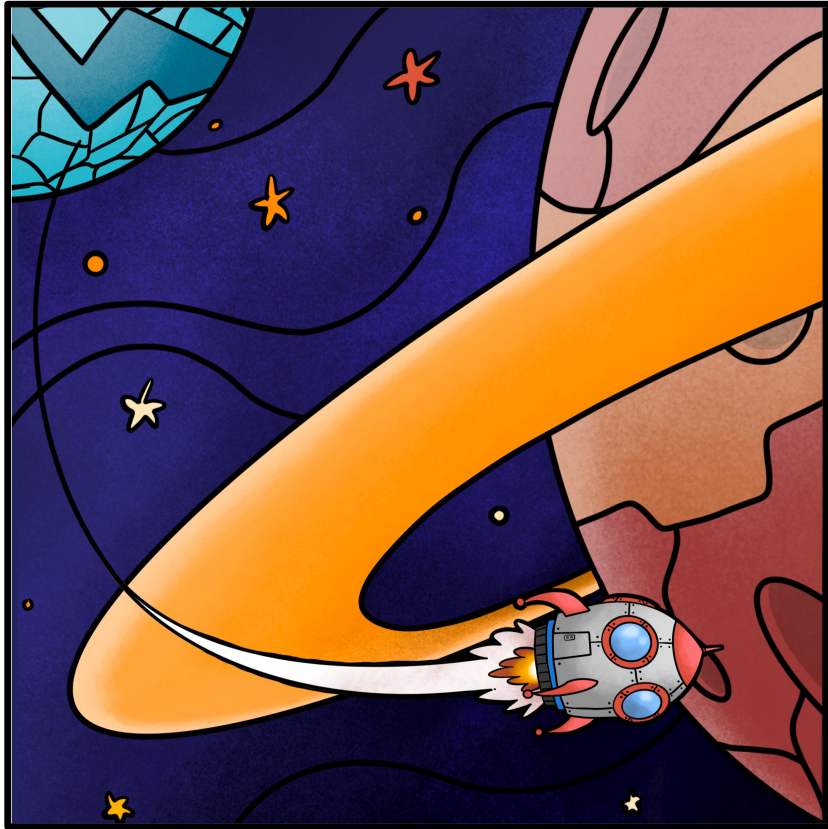




Searching for Home

story unit information

PREVIEW FILE



Take a shortcut to:

SPEECHY musings

CONTENTS

ABOUT *Searching for Home.*

PREVIEW FILE



THE STORY SYSTEM



Introduction and Preview



Macrostructure



Vocabulary



Syntax



Comprehension



Writing

OVERVIEW

OTHER FILES

RESEARCH

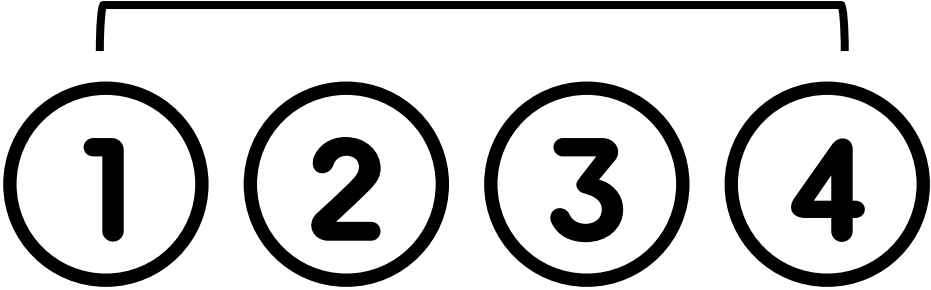
levels



Speech Sounds



AAC Supports





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PREVIEW FILE



The Basics

I hope you love this narrative-based unit based on my original wordless picture book, Searching for Home.

This resource makes it easy to use one story for your entire caseload to target both speech and language skills in a contextualized, meaningful, and engaging way.

In general, this file contains numerous versions of the book/story as well as related speech and language activities that should last you a month or more in therapy!

The book versions are included in both color versions and outline versions, as well as both printable and digital formats.

The following book file formats are included. I hope all of these options make it easy to customize this picture book for your entire caseload to target ANY speech and language goals.

- 3 levels of text (symbol-supported, original, advanced)
- Color and outline options!
- Symbol-supported AAC version (aligns with included AAC board)
- Digital, click-through book
- Google Slides™ version (with editable text boxes)
- Boom cards™

In addition, a variety of activities are included. They give examples of how to target many different language therapy goals using the picture book and hopefully make it easy to plan your therapy.

Note: For best printing results, make sure to select “Fit to page” when printing. Every printer varies, but on some printers, text and images on the edges can get cut off if that option is not selected.

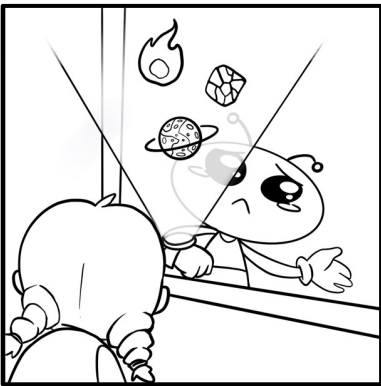
Story Versions

There are both **color** and **outline** versions of the story pictures included as follows:



IN COLOR:

- Wordless printable picture book (editable)
- Pictures only
- Story text levels 1-3 (symbol-supported, original, advanced)
- Digital (clickable) book
- Boom Cards™ (including all 3 story/text levels)
- Mini pictures
- Interactive book



OUTLINE:

- Wordless printable picture book (editable)
- Pictures only
- Story/text levels 1-3 (symbol-supported, original, advanced)
- Speech/thought bubble version
- Mini pictures
- Interactive book

Included Activities

The following activity files are included in this story unit:

- AAC board (low-tech, with core vocab + outer space fringe symbols)
- Advanced story elements
- Backstory drawing
- Basic concept visuals (big, round, hot, far)
- Beginning/middle/end sorts
- Category sorts (big vs. small, round vs. not round, hot vs. cold)
- Character description
- Compare and contrast activities
- Comprehension questions
- Context clues
- Core vocabulary handouts (big, turn, up, look)
- Describing + defining (rocket, flashlight, telescope, Earth, 4 planets)
- Direct vocabulary instruction worksheets
- Dot pages (simple reinforcers)
- Feelings worksheets
- Informal story retell and narrative assessments
- Item and character flashcards from the story
- K/W/L charts (for assessing background knowledge)
- One Sheet Language Lessons
- Predicting activity
- Problem and solution worksheet
- Related non-fiction texts
- Sentence building strips
- Sentence combining
- Sentence deconstruction
- Sentence formulation storytelling (cut and rearrange icons)
- Sequencing story elements
- Sequencing worksheets
- Simple story elements

Included Activities (continued)

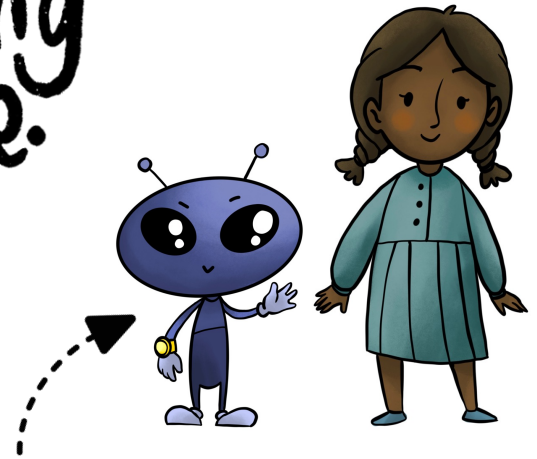
- Simple WH questions worksheets
- Sound-loaded story summaries
- Speech sound targets
- Speech sound worksheets
- Story retell visuals
- Story structure
- Story summarizing and basic story retell
- Suffix visuals and worksheets (targeting –y: stormy, rocky, rainy)
- Summarizing the story (SWBST)
- Supported writing activities
- Synonyms and antonyms (targeting hot/cold, wet/dry, happy/sad)
- Text and picture matching
- Topic writing ideas
- WH question information
- Write a parallel story
- Write the story worksheets



Searching
for Home.



Searching for Home.



Searching for Home is a story about a lost alien who is trying to find his home planet.

One night, Maya is awoken by a knock on her window. She discovers an alien who has crash-landed on Earth and is lost.

Maya offers to help the alien, who shows her images of his home planet using his watch. His home is red, hot, and rocky.

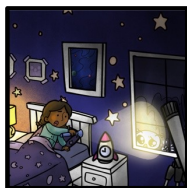
Together, they climb aboard the alien's rocket and launch into space to find his home.

Unfortunately, the first two planets they visit are not his home. The first one is very stormy and the second is freezing cold! But, on the third planet, the alien finally finds his way back to his red, hot, and rocky planet.

The alien thanks Maya for her help and gives her a hug before she returns to Earth. Once on Earth, she climbs back into her bedroom window, hoping her parents haven't noticed she was gone!

Story Elements

Searching for Home follows a simple 6-part story structure that you can use to tell and retell any problem/solution focused story! The 6 basic story parts are:



SET THE SCENE

In the middle of the night, Maya wakes up to an alien knocking on her bedroom window.



PROBLEM

The alien is lost and can't get home! He needs help. He shows Maya what his home looks like.



GOAL

Maya and the alien get on the alien's rocket. Maya wants to help get the alien home!



ACTION

Maya and the alien fly all over outer space searching for the alien's home.



SOLUTION

After searching several planets, they find the alien's home! Hooray!



END

Maya and the alien hug goodbye. Maya flies home before her parents find out she was gone!

From here, you can add more picture scenes/pages to expand the story!

Searching for Home Story Guide

Story Structure/Type: Try, Try Again Story

A story where the characters try to solve a problem several different times.

summary:

"Searching for Home" is about a lost alien looking for his planet. Maya helps the alien by traveling with him into outer space in his rocket to find his home. They visit several planets before finding his rocky, red, hot planet. The alien thanks Maya and gives her a hug before she returns to Earth through her bedroom window unnoticed.

characters:

- Maya
- The alien

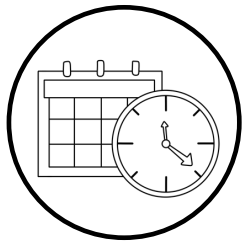
settings:

Maya's room, Earth, cold planet, stormy planet, alien's planet

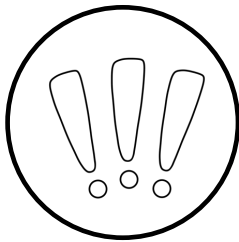
problem/goal:

The alien was lost. He needed help to find his home planet.

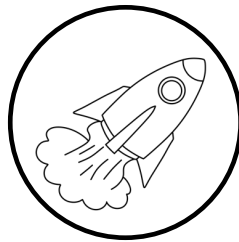
other story elements:



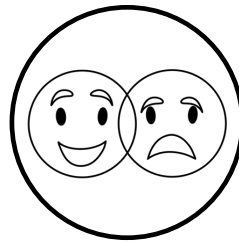
Time



Surprise



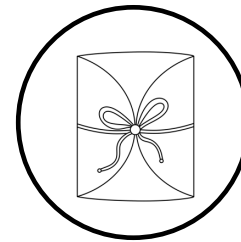
Lift-Off



Feelings



Success



Wrap-Up

vocabulary ideas:

- | | | | | |
|--------|--------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| • Go | • Round | • Telescope | • Rotate | • Orbit |
| • Turn | • Hot | • Astronaut | • Expand | • Visible |
| • Up | • Far | • Rocket | • Fuel | • Dense |
| • Not | • Vehicles | • Planet | • Re- | • Astro |
| • Big | • Planet(+s) | • Launch | • Hostile | • -logy |

related non-fiction topics:

- Astronauts (e.g., Mae Jemison)
- Space exploration
- Landing on the moon
- Planets

related themes/conversation topics:

- Persistence & making a back-up plan
- Different communication styles
- Helping a friend
- Becoming an astronaut or astronomer



THE STORY SYSTEM

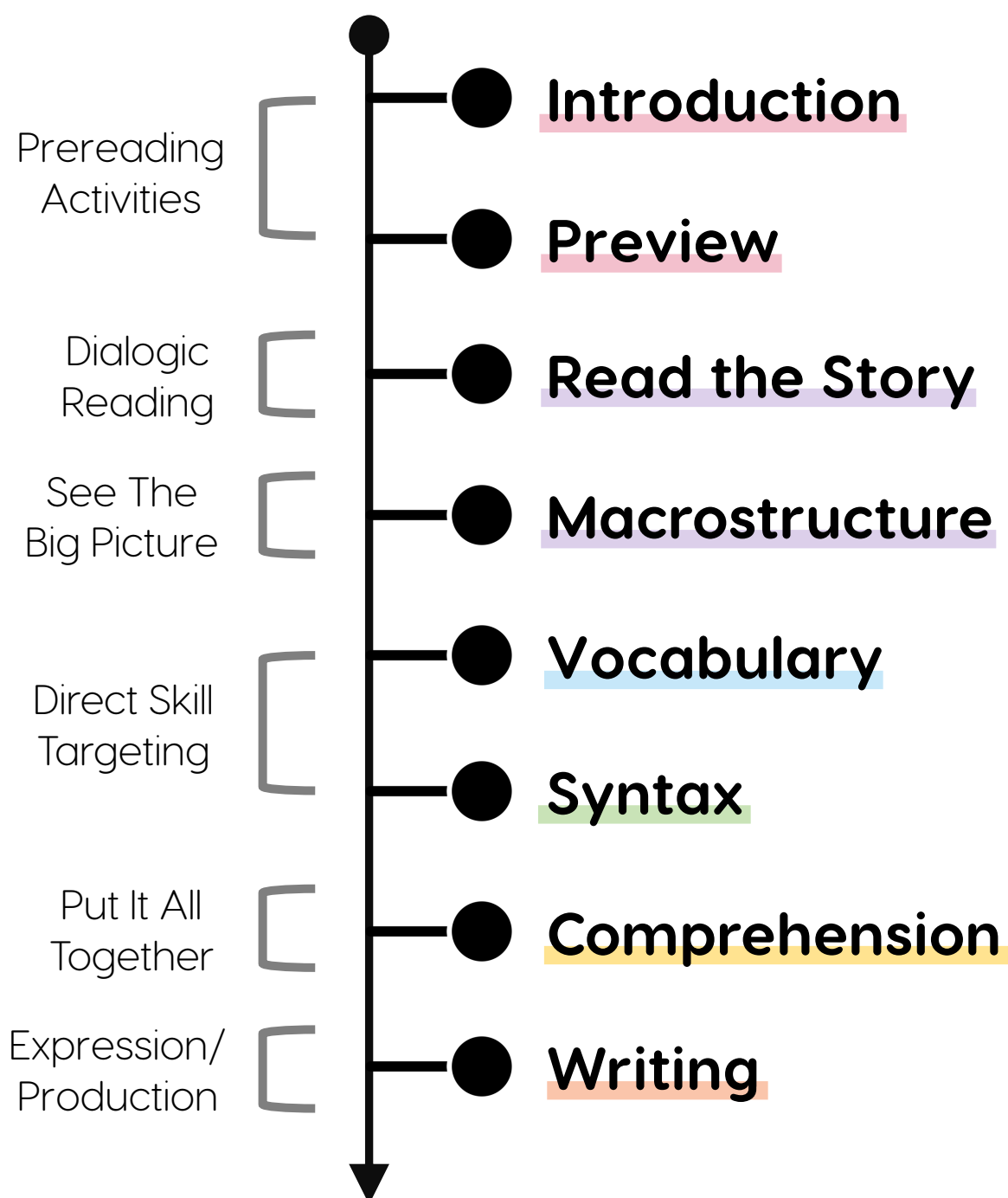


SPEECHY musings

The Story System

The Story System is an example procedure/sequence for how to use my story units. It was created by me based on research I've read and children I've worked with. This system can easily be adapted for a wide variety of student needs and goals (see levels 1-4 for ideas).

This series of steps might take several weeks, giving you opportunities for re-reads of the story as needed for each child or group. The system can also be expanded with extension activities, videos, games, other books, texts, and much, much more.





introduction + preview

Activities that activate background knowledge and set the stage for comprehension success.

- ✓ Introduce Visuals
- ✓ K/W/L Chart
- ✓ Predicting
- ✓ Preview Vocabulary
- ✓ Preview Macrostructure

example pre-reading activities:

Visuals

K/W/L Chart +
Rate Knowledge

Predicting

PREDICT!	
- What will the story be about? - What will happen?	
After looking at the pictures, I think...	☐ Yes ☐ No
After looking at the title, I think...	☐ Yes ☐ No
Another prediction I have is...	☐ Yes ☐ No

PREVIEW VOCABULARY

PREVIEW MACROSTRUCTURE





macrostructure

Activities that focus on the big picture: sequencing, story elements, & structure.

- ✓ Sequencing
- ✓ WH Question Information
- ✓ Beginning/Middle/End
- ✓ Simple Story Elements
- ✓ Advanced Story Elements
- ✓ Story Structure



example

macrostructure activities:

Put the pictures in order and tell the story.

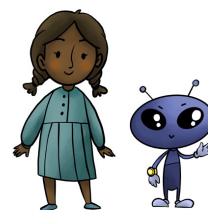


Sequencing

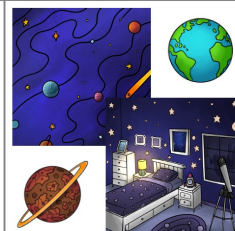
**Boom Cards™

WH Question Information

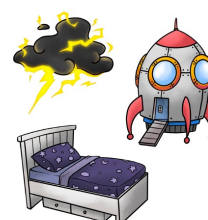
Searching for Home



Who?



Where?



What?

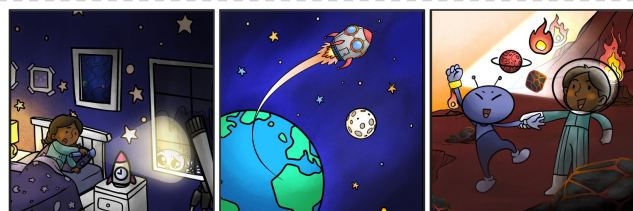


When?

Beginning

Middle

End



First

surprised

Then

searched

Finally

found

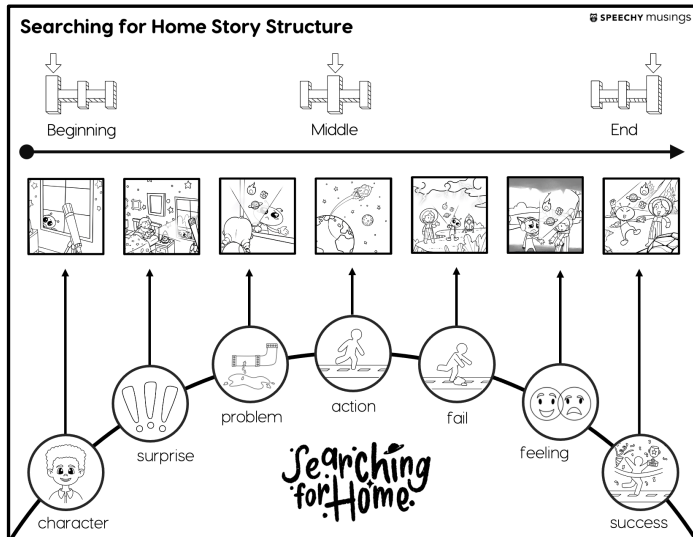
Beginning/Middle/End
Sorts





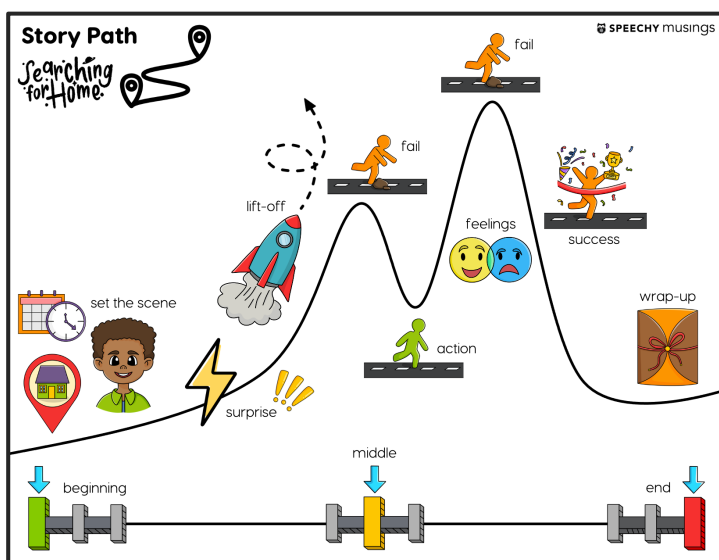
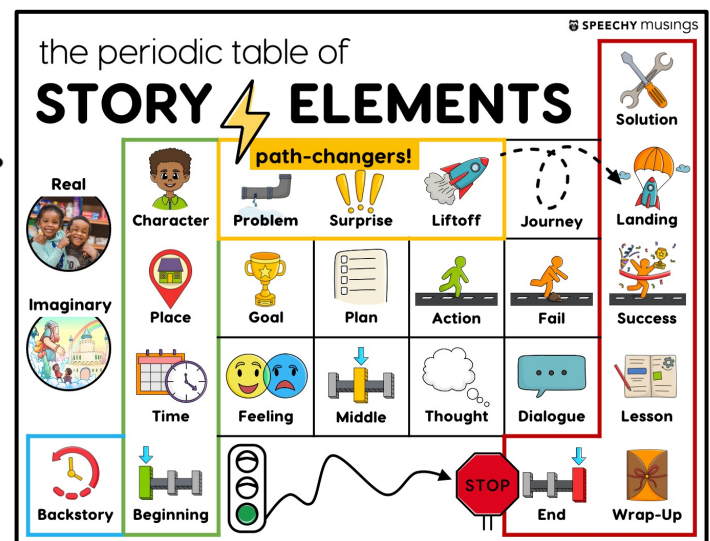
example

macrostructure activities:



Simple Story Elements

Advanced Story Elements



Story Structure





vocabulary

Activities that focus on what the words in the story mean.

- ✓ Core Vocabulary
- ✓ Basic Concepts
- ✓ Categories
- ✓ Synonyms/Antonyms
- ✓ Describing
- ✓ Character Description
- ✓ Suffixes
- ✓ Direct Vocabulary Instruction



example

vocabulary activities:

We're working on the word:

big



Children learn words faster when they hear them more, from many different people, and in many different places.

How to teach the word "big":

"Big" is a fun and functional word for children. You can use the word "big" to describe almost anything – trees, vehicles, houses, toys, or even animals!

To begin teaching the word "big", use it around the child as often as possible. Exaggerate the word and be engaging! Consider widening your eyes or gesturing to show how big something is!

To first teach the word "big", find similar items that are different sizes. For example, if you're at the park, you could find a "big" swing and a "little" swing or a "big" slide and a "little" slide.

Here are some simple activities you can do to model the word "big":

- Look up videos of **big** animals
- Build a **big** tower of blocks
- Point out **big** trucks (vs small cars)
- Describe pictures in books as **big** (e.g., rockets, planets, tall buildings)
- Read a book about something **big**

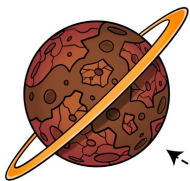
Thank you for your help and participation! It makes a difference!

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Core Vocabulary Handouts

Searching for Home BASIC CONCEPTS		BIG
		ROUND
		HOT
		FAR

Basic Concept Activities



The alien's planet is **hot**.

© SPEECHY musings

Synonym/Antonym Sorts

Words that mean HOT		Words that mean COLD	
Synonyms of "hot"		Antonyms of "hot"	
frigid	balmy	scorching	
freezing	boiling	wintry	
roasting	chilly	icy	





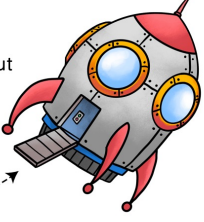
example

vocabulary activities:

All About a Rocket

"Describe" means to tell about something.

Describe the rocket.



category function location parts appearance

 What group does a rocket belong in?	 What does a rocket do?	 Where can you find a rocket?	 What parts does a rocket have?	 What does a rocket look like?
--	---	---	---	--

Describe the rocket. What did it do in Searching for Home?

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Describing

-y sun
noun adjective
sunny

A suffix is a word part that goes on the end of a word to change its meaning. The suffix "y" means "full of". It tells what something is like. For example, if a day was full of sun, you could call it a "sunny" day.

 ice + y = icy	 wind + y = windy	 storm + y = stormy
--	--	--

Let's practice!

1. If a food is full of salt, you could call it a _____ food.
2. If your shoes get full of dirt, you could call them _____ shoes.
3. If a road is full of bumps, you could call it a _____ road.
4. If the ground is full of rocks, you could call it _____ ground.
5. If your city is full of wind today, you might say it is a _____ day.

Suffixes

frigid SAY THE WORD WRITE THE WORD

COUNT THE SYLLABLES 1 2 3 WORD PLAY What sound does it start with? What sound does it end with?

ASK AND DISCUSS Have you ever heard this word before? YES / NO What does it remind you of? It reminds me of...

Frigid means a **very cold temperature**.
Some similar words are: cold, freezing, frozen, frost

Describe each picture using the word "frigid".



Draw a picture of the word "frigid".

Read the sentence below.
"We sat outside, shivering in the frigid winter air."

What does this mean? What is it like outside?

CARRYOVER ACTIVITIES:

- Would you like to live somewhere that is frigid? Why?
- What do people do when they're freezing? Act it out.

Describe your drawing using the word "frigid".

Vocabulary Worksheets for Direct Vocabulary Instruction





syntax

Activities that focus on sentence-level formulation and comprehension.

- ✓ **Sentence Formulation**
- ✓ **Sentence Deconstruction**
- ✓ **Defining**
- ✓ **Sentence Combining**



example

syntax activities:



Sentence Formulation

**Boom Cards™ + printable version

Sentence Deconstruction

Name: _____

1. Read the sentence.
2. Answer the questions.
3. Write the sentence.

Maya woke up to an alien knocking on her window!

☐ Who is this about?

☐ What did she do?

☐ What woke her up?

☐ Where was the alien knocking?

Who? _____ Did what? _____

CONNECT THE IDEAS - using "so"

example

The alien needed help.	He knocked on the window.
cause The alien needed help,	effect he knocked on the window.
so →	
The alien needed help, so he knocked on the window.	

Look at the example above. Practice using the word "so" to combine the sentences below into one sentence:

1. Maya wanted to help the alien. She got on the rocket.

2. The planet was stormy. They decided to leave.

3. They wanted to find the alien's home. They flew into space.

4. The blue planet was frigid. They continued searching.

5. The alien was so thankful. He gave Maya a hug.

Sentence Combining

Target **Defining** skills using the materials for Describing (defining nouns) and Direct Vocabulary Instruction (defining tier 2 words including verbs, adjectives, etc...).



comprehension

Activities that assess how well the story was understood.

- ✓ Simple WH Questions
- ✓ Comprehension Questions
- ✓ Summarizing the Story (SWBST)
- ✓ Basic Story Retell
- ✓ Complete Story Retell
 - *use story structure visual; include multiple attempts



example activities for comprehension:



Searching for Home Questions

Who is the story about? Where is the alien's home?

WH QUESTIONS ABOUT
Searching for Home

Cut out the boxes below and glue over the questions to answer.

WHO	WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHY	HOW
Who helped the alien?	What did Maya use to see the alien in the dark?	When did the story happen?	Where did Maya and the alien go?	Why did the alien need help?	How did Maya and the alien get to the planets?

Maya
A flashlight
At night
To outer space
Because he got lost.
They flew on a rocket.

Simple WH Questions

Searching for Home Questions

- 1 Who is the story about?
- 2 When did the story take place?
- 3 What was the alien looking for?
- 4 How did Maya and the alien get to outer space?
- 5 How did the alien feel on the cold planet?
- 6 Describe Maya. She is...
- 7 What is the alien's planet like?
- 8 What happened last?

Comprehension Questions

Summarizing the Story (SWBST)

Searching for Home

SET THE SCENE PROBLEM GOAL ACTION SOLUTION END

who where when What is the problem? What do they want? What do they do to solve the problem? How was the problem solved? How does the story end?

BEGINNING → MIDDLE → END

One night.... Then... So... Finally...

Read this summary of the story and find each story part:

somebody wanted but so then

Searching for Home

"Searching for Home" is a story about a lost alien who needs to return to his home. He asks for help from Maya, a girl who discovers him outside her window one night. They blast off into outer space and search for the alien's home planet, which is red, hot, and rocky.

The first two planets they visit are not his home, but they eventually find his planet on the third try, where his family is waiting for him. The alien thanks Maya for her help and gives her a hug before she returns to Earth, hoping her parents didn't notice she was gone.

somebody - character

wanted

But,

So,

Then,

Story Summarizing + Basic Story Retell



writing + parallel story

Production/expression focused activities that allow for creativity and generalization.

- ✓ Supported/Shared Writing
- ✓ Write the Story
- ✓ Topic Writing
- ✓ Write Parallel Story



example activities for **writing:**



☐ Say it. ☐ Write it. ☐ Unscramble it.

I would go to _____.

I would _____

SPEECHY musings

I	go	to	a
would	.		

Supported
Writing
Activities

 _____

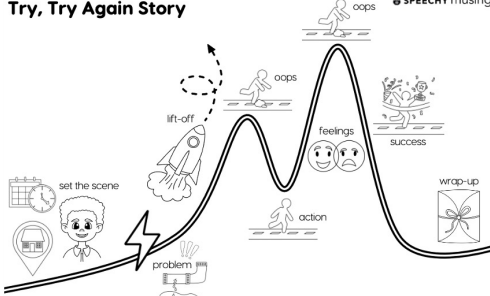
 _____

 _____

Write the Story

Topic Writing Ideas

Try, Try Again Story



Name a time when you had to try to solve a problem over and over before you figured out the solution.

Set the Scene	
Problem	
First Try	
Second Try	
Other Tries	
Feelings	
Solution	
Wrap-Up	

Write a
Parallel Story

If you had a rocket, where would you go?

Would you rather fly a rocket into space or take a submarine deep into the ocean?

 Do you want to be an astronaut some day? Why or why not?  

If you saw an alien, what would you do? 



example activities targeting speech sounds:



Searching for Home: Speech Sound Targets					
/p/	/b/	/m/	/n/	/t/	/d/
Peek Pile Happy Hopeful Parents Up Upset	Back Bedroom Before Big Brr Bye Maybe	Maya Moon Climb Him Home Some Time	Knock Nice Night Planet Alien Moon Sun	Tears Time Hot Night Out Planet Wet	Decide Door Down Window Said Need Red
/f/	/v/	/k/	/g/	/s/	/z/
Face Family Feeling Find Flashlight After Off	Very Adventure Covered Loved Never Over Believe	Cold Comet Luckily Rocket Back Knock Look	Give Gone Got Goodbye Began Big Hug	Said Search Second See Surprised Inside Space	Amazed Closed Freezing Gazed Freeze Rings Tears
"ch"	"sh"	"th"	/l/	Vocalic /r/	Prevocalic /r/
Changed Cheer Approach Launch Search Watch	She Shocked Showed Flashlight Crash	Thankful They Things This Thought Three Earth	Land Launch Little Look Lost Loved Alien	Heard During Earth Outer Search Startled Tears	Ran Remind Rocket Red Return Right Rocky
/s/ blends	/l/ blends	/r/ blends			
Sleep Snow Space Sprinted	Standing Stars Blasted Lost	Climbed Closed Flashlight Flew	Flight Fly Blast Planet	Bring Crash Cry Freeze	Friend Grab Gravity Through

Speech Sound Targets (words from the story!)

Speech Sound Worksheets (words + sentences)

	☐ Very ☐ Adventure ☐ Covered ☐ Loved	☐ Never ☐ Over ☐ Believe ☐ _____	
	Read each sentence about the story, Searching for Home. Then, write your own sentence using the underlined word.		
1. Maya walked <u>over</u> to the window.			
2. The planet was <u>very</u> wet and stormy.			
3. Then the planet was <u>covered</u> in snow and ice.			
4. The alien was worried he might <u>never</u> get home.			
5. Maya couldn't <u>believe</u> how many stars she could see!			
6. The alien <u>loved</u> Maya for bringing him home.			
7. Maya would never forget this <u>adventure</u> !			

Sound-Loaded Story Summaries

Searching for Home – a little lively L story

Look for these L words:

Little, lost, looks, late, lonely, loves, alien, marvels, landing

Read this summary of the story:

In "Searching for Home," a little lost alien crash-lands on Earth and looks for help. Late one night, he knocks on Maya's window, startling her. She grabs her flashlight and meets the lonely alien. He explains his situation, longing for his red, hot, and rocky home planet.

Maya, who loves outer space, decides to help the alien. They climb aboard the rocket, hopeful about finding the alien's home. As they launch into space, Maya marvels at the star-filled sky. Their first landing is on a wet, stormy planet. They leave and keep looking.

Next, they land on a snowy, icy planet, but it's still not the alien's home. Relentlessly, they launch again, and finally, they reach the right planet. The alien and Maya happily hug goodbye. Maya returns to Earth and slips quietly back into her bedroom, filled with unforgettable memories from her lovely little adventure with the alien.

Circle or underline all of the L words in the story.

How many words with L did you find? _____

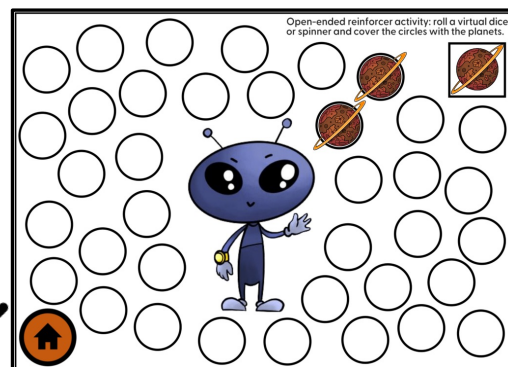
Answer the questions:

- ☐ Describe the alien at the beginning of the story.
- ☐ What is the alien looking for?
- ☐ What do Maya and the alien do several times?

____ / 25

Drill Reinforcer Page

** Boom Cards™



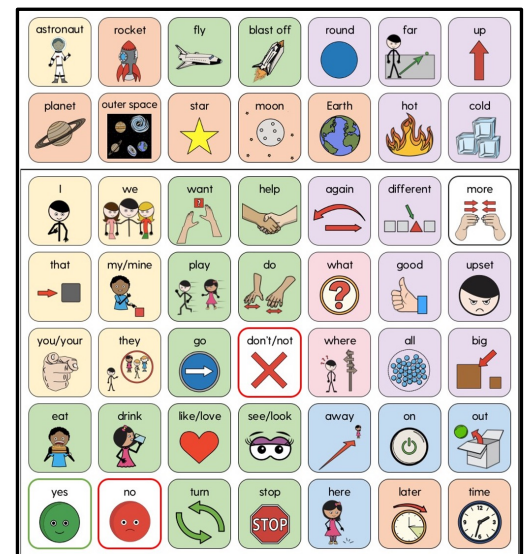
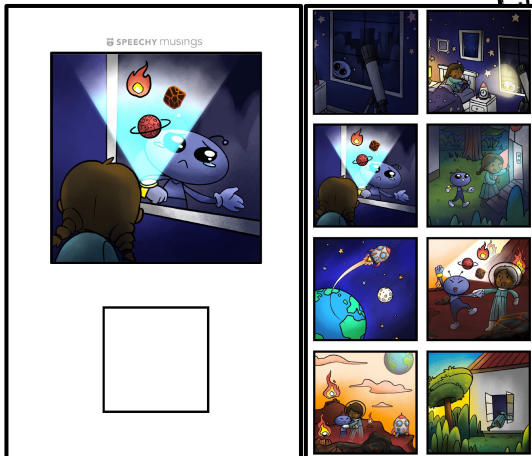


example AAC/symbol-supported activities:



Level 1 Story Text
Simple text,
symbol-supported

Interactive
Book



AAC Board
(core + story-
related fringe)

Core Vocabulary
Ideas and Handouts

We're working on the word:



Children learn words faster when they hear them more, from many different people, and in many different places.

How to teach the word "big":

"Big" is a fun and functional word for children. You can use the word "big" to describe almost anything – trees, vehicles, houses, toys, or even animals!

To begin teaching the word "big", use it around the child as often as possible. Exaggerate the word and be engaging! Consider widening your eyes or gesturing to show how big something is!

To first teach the word "big", find similar items that are different sizes. For example, if you're at the park, you could find a "big" swing and a "little" swing or a "big" slide and a "little" slide.

Here are some simple activities you can do to model the word "big":

- Look up videos of big animals
- Build a big tower of blocks
- Point out big trucks (vs small cars)
- Describe pictures in books as big (e.g., rockets, planets, tall buildings)
- Read a book about something big

Thank you for your help and participation! It makes a difference!



example AAC/symbol-supported activities:



Sentence Formulation

**Boom Cards™

Story Retell Visuals



Supported Writing Activities

☐ Say it. ☐ Write it. ☐ Unscramble it.

I would go to _____.

a beach space the park a castle

I would _____

I	go	to	a
would	.		

