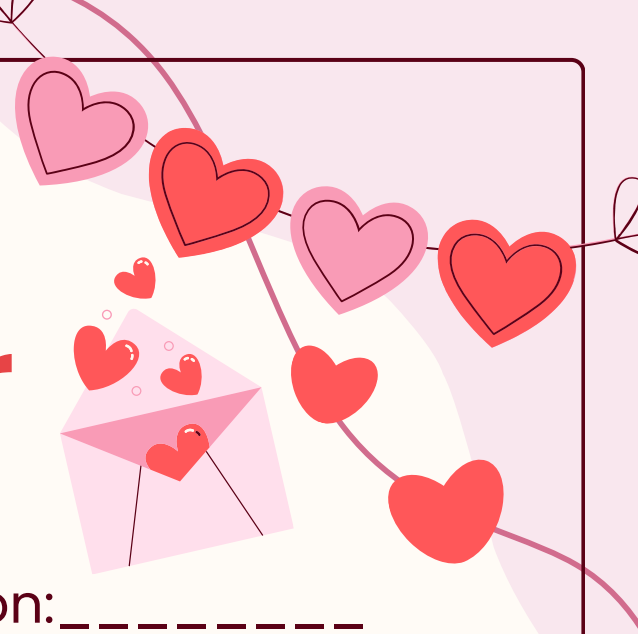


February 9-13, 2026

3rd Grade ELA NEWSLETTER



Name: _____

Section: _____

Homework:

Monday

1. Read: **We Need Water** three times
2. Find the Author's Claim and 3 reasons to support his claim.

Tuesday

1. Read: **We Need Water**
2. Answer questions #1-6
3. **Highlight** text evidence.

Wednesday

1. Draw a Metaphor. Read each metaphor and draw a picture to go with it.

Thursday

1. Read: **The Big Race**. Underline **Similes** in **BLUE** and **Metaphors** in **RED**. In the chart under "What the text said" write down the similes and metaphors you found. On the right side of chart under "What the author meant" write down what you think the author meant by using the simile or metaphor.

Reminders

Portfolio every Wednesday!

Complete 45 minutes of I-ready by Sunday at 11:59 PM.

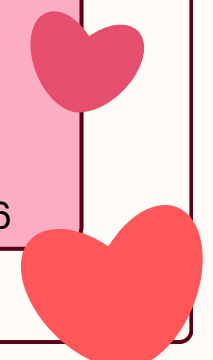
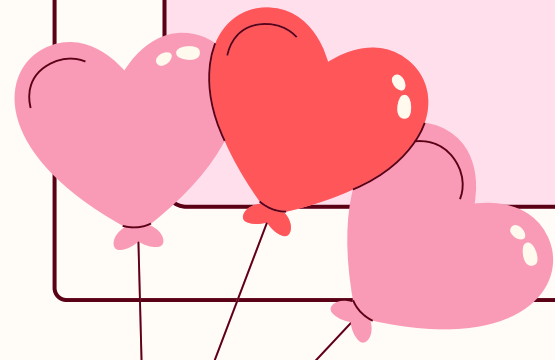
Complete the attached worksheets and turn in entire packet on Friday.

Assessments

- Portfolio #3: 2/11/2026
- Spelling Quiz 2/17/2026

Upcoming:

- Field Trip 2/13/2026
- No School 2/16/2026
- 3-5 Fun Day 2/24/2026



Weekly Reading Skills

Comparison/Contrast



Author's Purpose: The Comparison/Contrast text structure helps authors describe how things are alike and different.

Transition Words: *but, both, however, and*

Cause/Effect



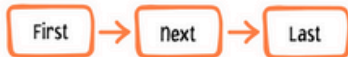
Author's Purpose: The Cause/Effect text structure helps authors explain what happened and why it happened.

Transition Words: *because, so, in order to, as a result*

TEXT STRUCTURE

Authors choose text structures that best fit their purposes for writing a text.

Sequence



Author's Purpose: The Sequence text structure helps authors explain events in order.

Transition Words: *before, first, next, then, last, after*

Problem/Solution



Author's Purpose: The Problem/Solution text structure helps authors explain how a problem is solved.

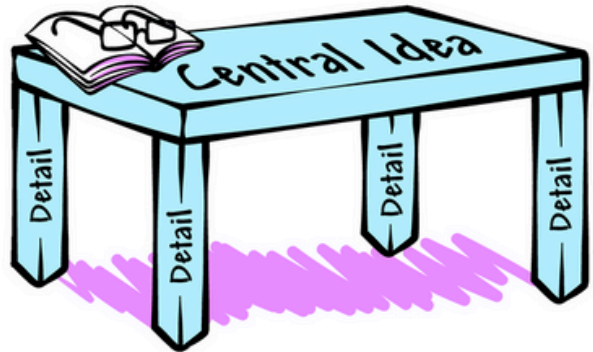
Transition Words: *problem, solution, difficulty, the answer is*

Central Idea

The **Central Idea** is what the text is mostly about.

Look for **text clues.**

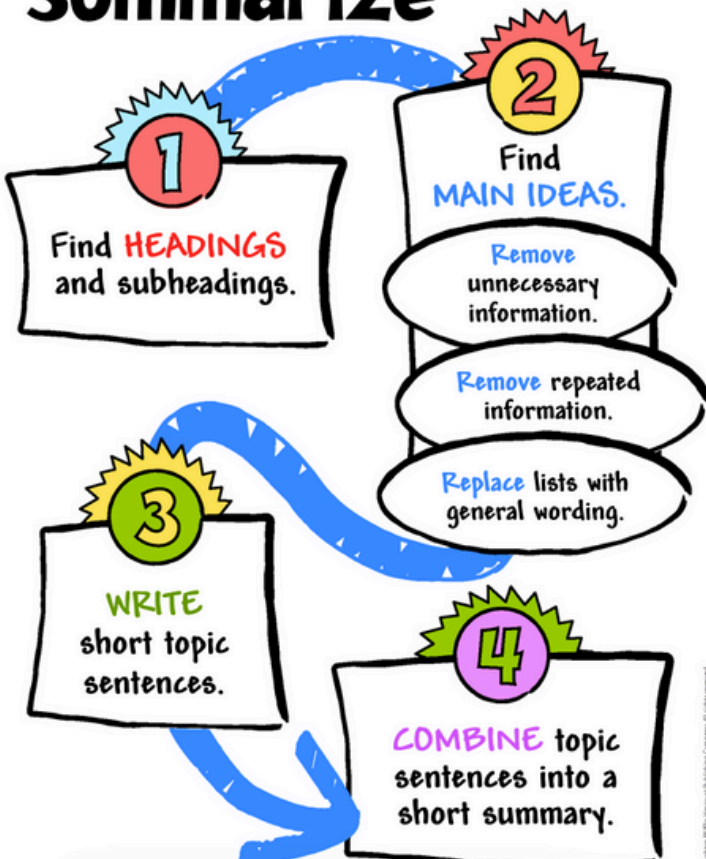
- Headings
- Visuals
- First or Last Sentence
- Repeated Words



Evaluate **details** to determine **key ideas** that support the central idea.

- Examples
- Facts
- Evidence
- Description

Summarize



Author's Purpose

An author's purpose is his or her reason for writing a text. Knowing the purpose helps you recognize the author's message.

If the author's purpose is to . . .

Persuade



then the author wants readers to think or act in a certain way.

Inform



then the author wants to share **information** about a topic.

Entertain



then the author wants readers to enjoy a story.

How can you figure out the author's purpose?

FIRST...

think about the genre.

THEN...

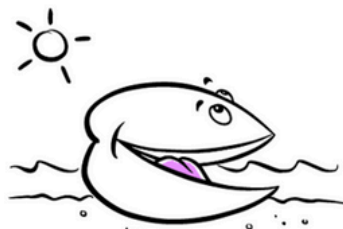
ask questions about what you read and find answers.

Weekly Reading Skills Continued

Figurative Language

Figurative Language includes “figures of speech” that compare, exaggerate, or mean something different from what is expected.

Simile A comparison of two things using “like” or “as”



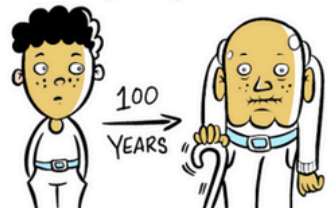
I'm happy as a clam!

Metaphor A comparison of two things by saying one thing is another thing

You must be a walking encyclopedia to know all those facts.



Hyperbole Exaggerations that make things sound bigger, better, or more than what they truly are



I waited for 100 years!

Idiom An expression that means something different from the meaning of its individual words



I feel sick as a dog.

Context Clues



LOOK FOR

Good readers use **clues in the text and visuals** to find the **meanings** of unfamiliar words.

Word Parts

Lumin = light

We stared at the **luminous** stars in the sky.

Examples

Crustaceans, such as **shrimp**, **lobster**, and **crabs**, live in salt water.

Definitions

The **calyx**, the **leaf-like parts** that cover a flower bud, are green.

Visuals with Labels

Visuals show pictures of the word's meaning.

calyx
stem
leaves



Synonyms

= **same** Luke wanted to **rectify** his mistake. If he could **correct** it, he would.

Antonyms

= **opposite** Ana would rather be **industrious** than **lazy**.

Figurative Language

Figurative Language creates a special effect or feeling or makes a point.

Onomatopoeia A word that imitates the sound of what it describes



Alliteration A sound device used to repeat the same consonant sound at the beginning of nearby words



Sally sent Susan some samples of soup.

Personification Gives human qualities or characteristics to an animal or object



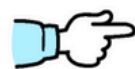
The moon follows me when I walk at night.

Imagery Language that describes how something looks, sounds, feels, smells, or tastes



I bit into the juicy, sweet apple.

IDENTIFY CLAIM

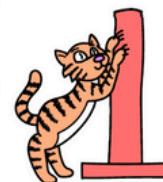


When you read an argumentative text, look for the claim.

- The claim is the position the author takes on a subject.
- The claim is the author's opinion.
- The claim is a statement the author tries to prove.
- The claim will come at the beginning of the text.
- The claim will solve a problem or answer a question.
- The author will include facts and evidence to prove the claim.

Claim

The best way to keep your cat from destroying furniture with her claws is to have a scratch post.



Evidence

After we bought a scratch post, Fluffy sharpened her claws on it instead of the couch.

Cats have the most interesting eyes of all the animals.



Cats' pupils are vertical slits instead of circles, like most animals' pupils.

Spelling Skill: /ch/ sound

SPELLING WORDS

BASIC

1. fetch
2. stretch
3. roach
4. each
5. peach
6. screech
7. snatch
8. hatch
9. branch
10. clutch
11. trench
12. cinch
13. ouch
14. couch

REVIEW

15. wreck
16. knock
17. wrist
18. wrong

CHALLENGE

19. stretcher
20. switching
21. launch
22. slouch

WE NEED WATER

Seventy percent of our bodies are made up of water. This shows that water is essential for humans' survival. Water plays an important role in our brain, lungs, skin, and overall functioning. Therefore, you should nourish your body by drinking plenty of water every day.

First, it is important to drink plenty of water every day because it helps our brain work better. Studies show that water can help you concentrate and focus better. Psychologists have concluded that when you are dehydrated, your mental health declines, making you feel in a bad mood. So, drinking enough water can help you feel happier.

When we exhale, we lose some water. So, we must replenish and hydrate every day. Our lungs need water to function correctly. Water helps to clean our entire respiratory system. Water also brings many benefits to our skin. When we sweat, our body uses water to release toxins. Water also helps our blood flow. Do you want healthy-looking skin? Well, water is the answer!



But how much water should we drink daily? Doctors recommend that you drink water according to your age and weight. For example, children should drink six cups of water a day. While adults should drink 8 cups of water every day, So, make sure you drink plenty of water every day to stay healthy and happy!

WE NEED WATER

1. Which of the following sentences shows the **AUTHOR'S CLAIM** in the passage?
 - a) You should nourish your body by drinking plenty of water every day.
 - b) Studies show that water can help you concentrate and focus better.
 - c) When we sweat, our body uses water to release toxins.
 - d) Doctors recommend that you drink water according to your age and weight.

2. What two sentences from the passage **SUPPORT** the author's claim about drinking water?
 - a) But how much water should we drink daily?
 - b) Drinking plenty of water every day because it helps our brain work better.
 - c) Doctors recommend that you drink water according to your age and weight.
 - d) Water helps to clean our entire respiratory system.

3. What is the **AUTHOR'S CLAIM IN PARAGRAPH 4**?
 - a) You should drink plenty of water to help your lungs work better.
 - b) Adults should drink 8 cups of water every day.
 - c) You should drink plenty of water to help your brain work better.
 - d) Water is good for your skin.

WE NEED WATER

4. Which of the following reasons **SUPPORTS** the claim that you should drink plenty of water to help your lungs stay healthy?

- a) Doctors recommend that you drink water according to your age and weight.
- b) Studies show that water can help you concentrate and focus better.
- c) It is important to drink enough water every day because it helps our brain work better.
- d) Water helps to clean our entire respiratory system.

5. Which two sentences from the passage are **FACTS**?

- a) Studies show that water can help you concentrate and focus better.
- b) But how much water should we drink daily?
- c) Seventy percent of our bodies are made up of water.
- d) Adults should drink 8 cups of water every day.

6. Which of the following sentences from the passage is an **OPINION**?

- a) Psychologists have concluded that when you are dehydrated, your mental health declines.
- b) When we sweat, our body uses water to release toxins.
- c) Want healthy-looking skin?
- d) You should nourish your body by drinking plenty of water every day.

Name: _____

WEDNESDAY Draw A Metaphor

Directions: Read each metaphor. Draw a picture to go with it.

The princess's hair was
a flowing river of gold.

The soccer ball was a comet
streaking across the field.

My bookbag is a boulder
that I carry on my back.

The moon was a silver lantern
lighting the path home.

The train track was a metal
snake winding around the city.

The snow was a soft blanket
covering the sleeping town.

Name: _____

Read the passage. Underline the similes and metaphors that you find.



Similes



Metaphors

The Big Race

Yesterday was my very first track meet. As I stood at the starting line, my heart was a drum inside of my chest. Would my weeks of practice pay off? Would I come in last place? I took my position on the starting block.

“On your marks, get set, go!” At the signal, I took off from the starting line. I knew I would have to run like the wind to keep up with the other racers. After the first lap, I was in third place. Two more laps to go.

I was starting to get tired. I was breathing hard and my throat was as dry as a bone. I didn't think I could make it. Other runners were starting to catch me. My legs were jelly by the time the finish line was in sight. I gathered one last burst of energy and crossed the line in second place!

After the race, mom and dad took me out for lunch to celebrate. We all ordered hamburgers and I ate like a horse! All of that running was really hard work.

What the text said:	What the author meant: