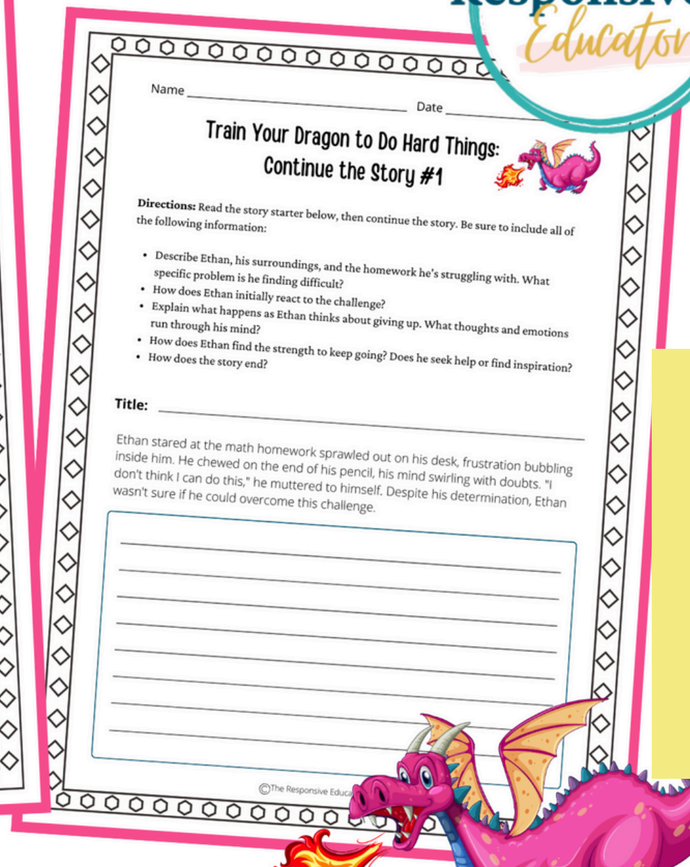
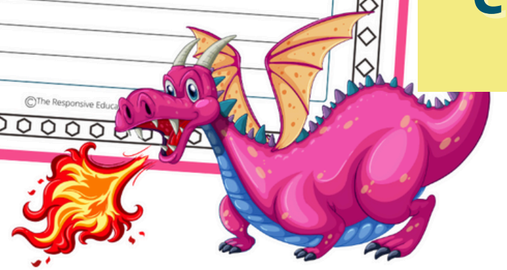
Companion to Steve Herman's

Train Your Dragon to Do Hard Things

The Responsive Educator





SEL & ELA skills

Interactive Read-Aloud Lesson Plan with **97 pages** of instruction and activities!

SCROLL to take a look inside!

© TheResponsiveEducator

TEACHERS KNOW HOW QUICKLY STUDENTS CAN GIVE UP WHEN TASKS FEEL TOUGH

- Helps Improve Classroom Behavior and Social Skills
- Assists in Learning to Do Hard Things & Embrace Challenges
- Offers Differentiated Learning Opportunities

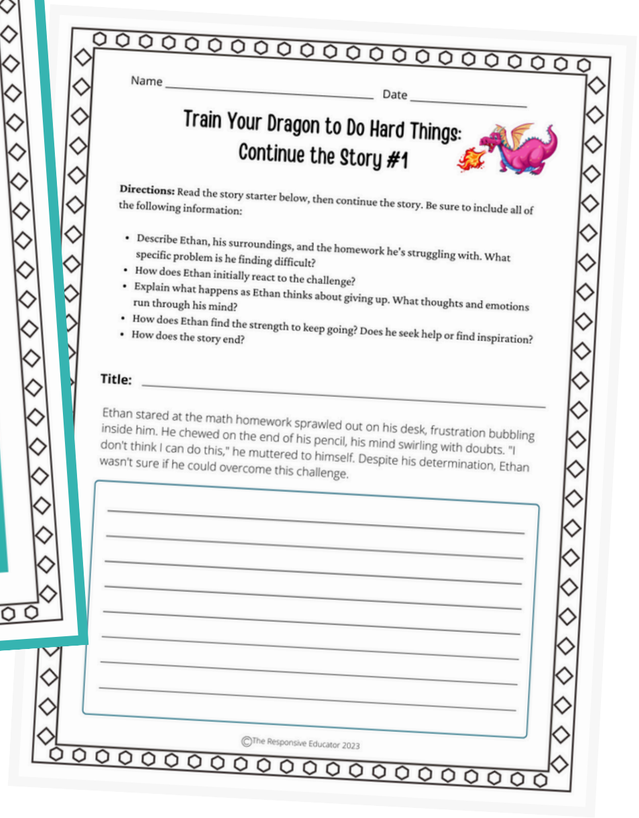
Name _____ Date _____

Train Your Dragon to Do Hard Things: My Self-Evaluation

Read each statement below. Place a check mark in the box that best matches your behavior in the classroom.

	Always	Sometimes	Never
Do I try my best when I have a hard assignment or project to do?			
Do I keep trying when something is difficult, or do I give up quickly?			
Am I willing to ask for help when I need it?			
Do I keep trying even if I make mistakes along the way?			
Do I take responsibility for my mistakes and try to learn from them?			
Am I willing to try new things, even if they are difficult or outside of my comfort zone?			
Do I keep trying even if I feel frustrated or discouraged?			
Do I work hard to understand something that I find difficult or confusing?			
Do I tend to try to do my best, or as little as possible to get by?			

©The Responsive Educator 2023



Name _____ Date _____

Train Your Dragon to Do Hard Things: Continue the Story #1

Directions: Read the story starter below, then continue the story. Be sure to include all of the following information:

- Describe Ethan, his surroundings, and the homework he's struggling with. What specific problem is he finding difficult?
- How does Ethan initially react to the challenge?
- Explain what happens as Ethan thinks about giving up. What thoughts and emotions run through his mind?
- How does Ethan find the strength to keep going? Does he seek help or find inspiration?
- How does the story end?

Title: _____

Ethan stared at the math homework sprawled out on his desk, frustration bubbling inside him. He chewed on the end of his pencil, his mind swirling with doubts. "I don't think I can do this," he muttered to himself. Despite his determination, Ethan wasn't sure if he could overcome this challenge.

©The Responsive Educator 2023

© TheResponsiveEducator

What's Included?

- SEL Objectives
- SEL Skill Activities
- Guided Questions for Before, During, & After Reading
- Story Elements & Writing Activities
- Interactive Read-Aloud
- ELA Posters & Visuals
- Family Connection Notes

Dear Families,

This week we are working on the skill of sticking to hard things rather than giving up or always making the easy choice. As part of this discussion, we are reading the book Train Your Dragon to Do Hard Things by Steve Herman.

If you are unfamiliar with the book and would like to check it out, you may be able to find a read aloud of it on YouTube.

How you can help at home:

- Discuss why it is important to learn to have self-discipline and cho

Name _____ Date _____

Train Your Dragon to Do Hard Things: Look & Write #1

Directions: Write 3 sentences about each picture. Tell about what hard thing the person is doing and how they feel about it.

Name _____ Date _____

Train Your Dragon to Do Hard Things: Types of Sentences

There are 4 types of sentences.

1. **Imperative** sentences give a command. For example, "Come here."
2. **Declarative** sentences make a statement. For example, "It's raining."
3. **Interrogative** sentences ask a question. For example, "What time are we leaving?"
4. **Exclamatory** sentences show excitement. For example, "That was so much fun!"

Directions- Read each sentence below. For each sentence, decide whether it is Imperative (1), Declarative (2), Interrogative (3), or Exclamatory (4). Write the number on the line.

Hint - Not all sentences with an exclamation point (!) is an exclamatory sentence. Read each sentence carefully.

1. _____ Do you remember me?
2. _____ I've had to teach my dragon a lot of important stuff.
3. _____ It's so hard!
4. _____ Now I doubt he'll finish it.
5. _____ Diggory! Let's go swimming!
6. _____ Diggory doesn't clean his room.
7. _____ What about that awful day when Todd was being mean?
8. _____ Quit!
9. _____ That's not the way you should behave!
10. _____ Don't be afraid of a challenge!

©The Responsive Educator 2023

Types of Sentences

There are 4 types of sentences.

Imperative
Imperative sentences give a command.
Example: "Come here."

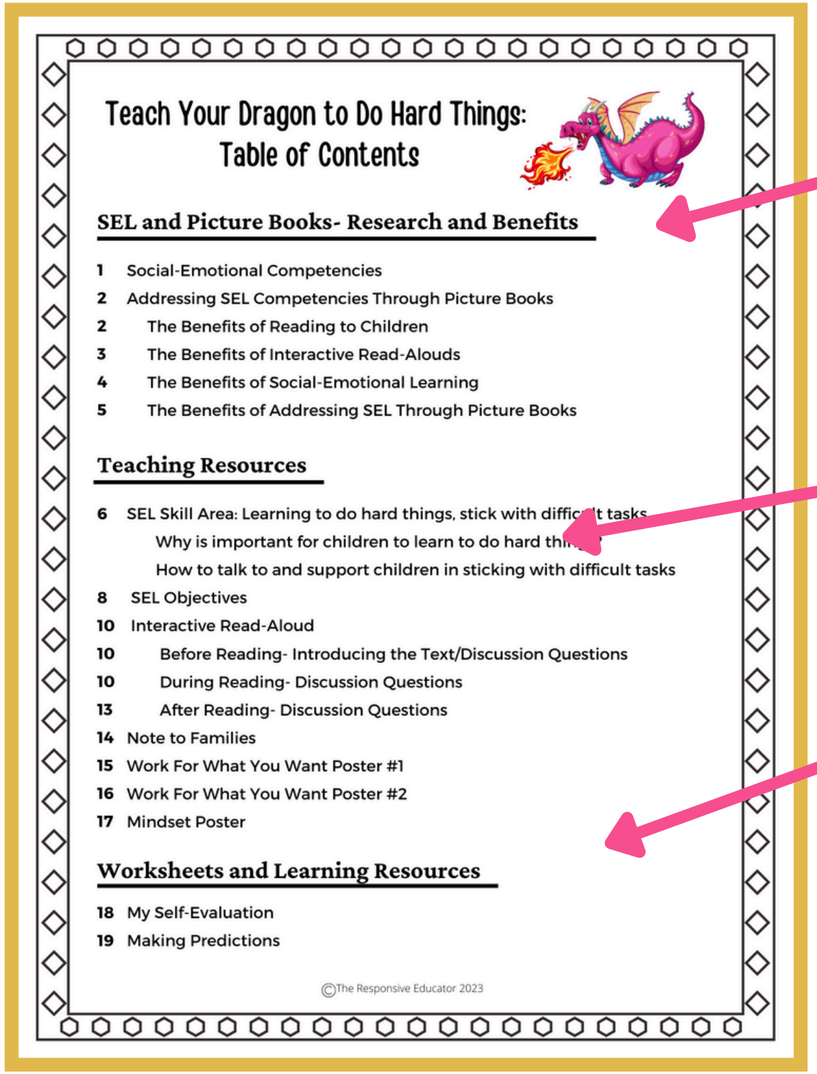
Declarative
Declarative sentences make a statement.
Example: "It's raining."

Interrogative
Interrogative sentences ask a question.
Example: "What time are we leaving?"

Exclamatory
Exclamatory sentences show excitement.
Example: "That was so much fun!"

© TheResponsiveEducator

Includes Table of Contents



Teach Your Dragon to Do Hard Things:
Table of Contents

SEL and Picture Books- Research and Benefits

1 Social-Emotional Competencies
2 Addressing SEL Competencies Through Picture Books
2 The Benefits of Reading to Children
3 The Benefits of Interactive Read-Alouds
4 The Benefits of Social-Emotional Learning
5 The Benefits of Addressing SEL Through Picture Books

Teaching Resources

6 SEL Skill Area: Learning to do hard things, stick with difficult tasks
Why is important for children to learn to do hard things
How to talk to and support children in sticking with difficult tasks
8 SEL Objectives
10 Interactive Read-Aloud
10 Before Reading- Introducing the Text/Discussion Questions
10 During Reading- Discussion Questions
13 After Reading- Discussion Questions
14 Note to Families
15 Work For What You Want Poster #1
16 Work For What You Want Poster #2
17 Mindset Poster

Worksheets and Learning Resources

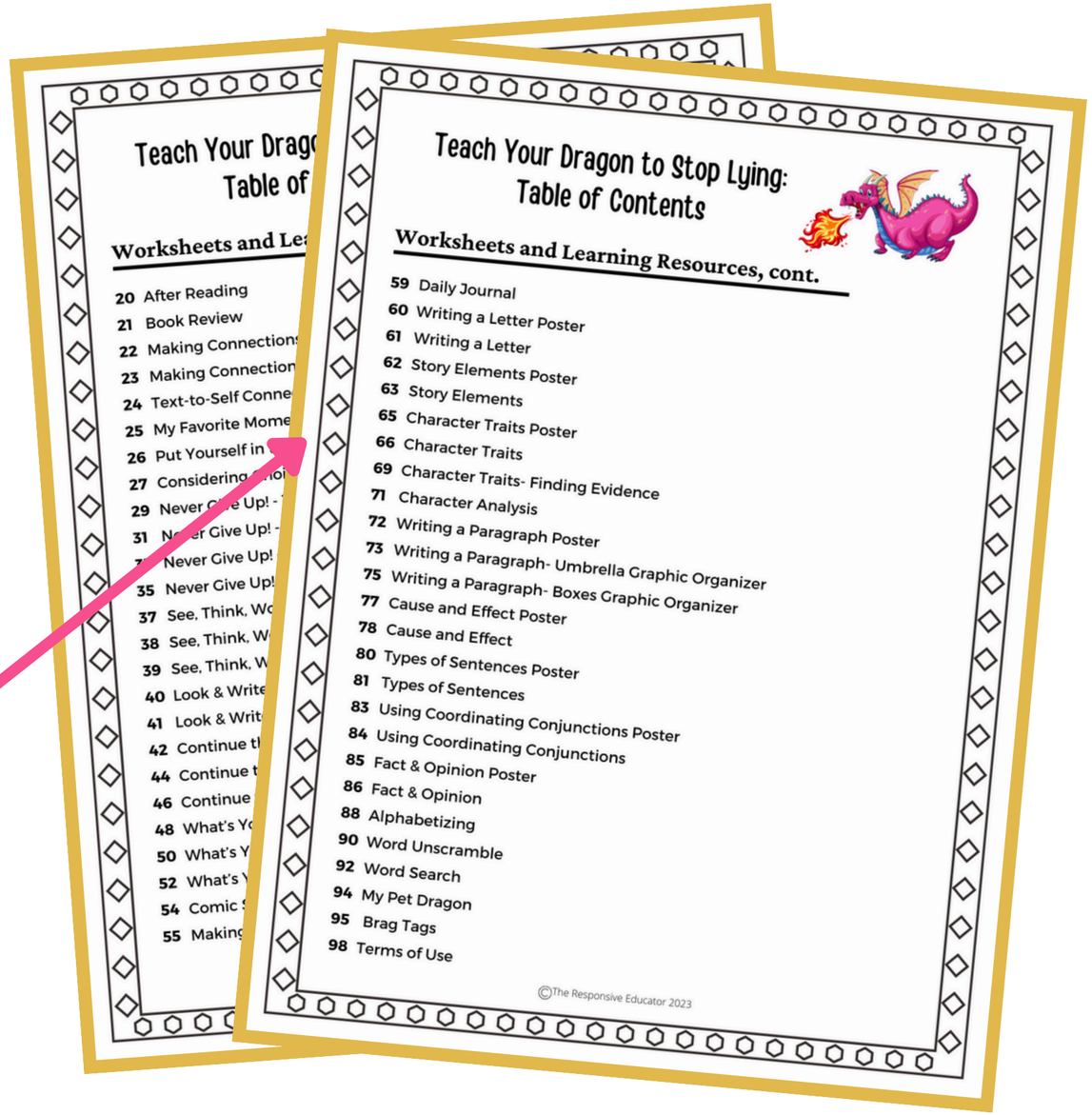
18 My Self-Evaluation
19 Making Predictions

©The Responsive Educator 2023

PictureBook SEL Research & Benefits

Teaching Resources

Worksheets & Learning Resources



Teach Your Dragon to Stop Lying:
Table of Contents

Worksheets and Learning Resources, cont.

59 Daily Journal
60 Writing a Letter Poster
61 Writing a Letter
62 Story Elements Poster
63 Story Elements
65 Character Traits Poster
66 Character Traits
69 Character Traits- Finding Evidence
71 Character Analysis
72 Writing a Paragraph Poster
73 Writing a Paragraph- Umbrella Graphic Organizer
75 Writing a Paragraph- Boxes Graphic Organizer
77 Cause and Effect Poster
78 Cause and Effect
80 Types of Sentences Poster
81 Types of Sentences
83 Using Coordinating Conjunctions Poster
84 Using Coordinating Conjunctions
85 Fact & Opinion Poster
86 Fact & Opinion
88 Alphabetizing
90 Word Unscramble
92 Word Search
94 My Pet Dragon
95 Brag Tags
98 Terms of Use

©The Responsive Educator 2023

© TheResponsiveEducator

ELA Visuals & Posters

© TheResponsiveEducator

Easy to Read

Align with Activities & Objectives

Fun Visuals

Easy to use and Differentiate

Name _____ Date _____

Train Your Dragon to Do Hard Things:
Character Traits

Outside Traits	Inside Traits
Outside traits are the physical traits of the character, or what you see when you look at them. Think about things such as height, eye color, clothing, etc.	Inside traits are things that we learn about characters based on what they say, do, think, and feel. Think about what the character's thoughts, words, posture, facial expressions, etc. tell you about them.

blonde, ponytail, long hair, red shoes, freckled, short, tall, jewelry, pretty, tan skin, green eyes

thoughts: shy, kind, bossy

words: honest, nervous

feelings: patient, smart, brave

actions: caring, lazy, argumentative

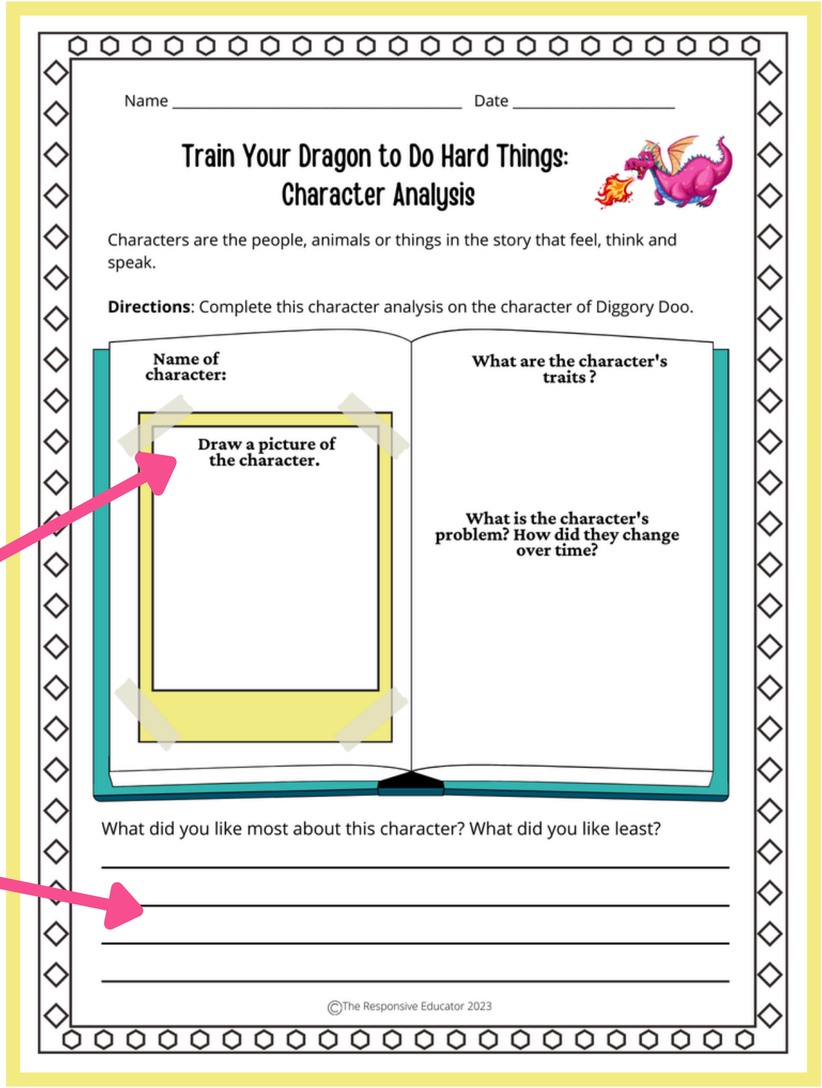
©The Responsive Educator 2023

Variety of story elements and writing strategy activities

Example pages included

Differentiated options

Many opportunities for student reflection and writing practice



Name _____ Date _____

Train Your Dragon to Do Hard Things:
Character Analysis

Characters are the people, animals or things in the story that feel, think and speak.

Directions: Complete this character analysis on the character of Diggory Doo.

Name of character:

Draw a picture of the character.

What are the character's traits ?

What is the character's problem? How did they change over time?

What did you like most about this character? What did you like least?

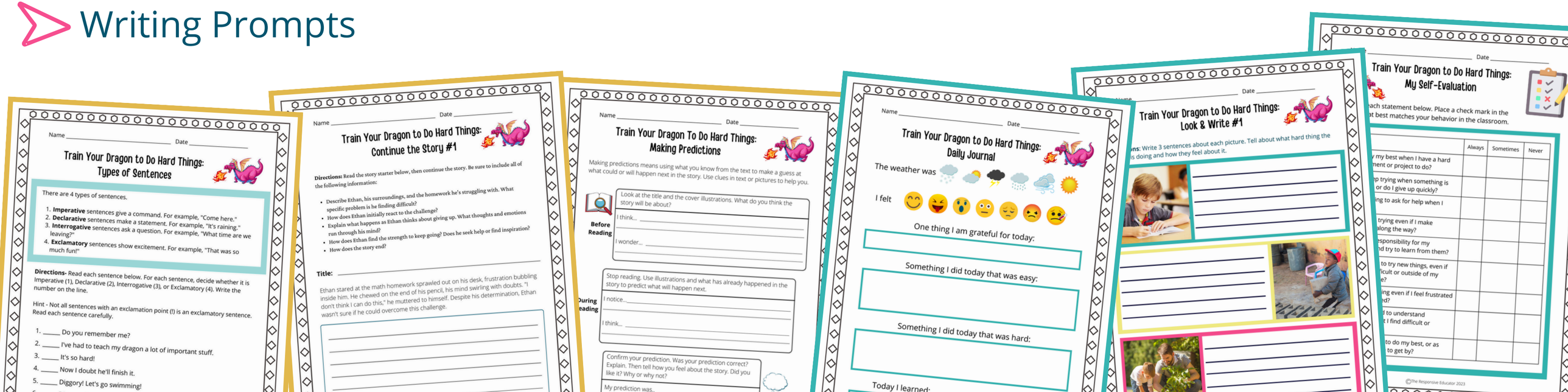
©The Responsive Educator 2023

© TheResponsiveEducator

A Wide Variety of ELA & SEL Activities

© TheResponsiveEducator

- Making predictions
- Summarizing
- Character Analysis
- Compare & Contrast
- Writing Prompts
- Perseverance
- Resilience
- Making choices
- “Never give up” activities

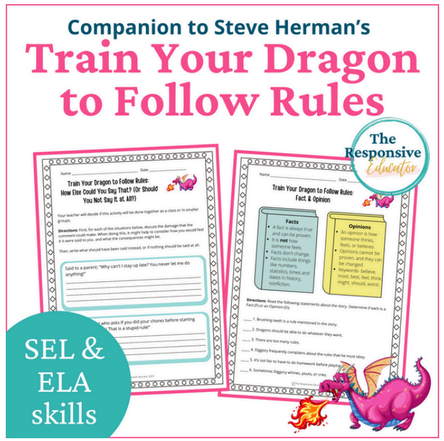


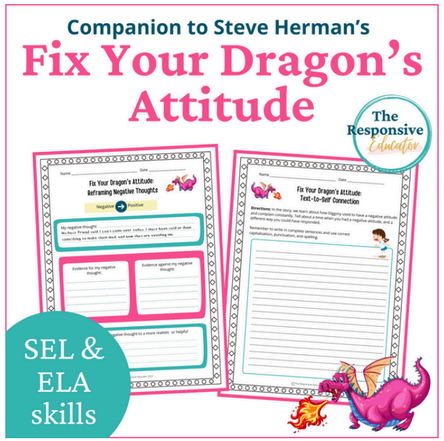
Why Do I Need This?

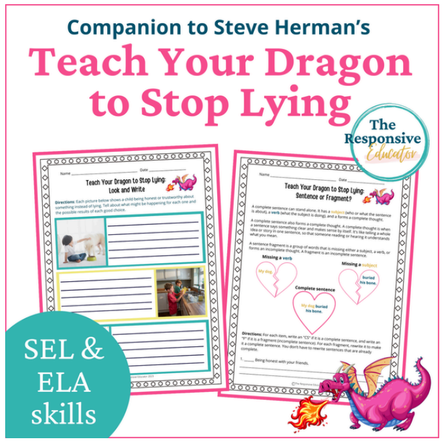
- Ready-to-use plans and activities to **reduce prep time**
- Combines ELA and SEL to teach **both at once**
- Works as **independent work, whole group instruction, small groups, or center activities**
- Keeps students **engaged** while teaching **the importance of not giving up when things get difficult**
- Builds consistent **support between school and home** with family connection notes

© TheResponsiveEducator

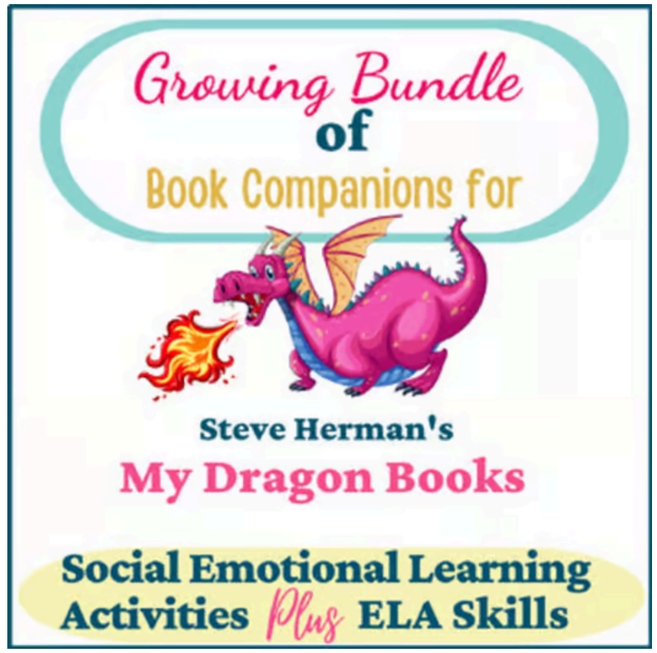
Looking for More Like This?







Buy Individually or Get the Entire Bundle



Follow my store for updates on growing bundles!

The Responsive Educator