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Resources
& Activities

★ Book Character Day

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Book Character Day

Teacher Info



Kids always want to dress up in costumes at the end of October, but many families don't celebrate Halloween. Book Character Day is a way to allow kids to participate in the fun of dressing up while meeting curriculum objectives. In fact, the activities in this packet are aligned with Common Core Reading Standards for Grades 3 - 5! You can find the complete details on page 9. Be sure to send home a letter about this event at the beginning of the month so students have plenty of time to prepare. On Book Character Day, involve your students in a variety of activities dealing with characters and character traits. You can create centers and have students rotate from one center to the next, do the activities together as a class, or allow students to choose two or three activities from a menu of options. On page four you'll find a sample parent letter, and on page five I've included a sample rubric. The last page has a blank rubric that you can customize by writing in the blocks before duplicating it. Book Character Day is a fun way to celebrate reading any time of the year, not just in October!

Suggested Character Day Activities

Character Word Clouds

Students create digital word clouds after analyzing character traits. You can find this activity and video tutorial on the Read Aloud Page on Teaching Resources: www.lauracandler.com/strategies/readingaloud.php



Book Character Diary Entry

Students pretend to be the book character and write a diary entry about something that happened in the book. They should find a specific event in the story and reread it just before writing their diary entry. They may want to start with the words, "Dear Diary, Something really incredible (strange, awful, etc.) happened today" and then write from the character's perspective.

Character Interviews and Introductions

Great way for students to share with the class! This is a two-part activity. During the first part, the students are meeting privately with a partner and interviewing them. Then following the interviews, allow class time for the introductions. Here's what to do:

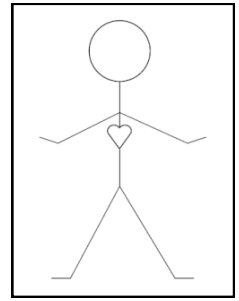


1. **Private Interviews** - Students pair up and take turns interviewing each other. One person asks basic questions about where they live, when they were born, what they enjoy doing, and any other details relevant to the character. The other person responds from the perspective of the character. The interviewer jots down enough notes for a 30-second introduction and then they reverse roles.
2. **Class Introductions** - Next each person takes a turn introducing his or her character to the class or to a group of students. For example, "I'd like to introduce you to my friend Harry Potter. He recently discovered that he's a wizard and began attending Hogwarts School to learn how to use his powers."

Suggested Character Day Activities (Continued)

Character Stick Figure Drawings

Students start with a plain stick figure drawing and add the details of the character including facial features, hair, and outfit. Then they add bubbles around the outside of the character to describe aspects of the character that can't be seen. See student example.



Bubbles near each of the following body parts can include these details:

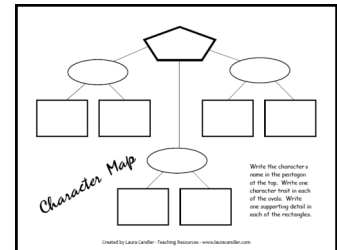
- Head - what he or she might be thinking about
- Feet - where the character is going
- Hands - what the character likes to do (include props or tools if appropriate, such as wand for a wizard)
- Mouth - what the character is saying
- Heart - who or what the character loves, or emotions the character feels



Note: You can download this pattern from my Graphic Organizer page on Teaching Resources: <http://www.lauracandler.com/filecabinet/literacy/litgo.php>

Create a Character Map

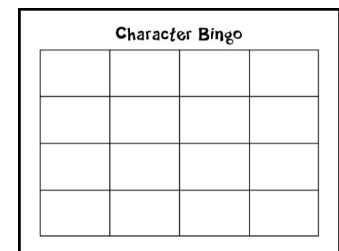
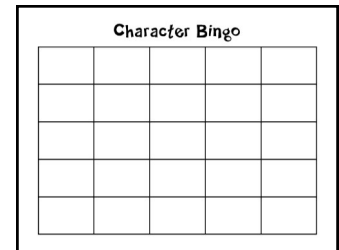
Students choose three character traits and use details from the book to create a character map. This printable can be downloaded from the Literature Circles page on Teaching Resources: <http://www.lauracandler.com/filecabinet/literacy/litgo.php>



Mystery Character Bingo

Mystery Character Bingo works best as a Character Day wrap-up after the students have been introduced to each character in turn.

1. Give everyone a blank bingo board, either a 4 x 4 board or a 5 x 5 board depending on the size of your class. You'll find blank boards on pages 7 and 8 of this packet.
2. Have everyone write the names of all the characters that participated in character day with one character per block. If there aren't enough blocks on the board, they will have to choose which ones to leave out.
3. Ask everyone to write a short description of their character on an index card. They should put the character name at the top and their name somewhere on the card.
4. Collect all the cards and shuffle them. Read aloud a description of the mystery character but don't reveal the name of the character or the student who dressed as that character. Ask your students to guess which character is being described and cover the appropriate spot on their board. Then ask the character to stand and take a bow. Allow students to move their markers to the correct location before moving on.
5. Continue using regular bingo directions.



Book Character Day



Dear Parents,

I'm excited to announce that our class will be having Book Character Day in a few weeks on the date shown below. On that day, each student should come to school dressed up as a character from a favorite book. The character must be from a book they have read recently (not just from a movie or cartoon they have watched), and your child should be prepared to describe both the character and the book.

Please work with your child to plan a simple homemade costume and then have your child fill out the form below. I need to know the name of their character, the book in which they found the character, and a description of the character. Please do not buy a book character costume! Just do your best to gather an assortment of hats, clothing, or other props to create a homemade costume. Your child should bring a copy of the book to class that day. He or she will take part in several character -study activities that day.

Please return this completed form by _____. We look forward to an exciting day! Thanks for your support with this activity!

Date of our Book Character Day _____

Student Name _____

Character Name _____

Book Title _____

Briefly describe the character. Include a description of how the character looks, acts, and feels. What character traits can be used to describe the character?

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Character Day Evaluation

Grade

Name _____ Teacher _____

Title _____ Character _____

You will receive a rating from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) in each area with comments added as needed. Your overall grade for the Character Day will be based on those ratings.

Activity Description	Rating	Comments
Character Day Letter		
Outfit (including Book)		
Character Interviews and Intros		
Character Word Clouds		
Character Map		
Character Stick Figure		
Diary Entry		

Character Day Evaluation

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Character Day Evaluation

Grade

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Title _____ Character _____

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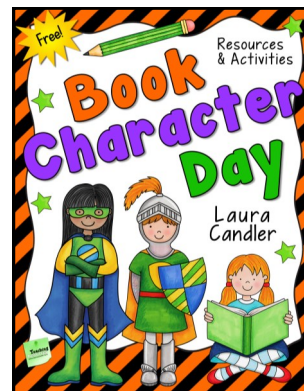
Activity Description	Rating	Comments

Character Bingo

Character Bingo



Common Core Aligned Reading Standards



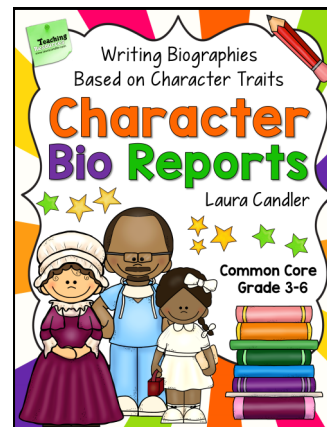
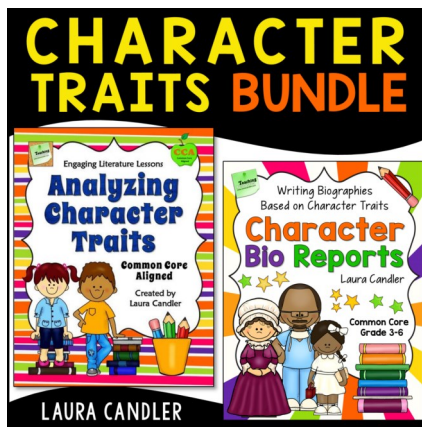
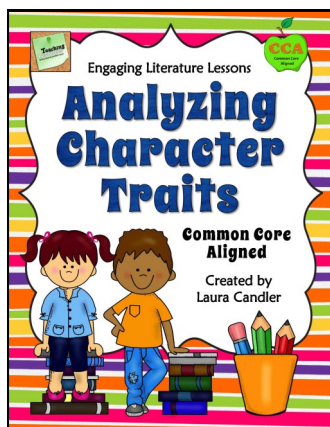
The literacy lessons in this **Book Character Day** activity packet are perfect for helping you teach Common Core Literature Standards in Grades 3 through 5. The character development component of each standard below can be taught using some or all of the materials in this packet. However, in order to teach all aspects of each standard, you'll need to find additional resources for the other topics described by that standard such as story settings and events.

Grade 3 - 5 Standards That Reference Character Development

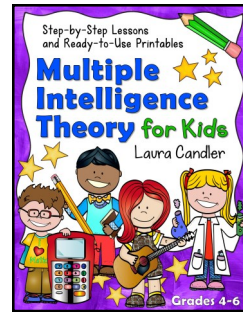
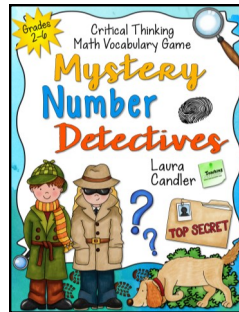
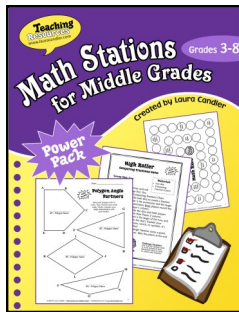
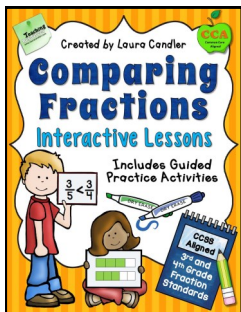
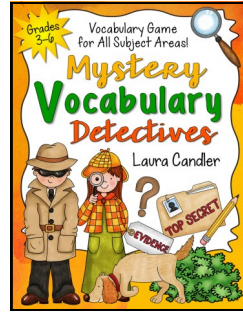
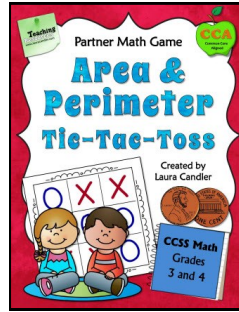
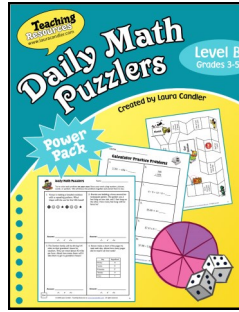
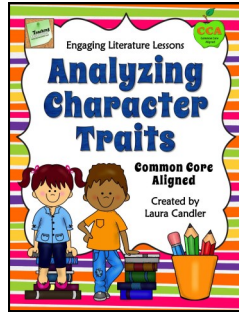
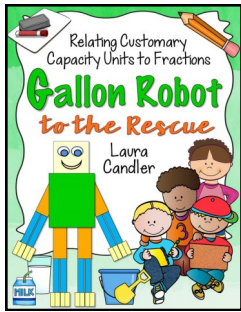
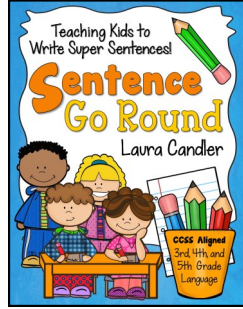
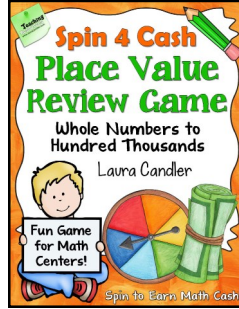
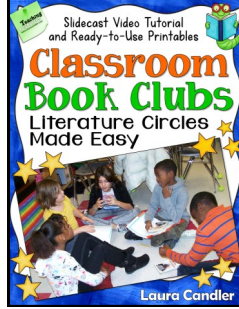
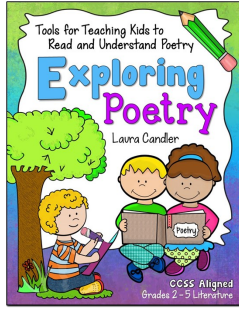
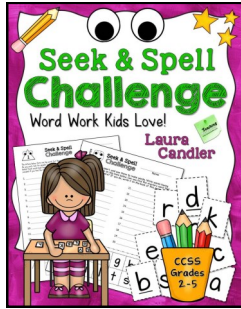
- **Grade 3 RL 3.3** Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.
- **Grade 4 RL 4.3** Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).
- **Grade 5 RL 5.3** Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).



If you liked this freebie, you can find more character trait lessons and activities in the products below. Click the cover images to find them in my TpT store or go to www.lauracandlerontpt.com and search for them by name.



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