

FAMILY PACKET

Family Packet, Grade 3, Cluster PREPARE, Module 1: One Topic, Different Writing Jobs

This packet gives your family a short, friendly view of this week's learning. Read it together, talk about the new words, and ask your student to teach the thinking tool aloud.

Every page is written for families.

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Ask your student to teach you what they learned. Explaining it aloud helps the learning stick.

Inside this packet

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A note from the classroom about this week's learning.

2 Family Tip Sheet

The skill and standard in plain words.

3 Key Words

New words with meanings and examples.

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The tool your student uses.

5 Conversation Starters and a Family Activity

Simple questions and activities.

6 What Strong Work Looks Like

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A checklist to sign and return.

1 Family Letter

Dear Families,

This week your student is beginning PREPARE, the unit that teaches students to prepare as writers. Students learn that one topic can be written about in different ways. They name the topic, purpose, and audience, then choose the genre that fits. We are practicing with *The Mystery of the Traveling Shell*, about Emsy, a girl who discovers a seashell in a museum far from the ocean and investigates how it traveled there. Narrative fits when the purpose is to let a reader experience an event or discovery. Ask your student to tell a small moment from the day as a story with a setting, actions, a thought or line of dialogue, and why it mattered.

With appreciation,

[Classroom teacher signature]

The Writing Academy, LLC

ASK FOR A DEMONSTRATION

Ask your student to teach the tool and explain why it works.

2 Family Tip Sheet

The skill in plain words

Use topic, purpose, and audience to decide which genre fits a writing job. Recognize when narrative is the right choice and develop the experience with TRAILS.

The standard in plain words

Your student plans a genre and develops a narrative with a setting, actions, thoughts, an important moment, and a lasting effect. These ideas connect to 3.11A(i), 3.12A(i), and 3.12A(ii).

How to help without giving the answer

- Ask your student to explain the tool in their own words.
- Ask for a reason and proof from the text or work.
- Listen first. Let your student make the writing decisions.
- If your student is stuck, ask which part of the tool could help.

topic

what the writing is about

Example. The topic can be a shell.

purpose

what the writing needs to accomplish

Example. The purpose can be to tell an experience.

audience

who will read or listen

Example. The audience can be a class.

genre

the kind of writing that fits a job

Example. Narrative develops an experience.

narrative

writing that tells an experience

Example. A narrative has an important moment.

TRAILS

a tool for developing a narrative

Example. TRAILS helps include setting and actions.

Reading tip. Pause at a new word and use the sentence to make a guess before explaining the meaning.

4 Our Thinking Tool

Start with Topic, Purpose, and Audience. Choose the genre that fits. TRAILS develops a narrative with Topic or Experience, Relationship, Actions and Thoughts or Dialogue, Important Moment, Lasting Effect, and Setting.

Mini version to use at home

Try it together

Read this week's question or task. Ask your student to name the topic, the action, and the information they need to use.

Family prompt. The student should explain how each part of the tool helps answer the task.

TRACKS In informational texts, TRACKS can help find details. It means Time, Reactions, Actions, Character or Concept, Key Knowledge, and Scenery or Setting.

5 Conversation Starters and a Simple Family Activity

- What does a writer decide before writing?
- How can one topic become a story or an explanation?
- What makes a moment important?
- Which genre fits a story about a discovery?

Name the Writing Job

Choose a pet, trip, or meal. Name the topic, purpose, and audience, then choose a genre and explain why.

Tell the Experience

Tell a small moment with a setting, action, thought or dialogue, and why it mattered.

6 What Strong Work Looks Like

This model shows the decisions a writer should make.

Prompt. Writing job. Let mystery readers experience a discovery.

Strong work

Narrative fits because readers can experience Emsy's discovery. The quiet museum is the setting, the shell is the clue, and Emsy's questions show why the moment matters.

Checklist for strong work

- ☐ name the topic, purpose, and audience
- ☐ choose a genre that fits
- ☐ explain why narrative fits
- ☐ include a setting and actions
- ☐ show why the moment matters

7 Progress at Home

My student can...

- ☐ name the topic, purpose, and audience
- ☐ choose a genre that fits
- ☐ explain why narrative fits
- ☐ include a setting and actions
- ☐ show why the moment matters

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Student name

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Family signature

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Date

Please sign and send this page back to school with your student.