

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy summertime! I wanted to give you an overview of what is attached to this summer work packet, and tell you about the purpose behind it. First, here is what is attached (directions will be listed in each section):

1. A Fiction Book Reflection
2. Summer Writing Journal
3. Nonfiction Comprehension Practice

My goal as the 3rd grade ELA teacher is to ensure students can read and write well, and learn to love both reading and writing in the process. To reach my goal, I need a baseline understanding of the level in which each child is currently performing. This summer work helps me create the baseline. **Your child will not be graded on accuracy when turning in their summer work. Their credit is based on their completion of the work and their effort.** I am not looking for perfection. I am looking for an accurate representation of your child's current performance level, so I am able to meet them where they are as they enter third grade.

I ask that you please let your child complete their work to their current ability with as much independence as possible. Of course, your child may ask you how to spell or read a word or two, and that is okay. However, I am kindly asking that you do **not** edit your child's spelling, syntax, or grammar in their writing, and that you do **not** fix their answers for the non-fiction comprehension passages. I ask that you just encourage your child to truly put forth their best effort. Again, **your child will not be graded on accuracy when turning in their summer work. Their credit is based on their completion of the work and their effort.** This will truly let me see their current level of spelling, comprehension, and overall ability level upon entering third grade.

In addition, I hope that this summer work will help prepare your child for the jump that 3rd grade naturally has. Third grade is the shift from learning to read to reading to learn. In third grade, there is going to be more writing, longer readings, and a higher expectation of independence (which we will gradually work towards) as the year progresses.

I am so excited to be your child's ELA teacher in 3rd grade! I truly hope you have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to teaching your wonderful children starting this fall!

Best,
Mrs. Emma Richter

Fiction Book Reflection

Directions: After reading a fiction chapter book of your choice this summer, please answer the following questions! Please use this paper to hand-write your answers.

Title

Author

Illustrator (this one might be blank!)

1. On the lines below, tell me what your book was all about! Give me the big picture details. Try to include who the main characters are, where the story takes place, what the problem and solution are, and how it ended. If you run out of room, you can attach an extra sheet of paper. :)

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Summer Writing Journal

Directions: Answer the following prompts. Please use complete sentences, and write at least one paragraph for each prompt. If you run out of space on any prompts, please just attach an additional sheet with the finished prompt to the back of the packet.

1. Tell me why your favorite ice cream flavor (or snow cone flavor) is the best flavor.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page, possibly from a composition book. The edges of the paper are slightly irregular, suggesting it might be a scan of a physical document. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Nonfiction Comprehension Practice

Directions: You will find 4 nonfiction comprehension practice passages attached. Each passage has 10, multiple choice questions to follow. I ask that your child answers the questions as independently as possible. I also ask that your child highlights the evidence to the answer in the text. However, I have attached options for how your child is allowed to read the passages. Please circle the option that best describes how your child read each of the nonfiction passages.

TV

- I (or another adult) read aloud to my child
- My child and I took turns reading the passage aloud
- My child read the article aloud to me, so I could correct specific words as needed.
- My child read the article independently.

Chess

- I (or another adult) read aloud to my child
- My child and I took turns reading the passage aloud
- My child read the article aloud to me, so I could correct specific words as needed.
- My child read the article independently.

Tetris

- I (or another adult) read aloud to my child
- My child and I took turns reading the passage aloud
- My child read the article aloud to me, so I could correct specific words as needed.
- My child read the article independently.

Wintertime

- I (or another adult) read aloud to my child
- My child and I took turns reading the passage aloud
- My child read the article aloud to me, so I could correct specific words as needed.
- My child read the article independently.

Nonfiction Reading Test

TV

Name: _____

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

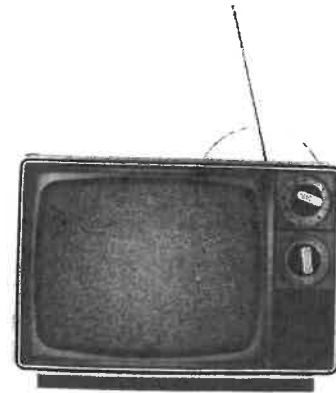
Televisions show sounds and pictures. They get data from cables, discs, or over-the-air signals. They turn this data into sounds and images. People watch news and shows on them. You probably call them TVs.

John Baird made the first TV in 1925. It had one color. It could only show 30 lines. This was just enough room for a face. It didn't work well, but it was a start.

The first TV station was set up in 1928. It was in New York. Few people had TVs. The broadcasts were not meant to be watched. They showed a Felix the Cat doll for two hours a day. The doll spun around on a record player. They were experimenting. It took many years to get it right.

By the end of the 1930s, TVs were working well. America got its first taste at the 1939 World's Fair. This was one of the biggest events ever. There were 200 small, black and white TVs set up around the fair. The U.S. President gave a speech over the TVs. The TVs were only five inches big but the people loved it.

They wanted TVs. But World War II was going on during this time. Factories were busy making guns and bombs. When the war was over, TV spread across the country.



By 1948 there were 4 big TV networks in America. They aired their shows from 8 to 11 each night. Local shows were aired at other times. Most of the time, nothing was shown at all. TV was not "always on" like it is now.

Color TVs came out in 1953. They cost too much money for most. Also, shows were aired in black and white. By 1965, color TVs were cheaper. TV stations started airing shows in color. People had to switch if they wanted to see the shows.

Now most TVs are high-def. This means that they have many lines on them. This makes the image clear. TVs have come a long way since Baird's 30 line set. High-def TVs have 1080 lines. There are state of the art sets called 4K TVs. These TVs have 3,840 lines. Some people watch TV in 3D. I wonder what they will come up with next. Smell-o-vision anyone?

1. When did color TVs come out?

- a. 1925
- b. 1953
- c. 1939
- d. 1965

2. Which was **not** true about the first TV?

- a. It could only show one color.
- b. It only had 30 lines.
- c. It did not have sound.
- d. It did not work well.

3. When did networks start showing programs in color?

- a. 1948
- b. 1953
- c. 1965
- d. 1939

4. Why did the first TV station only show Felix the Cat for two hours a day?

- a. They were running tests.
- b. Felix the Cat was really popular.
- c. Felix the Cat had been a big radio star.
- d. Felix the Cat was the only show that they had.

5. Which of these events slowed the spread of TVs?

- a. The World's Fair of 1939
- b. The Civil War
- c. The election of the U.S. President.
- d. World War II

6. What is the author's main purpose in writing this?

- a. He is trying to explain how a TV works.
- b. He is telling readers how TVs became popular.
- c. He is describing the history of the TV.
- d. He is trying to get people to watch more TV.

7. Why did many families switch to color TVs in 1965?

- a. Color TVs cost a lot of money.
- b. Many shows were only shown in color.
- c. Color TVs came out in 1965.
- d. World War II ended and troops returned home.

8. Why was 1939 an important year for TV?

- a. Many Americans were introduced to TV.
- b. The first color TV was released.
- c. The first TV station began broadcasting.
- d. John Baird created the first TV.

9. How many lines does a 4K TV have?

- a. 30
- b. 1,080
- c. 4,000
- d. 3,840

10. Which happened first?

- a. The 1939 World's Fair
- b. The release of high-def TVs
- c. The end of World War II
- d. The release of color TVs

Nonfiction Reading Test

Chess

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

Chess is called the game of kings. It has been around for a long time. People have been playing it for over 500 years. Chess is based on an even older game from India. The chess we play today is from Europe.



White Chess Pieces

Chess is a two-player game. One player uses the white pieces. The other uses the black pieces. Each piece moves in a special way. One piece is called the king. Each player has one. The players take turns moving their pieces. If a player lands on a piece, he or she takes it. The game ends when a player loses his or her king. There are a few more rules, but those are the basics.

Some people think that chess is more than a game. They think that it makes the mind stronger. Good chess players use their brains. They take their time. They think about what will happen next. These skills are useful in life and in chess. Chess is kind of like a work out for the mind.

You don't always have lots of time to think when playing chess. There is a type of chess with short time limits. It's called blitz chess. In blitz chess, each player gets ten minutes to use for the whole game. Your clock runs during your turn. You hit the time clock after your move. This stops your clock. It also starts the other player's clock. If you run out of time, you lose. Games of blitz chess are fast-paced.

Chess is not just for people. Computers have been playing chess since the 1970s. At first they did not play well. They made mistakes. As time went on they grew stronger. In 1997, a computer beat the best player in the world for the first time. It was a computer called Deep Blue. Deep Blue was big. It took up a whole room. By 2006 a cell phone could beat the best players in the world. Chess sure has come a long way. Don't you think so?

1. What is the author's purpose in writing the second paragraph?
 - a. To explain the rules of chess
 - b. To compare different types of games
 - c. To talk about game pieces
 - d. To persuade people to play chess
2. Which is **not** a reason that chess is a good workout for the mind according to the text?
 - a. Good chess players think about what will happen next.
 - b. Good chess players take a lot of risks.
 - c. Good chess players take their time.
 - d. Good chess players use their brains.
3. How long have people been playing chess?
 - a. Over 100 years
 - b. Over 500 years
 - c. Over 1000 years
 - d. Over 5000 years
4. Where did the game that chess is based on come from?
 - a. Europe
 - b. America
 - c. India
 - d. All of these
5. Which best describes the main idea in the fourth paragraph?
 - a. This paragraph argues that players should think less.
 - b. This paragraph explains how blitz chess is played.
 - c. This paragraph explains time clocks work.
 - d. This paragraph describes many different ways to play chess.
6. How does a game of chess end according to the text?
 - a. One player takes all of the other player's pieces.
 - b. One player makes it to the end of the board.
 - c. One player becomes king.
 - d. One player loses his or her king.
7. Which happened first?
 - a. Computers did not play chess well.
 - b. Deep Blue won an important game.
 - c. Cell phones got good at playing chess.
 - d. Deep Blue took up a whole room.
8. How is blitz chess different from regular chess?
 - a. Each player has two kings.
 - b. Players are blindfolded.
 - c. Players only have ten minutes to play.
 - d. Players start from a random position.
9. If it's your turn in blitz chess, what happens when you hit the clock?
 - a. Both your clock and the other person's clock keep running.
 - b. The other person's clock stops running and yours starts.
 - c. Both clocks stop running.
 - d. Your clock stops running and the other person's clock begins.
10. When did a computer first beat a strong human player in chess?
 - a. 2006
 - b. 1997
 - c. 1970
 - d. 1976

Nonfiction Reading Test

Tetris

Name: _____

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

Do you like video games? Lots of people do. There are many types of video games. Some people like action games. Other people like driving games. But the most popular game of all time is a puzzle game.

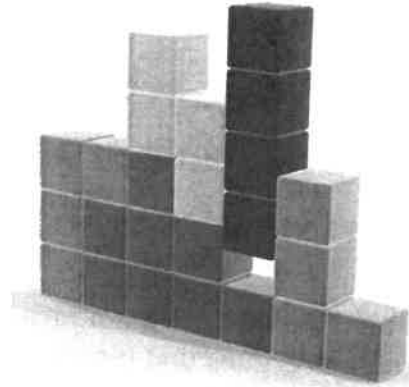
Tetris is a game about making lines. Blocks fall from the top of the screen. They fall one at a time. The player moves the blocks. Once the blocks hit the bottom, they are locked in place. Players try to make lines go across the screen with no gaps. Complete lines disappear. This gives players more room. The blocks pile up during the game. The game ends when the blocks get to the top of the screen.

A man named Alexey made Tetris in 1984. All the pieces in Tetris have four blocks. The word "tetra" means four. Alexey named his game after tetra and tennis. He made Tetris while working at a science academy in Moscow. Moscow is in Russia.

Alexey made his game on a screen that only showed letters. He could not use blocks. The blocks were made out of letters in the first game of Tetris. Still, all Alexey's friends loved his game. It was easy to learn and fun to play.

Soon the game spread across the world. It was on every computer. It was in arcades. It came with every one of Nintendo's Game Boy. More than 100 million Game Boys were sold. Tetris was all over the place. Even today Tetris comes with many phones.

Dr. Richard Haier has studied Tetris players. He ran many tests. He found that playing Tetris boosts mental activity. Dr. Haier thinks Tetris is good for the brain. I agree with this finding. Now go and play some Tetris. It's just what the doctor ordered.



1. What is this article about?
 - a. Video games
 - b. Tetris
 - c. Alexey
 - d. Blocks
2. What is the goal of Tetris?
 - a. To make tall piles of blocks
 - b. To match the colors of blocks
 - c. To make complete lines
 - d. To get blocks to the top of the screen
3. After which is Tetris named?
 - a. Fish
 - b. The number ten
 - c. Paris
 - d. Tennis
4. Where was Alexey when he created Tetris?
 - a. Paris
 - b. Russia
 - c. The United States of America
 - d. Germany
5. What is the highest selling game of all time?
 - a. A driving game
 - b. Call of Duty
 - c. Tetris
 - d. An action game
6. Which event happened first?
 - a. Tetris was played with letters instead of blocks
 - b. Tetris was released on the phone
 - c. Tetris was released in the arcade
 - d. Tetris was brought to the Game Boy
7. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?
 - a. To persuade readers to play Tetris
 - b. To explain how Tetris is played
 - c. To describe different types of games
 - d. To compare Tetris to other puzzle games
8. According to Dr. Richard Haier, which is true about Tetris?
 - a. Tetris lowers blood pressure
 - b. Tetris increases physical strength
 - c. Tetris boosts mental activity
 - d. Tetris has no positive side effects
9. What happens to a block that hits the bottom and does not form a complete line in Tetris?
 - a. It disappears and reappears at the top.
 - b. It is locked in place.
 - c. The player moves the block.
 - d. It gives the player more room.
10. Why did the first game of Tetris use letters instead of blocks?
 - a. Alexey did not think to use blocks
 - b. Alexey thought letters were more fun
 - c. Alexey's screen could only show letters
 - d. Alexey wanted to teach people to read

Nonfiction Reading Test

Wintertime

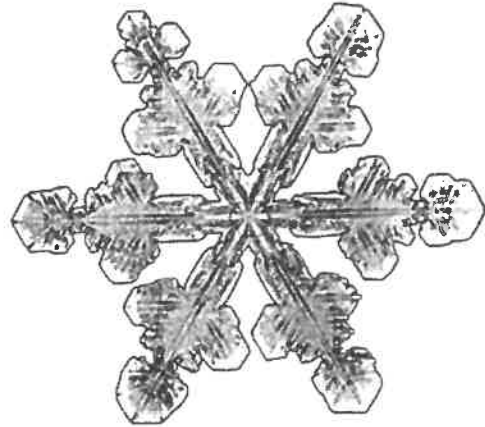
Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

Brrrr. Winter is cold in some places. Many plants do not grow during winter. Some plants die. Snow and ice may cover the ground. It can be hard for animals to find food during winter. Animals get through this time in many ways.

Birds and butterflies can fly. Many of them do not stick around for the winter. They leave. They go to a place with nice weather. Then they come home in the spring. We call this migration. Migrating is a good way to avoid the cold.

Another good way to avoid the cold is to sleep through it. Many animals hide during the winter. Their bodies slow down. They save their energy. They do not eat. They live off of their fat. They do this until food returns. We call this hibernation. Snakes, frogs, and bears hibernate.

Some animals store food in their homes. They do not sleep all winter, but they do much less. They live on what they saved in the summer and fall. This is what squirrels, beavers, and raccoons do. Skunks do this too.



Other animals tough it out. They do not leave. They do not hide. They must survive. Sometimes nature helps them out. Some animals grow thicker coats in the winter. Other animals change color. The arctic fox is brown in the summer. His coat turns white in the winter.

Winter may be pretty. It is nice to see snow on the trees. But it is dangerous too. People are also at risk. You can get frost bitten or worse. How do you beat the winter? Do you wear a thick coat? Do you stay inside? Or do you live somewhere warm?

1. Which of these animals migrates during the winter?
 - a. foxes
 - b. snakes
 - c. bears
 - d. butterflies

2. Which of these animals survives winter by eating stored food?
- a. bears
 - b. raccoons
 - c. frogs
 - d. birds
3. Why does the arctic fox's coat change white during winter?
- a. The white coat is prettier and attracts mates.
 - b. White absorbs the sun and is warmer.
 - c. The white coat helps him blend with the snow.
 - d. His body saves energy by reducing hair color.
4. Which does not hibernate?
- a. skunks
 - b. frogs
 - c. snakes
 - d. bears
5. Why is winter a difficult season in some places?
- a. There is less food.
 - b. It is colder.
 - c. Snow and ice cover the ground.
 - d. All of these
6. What does it mean to migrate?
- a. To grow a thicker coat
 - b. To move somewhere warmer for a season
 - c. To enter a long sleep and survive off of body fat
 - d. To change colors
7. What is the main idea of this text?
- a. Animals do funny and interesting things.
 - b. Most flowers do not grow during the wintertime.
 - c. Animals survive the winter in many ways.
 - d. We must prepare for the dangers of winter.
8. How does a hibernating animal survive?
- a. A hibernating animal lives off of stored food.
 - b. A hibernating animal lives off of body fat.
 - c. A hibernating animal lives somewhere warm.
 - d. A hibernating animal lives off of the land.
9. How would a thicker coat help an animal survive winter?
- a. A thicker coat would help an animal hide better.
 - b. A thicker coat would protect an animal against attacks.
 - c. A thicker coat would help an animal stay warm.
 - d. A thicker coat would help an animal migrate.
10. Which title would best describe this text?
- a. *Winter: A Time to Migrate*
 - b. *Hibernation: Sleeping it off*
 - c. *Survive: How Animals Beat the Winter*
 - d. *Birds and Butterflies: Nature's Movers and Shakers*

