

hello!

START HERE

1. Check your order

We've made every effort to pack your collection carefully. Please take a moment to make sure you've received everything you ordered.

CONTACT US WITHIN 2 WEEKS IF ANYTHING IS MISSING OR INCORRECT.

2. Get to know your collection

The following unboxing sheets will give you a brief introduction to each component of your collection.

IMPORTANT: Carefully read the teacher and student information in the front of each guide.

3. Browse the schedules

The *Suggested Yearly Schedule* is just that, a suggestion. Our materials are designed to adapt to your schedule, your teaching style, and your student's learning style.

The *Weekly Literature Schedule* is also a suggestion, but over many years, this approach has proven to be a great tool in helping students succeed and flourish.

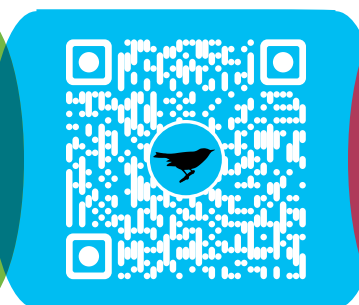
4. Explore our support resources:

Parent/Teacher Info



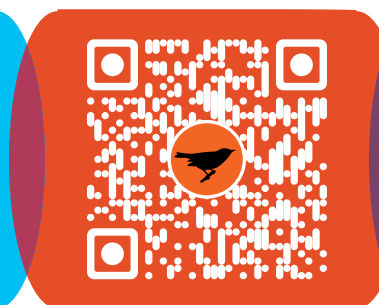
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Answer Keys



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Free Resources



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Videos



[blackbirdandcompany.com/
video-collection/](https://blackbirdandcompany.com/video-collection/)

Thank you for choosing a Grade Level Collection!

We've made every effort to pack your collection carefully. Please take a moment to make sure you have received everything included in your order.

Your 4th Grade Collection contains the following items:

LITERATURE/WRITING: Level 2 Year Pack D

6 Workbooks & Novels:

- Charlotte's Web*
 Fish in a Tree
 Loser
 Teacher Helps
 The City of Ember
 Inside Out and Back Again
 Love, Ruby Lavender

CREATIVE WRITING • Storymaker C: Fun Tales

- Student Workbook*
 Setting and Character Flash Cards
 Miniature Object Set

GRAMMAR • One True Sentence B: Punctuation

- Student Workbook*
 Punctuation: The Write Stuff
 Grammar: Write Here, Write Now! (bonus)

VOCABULARY • Operation Lexicon: Ted Hughes

- Student Workbook*

RESEARCH WRITING • Significant People - Year Pack B

Ada Lovelace

- Student Workbook*
 DK Life Stories: Ada Lovelace
 Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine

Fred Rogers

- Student Workbook*
 Who Was Fred Rogers?
 You Are My Friend

Theodore Roosevelt

- Student Workbook*
 Who Was Theodore Roosevelt?
 To Dare Mighty Things: The Life of Theodore Roosevelt

Temple Grandin

- Student Workbook*
 Who Is Temple Grandin?
 The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin

PLEASE CONTACT US WITHIN 2 WEEKS IF ANY OF YOUR ITEMS ARE MISSING OR INCORRECT.

Now that you've checked your package, let's learn about each item...



blackbird & company

READ WELL • WRITE WELL • THINK WELL

The following information will help you become familiar with each piece of your collection.

Literature + Writing Discovery: Level 2 - Year Pack D

1. In addition to the blue student guides and accompanying books, you will have received a thin “Teacher Helps” volume. Taking time to read carefully to understand what is expected of your student along the way, you will discover strategies that will enable you to support and inspire learning.
2. Answer keys can be found here:
***blackbirdandcompany.com* » Parents/Teachers » Answer Keys**
3. Additionally, inside each student workbook is a “How-to” guide, as well as instructional prompts along the way—please read this information carefully. These components act as a built-in “Teacher/Mentor” to support each step of the student’s journey.



Ultimately, when it comes to language arts learning, much of the exceptional work that students accomplish will be subjective in nature tied to their ideas. As we value the ideas of the student—their discoveries from reading, their observations—and challenge them to write these ideas well, the outcome, over time, is that literacy skills soar.

Storymaker C: Fun Tales

When staring at the blank page, it is often the first sentence that’s the most difficult to tackle. *Storymaker*, complete with story starters, setting & character flash cards, and object prompts, gives the support needed to create an exciting **story hook** that will get the writing started! An engaging hook—the very first sentence—conquers writer’s block with the swish of a pencil.

Over the course of 20 weeks (once weekly), as students craft their hook, they will develop confidence and creativity that will carry over into all other schoolwork. With *Storymaker*, students will learn to write (in the words of Hemingway) “One true sentence...,” and the rest will follow.

Instructions **For Teachers** are included at the beginning of each student guide. We have also included a space for the teacher to make note of **Weekly Edit Reminders** that will help the student improve mechanics, spelling, and grammar. One of the most important habits to form while using *Storymaker* is for the student to read their own story after writing, this is the first step in learning to self-edit.

Creative journaling is an indispensable part of language arts. Beyond its academic significance, it provides an opportunity to develop important skills and the writer’s unique voice.



One True Sentence B: Punctuation

Over the course of 21 weeks, focusing on a single punctuation mark each week, students are taught the meaning, purpose, and use of each. Each week, as students are introduced to a specific topic, they will move through exercises that allow them to practice what they learn. All the instructions are embedded in the weekly lesson in this student guide. The exercises for each lesson are paced over the course of 3 days and include a creative activity to allow each student to engage in constructive learning.

Following are some strategies that will help you begin:

1. **Before we begin** and **Amazing, right?** Please read these two short sections (in the front of the student guide) before turning to the **For the teacher** information.
2. **For the Teacher** Please read this information closely (in the front of the student guide) and refer back to it as necessary.
3. Each day, your student will spend about 15 minutes learning about punctuation. Day 1 will walk them through an introduction to a particular mark, Day 2 will offer opportunities for practice and application.

Ultimately, the purpose of learning punctuation is to produce well-formed sentences that communicate ideas clearly. As your students practice the art of constructing sentences, they will develop skills, confidence, and creativity that will carry over into all other schoolwork.

Also included, as a supplement, is the Basher Book, *Grammar: Write Here, Write Now!* This entertaining book can be used as an introduction or as a great refresher. Student’s can browse at their leisure, or alternate weeks with *Punctuation: The Write Stuff!*



Operation Lexicon: Ted Hughes

A lexicon is the collected vocabulary utilized by a writer. Over the course of 25 weeks, students will explore a cluster of words from the lexicon of Ted Hughes. Using these words in an original way, with inspiration from favorites such as *The Iron Wolf*, *The Mermaid's Purse*, and *Meet My Folks*, will help the budding wordsmith recognize the wonderful plasticity of language, and delight in its beauty.

1. Everything for the teacher is included in the front of the student guide. Begin by reading the **Introduction** followed by the **How to use this Guide** —3 short pages! Encourage your student to read along.
2. Read, together with your student, the information about Ted Hughes.
3. With your student, look through the **Story Starters** and the **Day 3 Story-Poem Example** before beginning the work.
4. Each week contains three days of lessons. These lessons are guided by a built-in-mentor for your student to be guided in the work. Familiarizing yourself with one week will help you to better support your student. Day 1 and 2 will take about 15 minutes each, while Day 3 may take a bit longer, 30 minutes to an hour, because it involves application of the words and a bit of creativity.

Finally, here is an encouragement from Ted Hughes:

Imagine what you are writing about. See it and live it. Do not think it up laboriously, as if you were working out mental arithmetic. Just look at it, touch it, smell it, listen to it, turn yourself into it. When you do this, the words look after themselves, like magic.



Research Writing: Significant People - Year Pack B

In 5 short weeks, your students will walk through the process of studying a significant person from history, culminating in the crafting of an original biographical essay. An hour per week of focused time should be sufficient to complete this work. Some students may need a bit more time to account for the reading.

Following are some strategies that will help you begin:

1. Begin by reading the **How this Guide is Organized** in the front of the student guide.
2. Study the **Assignment Checklist** in the front of the student guide, as this is a tool that can be utilized by both the student and the teacher.
3. Study the **Essay Diagram** also in the front of the student guide. During the first three weeks, students will read the biography, gather words to help them describe the person, and create one body paragraph each week. During the fourth week, students will craft an opening and closing paragraph and put their essay together.
4. Week 5 is devoted to creating a final draft of their essay, as well as a culminating project to accompany the research.

Exploring and being inspired by larger-than-life people who have impacted the shaping of the world, will inspire students to have a larger view of what's possible.



4th Grade

Grade Level Collection | Suggested Weekly Literature Schedule

This 5 week schedule is a suggested daily approach to the literature component of your Grade Level Collection.

Following a schedule similar to this will help students stay on track with weekly assignments while allowing relaxed time for reading, as well as concentrated time for thinking, writing, and editing.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK 1 Preliminary WEEK 1 Begin Section 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Section 1 reading before beginning Week 1 Complete vocabulary Begin notes (Character/Setting/Plot) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete notes (Character/Setting/Plot) Begin comprehension questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write rough draft Complete notes & comprehension questions if needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edit rough draft and conference with an adult Write final draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 1 due Begin reading for Section 2
WEEK 2 Begin Section 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion questions from Section 1 Complete vocabulary Begin notes (Character/Setting/Plot) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete notes (Character/Setting/Plot) Begin comprehension questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write rough draft Complete notes & comprehension questions if needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edit rough draft and conference with an adult Write final draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 2 due Begin reading for Section 3 Brainstorm ideas for Section 5
WEEK 3 Begin Section 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion questions from Section 2 Complete vocabulary Begin notes (Character/Setting/Plot) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete notes (Character/Setting/Plot) Begin comprehension questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write rough draft Complete notes & comprehension questions if needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edit rough draft and conference with an adult Write final draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 3 due Begin reading for Section 4 Develop your idea and plan Section 5
WEEK 4 Begin Section 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion questions from Section 1 Complete vocabulary Begin notes (Character/Setting/Plot) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete notes (Character/Setting/Plot) Begin comprehension questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write rough draft Complete notes & comprehension questions if needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edit rough draft and conference with an adult Write final draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 4 due Continue developing and planning Section 5
WEEK 5 Begin Section 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Execute Section 5 >> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Execute Section 5 >> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Execute Section 5 >> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Execute Section 5 >> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5 due Begin reading for next guide