GRADES 2–3 Activities

The MAILBOX.

Dear Teacher,

Students create main characters for soon-to-be-written narratives with the writing idea in today's eNewsletter. The provided organizer includes checklists that help a student determine his character's physical appearance and traits. It also includes a fill-in-the-blank story starter. To help you meet the needs of all of your students, the activity includes an easier option and a more challenging one.

Get the new year off to a great start with the ideas in your Activities eNewsletter.

Tina

Tina Petersen
Newsletter Editor

PS: Make the most of every minute in your classroom. Click **here** to learn how **Time Timer** can help.

Writing

USING ONOMATOPOEIA IN WRITING

This idea is sure to create a buzz as you lead students to more descriptive writing. To start, challenge small groups of students to list their favorite sound words and, if desired, have them include characters or objects that might make each sound on their posters. Display the posters around the room. When a student writes, instruct her to include at least three examples of onomatopoeia in her story without using examples from her own group's poster.

Math

PLACE VALUE

Send students to an out-of-this-world display after they make this fun spaceship. To make a spaceship, a student folds a six-inch paper plate in half and then unfolds it. Next, he cuts along the inside of the rim of one of the resulting semicircles. The child folds the cut rim section atop the intact one and glues the rim sections together along the outer edge. Then the student adds the details described below before decorating his spaceship to his liking. Collect the index cards (as described below) and store them near a display of the completed spaceships. Invite students to visit the display and put the cards in the matching spaceships.

Read and write numbers (2.NBT.A.3):The student writes the word form of a three-digit number along the base of the spaceship. Then the student cuts an index card in half. She writes the standard form of the number on one half and the expanded form on the other half.

Rounding numbers (3.NBT.A.1): The student writes a three-digit number along the base of the spaceship. Then he writes the number rounded to the nearest ten on one index card half and to the nearest hundred on the other half.
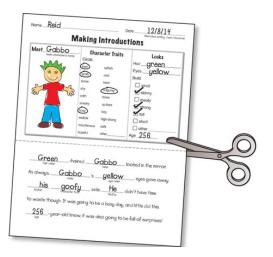
Print-and-Use Organizer

MAKING INTRODUCTIONS

To help students plan their main characters, give each child a copy of the **provided organizer**. Direct the child to draw a picture of his character and then mark the checklists with the traits he wants the character to have. Guide the student to use the checklists to fill in the blanks of the story starter. Then have him cut out the story

starter, glue it to a sheet of paper, and reference his checklists to finish the story.

To make the activity easier, allow students to discuss their story plans with you or another student before writing the rest of the story.

To make the activity more challenging, cut off the bottom portion of the organizer before distributing the checklists to students. Direct each child to use the checklist to guide his original story.

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Making Introductions

Meet_____. main character's name	Character Traits	Looks
	Circle.	Hair _____
	kind selfish	Eyes _____
	goofy cool	Build
	brave timid	☐ small
	shy outgoing	☐ skinny
	calm tense	☐ meaty
	sneaky up-front	☐ strong
	busy lazy	☐ tall
	mellow high-strung	☐ short
	mischievous safe	☐ other _____
	hopeful other_____	Age _____

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_____-haired _____ looked in the mirror.
    hair color   name

As always, _____'s _____ eyes gave away
             name   eye color

_____ _____ side. _____ didn't have time
 his/her   character trait   He/She

to waste though. It was going to be a busy day, and little did this

_____-year-old know, it was also going to be full of surprises!
 age

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