

Grade Three

Summer Reading Packet

To be completed at home during Summer 2011 and submitted to Grade 4 teacher by August 25, 2011

The Cricket in Times Square

From the Back Cover

After Chester, a cricket, arrives in the Times Square subway station from his native Connecticut via a picnic basket, he takes up residence in the Bellinis' newsstand. There tiny Chester is lucky enough to find three good friends: a little boy named Mario, whose parents run the unsuccessful newsstand; a fast-talking Broadway mouse called Tucker; and Tucker's pal, Harry Cat. Between escapades in New York City, the four somehow manage to bring success to the almost bankrupt newsstand.

Student Name _____

Parent Signature _____

SUMMER READING ACTIVITIES

The Cricket in Times Square



Week 1 – (June 12th – 18th) Chapters 1 - 2

Vocabulary

scrounging, subsided, anxiously, niche, subway, plucked, rummaged, scornfully, peculiar

Vocabulary Activity

- Read the words in the list above.
- Find and copy the sentences from the book in which the words were used
- Write a definition using your own words, and draw a picture or symbol which reminds you what the word means

Comprehension Questions - Chapters 1 - 2

1. Mario's family made a living by _____.
 - a) selling Chinese food
 - b) running a soda shop
 - c) selling newspapers and magazines
 - d) running a taxi business
2. Mario lived in _____.
 - a) Denver
 - b) New York City
 - c) Miami
 - d) Los Angeles
3. Tucker was a _____.
 - a) mouse
 - b) cat

- c) cricket
 - d) boy
4. How was business the Saturday night Mario watched the newsstand?
- a) fair - Mario sold papers to many people as they got off the trains.
 - b) very good - Mario was selling a lot of Sunday papers.
 - c) ok - Mario had sold 75 papers that night.
 - d) very slow - Mario had only sold 15 newspapers and 4 magazines.
5. What nice thing did the conductor Paul do for Mario?
- a) Paul bought Mario a soda.
 - b) Paul told the passengers to buy a newspaper as they left the train.
 - c) Paul gave Mario \$.50 for a paper that only cost \$.25.
 - d) Paul gave Mario a train ticket that he could use any time he wished.

Writing Prompt Activity #1

Directions: Read the writing prompt and respond to the prompt on a separate sheet of paper.

Insects share our world with us. They are almost everywhere around us. Think about insects that you have learned about, read about, or observed. What kind of insect do you think is the most interesting? Write to explain why you think this insect is the most interesting. Remember to tell at least three reasons why this type of insect is interesting. Use specific details to explain and support your reasons. Use interesting adjectives and descriptive words to make your paper interesting to read.

Week 2 – (June 19th - 25th) Chapters 3 – 4

Vocabulary

eavesdropping, wistfully, liverwurst, furiously, forlornly, looming, acquaintance, leery

Vocabulary Activity

Choose 5 vocabulary words from the vocabulary section to learn this week. Make vocabulary cards using index cards, writing the word on one side and the definition on the other. Review and quiz words daily.

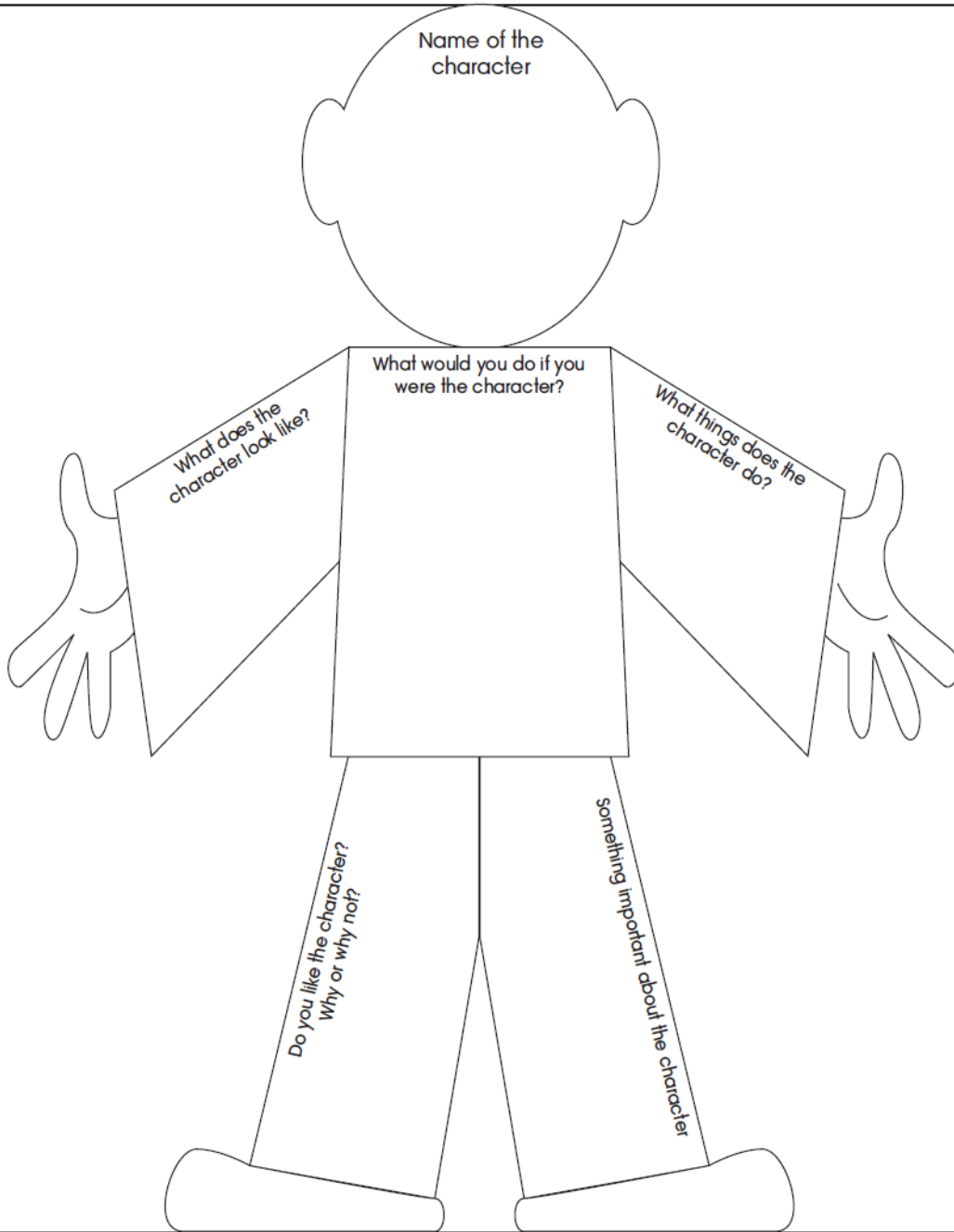
Comprehension Activity

Choose one of the main characters. Describe the character by answering questions in each section of the character map on the following page.

Name _____

Character Characteristics

C.001.SSI



Week 3 – (June 26th – July 2nd) Chapters 5 - 6

Vocabulary:

lurched, abrupt, craned, knickknacks, novelties, incense, avalanche, spire, pagoda

Vocabulary Activity

Pick the most important word in each chapter and explain why you chose it. Be sure to support your choice with examples.

Comprehension Activity

- Write an acrostic poem about one of the characters in *The Cricket in Times Square*

Acrostics: Acrostics are poems that use the letters of a specific word to begin each line.

CAT

Causing Tucker headaches

Acting mean

Trouble always follows

- Draw a picture that illustrates your poem.

Week 4 – (July 3rd – July 9th) Chapters 7 - 8

Vocabulary: gaping, soufflé, keen, kimono, contentment, rap, accuse, whopped, heaved, denounced, unsavory, gilded, bail, pathetic, loot, peril, skinflint

Vocabulary Activity

DIRECTIONS: Complete the concept web below.

Category

Properties

What is it?

What is it like?

Contentment

What is it not like?

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What are some examples?

Comprehension Activity

1. What kind of food do the Chinese make?
 - a) spaghetti and pizza
 - b) many bean dishes with pintos, navy, and butter beans
 - c) unusual foods made from bird's nests, sharks' fins, and mice
 - d) tacos and burritos

2. How did Chester feel about the cricket cage?
 - a) Chester felt like a prince in a castle.
 - b) Chester felt nervous to be locked in a cage.
 - c) Chester thought the cage was the best house in the whole world.
 - d) Chester felt like he was the emperor of China.

3. What did Tucker want to do with the cage?
 - a) throw it in the garbage
 - b) sleep in it
 - c) stored his "treasures" from the drainpipe inside of it
 - d) break it

4. Chester ate _____ during the night.
 - a) a candy bar
 - b) half of the two dollar bill
 - c) the liverwurst
 - d) a leaf

5. Why did Chester eat this?
 - a) Chester wanted to see what the others would do if he ate it.
 - b) Chester liked the way it tasted.
 - c) Chester was hungry.
 - d) Chester was dreaming.

Week 5 – (July 10th – July 16th) Chapters 9 - 11

Vocabulary: chopsticks, solemn, luscious, kumquats, mulberry, luminous, amateur, despair, reproach

Vocabulary Activity

DIRECTIONS: Choose one word from the list. Complete the vocabulary word map on the following page.

Word Map

Name _____

Date _____

4

(synonym)

5

(antonym or "nonexample")

3

(the matching dictionary definition)

1

(Vocabulary Word)

Page Number

6

(other forms of the word)

2

(sentence or phrase from the text)

8

(my very own sentence)

7

(my association, example, or sketch)

Writing Prompt Activity #2

Directions: Read the writing prompt and respond to the prompt on a separate sheet of paper.

Mario found Chester and decided to keep him for a pet. If you could have one animal in the world for a pet what animal would it be? Write to explain why you would like this animal to be your pet.

Use specific details to explain and support your reasons. Use interesting adjectives and descriptive words to make your paper interesting to read.

Week 6 – (July 17th – July 23rd) Chapters 12 – 13

Vocabulary: greedy, rodent, implore, dazed, throngs, coaxed

Vocabulary Activity

Choose three (3) words from the list. Write three (3) synonyms and three (3) antonyms for each word

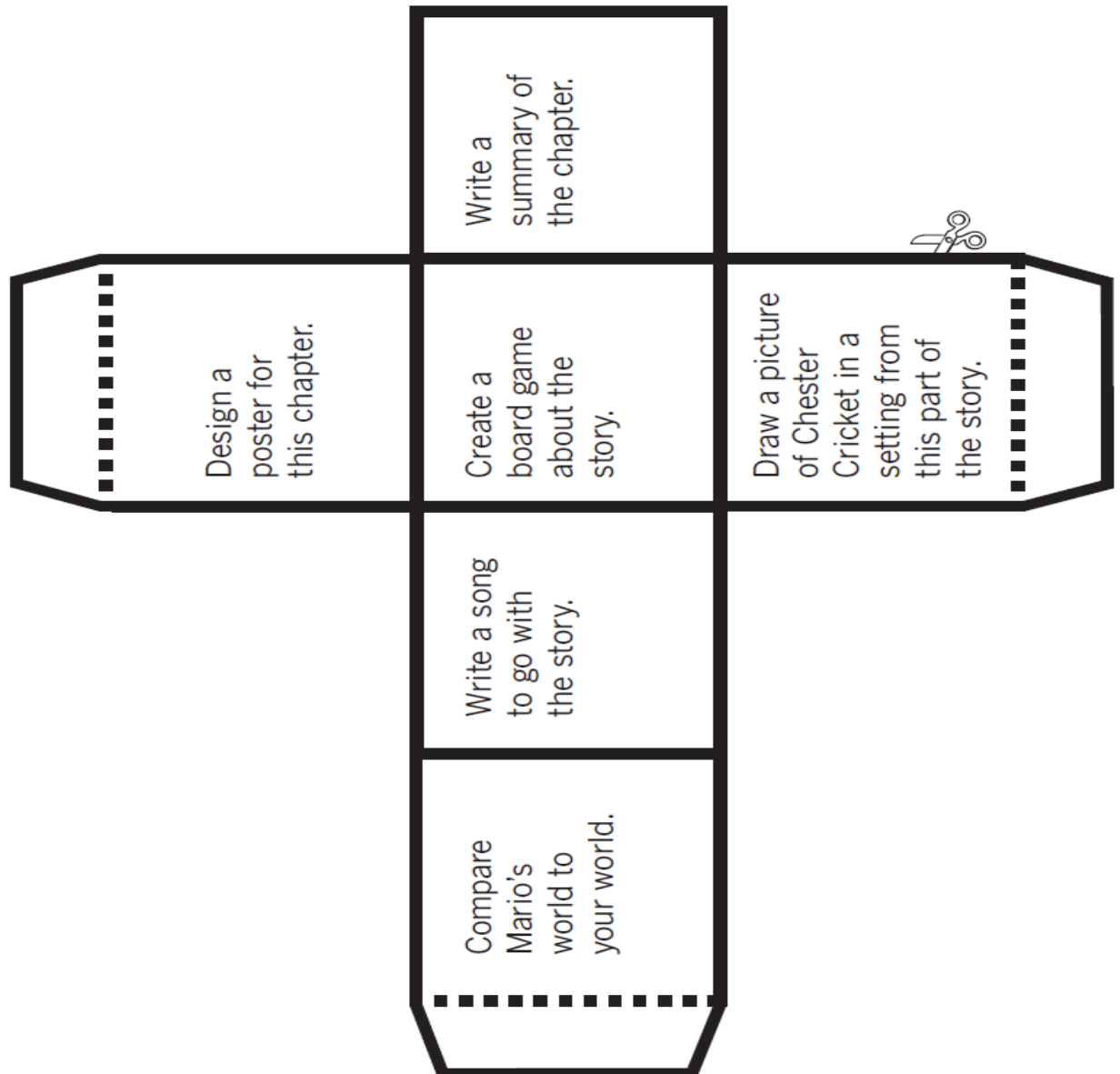
Vocabulary Word	Definition	Synonym	Antonym

Comprehension Activity

DIRECTIONS: Cut out, fold, and tape the shape together to form a cube. Toss the cube two (2) times to select a method of responding to what you have read. Complete your (2) activities on a separate sheet of paper

Cricket Questions Cube

Cut out, fold, and tape the shape together to form a cube.



Week 7 – (July 24th – July 30th) Chapter 14

Vocabulary: ambling, wearily, summit

Vocabulary Activity

Choose one (1) vocabulary word from the list. Complete the word map below.

V O C A B U L A R Y W O R D M A P

Definition in Your Own Words

Synonyms

VOCABULARY WORD

Use It Meaningfully in a Sentence

Draw a Picture of It

Thanks to Debbie Petzold for design idea.

Comprehension Activity

Create a timeline of the major events in the book. Use drawings or magazine cutouts to show the events along the timeline. Label each event.

Week 8 – (August 1st - August 6th) Chapter 15

Vocabulary Activity

- Define each of these literary terms- idiom, alliteration, personification
- Find and write down one example of each of these literary mechanisms from **The Cricket in Times Square**
- Create your own example and write it next to the author’s example which each you selected.
- Complete this activity in the chart below

Idiom-			
Alliteration-			
Personification-			
Sentence from book		My Sentence	
idiom		idiom	
alliteration		alliteration	
personification		personification	

Comprehension Activity

DIRECTIONS: Complete the book review for The Cricket in Times Square on the following page

Draw a picture below to represent the theme of book.

Name _____

Book Title:

Author:

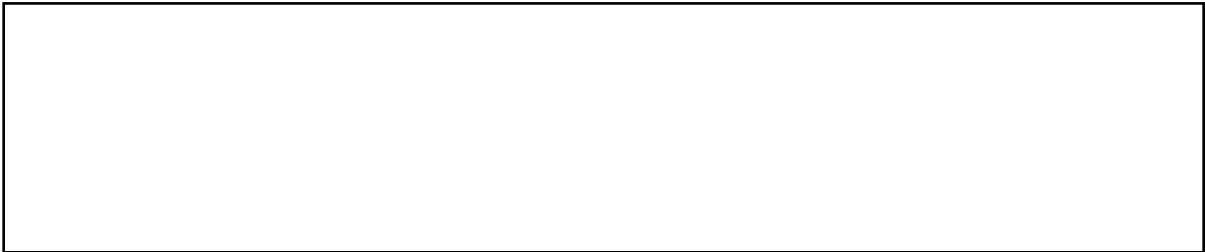
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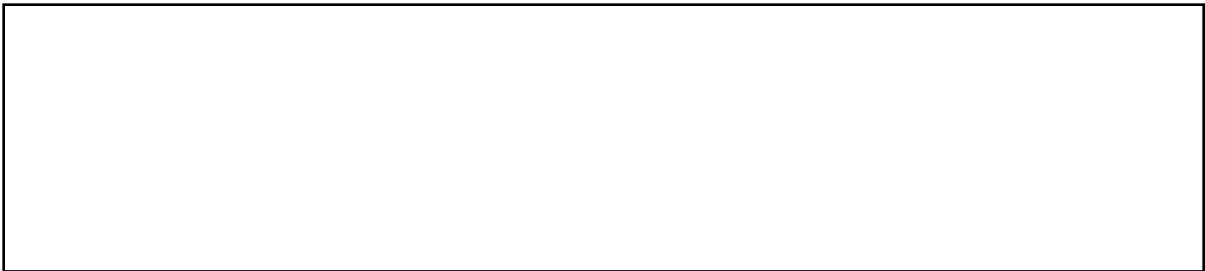
This book was about:



**My favorite character in this book was _____
because**



I liked / didn't like this book because:



You should / should not read this book because:



Writing Prompt Activity # 3

Directions: Read the writing prompt and respond to the prompt on a separate sheet of paper.

Best friends are special people in our lives. Think about your best friend and reasons why you like him or her. Think about things that you like doing together. Write to tell your teacher about your best friend. Include at least three reasons why he/she is your best friend. Remember to use specific details to explain and support your reasons. Use interesting adjectives and descriptive words to make your paper interesting to read. Include a short personal story about your best friend to help explain one of your reasons.