DECEMBER

Differentiated Passages

LEXILE®

Drama

Dece

Becoming Lucia

Cast: Teea, Helena, Elli, girls in white, a crowd, a choir

ACT ONE

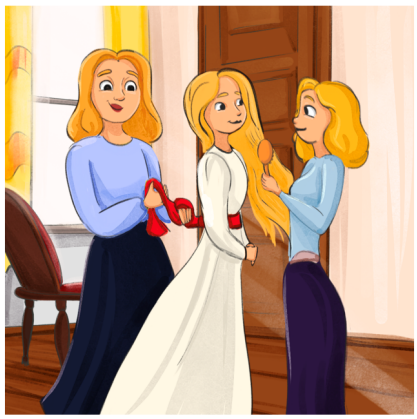
Scene I:

Setting: Teea's house, Finland, December 13th

Narrator: Teea has been chosen as Lucia for Saint Lucia Day on December 13th. This day is the beginning of the Christmas season in Finland, Sweden, and Norway.

Teea: *(runs her hand down her long white dress)* I can't believe I was chosen as this year's Lucia! I have dreamed about this all my life.

Helena: *(ties a red sash around her sister's waist)* I knew when the voting began in October you would be chosen.



Elli: *(puts Teea's shoes on the ground)* The announcement in November didn't surprise us at all.

Teea: *(looks in the mirror)* Well, I'm still surprised.

Helena: *(rests hands on Teea's shoulders)* You're ready to do this.

(The sisters finish getting ready and leave Teea's room.)

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2nd & 3rd Grade

MagiCORE

DECEMBER PASSAGES

2nd & 3rd grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 6 differentiated leveled passages in the 2nd-3rd Grade Text Complexity Band (the range for 2nd-3rd grade is 420-820). Each passage is available on two levels and comes with general comprehension questions, a skill-based activity, and a reading response activity.

1. Asher's Dreidel - *Focus on Symbols* (430L, 720L)

2. Boxing Day - *Focus on Main Idea & Details* (480L, 740L)

3. Becoming Lucia - *Focus on Characters* (Drama)

4. Walt Disney - The Man Behind the Magic - *Focus on Sequence* (520L, 710L)

5. The Snow Queen - *Focus on Plot Elements* (480L, 770L)

6. How to Make a Paper Snowflake - *Focus on Sequence* (400L, 480L)

ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS

MagiCore Learning, LLC is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Common Core State Standards uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure students are college and career ready by the end of 12th grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Common Core Expectations
K-1	N/A
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	925L-1385L

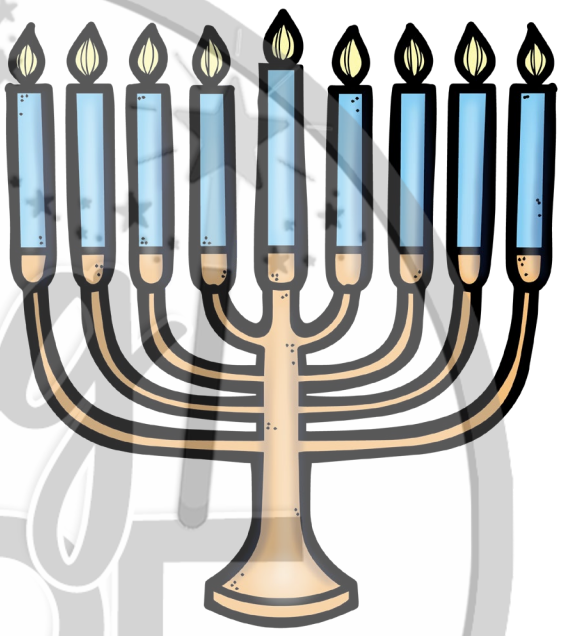
Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Common Core Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."

430L December Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

Asher's Dreidel

Asher crossed off another day on his calendar. He counted: one, two, three, four, five, six, seven... Hanukkah was almost over, and tonight would be very special. His family had spent a lot of time together over the past week and that had made him very happy.

Some of his friends also celebrated Hanukkah. Some didn't, but they all liked to hear what his gift was the night before. He was proud to share. He was given a small gift each night. One gift was chocolate coins in gold foil. Gelt was one of his favorite parts of the holiday. Sometimes he got real money for gelt. His parents gave it to him. They wanted to teach him about giving to those in need. Asher loved to light the menorah with his family.



The menorah is lit every night during Hannukah. It symbolizes the Jewish faith and their mission to be a light to all the nations.



They sang songs and enjoyed the lights. Hanukkah was a special time for his family and the people in his Jewish community. He liked seeing them during the Festival of Lights.

©Julie Bochoso

They ate potato pancakes called latkes. They ate donuts filled with jam. Asher and his sister played a game using a dreidel. A dreidel is a spinning top. It has a letter on each side. Each letter means something different. Asher loved to play it. He didn't mind losing to his sister sometimes. They always sat in the same spot to play. Spinning the special top was the best part of the holiday. His mom took a picture of them playing.

She had a book for these pictures. Asher and his sister loved to look at the pictures. His sister pointed to an empty page. She smiled. She said, "We have to write down that I won almost every game."

Asher laughed and agreed. "You're right. Next year, I will be better!"

Hanukkah is now over. Asher is already excited to celebrate next year!



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720L

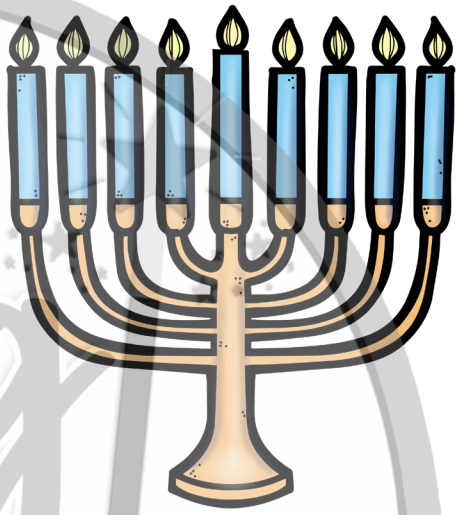
December Passages

Name: _____ Date: _____

Asher's Dreidel

Asher marked another box on his calendar. He counted: one, two, three, four, five, six, seven... The celebration of Hanukkah was almost over. Tonight would be very special. His family had spent a lot of time together over the past week and that had made him very happy.

Some of his friends at school also celebrated Hanukkah. Some didn't, but they all liked learning about what his gift had been the night before. He always shared proudly. He had received a small gift each night during the past seven days, including chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil. Gelt was one of his favorite parts of the holiday. Sometimes he got real money for gelt. His parents gave it to him to teach him about giving to those in need. Asher and his sister loved to light the menorah with their parents each night.



The menorah is lit every night during Hannukah. It symbolizes the Jewish faith and their mission to be a light to all the nations.



They sang songs and enjoyed the beautiful lights. Hanukkah was a special time for his family and the people in his Jewish community. He enjoyed seeing them during the Festival of Lights.

©Julia Bachosa

They ate potato pancakes called latkes and delicious donuts filled with jam. He and his sister played their favorite game using a spinning top known as a dreidel. The dreidel has a letter on each side. Each one means something different. He loved to play it so much, that he didn't even mind losing to her sometimes. They had sat in the same exact spot in their living room every single year for as long as he could remember. Spinning that special top had become the best part of the holiday. His mom was sure to capture a picture of the two of them playing each year.

She placed them in a special photo album and the two siblings loved to look back at the memories of their game.

His sister pointed to the next page, still empty, and grinned, "This year, we'll have to write down that I won almost every single game."

Laughing, he nodded. "You're right, but next year, I'll make a comeback."

As the last night of Hanukkah came to an end, he found himself already looking forward to next year.

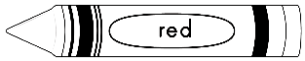


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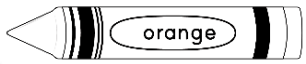
December Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is no crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. What is Asher celebrating in the story?



2. When does the story take place? _____

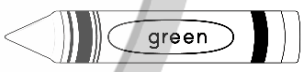


How do you know?

3. What kinds of things does Asher do to celebrate with his family?

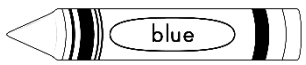


4. What do Asher's friends think of his holiday?



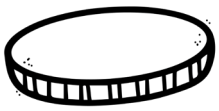
   a. All of his friends have the same holiday, so they celebrate together.
   b. All of his friends like to see the gift he received the night before.
   c. Asher doesn't have friends at school, and only talks to his sister.
   d. None of Asher's friends know anything about his holiday and are excited to learn about it.

5. What is special about the pictures Asher's mom takes of him and his sister?



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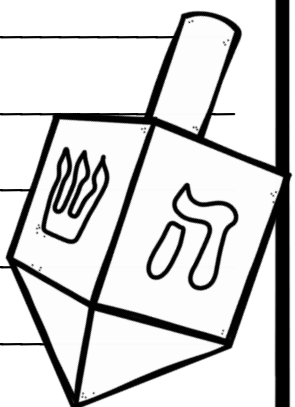
SYMBOLS

Hannukah Symbol	Meaning
 Gelt	
 Menorah	
 Latkes	
 Dreidel	

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ASHER'S DREIDEL RESPONSE

Asher's dreidel explains the symbols of a holiday he celebrates with his family and community. Write a paragraph describing some of the symbols that are used in a holiday you celebrate.



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Drama

December Passages

Name: _____ Date: _____

Becoming Lucia

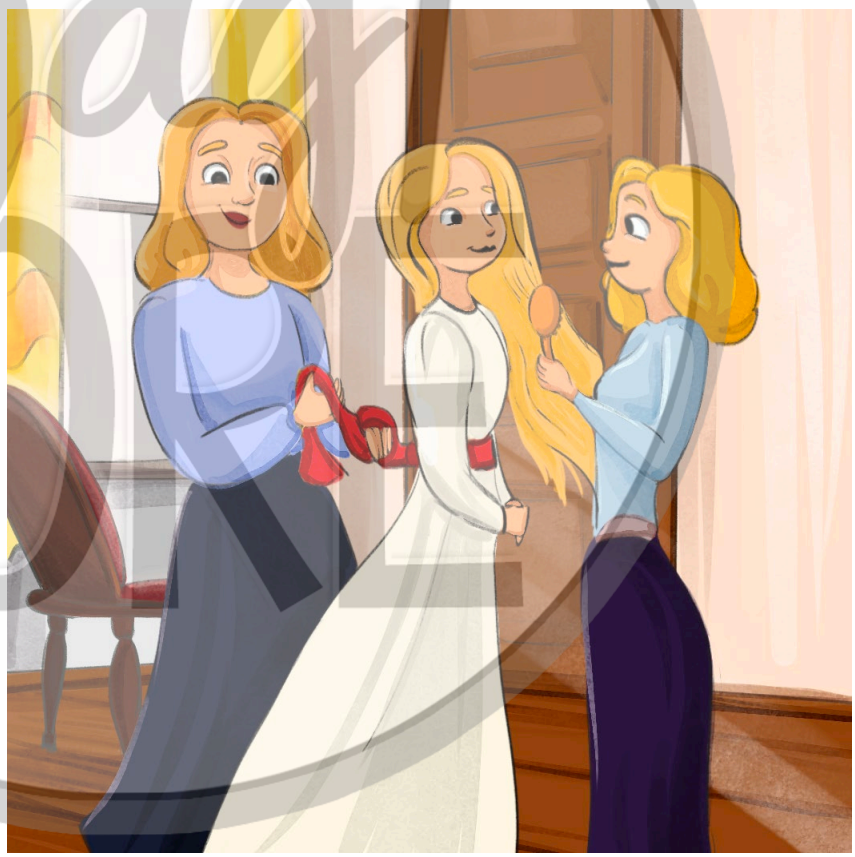
Cast: Teea, Helena, Elli, girls, a crowd, a choir

ACT ONE

Scene I:

Setting: Teea's house, Finland, December 13th

Narrator: Teea has been chosen as Lucia. Saint Lucia Day is on December 13th. This day is the start of the Christmas season in Finland.



Teea: *(touches her white dress)* I can't believe I am Lucia! I have dreamed about this.

Helena: *(ties a red sash around her sister's waist)* I knew you would be chosen.

Elli: We weren't surprised at all. *(brushes Teea's hair)*

Teea: *(looks in the mirror)* Well, I'm still surprised.

Helena: You're ready to do this.

(The sisters finish getting ready. They leave Teea's room.)

©Julia Bochoso

Scene 2:

Setting: Helsinki Cathedral, Finland, December 13th

(The church is full of people. Teea leads girls down the aisle. They carry lit candles. Each girl wears an evergreen crown. Teea's crown has seven lit candles on it. The choir sings. The girls walk toward the altar.)

Teea: *(reaches the altar. She turns to face the people.)*

Helena, Ellie, and the other girls: *(make two rows behind Teea)*

Teea: *(sings "Santa Lucia")*
Night comes with heavy steps through our land, calling.
Sunlight, the earth forgets; shadows are falling.
However dark the night, rising with candles bright,
Santa Lucia! Santa Lucia...

Narrator: Teea and the other girls sing songs. The people watching are silent. They enjoy the music.

Teea: *(walks down the aisle with girls)*

Helena: *(holds up a coat)* Put this on, Teea. It is cold outside.

Ellie: *(hands Teea gloves)* For your hands.

Teea: *(puts on coat and gloves)* Thanks.

Helena: *(puts on her own coat and gloves)* You look so pretty.

Ellie: *(puts on her own coat and gloves)* You sang perfectly.

(Teea leads everyone outside. She gets into a carriage. It is pulled by horses. She rides through the city. She waves to the crowds.)

...

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Scene 3:

Setting: a hospital in Finland, December 14th

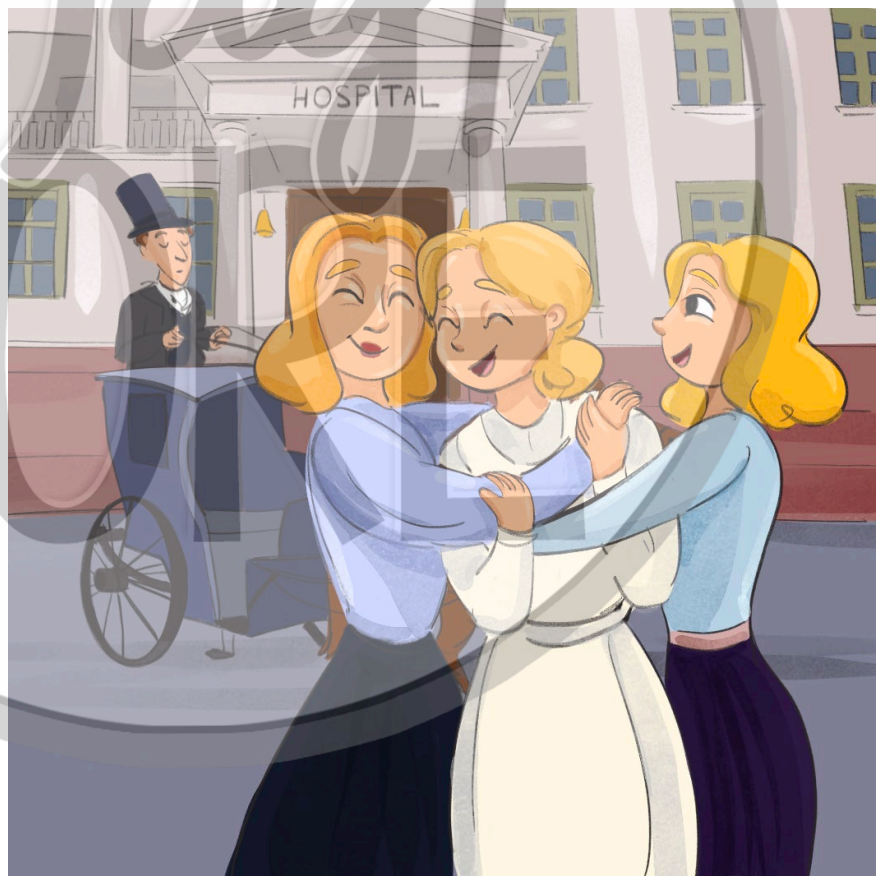
Narrator: It is Teea's job to spread cheer. She visits many places. She speaks to many people.

Teea: *(takes off her white coat)* We've raised so much money for charity. I still have so many places to go.

Helena: True. You even visit the government.

Ellie: You will be very busy. I knew you'd make a great Lucia.

Teea: You two might get to be Lucia someday.



Helena: Maybe. We are both happy to help you for now.

Teea: *(hugs Helena and Ellie)* You are the best sisters in the world.

Narrator: Becoming Lucia is a big job. Teea is ready to do her best. Her sisters will be right by her side.

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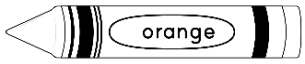
December Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is no crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. How does Teea feel at the beginning of the story?



2. What is the purpose of the stage directions at the beginning of scene 2?



3. What are the duties of Lucia? (Choose all that apply.)



   a. Lighting candles in the church.
   b. Spreading hope and cheer during the long winter.
   c. Visiting hospitals, nursing homes, daycares, and other facilities.
   d. Riding in a parade to wave at people.
   e. Raising money for charity.



4. How do Teea's sisters feel about her being chosen as Lucia? How can you tell? Give text evidence in your answer.

5. Think about the duties of Lucia and how Teea feels about being chosen. What does this tell you about the kind of person Teea is? Describe her.



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CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Character's Name: Teea

Thoughts Feelings Actions

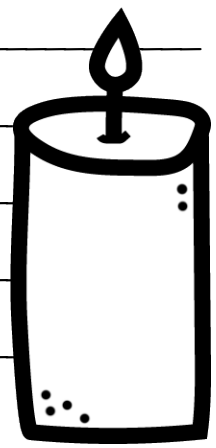


What do Teea's thoughts, feelings and actions make you think about her personality? Describe her on the lines below.

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BECOMING LUCIA RESPONSE

In *Becoming Lucia,* Teea is chosen to be Lucia. Think about the responsibilities Lucia has. Would you like to be Lucia? Why or why not? Give examples from the text in your response.



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480L December Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

The Snow Queen

There once was a nasty hobgoblin. For the fun of it, he crafted a magic mirror. This mirror had the ability to make good and beautiful things look horrible. It also made things that were worthless look even worse. People who looked in this mirror saw only unpleasantness. The more they looked in this magic mirror, however, the more they wanted to see. The people wanted to fly the mirror up to the angels to see their reflections. The mirror slipped out of their hands on the trip, though. It fell and shattered into billions of pieces. Some of the pieces of the mirror got into people's eyes and hearts. Then, they could only see the bad in everything. The hobgoblin was delighted that this had happened. It amused him greatly.

It just so happened that there were two friends, a girl and a boy named Gerda and Kay. They lived in a small town as neighbors. They loved each other as siblings do. They played together all the time. They loved the gorgeous flowers that grew in the boxes between their homes. The roses were their favorite. They read books together, sang songs, and enjoyed being children. Kay's grandmother often told them stories, too. She told them about the Snow Queen. The Snow Queen looked in the windows in town at night. She froze ice into patterns on the glass.



One day, Gerda and Kay looked at a picture book. Kay cried out suddenly. He grabbed his chest. "Oh, something has struck my heart!" Then, he squeezed his eyes closed. "Oh, something has gotten into my eye!"

Gerda looked into his eye. "I do not see anything in there."

©Julia Bochoso

Kay blinked a few times. "I think it is gone now." But it was not. A piece of the hobgoblin's magic mirror had gotten into Kay's heart and eye. His heart turned to a lump of ice in his chest. He saw only the worst when he looked at something good and beautiful. Kay acted rudely. He did not enjoy any of the things he and Gerda used to do together. He called her childish. Kay finally left to play with the older boys.



While with the boys, Kay met a tall woman in white. She drew him away from the town with her sleigh. Together, they flew over woods and lakes, mountains and seas. They arrived at the Snow Queen's kingdom. Kay stayed with the Snow Queen. His body became more and more like ice. Soon, he forgot his other life.

Back in town, Gerda missed Kay terribly. Everyone had expected him to come back shortly after, but he did not.

Many people said Kay was dead. Gerda asked the sunshine and the sparrows. They said they did not believe it. Soon, Gerda did not believe Kay was dead either. She asked the river for help in getting him back. The river took her small boat to an old woman's house. It had beautiful gardens. Gerda stayed there for a while. The old woman had always wanted a daughter. She treated Gerda very well. She even used magic to make the roses in her gardens disappear so Gerda would not be reminded of Kay. Gerda, however, realized the roses were missing. She cried. The roses reappeared when her tears hit the soil.

"Do you think Kay is dead?" she asked the roses.

They did not think so. Gerda was upset at having wasted so much time with the old woman. She set off again to find Kay.

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She came across a palace. A crow told her that Kay might be inside, married to the princess. When Gerda entered the palace, however, she found that Kay had not become a prince. The prince and princess felt sorry for Gerda. They wanted to help. The prince and princess gave her warm clothing and a horse and carriage to continue her quest to find Kay. Unfortunately, Gerda got captured by robbers. They wanted her fine clothes. Another girl among the robbers helped Gerda after they heard pigeons say Kay was with the Snow Queen.

Gerda rode a reindeer north. She met two women. One was from Lapland. The other was from Finland. The reindeer asked the Finland woman to give Gerda something to defeat the Snow Queen.

"I cannot give Gerda a greater power than she already has within her," the Finland woman said. "She has made it this far on her own because of her pure heart and innocence."

The reindeer carried Gerda to the Snow Queen's frigid castle. Guards rose up from the snow. Gerda prayed. Angels appeared from the steam around her. The angels protected Gerda. They kept her warm.

Inside the Snow Queen's castle, Kay was nearly black with cold. He sat in the great room. He shifted pieces of ice around like a puzzle. He could not solve it and therefore could not get free. Gerda rushed into the great room. She hugged her friend. "Kay! Oh, Kay! I have finally found you!"

But Kay had not thought of Gerda while he was with the Snow Queen. He did not recognize her.

Gerda cried. Her hot tears thawed Kay's icy heart. They washed away the magic mirror piece that had been stuck there. Kay then cried. The other mirror piece flowed out of his eye. When he looked at Gerda, he instantly knew her.

"Oh, Gerda! Where have you been? Where have *I* been?" He looked around, confused.

"Come," Gerda said. "Let us go home."

On their way, Gerda stopped in to see some of the people who had helped her find Kay. By the time the two friends returned to their town, it was a warm summer, and they were nearly adults now. They were still children at heart, though. They saw the beauty and love in the world.

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780L December Passages Name: _____ Date: _____

The Snow Queen

There once was a nasty hobgoblin. For the fun of it, he crafted a magic mirror. This mirror had the ability to make good and beautiful things look horrible. It also made things that were worthless look even worse. People who looked in this mirror saw only unpleasantness. The more they looked in this magic mirror, however, the more they wanted to see. The people wanted to fly the mirror up to the angels to see their reflections. The mirror slipped out of their hands on the trip, though. It fell and shattered into billions of pieces. Some of the pieces of the mirror got into people's eyes and hearts. Then, they could only see the bad in everything. The hobgoblin was delighted that this had happened. It amused him greatly.



It just so happened that there were two friends, a girl and a boy named Gerda and Kay. They lived in a small town as neighbors. They loved each other like siblings do and played together all the time. They loved the gorgeous flowers that grew in the boxes between their homes, especially the roses. They read books together, sang songs, and enjoyed being children. Kay's grandmother often told them stories, too. She told them about the Snow Queen who looked in the windows in town at night and froze ice into patterns on the glass.

One day, Gerda and Kay looked at a picture book when Kay cried out. He clutched his chest. "Oh, something has struck my heart!" A moment later, he squeezed his eyes closed. "Oh, something has gotten into my eye!"

Gerda looked into his eye. "I do not see anything in there."

Kay blinked a few times. "I think it is gone now." But it was not. A piece of the hobgoblin's magic mirror had gotten into Kay's heart and eye. His heart turned to a lump of ice in his chest. Whenever he looked at something good and beautiful, he saw only the worst. Kay acted rudely and did not enjoy any of the things he and Gerda used to do together. He called her childish and finally left to play with the older boys.

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"Do you think Kay is dead?" she asked the roses.

They did not think so, and Gerda, upset at having wasted so much time with the old woman, set off again to find Kay. She came across a palace and heard a tale from a crow that Kay might be inside, married to the princess.

When Gerda entered the palace, however, she found that Kay had not become a prince. Feeling sorry for Gerda and wanting to help, the prince and princess gave her warm clothing and a horse and carriage to continue her quest to find Kay. Unfortunately, Gerda got captured by robbers who wanted her fine clothes, but another girl among the robbers helped Gerda after they heard pigeons say Kay was with the Snow Queen.

©Julia Bachosa

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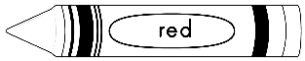
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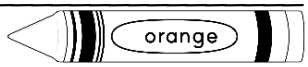
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December Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is no crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. Describe the effects of the magic mirror on humans.





2. What happened to Kay's heart and eye when he read the book? How did he change?



3. What happens after Gerda asks the river for help in getting Kay back?
   a. Gerda asked the sunshine and sparrows if Kay was dead.
   b. She came across a palace and a sparrow told her Kay might be inside.
   c. The river brought her to an old woman's house.
   d. Gerda was captured by robbers who took her clothing.

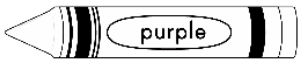
4. Which of the following magical beings helps Gerda along the way? (choose all that apply)
   a. Sparrows
   b. Roses
   c. Reindeer
   d. Owl
   e. Pigeons



5. What does Gerda find when she arrives at the Snow Queen's castle?



6. How does Gerda solve the problem with Kay's heart and eye?



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PLOT ELEMENTS



Setting



Characters

Problem



Event #1

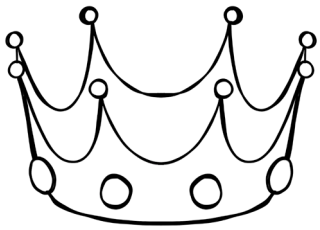
Event #2

Event #3

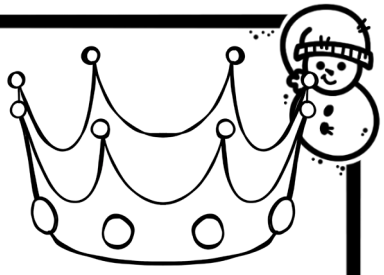


Solution

Core



THE SNOW QUEEN RESPONSE



The Snow Queen is a story about friendship. Do you think Gerda would make a good friend for you? Why or why not? Be sure to give examples from the text in your response.

Magi CORE



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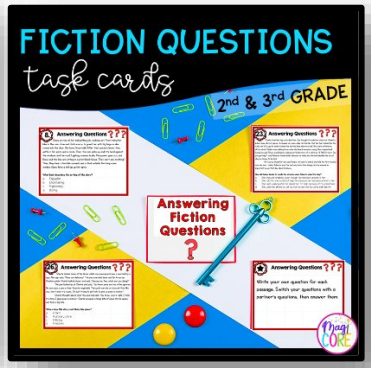
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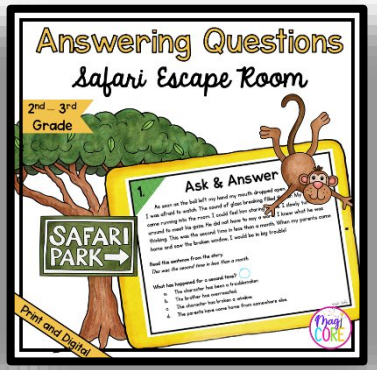
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