

February 16-20

3RD GRADE ELA NEWSLETTER



Name: _____

Section: _____

Homework:

Monday

1. No School: President's Day

Tuesday

1. Read: **U.S. Presidents: George Washington**
2. Answer questions #1-5, highlight text evidence

Wednesday

1. Re-read: **U.S. Presidents: George Washington**
2. Answer questions #6-10, highlight text evidence

****Counts as SS CW Grade**

Thursday

1. Read each task card and choose the correct character perspective

Reminders

Portfolio every Wednesday!

Pass 2 lessons in your green lesson path by Sunday at 11:59 PM.

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

Assessments

- Portfolio #4: 2/18/2026
- Spelling Quiz 2/17/2026

Upcoming:

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

Weekly Reading Skills

THEME

The **theme** is the main message, lesson, or moral of the text.

The theme can be stated in text. Fables and myths might tell the theme at the end.

The theme can be implied. Use text clues to figure it out.

- ♥ What happens to the characters?
- ♥ How do the characters react?
- ♥ What do the characters learn?
- ♥ How do the characters grow or change?

ASK What is the author trying to teach me?

EXAMPLES

More can be achieved by working together.

It is best to tell the truth.

Don't give up.

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.



Synonyms

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

Antonyms

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

CHARACTER

Major characters are central to a story. Minor characters support the major characters. Authors bring their characters and subjects to life in five key ways.

- Appearance**
What does the character look like?
- Traits**
What qualities or abilities does the character have?
- Voice and Dialogue**
How does the character sound? How does the character speak to others?
- Behaviors**
How does the character act around others? How does he or she respond to conflicts or problems?
- Thoughts and Emotions**
What does the character think and feel?

Literary Elements

Literary elements are the pieces that make up a story.

Characters: the people and animals in a story

- What do they say and think?
- What do they do?
- What do other characters say and think about them?

Setting: where and when the story takes place

- affects the plot because certain events happen in certain settings
- affects the plot by creating its mood

Plot:

Conflict

the main problem that the characters face

Resolution

how the conflict or problem is solved

Events:

things that happen in a story

- to **change** a character
- to **affect** the mood
- to **build** the plot

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

U.S. Presidents: George Washington

by ReadWorks



Your paragraph text

George Washington is a central figure in the history of the United States. He guided the U.S. and helped it evolve into the nation that it is today. Before becoming President, Washington led the Continental Army to victory, winning American independence from Britain during the Revolutionary War. After the war ended, he was a key player at the **convention** that drafted the United States Constitution. Finally, as President, Washington's **leadership** solved many problems. It showed people that the Constitution could work to **govern** a new nation.

America was a very different place back in Washington's time. The nation was small and weak. There were only 13 states in the U.S. when Washington took office. When he left after two terms there were 16. The country only stretched as far as the Mississippi River. Slavery was legal and widespread throughout the nation. Most people farmed and struggled to make a living. Many children never went to school. Most adults could not read or write.

Communication and transportation were slow and difficult. It took days for Washington to

travel the distance covered in a couple of hours by car today.

Many Americans loved Washington for the way he handled hardship. As a general, he lost many battles and suffered greatly. Washington never gave up, even during the bitter winters when he and his troops had barely enough food or supplies to survive. Washington's officers admired his **loyalty** and strength.

When it came time for the state delegates at the Constitutional **Convention** to vote for the nation's first president, Washington was unanimously elected. Washington wanted to strengthen the democratic government in the U.S. He did not want the U.S. to have kings who were rulers for life. He showed this when he resigned from the Presidency. He resigned after being President for two terms. By stepping away from all the power of the Presidency, he set an example for future Presidents. He also strengthened the new democratic government in the U.S.

There are some parts of Washington's legacy today that are more complicated. Washington owned a plantation called Mount Vernon. Many enslaved people worked at Mount Vernon. But after the American Revolution, Washington started to think that slavery was wrong. Washington was not public about his thoughts. But we know that his view on slavery changed because he freed all of the enslaved workers at Mount Vernon when he died. Washington also was involved with taking land from Native American tribes living in North America. Washington wanted to make fair ways to deal with tribal land. But more than that, he wanted to expand the U.S. So, if a tribe would not agree to his terms, he took their land violently from them. Washington is admired today by many Americans, but these harmful actions are also part of his legacy.

Today, George Washington is honored in many ways. His face adorns America's dollar bill and its quarter. Both Washington state and our nation's capital, Washington, D.C., are named after the first President. The bridge that stretches across the Hudson River from New Jersey to New York is named the George Washington Bridge. It is located exactly where Washington crossed the Hudson with his troops to defeat British forces. Mount Vernon now has a museum and education center. There, historians teach people today about all sides of Washington's complicated legacy.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. George Washington led soldiers in which war?

- A. World War I
- B. the Civil War
- C. the Revolutionary War
- D. World War II

Tuesday and Wednesday

2. What does the author describe in the second paragraph?

- A. how George Washington became president
- B. how America was different during Washington's time
- C. how George Washington is honored today
- D. how Washington helped win the Revolutionary War

3. Read the following sentences from the text.

"When it came time for the state delegates at the Constitutional Convention to vote for the nation's first president, Washington was unanimously elected. Washington wanted to strengthen the democratic government in the U.S. He did not want the U.S. to have kings who were rulers for life. He resigned after being President for two terms. By stepping away from all the power of the Presidency, he set an example for future Presidents. He also strengthened the new democratic government in the U.S. "

What can you conclude about Washington based on this information?

- A. Washington cared more about the country's government than about personal power.
- B. Washington was forced to step down from the Presidency by his friends.
- C. Washington mostly cared about military victories, not government strength.
- D. Washington decided to build a new home while he was President.

4. How can America's feelings about George Washington best be described?

- A. scared
- B. sad
- C. appalled
- D. complicated

Tuesday and Wednesday

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A. how the United States was different during the time of George Washington
- B. George Washington, the first President of the United States
- C. why George Washington's face is on the dollar bill and the quarter
- D. how George Washington helped defeat the British in the Revolutionary War

6. Read the following sentence: "[George Washington's] face adorns America's dollar bill and its quarter."

What does the word "**adorns**" mean as used in this sentence?

- A. loves
- B. peels
- C. shocks
- D. decorates

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

As a general, Washington never gave up, _____ he faced hardship and loss.

- A. finally
- B. namely
- C. however
- D. even though

8. What evidence do we have that George Washington's views on slavery changed during his life?

Tuesday and Wednesday

9. How did Washington expand the U.S.'s land?

10. Why do you think the author describes Washington's legacy as complicated? Support your answer with two examples from the passage.

1 Character Perspective

A fire truck screamed by Tommy. He pedaled as fast as he could on his bike, but it was too fast for him. Tommy couldn't wait until he was old enough to be a firefighter. His dad, brother, and uncle all worked for the fire department now. Someday, Tommy would get to be like them. He wouldn't be afraid to rescue people. He'd put out fires and make sure his town was safe. He wanted everyone in town to know he was brave. He hoped he'd be able to drive the fire truck and sound the siren sometimes, too.

What is Tommy's perspective on being a firefighter?

- a. He is afraid of firefighters.
- b. He thinks firefighters are brave heroes.
- c. He believes being a firefighter is too risky.
- d. He is hoping his family doesn't want him to be a firefighter.

2 Character Perspective

"Do we have to go shopping?" Greg looked at his baseball glove. He'd much rather join his friends at the park to play baseball than go shopping.

"Yes," his mother said. "You need a suit for your cousin's wedding."

Greg's shoulders slumped. The only thing worse than shopping was going to a wedding. Dressing up. A long ceremony. Fancy food. Dancing.

"Can't I stay with Jeremy instead?" Greg was sure his best friend's parents wouldn't mind watching him.

Mom shook her head. "Our entire family was invited to this wedding, Greg. Now go put your dress shoes on so we can see how they look with a new suit."

Greg trudged to his room, knowing there was no way to avoid going.

What is Greg's perspective on going to his cousin's wedding?

- a. He loves going to weddings.
- b. He loves the fancy food at weddings.
- c. He thinks weddings are worse than shopping.
- d. He believes weddings are a fun way to spend a Saturday.

3 Character Perspective

"She's here!" Sami yelled. "Grandma is here!" She raced to the front door and ripped it open.

After greeting Grandma, Sami immediately grabbed all the bags out of her grandmother's car. She hauled them into the house and went directly to the kitchen. She'd spent the morning setting up the kitchen to bake Christmas cookies with Grandma.

"My," Grandma said now. "Someone's been busy already."

"I wanted us to be able to get right to the baking," Sami said.

Grandma rolled up her sleeves. "Well, let's not wait another second."

How do you know Sami has an eager perspective on baking cookies with Grandma?

- a. Sami races to the front door, grabs all the bags, and has the kitchen all set up.
- b. Sami ignores Grandma when she finally arrives.
- c. Sami is not prepared to bake cookies with Grandma.
- d. Sami says she doesn't like baking cookies.

4 Character Perspective

I'd been playing outside since the moment I came home from school today. We had a neighborhood game going. I hadn't wanted to come in. Finally, the sun set. The streetlights came on.

When I reached my bedroom, I groaned over all the books and papers that were in my backpack. Looking at it now, I knew it was going to take me forever to finish everything. Then I remembered something my sister told me.

Take one step at a time.

I pulled out my math book and started there. By taking one step at a time, I cruised through my math homework. I dove into my science homework next. Before I knew it, I was done with everything. I even had time to play a video game before going to sleep.

What changes the main character's perspective on having so much homework?

- a. watching a TV show
- b. having dinner before doing the homework
- c. talking to her parents
- d. something the main character's sister said

THURSDAY

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5 Character Perspective

Benny Beaver searched the woods for the perfect trees. He chomped into the logs. He carried them where he wanted them. He arranged them across the river. Benny worked hard all day.

When he was finished, he had a sturdy dam built. He tidied it up a bit, had some dinner, then admired his work some more.

"This just might be the finest dam I've ever built," Benny said to himself. He recalled some of the other dams he'd built in the past. This one was definitely higher and more watertight. "Practice makes perfect."

What is Benny Beaver's perspective on making dams?

- He thinks his first dam was built the best.
- He believes the more dams he makes, the better built they will be.
- He isn't proud of his ability to build a dam.
- He wants to rebuild this dam.

6 Character Perspective

Butterflies circled inside Claire's belly. Why had she agreed to read her poem into the microphone in front of the entire school? Her teacher loved Claire's poem, but that didn't mean the other students would. What if they didn't listen while she recited the poem? What if they booed her?

Her legs wobbled as if this was the first time she'd ever walked. The journey from her seat to the microphone took forever. Every single pair of eyes in the auditorium was on her. What if she tripped? What if she made a fool of herself? What if she forgot every word of her poem? Claire wished she'd never written that poem.

What does the line "butterflies circled inside Claire's belly" tell you about her perspective on reading her poem?

- Claire can't wait to read her poem.
- Claire is hungry before reading her poem.
- Claire feels very nervous about reading her poem.
- Claire is proud to read her poem.

7 Character Perspective

"No dogs allowed." Mark frowned at the sign on the entrance gates of the park in his new neighborhood. Dogs were always allowed at the park in his old neighborhood. He looked down at his beagle. "I guess you'll have to go home, Buddy."

Buddy wagged his tail, his tennis ball wedged between his teeth.

"No ball playing at this park." Mark tugged on Buddy's leash, and they headed back to the house. The ugly house in this ugly neighborhood.

"Hey," a girl's voice called.

Mark looked across the street.

"I'm Stacey. Does your dog want to play with my dog in my backyard? It's a big, open area. Perfect for playing ball." She beamed a smile at Mark.

Buddy pulled at his leash toward the girl. Maybe things would work out in this new neighborhood.

What changes Mark's perspective on his new neighborhood?

- Stacey's invitation to play in her big backyard
- The "No Dogs Allowed" sign at the park
- Buddy wagging his tail while he held his ball
- Mark's visit to his old neighborhood

8 Character Perspective

Adam cheered wildly. His favorite hockey player skated toward the net. Players from the opposing team tried to stop his advance. They were just too slow. Adam nearly spilled his drink when his favorite player did this complicated turn around a huge player from the other team. He still kept control of the puck!

With seconds left in the period, Adam's favorite player brought his stick back. Adam was on the edge of his seat. He hardly breathed. The shot was made. The puck sailed into the net!

"Goal!" Adam roared as he jumped from his seat. This game had been worth every penny of the ticket price.

What is Adam's perspective on this intense hockey game?

- It makes him angry, and he doesn't want to attend another game.
- It makes him anxious, but he loves being at the hockey game.
- It makes him clumsy, and he's embarrassed.
- It makes him tired, and he wants to go home.

THURSDAY

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