



hello  
411

# Short informational Text articles for fun & interesting Close Reading



## Chicken nuggets, anyone?

How chicken nuggets are made

Chicken nuggets are made in a food processing factory from real chickens. The nugget-making process starts in the deboning area. Once the skin and bones are removed, the chicken meat is sliced and diced. The tender breast meat is cut into big chunks and placed into a large bin. In the bin, seasoning is added and blended with the meat. Chicken skin is also added to the mixture which acts like glue that binds the meat together. After the grinding stage, the meat is added to a machine to form the nuggets. McDonald's nuggets are made into four different shapes: a ball, a ball, a boot and a bowtie. First, a light coat of batter is added and another thicker layer of batter is added called tempura. After they are battered, they are bagged, hooded and prepared for shipping. Nuggets are kept frozen until cooking. When the nuggets arrive at the restaurant, the meat inside is still raw. Once the nuggets are placed into the deep fryer, the meat is fully cooked and ready to be eaten.

-Jennifer Jones

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## The vortex of video games

The positive and negative effects

Video games are one of the most popular "toys" for kids. But, are they good or bad? However, some scientists believe there are negative effects of playing video games. Violence is the number one negative effect because many children are exposed to violent images through violent video games. There are many positive effects of playing video games, including increased problem-solving and logic. For example, when kids play *Angry Birds*, it trains the brain to come up with creative ways to solve problems quickly. Other positive benefits are quick reflexes, perseverance, memory and concentration. Some brain researchers believe there are positive effects of playing video games. Violence is the number one negative effect because many children are exposed to violent images through violent video games. There are many positive effects of playing video games, including increased problem-solving and logic. For example, when kids play *Angry Birds*, it trains the brain to come up with creative ways to solve problems quickly. Other positive benefits are quick reflexes, perseverance, memory and concentration.

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## The art of the selfie

The phenomenon of self-photography

2013 was tugged The Year of the Selfie. A selfie is a photograph taken at arm's length with a digital device held by a person in the selfie. Selfies have become increasingly popular since the emergence of smart phones that include built-in cameras and social media sites like Facebook and Instagram that upload to the internet within seconds. Here are a few tips for taking fabulous selfies. Select the best angle, and be aware of the surroundings. Also, use the crop and zoom tools on the phone to cut out irritating photo-bombers, and play with the filters. 36% of people have admitted to enhancing their selfies with filters. People take selfies for a multitude of reasons. The top five reasons are: to remember a joyful moment, to capture a humorous moment, to show off a nice outfit, to capture a good hair day or simply because they are feeling confident. Not everyone likes to take selfies, and that's OK. Selfies are a form of self-love. They say, "I like who I am, and I want to share myself with the world."

-Jennifer Jones

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## Laundry around the world

Clothes get cleaned in many different ways

Everyone wears clothes, but some people wear a few clothes and some people wear a lot of clothes. Some clothes are for playing around and working. And, some clothes are fancy for more formal occasions. Everyone wears some form of clothing, but everyone gets their clothes clean in very different ways depending on their living conditions. Just because people live in the same country doesn't mean they all clean their clothes the same way. Some people have washing machines in their home. Some people take their clothes to the cleaners and pay someone else to wash their clothes. Some people wash their clothes in a pan or tub of water while others wash their clothes in a stream or lake. Since water is needed to get clothes clean, they must get dry. Some people use a large dryer and some people hang their clothes on a line and let the clothes dry naturally. There is no right or wrong way to clean clothes. Everyone has laundry but everyone has a different system for getting them clean.

-Jennifer Jones

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## Polar bear predicament

As the ice melts, so does the polar bear population

Polar bears live in the frigid climate of the Arctic Region, a place where the water temperature falls below 30 degrees in the winter. The sun never sets. To polar bears, this habitat is their home. Polar bears spend most months in the water, but when it is mating season, they need the ice. With less ice, they spend more time in the water and less time mating, which causes less polar bears to be born each year. According to Jeffrey Bonner, president of the St. Louis Zoo, "Global warming may not be affecting you, but it is really affecting the polar bears." Since the ocean temperature have increased, it has caused the arctic ice to melt. Polar bears need to ice to catch their prey—seals. As seals swim around the sea, polar bears hide behind the ice so they can sneak up on the seals to catch them. Less ice means less eating which can lead to starvation. Polar bears have thick fur and large paws. These features that help them survive in this harsh environment. Something else they need for survival is the Arctic sea ice. Since the ocean temperature have increased, it has caused the arctic ice to melt. Polar bears need to ice to catch their prey—seals. As seals swim around the sea, polar bears hide behind the ice so they can sneak up on the seals to catch them. Less ice means less eating which can lead to starvation.

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# Volume





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**The vortex of video games**  
The positive and negative effects

Video games are one of the most popular "toys" for kids. But, are they good or bad? Some brain researchers believe there are positive effects of playing video games. Video games give the brain, and the cell connections in it, a real workout. There are many positive effects of playing video games, including increased problem-solving and logic. For example, when kids play *Angry Birds*, it trains the brain to come up with creative ways to solve problems quickly. Other positive benefits are quick reflexes, perseverance, memory and concentration. However, some scientists believe there are negative effects of playing video games. Violence is the number one negative effect because many children are exposed to violent images through violent video games. Other negative effects can be not wanting to play with friends, obesity, poor performance in school and although video games are better than TV, they can be good and bad.



**The art of the selfie**  
The phenomenon of self-photography

2013 was tagged The Year of the Selfie. A selfie is a photograph taken at arm's length with a digital device held by a person in the selfie. Selfies have become increasingly popular since the emergence of smart phones that include built-in cameras and social media sites like Facebook and Instagram that upload to the internet within seconds. Here are a few tips for taking fabulous selfies. Select the best angle, and be aware of the surroundings. Also, use the crop and zoom tools on the phone to cut out irritating photo-bombers, and play with the filters. 36% of people have admitted to enhancing their selfies with filters. People take selfies for a multitude of reasons. The top five reasons are: to remember a joyful moment, to capture a humorous moment, to show off a nice outfit, to capture a good hair day or simply because they are feeling confident. Not everyone likes to take selfies, and that's OK. Selfies are a form of self-love. They say, "I like who I am, and I want to share myself with the world."



**Laundry around the world**  
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**Polar bear predicament**  
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Polar bears live in the frigid climate of the Arctic Region, a place where the water temperature falls below 30 degrees in the winter. The sun never sets. To polar bears, this habitat is their home. Polar bears have thick fur and large paws. These features that help them survive in this harsh environment. Something else they need for survival is the Arctic sea ice. Since the ocean temperature have increased, it has caused the arctic ice to melt. Polar bears need to ice to catch their prey—seals. As seals swim around the sea, polar bears hide behind the ice so they can sneak up on the seals to catch them. Less ice means less eating which can lead to starvation. Polar bears spend most months in the water, but when it is mating season, they need the ice. With less ice, they spend more time in the water and less time mating, which causes less polar bears to be born each year. According to Jeffrey Bonner, president of the St. Louis Zoo, "Global warming may not be affecting you, but it is really affecting the polar bears."

- Passage topics related to pop culture and global awareness (not time-bound) in a "magazine" format
- Five passages, four levels per passage
- All 5 text structures covered
- Teaching Points Page per passage
- Tiers of Vocabulary per passage
- 2 Written Comprehension Sheets per passage
- Standards RITI-RIT.9 covered in response sheets
- Fun & interesting "real" articles for kids in grades 3-8
- Perfect as read-alouds in grades K-2

# Short informational Text Articles

I created these original informational text articles to help students differentiate between the five different types of nonfiction text structures. Each passage contains at least one primary text structure. Although “description” is used in many passages, it may not be the main or overall structure.

I chose article topics relevant to students between the ages of 8-14 (grades 3-8) and topics around pop culture and global awareness, \*and\* passages that can be used any time of year.

These articles are appropriate for close reading during guided reading, or as read-alouds/shared reading experiences in K-2.

Each article is written at 4 different levels to accommodate varying grade and reading levels. See chart below.

Title	Structure	Differentiated Lexile Levels			
Chicken Nuggets, Anyone?	Sequence of Events	810L Level S	870L Level T	900L Level U	940L Level V
The Vortex of Video Games	Cause & Effect	810L Level S	920L Level U	980L Level V	1080L Level Z
The Art of the Selfie	Description	850L Level T	900L Level U	970L Level V	1030L Level W
Laundry Around the World	Compare/Contrast	770L Level R	870L Level T	920L Level U	1010L Level W
Polar Bear Predicament	Problem/Solution	890L Level U	980L Level V	1030L Level Z	1050 Level Y

# Hello Literacy's Take on Close Reading

Despite what you might read on the internet, find on Teachers Pay Teachers or glean from a published book, nowhere in the Common Core documents does it say, "Do close reading in this way." There is no official formula, protocol, structure or recipe for "doing" close reading. In fact, the anchor standard that refers to reading text closely is worded like this:

ELA Reading Standard 1: "Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text."

In addition, and I know this is probably semantics, but there is nothing inherently close about something called a "close reading passage," there is only a passage for reading or a passage/chapter/paragraph/sentence for close reading. Close reading is a behavior of the reader, and done only at a time and spot in the text when the reader feels like reading it more closely would help deepen his/her understanding of the text, or at a time where the reader feels like the author really has something important to say and needs to reread it to figure out the author's important message at that point in the text. As teachers, we should be modeling how readers study things and read text more than once when we want to figure something out so that students may eventually read closely on their own, when \*they\* say it helps deepen their understanding. With that said, it is important for many reasons, to reread text so that it becomes familiar and we understand and comprehend it. With each rereading, you will "look through a different lens" to understand all the complexities the author brings to the passage. The ultimate goal is to teach students to self-monitor when a closer reading is needed, and do it on their own, independently. We want students to share out, "At this part in the book, I didn't understand why X was happening, so I read it more closely and figured out Y was causing X to happen. I really had to reread and look for evidence, but I get it now!" It should be a cognitive and behavioral adverb, not a line on the schedule or a classroom event.

# digital media sources for Text Comparisons

In addition to just reading the articles, although they can be read as stand-alone text, I have found corresponding videos on the same topic for each article so that students can work on the skills involved in Standards 7, 8 and 9, the Integration and Knowledge of Ideas standards:

ELA Reading Standard 7 calls for students to integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

ELA Reading Standard 8 calls for students to delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text...

ELA Reading Standard 9 calls for students to analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Use the following YouTube videos for comparison:

Title	YouTube Title	Video Link
Chicken Nuggets, Anyone?	Pink Goop in Chicken Nuggets? 2:44	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ua5PaSqKD6k">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ua5PaSqKD6k</a>
The Vortex of Video Games	Video Games Aren't Actually Bad for Kids 3:54	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFoD9IVFtPs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFoD9IVFtPs</a>
The Art of the Selfie	Selfie 3:00	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3agBWqGfRo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3agBWqGfRo</a>
Laundry Around the World	How Do You Wash Your Clothes in Space? 1:29	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfqdBJDNZc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfqdBJDNZc</a>
Polar Bear Predicament	The Effects of Global Warming on Polar Bears 3:54	<a href="https://youtu.be/taNTnxtgWTc">https://youtu.be/taNTnxtgWTc</a>





Despite what everyone thinks, chicken nugget meat comes from real chicken breast meat.

# Chicken nuggets, anyone?

## How chicken nuggets are made

Chicken nuggets are made in a factory from real chickens. It all starts in the deboning area.

Once the skin and bones are removed, the chicken meat is cut apart. The tender breast meat is cut into big pieces and put into a big bin. In the bin, seasoning is added and blended with the meat. Skin is also added to the mix which acts like glue that holds the meat together.

After it's all ground up like cookie dough, it gets added to a machine that forms them into small, fun shapes.

McDonald's nuggets are made into four different shapes; a ball, a bell, a boot and a bowtie.

Then, a light coat of batter is added. Then another thicker layer of batter is added. The thick layer is called tempura. After they are battered, they are bagged, boxed and prepared for shipping.

When the nuggets arrive at the restaurant, the meat inside is still raw. Once the nuggets are placed into the deep fryer, the meat is fully cooked and ready to be eaten.

*-Jennifer Jones*



Despite what everyone thinks, chicken nugget meat comes from real chicken breast meat.

# Chicken nuggets, anyone?

## How chicken nuggets are made

Despite rumors you've heard about what's inside a chicken nugget, it's not true! They are made from real whole chicken meat, from chickens raised for human consumption.

The process begins in the deboning area. Skin and bones are removed, the breast meat is cut and separated into big portions and placed into the grinding bin. In the bin, seasoning is added and combined with the meat. Chicken skin is added to the mixture which binds the ingredients together.

After the grinding stage, it's added to a machine that form the nuggets.

McDonald's nuggets are made into four distinct shapes; a ball, a bell, a boot and a bowtie.

After the shapes are molded, two layers of batter are added as a coating. The second layer is called tempura. They are then bagged, boxed and prepared for shipping. Nuggets are preserved frozen while shipping.

When the nuggets arrive at a retail location, the meat inside is still raw. Once the nuggets are placed into the deep fryer, the meat is fully cooked and ready to be eaten.

*-Jennifer Jones*





Despite what everyone thinks, chicken nugget meat comes from real chicken breast meat.

# Chicken nuggets, anyone?

## How chicken nuggets are made

Chicken nuggets are made in a food processing factory from real chickens. The nugget-making process starts in the deboning area.

Once the skin and bones are removed, the chicken meat is sliced and diced. The tender breast meat is cut into big chunks and placed into a large bin. In the bin, seasoning is added and blended with the meat. Chicken skin is also added to the mixture which acts like glue that binds the meat together.

After the grinding stage, the meat is added to a machine to form the

nuggets. McDonald's nuggets are made into four different shapes; a ball, a bell, a boot and a bowtie.

First, a light coat of batter is added and another thicker layer of batter is added called tempura. After they are battered, they are bagged, boxed and prepared for shipping. Nuggets are kept frozen until cooking.

When the nuggets arrive at the restaurant, the meat inside is still raw. Once the nuggets are placed into the deep fryer, the meat is fully cooked and ready for consumption.

*-Jennifer Jones*





Despite what everyone thinks, chicken nugget meat comes from real chicken breast meat.

# Chicken nuggets, anyone?

## How chicken nuggets are made

Chicken nuggets are made in a processing plant from chickens raised for consumption. The process starts in the factory's deboning area.

Once the skin and bones are removed and separated from the meat, the tender breast meat is cut into big chunks and placed into a large bin for grinding. In the bin, seasoning is added and blended with the meat. Chicken skin is also added to the mixture which acts like glue that binds the meat together.

After the grinding stage, it's added to a machine that form the nuggets.

McDonald's nuggets are made into four different shapes; a ball, a bell, a boot and a bowtie.

First, a light coat of batter is added and then a thicker layer of batter is added called tempura. After they are battered, they are bagged, boxed and prepared for shipping. Nuggets are kept frozen in the shipping stage.

When the nuggets arrive at the restaurant, the meat inside is still raw. Once the nuggets are placed into the deep fryer, the meat is fully cooked and ready to be eaten.

*-Jennifer Jones*

# Teaching Points for Chicken Nuggets

These questions can either be used in a discussion (whole group, small group, teacher or student directed) as a center, as an assignment or as an assessment. Students should provide text evidence whenever possible.

- Describe everything you see in the picture.
- Where do chicken nuggets come from? How are they made?
- What happens after they leave the factory?
- How is the article and video similar and different?
- Where does the process start?
- What happens in the grinding bin?
- How many nugget shapes are there? What are they?
- Why do you think nuggets are kept frozen during shipping?
- When does the chicken meat finally get cooked?
- How is this information similar or different from what you previously thought about what was inside of a chicken nugget?
- Do you think chicken nuggets are healthy or not healthy? Why?
- What is the primary text structure of this passage? How do you know?
- How do you think the author feels about chicken nuggets?
- Compare and contrast the text to the YouTube video.

Do not pre-teach, but anticipate that students will find the following vocabulary words challenging (all tiers of vocabulary included):

Chicken Nuggets, Anyone? Vocabulary		
Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
are, in, a, made, from, for, the, once, and, cut, into, big, is, to, which, like, that, together, after, four, ball, bell, boot, first, light, then, inside, still,	raised, process, starts, removed, separated, cut, chunks, placed, grinding, added, blending, mixture, glue, binds, stage, form, shapes, boxed, bagged, prepared frozen, arrive, raw, tender	processing plant, chicken nuggets, production, deboning area, skin and bones, breast meat, deep fryer, tempura, seasoning, light coat, batter, shipping stage

These words can also be placed in your fluency center so students can read them repeatedly to increase fluency on the passage itself.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Written Comprehension for Chicken Nuggets

Describe the steps in the chicken nugget making process. Write one stage in each of the boxes.

Step 1	
Step 2	
Step 3	
Step 4	
Step 5	
Step 6	

**Common Core Standard: RIT.3** Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of the text.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Written Comprehension for Chicken Nuggets

Based on the context of the article, what do the following vocabulary words mean, in your own words and pictures?

Word or Phrase	My Description	My Sketch of the Word	Text Evidence
deboning			
raised			
grinding			
binds			
tempura			

**Common Core Standard: RIT.4** Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

Video game play involves repeated actions that strengthen connections in the brain related to memory and learning.



# The vortex of video games

## The positive and negative effects

Video games are very popular. But, are video games good or bad?

Some people think they are good because they really make your brain think.

One of the ways your brain has to think is by solving problems in the game. In the game, *Angry Birds*, it trains the brain to solve problems in creative ways. Other good reasons to play video games are better memory, stamina and effort.

However, some counselors think that playing video games are bad for kids. Violence is the number one

reason. Violence like shooting and bad language is not appropriate for children. Many video games have violence that children should not watch or play.

Another effect is not wanting to play with friends or go outside and play. In school, the effects are getting bad grades and having a hard time listening and focusing on school work.

Although video games are better than T.V., they can be both good and bad.

-Jennifer Jones



Video game play involves repeated actions that strengthen connections in the brain related to memory and learning.



# The vortex of video games

## The positive and negative effects

Video games are one of the most popular “toys” for kids. But, are they good or bad?

Some people who study the brain think there are good things about playing video games. These games give the brain a real workout.

Some of the good reasons are practice in problem-solving skills. In the game, *Angry Birds*, it trains the brain to come up with creative ways to solve problems quickly. Other benefits are quick reflexes, more effort, memory, and more focus.

However, some counselors think

that playing video games have bad effects. Violence is the number one reason because many kids see violence through violent images in the video games.

Other negative effects can be not wanting to play with friends, not being active, getting poor grades in school and having a hard time paying attention.

Although video games are better than watching T.V., they can be both good and bad.

-Jennifer Jones



Video game play involves repeated actions that strengthen connections in the brain related to memory and learning.



# The vortex of video games

## The positive and negative effects

Video games are one the most popular “toys” for kids. But, are they good or bad?

Some brain researchers believe there are positive effects of playing video games. Video games give the brain, and the cell connections in it, a real workout.

There are many positive effects of playing video games, including increased problem-solving and logic. For example, when kids play *Angry Birds*, it trains the brain to come up with creative ways to solve problems quickly. Other positive benefits are

quick reflexes, perseverance, memory and concentration.

However, some scientists believe there are negative effects of playing video games. Violence is the number one negative effect because many children are exposed to violent images through violent video games.

Other negative effects can be not wanting to play with friends, obesity, poor performance in school and attention problems.

Although video games are better than T.V., they can be good and bad.

-Jennifer Jones



Video game play involves repeated actions that strengthen connections in the brain related to memory and learning.



# The vortex of video games

## The positive and negative effects

Video games are one the most popular “toys” for kids of all ages. But, are they good or bad?

Some brain researchers believe there are positive effects of playing video games including giving the brain, and the neurotransmitters in it, a real mental workout.

There are many positive effects of playing video games including increased problem-solving and logic. For example, the game, *Angry Birds*, trains the brain to come up with creative ways to solve problems quickly. Other positive benefits are

hand-eye coordination, perseverance, memory and concentration.

However, some scientists believe there are negative effects of playing video games. Violence is the number one negative effect because many children are exposed to graphic violence through violent video games.

Other negative effects can be social isolation and becoming withdrawn, obesity, poor performance in school and attention problems.

Although video games are better than T.V., they can be good and bad.

-Jennifer Jones

# Teaching Points for Video Games

These questions can either be used in a discussion (whole group, small group, teacher or student directed) as a center, as an assignment or as an assessment. Students should provide text evidence whenever possible.

- Describe everything you see in the picture.
- What is this passage mostly about?
- What the positive effects of video games?
- What are the negative effects of video games?
- How does the game Angry Birds train the brain?
- Why do you think the author titled this passage, *The Vortex of Video Games*?
- Do you think parents should monitor children's use of video games?
- Can you think of other reasons not mentioned in the article that are pros and cons of playing video games?
- Do you think video games are good or bad? Why?
- What is the primary text structure of this passage? How do you know?
- How do you think the author feels about video games?
- Compare and contrast the text to the YouTube video.
- How does the information in the picture support the information in the text?

Do not pre-teach, but anticipate that students will find the following vocabulary words challenging (all tiers of vocabulary included):

The Vortex of Video Games Vocabulary		
Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
are, one, the, toys, for, kids, of, all, but, they, good, bad, or, real, other, in, it, there, and, come, ways, many, can, than	some, most, popular, ages, believe, including, positive, effects, playing, among, increased, creative, benefits, exposed, graphic, negative, however, exposed, graphic, solve, quickly, trains, among, although, better, giving, for example	brain researchers, video games, neurotransmitters, mental workout, problem-solving, logic, hand-eye coordination, brain, perseverance, memory, concentration, violence, isolation, withdrawn, poor performance, attention problems

These words can also be placed in your fluency center so students can read them repeatedly to increase fluency on the passage itself.



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Written Comprehension for Video Games

According to the article, what do scientists and counselors believe about children playing video games. Explain your answer. Use details from the text in your answer.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects

**Common Core Standard: RIT.1** Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.



One million selfies are taken each day and shared on social media sites. L: Nick Cannon & Kelsey Jones. M: Old people take selfies, too. R: Jen Jones' presentation outfit.

# The art of the selfie

## The phenomenon of self-photography

2013 was nicknamed The Year of the Selfie. What is a selfie? It is a picture taken at arm's length, with a device held by a person in the selfie.

Selfies have grown in popularity since the dawn of smart phones that include built-in cameras and social media sites where one can literally publish their own selfie to the Internet within seconds.

Here are a few tips for taking a great selfie. First, choose your best angle. Second, be aware of what's behind you and around you. Third, use the crop and zoom tools on your phone to

cut out annoying photo-bombers. Last, add a filter. 36% of people have admitted at altering their own selfies.

People take selfies for a variety of reasons. The top five reasons are: to remember a happy moment, to capture a funny moment, to show off a nice outfit, to capture a good hair day and because they are feeling confident.

Not everyone likes to take selfies, and that's OK. Selfies are a form of self-love and self-confidence...you like who you are and you want to share yourself with the world.

*-Jennifer Jones*





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out annoying photo-bombers. Last, add a filter. 36% of people have admitted to enhancing their selfies.

People take selfies for a variety of reasons. The top five reasons are: to remember a happy moment, to capture a funny moment, to show off a nice outfit, to capture a good hair day and because they are feeling confident.

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## The phenomenon of self-photography

2013 was tagged The Year of the Selfie. A selfie is a photograph taken at arm's length with a digital device held by a person in the selfie.

Selfies have become increasingly popular since the emergence of smart phones that include built-in cameras and social media sites like Facebook and Instagram that upload to the Internet within seconds.

Here are a few tips for taking fabulous selfies. Select the best angle, and be aware of the surroundings. Also, use the crop and zoom tools on the phone to cut out irritating photo-

bombers, and play with the filters. 36% of people have admitted to enhancing their selfies with filters.

People take selfies for a multitude of reasons. The top five reasons are: to remember a joyful moment, to capture a humorous moment, to show off a nice outfit, to capture a good hair day or simply because they are feeling confident.

Not everyone likes to take selfies, and that's OK. Selfies are a form of self-love. They say, "I like who I am, and I want to share myself with the world."

*-Jennifer Jones*





One million selfies are taken each day and shared on social media sites. L: Nick Cannon & Kelsey Jones. M: Old people take selfies, too. R: Jen Jones' presentation outfit.

# The art of the selfie

## The phenomenon of self-photography

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Here are a few tips for taking fabulous selfies. Select the best angle, be aware of the surroundings, smile, use the crop and zoom tools on the phone to cut out annoying photo-

bombers, and play with the filters. 36% of people have admitted to enhancing their selfies with filters.

People take selfies for a multitude of reasons. The top five reasons are: to remember a joyful moment, to capture a humorous moment, to show off a nice outfit, to capture a good hair day or simply because they are feeling confident.

Not everyone likes to take selfies, and that's OK. Selfies are a form of self-love. They say, "I like who I am, and I want to share myself with the world."

*-Jennifer Jones*



# Teaching Points for Art of the Selfie

These questions can either be used in a discussion (whole group, small group, teacher or student directed) as a center, as an assignment or as an assessment. Students should provide text evidence whenever possible.

- Describe everything you see in the picture.
- What is this passage mostly about?
- What was special about the year 2013?
- What are the two factors that have contributed to selfie popularity?
- Name some social media sites where people publish selfies?
- What are a few tips for taking great selfies?
- What are at least three reasons that people take selfies? Can you think of other reasons not named in the article? Do you take selfies? Why?
- How do you think the author feels about taking selfies?
- What is the primary text structure of this passage? How do you know?
- How are selfies a form of self-expression?
- What message do we send when we take and publish selfies?
- Compare and contrast the text to the YouTube video.
- How does the information in the pictures support the information in the text?

Do not pre-teach, but anticipate that students will find the following vocabulary words challenging (all tiers of vocabulary included):

The art of the Selfie Vocabulary		
Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
was, of, the, is, a, at, with, held, by, person, in, have, become, since, that, like, in, seconds, within, here, are, for, best, be, use, smile, cut, to, out, phone, tool, play, their, top, five, show, good hair, say, love, want, myself, world	taken, length, held, become, increasingly, popular, emergence, include, built-in, upload, few, fabulous, angle, aware, surroundings, annoying, admitted, enhancing, multitude, joyful, moment, humorous, capture, confident	selfie, photograph, digital device, smart phones, social media, Facebook, Instagram, Internet, sites, crop and zoom, photo-bombers, filters, self-love, good hair day

These words can also be placed in your fluency center so students can read them repeatedly to increase fluency on the passage itself.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Written Comprehension for Art of the Selfie

How do the pictures in this article support information found in the article. Use details and evidence from the article to support your answers.



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**Common Core Standard: RIT.7** Integrate and evaluate how content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Written Comprehension for Art of the Selfie

What are the five reasons given by the author as to why people take selfies. Then evaluate each reason and agree or disagree with each one and tell why.

	The Author's Reasons	My Evaluation
Reason 1		
Reason 2		
Reason 3		
Reason 4		
Reason 5		
Step 6		

**Common Core Standard: RIT.8** Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.





# Laundry around the world

Clothes get cleaned in many different ways

Everyone wears clothes. Some people wear a few clothes and some people wear a lot of clothes. Some clothes are for playing around and working. And, some clothes are fancy, like for church, weddings and parties.

Everyone wears some type of clothing. However, everyone gets their clothes clean in very different ways. It depends on where and how people live. Just because people live in the same country doesn't mean they all clean their clothes the same.

Some people have washing machines in their home. Some people

take their clothes to the cleaners and pay someone else to wash their clothes. Some people wash their clothes in a pan or tub of water while others wash their clothes in a stream or lake.

Since water is needed to get clothes clean, they must get dry. Some people use a large dryer and some people hang their clothes on a line and let the clothes dry naturally.

There is no right or wrong way to clean clothes. Everyone has laundry but everyone has a different system for getting them clean.

*-Jennifer Jones*





# Laundry around the world

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Some people have washing machines in their home. Some people

take their clothes to the cleaners and pay someone else to do their clothes washing. Some people wash their clothes in a pan or tub of water while others wash their clothes in a stream or lake.

Since water is needed to get clothes clean, they must get dry. Some people use a large dryer and some people hang their clothes on a line and let the clothes dry naturally.

There is no right or wrong way to clean clothes. Everyone has laundry but everyone has a different system for getting them clean.

*-Jennifer Jones*





# Laundry around the world

Clothes get cleaned in many different ways

Everyone wears clothes, but some people wear a few clothes and some people wear a lot of clothes. Some clothes are for playing around and working. And, some clothes are fancy for more formal occasions.

Everyone wears some form of clothing but everyone gets their clothes clean in very different ways depending on their living conditions. Just because people live in the same country doesn't mean they all clean their clothes the same way.

Some people have washing machines in their home. Some people

take their clothes to the cleaners and pay someone else to wash their clothes. Some people wash their clothes in a pan or tub of water while others wash their clothes in a stream or lake.

Since water is needed to get clothes clean, they must get dry. Some people use a large dryer and some people hang their clothes on a line and let the clothes dry naturally.

There is no right or wrong way to clean clothes. Everyone has laundry but everyone has a different system for getting them clean.

*-Jennifer Jones*





# Laundry around the world

Clothes get cleaned in many different ways

Everyone wears clothes but some people wear a few clothes, and some people wear a lot of clothes. Some clothes are for playing around and getting dirty and some clothes are fancy for more formal occasions.

Even though everyone wears some form of clothing, everyone gets their clothes clean in very different ways depending on their living conditions. Just because people live in the same country doesn't mean they all clean their clothes the same way.

Some people have washing machines in their home. Some people

take their clothes to the cleaners and pay someone else to wash their clothes. Some people wash their clothes in a pan or tub of water while others wash their clothes in a stream or lake.

Since water is needed to get clothes clean, they must get dry. Some people use a large dryer and some people hang their clothes on a line and let the clothes dry naturally.

There is no right or wrong way to clean clothes. Everyone has laundry but everyone has a different system for getting them clean.

*-Jennifer Jones*

# Teaching Points for Laundry around the World

These questions can either be used in a discussion (whole group, small group, teacher or student directed) as a center, as an assignment or as an assessment. Students should provide text evidence whenever possible.

- Describe everything you see in the picture.
- What is this passage mostly about?
- What are some clothes used for?
- Why does the way we wash our clothes depend on our living conditions?
- Why do you think some people wash their own clothes and others do it for them?
- What is needed in order to wash and dry clothes?
- How do washing and drying methods differ around the world?
- How do you think the author feels about laundry?
- What is the primary text structure of this passage? How do you know?
- Do clean clothes mean something in your community? Society? Culture?
- How does the photograph support the author's claim that not everyone washes and dries their clothes the same?
- Compare and contrast the text to the YouTube video..
- Do you think it's important to clean our clothes? Why?

Do not pre-teach, but anticipate that students will find the following vocabulary words challenging (all tiers of vocabulary included):

Laundry around the World Vocabulary		
Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
everyone, but, some, people, clothes, playing, around, are, for, more, even, gets, very, ways, live, same, all, clean, their, their, to, do, stream, lake, water, dry, must, line, right, wrong, them, has, pan, tub, home	few, dirty, form, country, different, depending, because, naturally, system, clean, while, must, same, fancy, wear, a lot, hang, needed, line	formal occasions, living conditions, cleaners washing machine, dryer, laundry, line

These words can also be placed in your fluency center so students can read them repeatedly to increase fluency on the passage itself.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Written Comprehension for Laundry around the World

What is the primary text structure used through this article? \_\_\_\_\_

Write about how wearing, washing and drying clothes is similar and different around the world. Use specific details from the text & video to support your answers.

Alike	Different

**Common Core Standard: RIT.5** Compare and contrast the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, concepts, or information in two or more texts.

A mother polar bear  
and her cub sitting  
on a polar ice sheet.



# Polar bear predicament

As the ice melts, so does the polar bear population

Polar bears live in the chilly waters of the arctic. It is a place where water is below 30 degrees in the winter. The sun never goes down. To polar bears, this place is their home.

Polar bears have thick fur and large paws. These features help them stay alive in this harsh environment. Something else they need for survival is the Arctic sea ice.

Rising ocean temperatures have caused the arctic ice to melt like an ice cube. Polar bears need the ice to catch their prey—seals. As seals swim around the sea, polar bears hide behind the ice

and sneak up on the seals to catch them. Less ice means less eating which can lead to starvation.

Polar bears spend most of their months swimming in the water. But, during mating season, mother bears need the ice. With less ice, they spend more time in the water and less time mating, which causes less polar bears to be born each year.

According to Jeffrey Bonner, president of the St. Louis Zoo, “Global warming may not be affecting you, but it is really affecting the polar bears.”

*-Jennifer Jones*

A mother polar bear  
and her cub sitting  
on a polar ice sheet.



# Polar bear predicament

As the ice melts, so does the polar bear population

Polar bears live in the chilly waters of the arctic. It is a place where water temperature fall below 30 degrees in the winter and the sun never sets. To polar bears, this habitat is their home.

Polar bears have thick fur and large paws; two features that help them stay alive in this harsh environment. Something else they need for survival is the arctic sea ice.

Rising ocean temperatures have caused the Arctic ice to melt. Polar bears need the ice to catch their prey—seals. As seals swim around the sea,

polar bears hide behind the ice and sneak up on the seals to catch them. Less ice means less eating which can lead to starvation.

Polar bears spend most months in the water, but during mating season, mother bears need the ice. With less ice, they spend more time in the water and less time mating, which causes less polar bears to be born each year.

According to Jeffrey Bonner, president of the St. Louis Zoo, “Global warming may not be affecting you, but it is really affecting the polar bears.”

*-Jennifer Jones*



A mother polar bear  
and her cub sitting  
on a polar ice sheet.



# Polar bear predicament

As the ice melts, so does the polar bear population

Polar bears live in the chilly waters of the Arctic Sea. The ocean temperatures fall below 30 degrees in the winter and the sun never goes down. To polar bears, this habitat is their home.

Polar bears have thick fur and large paws that help them stay alive in this harsh environment. Something else they need for survival is the Arctic sea ice.

Rising ocean temperatures have caused the arctic ice to melt. Polar bears need the ice to catch their prey—seals. As seals swim around the sea,

polar bears hide behind the ice and sneak up on the seals to catch them. Less ice means less to eat which can lead to starvation.

Polar bears spend most months in the water, but during mating season, mother bears need the ice. With less ice, they spend more time in the water and less time mating, which causes less polar bears to be born each year.

According to Jeffrey Bonner, president of the St. Louis Zoo, “Global warming may not be affecting you, but it is really affecting the polar bears.”

*-Jennifer Jones*

A mother polar bear  
and her cub sitting  
on a polar ice sheet.



# Polar bear predicament

As the ice melts, so does the polar bear population

Polar bears live in the frigid climate of the Arctic Region, a place where the water temperature falls below 30 degrees in the winter. The sun never sets. To polar bears, this habitat is their home.

Polar bears have thick fur and large paws. These features help them survive in this harsh environment. Something else they need for survival is the Arctic sea ice.

Since the ocean temperatures have increased, it has caused the arctic ice to melt. Polar bears need the ice to catch their prey—seals. As seals swim around

the sea, polar bears hide behind the ice so they can sneak up on the seals to catch them. Less ice means less eating which can lead to starvation.

Polar bears spend most months in the water, but when it is mating season, they need the ice. With less ice, they spend more time in the water and less time mating, which causes less polar bears to be born each year.

According to Jeffrey Bonner, president of the St. Louis Zoo, “Global warming may not be affecting you, but it is really affecting the polar bears.”

*-Jennifer Jones*



# Teaching Points for Polar Bears

These questions can either be used in a discussion (whole group, small group, teacher or student directed) as a center, as an assignment or as an assessment. Students should provide text evidence whenever possible.

- Describe everything you see in the picture.
- What is this passage mostly about?
- What is the main problem described in the article?
- What is it like in the arctic Region? Be specific with details.
- How are paragraphs 3 and 4 connected? Use details from the paragraphs.
- What are two features that help polar bears survive in the Arctic?
- What is the relationship between ice and polar bears?
- How do you think the author feels about polar bears? How do you know?
- What is the primary text structure of this article? How do you know?
- How does the photograph support the information in the article?
- Compare and contrast the text to the YouTube video.
- How does global warming effect the polar bears?
- What are some solutions offered in the video to save the polar bears?
- Why did the author use the word "predicament" in the article title?

Do not pre-teach, but anticipate that students will find the following vocabulary words challenging (all tiers of vocabulary included):

Polar Bear Predicament Vocabulary		
Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
live, in, the, a, place, where, the, water, never, sun, have, these, that, something, they, for, need, is, year, around, their	frigid, falls, below, thick, large, features, harsh, survive, caused, catch, swim, hide, behind, according, affecting, president, months, less, spend, born, increased, predicament	Polar bears, climate, Arctic Region, ocean, sea temperature, 30 degrees, habitat, fur, paws, winter, environment, ice, prey, seals, mating season, global warming, St. Louis Zoo, Jeffrey Bonner

These words can also be placed in your fluency center so students can read them repeatedly to increase fluency on the passage itself.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Written Comprehension for **polar Bears**

How are paragraphs 3 and 4 connected to each other? Use details from the article to explain your answers.

Paragraph 3

Paragraph 4

**Common Core Standard: RIT.8** Describe the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in a text (e.g., comparison, cause/effect, first/second/third in a sequence).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Written Comprehension for **polar Bears**

What are the problems and solutions identified in the article and the video?  
Use details from the article and video to explain your answers.

	Text Passage	You Tube Video
Problem(s)		
Solution(s)		

**Common Core Standard: RIT.9** Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

# Various Print & Use Options

1

## Option 1

The first option you have is to print 1 color (or select B/W at the print menu) article, full size and make a class set of photocopies.

2

## Option 2

Another option is create your sets for guided reading. One of the drawbacks of guided reading book rooms is they often only have 6 copies of one text. With this product, you can make your own set of 6, 8, 10 or even an entire class set of the same article. I would print on cardstock and laminate the color sets to have them for a long time. Vis a vis markers can also be used in them if you choose.

3

## Option 3

Similar to option two, but print two articles to a page, so the article is more like a card than a full-page. With this option, you can xerox them and students can glue them into an interactive notebook and still have room to annotate in the margins.

4

## Option 4

On the following pages, I have pasted each article (each level, which you will note doesn't actually vary too much text-wise) to fit 4/page. I have also created a generic Sheet of Annotation that students can either use separately by gluing the mini article in the box or again, glued straight into an Interactive Notebook.

The print and use options are endless really, and totally up to you and your classroom/student needs.



# format adaptations for Interactive Notebooks

I realize that many teachers use interactive notebooks where students cut and glue pieces and parts into an ELA notebook. For this reason, I have included mini versions of each article so students can cut or be handed the mini-version to glue into their notebook and annotate in their notebooks. In addition, any of the graphic organizers can be printed 2/page or 4/page to be added to an interactive notebook that is the size of a composition book. If you don't use interactive notebooks, just Reading Response Journals, where students primarily write their thinking or create their own graphic organizers in their journal, you can use the Annotation Sheet on the following page to introduce and teach your students to annotate in the margins.



### The vortex of video games

**The positive and negative effects**

Video games are very popular. But, are video games good or bad? Some people think they are good because they really make your brain think. One of the ways your brain has to think is by solving problems in the game. In the game, *Angry Birds*, it trains the brain to solve problems in creative ways. Other good reasons to play video games are better memory, stamina and effort. However, some counselors think that playing video games are bad for kids. Violence is the number one reason. Violence like shooting and bad language is not appropriate for children. Many video games have violence that children should not watch or play. Another effect is not wanting to play with friends or go outside and play. In school, the effects are getting bad grades and having a hard time listening and focusing on school work. Although video games are better than T.V., they can be both good and bad. *Joseph Jones*

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### The vortex of video games

**The positive and negative effects**

Video games are one of the most popular "toys" for kids. But, are they good or bad? Some people who study the brain think there are good things about playing video games. These games give the brain a real workout. Some of the good reasons are practice in problem-solving skills. In the game, *Angry Birds*, it trains the brain to come up with creative ways to solve problems quickly. Other benefits are quick reflexes, more effort, memory, and more focus. However, some counselors think that playing video games have bad effects. Violence is the number one reason because many kids see violence through violent images in the video games. Other negative effects can be not wanting to play with friends, not being active, getting poor grades in school and having a hard time paying attention. Although video games are better than watching T.V., they can be both good and bad. *Joseph Jones*

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### The vortex of video games

**The positive and negative effects**

Video games are one of the most popular "toys" for kids. But, are they good or bad? Some brain researchers believe there are positive effects of playing video games. Video games give the brain, and the cell connections in it, a real workout. There are many positive effects of playing video games, including increased problem-solving and logic. For example, when kids play *Angry Birds*, it trains the brain to come up with creative ways to solve problems quickly. Other positive benefits are quick reflexes, perseverance, memory and concentration. However, some scientists believe there are negative effects of playing video games. Violence is the number one negative effect because many children are exposed to violent images through violent video games. Other negative effects can be not wanting to play with friends, obesity, poor performance in school and attention problems. Although video games are better than T.V., they can be good and bad. *Joseph Jones*

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### The vortex of video games

**The positive and negative effects**

Video games are one of the most popular "toys" for kids of all ages. But, are they good or bad? Some brain researchers believe there are positive effects of playing video games including giving the brain, and the neurotransmitters in it, a real mental workout. There are many positive effects of playing video games including increased problem-solving and logic. For example, the game, *Angry Birds*, trains the brain to come up with creative ways to solve problems quickly. Other positive benefits are hand-eye coordination, perseverance, memory and concentration. However, some scientists believe there are negative effects of playing video games. Violence is the number one negative effect because many children are exposed to graphic violence through violent video games. Other negative effects can be social isolation and becoming withdrawn, obesity, poor performance in school and attention problems. Although video games are better than T.V., they can be good and bad. *Joseph Jones*

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Interactive Sheet for My Annotations

glue here

glue here

glue here

glue here

use a glue stick in each of the four rectangles to adhere your b/w article inside this box to make annotations in the margins of this sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Interactive Sheet for My Annotations

glue here

glue here

use a glue stick in  
each of the four  
rectangles to adhere  
your b/w article  
inside this box to  
make annotations in  
the margins of this  
sheet

glue here

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Interactive Sheet for My Annotations

The Text

My Thinking

glue here

glue here

glue here

use a glue stick in  
each of the four  
rectangles to adhere  
your b/w article  
inside this box to  
make annotations in  
the margins of this  
sheet

glue here



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Interactive Sheet for My Annotations

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Despite what everyone thinks, chicken nugget meat comes from real chicken breast meat.

Despite what everyone thinks, chicken nugget meat comes from real chicken breast meat.

# Chicken nuggets, anyone?

## How chicken nuggets are made

Chicken nuggets are made in a factory from real chickens. It all starts in the deboning area.

Once the skin and bones are removed, the chicken meat is cut apart. The tender breast meat is cut into big pieces and put into a big bin. In the bin, seasoning is added and blended with the meat. Skin is also added to the mix which acts like glue that holds the meat together.

After it's all ground up like cookie dough, it gets added to a machine that forms them into small, fun shapes.

McDonald's nuggets are made into four different shapes; a ball, a bell, a boot and a bowtie.

Then, a light coat of batter is added. Then another thicker layer of batter is added. The thick layer is called tempura. After they are battered, they are bagged, boxed and prepared for shipping.

When the nuggets arrive at the restaurant, the meat inside is still raw. Once the nuggets are placed into the deep fryer, the meat is fully cooked and ready to be eaten.

-Jennifer Jones

Hello Literacy - Informational Text for Kids

# Chicken nuggets, anyone?

## How chicken nuggets are made

Despite rumors you've heard about what's inside a chicken nugget, it's not true! They are made from real whole chicken meat, from chickens raised for human consumption.

The process begins in the deboning area. Skin and bones are removed, the breast meat is cut and separated into big portions and placed into the grinding bin. In the bin, seasoning is added and combined with the meat. Chicken skin is added to the mixture which binds the ingredients together.

After the grinding stage, it's added to a machine that form the nuggets.

McDonald's nuggets are made into four distinct shapes; a ball, a bell, a boot and a bowtie.

After the shapes are molded, two layers of batter are added as a coating. The second layer is called tempura. They are then bagged, boxed and prepared for shipping. Nuggets are preserved frozen while shipping.

When the nuggets arrive at a retail location, the meat inside is still raw. Once the nuggets are placed into the deep fryer, the meat is fully cooked and ready for consumption.

-Jennifer Jones

870L RW 175

Hello Literacy - Informational Text for Kids

Despite what everyone thinks, chicken nugget meat comes from real chicken breast meat.

Despite what everyone thinks, chicken nugget meat comes from real chicken breast meat.

# Chicken nuggets, anyone?

## How chicken nuggets are made

Chicken nuggets are made in a food processing factory from real chickens. The nugget-making process starts in the deboning area.

Once the skin and bones are removed, the chicken meat is sliced and diced. The tender breast meat is cut into big chunks and placed into a large bin. In the bin, seasoning is added and blended with the meat. Chicken skin is also added to the mixture which acts like glue that binds the meat together.

After the grinding stage, the meat is added to a machine to form the

nuggets. McDonald's nuggets are made into four different shapes; a ball, a bell, a boot and a bowtie.

First, a light coat of batter is added and another thicker layer of batter is added called tempura. After they are battered, they are bagged, boxed and prepared for shipping. Nuggets are kept frozen until cooking.

When the nuggets arrive at the restaurant, the meat inside is still raw. Once the nuggets are placed into the deep fryer, the meat is fully cooked and ready to be eaten.

-Jennifer Jones

Hello Literacy - Informational Text for Kids

# Chicken nuggets, anyone?

## How chicken nuggets are made

Chicken nuggets are made in a processing plant from chickens raised for consumption. The process starts in the factory's deboning area.

Once the skin and bones are removed and separated from the meat, the tender breast meat is cut into big chunks and placed into a large bin for grinding. In the bin, seasoning is added and blended with the meat. Chicken skin is also added to the mixture which acts like glue that binds the meat together.

After the grinding stage, it's added to a machine that form the nuggets.

McDonald's nuggets are made into four different shapes; a ball, a bell, a boot and a bowtie.

First, a light coat of batter is added and then a thicker layer of batter is added called tempura. After they are battered, they are bagged, boxed and prepared for shipping. Nuggets are kept frozen in the shipping stage.

When the nuggets arrive at the restaurant, the meat inside is still raw. Once the nuggets are placed into the deep fryer, the meat is fully cooked and ready to be eaten.

-Jennifer Jones

940L RW 179

Hello Literacy - Informational Text for Kids

810L RW-149

900L RW-176

Video game play involves repeated actions that strengthen connections in the brain related to memory and learning.

Video game play involves repeated actions that strengthen connections in the brain related to memory and learning.

# The vortex of video games

## The positive and negative effects

Video games are very popular. But, are video games good or bad?

Some people think they are good because they really make your brain think.

One of the ways your brain has to think is by solving problems in the game. In the game, *Angry Birds*, it trains the brain to solve problems in creative ways. Other good reasons to play video games are better memory, stamina and effort.

However, some counselors think that playing video games are bad for kids. Violence is the number one

reason. Violence like shooting and bad language is not appropriate for children. Many video games have violence that children should not watch or play.

Another effect is not wanting to play with friends or go outside and play. In school, the effects are getting bad grades and having a hard time listening and focusing on school work.

Although video games are better than T.V., they can be both good and bad.

-Jennifer Jones

Hello Literacy - Informational Text for Kids

810L RW-157

# The vortex of video games

## The positive and negative effects

Video games are one of the most popular "toys" for kids. But, are they good or bad?

Some people who study the brain think there are good things about playing video games. These games give the brain a real workout.

Some of the good reasons are practice in problem-solving skills. In the game, *Angry Birds*, it trains the brain to come up with creative ways to solve problems quickly. Other benefits are quick reflexes, more effort, memory, and more focus.

However, some counselors think

that playing video games have bad effects. Violence is the number one reason because many kids see violence through violent images in the video games.

Other negative effects can be not wanting to play with friends, not being active, getting poor grades in school and having a hard time paying attention.

Although video games are better than watching T.V., they can be both good and bad.

-Jennifer Jones

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920L RW-148

Video game play involves repeated actions that strengthen connections in the brain related to memory and learning.

Video game play involves repeated actions that strengthen connections in the brain related to memory and learning.

# The vortex of video games

## The positive and negative effects

Video games are one the most popular "toys" for kids. But, are they good or bad?

Some brain researchers believe there are positive effects of playing video games. Video games give the brain, and the cell connections in it, a real workout.

There are many positive effects of playing video games, including increased problem-solving and logic. For example, when kids play *Angry Birds*, it trains the brain to come up with creative ways to solve problems quickly. Other positive benefits are

quick reflexes, perseverance, memory and concentration.

However, some scientists believe there are negative effects of playing video games. Violence is the number one negative effect because many children are exposed to violent images through violent video games.

Other negative effects can be not wanting to play with friends, obesity, poor performance in school and attention problems.

Although video games are better than T.V., they can be good and bad.

-Jennifer Jones

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980L RW-149

# The vortex of video games

## The positive and negative effects

Video games are one the most popular "toys" for kids of all ages. But, are they good or bad?

Some brain researchers believe there are positive effects of playing video games including giving the brain, and the neurotransmitters in it, a real mental workout.

There are many positive effects of playing video games including increased problem-solving and logic. For example, the game, *Angry Birds*, trains the brain to come up with creative ways to solve problems quickly. Other positive benefits are

hand-eye coordination, perseverance, memory and concentration.

However, some scientists believe there are negative effects of playing video games. Violence is the number one negative effect because many children are exposed to graphic violence through violent video games.

Other negative effects can be social isolation and becoming withdrawn, obesity, poor performance in school and attention problems.

Although video games are better than T.V., they can be good and bad.

-Jennifer Jones

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1080L RW-150





# The art of the selfie

## The phenomenon of self-photography

2013 was nicknamed The Year of the Selfie. What is a selfie? It is a picture taken at arm's length, with a device held by a person in the selfie.

Selfies have grown in popularity since the dawn of smart phones that include built-in cameras and social media sites where one can literally publish their own selfie to the Internet within seconds.

Here are a few tips for taking a great selfie. First, choose your best angle. Second, be aware of what's behind you and around you. Third, use the crop and zoom tools on your phone to

cut out annoying photo-bombers. Last, add a filter. 36% of people have admitted to altering their own selfies.

People take selfies for a variety of reasons. The top five reasons are: to remember a happy moment, to capture a funny moment, to show off a nice outfit, to capture a good hair day and because they are feeling confident.

Not everyone likes to take selfies, and that's OK. Selfies are a form of self-love and self-confidence...you like who you are and you want to share yourself with the world.

-Jennifer Jones

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850L RW-188



# The art of the selfie

## The phenomenon of self-photography

2013 was nicknamed The Year of the Selfie. A selfie is a picture taken at arm's length with a device held by a person in the selfie.

Selfies have become increasingly popular since the emergence of smart phones that include built-in cameras and social media sites where one can instantaneously publish their selfie to the Internet within seconds.

Here are a few tips for taking a great selfie. First, select your best angle. Second, be aware of your surroundings. Third, use the crop and zoom tools on your phone to cut

out annoying photo-bombers. Last, add a filter. 36% of people have admitted to enhancing their selfies.

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-Jennifer Jones

Hello Literacy - Informational Text for Kids

900L RW-180



# The art of the selfie

## The phenomenon of self-photography

2013 was tagged The Year of the Selfie. A selfie is a photograph taken at arm's length with a digital device held by a person in the selfie.

Selfies have become increasingly popular since the emergence of smart phones that include built-in cameras and social media sites like Facebook and Instagram that upload to the Internet within seconds.

Here are a few tips for taking fabulous selfies. Select the best angle, and be aware of the surroundings. Also, use the crop and zoom tools on the phone to cut out irritating photo-

bombers, and play with the filters. 36% of people have admitted to enhancing their selfies with filters.

People take selfies for a multitude of reasons. The top five reasons are: to remember a joyful moment, to capture a humorous moment, to show off a nice outfit, to capture a good hair day or simply because they are feeling confident.

Not everyone likes to take selfies, and that's OK. Selfies are a form of self-love. They say, "I like who I am, and I want to share myself with the world."

-Jennifer Jones

Hello Literacy - Informational Text for Kids

970L RW-183



# The art of the selfie

## The phenomenon of self-photography

2013 was tagged The Year of the Selfie. A selfie is a photograph taken at arm's length with a digital device held by a person in the selfie.

Selfies have become increasingly popular since the emergence of smart phones that include built-in cameras and social media sites like Facebook and Instagram that upload selfies to the Internet within seconds.

Here are a few tips for taking fabulous selfies. Select the best angle, be aware of the surroundings, smile, use the crop and zoom tools on the phone to cut out annoying photo-

bombers, and play with the filters. 36% of people have admitted to enhancing their selfies with filters.

People take selfies for a multitude of reasons. The top five reasons are: to remember a joyful moment, to capture a humorous moment, to show off a nice outfit, to capture a good hair day or simply because they are feeling confident.

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-Jennifer Jones

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1030L RW-182



Laundry lines hanging in a neighborhood in Istanbul, Turkey

# Laundry around the world

Clothes get cleaned in many different ways

Everyone wears clothes. Some people wear a few clothes and some people wear a lot of clothes. Some clothes are for playing around and working. And, some clothes are fancy, like for church, weddings and parties.

Everyone wears some type of clothing. However, everyone gets their clothes clean in very different ways. It depends on where and how people live. Just because people live in the same country doesn't mean they all clean their clothes the same.

Some people have washing machines in their home. Some people

take their clothes to the cleaners and pay someone else to wash their clothes. Some people wash their clothes in a pan or tub of water while others wash their clothes in a stream or lake.

Since water is needed to get clothes clean, they must get dry. Some people use a large dryer and some people hang their clothes on a line and let the clothes dry naturally.

There is no right or wrong way to clean clothes. Everyone has laundry but everyone has a different system for getting them clean.

-Jennifer Jones

Hello Literacy - Informational Text for Kids

770L RW-179



Laundry lines hanging in a neighborhood in Istanbul, Turkey

# Laundry around the world

Clothes get cleaned in many different ways

Everyone wears clothes. Some people wear a few clothes and some people wear a lot of clothes. Some clothes are for playing around and working. And, some clothes are fancy, like for church, weddings and parties.

Everyone wears some type of clothing. However, everyone gets their clothes clean in very different ways. It depends on where and how you live. Just because people live in the same country doesn't mean they all clean their clothes the same way.

Some people have washing machines in their home. Some people

take their clothes to the cleaners and pay someone else to do their clothes washing. Some people wash their clothes in a pan or tub of water while others wash their clothes in a stream or lake.

Since water is needed to get clothes clean, they must get dry. Some people use a large dryer and some people hang their clothes on a line and let the clothes dry naturally.

There is no right or wrong way to clean clothes. Everyone has laundry but everyone has a different system for getting them clean.

-Jennifer Jones

Hello Literacy - Informational Text for Kids

870L RW-175



Laundry lines hanging in a neighborhood in Istanbul, Turkey

# Laundry around the world

Clothes get cleaned in many different ways

Everyone wears clothes, but some people wear a few clothes and some people wear a lot of clothes. Some clothes are for playing around and working. And, some clothes are fancy for more formal occasions.

Everyone wears some form of clothing but everyone gets their clothes clean in very different ways depending on their living conditions. Just because people live in the same country doesn't mean they all clean their clothes the same way.

Some people have washing machines in their home. Some people

take their clothes to the cleaners and pay someone else to wash their clothes. Some people wash their clothes in a pan or tub of water while others wash their clothes in a stream or lake.

Since water is needed to get clothes clean, they must get dry. Some people use a large dryer and some people hang their clothes on a line and let the clothes dry naturally.

There is no right or wrong way to clean clothes. Everyone has laundry but everyone has a different system for getting them clean.

-Jennifer Jones

Hello Literacy - Informational Text for Kids

920L RW-176



Laundry lines hanging in a neighborhood in Istanbul, Turkey

# Laundry around the world

Clothes get cleaned in many different ways

Everyone wears clothes but some people wear a few clothes, and some people wear a lot of clothes. Some clothes are for playing around and getting dirty and some clothes are fancy for more formal occasions.

Even though everyone wears some form of clothing, everyone gets their clothes clean in very different ways depending on their living conditions. Just because people live in the same country doesn't mean they all clean their clothes the same way.

Some people have washing machines in their home. Some people

take their clothes to the cleaners and pay someone else to wash their clothes. Some people wash their clothes in a pan or tub of water while others wash their clothes in a stream or lake.

Since water is needed to get clothes clean, they must get dry. Some people use a large dryer and some people hang their clothes on a line and let the clothes dry naturally.

There is no right or wrong way to clean clothes. Everyone has laundry but everyone has a different system for getting them clean.

-Jennifer Jones

Hello Literacy - Informational Text for Kids

1010L RW-178



A mother polar bear and her cub sitting on a polar ice sheet.

A mother polar bear and her cub sitting on a polar ice sheet.

# Polar bear predicament

As the ice melts, so does the polar bear population

Polar bears live in the chilly waters of the Arctic. It is a place where water is below 30 degrees in the winter. The sun never goes down. To polar bears, this place is their home.

Polar bears have thick fur and large paws. These features help them stay alive in this harsh environment. Something else they need for survival is the Arctic sea ice.

Rising ocean temperatures have caused the Arctic ice to melt like an ice cube. Polar bears need the ice to catch their prey—seals. As seals swim around the sea, polar bears hide behind the ice

and sneak up on the seals to catch them. Less ice means less eating which can lead to starvation.

Polar bears spend most of their months swimming in the water. But, during mating season, mother bears need the ice. With less ice, they spend more time in the water and less time mating, which causes less polar bears to be born each year.

According to Jeffrey Bonner, president of the St. Louis Zoo, “Global warming may not be affecting you, but it is really affecting the polar bears.”

-Jennifer Jones

Hello Literacy – Informational Text for Kids

890L RW-189

# Polar bear predicament

As the ice melts, so does the polar bear population

Polar bears live in the chilly waters of the Arctic. It is a place where water temperature fall below 30 degrees in the winter and the sun never sets. To polar bears, this habitat is their home.

Polar bears have thick fur and large paws; two features that help them stay alive in this harsh environment. Something else they need for survival is the Arctic sea ice.

Rising ocean temperatures have caused the Arctic ice to melt. Polar bears need the ice to catch their prey—seals. As seals swim around the sea,

polar bears hide behind the ice and sneak up on the seals to catch them. Less ice means less eating which can lead to starvation.

Polar bears spend most months in the water, but during mating season, mother bears need the ice. With less ice, they spend more time in the water and less time mating, which causes less polar bears to be born each year.

According to Jeffrey Bonner, president of the St. Louis Zoo, “Global warming may not be affecting you, but it is really affecting the polar bears.”

-Jennifer Jones

Hello Literacy – Informational Text for Kids

980L RW-188

A mother polar bear and her cub sitting on a polar ice sheet.

A mother polar bear and her cub sitting on a polar ice sheet.

# Polar bear predicament

As the ice melts, so does the polar bear population

Polar bears live in the chilly waters of the Arctic Sea. The ocean temperatures fall below 30 degrees in the winter and the sun never goes down. To polar bears, this habitat is their home.

Polar bears have thick fur and large paws that help them stay alive in this harsh environment. Something else they need for survival is the Arctic sea ice.

Rising ocean temperatures have caused the Arctic ice to melt. Polar bears need the ice to catch their prey—seals. As seals swim around the sea,

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Polar bears spend most months in the water, but during mating season, mother bears need the ice. With less ice, they spend more time in the water and less time mating, which causes less polar bears to be born each year.

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1030L RW-181

# Polar bear predicament

As the ice melts, so does the polar bear population

Polar bears live in the frigid climate of the Arctic Region, a place where the water temperature falls below 30 degrees in the winter. The sun never sets. To polar bears, this habitat is their home.

Polar bears have thick fur and large paws. These features help them survive in this harsh environment. Something else they need for survival is the Arctic sea ice.

Since the ocean temperatures have increased, it has caused the Arctic ice to melt. Polar bears need the ice to catch their prey—seals. As seals swim around

the sea, polar bears hide behind the ice so they can sneak up on the seals to catch them. Less ice means less eating which can lead to starvation.

Polar bears spend most months in the water, but when it is mating season, they need the ice. With less ice, they spend more time in the water and less time mating, which causes less polar bears to be born each year.

According to Jeffrey Bonner, president of the St. Louis Zoo, “Global warming may not be affecting you, but it is really affecting the polar bears.”

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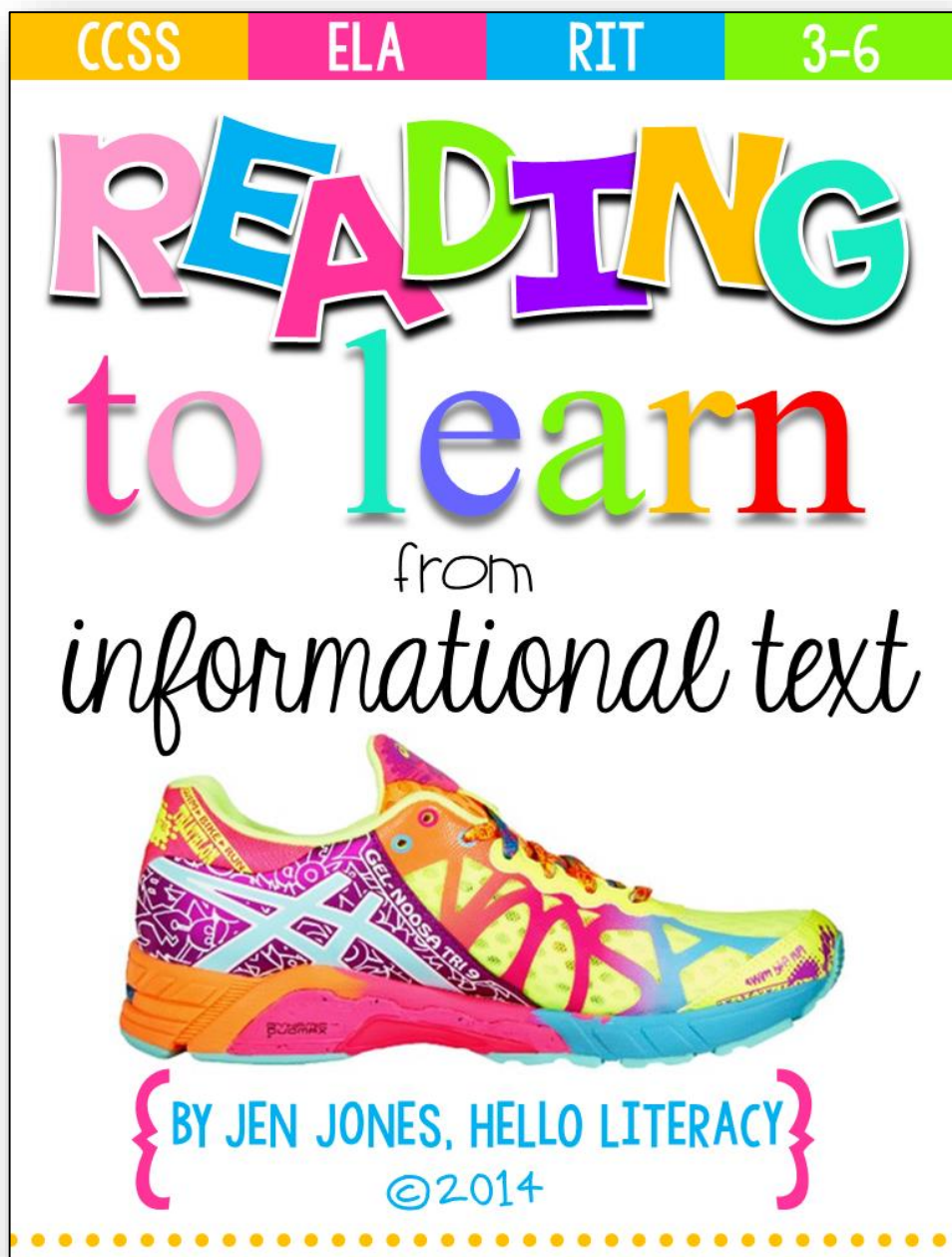
1050L RW-190



# More Hello reading response Resources

If you are interested in more graphic organizers and written response comprehension sheets for your students to use with these passages, I have a very comprehensive collection for sale in my TpT store, geared for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade reading levels. Here is a link to it in my store.

<http://tinyurl.com/readingtolearn>



# Note & Credits

If you interested in more nonfiction passage written in this same style and format, please let me know. I need to hear from you if you would like me to continue making these sets and I love feedback, so if there's something here that you'd like to see more of, or something missing that you think would make it better, I'd love to hear from you at [helloliteracy@gmail.com](mailto:helloliteracy@gmail.com). If you find a mistake, I would please ask you to follow the TpT guidelines and let me know first so I can have the opportunity to fix it before leaving negative feedback or a poor rating. I do appreciate that!

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Thank you so much for supporting my nonfiction passage writing endeavor. If you have any questions or special and interesting topic requests, please let me know. I'd love to hear from you! – Jen Jones ☺

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