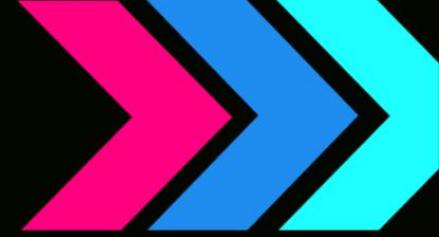


MAKE LEARNING FUN!



10 high-interest passages & activities themed to make learning engaging!

THE MAKING OF A SOLIDER
Michael decided that he might want to join the Army. He spent hours talking to his family. In the end, he decided it was time to **bite the bullet** and do it. After signing the papers, he was both nervous and excited to dive headfirst into Boot Camp and

PUZZLES: IDIOMS
Name: _____
Write the correct letter in each box.

1. To make a difficult or painful decision that is unavoidable.	E	2. To achieve something that feels impossible through determination.	H
3. To remain optimistic and strong in difficult situations.	B	4. The point at which a plan or idea is tested.	L
5. Hard work and effort are necessary to achieve something worthwhile.	J	6. To make great progress or improvement.	K
7. To show mercy or make things easier.	G	8. To give someone a difficult experience.	I

A. Take the bull by the horns
B. Keep his chin up
C. Get his act together
D. Cross that bridge when he came to it
E. Bite the bullet

A HIKING SUCCESS
Leslie felt as though **she could sleep for days**. Each grain beneath her boots seemed to make her **feet scream in protest** as she marched. **Sweat dripped from her forehead like a leaky faucet**, and the **40-pound pack on her back felt like it weighed 200 pounds**. "Just a few more steps," her platoon leader said. Sometimes **Roger could be a viper**, harsh with his words. But today, he was **her anchor**. He was supportive and kind.

A HIKING SUCCESS: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE SORT
Color each canteen the same color as the backpack it goes with.

SIMILE "pounded in her ears like a drumbeat"	"blazing, brutal, blinding"	"Her voice broke like a splintered branch"	"felt as heavy as cement blocks"
A.	B.	C.	D.
METAPHOR "Heat was an invisible predator"	"pop"	"Sweat dripped from her forehead like a leaky faucet"	"sun flung its fingers onto her body"
G.	H.	I.	J.
"She could sleep for days"	"40 pound pack on her back felt like it weighed 200 pounds"	"sand shifted silently"	S.
K.	L.	M.	N.

CONQUERING THE HEIGHTS
Mark felt a rush of exhilaration. Standing at the top of "The Crucible," a legendary rock for climbers, he could see for miles. While some of his friends were nervous, Mark was thrilled. He was eager to conquer his first rappelling experience. "Harness on?" barked a voice from above, snapping Mark out of his thoughts. "Yes, sir," he called back, his voice steady despite the butterflies in his stomach. "Locked in?" the voice called again. "Locked in and ready," Mark replied. "Now comes the hard part. Your confidence wavered. Slowly, he adjusted his feet. With a deep breath, he pushed down his forehead against the ledge. With a deep breath, he pushed down his forehead against the ledge. With a deep breath, he pushed down his forehead against the ledge. "Woohoo!" Mark called out. The voice from above replied, "Can't wait to descend."

CONQUERING THE HEIGHTS: MULTIPLE CHOICE
Name: _____
Write A, B, C, or D in each box.

1. What is the main idea of the passage? A. Mark discovers the thrill of rappelling. B. Mark struggles to secure his harness before climbing. C. Mark admires the beauty of nature from the top of a rock. D. Mark decides not to rappel after seeing how steep the drop is.	2. What does the word "exhilaration" most likely mean as used in the passage? A. Boredom B. Excitement C. Confidence D. Nervousness	3. What happens right after Mark secures his rappelling device? A. He looks over the edge. B. He calls out "Woohoo." C. The voice asks if he is locked in. D. He adjusts the friction on the rope.	4. How do we know Mark is nervous about rappelling? A. He asks his friends to rappel first. B. He mutters, "I can't see over this cliff," as he looks over the edge. C. He refuses to rappel when asked. D. He doesn't respond when the voice calls from above.
5. What does the phrase "his heart pounding like a drum" mean? A. Mark was tired. B. Mark was excited. C. Mark was scared. D. Mark was concentrating.	6. What was Mark's problem while rappelling, and how did he solve it? A. He was scared of heights but overcame it by focusing on the ledge. B. He forgot how to secure his harness but asked for help. C. He didn't know how to adjust the rope but ignored the instructions. D. He tripped on the rock but continued rappelling without stopping.	7. What does the word "marveled" mean in the sentence, "Mark marveled at how something so dangerous looking could turn out to be so much fun"? A. Wondered B. Laughed C. Complained D. Shouted	8. Which trait best describes Mark by the end of the passage? A. Fearful B. Determined C. Lazy D. Confused
9. Where does most of the action in this passage take place? A. In a rock climbing arena B. At the bottom of the rock C. At the top of the rock and during the descent D. In the desert	10. What is a theme of the story? A. You should always trust your nerves. B. Facing your fears can lead to great rewards. C. Nature is dangerous and should be avoided. D. Patience is a key to success.	11. What might Mark do after finishing his first rappel? A. Ask for another turn because he enjoyed it so much. B. Decide never to rappel again because it was scary. C. Refuse to talk to the instructor who helped him. D. Stay at the bottom of the rock and wait for the sun to set.	12. Why did the author most likely write this passage? A. To explain how to rappel B. To entertain readers with a story about overcoming fear C. To teach readers the dangers of rock climbing D. To describe the view from the top of a rock

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

You can use these passages:

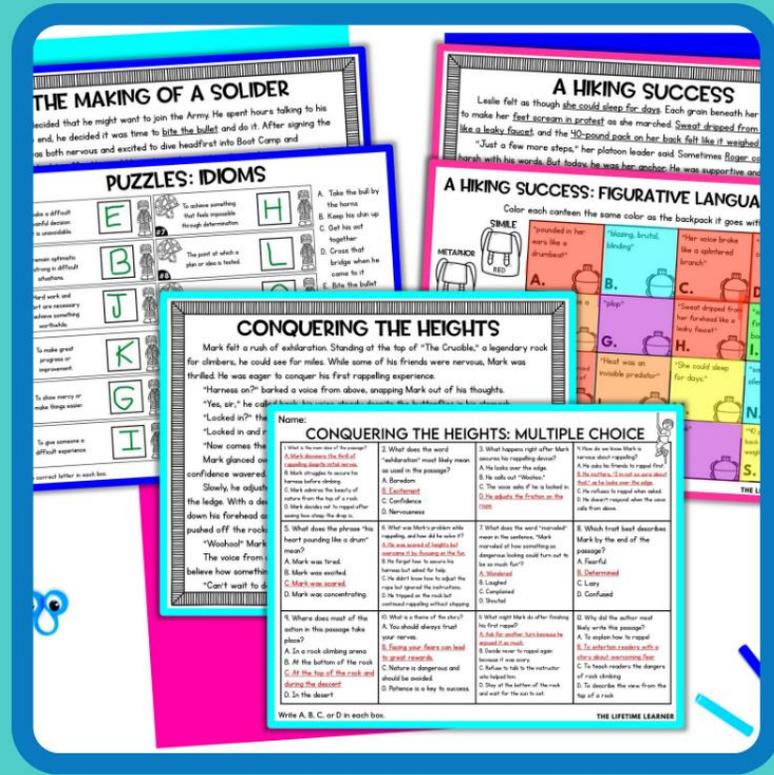
- for classroom transformations
- during your ELA block
- as partner/small group activities
- skill practice
- as assessments
- for test prep
- remediation
- enrichment
- themed days
- fast finisher activity
- and more!

WHAT'S AN ADD-ON PACK?

You can use this resource two ways:



Use the reading passages to supplement your Boot Camp Room Transformation



OR use these reading passages for students to enjoy during your ELA block on a regular day

You don't have to do a room transformation to use this resource. These 10 passages are no-prep and print & go. Use them anytime during your ELA block!

THE CONTENT:

10 high-interest passages & activities in 2 formats: hands-on & no prep!

Hands-On Centers

Hands-On Centers activity showing 10 figurative language cards, each featuring a backpack icon and a small illustration of a person. The cards are arranged in a grid and labeled with letters A through R. Each card contains a figurative language term and a corresponding example sentence.

Simile "pounded in her ears like a drumbeat" A. "Her voice broke like a splintered branch" C.	Personification "sun flung its fingers onto her body" I. "feet scream in protest" P.
Metaphor "Roger could be a viper" F. "He was her anchor." Q.	Alliteration "blazing, brutal, blinding" B. "sand shifted silently" N.
Hyperbole "She could sleep for days." M. "40 pound pack on her back felt like it weighed 200 pounds" S.	Onomatopoeia "plop" G. "clnk" R.

No-Prep Printables

A HIKING SUCCESS: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE SORT

Color each canteen the same color as the backpack it goes with.

A Hiking Success: Figurative Language Sort worksheet. The worksheet is a grid of 12 columns and 4 rows. Each cell contains a figurative language term and a corresponding example sentence. The terms are: SIMILE, METAPHOR, PERSONIFICATION, ONOMATOPOEIA, SIMILE, HYPERBOLE, ALLITERATION, METAPHOR, PERSONIFICATION, ONOMATOPOEIA, SIMILE, HYPERBOLE, ALLITERATION, METAPHOR, PERSONIFICATION, ONOMATOPOEIA. The examples are: "pounded in her ears like a drumbeat", "Roger could be a viper", "She could sleep for days.", "40 pound pack on her back felt like it weighed 200 pounds", "sun flung its fingers onto her body", "feet scream in protest", "blazing, brutal, blinding", "sand shifted silently", "plop", "clnk", "Her voice broke like a splintered branch", "Sweet dripped from her forehead like a leaky faucet", "Sun flung its fingers onto her body", "sand shifted silently", "feet scream in protest", "40 pound pack on her back felt like it weighed 200 pounds". The worksheet also includes a color key for the backpacks and canteens, and a name field.

SIMILE RED	"pounded in her ears like a drumbeat" A.	"blazing, brutal, blinding" B.	"Her voice broke like a splintered branch" C.	"felt as heavy as cement blocks" D.
METAPHOR ORANGE	"Roger could be a viper" F.	"plop" G.	"Sweet dripped from her forehead like a leaky faucet" H.	"sun flung its fingers onto her body" I.
PERSONIFICATION YELLOW	"She could sleep for days." M.	"clnk" R.	"Sun flung its fingers onto her body" I.	"sand shifted silently" N.
ONOMATOPOEIA BLUE	"40 pound pack on her back felt like it weighed 200 pounds" S.	"feet scream in protest" P.	"40 pound pack on her back felt like it weighed 200 pounds" S.	"feet scream in protest" P.

With this version, students read the passage. Then, they complete a hands-on center you can laminate and re-use for years to come!

Or in this version, students read the passage. Then, they complete the activity in worksheet form. This version is NO PREP and PRINT & GO! Just as much fun as the hands-on centers!

2 Versions of Every Passage Included for Students

OFF TO BOOT CAMP

"Nicky, it's time to go!" Mariah and her twin brother Nicky had been inseparable from birth. They both were taking the next step in their lives. "We're going to be late!"

"Give me a sec, sis. I'm almost packed," he replied. Mariah rolled her eyes. Unlike her brother, she had been packed for days. He always waited until the last minute. They were both headed to Boot Camp. But, Mariah was joining the Army and Nicky was joining the Air Force. Both would take part in physical training that would strengthen their bodies. They would also spend weeks cut off from those they loved.

"Okay," said Mariah. "But hurry up! I don't want to miss the bus!"

Mariah would spend 10 weeks in Boot Camp while Nicky only had to go for 8 weeks. Mariah would have some difficult moments. The Anvil, a two night field practice to teach teamwork and medical training would test her limits. The Forge, a test which came at the end of training, would also challenge her survival skills and fitness level.

Nicky would be busy with his own work. He would be tested in Week 7 during an event

OFF TO BOOT CAMP

"Nicky, it's time to go!" Mariah could not believe that this day had come. She and her twin brother Nicky had been inseparable from birth. But it was now time to separate. They both were taking the next step in their lives. "We're going to be late for our buses if we don't leave in the next five minutes."

"Give me a sec, sis. I'm almost packed," he replied. Mariah rolled her eyes. Unlike her brother, she had been packed for days. He always waited until the last minute. Nicky and Mariah were both headed to Boot Camp. But, Mariah was joining the Army and Nicky was joining the Air Force. Although their journeys in boot camp would be similar, they would have a lot of differences.

Both of the twins would take part in physical training that would strengthen their bodies. They would be tested to make sure they had the physical and mental strength to succeed in their respective branches of the military. They would also spend weeks cut off from those they loved.

"Okay," said Mariah. "But hurry up! I don't want to be late to meet the bus!"

Mariah would spend 10 weeks in Boot Camp for the Army, learning about the Army values, how to administer first aid, and how to work as a team. Nicky would attend Air Force Boot Camp for 8 weeks, learning how to "fall in" and building a foundation for the future.

Mariah would have some difficult moments. There was no doubt about that. The Anvil, a two night field practice to teach teamwork and medical training would really test her limits. The Forge, a test which came at the end of training, would also challenge her survival skills, thought-processes, and fitness.

Nicky would be busy with his own work. He would be tested most especially in Week 7 during an event called The Beast. This would offer combat scenarios and further his training.

"Alright sis. Let's get this show on the road," said Nicky, as he managed to get his duffle bag down the stairs. "We will definitely have a lot to catch up on when we get done with the next few months. I'm not going to lie. I'm a bit nervous to leave and actually go to Boot Camp."

"Same here, Nicky. Good luck, and don't miss me too much!"

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

BE ALL YOU CAN BE IN THE ARMY

As Owen walked to the cafeteria after history class, he noticed military guys set up at a table in the hallway. "Hey," they said as he walked by. "Are you interested in money for college?"

Owen was only a junior in high school so he hadn't really thought all that much about college, but the guys seemed so friendly that he stopped to talk.

"What's this all about?" he asked.

"We are recruiting for the Army," a man with Dan on his nametag said. "We could use good guys like you."

"Oh, sounds interesting," Owen said. "I always admired my uncle in the Army when I was young. Tell me more."

"In order to join the Army, you need to have a high school diploma and take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test. This will tell us what you are good at."

"Oh no, a test?" Owen replied.

"Trust me. It's easy, and it just tells us what you are good at so it's all about you. You also need to be a U.S. Citizen and be between 17-35 years old."

"I'm 17 already," said Owen. "So I've got that covered!"

"The big thing about joining the Army is spending 10 weeks in Boot Camp where you will get used to everything in the Army and learn all the things you need to know."

"Sounds intense," said Owen.

"It is, but you already look like you are physically fit so you can do it," said Dan. "You do need to pass the Army Combat Fitness Test. It has six challenges."

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

BE ALL YOU CAN BE IN THE ARMY

As Owen walked to the cafeteria, he noticed military guys set up at a table in the hall.

"Hey," they said as he walked by. "Are you interested in money for college?"

Owen was only a junior in high school so he hadn't really thought all that much about college, but the guys seemed so friendly that he stopped to talk. "What's this about?"

"We are recruiting for the Army," a man named Dan said. "We could use guys like you."

Owen said. "I always admired my uncle in the Army when I was young. Tell me more."

"In order to join the Army, you need to have a high school diploma and take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test. This will tell us what you are good at."

Owen frowned. The man continued, "Trust me. It's easy, and it tells us what you are good at. You also need to be a U.S. Citizen and be between 17-35 years old."

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Differentiate and give your students the version best for them!

CENTER 1

Multiple Choice

CONQUERING THE HEIGHTS

With a rush of exhilaration, standing at the top of "The Crucible," a legendary rock climber, he could see for miles. While some of his friends were nervous, Mark was not. He was eager to conquer his first rappelling experience.

"Harness on?" barked a voice from above, snapping Mark out of his thoughts.

"Yes, sir," he called back, his voice steady despite the butterflies in his stomach.

"Locked in?" the voice pressed. Mark reached secured the repelling device to the rope.

"Locked in and ready," Mark replied, a mixture of anticipation and nerves in his tone.

"Now comes the fun part!" the voice shouted back with a chuckle.

CONQUERING THE HEIGHTS: MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. A	2. B	3. D	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.
9.	10.	11.	12.

- What is the main idea of the passage?
- Mark discovers the thrill of rappelling despite initial nerves.
 - Mark struggles to secure his harness before climbing.
 - Mark admires the beauty of nature from the top of a rock.
 - Mark decides not to rappel after seeing how steep the drop is.

1.

What does the word "exhilaration" most likely mean as used in the passage?

- Boredom
- Excitement
- Confidence
- Nervousness

2.

Hands-On Center:

Students choose A, B, C, or D on each card.

CENTER 2

Pairs Activity

A MESSAGE FROM HOME

Mia thought. She was waiting impatiently at the mail call to see if she had received. The Sergeant called out several names that were not hers.

"Donavan. Please say Donavan!" her brain pleaded. Mia was homesick. There was no other way to say it. It was Week 6 of Boot Camp and Mia pined for everything her home, her friends, her puppy, and most importantly, her mom and dad.

"Cramer. Cummings." the Sergeant bellowed gruffly.

The suspense was killing her. Mia had known that Boot Camp would be difficult. But she was astounded by how arduous it really was to leave everything she knew behind.

"Donavan." Mia bolted to collect her package. As she hastily opened it, some homemade chocolate chip cookies and a note in her mom's handwriting fell out.

Your dad and I are so proud. We know it must be difficult to be away from home, but you're halfway done. We are elated to call you our daughter. Ben is missing you too, but continues to excel in his high school courses. Luna misses you most of all.

Mia blinked away tears as she read so no one would see the anguish on her face.

Her pal Dirk poked her. "Those cookies look good. Any chance you could indulge me?"

She tossed him one that he caught in his mouth. It was nice to get a sweet reminder from home, but it was time for her to get back to work. She and Dirk headed off.

1. Anguish	I. Deep sadness or pain.
2. Indulge	B. To let yourself or someone else have something special.
3. Gruffly	G. In a rough or unfriendly way.

Hands-On Center:

Students put the two sides together to match each word with the correct definition.

CONQUERING THE HEIGHTS: MULTIPLE CHOICE

Name: _____

- What is the main idea of the passage?
 - Mark discovers the thrill of rappelling despite initial nerves.
 - Mark struggles to secure his harness before climbing.
 - Mark admires the beauty of nature from the top of a rock.
 - Mark decides not to rappel after seeing how steep the drop is.
- What does the word "exhilaration" most likely mean as used in the passage?
 - Boredom
 - Excitement
 - Confidence
 - Nervousness
- What happens right after Mark secures his rappelling device?
 - He looks over the edge.
 - He calls out "Whoa!"
 - The voice asks if he is locked in.
 - He adjusts the friction on the rope.
- How do we know Mark is nervous about rappelling?
 - He asks his friends to rappel first.
 - He notices "Don't say a word about that!" as he looks over the edge.
 - He refuses to rappel when asked.
 - He doesn't respond when the voice calls from above.
- What does the phrase "his heart pounding like a drum" mean?
 - Mark was tired.
 - Mark was excited.
 - Mark was scared.
 - Mark was concentrating.
- What was Mark's problem while rappelling, and how did he solve it?
 - He was scared of heights but overcame it by focusing on the task.
 - He forgot how to secure his harness but asked for help.
 - He didn't know how to adjust the rope but ignored the instructions.
 - He tripped on the rock but continued rappelling without stopping.
- Where does most of the action in this passage take place?
 - In a rock climbing arena.
 - At the bottom of the rock.
 - At the top of the rock and during the descent.
 - In the desert.
- What is a theme of the story?
 - You should always trust your nerves.
 - Facing your fears can lead to great rewards.
 - Nature is dangerous and should be avoided.
 - Persistence is a key to success.
- What might Mark do after finishing his first rappel?
 - Ask for another, but because he afraid of an injury.
 - Decide never to rappel again because it was scary.
 - Nature is dangerous and should be avoided.
 - Persistence is a key to success.
- Why did the author most likely write this passage?
 - To explain how to rappel.
 - To entertain readers with a story about someone's fear.
 - To teach readers the dangers of rock climbing.
 - To describe the view from the top of a rock.

Write A, B, C, or D in each box.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 2

Pairs Activity

A MESSAGE FROM HOME

Mia thought. She was waiting impatiently at the mail call to see if she had received. The Sergeant called out several names that were not hers.

"Donavan. Please say Donavan!" her brain pleaded. Mia was homesick. There was no other way to say it. It was Week 6 of Boot Camp and Mia pined for everything her home, her friends, her puppy, and most importantly, her mom and dad.

"Cramer. Cummings." the Sergeant bellowed gruffly.

The suspense was killing her. Mia had known that Boot Camp would be difficult. But she was astounded by how arduous it really was to leave everything she knew behind.

"Donavan." Mia bolted to collect her package. As she hastily opened it, some homemade chocolate chip cookies and a note in her mom's handwriting fell out.

Your dad and I are so proud. We know it must be difficult to be away from home, but you're halfway done. We are elated to call you our daughter. Ben is missing you too, but continues to excel in his high school courses. Luna misses you most of all.

Mia blinked away tears as she read so no one would see the anguish on her face.

Her pal Dirk poked her. "Those cookies look good. Any chance you could indulge me?"

She tossed him one that he caught in his mouth. It was nice to get a sweet reminder from home, but it was time for her to get back to work. She and Dirk headed off.

1. Anguish	I. Deep sadness or pain.
2. Indulge	B. To let yourself or someone else have something special.
3. Gruffly	G. In a rough or unfriendly way.

Hands-On Center:

Students put the two sides together to match each word with the correct definition.

A MESSAGE FROM HOME

Match up each word with the correct definition by coloring each match a different color.

1. Anguish	4. Hastily	K. To ask for something in an emotional way.	B. To let yourself or someone else have something special.
2. Indulge	5. Pleaded	I. Deep sadness or pain.	G. In a rough or unfriendly way.
3. Gruffly	6. Arduous	A. Very hard and requiring a lot of effort.	D. Quickly and without much care.

Name: _____

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 7

Puzzles

THE MAKING OF A SOLDIER

Michael decided that he might want to join the Army. He spent hours talking to his father. In the end, he decided it was time to bite the bullet and do it. After signing the papers, he was both nervous and excited to dive headfirst into Boot Camp and anything it had to offer. He would have to get his act together to become a member. From the moment he arrived, instructors wasted no time putting them through the paces with physical drills. First came the Yellow Phase in the first two weeks. Every day was rough, but he reminded himself to keep his chin up no matter how tough it was. The Red Phase came next, lasting 3-4 weeks. It focused on teamwork. Although Michael was scared of heights, he always muttered, "No pain, no gain." Weeks 5-7, the White Phase, included the Anvil test. Most soldiers dreaded it, but Michael saw it as a blessing in disguise. The nights in the field for medical training and work taught to be stronger. "This is where the rubber meets the road," he thought. The final stretch, weeks 8-10, was called the Blue Phase. He knew the Army officials didn't cut him any slack, but he decided to cross that bridge when he came to it. By the time it was over, Michael felt like he could move mountains. Boot Camp had led him to take the bull by the horns and face his fears. Michael knew he had come a long way from the nervous recruit he had been on day one.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

#1	To make a difficult or painful decision that is unavoidable.	E.	Bite the bullet	
#2	To remain optimistic and strong in difficult situations.	B.	Keep his chin up	
#3	Hard work and effort are necessary to achieve something worthwhile.	J.	No pain, no gain	

Hands-On Center:

Students put each 2-piece puzzle together.



Name: _____

PUZZLES: IDIOMS

#1	To make a difficult or painful decision that is unavoidable.	E	To achieve something that feels impossible through determination.	H
#2	To remain optimistic and strong in difficult situations.	B	The point at which a plan or idea is tested.	L
#3	Hard work and effort are necessary to achieve something worthwhile.	J	To become organized and disciplined.	C
#4	To make great progress or improvement.	K	To confront a problem or challenge directly.	A
#5	To show mercy or make things easier.	G	Something that seems bad at first but ends up being beneficial.	F
#6	To give someone a difficult experience.	I	To deal with a problem only when it comes up.	D

Write the correct letter in each box.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 8

Write a Sentence

LEARNING THE LESSON THE HARD WAY

"Don't know how you do it," Tank bellowed. "Here, let me show you." The morning had been a nightmare for Jute. He was trying to get the hang of Boot Camp. But every time he tried to do something, the sergeant would yell at him for the face to tell him how to do it "better."

"I'm just trying to do what Sarge said," Jute replied. His uniform, hair, and shoes looked their best. "You don't know how to do anything," Tank mocked. Jute's face fell. The taunting from Tank continued all day. Just then the Sarge pulled up right next to Tank. "What is this?" he bellowed. "You are marching wrong, and I just came from your bunk. Your bed is messy. Tank's mouth opened in astonishment, but he did not say a word. Later that night back in the bunkhouse, Tank apologized. "I'm sorry I was such a pain," he said. "Will you let me start right now?" said Jute with a smile.

Name: _____

LEARNING THE LESSON THE HARD WAY

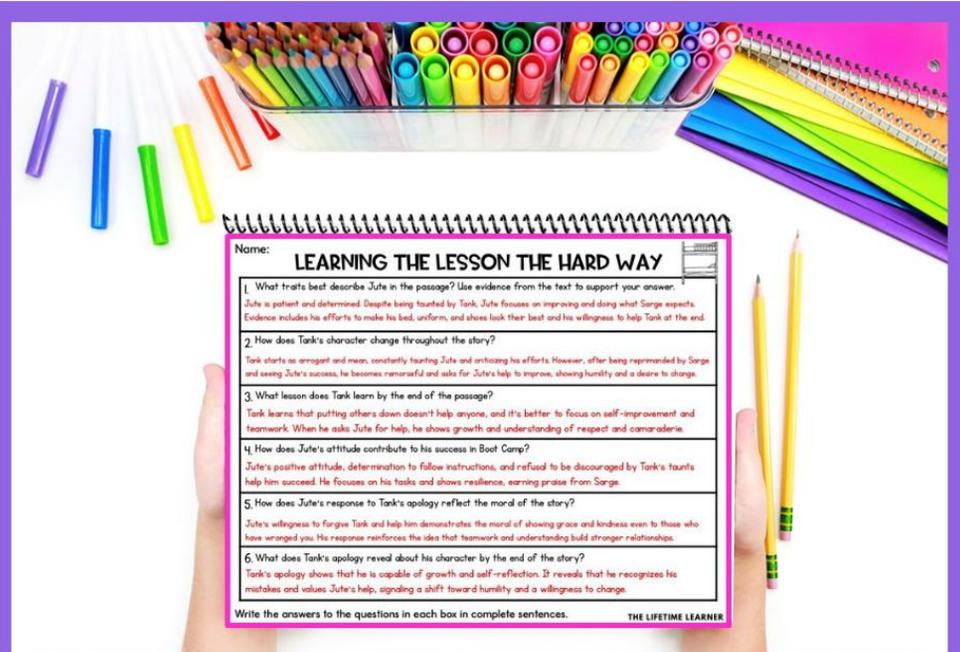
- Jute is patient and determined. Despite being taunted by Tank, Jute focuses on improving and doing what Sarge expects.
- Tank starts as arrogant and mean, constantly taunting Jute and criticizing his efforts.
- Tank learns that putting others down doesn't help anyone, and it's better to focus on self-improvement and teamwork.
- Jute's positive attitude, determination to follow instructions, and refusal to be discouraged by Tank's taunts help him succeed.
- Jute's willingness to forgive Tank and help him demonstrates the Moral of showing grace and kindness even to those who have wronged you.
- Tank's apology shows that he is capable of growth and self-reflection.

Write the answers to the questions in each box in complete sentences.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Hands-On Center:

Students write the answer to each prompt on the lines.



Name: _____

LEARNING THE LESSON THE HARD WAY

- What traits best describe Jute in the passage? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
- How does Tank's character change throughout the story?
- What lesson does Tank learn by the end of the passage?
- How does Jute's attitude contribute to his success in Boot Camp?
- How does Jute's response to Tank's apology reflect the moral of the story?
- What does Tank's apology reveal about his character by the end of the story?

Write the answers to the questions in each box in complete sentences.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 9

3 Choices

FRONTLINE FRIENDSHIP

You in the mess hall! Last one there's a rotten egg!" Ryan hollered as he bolted out of the bunk. His stomach growled louder than thunder.

Jake trailed close behind. He had been anxious about Boot Camp for weeks. The unknown had loomed over him like a dark cloud. But after one week, he was starting to find his footing. The routine, though grueling and difficult, had become oddly comforting.

"Is this seat taken?" Jake joked when they reached the table. The two burst into laughter. Every single meal since their arrival, they had sat in the same seats.

"Yum! Biscuits and gravy," Ryan smirked. This joke was their favorite. Biscuits and gravy was the only thing served nearly every day. Boot Camp wasn't easy. But thanks to luck, they had ended up as bunkmates. From that moment, their friendship had grown.

"Time to get to work," Jake groaned as the buddies left the mess hall. Today's mission was a teamwork exercise in the blazing desert.

"There's no better time than the present," Ryan quipped, slinging his pack up. Yeah, work is a gift," Jake joked, rolling his eyes. The friendship they shared made the toughest days better. "Do you think they'll give us a break?" he asked, half-joking.

Ryan smirked. "That's not in the manual. They think sweating buckets builds character." Jake nodded. "Well, at this rate, we'll have enough character to fill a novel."

1. What type of figurative language is used in "His stomach growled louder than thunder?"

Metaphor Simile Personification

2. What does "The unknown loomed over him like a dark cloud" suggest about Jake's feelings?

He was worried about what lay ahead. He felt angry about new challenges. He thought Boot Camp would be easy.

3. What does the phrase "grueling routine" mean in the context of Boot Camp?

Challenging and exhausting schedule. Fun and light-hearted schedule. Flexible and relaxing schedule.

Hands-On Center:

Students put a finger on the correct answer for each question.

FRONTLINE FRIENDSHIP

Circle the correct letter to answer each question.

1. What type of figurative language is used in "His stomach growled louder than thunder?"	A. Metaphor	B. Simile	C. Personification
2. What does "The unknown loomed over him like a dark cloud" suggest about Jake's feelings?	A. He was worried about what lay ahead.	B. He felt angry about new challenges.	C. He thought Boot Camp would be easy.
3. What does the phrase "grueling routine" mean in the context of Boot Camp?	A. Challenging and exhausting schedule.	B. Fun and light-hearted schedule.	C. Flexible and relaxing schedule.
4. How do we know Ryan and Jake's friendship is strong?	A. They always share their food.	B. They compete to finish Boot Camp first.	C. They laugh at each other's jokes and support one another.
5. What theme is most evident in the passage?	A. Hard work leads to rewards.	B. Friendship makes challenges easier.	C. Always be prepared for the unexpected.
6. Which of the following best describes the lesson Jake and Ryan learn?	A. Boot Camp is a time to compete with others.	B. It's important to follow all the rules perfectly.	C. Teamwork and support can help to succeed.

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 10

Fill in the Blank

A LITTLE BIT OF KINDNESS

Lila was grateful she had made it to lunch. The morning had been grueling, and she was feeling overwhelmed. Boot camp was no joke. She was tired, nervous, and hungry.

"Oh no," Lila muttered as she stood in line. The man with the title of Commander was stomping over, and he looked irritated. She quickly sprang to attention and saluted.

"I was just in your bunk!" he barked. Lila shivered in her boots. "I can't believe you call that bed 'made.' You'll need to make it again." He frowned. Lila mumbled an apology.

"What did you say? Speak up, soldier!" the Commander said in a demanding tone.

"Sir, yes, sir. I apologize for my poor bed-making skills. I'll do better next time," Lila replied in a respectful tone. The Commander stalked off as Lila held back tears.

Lila bit back tears as she grabbed a tray. First, she had stumbled through her morning workout. Just as she'd started to recover from that, the Commander had shown up at her bunk, adding further humiliation. Her head hung low as she shuffled forward in the line.

But then, she felt a hand on her shoulder. "It's okay," a quiet voice said. She saw Teddy, another recruit, standing by her. "I saw what happened," he added with a sympathetic smile.

"I know these guys can be so rough," Teddy continued, sticking by her side. "Hang in there. You've made it this far, and you seem resilient."

Lila glanced at Teddy. His words weren't flashy, but they were just what she needed. His quiet kindness made her smile instead of choking back tears.

WORD BANK:

Use the word bank to fill in the missing words from the passage.

- kindness
- demanding
- sympathetic
- overwhelmed
- humiliation
- respectful
- resilient
- irritated

Hands-On Center:

Students read the passage and use words from the word bank to fill in the blanks as they read.

A LITTLE BIT OF KINDNESS

Lila was grateful she had made it to lunch. The morning had been grueling, and she was feeling overwhelmed. Boot camp was no joke. She was tired, nervous, and hungry.

"Oh no," Lila muttered as she stood in line. The man with the title of Commander was stomping over, and he looked irritated. She quickly sprang to attention and saluted.

"I was just in your bunk!" he barked. Lila shivered in her boots. "I can't believe you call that bed 'made.' You'll need to make it again." He frowned. Lila mumbled an apology.

"What did you say? Speak up, soldier!" the Commander said in a demanding tone.

"Sir, yes, sir. I apologize for my poor bed-making skills. I'll do better next time," Lila replied in a respectful tone. The Commander stalked off as Lila held back tears.

Lila bit back tears as she grabbed a tray. First, she had stumbled through her morning workout. Just as she'd started to recover from that, the Commander had shown up at her bunk, adding further humiliation. Her head hung low as she shuffled forward in the line.

But then, she felt a hand on her shoulder. "It's okay," a quiet voice said. She saw Teddy, another recruit, standing by her. "I saw what happened," he added with a sympathetic smile.

"I know these guys can be so rough," Teddy continued, sticking by her side. "Hang in there. You've made it this far, and you seem resilient."

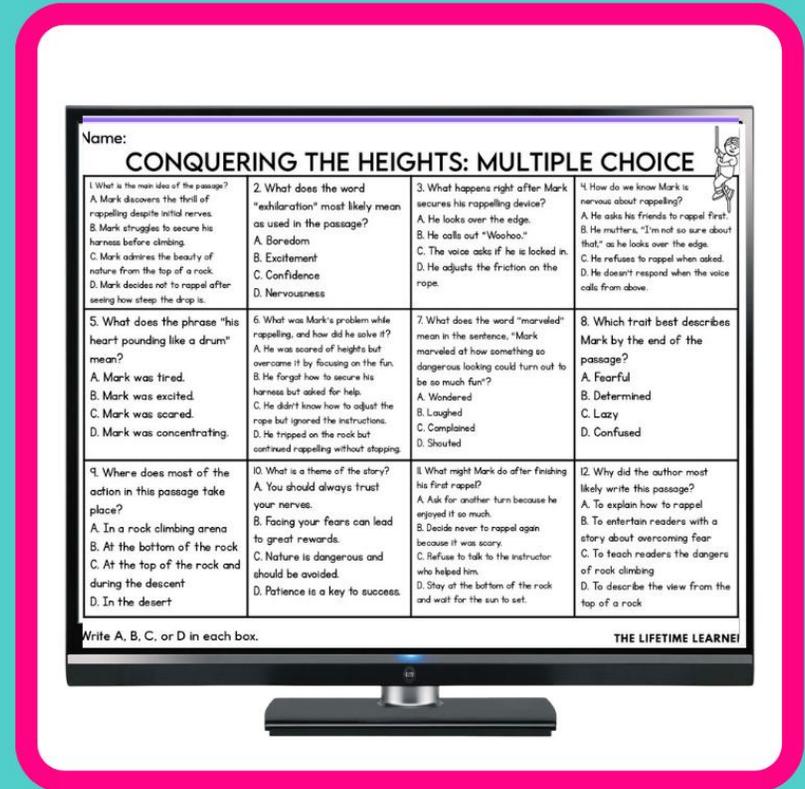
Lila glanced at Teddy. His words weren't flashy, but they were just what she needed. His quiet kindness made her smile instead of choking back tears.

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

PRINT & DIGITAL



Print & Go



Google Slides

Choose the format
that works best for you!

HOW TO USE THIS:

Ideas for Implementation:

- pick and choose the centers you want to use: do what works best for your class!
- give less than 10 centers to students if you are short on time
- give students the whole day to complete all 10 centers/activities OR spread the room transformation out over a couple of days
- use the hands-on centers during your room transformation and the no-prep printables as a review during your reading block

OFF TO BOOT CAMP

to go!" Mariah and her twin brother Nicky had been inseparable from re taking the next step in their lives. "We're going to be late!" sis. I'm almost packed," he replied. Mariah rolled her eyes. Unlike her en packed for days. He always waited until the last minute. They o Boot Camp. But, Mariah was joining the Army and Nicky was joining would take part in physical training that would strengthen their also spend weeks cut off from those they loved.

riah. "But hurry up! I don't want to miss the bus!"

end 10 weeks in Boot Camp while Nicky only had to go for 8 weeks. some difficult moments. The Anvil, a two night field practice to teach cal training would test her limits. The Forge, a test which came at would also challenge her survival skills and fitness level.

usy with his own work. He would be tested in Week 7 during an event is would offer combat scenarios and further his training.

s get this show on the road," said Nicky. "We will definitely have a lot we get back. I'm not going to lie...I'm a bit nervous."

ny. Good luck, and don't miss me too much!"

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

MARIAH



joining the army

A. 

NICKY



procrastinator

C. 

BOTH



headed to boot camp

B. 

prepared

E. 

will spend weeks apart from loved ones

D. 

What Skills are Included?

Fiction Skills:

- Text Evidence
- Lesson/Moral
- Character Traits
- Context Clues
- Idioms
- Point of View
- Compare & Contrast
- Figurative Language
- Reading Review Pages

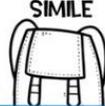
A HIKING SUCCESS

Leslie felt as though she could sleep for days. Each grain beneath her boots seemed to make her feet scream in protest as she marched. Sweat dripped from her forehead like a leaky faucet, and the 40-pound pack on her back felt like it weighed 200 pounds.

"Just a few more steps," her platoon leader said. Sometimes Roger could be a viper.

A HIKING SUCCESS: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE SORT

Color each canteen the same color as the backpack it goes with.

	SIMILE "pounded in her ears like a drumbeat"	"blazing, brutal, blinding"	"Her voice broke like a splintered branch"	"felt as heavy as cement blocks"
METAPHOR				

THE MAKING OF A SOLIDER

Michael decided that he might want to join the Army. He spent hours talking to his family. In the end, he decided it was time to bite the bullet and do it. After signing the papers, he was both nervous and excited to dive headfirst into Boot Camp and everything it had to offer. He would have to get his act together to become a member.

Name: _____

PUZZLES: IDIOMS

 #1 To make a difficult or painful decision that is unavoidable.	<input type="checkbox"/>		 #7 To achieve something that feels impossible through determination.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
 #2 To remain optimistic and strong in difficult situations.	<input type="checkbox"/>		 #8 The point at which a plan or idea is tested.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
 #3 Hard work and effort are necessary to achieve something worthwhile.	<input type="checkbox"/>		 #9 To become organized and disciplined.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
 #4 To make great progress or improvement.	<input type="checkbox"/>		 #10 To confront a problem or challenge directly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
 To show mercy or make things easier.	<input type="checkbox"/>		 Something that seems bad at first but	<input type="checkbox"/>	

A. Take the bull by the horns
B. Keep his chin up
C. Get his act together
D. Cross that bridge when he came to it
E. Bite the bullet
F. Blessing in disguise
G. Cut him any slack
H. Move mountains
I. Putting them through the wringer

The no prep printable questions are 100% editable!

Name: _____

CONQUERING THE HEIGHTS: MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What is the main idea of the passage? A. Mark discovers the thrill of rappelling despite initial nerves. B. Mark struggles to secure his harness before climbing. C. Mark admires the beauty of nature from the top of a rock. D. Mark decides not to rappel after seeing how steep the drop is.	2. What does the word "exhilaration" most likely mean as used in the passage? A. Boredom B. Excitement C. Confidence D. Nervousness	3. What happens right after Mark secures his rappelling device? A. He looks over the edge. B. He calls out "Woohoo." C. The voice asks if he is locked in. D. He adjusts the friction on the rope.	4. How do we know Mark is nervous about rappelling? A. He asks his friends to rappel first. B. He mutters, "I'm not so sure about that" as he looks over the edge. C. He refuses to rappel when asked. D. He doesn't respond when the voice calls from above.
5. What does the phrase "his heart pounding like a drum" mean? A. Mark was tired. B. Mark was excited. C. Mark was scared. D. Mark was concentrating.	6. What was Mark's problem while rappelling, and how did he solve it? A. He was scared of heights but overcome it by focusing on the fun. B. He forgot how to secure his harness but asked for help. C. He didn't know how to adjust the rope but ignored the instructions. D. He tripped on the rock but continued rappelling without stopping.	7. What does the word "marveled" mean in the sentence, "Mark marveled at how something so dangerous looking could turn out to be so much fun"? A. Wondered B. Laughed C. Complained D. Shouted	8. Which trait best describes Mark by the end of the passage? A. Fearful B. Determined C. Lazy D. Confused
9. Where does most of the action in this passage take place? A. In a rock climbing arena B. At the bottom of the rock C. At the top of the rock and during the descent D. In the desert	10. What is a theme of the story? A. You should always trust your nerves. B. Facing your fears can lead to great rewards. C. Nature is dangerous and should be avoided. D. Patience is a key to success.	11. What might Mark do after finishing his first rappel? A. Ask for another turn because he enjoyed it so much. B. Decide never to rappel again because it was scary. C. Refuse to talk to the instructor who helped him. D. Stay at the bottom of the rock and wait for the sun to set.	12. Why did the author most likely write this passage? A. To explain how to rappel B. To entertain readers with a story about overcoming fear C. To teach readers the dangers of rock climbing D. To describe the view from the top of a rock

Write A, B, C, or D in each box. THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Name: _____

CONQUERING THE HEIGHTS: MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What is the main idea of the passage? A. Mark discovers the thrill of rappelling despite initial nerves. B. Mark struggles to secure his harness before climbing. C. Mark admires the beauty of nature from the top of a rock. D. Mark decides not to rappel after seeing how steep the drop is.	2. What does the word "exhilaration" most likely mean as used in the passage? A. Boredom B. Excitement C. Confidence D. Nervousness	3. What happens right after Mark secures his rappelling device? A. He looks over the edge. B. He calls out "Woohoo." C. The voice asks if he is locked in. D. He adjusts the friction on the rope.	4. How do we know Mark is nervous about rappelling? A. He asks his friends to rappel first. B. He mutters, "I'm not so sure about that" as he looks over the edge. C. He refuses to rappel when asked. D. He doesn't respond when the voice calls from above.
5. What does the phrase "his heart pounding like a drum" mean? A. Mark was tired. B. Mark was excited. C. Mark was scared. D. Mark was concentrating.	6. What was Mark's problem while rappelling, and how did he solve it? A. He was scared of heights but overcome it by focusing on the fun. B. He forgot how to secure his harness but asked for help. C. He didn't know how to adjust the rope but ignored the instructions. D. He tripped on the rock but continued rappelling without stopping.	7. What does the word "marveled" mean in the sentence, "Mark marveled at how something so dangerous looking could turn out to be so much fun"? A. Wondered B. Laughed C. Complained D. Shouted	8. Which trait best describes Mark by the end of the passage? A. Fearful B. Determined C. Lazy D. Confused
9. Where does most of the action in this passage take place? A. In a rock climbing arena B. At the bottom of the rock C. At the top of the rock and during the descent D. In the desert	10. What is a theme of the story? A. You should always trust your nerves. B. Facing your fears can lead to great rewards. C. Nature is dangerous and should be avoided. D. Patience is a key to success.	11. What might Mark do after finishing his first rappel? A. Ask for another turn because he enjoyed it so much. B. Decide never to rappel again because it was scary. C. Refuse to talk to the instructor who helped him. D. Stay at the bottom of the rock and wait for the sun to set.	12. Why did the author most likely write this passage? A. To explain how to rappel B. To entertain readers with a story about overcoming fear C. To teach readers the dangers of rock climbing D. To describe the view from the top of a rock

Write A, B, C, or D in each box. THE LIFETIME LEARNER

edit any question!

10 Pre-Made
Centers
(Print & Go)

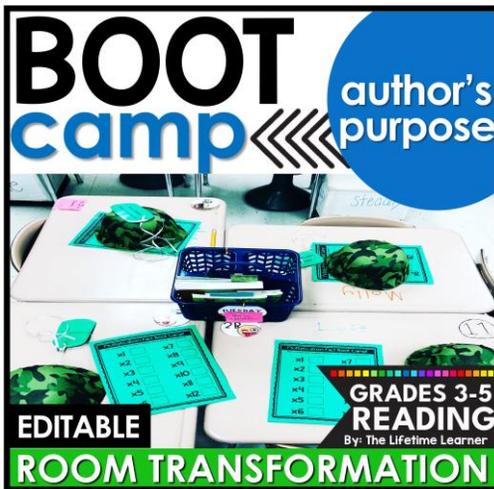
10 Pre-Made
Centers:
Editable Version

2 Versions Included

other resources this pairs well with:

Grab the 3-5 reading room transformation for additional passages!

Or, add in some math to your themed learning day!



BOOT camp author's purpose
EDITABLE ROOM TRANSFORMATION
GRADES 3-5 READING
By: The Lifetime Learner



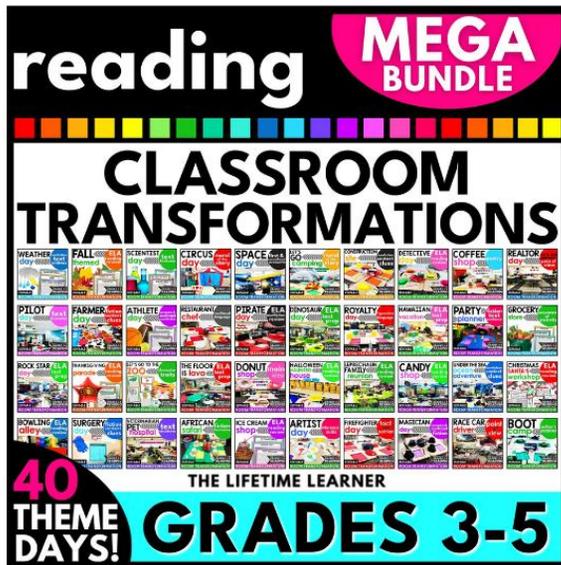
BOOT camp MULTIPLICATION fact fluency 3.OA.7
EDITABLE ROOM TRANSFORMATION
3RD GRADE MATH
By: The Lifetime Learner



BOOT camp factors and multiples WITHIN 100 4.OA.4
EDITABLE ROOM TRANSFORMATION
4TH GRADE MATH
By: The Lifetime Learner

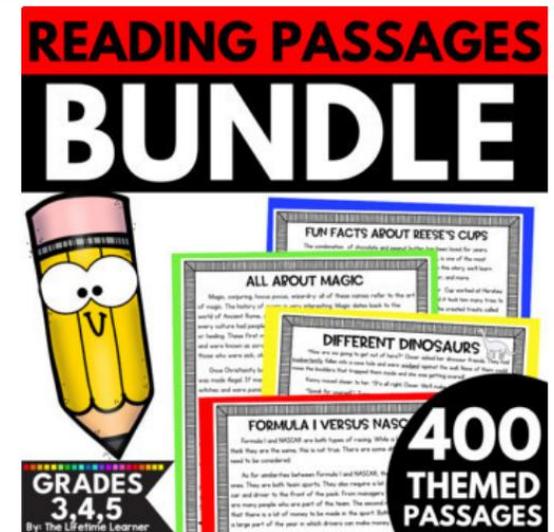


BOOT camp math review 5.NBT.1-7
EDITABLE ROOM TRANSFORMATION
5TH GRADE MATH
By: The Lifetime Learner



reading **MEGA BUNDLE**
CLASSROOM TRANSFORMATIONS
40 THEME DAYS!
THE LIFETIME LEARNER
GRADES 3-5

When you purchase a Mega Bundle, you save 50% off the price of the individual resources!



READING PASSAGES **BUNDLE**
400 THEMED PASSAGES
GRADES 3,4,5
By: The Lifetime Learner

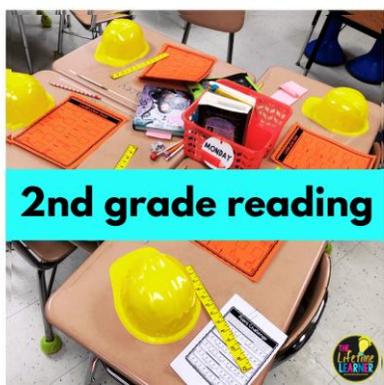
Add On Pack Bundle!

classroom transformations

low prep, fun, and engaging!



K-5 MATH & READING



Please Note:

- **This is not a stand-alone room transformation.**
- **There are no decorations included.**
- **There are 10 reading passages and activities provided.**
- **The questions are editable. The passages are not.**
- **The digital version is provided in Google Slides.**
- **This Add on Pack aligns with my math & reading classroom transformations.**
- **Let me know if you have ANY questions! You can email me at lindsaythelifetimelearner@gmail.com**