

HALLOWEEN

GENRE SPECIFIC READING PASSAGES

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

A History of Vampires

On Halloween, you might see trick-or-treaters wearing capes and plastic fangs with a trickle of fake blood on their chin. The characters we know today have changed a lot since those stories began centuries, and they have been shaped by centuries of myths about vampires. Across the ancient world, people told tales of creatures with traits with modern vampires. In Egypt, Sekhmet was eventually Ra tricked her with a drink dyed red. In the Philippines, the manananggal was a creature believed to hop around and sucked blood from humans. Like the vampire, she ate garlic.

The image of vampires we know today started in Europe in the last few hundred years. Misunderstandings of how the body works, such as how bodies decompose, which makes their teeth and fingernails grow over weeks or months, a dark fluid in their mouth, making it look like they were bleeding, and people at the time had less knowledge of tuberculosis spread through a cough, all blamed it on a supernatural force. People might pin them to the ground with nails to remove their hearts. By the 20th century, the vampire panic died down, but the image of the vampire remained.

One of the most famous vampire stories was written by Bram Stoker in 1897. It was about a real person, a Romanian prince, who was an opponent in battle. The story was a blood-sucking version of a vampire. It was popular for hundreds of years and is still romantic. Today, vampires are a common trope to find a vampire in real life. For example, while most vampires are said to have a diet of animal blood, some are said to be shapeshift into a bat.

The Halloween Ball

On a cold chilly night
in the middle of fall,
the moon shone down
on the Halloween Ball.

Wizards danced with witches,
spiders spun, mummies moaned,
Goblins waltzed with ghouls,
but one creature stood alone.

In the shadows of the willows,
gloomy Skeleton stood.
"I've got no body to dance with,
I would not be any good."

"You don't have a body?"
Ghost responded with a groan.
"How am I supposed to dance?
I haven't got a single bone!"

Zombie overheard their banter.
"I've got no spirit and no heart.
Plus, what good is a body
when it always falls apart?"

As the wind whipped through the willows,
they had a sudden thought.
They considered what they had
and not what they did not.

Zombie took a few stiff steps,
and Ghost began to rave.
Skeleton, he tapped his toe.
Those undead came alive!

On a cold chilly night
in the middle of fall,
the moon shone down
on the Halloween Ball.

With a rattle-clatter-twirl
and a moony-groovy-whirl,
a body, bones, and soul
once again felt whole.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

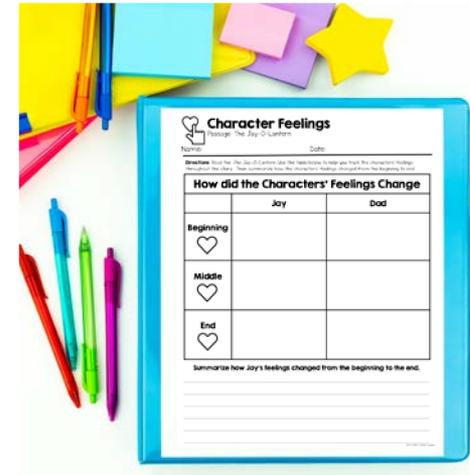
This resource includes 6 reading passages, text-based comprehension questions for each passage, a skill-based graphic organizer for each passage, AND a variety of reading response activities.



Genres Included:
Scary Story/Horror
Poetry
Informational
Realistic Fiction
Mystery
Humor



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



Each passage includes a graphic organizer to focus on a specific skill:
Foreshadowing
Using Context Clues
Asking Questions
Character Feelings
Summarizing
Life Lesson

Digital versions are included for all templates.

IN ADDITION...

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

Character Feelings
Independent Reading Text

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read the text. Use the table below to help you track the characters' feelings throughout the text. Then summarize how one character's feelings changed from the beginning to the end.

	Character #1	Character #2
Beginning ♡		
Middle ♡		
End ♡		

Summarize how one main character's feelings changed from the beginning to the end.

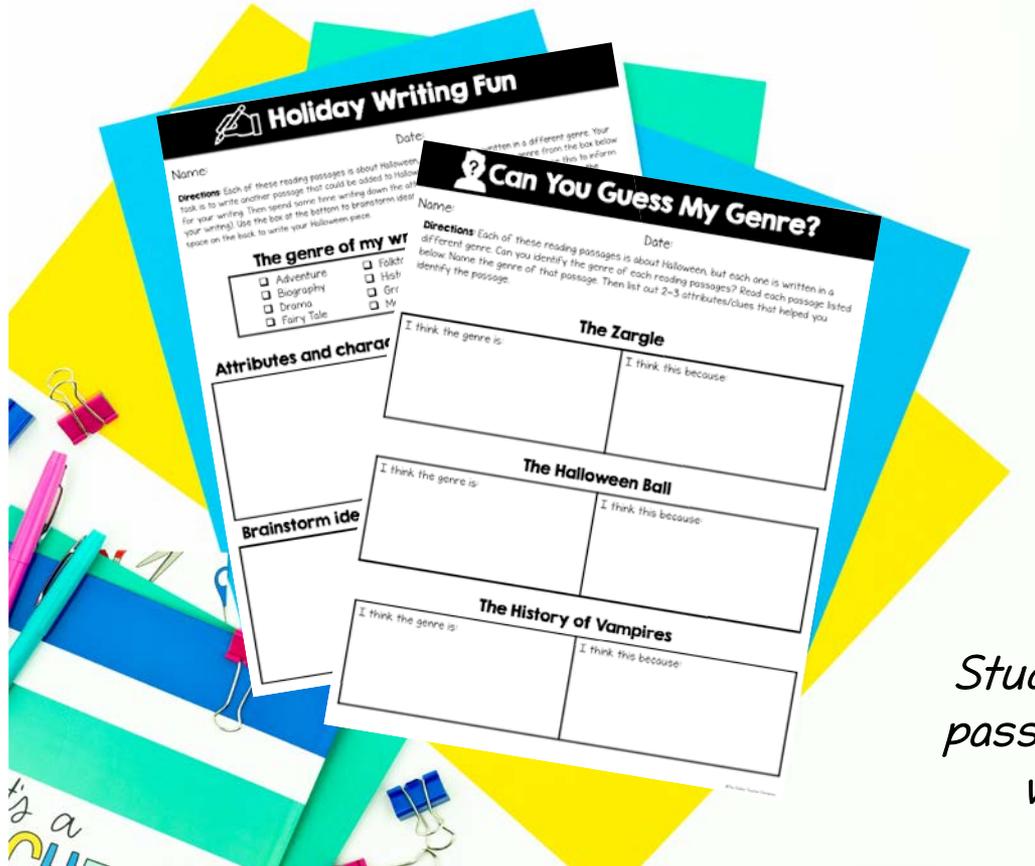
This is what it could look like in your classroom:

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

Digital versions are included for all templates.

THERE'S MORE...

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



Additional Response Activities:

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

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

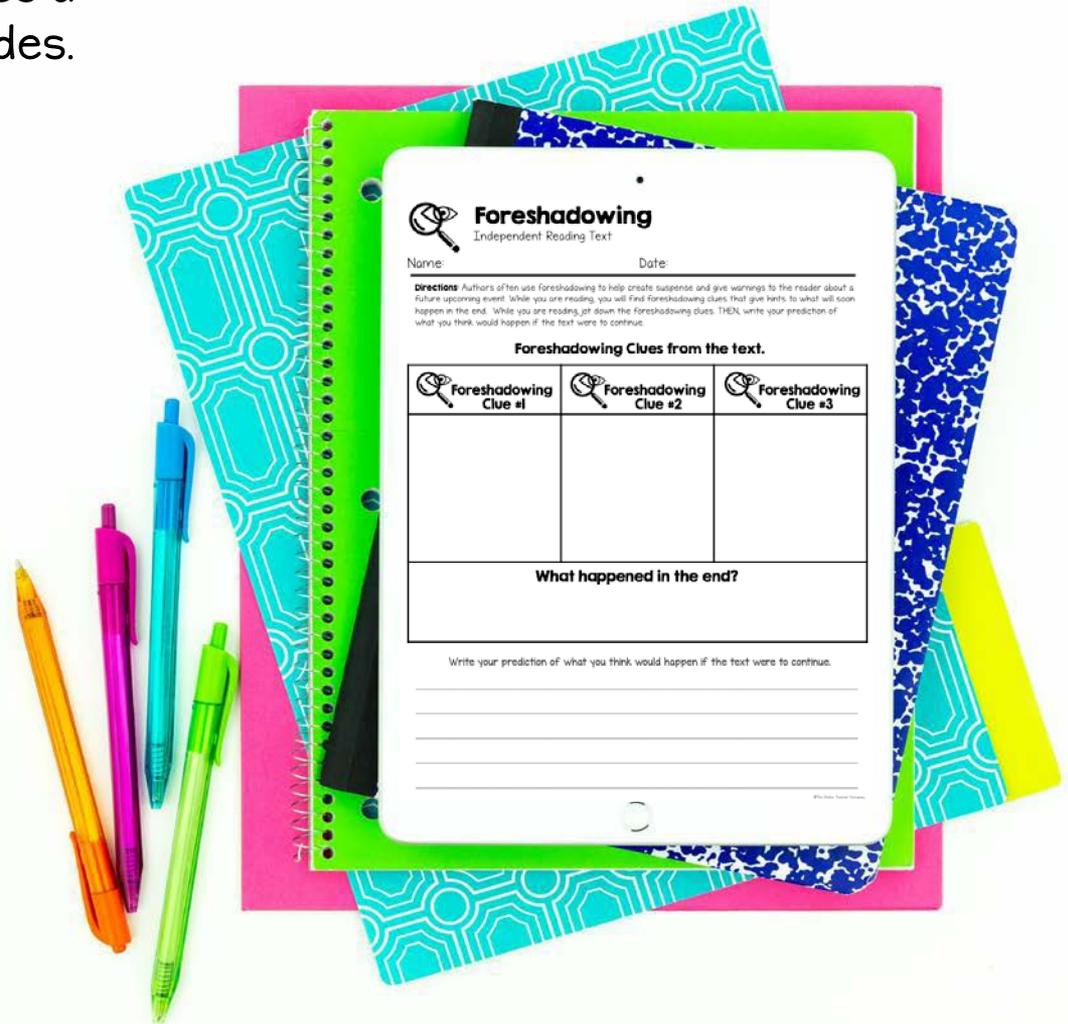
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Includes Digital Versions

I love to provide both print and digital options in my resources. This resource includes a digital version created using Google Slides.

In addition to the print version, you get the reading passages and ALL response templates available in Google Slides (text boxes already added).

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



A LOOK INSIDE...

The Zargle

"What do you want to be for Halloween this year?" asked Mrs. Green. Sierra explained that she wanted to be a witch. They were the perfect combination of creepy and cute, and plus, it would give her an excuse to bring their kitten Chester trick-or-treating. "How about you, Heidi?" Mrs. Green asked.

Sierra's little sister said, "I'm going as a Zargle!"
 "A what?" said Sierra and her mom. They asked if she really meant to say that she was going as a zombie, or a gorgyle, but Heidi shook her head. "No, you know, a Zargle." She grabbed her sketch pad and drew a picture of a strange striped creature.

"It looks like a weird cross between a narwhal, a zebra, and some kind of bird. Is it supposed to be a monster or something?" asked Sierra. Heidi explained that Zargles were *not* monsters, and that they were very friendly and magical. Mrs. Green said that she would see what she could do. She covered the dining table with fabric scraps and tried to piece together a costume that looked like her daughter's drawing. Over the next week, it began to take shape. Wings sprouted from the back, and she sewed on a golden horn right above the eye holes.

Every time Sierra passed the costume, it seemed to stare at her. It wasn't supposed to be scary, but something about it gave her the shivers. She had to admit, though, her mom was doing a good job. The costume was starting to look exactly like Heidi's drawing.

On Halloween, Sierra was busy putting on her own costume. Her friends were going as witches, too, and they had all bought matching hats. She used face paint to give herself pointy ears.

Chester to pose in the living room. It was called? A at Sierra from the closet to grab a stoned her little sister. "What do you anywhere?"

Sierra frazzled some kind of His That's why zebra hooves on

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 and a moony-groony—whirl,
 a body, bones, and soul
 once again fell whole.

The Zargle

Reading Response Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

1. Foreshadowing is when there are clues or warnings earlier in the text that hint something is about to happen. Where did you see foreshadowing taking place in the passage?

2. Describe how Heidi and Sierra are similar and different.

3. In the passage, Heidi said, "I haven't put it on yet. I can't find it anywhere." Why is this important?

Foreshadowing

Independent Reading Text

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Authors often use foreshadowing to help create suspense and give warnings to the reader about a future upcoming event. While you are reading, you will find foreshadowing clues that give hints to what will soon happen in the end. While you are reading, jot down the foreshadowing clues. THEN, write your prediction of what you think would happen if the text were to continue.

Foreshadowing Clues from the text.

Foreshadowing Clue #1	Foreshadowing Clue #2	Foreshadowing Clue #3

What happened in the end?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Using Context Clues

Passage: The Halloween Ball

Directions: The passage *The Halloween Ball* has many rich vocabulary words that may be unfamiliar to you. Select three words from the word bank below and use context clues from the story to help you predict the meaning of the word. Then use strategies or tools you have available to help you figure out the actual meaning of the word. Write down the word's actual meaning and how you figured it out.

The Halloween Ball Word Bank

mooned waltzed willows gloom
 jive clatter banter groan

Word I am Unsure of:

What I think it means:

Actual meaning & how I figured it out:

Word I am Unsure of:

What I think it means:

Actual meaning & how I figured it out:

Word I am Unsure of:

What I think it means:

Actual meaning & how I figured it out:

The Halloween Ball

Reading Response Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

1. How many stanzas are in this poem?

2. How many lines are in this poem?

3. What is the rhyme scheme?

4. How did Skeleton, Ghost, and Zombie change from the beginning to the end of the poem?

5. How could you apply the lesson of this poem to your own life?

6. In the 5th stanza, what does *banter* mean in this poem. Explain how you used evidence from the context to help you.



A LOOK INSIDE...

Can You Guess My Genre?

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

The Zargle

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

The Halloween Ball

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

I think the genre is: _____

Can You Guess My Genre?

The Jay-O-Lantern

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

Agent Avi and the Invisible Ghost

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

Imelda's Vacation

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

Holiday Writing Fun

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

The genre of my writing piece will be:

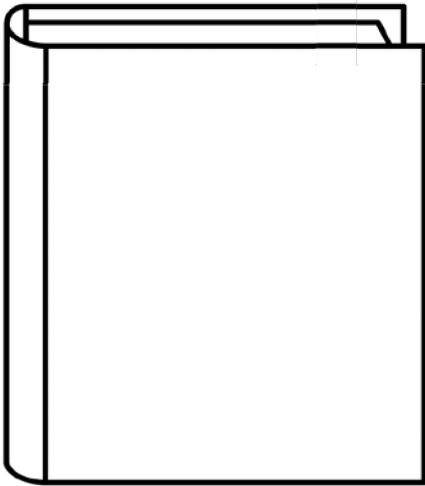
<input type="checkbox"/> Adventure	<input type="checkbox"/> Fantasy	<input type="checkbox"/> Mystery
<input type="checkbox"/> Biography	<input type="checkbox"/> Folktale	<input type="checkbox"/> Myth
<input type="checkbox"/> Drama	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Fiction	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Fiction
<input type="checkbox"/> Fairy Tale	<input type="checkbox"/> Humor	<input type="checkbox"/> Tall Tale

Attributes and characteristics of that genre:

Design a Book Cover

Name: _____ Date: _____

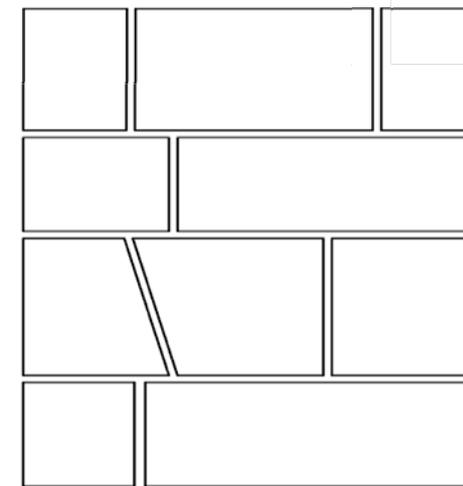
Directions: Pick your favorite passage and design a book cover for that specific passage. Think about the genre of the text, the author's purpose, and some of the key details in the text. Make sure your cover design is reflective of what you know about the genre and text.



My Halloween Comic

Name: _____ Date: _____

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



Create A Social Media Profile

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

@ _____

My Profile

Name: _____

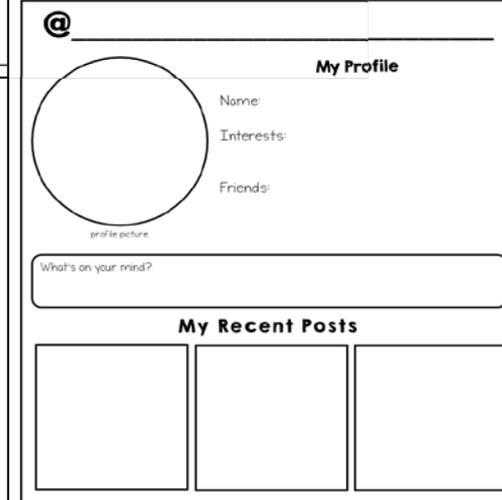
Interests: _____

Friends: _____

profile picture

What's on your mind? _____

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