

FEBRUARY

COMPREHENSION

READING

PASSAGE

Activities



DENTAL HEALTH

Do you know what happens in February? Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year, Groundhog Day, and President's Day are all holidays you might know of in February. February is also National Children's Dental Health Month. This month is a time to spread awareness about the importance of keeping your mouth healthy! To spread awareness means to tell others about a topic. Dentists and medical staff want you and your families to know it is important to take care of your teeth.

Children's Dental Health Month

Children's Dental Health Month was first celebrated on February 8, 1949. Dentists wanted to encourage children to take care of their teeth. In 1955, the day was changed to a week. Then, in 1981 it was decided that a whole month would be dedicated to children's dental health. A month gives people more time to spread the news about how important it is to practice these healthy habits.

Steps to Keeping Teeth Healthy

There are many ways to keep your teeth healthy. Secondly, you should brush your teeth twice a day for two minutes. You should also eat a healthy diet and avoid eating lots of sugary foods. Finally, you should floss your teeth every day. These steps will help you keep your teeth healthy.

Benefits of Taking Care of Your Teeth

There are many benefits to taking care of your teeth. First, healthy teeth help you eat a variety of foods. Second, healthy teeth help you speak clearly. Third, healthy teeth help you smile and feel confident. Finally, healthy teeth help you avoid dental problems and expensive treatments.

There are so many ways to keep your teeth healthy. Brushing, flossing, and eating a healthy diet are just a few of the ways you can take care of your teeth.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Chinese New Year is a special holiday celebrated in China and by Chinese people all over the world. In Singapore, they refer to the holiday as Lunar New Year. Some people refer to the holiday as the "Spring Festival". The first week of Chinese New Year is a National Holiday, so most people are off work and out of school. Family and friends will gather during the holidays to celebrate good luck, good fortune, wealth, and happiness.

Gifts for children, family gatherings, and big meals. However, the gifts are usually money in red envelopes. The holiday occurs during the winter solstice and the first full moon of the year. Chinese citizens have their own calendar. Their calendar is based on the cycles of the moon. The Chinese New Year is based on the sun. Most countries in the world follow the Gregorian calendar. The Chinese New Year changes each year. It usually falls between January 21st and February 20th.

Traditions: Those that celebrate the holiday clean their homes to get rid of bad luck. Then families decorate their homes. Red is a signature color and represents joy and happiness. Families will use lanterns and decorative items. Firecrackers are used because they make loud noises. This is supposed to scare away bad luck.

Dances: There are several popular dances that are performed to celebrate the holiday. One of the most famous is the Dragon Dance. This dance requires a lot of people. Each person holds a part of the dragon. They parade through the streets in a zigzag to look like a dragon. Another common dance is known as the Lion Dance. This dance only uses two people and dance through the streets, making movements that look like a lion.

A BLACK HISTORY WAX MUSEUM

Jamal and his class were lining up to visit the second grade wax museum. Each year, the second graders pick a famous person and recite a brief biography. They have a dot on their hand that people touch. It is supposed to be like pushing a button. Once their button is pressed, they begin reciting their biography. This year, the second graders picked famous African Americans to research. Jamal's little brother is in second grade, so he is looking forward to seeing who he picked. He has to dress as the person, but he wouldn't let Jamal see his outfit before he left for school. Jamal thought, "I bet he's going to be Jackie Robinson because he loves baseball. There's only one problem, Cedric doesn't have a baseball uniform."

As the students entered the gym, Jamal began looking for his brother's class. He couldn't see him, so he followed his class down the first line. He stopped in front of a boy that had a red and white jersey on. The jersey had a black 23 on the front. Jamal reached for the button drawn on the student's hand and pressed it.

"My name is Michael Jordan. I was born on February 17, 1963, in Brooklyn, New York. I played basketball at the University of North Carolina. In 1984, I left college to join the NBA with the Chicago Bulls. I was on the 1992 Olympic basketball team where we won a gold medal. I played minor league baseball for one year before going back to basketball. I have a shoe brand called 'Air Jordan' and also a steakhouse. I retired from basketball three times, with the last one being in 2003."

Jamal was so impressed that the boy remembered all those facts without reading them. "Great job! I had no idea Michael Jordan played baseball, too," Jamal said before walking to the next line.

Jamal pressed a girl's button this time. "My name is Katherine Johnson. I was born on August 26, 1918. I am a famous mathematician and aerospace engineer."

THE SURPRISE VALENTINE

"Yay! It's Valentine's Day," Elle, my best friend, squealed as we walked into school.

"Yippee," I replied. I did not mean to be a downer, but I was not excited about Valentine's Day.

First, we had a multiplication math test today. Math makes me nervous. I studied with mom the night before, but I always freeze on the actual test. Secondly, there is chocolate all around me on Valentine's Day. Now, most kids, including myself, love chocolate. The tricky part about all the chocolate is that I have a nut allergy. I have to triple check every type of candy I eat to make sure it does not have any nuts. I also have to make sure it was not made at a factory with nuts around. It makes holidays with candy a little stressful. So, I was ready for this day to be over already.

The math test was before lunch. I tried to focus on my multiplication facts. It's just every time I know it's a test, they all seem to slip my mind. Mom always tells me to just try my best, but it's hard not to compare myself to my classmates. Mrs. Colton said she would check our tests during lunch.

After lunch, I walked into the room to see my quiz on my desk. I took a deep breath and flipped it over.

"Seven out of ten!" I thought, Mom was going to be so proud of me!

"Alright, time to celebrate!" Mrs. Colton exclaimed. She passed out BINGO sheets. I pulled out my shoebox to collect my Valentines in. I had made the shoebox look like an adorable puppy. I added socks to create the ears, and buttons for the eyes and nose. Mrs. Colton double-checked the candy that was passed out to ensure I could eat it.

Even though the day wasn't as terrible as I thought, I was still watching the clock. I couldn't wait to go home and be done with today. Finally, it was 3:30. I rushed to the front of the school and started my short walk home.

"Cecil, come here," my mom called from the kitchen as soon as I walked in the house.

I could not believe my eyes! Next to my mom was the cutest puppy.

"Surprise!" my mom said. "You have been so responsible with your allergy and trying your best at math. Mrs. Colton already emailed me about how persistent you have been with math. I am really proud of you for not giving up. Happy Valentine's Day sweetheart!" I ran and picked up the puppy in my arms. I could not believe it! Maybe Valentine's Day wasn't so bad after all.



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Random Acts of Kindness Rule? You should treat others the way you want to be treated. That is exactly what Random Acts of Kindness Day is all about. Random Acts of Kindness Day has become more and more popular each year. It is celebrated by individuals, groups, and schools. The purpose of Random Acts of Kindness Day is to promote, or encourage, acts of kindness. Random Acts of Kindness doesn't just make the receiver feel happiness, but it also makes the giver feel good.

Random Acts of Kindness Day was first celebrated in New Zealand. They celebrate this special day on September 17th. Random Acts of Kindness Day was first initiated in the United States in 1995, but it didn't become a national holiday until 2013. Random Acts of Kindness Day is observed every day of the year. Even though there is a certain day where people celebrate, random acts of kindness should be done every day of the year!

How to Celebrate Random Acts of Kindness in your school:

1. Different random acts of kindness, such as playing with someone new at recess or helping someone who is struggling.

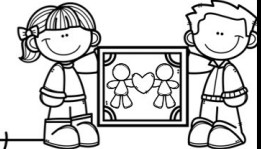
2. Cross out each random act by the end of the week!

3. Place them around the grounds at your school. When someone finds a random act of kindness, they should feel happy!

4. Have each student write one kind thing about a classmate. At the end of the year, read them out loud.

5. Send them to a classmate or maybe someone else in the school. You could even send them to yourself!

6. Celebrate random acts of kindness in your school and at home! It is sure to make you feel good about yourself!



five fiction & nonfiction close reading passages with comprehension questions

FACT OR OPINION

Directions: Using what you learned from the passage, write two facts and two opinions about random acts of kindness inside the images.



OPINION WRITING

Prompt: Which influential African American from the story did you find the most interesting and why? Use details from the text to support your opinion.

MAIN IDEA

Directions: Using what you learned from the passage, complete the main idea organizer below.

MAIN IDEA

DETAIL

NARRATIVE WRITING

Prompt: Write a story about a time you were surprised by someone or planned a surprise for someone else. Be sure to use dialogue in your response.

AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

Directions: Use the graphic organizer to describe the author's point of view of Chinese New Year.

DETAIL

DETAIL

DETAIL

STORY ELEMENTS

Directions: Use the graphic organizer below to explain the important events that happen in the story.

CHARACTERS

SETTING

PROBLEM

SOLUTION

B

M

E

AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

STANDARDS-BASED
ACTIVITIES & WRITING PROMPTS
FOR EACH PASSAGE.

CLOSE READING

FICTION

Underline the
character

MARKING UP THE TEXT FICTION

- 1 Underline the characters and the setting.
- 2 Draw a ★ next to the problem and the solution.
- 3 Circle unfamiliar words or phrases.
- 4 Put a ? next to any part of the story you don't understand or have questions about.

CLOSE READING

NONFICTION

Put exclamation points
(!) next to details you
find interesting.

3.

NOT SO WINNY TEACHER

ANCHOR CHARTS FOR
TEACHERS & STUDENTS.

DENTAL HEALTH

SHORT ANSWER:

1. What was is the author's point of view on dental health?
The author's point of view on dental health is that it is important to take care of your teeth.
2. What is a benefit of taking care of your teeth?
One benefit of taking care of your teeth is that you will have healthy teeth and gums.
3. Using context clues, what does it mean to "spread awareness about dental health"?
Spreading awareness means to teach others about dental health.

TRUE/FALSE:

4. You should brush your teeth once a day. T
5. Cavities are small holes in your teeth. T

AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

Directions: Use the graphic organizer to describe the author's point of view of Chinese New Year.

DETAIL	DETAIL	DETAIL
Chinese New Year represents good luck and good fortune in the new year.	Families clean their homes to get rid of bad luck from the previous year.	
↓	↓	

AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

STORY ELEMENTS

Directions: Use the graphic organizer below to explain the important events that happen in the story.

CHARACTERS Jamal and Cedric	SETTING The school's gym
PROBLEM Cedric doesn't have a baseball costume.	SOLUTION Cedric chooses Collin Powell because he has an Army costume he can wear.

B Jamal prepares to go to the second grade wax museum. He wonders who his brother dressed as since he wouldn't show him before school.

M Jamal presses two buttons and learns about Michael Jordan and Katherine Johnson. Jamal is impressed by the biographies he heard.

E Jamal finds his brother dressed as a Colin Powell. He learns that Colin Powell was the first black Secretary of State and compliments his brother on a great wax museum.

ANSWER KEYS FOR ACTIVITIES & QUESTIONS ARE INCLUDED.

FEBRUARY READING PASSAGES *at a glance*

Day 1 Close Reading Mark up the Text "Dental Health"	Day 2 Comprehension Questions "Dental Health"	Day 3 Standards-Based Activity Main Idea "Dental Health"	Day 4 Writing: Expository "Dental Health"
Day 5 Close Reading Mark up the Text "Chinese New Year"	Day 6 Comprehension Questions "Chinese New Year"	Day 7 Standards-Based Activity Author's Purpose "Chinese New Year"	Day 8 Writing: Persuasive "Chinese New Year"
Day 9 Close Reading Mark up the Text "Random Acts of Kindness"	Day 10 Comprehension Questions "Random Acts of Kindness"	Day 11 Standards-Based Activity Fact and Opinion "Random Acts of Kindness"	Day 12 Writing: Explanatory "Random Acts of Kindness"
Day 13 Close Reading Mark up the Text "The Surprise Valentine"	Day 14 Comprehension Questions "The Surprise Valentine"	Day 15 Standards-Based Activity Character Traits "The Surprise Valentine"	Day 16 Writing: Narrative "The Surprise Valentine"
Day 17 Close Reading Mark up the Text "Black History Month"	Day 18 Comprehension Questions "Black History Month"	Day 19 Standards-Based Activity Story Elements "Black History Month"	Day 20 Writing: Opinion "Black History Month"

THIS UNIT COVERS THE FOLLOWING COMMON CORE ELA STANDARDS: RI.3.1, RI.3.2, RI.3.3, RI.3.4, RI.3.6, RL.3.1, RL.3.2, RL.3.3, RL.3.4, W.3.1, W.3.2, W.3.3

NOT SO WIMPY TEACHER

Includes an at a glance page to help with planning.

GETTING STARTED

Teacher Directions & Tips

Close reading is an important skill for students to learn and helps students become independent readers and has the most meaning as possible.

This resource includes:

- anchor charts for both fiction and nonfiction texts
- student reference sheets to use during close reading
- an "At A Glance" plan for implementing the reading activities
- fiction and nonfiction reading passages
- reading comprehension questions
- standards-based reading activities
- read and respond writing pages

This resource can be used over the course of a month or your needs.

The close reading writing

ANCHOR CHARTS

There are a variety of anchor charts that can be printed and displayed or projected for students to reference during close reading time. I have included anchor charts that explain the steps of close reading, as well as how to mark up the text during close reading time.

If this is the first time you have implemented close reading in the classroom, I would recommend modeling this reading strategy with students, repeatedly referencing the anchor charts often before having students practice it on their own.

STUDENT REFERENCE SHEETS

You can print and allow students to use different formats to choose from, how to annotate or mark up the text as well as how you would like to refer to this

the text, skills, standards, and activity is planned out, and you

FICTION & NONFICTION READING PASSAGES

Each month has a mix of rigorous fiction and nonfiction texts. Each text focuses on a different reading standard or skill. These passages were made with the intent that students would have the opportunity to circle, underline, add symbols, and annotate thoughts as they closely read. Passages include all types of topics, including science and social studies.

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Each close reading text has a set of standards-based reading comprehension questions that will have your students thinking deeply about the passage, as well as referring to the passage in search of text evidence that supports their answers.

STANDARDS-BASED READING ACTIVITIES

Each passage has a standards-based activity that will have your students practicing specific reading skills while having fun and staying engaged. These activities might include filling in graphic organizers, deciphering a secret message, or matching parts of the story with vocabulary. The activities vary depending on the reading skill your students are working on.

READ & RESPOND WRITING ACTIVITIES

Each text has a question that requires students to respond through their writing. These questions will have students analyzing the text and using it as evidence to support the answers they write.

NOT SO WINNY TEACHER

INCLUDES detailed teacher directions & tips