

Using Picture Books to Nurture the Core Competencies

Picture books provide a wonderful entry point for the Core Competencies into the classroom. Self-reflecting on aspects of literacy through the Core Competencies allows students to make connections and explore literature in a meaningful way from different perspectives.

The following pages contain sample documents that can be used to help students develop a deeper understanding of what the Core Competencies really mean. There are four samples for each competency. All have the Core Competency listed at the top and a simplified definition of the competency.

The first sample in each section is simpler, for students who may be non-writers, the second, third and fourth examples grow in sophistication. The different levels can be used to differentiate in one classroom or be used at different grade levels. These documents and examples can be edited and adapted for different books and focuses by simply changing the prompts.

To use these tools:

- Teachers should choose a picture book that suits the current unit of study and connects to the Core Competency
- Introduce the Core Competency to the students
- Explore examples of what the competency means to students
 - **LIT 44 Reading Strategy 1: “Access background information.”**
- Solicit examples of the competency from the students
 - **LIT44 Reading Strategy 6: “Connect what you read with what you already know.”**
- Explain the book title to help students develop deeper understanding.
 - **Reading Strategy 2: “Predict what will be learned or what will happen.”**
- After reading the book aloud, discuss how the Core Competency was illustrated through the story.
- Students reflect on the chosen Core Competency and the actions of the characters in the book and then make personal connections

Booklists:

<http://literacy44.ca/nvsd44-resources/booklist/>

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Positive Personal and Cultural Identity

I value myself and the things that make me who I am.

Today we read:

What made the character in the story unique?

What makes you unique?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Positive Personal and Cultural Identity

I value myself and the things that make me who I am.

Today we read:

Draw what makes the character unique:



What made the character in the story unique?

What makes you unique?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Positive Personal and Cultural Identity

I value myself and the things that make me who I am.

Today we read:

Attributes are characteristics that all people have. Some examples include: Active, adaptable, cheerful, calm, confident, cooperative, fair, focused, helpful, honest, persuasive, sensitive, trustworthy, and witty.

What attributes did the character in the story have?

Choose one or two attributes that you have and describe what you do or how you behave, so others know you have this attribute too.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Positive Personal and Cultural Identity

I value myself and the things that make me who I am.

Today we read:

Attributes are characteristics that all people have. Some examples include: Active, adaptable, cheerful, calm, confident, cooperative, fair, focused, helpful, honest, persuasive, sensitive, trustworthy, and witty.

Discuss what attributes made the character in the story unique.

List 3-5 attributes that make you unique.

Choose one attribute from your list and describe how you developed this attribute. Did a certain experience or person influence this trait?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Personal Awareness and Responsibility

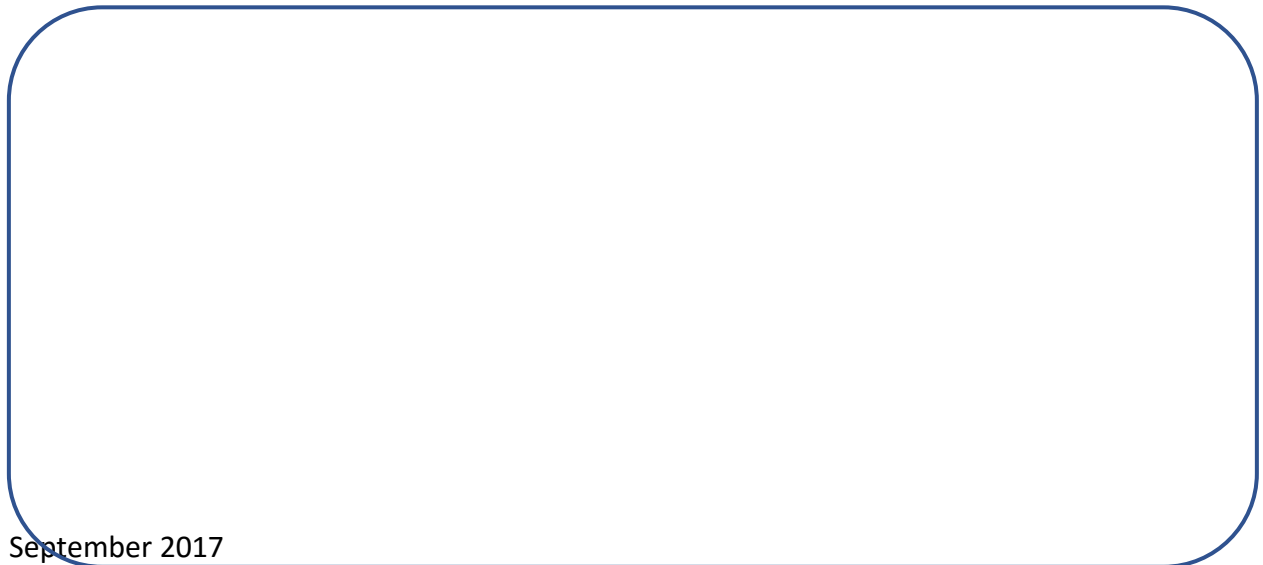
I respect myself and others and know how to keep my body healthy.

Today we read:

How did the character feel at the start of the story?



How did the character feel at the end of the story?



Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Personal Awareness and Responsibility

I respect myself and others and know how to keep my body healthy.

Today we read:

The character in this story reacts. Show how the character feels:



The character feels:

What tools do you use to calm yourself down?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Personal Awareness and Responsibility

I respect myself and others and know how to keep my body healthy.

Today we read:

Describe how the character in this story reacts to something? What emotions do they have?

Think of a time that you reacted to something. Tell about how you could calm yourself down or persevere through the situation.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Personal Awareness and Responsibility

I respect myself and others and know how to keep my body healthy.

Today we read:

Discuss how the character in this story reacts to an external trigger? What emotions do they have? What triggered these emotions? Did they make good choices when they were triggered?

Create a plan for the character in the book to help them to deal with their emotions? What should they do when they are triggered? How will the story change?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Social Responsibility

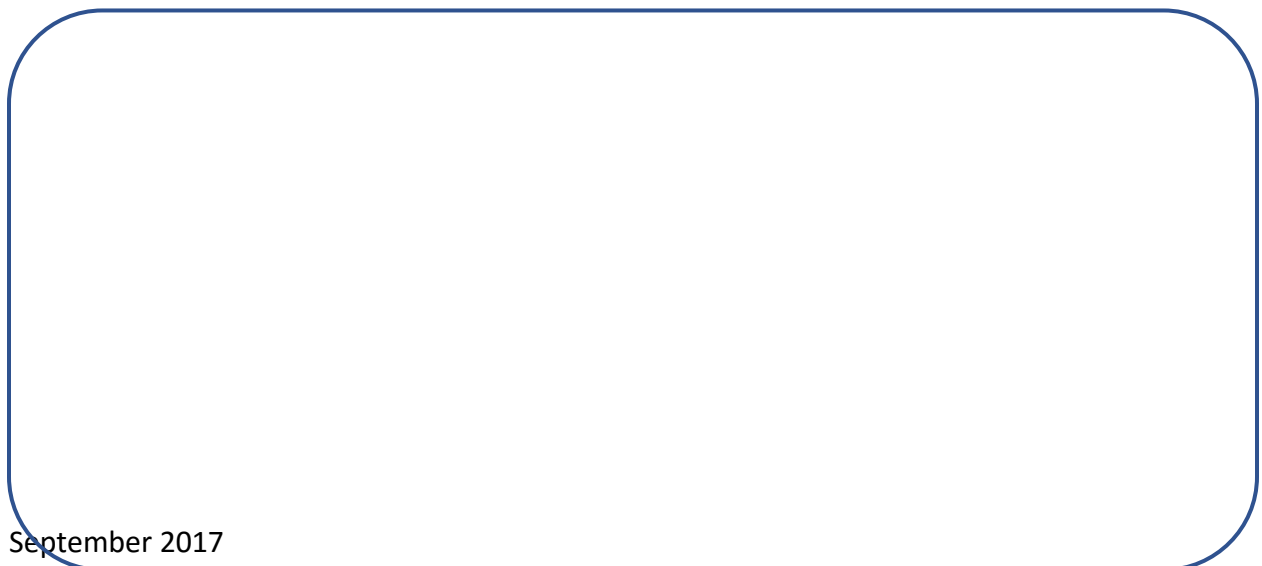
I work hard to interact with others in a positive way.

Today we read:

Show how the character in the story gets along with others?



Show a time when it was hard for you to get along with others?



Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Social Responsibility

I work hard to interact with others in a positive way.

Today we read:

Show how the character in the story gets along with others?



Tell about a time when it was hard for you to get along with others. Did you feel things were fair or unfair?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Social Responsibility

I work hard to interact with others in a positive way.

Today we read:

Conflict is a mismatch or sharp disagreement between ideas, interests, or purposes.

How does conflict change the way the character in the story gets along with others?

How could the characters in the story change so they get along better?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Social Responsibility

I work hard to interact with others in a positive way.

Today we read:

Conflict is a mismatch or sharp disagreement between ideas, interests, or purposes.

Discuss how conflict kept the character in this story from getting along with others.

Create a plan for the character in the book to help them to deal with the disagreement? Will they agree to disagree or could the character's perspective or behaviour change in a way that would help them to get along better?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Critical Thinking

I can think things through and make good choices.

Today we read:

What does the character see or hear?

What does the character learn?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Critical Thinking

I can think things through and make good choices.

Today we read:

What does the character see or hear?



What question should the character ask to find out more?

What are you interested in learning more about?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Critical Thinking

I can think things through and make good choices.

Today we read:

Perspectives are particular attitudes or way of looking things. Different people see things from different perspectives depending on their experiences, beliefs, family values or education.

What does the character in the story see or hear? Is it different from others?

What questions would the character ask about what they see or hear?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Critical Thinking

I can think things through and make good choices.

Today we read:

Perspectives are particular attitudes or way of looking things. Different people see things from different perspectives depending on their experiences, beliefs, family values or education.

Discuss: What does the character in the story see or hear? Is it different from others?

What influences the character's perspective?

What influences your perspective?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Creative Thinking

I have good ideas that help others and I can put my ideas to work.

Today we read:

Show how the character plays.



Show what ideas the character gets from playing.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Creative Thinking

I have good ideas that help others and I can put my ideas to work.

Today we read:

Show how the character plays.



What ideas did the character get from playing?

What ideas do you get from playing? Give an example.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Creative Thinking

I have good ideas that help others and I can put my ideas to work.

Today we read:

In the story, the character gets ideas as they play. Tell about the ideas they get?

What are you interested in? How can you get more ideas in this area?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Creative Thinking

I have good ideas that help others and I can put my ideas to work.

Today we read:

Discuss: How does the character get new ideas?

Describe how other people or experiences help you develop new ideas?

Tell about a time when you got an idea by changing or building on the ideas of someone else.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Communication

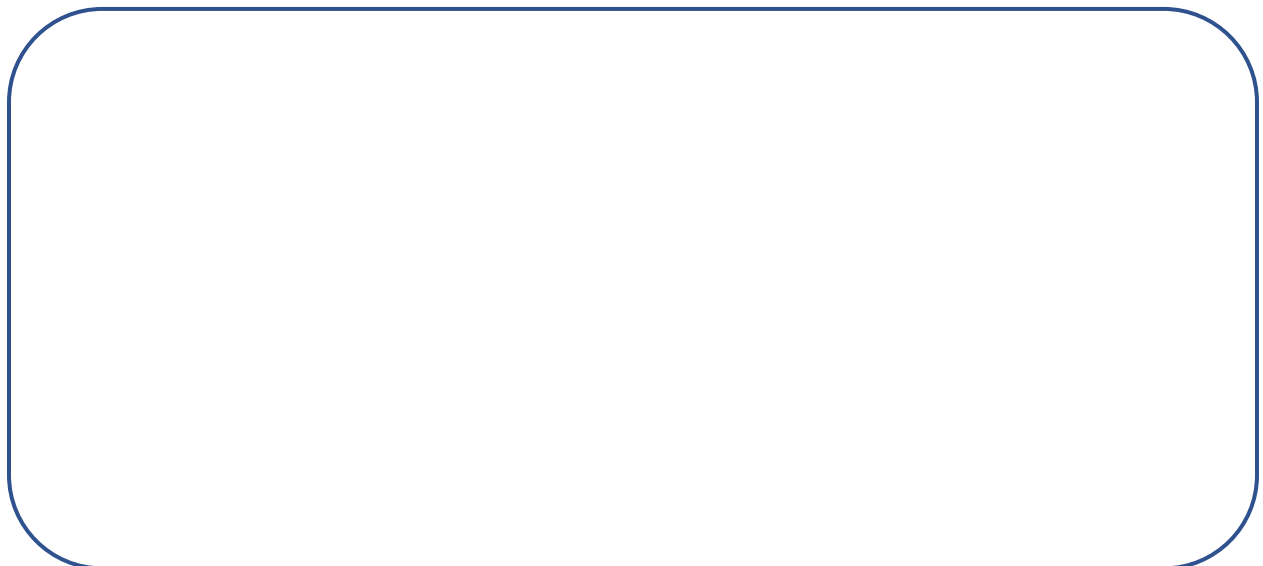
I can listen and share my ideas in a variety of ways.

Today we read:

Show how the character listens or shares ideas.



How do you listen well or share ideas?



Name: _____ Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Communication

I can listen and share my ideas in a variety of ways.

Today we read:

Show how the character listens or shares ideas.



What does the character learn?

How do you listen well or share ideas?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Communication

I can listen and share my ideas in a variety of ways.

Today we read:

Communication: How someone sends or receives a message.

Does the character have strong or weak communication skills? Explain.

What do you do when you want to communicate an idea clearly?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Core Competencies: Name It & Nurture It

Communication

I can listen and share my ideas in a variety of ways.

Today we read:

Communication: How someone sends or receives a message.

Discuss: Does the character have beginning or advanced communication skills?
Explain.

What do you do when you want to communicate an idea clearly?

How do you make sure you include others when you communicate?

