



**Ways to Support Students
Writing about their Reading**
pp. 2 & 3



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**CHECK OUT
NEW WRITING A-Z!**
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PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Ask a Learning A-Z Expert
Join us on March 10th

During this 1 hour live session, a Learning A-Z expert will be available to answer any questions about the resources and features on Reading A-Z, Raz Plus and Raz Kids.

Engage parents/caregivers in learning how to support and encourage reading at home with our **English and Spanish Webinars.**

Teachers: Share registration links for [English](#) or [Spanish](#) parent/caregiver webinars.

Join Live Webinars facilitated by our Certified Professional Learning Specialists.

Click here for a list of Learning A-Z's live webinars including Ask an Expert.

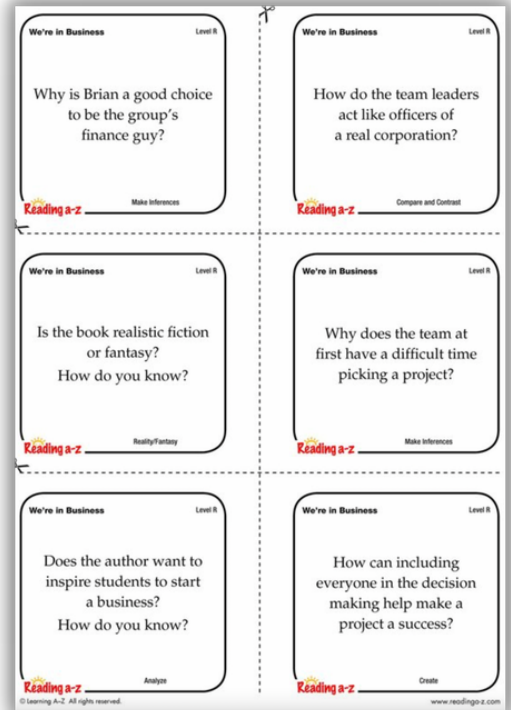
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WAYS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WRITING ABOUT THEIR READING

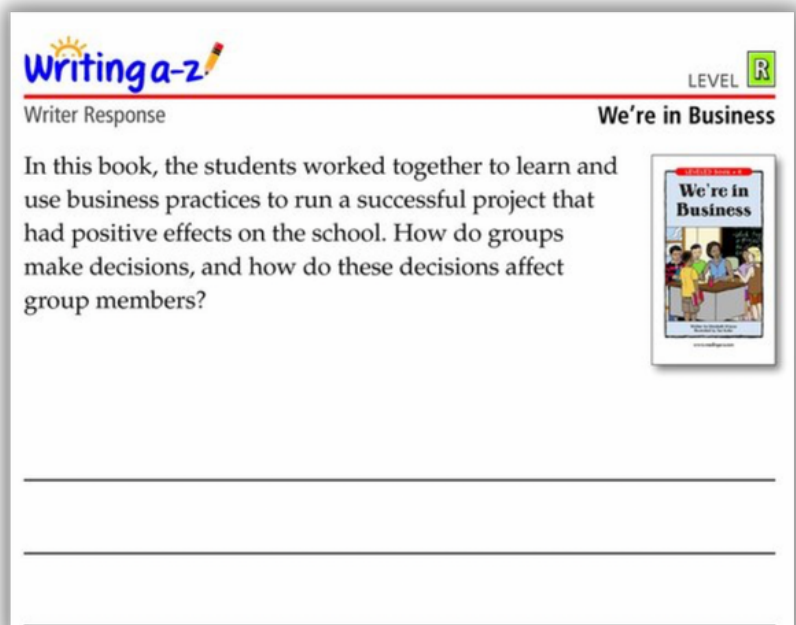
Discussion Cards (available on Landing Page of Leveled Book)

- Support critical thinking, collaboration & discussion
- Support individual students, small group, and whole class
- Tagged to a specific targeted comprehension skill
- Support practice with constructed response questions



Writer's Response (located in Writing, Vocabulary, & Word Work)

- Encourages students to reflect on deeper meaning of each book
- Supports writing that applies, synthesizes or evaluates a book's understanding



For more information on process writing:

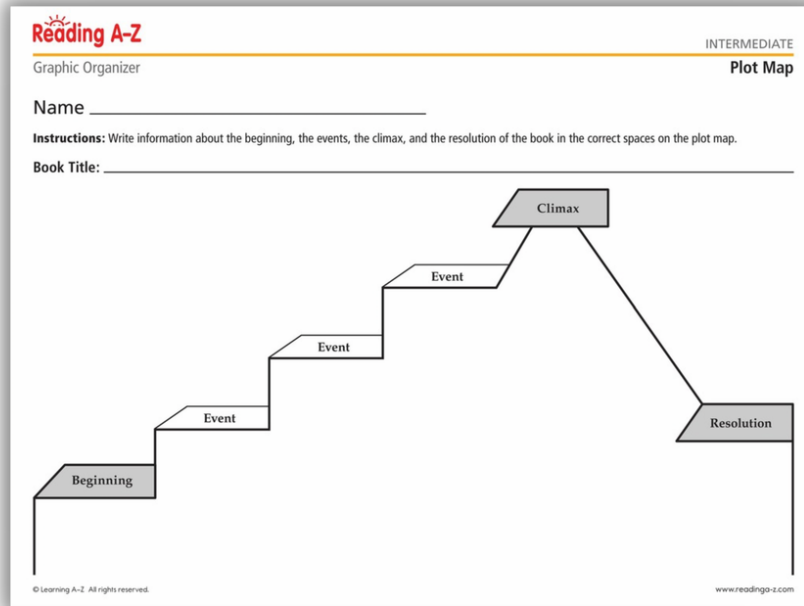
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WAYS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WRITING ABOUT THEIR READING

LOCATED IN FOCUSED INSTRUCTION DRAWER

Graphic Organizers

- Enhance reading comprehension by categorizing information showing relationships among important concepts
- Support vocabulary instruction
- Scaffold student learning



Close Read Passages (Close Read Questions and Question Guide)

- Scaffold open-ended questions with targeted purpose to guide students in finding layers of meaning in a text

How You Can Make a School Garden

CLOSE READ PASSAGES

Gardening is a fun activity—and it's good for you, too! It can also teach you about science and nature.

One good way to learn how to garden is to start a school garden.

Students in New Haven, Connecticut, plant lettuce in a school garden.

Follow these steps.

- Find teachers who want to help you start a garden.
- Find or buy the things you will need in order to make a garden at your school:

CLOSE READ PASSAGES QUESTIONS

How You Can Make a School Garden

- Read 1** How You Can Make a School Garden. 1. What are some supplies needed to make a garden?
- Read 1** How You Can Make a School Garden. 2. What do all plants need to survive?
- Read 1** How You Can Make a School Garden. 3. Before planting seeds, what should gardeners do to prepare the soil?
- Read 2** How You Can Make a School Garden. 4. Why might the author have included illustrations of gardening supplies rather than just listing the items?
- Read 2** How You Can Make a School Garden. 5. Why might the author have written the text as a how-to passage?
- Read 3** How You Can Make a School Garden. 6. What are some benefits of school gardens?
- Read 3** How You Can Make a School Garden. 7. Is it important for gardeners to follow the steps in the order listed? Why or why not?
- Read 3** How You Can Make a School Garden. 8. Are all of the steps for making a school garden necessary, or are some of the steps optional? Which steps would you be sure to include if you were making a garden?

Extension Activity How You Can Make a School Garden. How do you maintain a garden? Create a pamphlet explaining how to make and maintain a garden. Include images, captions, headings, and other text features.

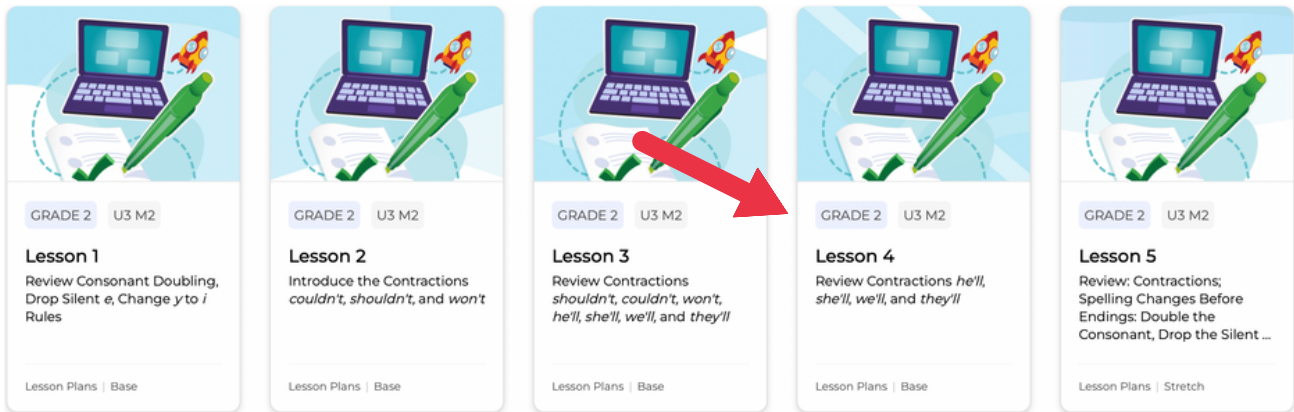
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UPDATES

You can now understand where the resource lesson originates and what skill is specifically taught without having to open the card.

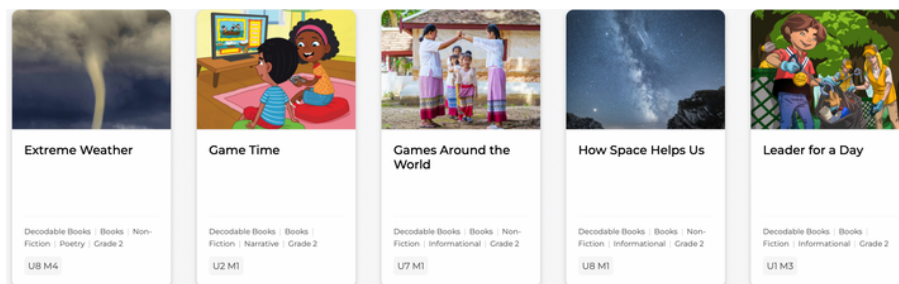
Lesson Plan Resource Cards now have more detail to distinguish the lesson including grade, unit, module it comes from as well as description.



COLLECTIONS RESOURCES

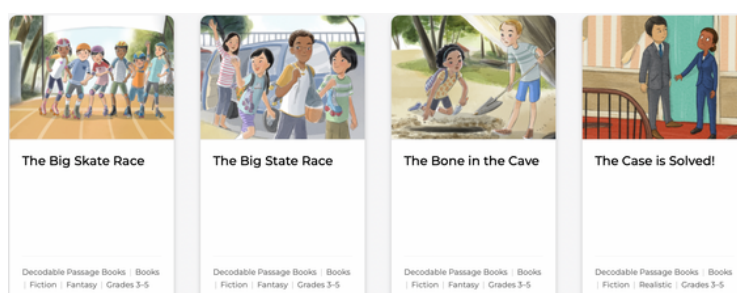
Decodable Books

- Grades K-2
- Application of necessary foundational skills in variety of genres



Decodable Passage Books

- Grades 3-5
- Additional phonetic element practice with story lines & characters suitable for Gr. 3-5



SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

Science A-Z's Science in the News series builds on student engagement with a February issue containing articles such as:

- Crab Eyes Inspire New Kind of Camera
- Movement Breaks Help Brain and Body
- Quiet Animals Surprise with Sounds
- Blowhole Energy: The Wave of the Future?



SCIENCE in the NEWS February 2023

Crab Eyes Inspire New Kind of Camera

Technology Where would you look to find an idea for a new type of camera? An international team of scientists looked in a surprising place. The eyes of a fiddler crab!

A fiddler crab's eyes work well both on land and in water. Fiddler crabs can also see in nearly all directions. The scientists created a small camera that works like the crab's eyes. Sensors shaped like the teeth of a comb cover its round surface. The camera can look in almost any direction. It works whether wet or dry.

Currently, the camera takes small, low-quality pictures. However, the scientists hope to improve the design. Drones and some cars use cameras to find their way. These cameras don't work well in the rain. In time, the new camera may help them navigate—rain or shine. ❖

Life Science Many students have long school days followed by homework. They end up sitting and thinking for hours at a time.

Getting the mail, doing chores, and walking your dog are great ways to keep moving.

Movement Breaks Help Brain and Body

Life Science Like most students, you probably spend many hours sitting and doing schoolwork. Two new studies show that both of these things may affect your mind and body.

Doctors suggest that everyone exercise for at least 30 minutes each day. However, a study in Finland showed that one daily workout may not be enough. It found that people are healthier if they take breaks to move all through the day.

Meanwhile, scientists in France found that working on tasks for too long leads to a tired brain. People with tired brains make quick decisions. Those decisions aren't always the best ones.

What can we learn from these studies? Movement breaks may help improve your life. They can help you rest your mind and exercise your body at the same time! ❖

SCIENCE in the NEWS February 2023

Quiet Animals Surprise with Sounds

Life Science Did you ever hear a turtle make a sound? Scientists in Switzerland did. They recorded sounds from more than fifty kinds of animals once thought to be silent.

The scientists mostly studied turtles. They found that sea turtles make sounds before hatching. The sounds help all the turtles hatch at the same time. As a result, each turtle is less likely to become a predator's meal.

The scientists also studied other types of animals. Some of the animals made sounds when they fought. Others made sounds while taking care of young or looking for a mate. Tuatara (too-uh-TAR-uh) are reptiles. They use sound to keep other animals away.

The study found that all sound-making vertebrates are relatives. They are part of a family tree that started around 400 million years ago. That's much earlier than scientists thought! ❖

Engineering A company known as Wave Swell Energy uses a new device to tap into the power of ocean waves. It's called the UniWave. It works like a blowhole—but not the kind on a whale!

Blowholes are natural tunnels in rock. One end of the tunnel opens into the ocean. The other is above water. Waves push into these tunnels, forcing air and water through to the other side.

The UniWave is similar, but it has a part that closes after each wave. As the wave flows out, the UniWave pulls air in. The air spins a machine that produces electricity.

Why wave energy? Waves, unlike sunlight and wind, never stop. Also, the UniWave is cheap to build and use. By 2030, it may be the cheapest source of renewable energy in the world. ❖

After each wave flows out, the valve closes and the turbine produces electricity.

Side View

waves force water level up and down