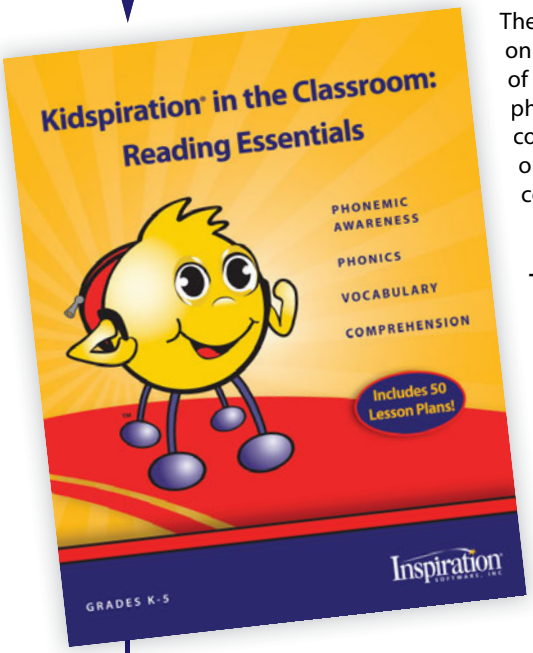
Excerpts from

Kidspiration® in the Classroom: Reading Essentials

Kidspiration® in the Classroom: Reading Essentials supports teachers as they help students develop the critical thinking strategies and reading skills that are fundamental to literacy. Designed for two grade spans, K-2 and 3-5, the book is aligned to McREL standards, and offers more than 50 lesson plans designed specifically to support K-5 reading instruction using Kidspiration 3.



The standards-based lessons for grades K-2 focus on early literacy and the essential components of effective reading instruction, including phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary and comprehension. For grades 3-5, the lessons focus on teaching comprehension, vocabulary and content literacy.

This preview of *Kidspiration® in the Classroom: Reading Essentials* contains:

- Complete table of contents from *Kidspiration in the Classroom: Reading Essentials*
- Four complete lesson plans from *Kidspiration in the Classroom: Reading Essentials*
- Ordering Information

Inspiration® SOFTWARE, INC

9400 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy, Ste. 300
Beaverton, OR 97005-3300 USA
Phone: 800.877.4292

Fax: 503.297.4676
Email: sales@inspiration.com
www.inspiration.com

Kidspiration® in the Classroom: Reading Essentials

Inspiration Software®, Inc. strives to support improvements in education and make a positive difference in students' lives. This book is part of our family of K-12 software tools and curriculum materials that help students learn to think and master key skills and curriculum. We value teachers, their time, and their commitment, and we strive to partner in their success.

Kidspiration® in the Classroom: Reading Essentials supports teachers as they help students develop the critical thinking strategies and reading skills that are fundamental to literacy.

Covering two grade spans, K–2 and 3–5, the *Kidspiration in the Classroom: Reading Essentials* lesson plan book offers 50 standards-based lesson plans designed specifically to support K–5 reading instruction using Kidspiration 3.

Lessons for grades K–2 focus on early literacy and the essential components of effective reading instruction, including phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary and comprehension. For grades 3–5, the lessons focus on teaching comprehension, vocabulary and content literacy.

Each easy-to-use lesson includes standards alignment, lesson description and step-by-step instructions. Phonemic awareness, phonics and vocabulary lessons also include teaching suggestions to support English language learners.

Reading Essentials Resources

Allington, Richard. 2001. W*hat Really Matters for Struggling Readers: Designing Research-Based Programs*. New York: Addison Wesley.

Harvey, Stephanie and Anne Goudvis. 2000. *Strategies That Work: Teaching Comprehension to Enhance Understanding*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse.

2007. *Strategies That Work: Teaching Comprehension to Enhance Understanding. 2nd ed.* Portland, ME: Stenhouse.

Kendall, J.S. and Marzano, R.J. 2008. *Content knowledge: A compendium of standards and benchmarks for K-12 education*. Denver, CO: Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning. Online database: http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/

Miller, Debbie. 2002. *Teaching Comprehension in the Primary Grades*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse.

Pinnell, Gay Sue and Irene C. Fountas. 2003. *Phonics Lessons: Letters, Words, and How They Work*. Portsmouth, NH: Heineman.

 © 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The complete table of contents from *Kidspiration® in the Classroom: Reading Essentials* is included below and on the following page. Lesson plans with stars are featured in this excerpt.

K-2 Phonemic Awareness

Blending Phonemes. 6
Blending Onsets and Rimes 10
Hearing Beginning Phonemes 14
Recognizing Rhymes 18
Identifying Number of Syllables 22

K-2 Phonics

Beginning Consonant Clusters. 26
Spelling CVC Pattern Words 30
Identifying Initial Sounds and Letters 34
Recognizing Short Vowel Sounds 38
Spelling Patterns 44
Identifying Phonograms 48

K-2 Vocabulary

Recognizing Color Words 52
Matching Synonyms 58
Building Compound Words 62
Understanding Contractions 66
Recognizing Sight Words 70
Understanding Suffixes 74
Content Vocabulary, ABC Pranks 78
Plurals: Adding *-es* 82
Word Map 86

K-2 Comprehension

Strategies for Reading Nonfiction 90
Retelling a Story 94
Nonfiction: Activating Prior Knowledge 98
Expository Text: Retell Framework 102

© 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prior Knowledge: Personal Connections 106
Storyboard 110
Inferring Word Meanings 114
Asking Questions 118
Synthesizing Text: The Big Idea 122
Creating Mental Images 126

3-5 Vocabulary

Definition by Association 130
Theme or Topic Web 134
Contextual Definitions 138
Alphabet Cards 142
Affix Web 146

3-5 Comprehension

What's It Matter? 150
Reflecting on Text 154
Preview, Predict and Confirm 158
Generating Questions. 162
Inferring Theme. 166
Reading Reaction 170
Coding Text 174
Literary Analysis 178
Determining Importance 182
Confirming Predictions 186

© 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

Hearing Beginning Phonemes

Standards

McREL Standards – Language Arts

(http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/)

- Discriminates among the sounds of spoken language
- Listens for a variety of purposes

Grade Levels: K-2 (Ages 5-8)

Description

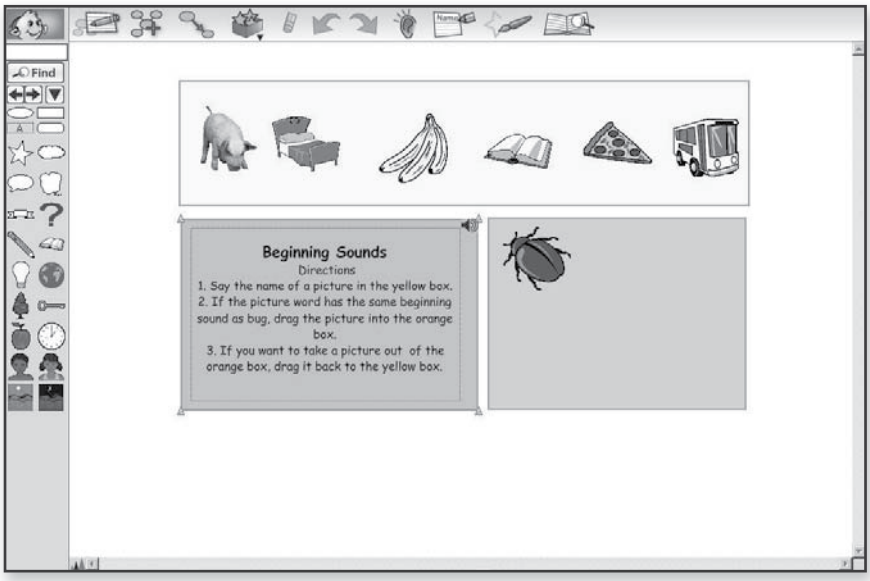
Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear, identify and manipulate individual sounds in spoken words. Hearing the word *cat* for example, and identifying the word as having three sounds or phonemes, *k/a/t*, is a phonemic awareness skill. Phonemic awareness skills include: word segmentation, rhyming, phoneme matching, awareness of syllables, and phoneme blending and manipulation. In addition to helping students improve comprehension and organize ideas for writing, Kidspiration® can be used as a tool to help students learn, practice and apply specific phonemic awareness skills, supporting the teacher's reading curriculum.

Students need to be able to say a word and match other words that have the same beginning (or ending) sound. This skill is essential if students are going to associate the sounds in words with letters. In this Kidspiration activity, young learners will identify pictures that have the same beginning sounds.

© 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

Instructions

1. Prior to beginning the lesson below, read aloud a book with alliteration. Suggestions are: *Tomorrow's Alphabet* by George Shannon and *Alphabet Under Construction* by Denise Fleming. Share with students that today they will learn more about beginning sounds in words so they can use them in their reading and writing like the author of the book just read.
2. Go to **Kidspiration 3 Teacher menu>Teacher Resources Online>Lesson Plans** and open the *Begin Phonemes b.kia* activity, shown below. Explain to students that they will use this activity to identify pictures that have the same beginning sounds.



   Explain that you will show them how to use the activity before they use it on their own. After showing students the activity, close the activity.

3. Create a new Kidspiration activity in **Picture View**. In order as listed, select the following symbols from the *Animals & Plants* symbol libraries, placing them randomly on the activity: *dog, bird, lion, donkey, llama, cat, cougar* and *bear*. Click on the *bear* symbol. Say the word "bear" several times, emphasizing the beginning sound. Explain to students that you want to find another picture that has the same first sound as "bear." Click on the remainder of the pictures, one at a time, saying the picture name and emphasizing the beginning sound

© 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

until saying the word "bird." Then model language similar to the following: "Bear, bah, bear. Bird, bah, bird. Yes, they both have the first sound of 'bah.'" Drag the two pictures side-by-side. Match the remainder of the pictures in the same manner. Gradually move from demonstration for students to guided practice by the students.

4. Return to the *Begin Phonemes b.kia* activity. Explain to students that they will now practice what they have learned about beginning sounds in words to complete the activity independently. Demonstrate for students how to click on the speaker icon to listen to the directions for the activity, pointing out that they may listen to the directions as often as needed.
5. Show students how to complete the activity by dragging a picture from the yellow box that has the same first sound as the picture in the orange box.
6. Demonstrate how to drag a picture back to the yellow box should the student not wish to have the picture in the orange box.
7. Once directions have been given, students may complete the activity independently.

Additional phonemic awareness activities, including identifying other beginning phoneme activities, can be located here: **Kidspiration 3 Teacher menu>Teacher Resources Online>Lesson Plans.**

Assessment

- Confirm that students have completed the activity, matching pictures with the same beginning sound.

Adaptations

- The activity may be printed after its completion and used as an informal assessment.

© 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

- The activity may be used in a literacy center. Print a copy of the *Begin Phonemes Exemplar.kid* activity shown below. Place the printed version in the center; instruct students on how to self-check their work.

- Select several symbols with the same beginning sound in an activity. Print the activity. Have students cut the symbols out and match the symbols that have the same first sound. Students may place the cut out symbols in an envelope and take them home for additional practice.

English Language Learners

Provide English language learners with opportunities to learn and practice the skill using words and symbols that are familiar to them. Practice saying the words several times, emphasizing the beginning sound, being careful however not to distort it. Students may need help in understanding the concept of "first sound" and need several demonstrations. Have students attend to what their mouths are doing when saying the first sound of the picture. Given that precise pronunciations can be difficult, accept approximations and praise students for their efforts.

© 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

Identifying Initial Sounds and Letters

Standards

McREL Standards – Language Arts

(http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/)

- Uses the general skills and strategies of the reading process
- Uses basic elements of phonetic analysis

Grade Levels: K-2 (Ages 5-8)

Description

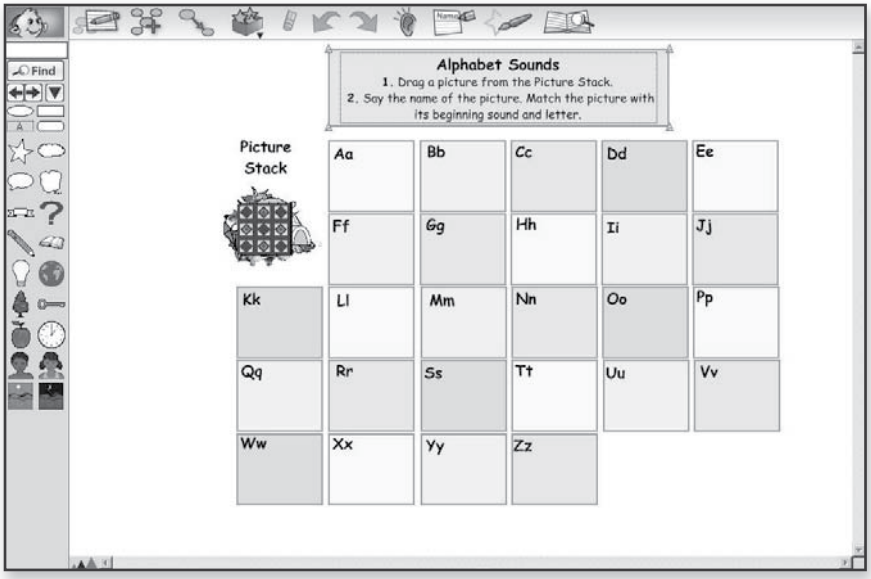
Phonics is the relationship between phonemes (sounds) and graphemes (letters/spellings that represent sounds). Phonics includes an array of graphophonemic skills. It is how the sounds of speech are represented by letters; students use the rules of phonics to read and write. In addition to helping students improve comprehension and organize ideas for writing, Kidspiration® can be used as a tool to help students learn, practice and apply specific phonics skills, supporting the teacher's reading curriculum.

Letter sounds can be associated with words and pictures. Students say a word and identify the first sound, while they identify the letter and connect the letter to its sound. When students are able to use this skill, they begin to use the letter/beginning sound relationship when reading and writing. In this Kidspiration activity, young learners will match letters and initial sounds of words with pictures.

© 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

Instructions

1. Select and read an alphabet book to the class. After reading, discuss how the book had a picture for each letter of the alphabet. Explain how the author matched the beginning letters and sounds with the pictures or illustrations in the book.
2. Go to **Kidspiration 3 Teacher menu>Teacher Resources Online>Lesson Plans** and open the *Alphabet Sounds.kia* activity. Explain to students that they will use this activity to match letters and sounds with pictures and make their own alphabet cards much like the author of the book just read. Explain that you will show them how to use the activity before they use it on their own.



3. Share with students that they have been learning about letters and sounds and today they will learn more. Select a letter whose shape, name and related sound most students know. With the *Alphabet Sounds.kia* activity open, select a symbol from a library in the **Symbol palette** (not from the *Picture Stack*) that begins with the letter, and say, for example, "This is a door. Say the word *door* with me. I'm going to put the picture of the door under the letter *d* because you can hear the "dah" sound at the beginning of the word. This is a dog. Say the word *dog* with me. Where would I place the picture of the dog?" Model using other familiar letters and sounds, gradually moving from demonstration for students to guided practice by the students.

© 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

4. Explain to students that they will now practice what they have learned about matching letters and sounds in words to complete the activity independently. Demonstrate for students how to use the **Listen** tool to listen to the directions if necessary. Show students how to take a picture from the *Picture Stack* portion of the activity and place it in a letter card.
5. Remind students that knowing the letters and sounds at the beginning of words will help them to read and write. Once directions have been given, students may complete the activity independently.

Additional phonics activities can be located here: **Kidspiration 3 Teacher menu>Teacher Resources Online>Lesson Plans**.

Assessment

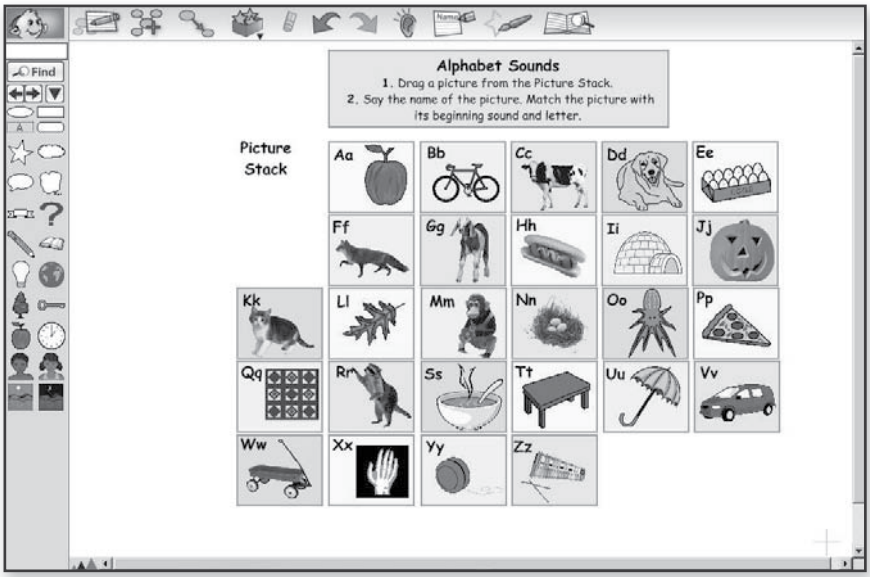
- Confirm that students have completed the activity, matching the pictures with the correct beginning letters.
- Observe if students use the correct beginning letters when writing.
- Observe if students use beginning sounds when reading.

Adaptations

- The activity may be printed after its completion and used as an informal assessment.
- The students may print the alphabet cards, keeping a copy at their desks, to assist them in reading and writing.

© 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

- The activity may be used in a literacy center. Print a copy of the *Sounds Exemplar.kid* activity shown below. Place the printed version in the center; instruct students on how to self-check their work.



- Rather than using teacher-selected symbols when demonstrating the skill as explained in #3 under Instructions, the teacher may elect to use the symbols from the *Picture Stack*.
- The activity may be used in Guided Reading groups with students who need additional experience with matching letters and beginning sounds of words.

English Language Learners

This lesson will help develop English language learners' speaking and listening vocabularies as well as help them to match letters and sounds. Students will need to know the names of the pictures prior to completing the activity. In a small group prior to teaching the lesson, teach and/or review the names of the pictures used in the activity. Say the name of the picture and have students repeat it.

© 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

Theme or Topic Web

Standards

McREL Standards – Language Arts

(http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/)

- Uses the general skills and strategies of the reading process
- Understands level-appropriate reading vocabulary

Grade Levels: 3-5 (Ages 8-11)

Description

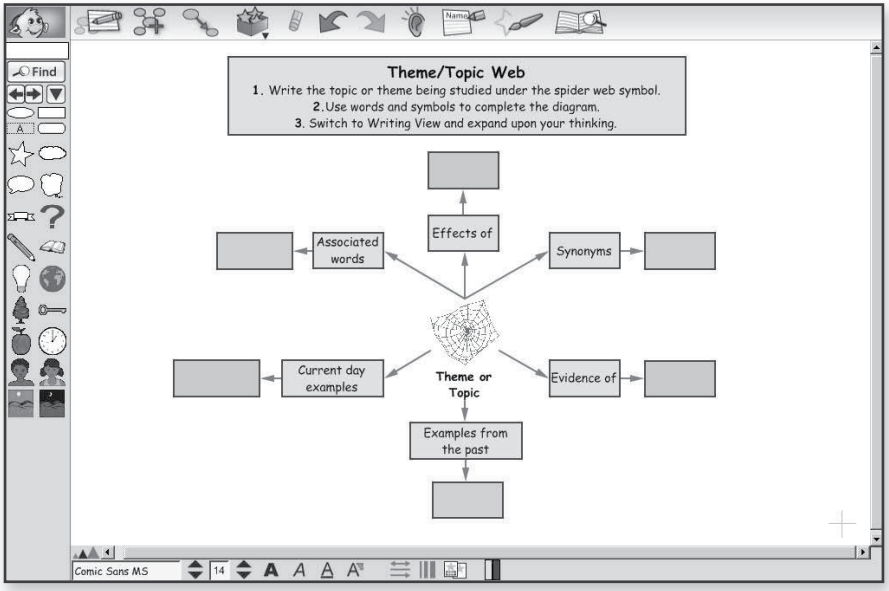
Vocabulary knowledge is the ability to remember and utilize word meanings and pronunciations. Students learn vocabulary through wide-reading as well as direct instruction. In addition to helping students improve comprehension and organize ideas for writing, Kidspiration® can be used as a tool to help students learn and apply vocabulary skills, supporting the teacher's reading curriculum.

Related to vocabulary instruction there are two principles essentially agreed upon: the relationship between vocabulary and reading comprehension is significant, and poor vocabulary is detrimental to the academic success of students. For disadvantaged students especially, vocabulary deficiency is primary in accounting for academic failure. The more words a student understands, the easier it is to understand what is read. The more terms a student knows related to a given topic, the easier it is to read, understand and learn additional information about the topic. Though no single approach to vocabulary instruction is most effective, active student engagement is key. This Kidspiration activity encourages students to develop vocabulary associated with a theme or topic, extending their thinking over a period of time.

© 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

Instructions

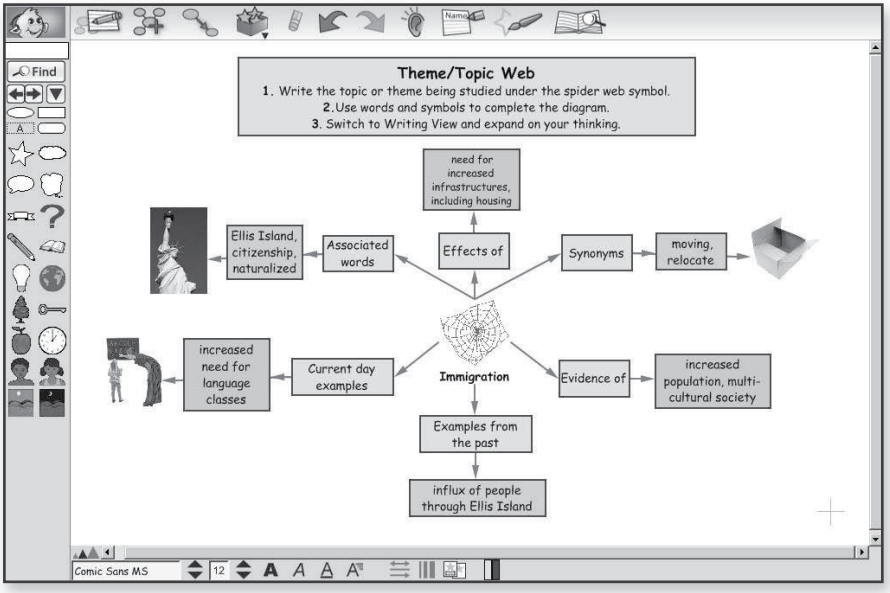
1. This activity is meant to be used when beginning a new unit of study and over a period of several days.
2. Go to **Kidspiration 3 Teacher menu>Teacher Resources Online>Lesson Plans** and open the *Theme or Topic Web.kia* activity, shown below, and review it with students.



Explain to students that they will use this activity as they begin a new unit of study. Using this activity, students will first share what they know about a topic currently, and then extend their ideas and vocabulary as they learn more.

© 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

Note: If you would like to see an exemplar prior to teaching the lesson, open the *Theme or Topic Exemplar.kid* activity shown below.



3. Using a topic or theme from the unit of study, ask students to complete the activity. This initial completed activity will provide the teacher with information related to students' current knowledge of the topic including topic vocabulary. After students have completed the initial activity, have students switch to **Writing View** and print a copy. Assess the activities for the students' current knowledge, including topic misunderstandings, and plan accordingly.

© 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

4. During and at the end of the unit of study, have students use the activity to record their academic understanding of the topic or theme. The *Theme or Topic Web.kia* activity will support students learning the attributes of the topic or theme.
5. After the final activity has been completed, have students switch to **Writing View** and print a copy of the activity.

Additional vocabulary lessons can be located here: **Kidspiration 3 Teacher menu>Teacher Resources Online>Lesson Plans**.

Assessment

- Confirm that students have completed the activity with examples appropriate to the theme or topic.
- Compare the initial activity with the students' final activity. Evaluate the increased level of understanding and use of vocabulary between the two activities.

Adaptations

- Several activities can be utilized for a unit of study. Use one activity for each major theme or topic in the unit. Depending on the content and purpose of the unit of study, students may self-select the theme or topic.

© 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

Determining Importance

Standards

McREL Standards – Language Arts

(http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/)

- Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts
- Understands elements of character development in literary works
- Understands similarities and differences within and among literary works from various genre and cultures
- Understands the basic concept of plot

Grade Levels: 3-5 (Ages 8-11)

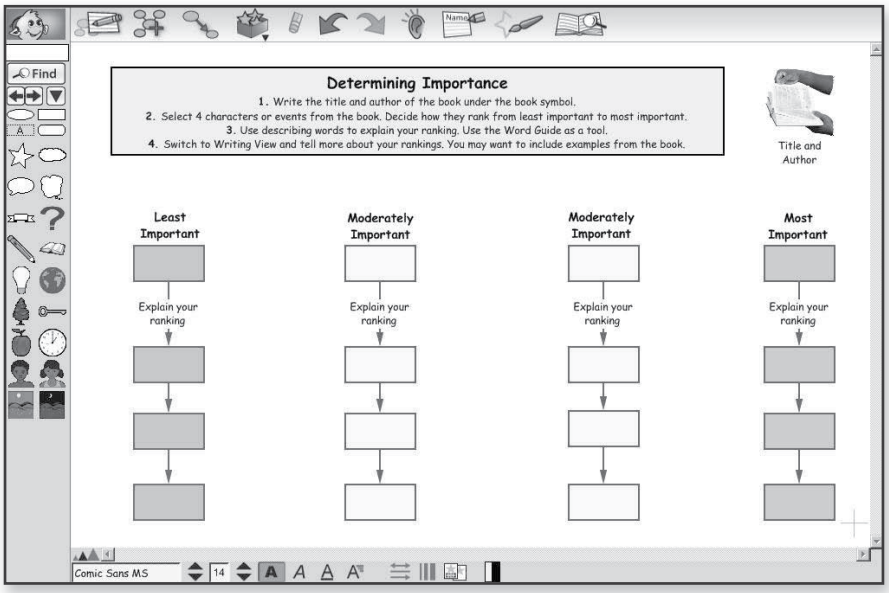
Description

Comprehension is the ability to understand, remember and communicate ideas read. Active readers use comprehension strategies to make sense of text. Strategies include: inferring, making connections, determining importance, summarizing, questioning and synthesizing information. Active readers read more deeply when they understand the nuances of character and plot development. Readers understand and recognize that not all characters and events are of equal importance. This Kidspiration® activity will support readers as they reflect upon key story elements and evaluate their importance to the story.

© 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

Instructions

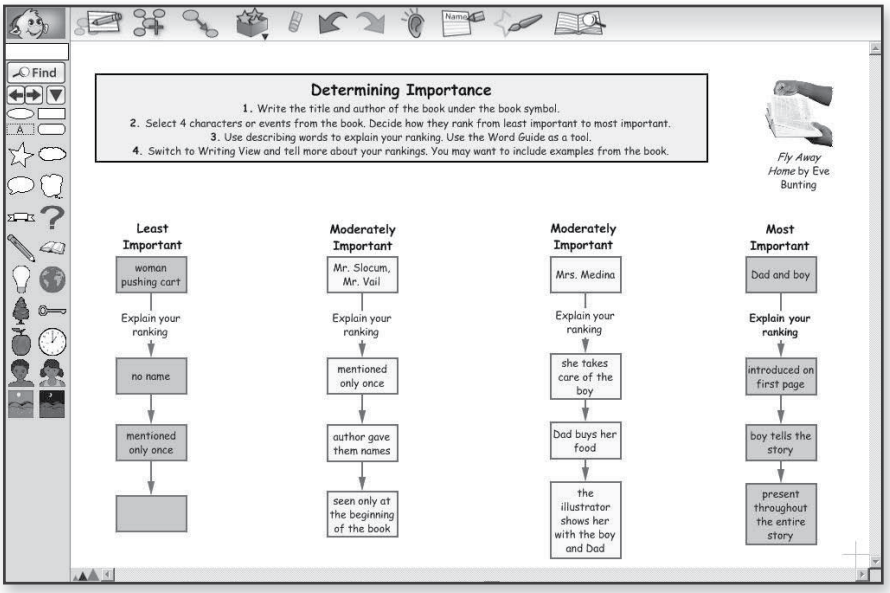
1. Prior to beginning this lesson, decide which key story element will be explored. For the purpose of this lesson, students will be asked to evaluate main and supporting characters. This lesson may be replicated in additional lessons when other key elements are taught and explored.
2. Go to **Kidspiration 3 Teacher menu>Teacher Resources Online>Lesson Plans** and open the *Determining Importance.kia* activity, shown below, and review it with students.



3. Share with students that active readers analyze text for the nuances and importance of characters or events. Today they will explore how the author reveals a character's importance within the story by analyzing the characters.
4. Select a short text which contains at least 4 characters. A suggested text is Eve Bunting's *Fly Away Home*. After reading the text, use a "think-aloud" to complete the activity. Ask students to rank the order of importance of the characters, having them share their rational.

© 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

Note: If you would like to see an exemplar prior to teaching the lesson, open the *Importance Exemplar.kid* activity shown below.



5. After students have had sufficient guided practice using the activity, have students complete the activity independently, reading text at their independent reading level.
6. After students have completed the activity, come back together and discuss their analysis. During the conversation, focus on why students ranked characters as they did.

© 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

Assessment

- Confirm that students have supported their rankings with evidence from the text.

Adaptations

- When completing the activity independently, students should read books at their independent reading level.
- The activity may be used with a variety of text, including biographies and autobiographies.

© 2008 Inspiration Software®, Inc.

Ready to order?

Kidspiration® in the Classroom lesson plan books

Developed by educators, *Kidspiration in the Classroom* lesson plan books offer standards-aligned lesson ideas to help students learn to think and master key concepts in core curriculum areas—providing practical ideas and step-by-step directions that encourage students' learning and thinking.

Kidspiration® in the Classroom: Reading Essentials offers 50 lesson plans that focus on early literacy and the essential components of effective reading instruction, including phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension and content literacy.

Also available! ***Kidspiration® in the Classroom: Writing Essentials*** helps teach K-5 students how to write well. The book offers standards-aligned chapters and lessons on prewriting, drafting and revising, editing and publishing, and forms of writing.

Also available! ***Kidspiration® in the Classroom: Math Made Visual*** offers 30 lesson plans to help students develop conceptual understanding of number and operations, algebra, measurement, and geometry.

Special volume license pricing

Get the most out of Kidspiration and visual learning in your school. Volume license pricing is available for our lesson plan books, helping teachers take advantage of the power of visual learning and improve achievement across the curriculum. When you purchase a volume license, you receive a bound copy of the book and a CD which contains an Adobe® PDF file of the lesson plan book. Simply place the file onto your server to make the entire book instantly available to your staff.

Pricing

Kidspiration® in the Classroom: Reading Essentials

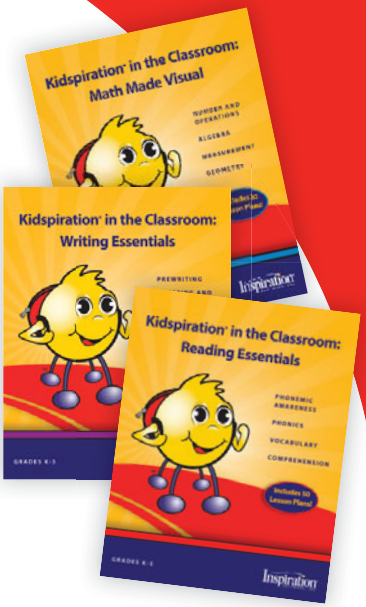
Single book	**$29.95**	**School-wide license**	**$199**

Kidspiration® in the Classroom: Writing Essentials

Single book	**$29.95**	**School-wide license**	**$199**

Kidspiration® in the Classroom: Math Made Visual

Single book	**$29.95**	**School-wide license**	**$199**



How to order

Online:
www.inspiration.com

Phone:
800.877.4292

Email:
sales@inspiration.com

Dealer:
Contact your favorite education dealer.

©2008 Inspiration Software, Inc. All rights reserved. Inspiration Software® and Kidspiration® are registered trademarks of Inspiration Software, Inc. The Kidspiration design mark is a trademark of Inspiration Software, Inc. All other brands are the property of their respective owners.

Inspiration® SOFTWARE, INC