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Digger Book Study - Years 1-2

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DIGGER VOCABULARY

Words that help us understand the story



gaze — to look for a long time



horizon — where the sky seems to meet the land



trench — a long, narrow ditch in the ground



billet — a place where soldiers stay



tattered — old and torn



request — to ask for something



recover — to become well again



remembrance — keeping someone or something in our thoughts



courage — being brave when something is hard



connection — a link between people, places or ideas

STORY SEQUENCE STATION – EVENT CARDS

FIRST –

Annie makes a toy kangaroo for James.



AFTER THAT –

Colette repairs Digger's loose stitches.



NEXT –

James travels with Digger.



LATER –

Digger is sent home with a letter.



THEN –

Colette finds and cares for Digger.



FINALLY –

Annie remembers James and feels connected to Colette.



STORY SEQUENCE STATION

Place the event cards in order. Retell the story to a partner.

1

FIRST

2

NEXT

3

THEN

4

AFTER THAT

5

LATER

6

FINALLY

CHARACTER CLUE SORT

Place each clue under the character it matches.

ANNIE



JAMES



COLETTE



DIGGER



PREVIEW



CHARACTER CLUE SORT – CLUE CARDS



“

I made Digger
with careful
stitches.



“

I made a gift to
help someone
feel close to home.



“

I carried Digger
far from home.



“

I took Digger
on a long
journey.



“

I cared for Digger
and repaired him.



“

I kept memories
alive with care
and flowers.



“

I am a toy
kangaroo with
many patches.



“

My patches show
where I have been.



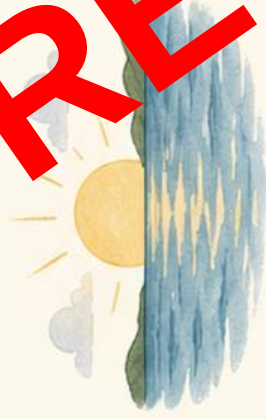


VOCABULARY TRAIL — CHALLENGE CARDS

What does
gaze mean?



Use how on
in a sentence.



What is
a trench?



Explain
tattered.



Act out
request.



What does
recover mean?



Give an example
of courage.



How can people
show remembrance?



QUIET REFLECTION COLOURING

Colour the picture.



What helps you remember someone or something important?

Name: _____

FRIENDSHIP ACROSS THE SEA

Colour the picture.



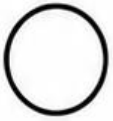
Draw or write one way people can care for each other.

Name: _____

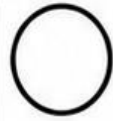
SEQUENCE AND RETELL

Name: _____

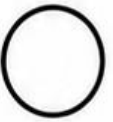
Number the events from 1 to 6. Then retell the story to a partner.



Colette repairs Digger.



Annie makes Digger for James.



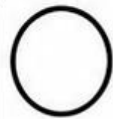
Digger returns home with a letter.



James takes Digger on his journey.



Annie reads about Colette's care.



Digger reaches Colette.



SEQUENCE AND RETELL

ANSWERS

Number the events from 1 to 6. Then retell the story to a partner.

4

Colette repairs Digger.



1

Annie makes Digger for James.



5

Digger returns home with a letter.



2

James takes Digger on his journey.



6

Annie reads about Colette's care.



3

Digger reaches Colette.



DIGGER CLOZE COMPREHENSION

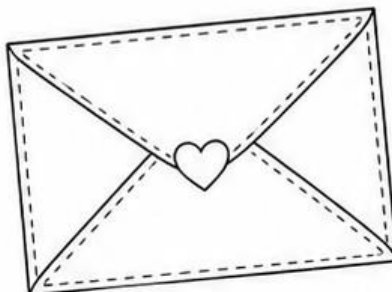
Name: _____

Use each word from the word bank once to complete the paragraph.

WORD BANK

Annie James Digger Colette kangaroo stitches letter remember

Annie made a toy (1) _____ for her brother (2) _____. She named the toy (3) _____. James carried the toy far from home. A girl named (4) _____ cared for Digger and fixed his loose (5) _____. Later, Digger returned to (6) _____ with a (7) _____. The new patches helped Annie (8) _____ the care that connected them.



DIGGER CLOZE COMPREHENSION

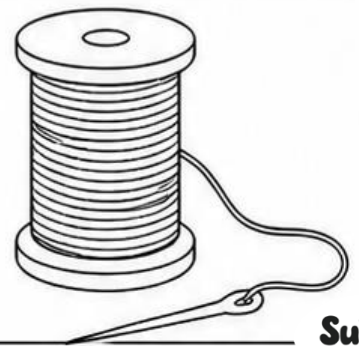
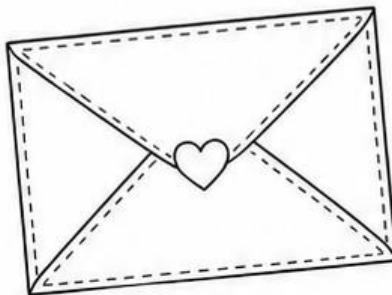
ANSWERS

Use each word from the word bank once to complete the paragraph.

WORD BANK

Annie James Digger Colette kangaroo stitches letter remember

Annie made a toy (1) kangaroo for her brother (2) James. She named the toy (3) Digger. James carried the toy far from home. A girl named (4) Colette cared for Digger and fixed his loose (5) stitches. Later, Digger returned to (6) Annie with a (7) letter. The new patches helped Annie (8) remember the care that connected them.



READ, THINK AND EXPLAIN



Name: _____

Answer each question using a story detail.

1. Who made Digger?

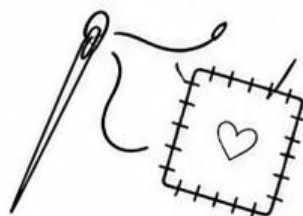
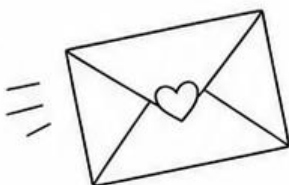
4. How did Digger change during the story?

2. Why did Annie make Digger for James?

5. What do the letters and repairs show about friendship?

3. What did Colette do to care for Digger?

6. What message does the story share about remembrance?



READ, THINK AND EXPLAIN

ANSWERS



Answer each question using a story detail.

1. Who made Digger?

Annie made Digger.

4. How did Digger change during the story?

He came home with new patches and stitches.

2. Why did Annie make Digger for James?

To help James feel close to home while he was away.

5. What do the letters and repairs show about friendship?

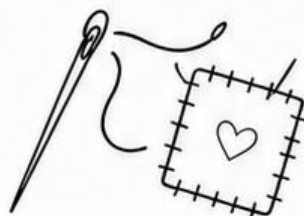
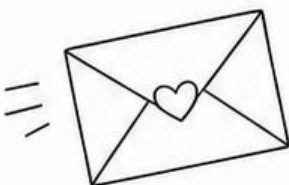
Care can connect people who live far apart.

3. What did Colette do to care for Digger?

She cared for him and repaired his loose stitches.

6. What message does the story share about remembrance?

Remembering people and acts of care keeps connections strong.





ANNIE AND COLETTE

COMPARE THE CHARACTERS



Name: _____



Write one detail in each section. Add a story detail to support your ideas.

ANNIE

Actions or feelings
that are special to Annie

BOTH

How Annie and
Colette are alike

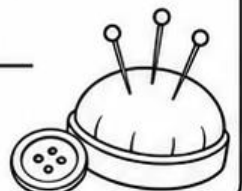
COLETTE

Actions or feelings
that are special to Colette

PREVIEW



Story detail: _____





ANNIE AND COLETTE

COMPARE THE CHARACTERS



ANSWERS



Write one detail in each section. Add a story detail to support your ideas.

ANNIE

Actions or feelings
that are special to Annie

made Digger;
worried about
James; found
comfort in the
returned toy

BOTH

How Annie and
Colette are alike

caring,
thoughtful,
connected
rough Digger
and letters

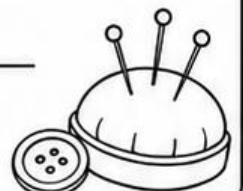
COLETTE

Actions or feelings
that are special to Colette

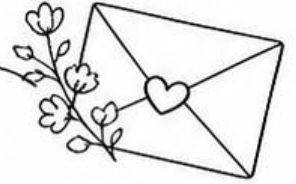
looked after Digger;
repaired his stitches;
honoured James
with flowers



Story detail: Both girls used care and sewing to help Digger and remember James.



LETTERS ACROSS THE SEA



PLAN YOUR LETTER

Name: _____

Write as Annie or Colette. Plan a caring letter that connects two people.

Who am I writing as?

Who will receive my letter?

Three things I want to say:

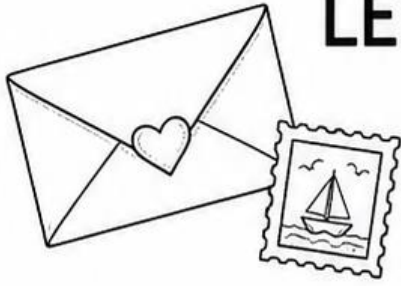
1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

One question I will ask:

Helpful feeling words: caring • grateful • worried • hopeful • proud



LETTERS ACROSS THE SEA

WRITE YOUR LETTER

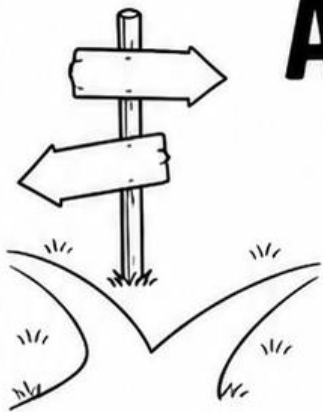


Name: _____

Use your plan. Include a greeting, three ideas, one question and a closing.

Dear _____,

From, _____



A DIFFERENT ENDING

STORY PLAN

Name: _____



Imagine one event changes. Plan a new ending that still fits the characters.

What changes?

What happens next?

How do the characters feel?

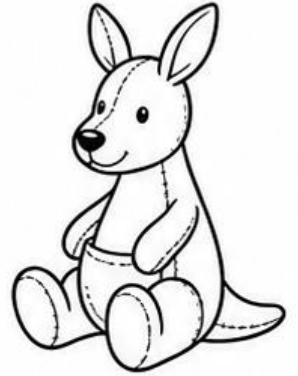
What message will your ending share?

Use first, next, then and finally.

A DIFFERENT ENDING

WRITE YOUR ENDING

Name: _____



Use your plan. Write an ending with a clear sequence and character feelings.



first • next • then • finally



PREVIEW

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid) for writing practice.

A rectangular box for a signature or stamp.

CONNECTIONS ACROSS TIME

Name: _____

Think about Digger. Compare the story's world with life today.

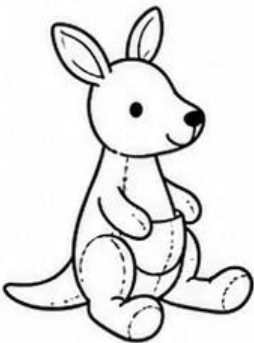
1. How did people send messages in the story?



2. How might people send messages today?



3. What object helps Annie remember James?



4. What object or tradition helps your family remember?



One connection I made:



CONNECTIONS ACROSS TIME

Name: **ANSWERS**

Think about Digger. Compare the story's world with life today.

1. How did people send messages in the story?

They sent letters.



2. How might people send messages today?

People might use letters, phone calls, messages or video calls.



3. What object helps Annie remember James?

Digger and the letters help Annie remember James.



4. What object or tradition helps your family remember?

Answers will vary.



One connection I made:

Answers will vary.



MY DIGGER BOOK REVIEW



Name: _____

Book title: Digger

Author: Mike Dumbleton

Illustrator: Robin Cowcher

My favourite part was:



My favourite character was:

because:

The story made me feel:

One message I learned:

My rating: ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Draw a scene or symbol from the story.

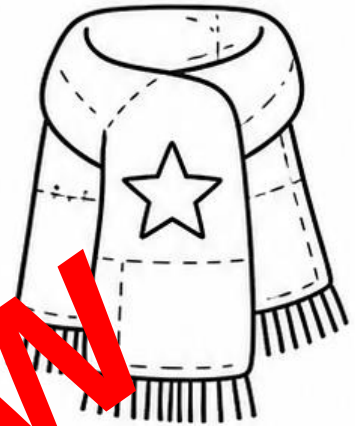
THE PATCHWORK SCARF

ASSESSMENT PASSAGE

Name: _____

Read the passage carefully. Then complete the assessment pages.

Mia's aunt Leila travelled to help families after a big flood. Before she left, Mia gave her a blue scarf stitched with a silver star. "Keep it close when you miss home," Mia said.



During the journey, the scarf became torn. A child named Arun found it beside Leila's bag. He washed the scarf, added a bright patch and sewed the edge. Arun also wrote a note: "This scarf helped us feel hopeful. I hope my stitches help you too."



When Leila returned, she gave the scarf and note to Mia. The scarf looked different, but Mia treasured every new stitch. It reminded her that care can travel from one person to another.





THE PATCHWORK SCARF

ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS



Name: _____

Use details from the passage.

1. Who gave Leila the blue scarf?

2. Why did Mia give Leila the scarf?

3. What problem happened to the scarf?

4. What did Arun do to help?

5. Number these events from 1 to 4.

☐

Leila returned the scarf to Mia.

☐

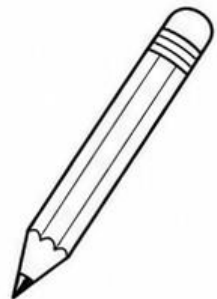
Mia gave Leila the scarf.

☐

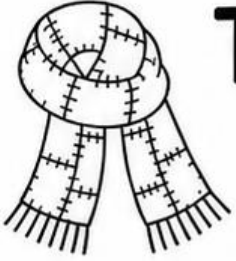
Arun repaired the torn scarf.

☐

The scarf became torn.



6. What message does the passage share about care?



THE PATCHWORK SCARF

ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS



Name: **ANSWERS**

Use details from the passage.

1. Who gave Leila the blue scarf?

Mia. _____

2. Why did Mia give Leila the scarf?

To help Leila feel close to home. _____

3. What problem happened to the scarf?

It became torn. _____

4. What did Arun do to help?

He washed, patched, and sewed it, and wrote a note. _____

5. Number these events from 1 to 4.

4

Leila returned the scarf to Mia.

1

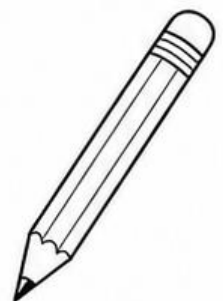
Mia gave Leila the scarf.

3

Arun repaired the torn scarf.

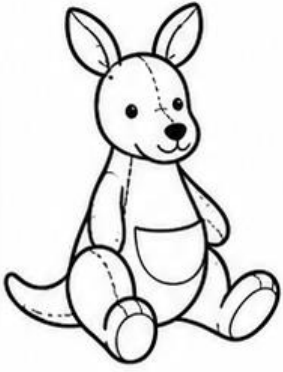
2

The scarf became torn.



6. What message does the passage share about care?

Care can connect and help people across distance. _____



THE PATCHWORK SCARF

WRITTEN RESPONSE



Name: _____

Compare the scarf with Digger. How do both objects connect people?
Use one detail from each text.

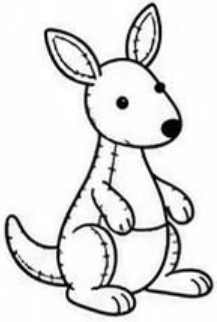
Digger detail:

Scarf detail:

My response:



PREVIEW



THE PATCHWORK SCARF

PLANNING ORGANISER



Name: _____

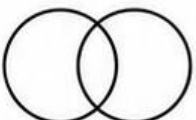
Plan before you write.

Both objects are...

A detail from *Digger*...

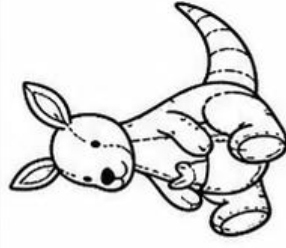
A detail from *The Patchwork Scarf*...

The message I will explain...





BOOK UNIT DIGGER STAGE 1 RUBRIC



Name: _____

CRITERIA	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	ACHIEVING	CONFIDENT	EXCEEDING
1. Sequence and retell	Needs help to order events.	Orders some events.	Orders the main events.	Gives a clear, complete retell.	Retells fluently and makes connections.
2. Character understanding	Names a character.	Identifies a simple action.	Explains actions and feelings.	Compares characters using details.	Explains change with insight.
3. Story details and evidence	Uses few story details.	Uses one relevant detail.	Uses relevant details.	Chooses details that explain ideas.	Combines precise details thoughtfully.
4. Vocabulary	Uses limited key vocabulary.	Uses some key words.	Uses key words accurately.	Uses varied words accurately.	Explains and uses vocabulary confidently.
5. Written response	Needs support to record ideas.	Records simple ideas.	Writes a clear, organised response.	Writes a detailed, organised response.	Writes an engaging, precise response.



Digger Book Study



Meet the Book!



Digger

by Mike Dumbleton

illustrated by Robert Cowcher

A story about emotions, friendship and care.



Before We Read



Look closely at the cover.

- What do you notice about the way the book is made?
- Who might have made it?
- What clues suggest another time or place?



Time and Place



The story moves between Australia and France.
Letters travelled slowly across the sea.
The past is shown through family memories and keepsakes.
We read this historical fiction respectfully.





Meet the Characters

Annie — cares for her brother James and rescues Digger.

James — takes the toy kangaroo with him.

Colette — protects Digger in France.

Digger — connects their lives across time and distance.



Setting and Mood



Australia: home, sewing and farewell.

France: danger, courage and kindness.

The mood changes from hope to worry, then remembrance.

Pictures and words help us feel each change.





The Beginning

Annie makes Digger, a toy kangaroo for James.

Digger carries love from home.

James takes the toy with him when he travels overseas.





The Middle

Digger is separated from James in France.

Colette finds the toy.

She protects and repairs it with care.





The Ending

Digger becomes a link between families.
Annie learns what happened to the toy.
The final moments help readers think about memory and kindness.



Retell in Order



1. Annie makes Digger.
2. James takes Digger overseas.
3. Colette finds and cares for Digger.
4. Digger and the letters connect the families.





Annie's Feelings

At first: loving and hopeful.

During the story: worried and sad.

Later: surprised, grateful and comforted.

What story details reveal each feeling?



Meet Colette



Colette notices a toy that matters.

She acts with care and courage.

She repairs and protects Digby.

Her choices show how small actions can help others.





Compare Annie and Colette

Both care deeply for other people.
Annie makes Digger and holds family memories.
Colette repairs Digger and does her own act of kindness.
How are their experiences different?





Key Vocabulary

treasure — value and protect something special

repair — fix something damaged

remembrance — keeping someone or something in mind

courage — acting when something feels hard

historical fiction — make-up story set in the past





Clues in Words and Pictures

Words tell us what characters say, do, and feel.

Pictures show place, objects, facial expressions and mood.

Use both kinds of clues.

What do the letters and pictures help you understand?



Big Ideas



Memory can live in objects and stories.
Care can travel across distance.
Friendship can grow between families.
Courage can be found in quiet choices.





Your Response

Choose one:

- Retell a key event in your own words.
- Explain how Annie Colette shows care.
- Describe what Jigger represents.

Use one detail from the story.





Well Done!



PREVIEW

Digger Book Study Quiz





Question 1

Who makes Digger?

- A. Annie
- B. James
- C. Colette
- D. Digger





Answer 1

A. Annie makes Digger.



Question 2



True or false?

Digger is a real kangaroo



PREVIEW



Answer 2

False.

Digger is a handmade kangaroo.



Question 3



Why is Digger important to James?





Answer 3

Digger carries love and memories on home.





Question 4

Who finds and cares for Diggett in France?

- A. Annie
- B. Colette
- C. James
- D. A young girl



Answer 4



B. Colette finds and cares for Dogen.





Question 5

Which happens first?

- A. Colette repairs Digger.
- B. Annie makes Digger.
- C. Digger connects the families.
- D. James gives Digger overalls.



Answer 5



B. Annie makes Digger first.



Question 6



True or false?

Annie and Colette both now co



PREVIEW



Answer 6

True.

Both characters show care through their actions.





Question 7

Name one clue that shows Annie's feelings.



PREVIEW

Answer 7



Answers will vary.

Use a word, action or picture detail from the story.



Question 8



What does treasure mean?

- A. throw away
- B. value and protect
- C. Forget
- D. Hide for later



Answer 8



B. Treasure means to value an prospect.



PREVIEW



Question 9

Which message fits the story?

- A. Objects can carry memories and care.
- B. Toys never change.
- C. Letters arrive instantly.
- D. Carin and her mother are nearly lost.





Answer 9

A. Objects can carry memories and more.



Question 10



How does Digger connect people?





Answer 10

Digger connects Annie, James and Cole across time and distance through memory and care.





Well Done!



PREVIEW