

What's included?

4 short stories

Short Stories	Hero's Journey	Name:	Date:
The Clockmaker's Apprentice			
Along the cobbled streets leading to the main square of Gelford City was a shop that never stopped ticking. Beyond the oak doors that led into the shop, an assortment of clocks filled every crevice. Clock hands moved like orbiting stars on the wall. Clocks with cuckoo birds and other decorative creatures stood on the shelves. Grandfather clocks, some tall and imposing, others short and stout, were stacked in the corner. Pocket watches were spread out along the counter. Tucked away amongst the clocks, Theo tinkered away with his grandfather. He loved fixing things and enjoyed learning the art of clockwork from his grandfather. The ticking and humming of all the clocks was a steady rhythm for Theo as he focused on repairing, mending, and making clocks. The street outside the window was bustling with villagers and shop-keepers, but time felt paused in Theo's shop. One morning, the town leaders came rushing to the door. Theo's grandfather was surprised, but welcomed them inside. But they were panicked about something and urged Theo to come with them. Despite the confusion, Theo and his grandfather left the sanctuary of his shop and followed the leaders to the town square. In the very center of the square stood the Great Clock. It was a magnificent tower whose golden gears kept time for everyone passing by. It was a common meeting place for people looking for one another, and a place where people could sit and rest on the benches beneath its gears. But today, it was a place of worry. The Great Clock had stopped. And time had stopped around it. Birds froze in mid-flight. Market carts stopped moving. Even the water fountain hung motionless in the air. People stood like statues, their bodies still while their eyes looked desperately around. Everything close to the clock was frozen in time.			

- Story titles (300-400 words each)
 - The Map Beneath the Oak Tree
 - The Lost Dragon Feather
 - The Clockmaker's Apprentice
 - The Whispering Forest

Comprehension questions

Short Stories	Hero's Journey	The Whispering Forest		
Comprehension Questions				
Why did the villagers avoid the Whispering Forest?				
What strange voice did Maya hear?				
Who was Orion, and how did he help Maya?				
What was the Shadow Root doing to the forest?				
What lesson did Maya learn by the end of the story?				
Main Idea				
What is the main idea of the story? Tick the sentence you think best explains the main idea.				
	Forests should always be avoided.			
	Courage means doing what is right even when you are afraid. ✓			
	Magical creatures need human help.			
	Villagers should listen to mysterious voices.			
Theme				
What words best describe the theme of the story? Circle the words you think.				
Courage	Fresh air	Help	Hopelessness	Nature

Extension prompts

Short Stories	Hero's Journey	The Lost Dragon Feather	
Summarize the Story			
Who is the main character?			
Describe the setting.			
What is the main problem?			
What is the resolution?			
Write a paragraph summarizing the story.			
Extension Activities			
Design Challenge	Hero's Journey	Reflect	Creative Task
Draw and label Ava's airship. Include special features that helped her during the adventure.	Identify these aspects of the Hero's Journey: • Ordinary World • Call to Adventure • Hesitation of the Call • Mentor • Reward	Why do you think Rowan said that the feather had "chosen" Ava? What qualities did Ava demonstrate that made her the right person for the journey? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.	Invent a new species of dragon. Describe its appearance, habitat, and special abilities.



Why you'll love it.



Easy to read short story



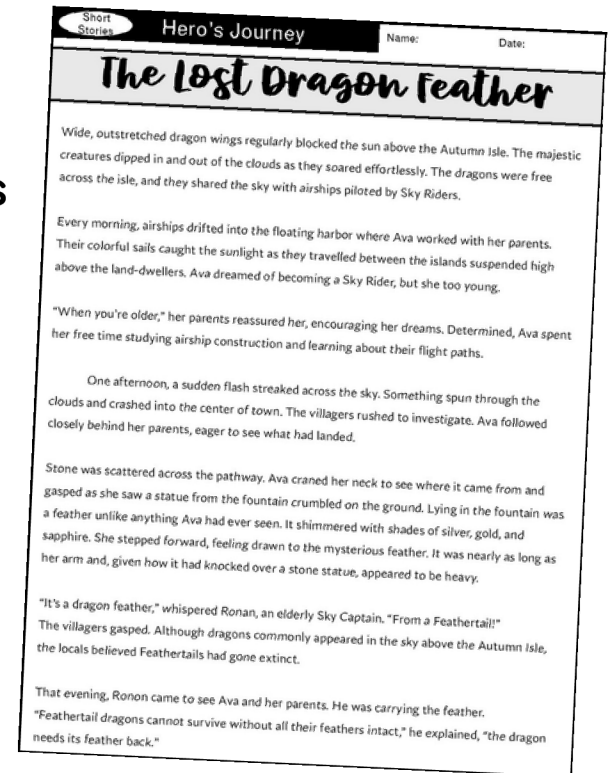
Comprehension questions & activities



Four ready to print stories



Perfect for independent reading

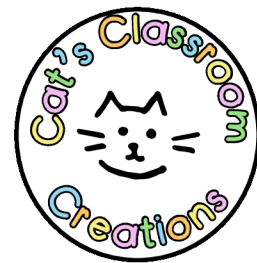


Ways to use this product.

- ✓ Independent reading practice
- ✓ Supplement explicit reading strategies
- ✓ Intervention task
- ✓ Homework activity
- ✓ Small group reading

Short Stories	Outer Space	JUPITER'S STORM RAIDERS
The story continued.		
The trainees looked around the shuttle, panic spreading across their faces. "Let's follow protocol," Luma instructed, keeping her voice steady despite her fear. The cloud storm was coming in fast with swirling vortexes of wind gusts approaching. Thinking quickly, Kael pulled up the pressure maps on his watch and projected them onto the main screen of the shuttle. "Great ideal!" His teammate sitting next to him said with a sigh of relief. The Storm Raiders quickly worked together to study the pressure systems in real time. "We need to fly around it!" "Let's redirect the ship." "Re-routing commencing now." Together, the Storm Raiders redirected the ship's path to avoid the ongoing vortexes of the cloud storm. They veered away in a wide arc successfully, and Kael's eyes widened as he saw the raging winds surge past the windows. Everyone in the shuttle drew a deep breath as they realized what they had narrowly avoided. "Wow!" Luma exclaimed once they were safely descending. "Thanks for pulling up the maps, Kael. You saved us!" "We all worked together to save each other. We're a team!" Kael said confidently. When the shuttle landed at the base, the instructors were amazed and relieved. "You are outstanding trainees, Storm Raiders. And well done to Kael for your quick thinking and great teamwork."		

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Extension Activities			
Visual Drawing	Diary Entry	STEM Design	Creative Writing
Draw a picture of what Jupiter and the sky looks like from the training shuttle.	Write a reflective diary entry from Kael's perspective after the mission has ended.	Design and build a replica of the Storm Raider's training shuttle.	Write a prequel to the story based on the Storm Raiders' training sessions.



Teach reading!

Engage students in reading comprehension.

Help students find evidence in the text on each page.

Make reading comprehension feel achievable.

Short Stories	Hero's Journey	The Lost Dragon Feather
The story continued.		
Ava nodded, understanding how important the feather was. She stared at it, feeling its incredible power. "You were the first to reach the feather," Ronan continued. "So, it is up to you to return it. Heart racing, Ava looked at Ronan in shock. "Me?" She looked at her parents with wide eyes. Their expressions ranged between disbelief and utter pride. "The dragon needs you," her mother spoke softly. Ava had never sailed beyond the nearby islands, let alone to the dragons' territory. Doubt swirled in her mind and panic spread through her body. But as Ava looked at the glowing feather, she knew she couldn't ignore the call. The next morning, Ava set sail aboard a small airship, clutching the feather close to her chest. Guided by Ronan's lessons and her detailed study of the ships, she crossed cloud canyons and navigated a storm band. At last, Ava reached a hidden sanctuary above the clouds. Dragons flew from all directions to their homeland. Resting upon the mountain in the sky were nests and caves where the dragons lived in peace. Ava's hands shook as she clutched the wheel of the airship, approaching closer. The feather pulsed and its colors brightened, so Ava knew she was close to the Feathertail. Ava landed the airship at the base of the mountain. She trusted the feather to guide her in right direction. She climbed the mountain, using all her strength to ascend. At the top of the mountain		

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Poetry	Imagery	Creative Task	Reflective Writing
Write a poem about time. Use imagery, metaphors, and similes to describe the impact time has on people.	Draw the Great Clock and label its important parts.	Create a mechanical creature that might live in the Timeworks. Describe its appearance, abilities, and purpose.	Theo was afraid he might fail, yet he continued his journey. Why is this an important part of the Hero's Journey? Use evidence from the story to explain your answer.

