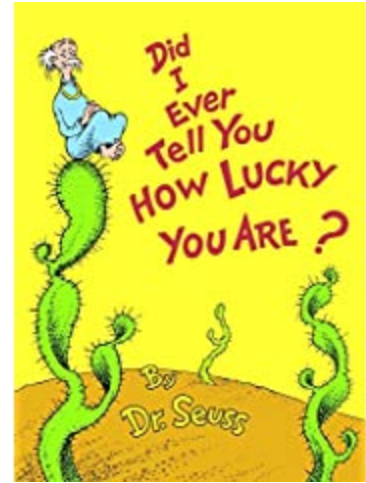


# Seuss on the Loose

## Brief Description

You will read a collection of Dr. Seuss books and determine the theme of the story. Even though Seuss is using wild characters and creatures, what point is the author trying to get at, also looking at Seuss's use of rhyme to tell a story.



## Product

After finding the theme of several of his books, you will apply it to a situation in your own life and similar situations you might face. You will eventually write your own Dr. Seuss-like book that shows this theme.

## Content Area

English

## Learning Objective(s)

Determine the theme and whether it is implied or stated directly.

## Inspiration Starting Point

**The Sneetches** by Dr. Seuss

## Estimated Time of Project

Two to three weeks

## Suggested Materials

Various Dr. Seuss books such as;

The Butter Battle Book

Thidwick: the Big-Hearted Moose

Horton Hears a Who

The Lorax

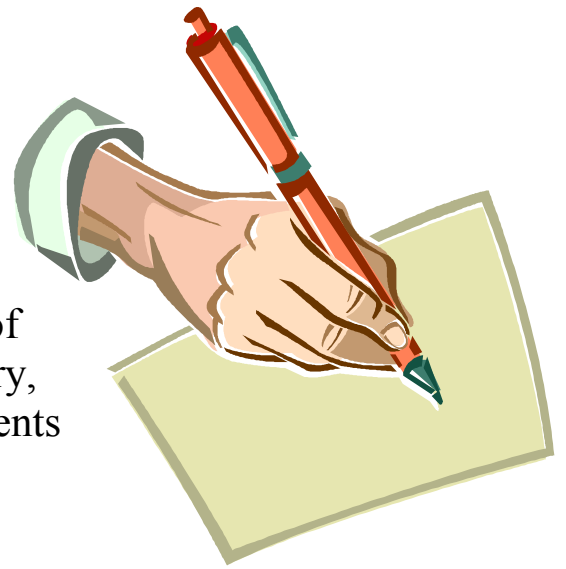
Did I Ever Tell You How Lucky You Are?

Oh the Places You'll Go

# Autobiography

## Brief Description

They say everyone has a story to tell and you will tell the one about your life. This will include your family history, a timeline of important events in your own personal history, how your family came to be in Ohio, and events that have shaped who you are.



## Product

You will write an autobiography that chronicles your life. You may want to include a timeline that shows the history of your family and/or a family tree that indicates the family lineage.

## Content Area

English/Social Studies

## Learning Objective(s)

Create paragraphs with topic sentences and supporting sentences (that are marked by indentation) and are linked by transitional words and phrases.

Construct timelines with evenly spaced intervals for years, decades and centuries to show the order of significant events.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Family Tree Maker cdrom

## Estimated Time of Project

Two to three weeks

## Suggested Materials

Supplies to make a 3-d family tree and timeline

# What If Cinderella had Gold Slippers Instead of Glass Ones?



## Brief Description

Folktales have been around for hundreds of years but different cultures have different variations on the same story. For instance, in the Disney version of Cinderella she has a magical fairy godmother. In the Iraq version the godmother is in the form of a red fish while in the Egyptian version it is a god. What do these stories indicate about the culture they come from? You will read an American folktale and compare it to the version from a foreign country, analyzing what the events, characters, and moral indicate about the country it was written in.

## Product

You will write an analysis comparing the US version to the foreign one, saying what the differences say about the differences in the cultures. You might even want to rewrite the folktale to give it a Reynoldsburg or Ohio perspective.

## Content Area

English/Social Studies

## Learning Objective(s)

Identify the influence of setting on the selection

Describe the cultural practices and products of various groups.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Read the two versions of Cinderella from different cultures

## Estimated Time of Project

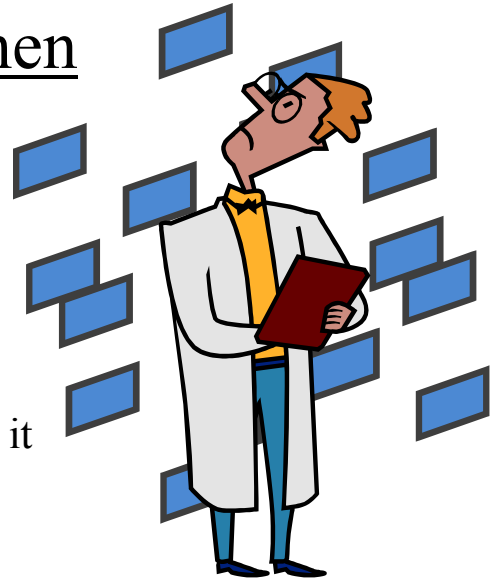
Two weeks

## Suggested Materials

Books with folktale from a foreign country

Book on culture about that country

# What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?



## Brief Description

Here you will research a career you are interested in pursuing. You will research what education and training goes into the job, how much someone in this field makes, how difficult it is to get into the career.

## Product

You will write a paper that shows in detail what someone in this career would have to do to become qualified. This should include your reasons for wanting to pursue this career and an interview with someone who is currently in the career.

## Content Area

English/Social Studies

## Learning Objective(s)

Generate writing ideas through discussions with others and from printed materials.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Look through book **Great Jobs for History Majors**

## Estimated Time of Project

One to two weeks

## Suggested Materials

Interview with a person in the career you are researching  
Books or college handbooks on your career

# You're a Poet and Didn't Know It



## Brief Description

You will write a poem, short story, or scene from a play. Using editing and workshopping, you will eventually send the piece out to a place for possible publication.

## Product

You will produce a final, typed draft that is suitable for publication. You will need to find a market to send your piece to and you will write a cover letter.

## Content Area

English

## Learning Objective(s)

Prepare for publication writing that follows a format appropriate to the purpose.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Read the short biography of S.E. Hinton

## Estimated Time of Project

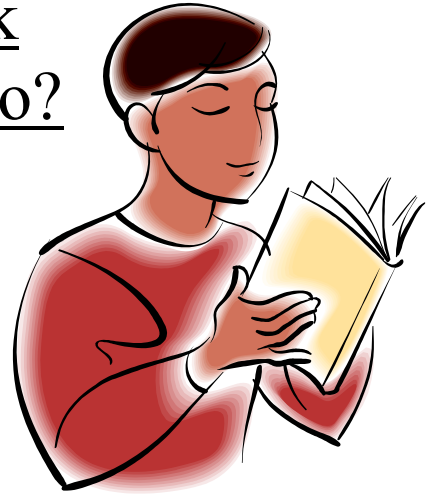
Two to three weeks

## Suggested Materials

Writing Short Pieces

Novel and Short Stories Writer's Market

# Everybody Has One Good Book in Them, But Do Any Have Two?



## Brief Description

Here you will look at a body of work by the same author. You might want to compare two or three of the “Harry Potter” books by J. K. Rowling, or look at Judy Blume’s “Superfudge” as compared to “Tales of the Fourth Grade Nothing”. The idea is to compare multiple works by the same author.

## Product

A paper or a posterboard that compares three or more works by the same author, looking at the similarities and differences in them.

## Content Area

English

## Learning Objective(s)

Write responses to novels, stories, and poems that include a simple interpretation of the literary work and support judgments with specific references to the original texts.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Look at and compare the two Shel Silverstein poems

## Estimated Time of Project

Two weeks to a month

## Suggested Materials

Three to five books/short stories by the same author

# And They Lived Happily Ever After...Or Did They



## Brief Description

Have you ever wondered what happened to characters after a book ends? Does their story continue even if a sequel does not come out? Here you will take a book or character and continue the story, predicting what might happen in the future.

## Product

You will write a short story that continues the original story, showing what might happen to the characters after the book ends.

## Content Area

English

## Learning Objective(s)

Write narratives that sequence events, including descriptive details and vivid language to develop plot, characters, and setting and to establish a point of view.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Read **Goldilocks Returns** by Lisa Campbell Ernst

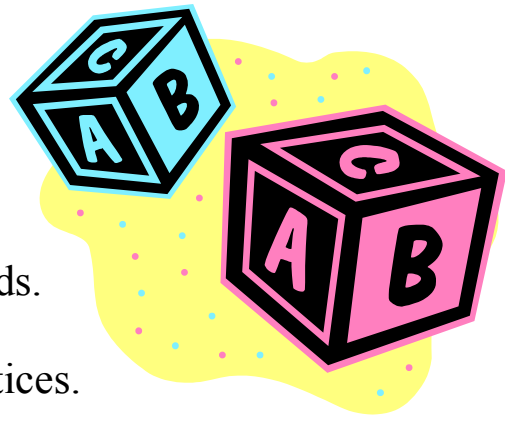
## Estimated Time of Project

Two to three weeks

## Suggested Materials

Paper  
Original story  
Imagination

# Fab Vocab



## Brief Description

People have developed different methods for learning vocabulary words. Some like to use lists, others index cards, while others use listening practices.

## Product

You will develop a book or game to teach people how to learn their vocabulary words. You should include instructions, worksheets, vocabulary lists, and any other materials one would need to use your method.

## Content Area

English

## Learning Objective(s)

Determine the meaning of unknown words by using a variety of context clues, including word, sentence, and paragraph clues.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Look at example vocabulary books

## Estimated Time of Project

Two weeks

## Suggested Materials

Dictionary



# Create Your Own Illustrated Thesaurus



## Brief Description

A Thesaurus is a reference book that provides the synonyms (words that are similar) and antonyms (words that are the opposite) of words. The problem is that Thesaurus' are so large that carrying one around and using it in class is not very practical.

## Product

You will create a Thesaurus for commonly used words you use in your everyday life and class. Your Thesaurus should contain at least 50 words with 5 synonyms and 2 antonyms for each entry. Included with each entry should be two illustrations, one that shows the synonym, one the antonym. You can personalize your own Thesaurus to include slang words and other terms not found in a regular Thesaurus. You should not just copy the words from a Thesaurus but work on figuring out the synonyms and antonyms yourself, checking to make sure your information is correct.

## Content Area

English

## Learning Objective(s)

Use context clues to determine the meaning of synonyms and antonyms. Identify and apply the meaning of the terms synonym and antonym.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Look at example Thesaurus

## Estimated Time of Project

One to two weeks

## Suggested Materials

Thesaurus

Paper

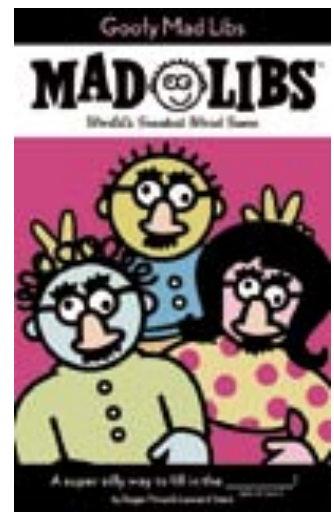
Nice pen or access to computer

# Mad Homonyms

## Brief Description

Madlibs is a humorous book where you fill in the blanks and then read the passage, laughing at the funny results.

Homonyms are a word with different origin and meaning but the same oral or written form as one or more other words, as *bear* (an animal) vs. *bear* (to support) vs. *bare* (exposed). Homonyms include homophones and homographs. Homophones are words that have a similar sound but are spelled differently with different meanings. For instance, if you **read** the book, could you also **red** the book? Homographs have the exact same spelling but different meanings, for example you write with a **pen** and you can also keep a pig in a **pen**. There are also homonyms



## Product

You will write very short stories where at least ten words in the passage have the wrong homonym, which makes the passage funny. You will offer a blank so that people reading the passage can correct the homonym, causing the story to make more sense. Example: Tom was **board** \_\_\_\_\_ in class. If Tom was really board, he would be made of wood. Tom would really be **bored** in class.

## Content Area

English

## Learning Objective(s)

Use context clues to determine the meaning of homophones and homographs. Identify and apply the meaning of the terms homophone and homographs.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Look at Madlibs book

## Estimated Time of Project

Two to three weeks

## Suggested Materials

Colored pencils

Paper to create book

Ruler

# Write Your Own Manual



## Brief Description

When you buy a new computer, a board game, or even something as simple as an alarm clock, it comes with a set of directions or a manual to tell the buyer how to use it.

## Product

You will choose an object that requires a manual or direction to how to use or even how to put it together. You will write a set of directions in your manual and accompany these with pictures or illustrations to show visual people how these directions work.

## Content Area

English

## Learning Objective(s)

Clarify steps in a set of instructions or procedures for completeness.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Look at the Instruction Manual for the Pet Rock

## Estimated Time of Project

One to two weeks

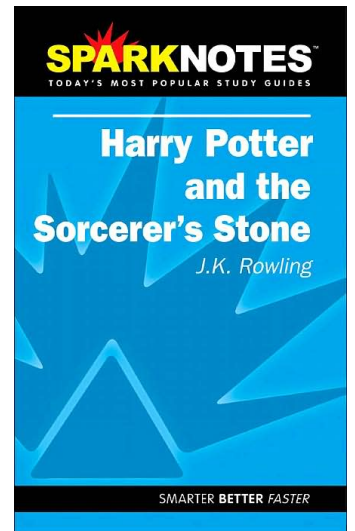
## Suggested Materials

Object for which you can write a manual

Paper

Nice pen or typed on computer

# Who Needs Spark Notes When You Have Your Own?



## Brief Description

Spark Notes are a summary of a book so that people either do not have to read the entire book, or if they need to review that can use the notes instead of re-reading the entire book.

## Product

Here you will create you own summary choosing a novel or short story you would like to summarize. You summary should include:

- identify the main incidents of plot of each chapter
- major characters
- describe the influence of setting
- identify the major conflict
- explain how the author suggests a mood

Can include illustrations of scenes if you like. Someone should be able to read your notes and get a good idea of what they story is about and who is involved.

## Content Area

English

## Learning Objective(s)

Summarize important information in texts to demonstrate comprehension.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Look at Spark Notes for “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone

## Estimated Time of Project

Two weeks to a month

## Suggested Materials

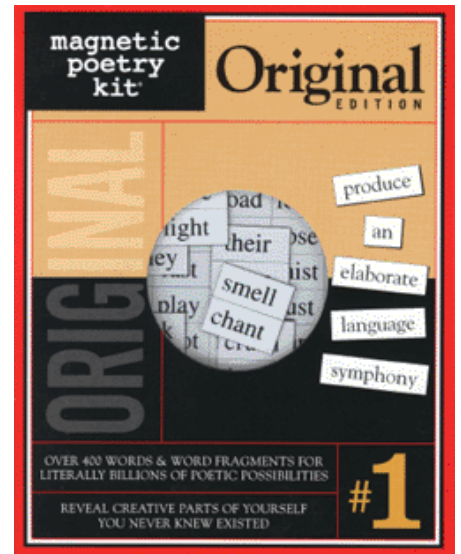
A book or short story to use

Paper

# Magnetic English

## Brief Description

Magnetic Poetry is taking magnetic words and arranging them into a poem. Prefixes are an affix attached before a base word or root, as *re-* in *reprint* while a suffix is an affix attached to the end of a base, root or stem that changes the meaning or grammatical function of a word, as *-en* added to form *oxen*.



## Product

Here you will make your own list of words so that people can arrange them and make new words using prefixes and suffixes. You will need to include 100 root words, 50 prefixes, and 50 suffixes. You can create games or riddles for people to play using their word choices.

## Content Area

English

## Learning Objective(s)

Identify the meanings of prefixes, suffixes, and roots and their various forms to determine the meanings of words.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Look at Magnetic Poetry set and try writing a poem

## Estimated Time of Project

One to two weeks

## Suggested Materials

Small pieces of paper

Nice handwriting or typed

Directions for how to use

100 root words

50 prefixes

50 suffixes

# Ivy Idol



## Brief Description

Singing is a very important talent but no one would be able to sing if someone did not write a song for them in the first place. Songwriting has become the modern-day version of poetry.

## Product

Choose a subject you would like to write a song about (does not have to be school-related) and write the lyrics for that song including a chorus and three verses. You do not have to put music to this song but if you are talented enough and would like, you may. You may also choose to sing the song without music, or if you are shy, have someone sing the song for you.

## Content Area

English/Music

## Learning Objective(s)

Phonemic Awareness, Word Recognition and Fluency

## Inspiration Starting Point

Listen to the CD of Songs and Songwriters looking over the lyrics provided

## Estimated Time of Project

Two to three weeks

## Suggested Materials

Ability to rhyme

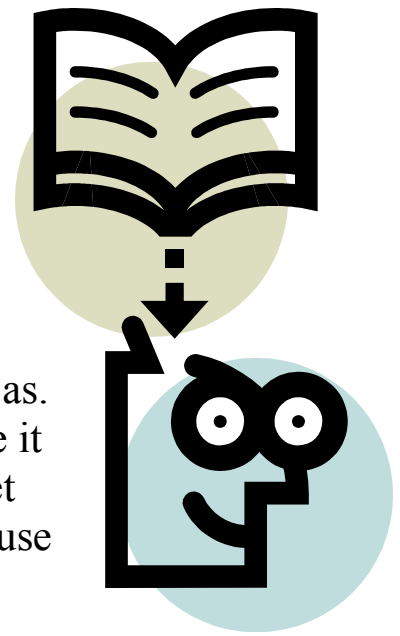
Possible background music

Something to record the song

# This Project is Like a Pineapple

## Brief Description

In this project you will learn about similes and metaphors. Similes are comparisons using like or as. This project was compared to a pineapple because it is tough on the outside but rewarding once you get inside. A metaphor is a comparison that does not use *like* or *as*.



## Product

You will write two poems, one using many similes and the other using metaphors. In addition to writing the poems you must analyze them, showing the metaphor and simile used.

## Content Area

English

## Learning Objective(s)

Identify and understand new uses of words and phrases in text, such as similes and metaphors.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Read the two poems, one focusing on a simile and the other on a metaphor. Then complete the worksheet deciding between the two.

## Estimated Time of Project

One to two weeks

## Suggested Materials

Creativity

Paper and pen

# Everything is Becoming So Tiny, but English Has Been Doing It for Years



## Brief Description

As the world gets more advanced in technology, the smaller the technology gets and more convenient. A computer used to take up an entire room but now it can be put on a device that fits on your lap and weigh less than five pounds. English also has a method for making things smaller and convenient called abbreviations. Abbreviations can save a lot of time and space. There are common abbreviations that everyone recognizes such as b/c for because, US for the United States, and abbr. for abbreviations.

## Product

You are to take a short story and make a smaller version of it, rewriting the story using abbreviations, symbols, and other methods to shorten the story into a miniature version someone could carry in their pocket without taking any words out or rearranging it.

## Content Area

English

## Learning Objective(s)

Identify the meanings of abbreviations.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Take the short short story and make it even smaller using abbreviations.

## Estimated Time of Project

Two to three weeks

## Suggested Materials

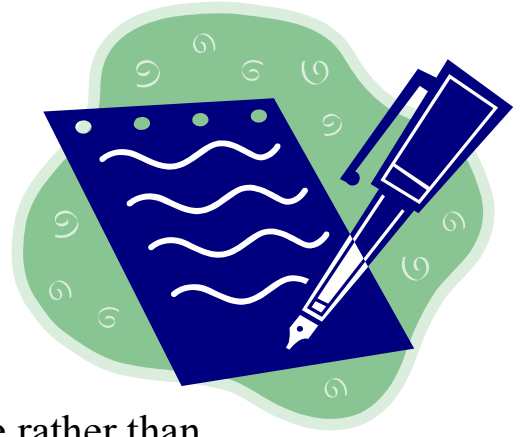
Short story more than five pages long

Writing utensil that allows you to write small

Small booklet to put your abbreviated story into



# What If You Changed the Setting?



## Brief Description

Could you imagine *The Midwife's Apprentice* taking place in present-day America instead of medieval England? Or *The Call of the Wild* being set in the jungle rather than the arctic cold or Tom Sawyer sailing down the Scioto River instead of the Mississippi? Or how would *Zathura* had changed had they gone underwater instead of into space.

## Product

You will rewrite a short story or chapter from a novel only you change the setting. How has the story, plot, or characters changed as a result? What influence did setting have on the original story and how has that changed in your version?

## Content Area

English

## Learning Objective(s)

Identify the influence of setting on the selection

## Inspiration Starting Point

Read the two stories with similar plot but different setting. How has the story changed?

## Estimated Time of Project

Two to three weeks

## Suggested Materials

Short story or chapter from a novel  
Paper and writing utensil

# A Picture IS Worth a Thousand Words



## Brief Description

It is often said that a picture is worth a thousand words, that the painting captures a snapshot of a larger story going on.

## Product

Take any piece of artwork such as “Nighthawks” or “Two Sisters” and create a short story that tells the story going on in the painting. You will have to place the setting of the story using the clues in the painting and include the people in the painting as characters. Your story should be around a thousand words and have a clear plot to it.

## Content Area

English/Art

## Learning Objective(s)

Add descriptive words and details.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Look at the work “Nighthawks” and imagine what the characters are doing in the diner and what their story is.

## Estimated Time of Project

Two to three weeks

## Suggested Materials

Piece of art

Paper and writing utensil or computer

# Your Recommended Reading List



## Brief Description

Everyone has an opinion when it comes to books. One person may love a book that others do not. There are various reasons for this such as personal taste, something that struck the reader, or a personal identification with the character or story.

## Product

Create your own recommended reading list of ten or more books. Make sure to include the author and title, give a brief summary of the books you chose, and then tell **why** you think it is a book that others should read.

## Content Area

English

## Learning Objective(s)

Use criteria to choose independent reading materials.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Look at the recommended reading list the Columbus Public Library puts out for elementary students. See if you agree with their selections.

## Estimated Time of Project

Two to three weeks

## Suggested Materials

Books

Paper and writing utensils

Opinions

# A Thousand Words Can Be Worth a Single Picture

## Brief Description

Charts, graphs, and tables are examples of graphic organizers that help to make information easier to read, especially for visual learners.

## Product

You will take a non-fiction piece of text whether it be a newspaper article, a historical factual piece, or a scientific explanation of a science concept, and translate it into a graphic organizer. This graphic organizer needs to sort the relevant information and allow the reader of it to draw a conclusion about the information.

## Content Area

English/Science or Social Studies

## Learning Objective(s)

Select, create, and use graphic organizers to interpret textual information.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Look at examples of different graphic organizers

## Estimated Time of Project

One to two weeks

## Suggested Materials

Graph or blank paper

Ruler

Legible writing or computer

Piece of non-fiction with information to draw from



# Sending a Message All Over the World



## Brief Description

There are students just like you all over the world. Even though they are from a different country whose culture seems very different from yours, there are cultural universals that make you very much alike.

## Product

Here you will become an international pen pal with someone from a different country. This can be done through letters or over the internet. You will carry on a correspondence with this person over an extended period of time, getting to know who he/she is.

## Content Area

English/Social Studies

## Learning Objective(s)

Write formal and informal letters, include important information and demonstrate a sense of closure.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Read the “Hints on Writing a Letter” to see if it is something you would be interested in doing

## Estimated Time of Project

Two to four weeks

## Suggested Materials

Stamps

Envelopes

Paper

Favorite writing utensil

# Flat Stanley (not the teacher)

## Brief Description

From the popular books, Flat Stanley is squashed by a bulletin board and now can fit into an envelope and be mailed to places all over the world.



## Product

You will read one or more of the Flat Stanley books and then send Flat Stanley on an adventure of your own, writing a letter and sending it to a place Stanley has never been before. The person receiving the letter will have to take a picture of Stanley next to a sign, monument, or landmark that verifies where he has traveled.

## Content Area

English/Social Studies

## Learning Objective(s)

Write formal and informal letters, include important information and demonstrate a sense of closure.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Read a Flat Stanley book

## Estimated Time of Project

Two weeks for initial project but Stanley's adventure could last the entire school year

## Suggested Materials

Flat Stanley books

Paper to write letters

Envelopes

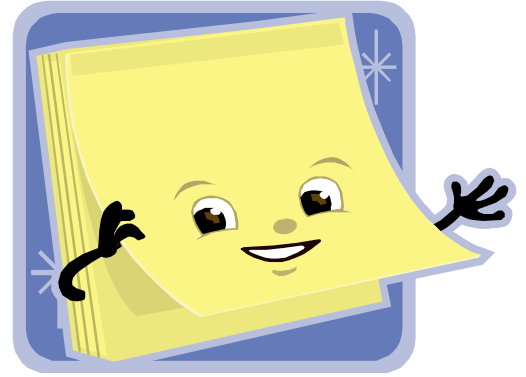
Stamps

Flat Stanley

# A Legal Cheat Sheet

## Brief Description

People use cheat sheets or reference guides to help them with certain skills such as their multiplication tables or the capitals of the states.



## Product

You will create a cheat sheet to help with one of the following

English skills/rules:

- Prepositions
- Conjunctions
- Interjections
- Pronouns
- Adverbs

Your cheat sheet should not be any longer than one page but should contain enough information to help someone if they got stuck trying to use one of them. It should include a definition for the term, how the term is used, and many examples.

## Content Area

English

## Learning Objective(s)

Writing Conventions

## Inspiration Starting Point

Look at the cheat sheet for Vocabulary

## Estimated Time of Project

One week

## Suggested Materials

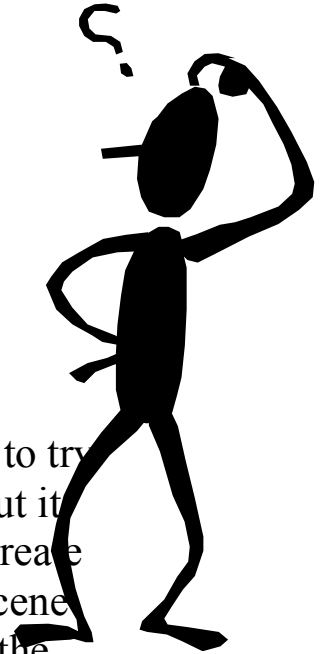
Information about the English term you have selected

Nice pen or typed on a computer

# It's a Mystery

## Brief Description

Detectives use scientific deductive reasoning in order to solve crimes, figuring out what does not belong or what stands out. All suspects and motives must be considered until the mystery is figured out.



## Product

You will write and/or stage your own mystery for others to try and solve, leaving clues and evidence to allow them to put it together and come up with a solution. You will need to create multiple suspects, provide clues, and construct a crime scene that allows people to try and solve the crime. Make sure the mystery is challenging but not impossible.

## Content Area

English

## Learning Objective(s)

Develop a purpose and audience for writing

## Inspiration Starting Point

Read one of the Encyclopedia Brown mysteries and see if you can solve it

## Estimated Time of Project

Two weeks

## Suggested Materials

Paper

Blank videotape (if setting up a mystery scene)



# Paper: It's Not Just for Writing

## Brief Description

Origami is the art of paper design through folding. It involves angles both in the model folded as well as in the unfolded paper. Learn how math and origami are linked and try some of the patterns.



## Product

You will create origami animals and research about that animal. You will make several of these either creating a farm, zoo, jungle, or other habitat with many animals. You will also try to invent your own creation in origami paper design.

## Content Area

English/Science/Math

## Learning Objective(s)

Locate important details about a topic using different sources of information including books and online resources.

## Inspiration Starting Point

Read “Origami and Math”

## Estimated Time of Project

Two weeks

## Suggested Materials

Paper

Patterns for origami from [www.paperfolding.com](http://www.paperfolding.com)