

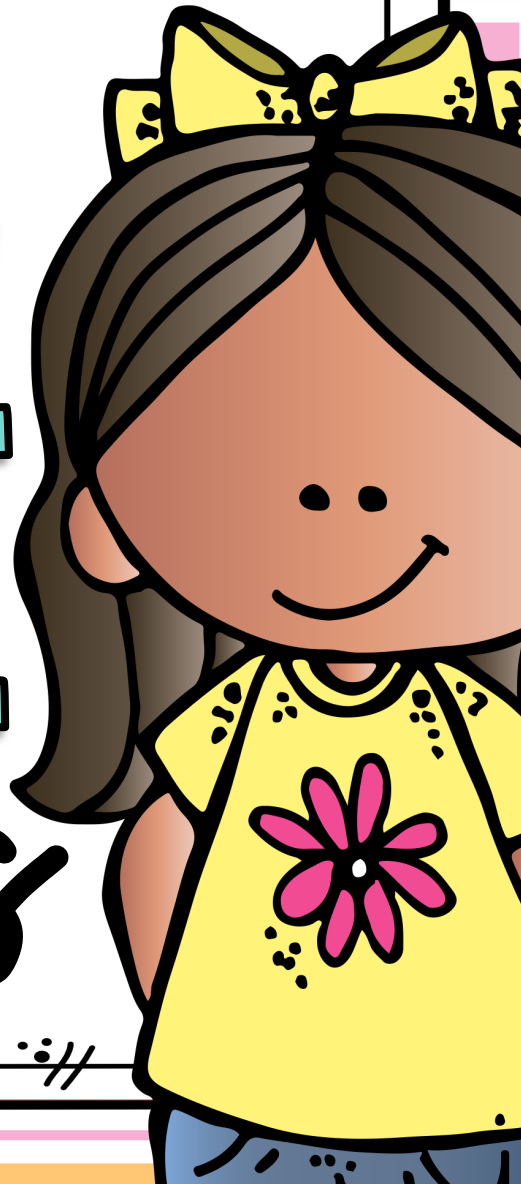
# JUNE

COMPREHENSION

READING

PASSAGE

Activities



## THE FUDGE FIASCO

I feel like I have been waiting a million years for my Nina to get here. Nina is my grandmother, and she is visiting for excited! As soon as she gets here, we are going to make her famous fudge. It is the ooziest-gooiest fudge I've ever to teach me how to make it! I have all the ingredients ready to go in the kitchen. Mom and I went shopping for them!

Hank! Hank!  
She's here! I rush outside and see my dad getting her luggage from the trunk. I run to the passenger side and give  
"How was your flight?" I ask.  
"Oh, it wasn't too bad. It would have been better if I had some fudge," Nina replies.  
"Well, you're in luck! I have everything waiting for us in the kitchen. Mom! Let's go," I say.  
"Don't worry about me. I'll bring all this stuff in from the car," my dad says.  
"Thanks, son!" Nina yells back. We walk into the kitchen, and Nina and I wash our hands.

"Okay. The first  
I grab the bag of  
those are milk  
My stomach sink  
"Well, it's a good  
Whew! I am so r  
"What's wrong."  
"The milk... it's e  
"I'll run next door  
had milk!  
"Mr. Pearson say  
"That won't be  
Finally, we have  
is no room. "I kno  
A few hours lat  
After I deliver th  
"I'm so glad you  
"Me, too, Benji. I

## THE SUMMER SOLSTICE

The summer solstice is the longest day of the year. However, this does not mean there are more hours in the day. It means this day receives more daylight than any other day of the year. The word solstice means when the sun reaches its highest or lowest point in the sky for the year. When the sun is at its highest point, we have the summer solstice. When it is at its lowest point, we have the winter solstice. The summer solstice is in June, while the winter solstice is in December.

Depending on which hemisphere you live in, your seasons happen during different months. We use the equator to divide the two hemispheres, or halves of the earth. The equator is an imaginary, or pretend, line that divides the northern hemisphere from the southern hemisphere. In the northern, or top half, of the Earth, the longest day is around June 21<sup>st</sup>. However, that is the longest night for those that live in the southern, or bottom half of the Earth. This is because the Earth is tilted. The half of the Earth that is tilted, or leaning, toward the sun is experiencing summer. The half that is tilted away from the sun is experiencing winter. In the diagram below, you can see that each hemisphere is tilted toward the sun for six months and away from the sun for six months. You can also see the equator in the diagram. The word equinox

## HELEN KELLER

Helen Keller was born on June 27, 1880, in Tuscumbia, Alabama. She lived her life as a teacher and advocate for the blind and deaf. You may be wondering why she chose to dedicate her time to these causes. The answer is quite simple. Helen Keller was deaf and blind, too. Helen was born able to hear and see, however, when she was about one and a half years old, she got very sick. Due to a high fever, she lost her ability to see and hear.

As she grew older, not being able to hear and see caused Helen a lot of frustration. She had learned some signs and signals to communicate with those around her, but she needed more tools to be fully understood. Upset, she began to act out, throwing temper tantrums and hitting or kicking people out of anger.

Her parents decided that they needed help. They reached out to Perkins Institute for the Blind in Boston, Massachusetts. This is where they met Anne Sullivan. Anne understood the challenges Helen faced because she had lost her sight to illness as well, but Anne was able to have surgery that helped her see better. Helen's parents were hopeful that Anne's experience could help Helen. Anne began working for the Keller family on March 3, 1887. Little did Anne know that she would continue to be part of Helen's life for the next 50 years.

### Learning to Communicate

Helen began her lessons immediately. Anne would use her fingers to press and sign letters of words into Helen's hand. For example, she put a doll in one of Helen's hands and then pressed the letters of the word, D-O-L-L, into the other hand. She did this to help Helen make connections between the word and the object. Helen was eager to expand her world, and as Anne taught Helen more words, Helen would sign the words back into Anne's hand. Even though she could sign the words, Helen still did not yet realize that the hand signs had meaning. Then one day, things started to click. Anne ran water over Helen's hand and spelled out water into the other hand. This was a turning point for Helen. Soon after, Helen attended school, where she learned how to read and write Braille in addition to using sign language.

Another special teacher in Helen's life, Sarah Fuller, taught Helen how to speak. Helen would rest her fingers on Sarah's lips so she could feel the sound vibrations and how the lips formed to make sounds. At first, she focused on learning letters and sounds. Then she began learning words and, eventually, sentences. It made Helen very happy to be able to speak and have another way to communicate.

Helen went on to graduate college and became an author. She published books on her experiences and worked to help other people who were like her. She traveled the country giving speeches and raising money for the blind and deaf communities. Her life's mission was to help provide tools and education to encourage people to not give up hope, no matter the circumstances. She accomplished this mission before passing away on June 1, 1968.



## KEY DETAILS

Directions: Underline the answer to each question in the text using the color on the crayon.



Who did Helen's parents hire to help her?

What situation helped Helen make connections between words and objects?

Why did Helen throw tantrums?

How did Helen feel about learning to speak?

What did Helen do when she went to college?

on? Use details from the text to support your opinion.



## DIZZY THE DOG GOES TO WORK

ge to describe Dizzy's day.

the ice cream parlor?

laisie gives him a toothache?

copies before he went to lunch. True False

e realized he went to True False



NOT TO WORRY! EASED

NOT TO WORRY! EASED

five fiction & nonfiction close  
reading passages with  
comprehension questions

## STEPS IN A PROCESS

Directions: Use the graphic organizer below to explain the steps it takes to make applesauce cake. Hint: You can include two steps in one section.

1	FIRST
2	NEXT
	THEN

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Directions: In the boxes below, write examples of the types of figurative language from the story.

### SIMILE

compares two things using *like* or *as*  
Ex. She is as fast as a cheetah.

### METAPHOR

compares two unlike things  
Ex. My fingertips are ice cubes.

### IDIOM

phrases that do not mean what they say  
Ex. I have a frog in my throat.

## NARRATIVE WRITING

Prompt: Write a story about a child visiting with a grandparent. Be sure to include a setting, character, dialogue (what the characters say), problem, and solution in your story. It can be a true story about one of your visits with a grandparent.

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## EXPOSITORY WRITING

Prompt: Helen Keller led an incredible life and helped others to overcome obstacles as well. Think about your life, what goals do you want to accomplish? What challenges would you have to overcome?

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## INFORMATIVE WRITING

Prompt: How are the equator and axis alike and different? What is each of their purposes? How does the diagram help you better understand these two terms?

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## VOCABULARY CROSSWORD

Directions: Use the passage, clues, and word bank below to help you fill in the missing words in the crossword puzzle.

### DOWN

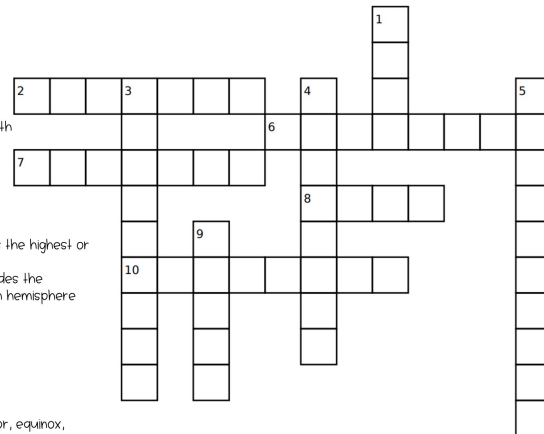
1. imaginary pole
3. pretend or fake
4. bottom half of the Earth
5. each half of the Earth
9. revolution

### ACROSS

2. equal
6. when the sun reaches the highest or lowest point
7. imaginary line that divides the northern and southern hemisphere
8. leaning or slanted
10. top half of the Earth

### Word Bank:

axis, hemisphere, equator, equinox, imaginary, orbit, northern, solstice, southern, tilt



STANDARDS-BASED  
ACTIVITIES & WRITING PROMPTS  
FOR EACH PASSAGE.

# CLOSE READING

## FICTION

Underline and the  
character

# CLOSE READING

## NONFICTION

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

### 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.

3.

NOT SO WIMPY TEACHER

ANCHOR CHARTS FOR  
TEACHERS & STUDENTS.



## THE SUMMER SOLSTICE

### SHORT ANSWER:

1. Based on the diagram, which season comes before the winter solstice?

Fall or autumn comes before the winter solstice.

## VOCABULARY

Directions: Use the passage, clues, and the word bank below to help you fill in the missing words in the crossword puzzle.

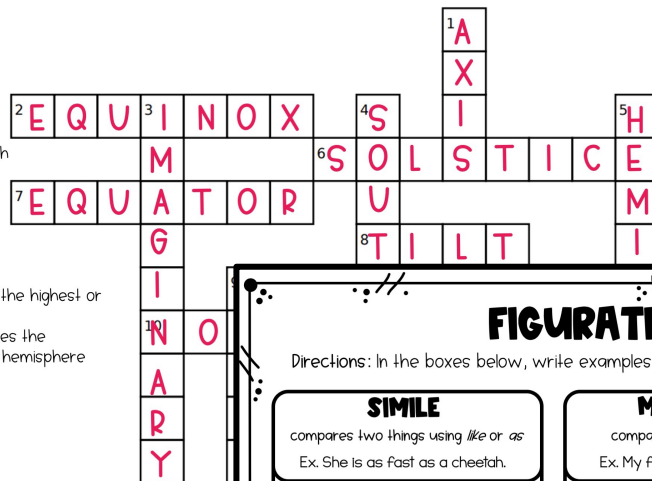
### DOWN

1. imaginary pole
3. pretend or fake
4. bottom half of the Earth
5. each half of the Earth
9. revolution

### ACROSS

2. equal
6. when the sun reaches the highest or lowest point
7. imaginary line that divides the northern and southern hemisphere
8. leaning or slanted
10. top half of the Earth

Word Bank:  
axis, hemisphere, equator, equinox, imaginary, orbit, northern, solstice, southern, tilt



solstice?

the sun causes more sunlight during the summer

p, hemisphere.

True False



## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE Answers may vary

Directions: In the boxes below, write examples of the types of figurative language from the story.

### SIMILE

compares two things using *like* or *as*  
Ex. She is as fast as a cheetah.

The weather made him as happy as a clam.

### METAPHOR

compares two unlike things  
Ex. My fingertips are ice cubes.

To Dizzy, she was a beautiful angel.

### IDIOM

phrases that do not mean what they say  
Ex. I have a frog in my throat.

His eyes must have been bigger than his stomach.

### PERSONIFICATION

giving animals or objects human characteristics  
Ex. The stars danced in the sky.

The breeze combed Dizzy's hair.

The trees waved as he walked by.

### ALLITERATION

repeating the same sound at the beginning of words  
Ex. Lizzy lizard likes lemon lollipops.

Dizzy the Dog had a dramatic day.

He decided to go to Dog's Delight Deli.

ANSWER KEYS FOR ACTIVITIES & QUESTIONS ARE INCLUDED.

# JUNE READING PASSAGES at a glance

Day 1 Close Reading Mark up the Text "Applesauce Cake"	Day 2 Comprehension Questions "Applesauce Cake"	Day 3 Standards-Based Activity Steps in a Process "Applesauce Cake"	Day 4 Writing: Opinion "Applesauce Cake"
Day 5 Close Reading Mark up the Text "Helen Keller"	Day 6 Comprehension Questions "Helen Keller"	Day 7 Standards-Based Activity Key Details "Helen Keller"	Day 8 Writing: Expository "Helen Keller"
Day 9 Close Reading Mark up the Text "The Summer Solstice"	Day 10 Comprehension Questions "The Summer Solstice"	Day 11 Standards-Based Activity Vocabulary "The Summer Solstice"	Day 12 Writing: Informative "The Summer Solstice"
Day 13 Close Reading Mark up the Text "The Fudge Fiasco"	Day 14 Comprehension Questions "The Fudge Fiasco"	Day 15 Standards-Based Activity Problem and Solution "The Fudge Fiasco"	Day 16 Writing: Narrative "The Fudge Fiasco"
Day 17 Close Reading Mark up the Text "Dizzy the Dog Goes to Work"	Day 18 Comprehension Questions "Dizzy the Dog Goes to Work"	Day 19 Standards-Based Activity Figurative Language "Dizzy the Dog Goes to Work"	Day 20 Writing: Explanatory "Dizzy the Dog Goes to Work"

THIS UNIT COVERS THE FOLLOWING COMMON CORE ELA STANDARDS: RI.3.1, RI.3.2, RI.3.3, RI.3.4, RI.3.5, RI.3.7, RI.3.8, RI.3.9, RI.3.10, RL.3.1, RL.3.2, RL.3.3, RL.3.4, RL.3.10, 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