



Laura Candler

Buddy Bio Poems

Fun Interviewing and
Writing Activity for Partners!



Buddy Bio Poems

By Laura Candler

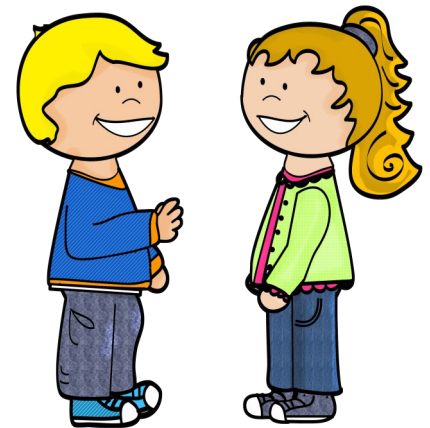


What are Buddy Bio Poems?

A traditional bio poem is a simple poem written about a person, either about oneself or about another person from the past or present. Bio poems can even be written about fictional characters. Bio poems are easy to write because they follow a specific formula and they don't have to rhyme. Most bio poems are written independently, but this two-day Buddy Bio Poem lesson includes a fun twist. On the first day, each student interviews a partner to gather facts and information about his or her classmate. Then on the second day, each student composes a short bio poem using information learned during the partner interview. This activity can be used as a back-to-school icebreaker, as a fun writing activity before a holiday, or as an introductory lesson for a poetry unit.

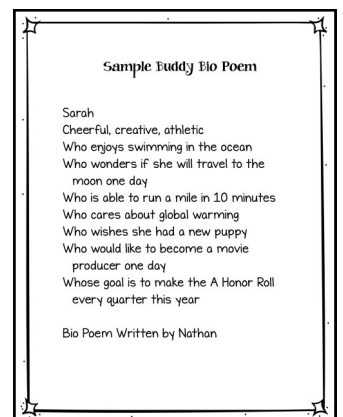
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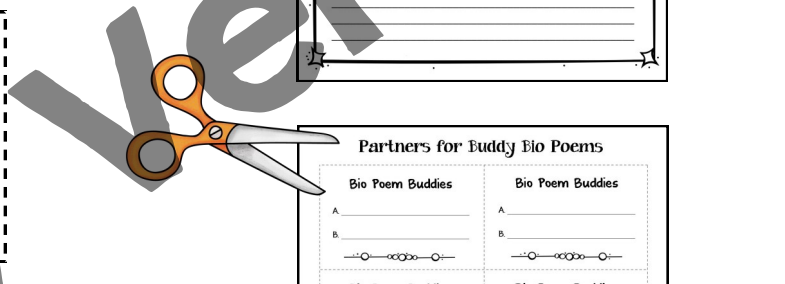
Getting Started: Advanced Preparation

- Before you begin, read through the lesson directions and take a close look at the sample bio poem. If you've never written one before, take a few minutes to write one about yourself to share with your students. Going through the writing process yourself will help you explain it to your students during the lesson.
- Review all of the printables in this packet to decide which ones to use in your lesson. You'll need a copy of one of the two Buddy Bio Poem Interview Questions and the Bio Poem Planning Page, but only one of the many decorative writing page variations for each student.



Advanced Preparation (Continued)

- Several of the decorative writing pages include a picture frame in the corner. If you decide to use one of those pages, you'll need individual pictures of your students for the final draft. You may want to take those photos with a digital camera on Day 1 while your students are conducting their interviews. Print photos that are approximately 2" wide by 2.5" tall.
- As tempting as it is to let students choose their own partners, this practice is not recommended. It's likely to lead to classroom management problems, and it defeats one objective of the activity which is for your students to get to know someone new.
- Take time before the lesson to decide who will work with whom. Print out two copies of the partner assignment slips on page 6 and cut them apart. You only need half as many slips as students in your class; discard the rest.

- In pencil, write half of the names of your students on the partner assignments slips on the lines labeled "A." Then randomly pencil in the remaining names on the lines labeled "B." When you finish, review the buddy assignments to make sure that the students you've assigned to work together are a good fit. Erase names and make changes if needed.
- If you have an odd number of students, choose one student to be your partner. Write your name and this student's name on one of the partner assignment slips.
- Review the interview questions on pages 8 and 9 to make sure they are appropriate for your students. If you prefer to create your own interview questions, print a copy of page 10 and write one question at the top of each block. However, be aware that creating your own questions will mean you'll have to create a new Planning Page as well.

Lesson Plan for Day 1 - Interviewing Partners



- To begin the lesson, tell your students that you have assigned each of them a partner for a fun interviewing and writing activity. During the activity, they will first interview their classmates to learn about them. Then each student will write a short “bio poem” about the classmate he or she interviewed.
- To help your students understand the bio poem format, display and read aloud the sample bio poem you wrote about yourself.
- Show the list of character traits found on page 7 to your students and spend a few minutes discussing the meanings of the words. In preparation for the interview, ask your students to jot down at least 3 character traits that describe themselves.
- Give each student a copy of the Bio Poem Interview Questions recording form on page 8 or 9. Discuss all of the questions with the class to be sure your students understand what they mean.
- Next, demonstrate how the interview process works with the help of a student volunteer. If you have an odd number of students, ask the extra student to be your partner. Tell the class that one person in each pair will be Buddy A and the other will be Buddy B. Buddy A will begin by interviewing Buddy B and will record notes about Buddy B's answers. Then the partners will switch roles, and Buddy B will interview Buddy A and will record his or her responses. Spend a few minutes demonstrating how to conduct the interview and how to record your partner's responses.
- Stop interviewing the student volunteer long enough to assign partners and to get the rest of the class started on their interviews. Announce who is partnered with whom as you hand out the Buddy Bio Poem assignment slips. Provide time for students to move so they are seated next to each other, and ask them to check their partner assignment slips to find out which one of them is Buddy A and which one is Buddy B.
- When everyone is settled, ask A's to interview their partners and take notes about B's responses. When most of the interviews seem to be finished, and ask students to switch roles. Buddy B in each pair will interview his or her partner and record notes about Buddy A's responses.
- When everyone is finished, collect all of the interview questions and notes, and keep them in a safe place for the next lesson.



Buddy Elo Poems Interview Questions		Buddy's Name _____
Interviewed by _____		
What are 3 character traits that describe you?	What do you enjoy?	

Buddy Elo Poems Interview Questions		Buddy's Name _____
Interviewed by _____		
What are 3 character traits that describe you?	What do you enjoy?	
What do you wonder about?	What are you able to do well?	
Who or what do you care about?	What do you wish?	
What career would you like to have one day?	What is one goal you have for this school year?	



Sample Buddy Bio Poem

Sarah

Cheerful, creative, athletic

Who enjoys swimming in the ocean

Who wonders if she will travel to the
moon one day

Who is able to run a mile in 10 minutes

Who cares about global warming

Who wishes she had a new puppy

Who would like to become a movie
producer one day

Whose goal is to make the A Honor Roll all
year long

Bio Poem Written by Nathan

Partners for Buddy Bio Poems

Bio Poem Buddies

A. _____

B. _____



Bio Poem Buddies

A. _____

B. _____



Bio Poem Buddies

A. _____

B. _____



Bio Poem Buddies

A. _____

B. _____



Bio Poem Buddies

A. _____

B. _____



Bio Poem Buddies

A. _____

B. _____



Bio Poem Buddies

A. _____

B. _____



Bio Poem Buddies

A. _____

B. _____



Character Traits

adventurous

athletic

brave

busy

calm

caring

cheerful

confident

courageous

creative

curious

dainty

determined

energetic

fashionable

friendly

funny

fun-loving

generous

gentle

happy

hard-working

helpful

honest

imaginative

intelligent

inventive

joyful

leader

loving

loyal

organized

patient

persistent

polite

proud

responsible

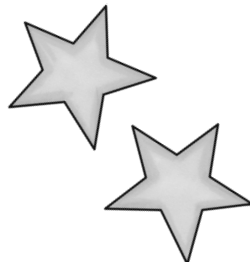
risk-taker

smart

shy

team-player

trustworthy



Buddy Bio Poems

Interview Questions

Buddy's Name _____

Interviewed by _____

<p>What are 3 character traits that describe you?</p>	<p>What do you enjoy?</p>
<p>What do you wonder about?</p>	<p>What are you able to do well?</p>
<p>Who or what do you care about?</p>	<p>What do you wish?</p>
<p>What career would you like to have one day?</p>	<p>What is one goal you have for this school year?</p>

Buddy Bio Poems

Interview Questions

Buddy's Name _____

Interviewed by _____

What are 3 character traits that describe you?

What do you enjoy?

What do you wonder about?

What are you able to do well?

Who or what do you care about?

What do you wish?

What career would you like to have one day?

What is one goal you have for this school year?

Buddy Bio Poems
Interview Questions

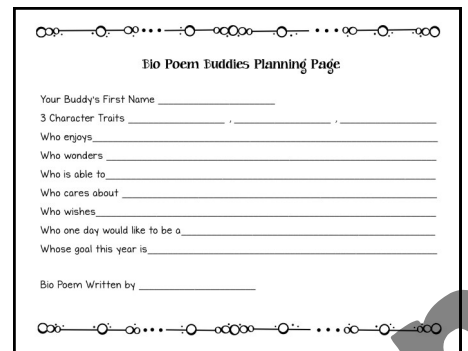
Buddy's Name _____

Interviewed by _____

Preview Version

Lesson Plan for Day 2 (Writing Buddy Bio Poems)

1. To begin on Day 2, ask your students to sit next to their partners. Return their Bio Poem Interview Questions to them.
2. Give each student a copy of the Bio Poem Buddies Planning Page. Demonstrate how to complete the page by using the notes you took during your interview with the student volunteer. Explain that you will only include only the best or most interesting details, and you won't try to fit everything you wrote on your notes page on the planning form.
3. Next, allow at least 10 minutes of work time for students to fill out their planning pages with details about their partners.
4. When most students appear to be finished, ask them to trade papers with their partners. Each student should read the details written on the planning page to make sure that the information is accurate and free of errors.
5. After approving what was written on the planning forms, partners return their papers to each other. Each student then writes or types his or her final poem onto one of the decorative writing papers.
6. If the writing paper has a picture frame, glue or tape a photo of the student into the frame.
7. Be sure to share the finished bio poems!



Bio Poem Buddies Planning Page

Your Buddy's First Name _____

3 Character Traits _____

Who enjoys _____

Who wonders _____

Who is able to _____

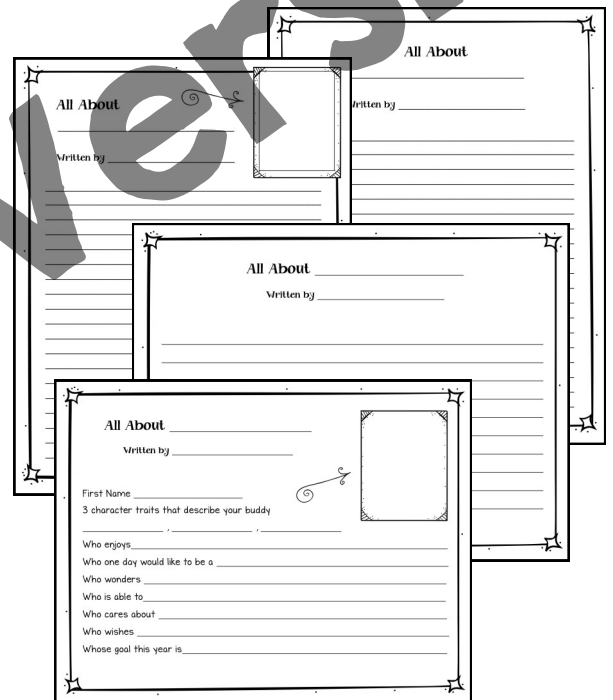
Who cares about _____

Who wishes _____

Who one day would like to be a _____

Whose goal this year is _____

Bio Poem Written by _____



All About

Written by _____

All About

Written by _____

All About

Written by _____

First Name _____

3 character traits that describe your buddy _____

Who enjoys _____

Who one day would like to be a _____

Who wonders _____

Who is able to _____

Who cares about _____

Who wishes _____

Whose goal this year is _____

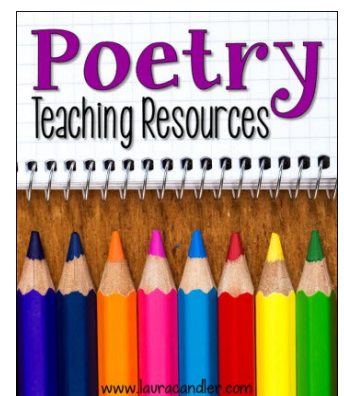
Ideas for Sharing Buddy Bio Poems

- **Share poems within cooperative learning teams.** To do this, seat two pairs of students together to form a team of four. Ask students to take turns introducing their Bio Poem Buddies to their teammates by reading their poems aloud.
- **Display Buddy Bio Poems** on a wall or a large bulletin board inside the classroom or in the hallway.
- **Create a class book** by laminating the individual bio poems and binding the pages together.
- **Create an ebook** by scanning the poems and converting them to PDF files. Combine all the PDFs into one file. Publish it on your class blog or email the ebook to parents.



To find more poetry resources and lessons, visit my **Poetry Teaching Resources page** on **LauraCandler.com**. This page is in my online File Cabinet, and it's loaded with free materials. Click this link to find it:

www.lauracandler.com/filecabinet/literacy/poetry.php





Bio Poem Buddies Planning Page

Your Buddy's First Name _____

3 Character Traits _____, _____, _____

Who enjoys _____

Who wonders _____

Who is able to _____

Who cares about _____

Who wishes _____

Who one day would like to be a _____

Whose goal this year is _____

Bio Poem Written by _____

All About _____

Written by _____

First Name _____

3 character traits that describe your buddy

_____, _____, _____

Who enjoys _____

Who one day would like to be a _____

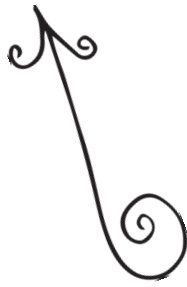
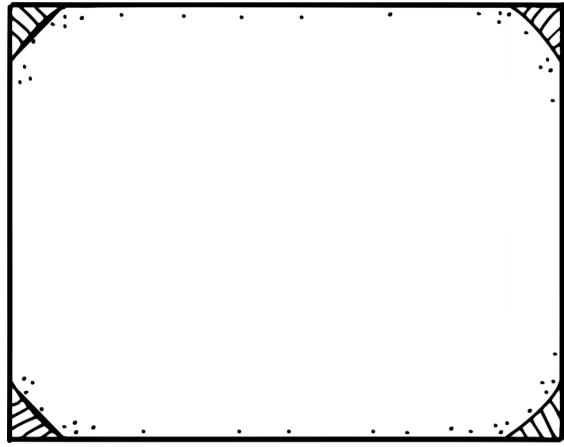
Who wonders _____

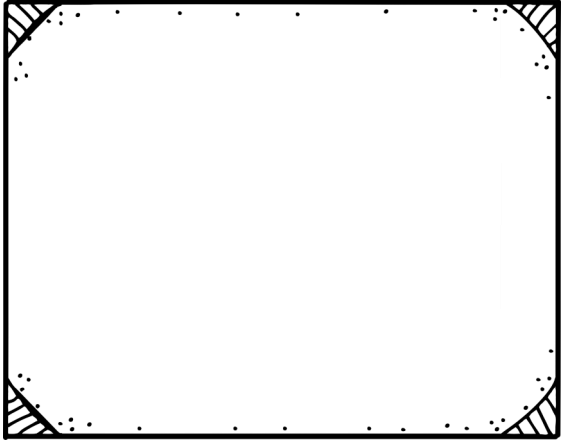
Who is able to _____

Who cares about _____

Who wishes _____

Whose goal this year is _____





All About _____



Written by _____

Preview Version

All About _____

written by _____

First Name _____

3 Character Traits _____, _____, _____

Who enjoys _____

Who one day would like to be a _____

Who wonders _____

Who is able to _____

Who cares about _____

Who wishes _____

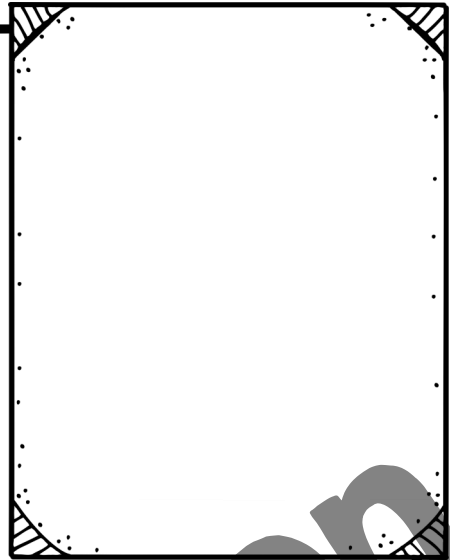
Whose goal this year is _____

All About _____

Written by _____

Preview Version

All About



Written by _____

Multiple horizontal lines for writing the student's response.

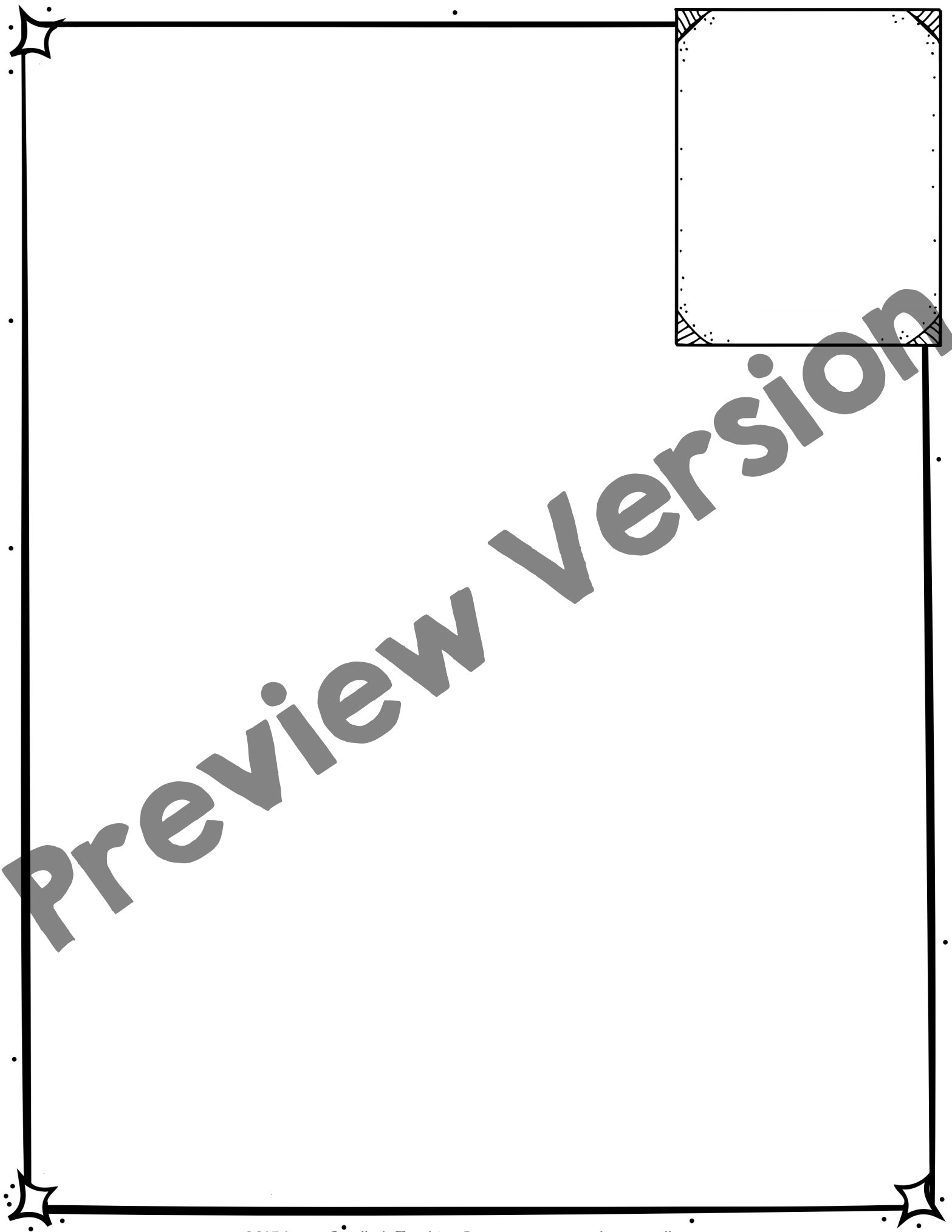
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All About

Written by _____

Preview Version

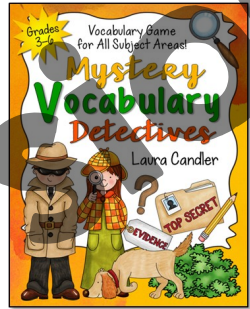
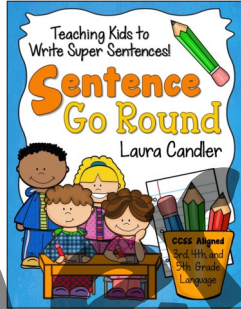
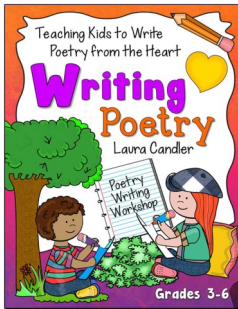
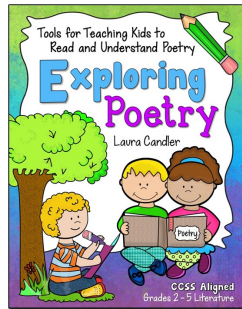
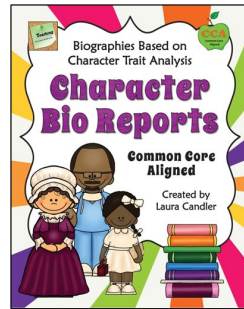
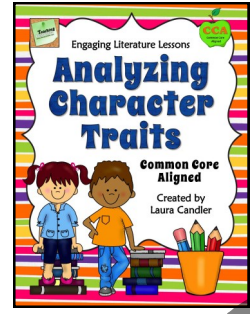
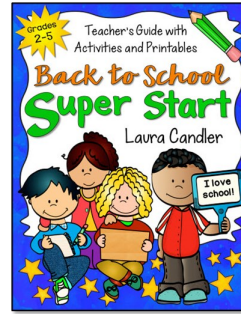
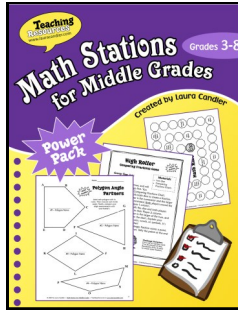
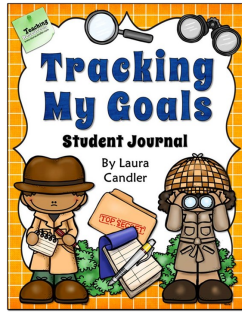
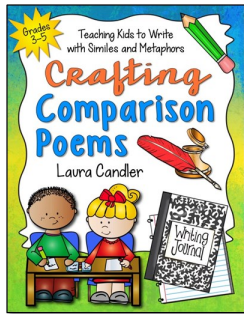
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More Terrific Teaching Resources from Laura Candler!

Click each cover below to find the item on TeachersPayTeachers.



Acknowledgements

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