

Making Writing Meaningful Across All Subjects

"I just text. Why do I need to be a
'good writer'?" - Every Student Ever



You Write in ALL Subjects

Art: Explain why you chose that color or the mood of your piece.

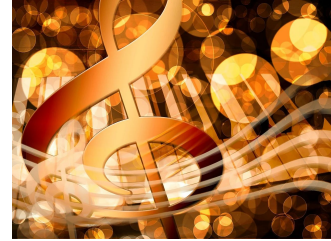
English: Communicate your understanding of a story or how a character changed during a conflict.

History: Use evidence from the text to support a claim, just like a lawyer.

Music: Describe how a song makes you feel or how the lyrics tell a story

Science: Tell why you made certain decisions in an experiment or report on your conclusions.

and even Math: Explain how you thought through a problem to arrive at an answer.



Spoiler: Writing is a Superpower that is not just for school



Win Arguments

Clear writing helps you communicate strong, logical point to others.



Share Your Ideas

It's the best way to get your brilliant, creative ideas into the world.



Change the World

From writing a petition to creating your own video game storyline, words have power.

The Mayan Calendar

Take a moment to read the text.

The Mayan Calendar System

The ancient Maya were accomplished observers of the sky. This image shows Maya animal constellations found in the Paris Codex. Using their knowledge of astronomy and mathematics, the ancient Maya developed one of the most accurate calendar systems in human history. The ancient Maya had a fascination with cycles of time. The most commonly known Maya cyclical calendars are the Haab, the Tzol'kin, and the Calendar Round. Aside from these, the Maya also developed the Long Count calendar to chronologically date mythical and historical events. The 13 baktun cycle of the Maya Long Count calendar measures 1,872,000 days or 5,125.366 tropical years. This is one of the longest cycles found in the Maya calendar system. This cycle ended on the winter solstice, December 21, 2012.



Painting by Francisco Martin Morales



The Haab cycle is 365 days, and approximates the solar year. The Haab is a nineteen month calendar. The Haab is composed of 18 months made of 20 days, and one month, made of 5 days. This 5-day month is called "Wayeb." Thus, $18 \times 20 + 5 = 365$ days. This image shows the hieroglyphs corresponding to the nineteen months of the Haab calendar. The Maya represented some of these months using more than one glyph. These glyphs are referred to as "variants." Variants of the same glyph are framed in a turquoise background.



Painting by Francisco Martin Morales

Did you read the text as a learner?

Read and Annotate the Text

- Use symbols that work for you.
- Make notes in the margin.



	Important/main idea
	Key word or detail/ Ties into my thesis
	I understand/ I can use this for my analysis
	Unfamiliar word
	I don't understand
	Evidence I can use- this should not be an entire paragraph.
	I made a connection- Requires explanation in margin or comment.
	I can use this for a counterclaim

Using a Purpose for Reading

1. What happens during the story's exposition?
2. How are the characters connected?
3. What event leads to the story's conflict?
4. What is the story's theme?

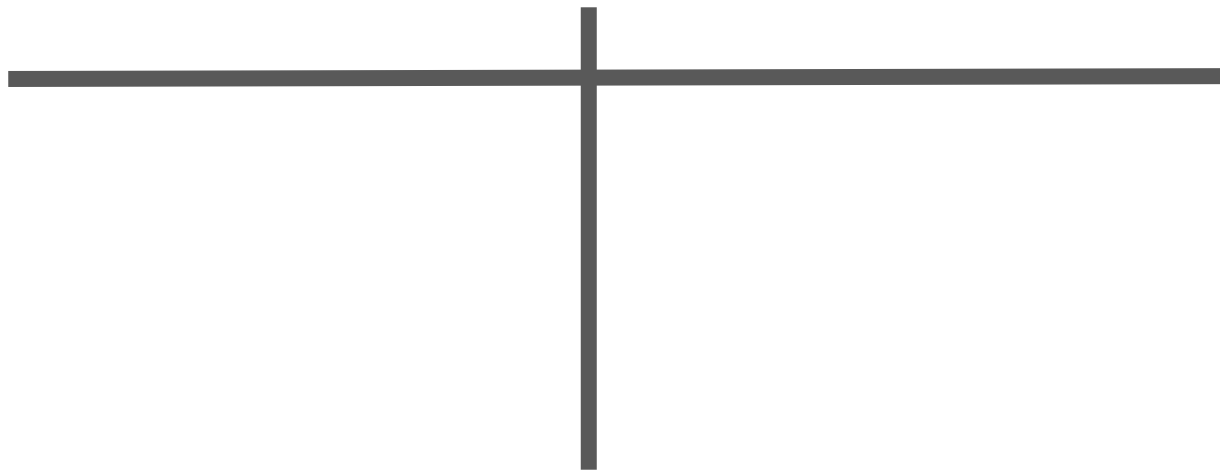
PROMPT: The main characters in “Life in the Zoo” and “Controlled Chaos” share similar character traits. Write a response analyzing how their shared traits contribute to the development of the theme of the two stories. Use evidence from both stories to support your ideas.

What do I do with this?

PROMPT: The main characters in “Life in the Zoo” and “Controlled Chaos” share similar character traits. Analyze how their shared traits contribute to the development of the theme of the two stories. Use evidence from both stories to support your ideas.



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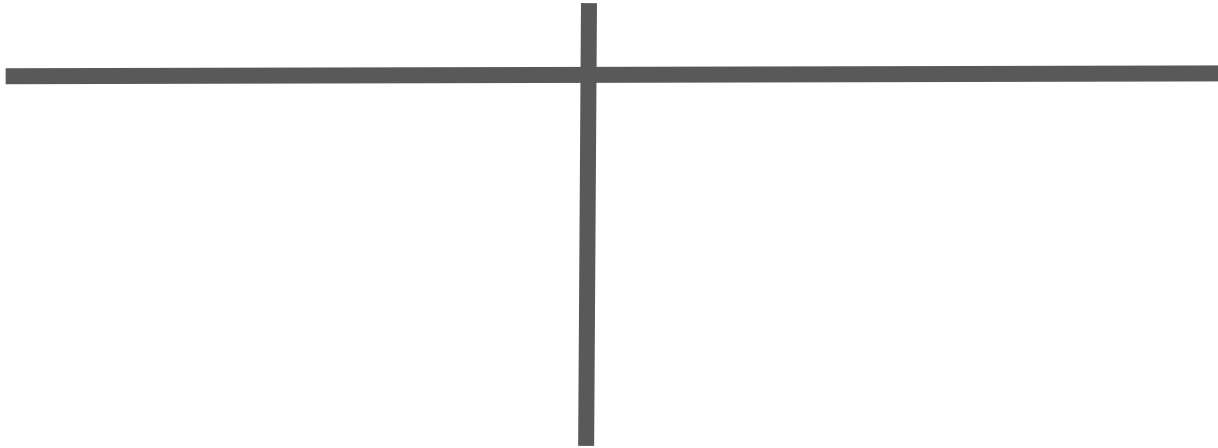


PROMPT: The main characters in “Life in the Zoo” and “Controlled Chaos” share similar character traits. Analyze how their shared traits contribute to the development of the theme of the two stories. Use evidence from both stories to support your ideas.

DO	WHAT
☐ Analyze	- How their shared traits contribute to the development of the theme
☐ Use	- Evidence from both stories

How do the shared character traits develop the theme of the two stories?

PROMPT: You have read two passages about animals. “Play Time” provides an experiment a reader can perform to learn about animals, while “Rest & Relaxation” provides facts and descriptions to help the reader learn. Which type of passage provides a better opportunity for learning? Argue whether a reader learns more from thinking through an experiment or from thinking through facts and descriptions. Use evidence from both passages in your argument.



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DO	WHAT
□ Argue □ Use	- Whether a reader learns more from thinking through an experiment or from thinking through facts and descriptions - Evidence from both passages

Which passage provides a better opportunity for learning -
the experiment or facts/descriptions?

Now What?

1. Read and Annotate the Text

- Read with a purpose.
- Use symbols that work for you.
- Make notes in the margin.

2. Collect Text Evidence using a t-chart

Cite	Text Evidence

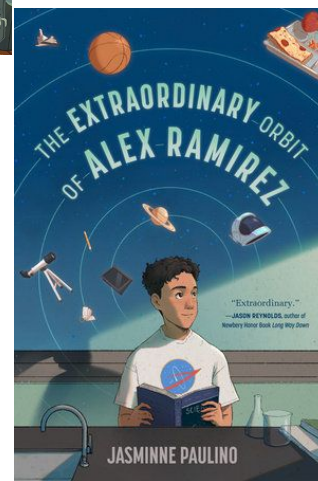
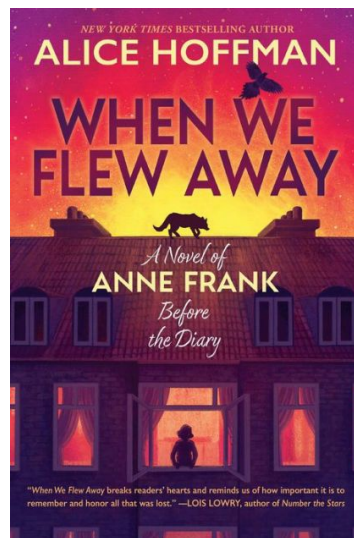
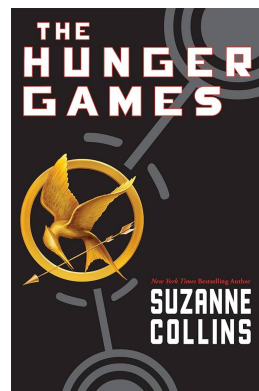
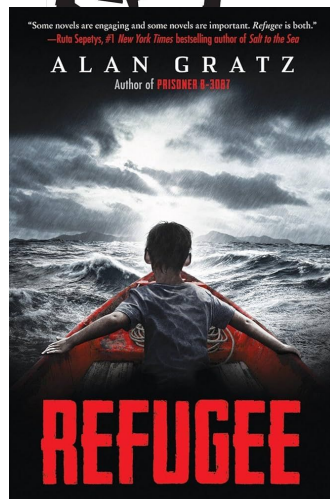
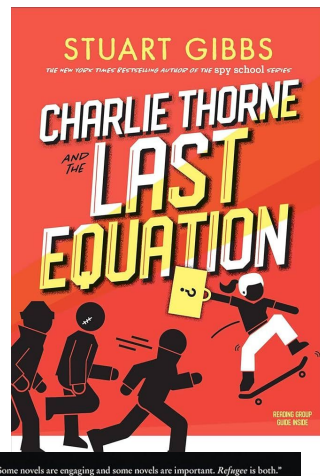
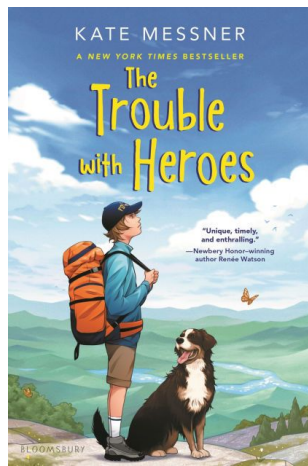
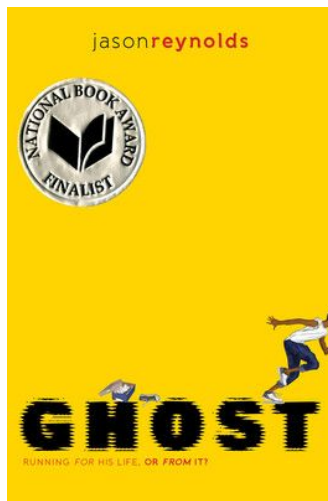
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The "So What?" (Your Superpower)



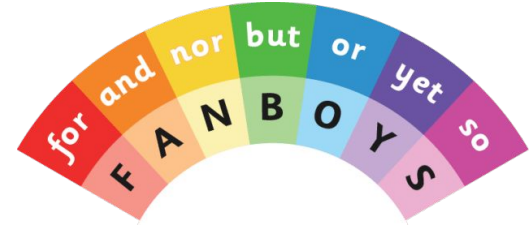
Writing is thinking on paper. It's not just a school skill; it's a life skill. It helps you build stronger arguments, find smarter solutions, and understand the world better. This is the real goal.

The MORE you know, the MORE you can write



Now onto WRITING

Sentence Type	Contains	Example
Simple	one independent clause	I saw the dog. I ran.
Compound	two independent clauses connected by a comma and a coordinating conjunction (<i>and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet</i>)	I saw the dog, and I ran.
Complex	one independent clause and one dependent clause connected by a comma	When I saw the dog, I ran.
Compound-complex	two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clause	When I saw the dog, I ran to him, and he was happy to see me.



Coordinating Conjunctions



Subordinating Conjunctions

What is “Meaningful Writing”?



Thinking Clearly

Writing is thinking on paper. It helps you organize all your messy thoughts into a clear, logical order.



Sharing Ideas

It's the best way to show what you **really** know and to share your unique ideas with others.



Boosting Memory

When you write something down, you process it differently, which helps you remember it for the test!