Mia tapped her pencil, picturing the perfectly even halves of her house.

"Now hands out, please," Ms. Carter said. "It's when something is the same on both sides."

"Oh, yes!" Ms. Carter replied. "Symmetry is like a mirror. One side reflects the other. And you know what shows perfect symmetry? Snowflakes!"

Ms. Carter paused to let the idea settle in, glancing around the room as light bulbs seemed to flick in the students' minds. "Oh, yeah!" Emily exclaimed. "Snowflakes are the same all around, like in patterns!" The class buzzed with excitement, and more students began holding in, eager to share their own observations about symmetry in the world around them.

As the lesson unfolded, the students learned forward in their chairs, their curiosity piqued. Ms. Carter held up a transparent plastic snowflake she had brought from home. It glittered as she brought it close to the light. "Every snowflake has six sides, and each one is perfectly symmetrical," she explained. "Let's see if we can make our own symmetrical snowflakes."

The class got to work, folding white paper into triangles and carefully snipping tiny shapes along the edges. As the students unfolded their creations, gasps of delight filled the room. Each snowflake was unique but still had that magical balance of symmetry. "Wow, this is so fun!" said Carlos.

"You know what they say," Ms. Carter said with a wink. "Every cloud has a silver lining! When the weather gives us snow, we can turn it into something beautiful."

As the lesson ended, Ms. Carter taped the paper snowflakes to the classroom windows. The students admired their work and were proud of their learning and creation. Winter might be cold, but Ms. Carter had shown them the beauty in every snowflake and the power of math to reveal it.

DREAMS

The summer heat beats down while a gentle breeze whispers in the air. Thousands have shown up. I search the crowd for a familiar face. We march, we march in peace, and we march to see him. Eagerly, we all head to the same spot by the Lincoln Memorial.

I walk; my feet are tired, but the excitement is high. As we walk, we speak about getting to see the king. "Have you seen him speak before?" another asks me. "My first time," I reply.

Reaching the steps, I stop and gaze at the presidential monument. The podium is empty as it awaits the arrival of the reverend. When he arrives, I will be as close to him as heat is to fire. Almost able to reach out and touch him. I wouldn't dare. Gazing, I see thousands cooling their feet in the reflecting pool.

We talk while we wait. We speak of equality and hope. Smiling, I know that this is right. The day will go down in history! I will tell my grandchildren that I was there. "I see him coming!" I shriek.

There he is; he walks up calmly and composed. The crowd erupts in applause and cheers. After moments, he begins to speak. We fall to a hush. The microphone booms. "I have a dream," he says. The audience explodes in applause. I close my eyes, exhaling big and slow. Change is coming, my thoughts tell. I smile.



PRACTICE THESE READING SKILLS:

- ✓ VISUALIZATION
- ✓ VOCABULARY
- ✓ INFERENCE
- ✓ MAIN IDEA

- ✓ FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE
- ✓ POINT OF VIEW
- ✓ TEXT EVIDENCE
- ✓ THEME..... and more!

BUS STOP

Oh, brrr, it's cold outside. I head to the bus stop after my winter break. The snow is piling around me, and I am being pounded by snowflakes. I shiver, and I quiver. Do I need to go to school?

I wish I were warm and cozy in a blanket or a tepid, heated pool.

Oh, brrr, it's cold outside. I waited at the bus stop. I stand and shiver; I try to focus on the grey hazy sky backdrop. My teeth are chattering; I hug myself and hope she arrives soon. I need to get a ride tomorrow; standing here is not opportune.

Oh, brrr, it's cold outside. I see some headlights in the distance that are coming near. I look again, blowing in my hands for warmth, and the headlights disappear. Maybe it turned the corner. I don't remember that happening before. There must be a new kid on the bus they are looking for.

Oh, brrr, it's cold outside. Standing here in the cold, I constantly shake. My hands are missing mittens; they feel numb and suddenly start to ache. "Where is the bus driver?" I question. This long of a wait feels cruel.

I would love it on frigid days like these if I were being home-schooled.

Oh, brrr, it's cold outside. My lips are turning blue; am I going into shock? I pull up my sleeve to check the time; I stand staring at the clock. I hear the engine roar. It is heading my way; I smile and change my tune. That doesn't look like a bus. It stops and picks up garbage on a lawn that is strewn.

Excuse me, sir," I shout to him. "Where is the bus?" Then suddenly, it is clear. "It is Sunday." He shouts back. I gasped, feeling as though I might shed a tear. "Sunday." I mutter to myself. I am early, how could this happen? Feeling like a fool, then I realize that I can crawl back into bed. I beam and head home and get my life

WHAT IS A RESOLUTION? Name: _____

My family is making New Year's resolutions. I am told to make one too. But what is it, you may ask? I am going to explain it to you.

1. A resolution is like a wish, something you want to come true. It is also almost like a goal, and it is very important to you. But... Make sure you can stick to it! It is an idea you hold dear. It can be a yearly tradition and will, of course, bring you some cheer.

2. My dad says he will work on not having a short fuse. He sometimes easily gets mad. My mother says she will become fit as a fiddle, which she already is. I might add. If I remember correctly, they both had the same resolution last year. They say this time is different, and both their resolutions will achieve.

3. My brother tells me that he will stop being so mean to me. I heard it from the horse's mouth and hope this time it is true. He assured me he would stick to his promise. Apparently, he had a breakthrough.

I ponder about my resolution: should I do all my homework, eat more vegetables, or play fewer video games? I can't decide, and all these ideas honestly seem very lame.

4. How can I pick just one resolution that doesn't bring me shame? Then, I reach a verdict that is finally good enough to claim.

After juggling down all the ideas, I know that I am done. I decided not to share my resolution so the others wouldn't try to make fun.

It is exciting that I picked a change I will stick to this year. "I will make this happen," I say out loud without fear.

I'd better start thinking about next year's resolutions; they are cool and neat. A little promise I make to myself, vowing not to cheat.

JANUARY

Just after many winter celebrations, I gaze out the window and think.

January time to start fresh and make goals. I ponder and think.

New ideas and intentions.

Under a blanket, I write them down.

fire crackles while I see the falling snow outside the window.

realizing that change will take discipline on my part.

early resolutions are important.

JANUARY

SNOWFLAKE WONDERS Name: _____

Have you ever been amazed at the delicate beauty of a snowflake? Or maybe you have never seen one in real life. Snowflakes are truly beautiful and form high shapes. Every snowflake has a unique pattern, but all share this six-sided structure because of the way water molecules bond when they freeze.

Myths about snowflakes

For years, people have been captivated by the idea that no two snowflakes are alike. This belief stems from the idea that snowflakes form in unique environments, making their shapes entirely distinct. Snowflakes can fall at speeds as slow as 1-2 miles per hour, meaning it can take over an hour for a snowflake to travel from a cloud to the ground. While this belief is widely popular, it's not completely true. Scientists found that snowflakes forming in the same temperature and humidity conditions can look almost identical. Another common myth is that snowflakes are slightly above freezing, or, surprisingly, snow can sometimes fall even when temperatures are slightly above freezing. People also assume that snowflakes are always perfectly symmetrical. While many snowflakes do have six-sided patterns, environmental factors like wind and collisions with other snowflakes can cause their shapes to become irregular. These myths add to the mystery and wonder of snowflakes, making them an exciting subject for both scientists and snow lovers.

Are snowflakes affected by climate change?

Snowflakes are deeply affected by the ongoing changes in our planet's climate. As global temperatures rise, the conditions for snowfall are shifting. Warmer temperatures can result in wetter, heavier snow because the air holds more moisture. In some regions, these warmer conditions can reduce snowfall, leading to a study snowpack. This change doesn't just affect the winter landscape; it has a cascading impact on ecosystems and water supplies. Scientists are studying how these changes affect snowfall to better understand weather patterns and how our planet's changing climate affects snowfall. For instance, less snow in winter can lead to droughts and water shortages for communities, farms, and wildlife. By studying snowflakes, scientists can gather important data to predict and prepare for these changes, helping us manage essential resources in a warming world.

Exploring geometry and symmetry through snowflake designs.

Snowflakes aren't just beautiful—they're also a great way to explore math. Their symmetrical shapes are perfect examples of geometry in nature. Each snowflake has six sides and a repeating pattern, making it ideal for learning about symmetry. Artists and mathematicians have long been inspired by these natural works of art, using snowflake designs in everything from projects to scientific models.

Snowflakes are more than just winter wonders—they're a mix of science, nature, and even math. The next time you see snow falling, take a moment to appreciate the tiny miracles forming all around you!

TEACH OR RETEACH TEXT FEATURES:

Name: _____

WINTER SURVIVORS: HOW ANIMALS ADAPT TO THE COLD

Surviving the Deep Freeze

When winter arrives, freezing temperatures, snowstorms, and shorter days can make survival challenging for many animals. To stay alive, they need to find food, stay warm, and avoid predators, all while facing harsh weather. Some animals migrate to warmer areas, while others remain in their habitats and rely on special **adaptations** to survive. From thick fur to clever camouflage, each species has its own unique strategy for coping with the challenges of winter conditions.

1 **Snowshoe Hare: Master of Camouflage**

One impressive winter survivor is the Snowshoe Hare. Its fur changes color with the seasons. In summer, the hare's fur is brown, helping it blend into forests and bushes. When snow covers the ground, the hare's coat turns bright white, providing excellent **camouflage** that helps it disguise itself against predators such as foxes and owls. Snowshoe Hares also have extra-large back feet that work like natural snowshoes. These wide feet prevent the hare from sinking into deep snow, allowing it to hop quickly away from danger.



A snowshoe hare's winter fur helps it blend into snowy environments.

Fun Fact!
The snowshoe hare's feet spread out like paddles, perfect for running across powdery snow.

Arctic Fox: Winter Hunter

Another animal with amazing adaptations is the Arctic Fox. This fox has one of the warmest coats of any mammal. Its thick fur traps heat near its body, keeping it warm even when temperatures drop well below freezing. In winter, the Arctic Fox's fur turns white, making it hard to spot. Because food becomes scarce in winter, Arctic Foxes use their sharp hearing to detect animals moving beneath the snow. Then, they dive headfirst to catch their prey.



The Arctic Fox fur helps the mammal to blend into its surroundings.

WORD	DEFINITION
Adaptation	A physical or behavioral change that helps an animal survive in its environment.
Scarce	Hard to find or in short supply.
Glucose	A type of sugar that can protect the bodies of wood from rotting when they freeze.

Continue Reading on the next page.

Name: _____

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Snowflakes are deeply affected by the ongoing changes in our planet's climate. As global temperatures rise, the conditions for snowfall are shifting. Warmer temperatures can result in wetter, heavier snow because the air holds more moisture. In some regions, these warmer conditions can reduce snowfall, turning snow into rain. This change doesn't just alter the winter landscape; it has far-reaching impacts on ecosystems and water supplies. Scientists carefully study snowflakes to better understand weather patterns and how our planet's changing climate affects snowfall. For instance, snowpacks in mountain regions act as natural reservoirs, storing water in winter and releasing it as fresh water in spring and summer when it melts. If less snow falls or it melts too quickly due to warmer temperatures, it can lead to droughts and water shortages for communities, farms, and wildlife. By studying snowflakes, scientists can gather important data to predict and prepare for these changes, helping us manage essential resources in a warming world.

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Snowflakes are more than just winter wonders—they're a mix of science, nature, and even math. The next time you see snow falling, take a moment to appreciate the tiny miracles forming all around you!

- ## TEXT FEATURES INCLUDED:
- ✓ headings
 - ✓ subheadings
 - ✓ bold vocabulary
 - ✓ a glossary box
 - ✓ a comparison chart
 - ✓ a captioned illustration box
 - ✓ callout facts
 - ✓ bolded keywords
 - ✓ numbered paragraphs

ENGAGING FOR KIDS!

WHAT IS A RESOLUTION?

Name: _____

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20 How can I pick just one resolution that doesn't bring me shame? Then, I reach a verdict that is finally good enough to claim. After jotting down all the ideas, I know that I am done. I decided not to share my resolution so the others wouldn't try to make fun.

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© MARIECF'S MONTELEM

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JANUARY

THE MAGIC OF SNOWFLAKE SYMMETRY

Name: _____

Mrs. Carter was obsessed with math. She had been teaching at Oak Forest School for a little over a decade. Her favorite topic to teach was the geometry, and snowy days were the best time to do it. One chilly winter afternoon, she picked up a box of folded paper and scissors.

"Today, we're going to talk about symmetry," she announced. "Can anyone tell me what symmetry is?"

Many students nodded thoughtfully, their eyes darting to the shapes they could create. Some students furrowed their brows, trying to recall where they had seen symmetry in their own lives. "Maybe in butterflies?" Carlos whispered to himself while Ma tapped her pencil, picturing the perfectly even windows of her house.

A few hands shot up. Emily answered, "It's when something is the same on both sides."

"Exactly," Mrs. Carter replied. "Symmetry is like a mirror. One side reflects the other. Are you know what shows perfect symmetry? Snowflakes!"

She paused to let the idea settle in, glancing around the room as light bulbs seemed to go off in the students' minds. "Oh, yeah!" Emily exclaimed. "Snowflakes are the same all around, like in patterns!" The class buzzed with excitement, and more students began chiming in, eager to share their own observations about symmetry in the world around them.

The students leaned forward in their chairs, their curiosity piqued. Mrs. Carter held up a clear, transparent plastic snowflake she had brought from home. It glittered as the sunlight caught its edges. "Every snowflake has six sides, and each one is perfectly symmetrical," she explained. "Let's see if we can make our own symmetrical snowflakes."

The class got to work, folding white paper into triangles and carefully snipping tiny shapes along the edges. As the students unfolded their creations, gasps of delight filled the room. Each snowflake was unique but still had that magical balance of symmetry.

"Wow, this is so fun!" said Carlos.

"You know what they say," Mrs. Carter said with a wink. "every cloud has a silver lining! When the weather gives us snow, we can turn it into something beautiful."

As the lesson ended, Mrs. Carter taped the paper snowflakes to the classroom windows. The students admired their work and were proud of their learning and creation. Winter might be cold, but Mrs. Carter had shown them the beauty in every snowflake and the power of math to reveal it.

© MARIECF'S MONTELEM

DREAMS

Name: _____

The summer heat beats down while a gentle breeze whispers in the air. Thousands have shown up. I search the crowd for a familiar face. We march, we march in peace, and we march to see him. Eagerly, we all head to the same spot by the Lincoln Memorial.

5 I walk; my feet are tired, but the excitement is high. As we walk, we speak about getting to see the king. "Have you seen him speak before?" another asks me. "My first time," I reply.

Reaching the steps, I stop and gaze at the presidential monument.

10 The podium is empty as it awaits the arrival of the reverend. When he arrives, I will be as close to him as heat is to fire. Almost able to reach out and touch him. I wouldn't dare. Gazing, I see thousands cooling their feet in the reflecting pool.

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There he is; he walks up calmly and composed.

20 The crowd erupts in applause and cheers. After moments, he begins to speak. We fall to a hush. The microphone booms. "I have a dream," He says. The audience explodes in applause. I close my eyes, exhaling big and slow. Change is coming, my thoughts tell I smile.

© MARIECF'S MONTELEM

No prep work required- Perfect for early finishers, independent work, small groups, tutoring, homework, and more.

DO YOU NEED MORE READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE?

Click on the covers below for a closer look. 



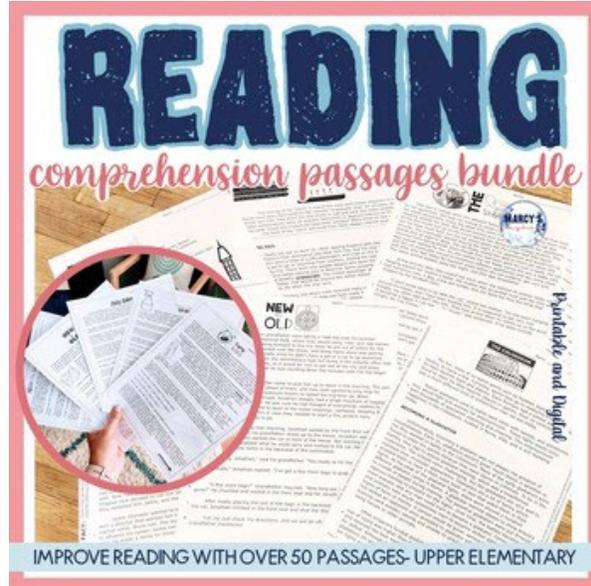
SPRING
Poetry Bundle

MARCH APRIL MAY

15 POETRY READING COMPREHENSION PASSAGES
& 15 WRITING REFLECTION PAGES INCLUDED

Use for test prep, independent work, small group, homework, homeschool & tutorials

MARCY'S Playtime

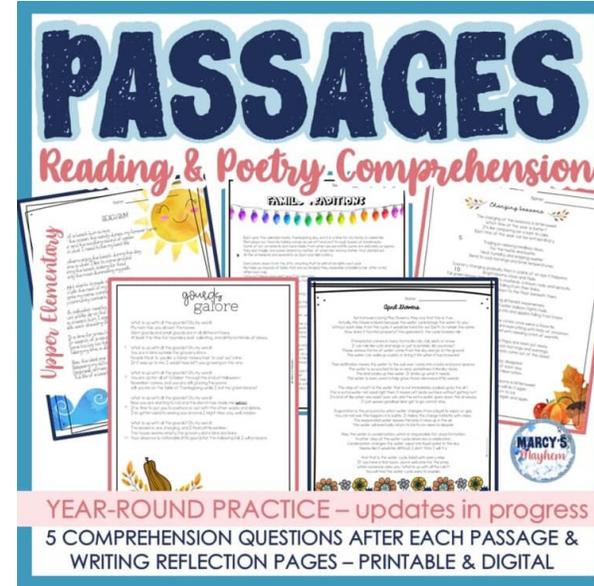


READING
comprehension passages bundle

NEW OLD

IMPROVE READING WITH OVER 50 PASSAGES- UPPER ELEMENTARY

MARCY'S Playtime

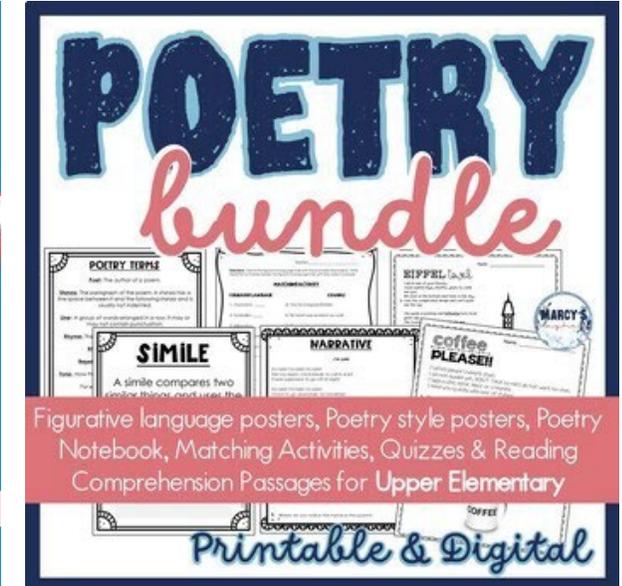


PASSAGES
Reading & Poetry Comprehension

Upper Elementary

YEAR-ROUND PRACTICE – updates in progress
5 COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS AFTER EACH PASSAGE &
WRITING REFLECTION PAGES – PRINTABLE & DIGITAL

MARCY'S Playtime



POETRY
bundle

Figurative language posters, Poetry style posters, Poetry Notebook, Matching Activities, Quizzes & Reading Comprehension Passages for Upper Elementary

Printable & Digital

MARCY'S Playtime

See what other teachers are saying!

My students loved this recourse! It worked so well in my ELAR only class. It made them think and they were fully engaged!

— Kelsie W. ★★★★★

Thanks for this awesome resource. It is so organized and easy for me to adapt as we change units. I am able to use it for guided and independent practice as well as assessments for the gradebook.

— Amanda M. ★★★★★

★★★★★ Extremely satisfied

Thanks for this awesome resource. It is so organized and easy for me to adapt as we change units. I am able to use it for guided and independent practice as well as assessments for the gradebook.

Students used with

4th grade

Primarily students with learning difficulties, and that are emerging bilinguals/ ELs/ ESOLs/ ENLs

Students were engaged



★★★★★ Extremely satisfied

Great resource! Thanks so much!

Students used with

6th grade

Students were engaged



★★★★★ Extremely satisfied

Great resource to use and vary instructional levels. My students enjoyed the poetry.

Students used with

3rd grade

Students were engaged

