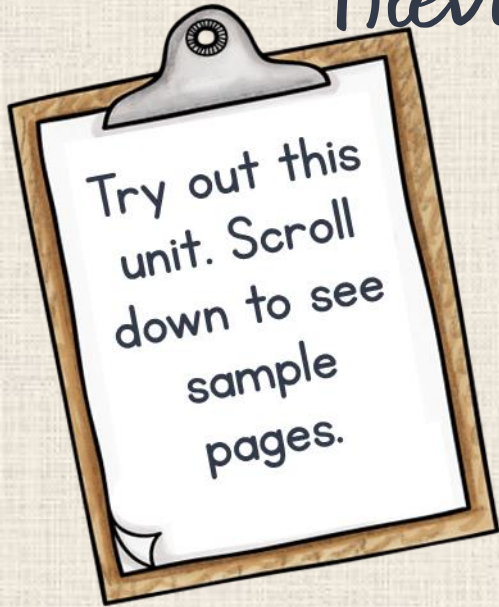
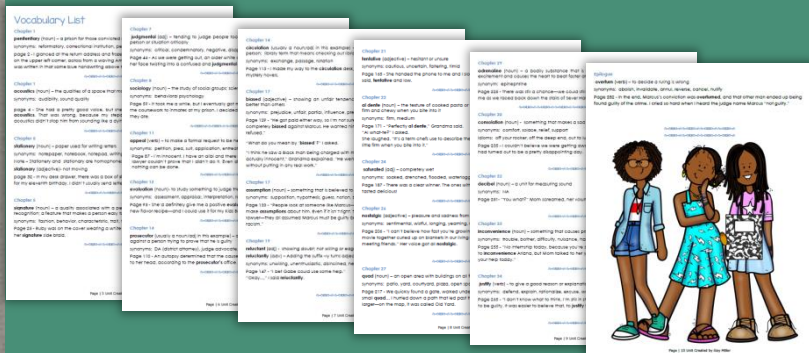


# From the Desk of Zoe Washington

*Preview*



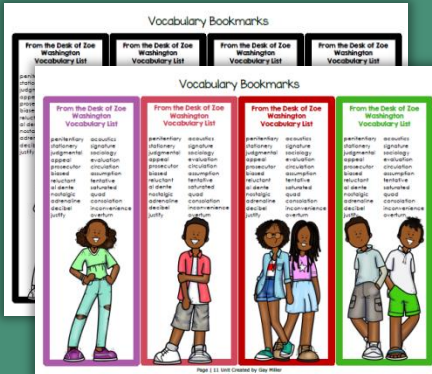
# VOCABULARY RESOURCES



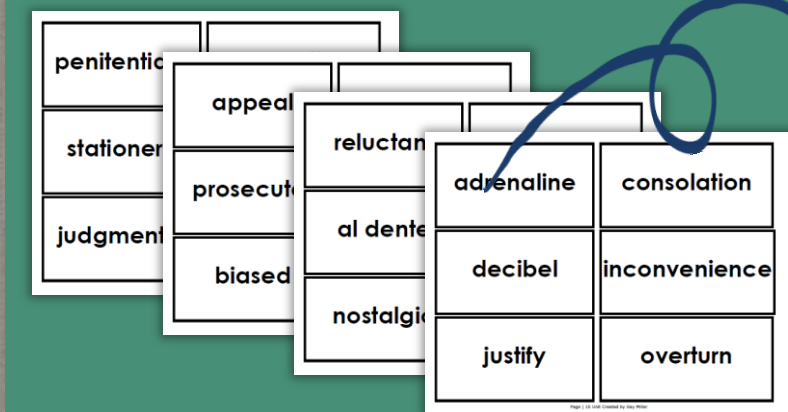
**WORD LIST**  
Students practice with two focus words for each reading selection. A wordlist with definitions, synonyms, and sample sentences from the story is included.



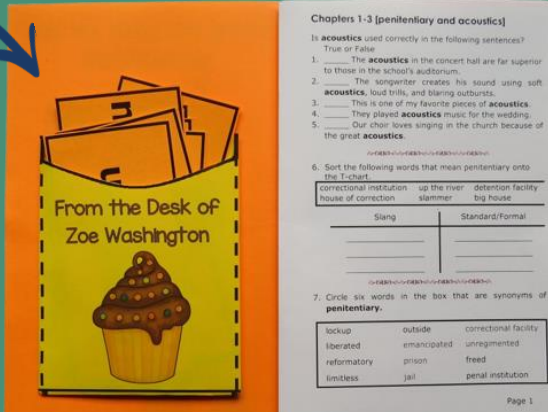
# VOCABULARY BOOKMARKS



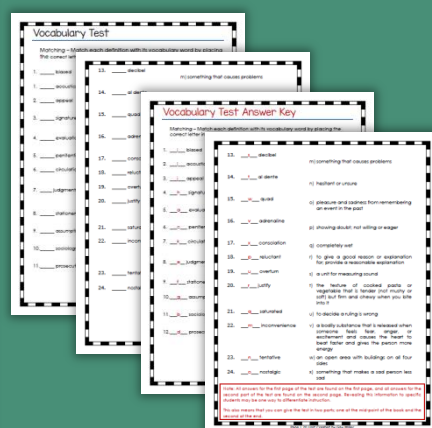
## WORD CARDS



## PRACTICE BOOK

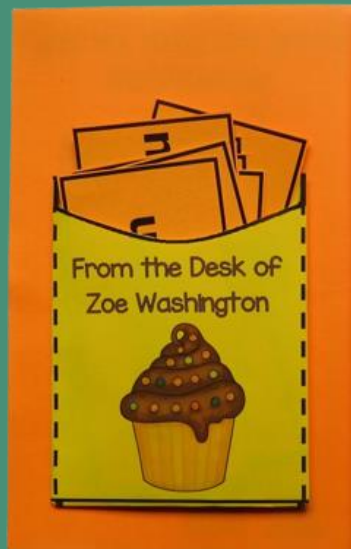


## TEST WITH ANSWER KEY



# DIGITAL VOCABULARY

Digital vocabulary practice is provided though Boom Learning Decks.



## Chapters 1-3 [penitentiary and acoustics]

Is **acoustics** used correctly in the following sentences?

True or False:

1. The **acoustics** in the concert hall are far superior to those in the school's auditorium.
2. The songwriter creates his sound using soft **acoustics**, loud trills, and blaring outbursts.
3. This is one of my favorite pieces of **acoustics**.
4. They played **acoustics** music for the wedding.
5. Our choir loves singing in the church because of the great **acoustics**.

Sort the following words that mean penitentiary onto the T-chart.

correctional institution   up the river   detention facility  
house of correction   slammer   big house

Slang	Standard/Formal
_____	_____
_____	_____

Circle six words in the box that are synonyms of **penitentiary**.

lockup	outside	correctional facility
liberated	emancipated	unregimented
reformatory	prison	freed
limitless	jail	penal institution





# 12 COMPREHENSION CHECKS

## From the Desk of Zoe Washington ~ Chapters 1-3

1 Look at the graphic organizer.

Zoe's 12th Birthday

party

Hawaiian-ish pizza

Which information belongs in the empty space?

- Stevie Wonder
- Ruby Willow's cookbook
- movie marathoning
- Madford Middle School Basketball

3 Why does the author place different pictures at the beginnings of the chapters?

- To help the reader find his/her place in the novel.
- The pictures help the reader better understand what they are reading.
- The pictures decorate the book to give it more appeal to readers.
- The pictures foreshadow a main event that is going to take place in the chapter.

5 Sequence the following events in order.

- Zoe learns that her father has written her more than one letter.
- Zoe opens the package that Trevor gives her and finds a special cookbook.
- Zoe has a birthday party at Ari's Cakes.
- Mom gives Trevor and Patricia cupcakes.
- Zoe checks the mail and finds a letter from her father.

7 Which line from the story shows that it is written in first person?

- "Happy birthday, Zoe!"
- Well, I wasn't about to tell him.
- Just eat the whole thing.
- She was a nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital and was already wearing her pale-blue scrubs.

2 Which word best describes Zoe's reactions to getting a letter from her father?

- disgusted
- surprised
- frightened
- upset

4 Read this passage from Chapter 2.

I stared at my striped rug as a million thoughts swirled around my head like cake batter in a mixer.

Check the types of figurative language included.

___ onomatopoeia	___ metaphor
___ personification	___ hyperbole
___ idiom	___ simile

6 Based on the information in Chapters 1-3, which inference can be made?

- Zoe is going to visit Jasmine in Maryland.
- Zoe's favorite food is chocolate covered raisins.
- Zoe will forgive Trevor.
- Mom had thrown away the earlier letters that Marcus has sent.

8 Zoe was angry at Trevor; because he hurt her feelings.

What is the best way to revise the sentence above?

- Zoe was angry at Trevor, because he hurt her feelings.
- Zoe was angry at Trevor: because he hurt her feelings.
- Because he hurt her feelings, Zoe was angry at Trevor.
- Because he hurt her feelings, Zoe was angry at Trevor.

## From the Desk of Zoe Washington ~ Chapters 1-3

1 Look at the graphic organizer.

Zoe's 12th Birthday

party

Hawaiian-ish pizza

Which information belongs in the empty space?

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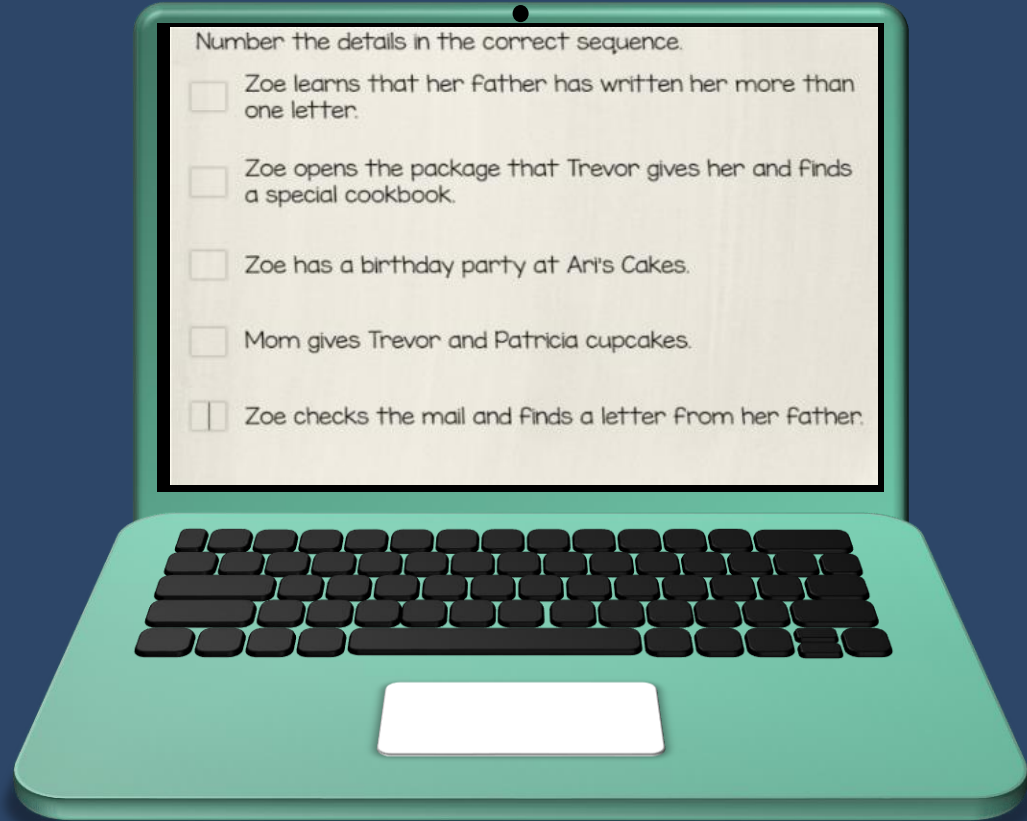
★★★★★

I am using this very comprehensive product to create a unit study around this book. As always, it is very thorough and full of activities to make the process a lot quicker and easier for me. I can't wait to use it with my students.

-CREAD Academy

# DIGITAL COMPREHENSION CHECKS

Digital comprehension questions are provided through Boom Learning Decks.



# 16 CONSTRUCTED WRITING PROMPTS

## Full Page Answer Keys

**Constructed Response - Setting**  
Complete the chart to explain the importance of the setting of *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*.

Location of the Story	Importance of the Setting

Time of the Story	Mood - Atmosphere of the Setting

**Setting**

CCSS ELA/Literacy RI.3.3 Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., characters' reactions).  
CCSS ELA/Literacy RI.3.4 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or act moves toward a resolution.

Page | 9 Unit Created by Gay Miller

**Constructed Response - Setting Answer Key**  
Complete the chart to explain the importance of the setting of *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*.

Location of the Story	Importance of the Setting
Zoe's party is held in Beacon Hill which she describes as her favorite neighborhood in Boston.	The setting is ideal for a realistic fiction novel. Actual places are mentioned adding to the realism of the story. Beacon Hill is a real neighborhood in Boston. You will find the cobblestone streets that Zoe describes there.
Zoe's family lives in a duplex (two-family home). A reader can infer that Zoe attends Medford Middle School because of the t-shirt that Trevor wears.	Readers can infer Zoe comes from a middle-class family based on the description of her home. She lives in a duplex. Patricia, the mother that lives next door, is a nurse.

Time of the Story	Mood - Atmosphere of the Setting
The novel is set in present day. It mentions the kid baking competition on the Food Network that first aired in 2015. The novel was published on January 14, 2021. This narrows the actual date down to a 6 year span.	Complications are already beginning to arise. Zoe Trevor who lives in the other half of her duplex. He will likely add to the complications presented in the Zoe receives a letter from her father who is in prison in Massachusetts State Penitentiary. (Although the not say this, this prison is in Concord which is a minute drive from Boston. This makes the trip difficult for Zoe to travel there if Zoe decides to do this.)

**Setting**

CCSS ELA/Literacy RI.3.3 Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., characters' reactions).  
CCSS ELA/Literacy RI.3.4 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or act moves toward a resolution.

Page | 12 Unit Created by Gay Miller

**Constructed Response - Setting**  
Complete the chart to explain the importance of the setting of *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*.

Location of the Story	Importance of the Setting

Time of the Story	Mood - Atmosphere of the Setting

**Setting**

Page | 15 Unit Created by Gay Miller

with and without CCSS

# DIGITAL WRITING PROMPTS

Digital writing prompts  
are provided through  
Google Slides.



# SKILL LESSONS

This unit has 7 skill lessons with teaching videos. This unit focuses on comprehension skills, vocabulary skills, and idioms.

Skills include:

- Main Idea and Supporting Details (Sorting Sentences Activity)
- Inference (The Bremen Town Musicians Story with Practice Questions)
- Suffixes (Dice Game)
- Dictionary (Task Cards)
- Idioms (2 Bump Games)
- Context Clues (Sorry Game with 52 Question Cards)
- Summarizing (Fables are provided for practice using the strategies. I do not recommend assigning all the fables at once.)









## Lesson Plans at a Glance

Read & Complete Comprehension Questions	Vocabulary	Vocabulary Practice Book	Constructed Response Question	Activities	Language Arts Skills
Chapters 1-3 p. 1-18	penitentiary acoustics	Page 1	Setting Character Traits		Main Idea and Supporting Details
Chapters 4-6 p. 19-45	stationery signature	Page 2	Point of View		Inference
Chapters 7-9 p. 46-74	judgmental sociology	Page 3	Inferences		Suffixes
Chapters 10-12 p. 75-96	appeal evaluation	Page 4	Conflict		Dictionary
Chapters 13-15 p. 97-121	prosecutor circulation	Page 5	Summarizing Chapters 13-14		Idioms
Chapters 16-18 p. 122-143	biased assumption	Page 6	Course of Action		Cause/Effect Context Clues
Chapters 19-21 p. 144-168	reluctantly tentative	Page 7	Mood Summarizing (Acrostic)		Comparison Context Clues
Chapters 22-24 p. 169-193	al dente saturated	Page 8	Problem and Solution Chain		Contrast Context Clues
Chapters 25-27 p. 194-217	nostalgic quod	Page 9	Figurative Language		Summarizing
Chapters 28-30 p. 218-238	adrenaline consolation	Page 10	Author's Tone		
Chapters 31-33 p. 239-259	decibel inconvenience	Page 11	Theme Character Change		
Chapters 34- epilogue p. 260-286	justify overturned	Page 12	Plot Development		
	Vocabulary Test			Cake in the Classroom Ideas	



**Students learn the rules with the video lesson and organizer.**

## Cause & Effect Context Clues

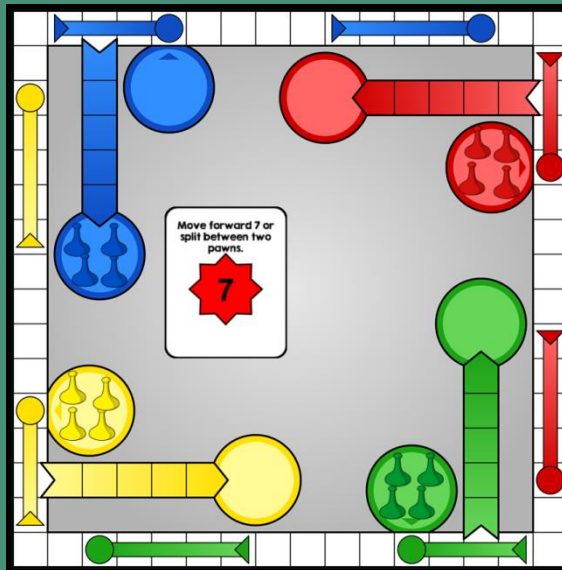
Context Clues Cause/EFFECT		Complete the definition. Define the bold words and highlight the clue words that helped you define them.	
<p>Define cause/effect context clues.</p> <p>Duncan has a cast on his arm after he fell off his horse during <b>equestrian</b> practice.</p> <p><b>Equestrian</b> means horse riding.</p>  <p>Susan passed the audition for school <b>orchestra</b>, practices her flute two hours each day.</p> <p><b>Orchestra</b> means a group of musicians.</p> 	<p>The mountainous road between Mountain City and Abingdon was so full of twists and turns that many students became <b>queasy</b> on the field trip to Barber Theatre.</p> <p><b>Queasy</b> means</p>  <p>Jim had an infection, so he had to go to the drug store to get some <b>antibiotics</b>.</p> <p><b>Antibiotics</b> means</p> 	<p>Joe picked up the steaming slice of pizza and yowled as he <b>scalded</b> the roof of his mouth.</p> <p><b>Scalded</b> means</p>  <p>Mary was soaked from head to toe after walking home in the <b>torrential</b> rain.</p> <p><b>Torrential</b> means</p> 	<p>Weg wanted to impress everyone with the <b>culinary</b> dish of shrimp and grits that she had learned how to prepare when she went to <b>culinary</b> school in Charleston.</p> <p><b>Culinary</b> means</p>  <p>The lizard dug a burrow in the sand because the desert was too <b>sweating</b> for even the animals.</p> <p><b>Sweating</b> means</p> 

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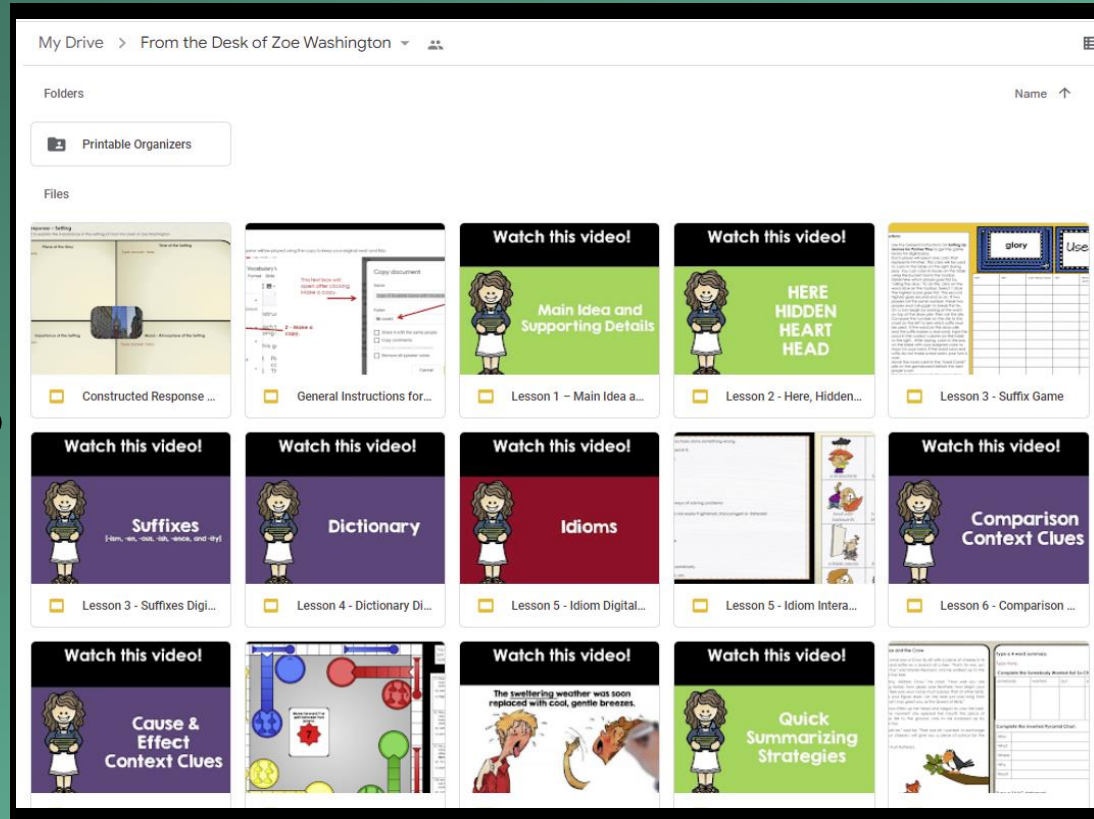
## Practice

You will find four pages of questions. When you finish one page, just slide it out of the way and continue with the next page of questions.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p>8) Due to the drought, food was <b>scarce</b> causing the animals to go hungry.</p> <p>a) near                      b) ease</p> <p>c) tight                     d) limited</p>   | <p>9) A child needs her parent's <b>approval</b> like a dog who wants to be patted on the head for fetching the paper.</p> <p>a) agreement            b) praise</p> <p>c) support                d) critique</p> | <p>10) After going to <b>primary</b> school, you will move on to secondary school.</p> <p>a) initial                  b) last</p> <p>c) chief                    d) essential</p>                          |
| <p>9) We <b>recently</b> went on vacation, but Matt has been away from home for years.</p> <p>a) speedier                b) lately</p> <p>c) sensible                 d) timely</p> | <p>10) Megan's problems began to <b>escalate</b> causing her to have a complete meltdown.</p> <p>a) correct                 b) develop</p> <p>c) worsen                 d) improve</p>                           | <p>11) Sometimes the captain allows the crew to <b>navigate</b> the ship by steering boat.</p> <p>a) pilot                    b) follow</p> <p>c) vessel                  d) experiment</p>                |
| <p>9) My grandmother died when she was 89 years old for almost <b>nine decades</b>.</p> <p>a) 10 years                b) time</p> <p>c) span                     d) centuries</p>   | <p>10) Mom tried to <b>persuade</b> Sade to go to the park while Dad discouraged her from leaving the house.</p> <p>a) alongside              b) coax</p> <p>c) put off                  d) against</p>          | <p>11) The <b>glee</b> from the sun on the windshield gave me the <b>glee</b>.</p> <p>a) darkness               b) brightness</p> <p>c) multiness               d) cloudy</p>                              |
| <p>13) <b>am familiar</b> with the trip as we traveled using the same route last year.</p> <p>a) common                b) usual</p> <p>c) common                d) well-known</p>   | <p>14) The <b>hilarious</b> comedian made me laugh until my sides hurt.</p> <p>a) moving                b) depressed</p> <p>c) funny                   d) forlorn</p>  | <p>15) When the teller would not put all the cash in a bag, the <b>hostile</b> man hit her with his gun.</p> <p>a) dirty                    b) friendly</p> <p>c) aggressive              d) pleasured</p> |



# GOOGLE DRIVE FILES



This novel study includes links to the digital components for this unit. **Boom Learning** is used for the multiple-choice, short answer, and fill-in-the-blank questions.

Activities that require more open-ended responses may be found in **Google Slides**. This includes all the writing prompts with organizers for students to plan responses.

# What are Boom Cards?

Boom Cards are digital task cards that students play on the Boom Learning Website.

They...

- ✓ are fully digital – require no printing, paper, ink, etc.
- ✓ may be used on all modern browsers
- ✓ are played on devices connected to the Internet
- ✓ can be used for student practice at no cost to you

When you purchase this novel study from TPT, you will receive special links to these Boom Cards. When you click on one of these links, you will be asked to sign into your account or create a free account at the Boom Learning Website. The special links in the packet resource let the Boom Learning site know you have purchased the deck. When you click the link, Boom Learning sends the Boom Deck to your Boom Library, so your students can access them. Students can play for free or data will be tracked for you with the Boom Learning Paid Subscription.

[Click here for a playable preview on Boom Learning.](#)





# Boom Learning Card Examples

Read this passage from Chapter 2.

I stared at my striped rug as a million thoughts swirled around my head like cake batter in a mixer.

Select 2 types of figurative language included.

onomatopoeia

hyperbole

idiom

personification

metaphor

simile

Drag the synonyms of **penitentiary** to the synonym box and the antonyms of **penitentiary** to the antonym box.

Synonyms

Antonyms

outside

emancipated

reformatory

liberated

correctional facility

lockup

Which word best describes Zoe's reactions to getting a letter from her father?

upset

disgusted

surprised

frightened



Drag each word to the correct location on the chart.

slammer

correctional institution

up the river

detention facility

house of correction

big house

Slang

Standard/Formal

Which information belongs in the empty space?

Zoe's 12th Birthday

party

Hawaiian-ish pizza

Medford Middle School Basketball

movie marathoning

Ruby Willow's cookbook

Stevie Wonder

Why does the author place different pictures at the beginnings of the chapters?

The pictures help the reader better understand what they are reading.

The pictures decorate the book to give it more appeal to readers.

The pictures foreshadow a main event that is going to take place in the chapter.

To help the reader find his/her place in the novel.

# From the Desk of Zoe Washington

## *Novel Study Samples*



*Created by Gay Miller*







**Thank you for  
downloading this novel  
study sample.**

**On the next pages, you will find the following pages  
from the unit including:**

- **Table of Contents for the Digital + Printable Version**
- **Lesson Plans at a Glance for the Full Unit**

### **FREE SAMPLE PAGES**

**The First Reading Selection plus Answer Keys  
(These pages are found in all versions of this unit.)**

- **Vocabulary Practice**
- **Comprehension Questions**
- **Constructed Response Writing Prompt  
(with and without the Common Core  
Standards)**



**Are you wondering what other novel  
studies I have available? You can see  
the complete list [here](#).**

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# Lesson Plans at a Glance

Read & Complete Comprehension Questions	Vocabulary	Vocabulary Practice Book	Constructed Response Question	Activities	Language Arts Skills
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Chapters 22-24 p. 169-193	al dente saturated	Page 8	Problem and Solution Chain		Contrast Context Clues
Chapters 25-27 p. 194-217	nostalgic quad	Page 9	Figurative Language		Summarizing
Chapters 28-30 p. 218-238	adrenaline consolation	Page 10	Author's Tone		
Chapters 31-33 p. 239-259	decibel inconvenience	Page 11	Theme Character Change		
Chapters 34- epilogue p. 260-286	justify overturned	Page 12	Plot Development		
	Vocabulary Test			Cake in the Classroom Ideas	

Chapters 34-Epilogue [justify and overturned]

1. Sort the words in the box on the T-chart.

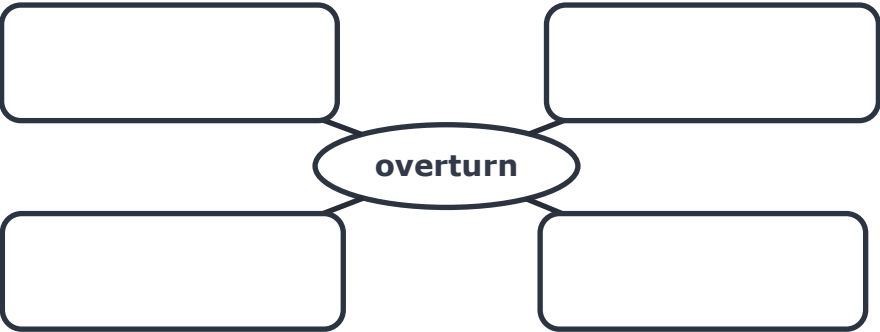
make even	straighten up	excuse	rationalize
arrange in a line	warrant	adjust	explain

-	
justify meaning align	justify meaning defend
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



2. Fill in the word web with synonyms for **overturn**.

start	abolish	cancel	accept
nullify	establish	annul	form



Chapters 1-3 [penitentiary and acoustics]

Is **acoustics** used correctly in the following sentences?

True or False

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ The **acoustics** in the concert hall are far superior to those in the school’s auditorium.
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ The songwriter creates his sound using soft **acoustics**, loud trills, and blaring outbursts.
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ This is one of my favorite pieces of **acoustics**.
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ They played **acoustics** music for the wedding.
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_ Our choir loves singing in the church because of the great **acoustics**.



6. Sort the following words that mean penitentiary onto the T-chart.

rectional institution	the river	ention facility
use of correction	mmer	house

Slang	Standard/Formal
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



7. Circle six words in the box that are synonyms of **penitentiary**.

lockup	outside	correctional facility
liberated	emancipated	unregimented
reformatory	prison	freed
limitless	jail	penal institution



Chapters 34-Epilogue [justify and overturned]

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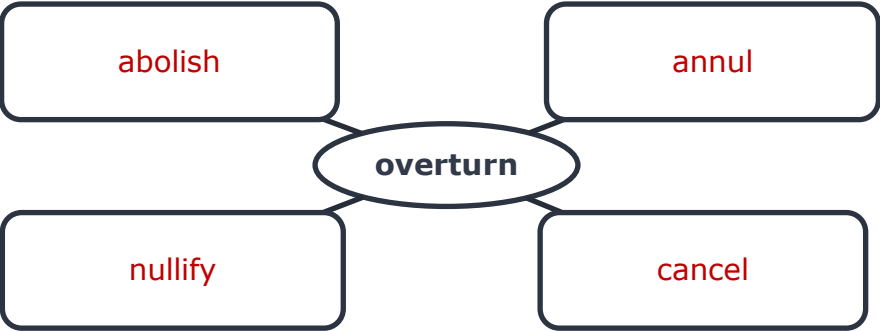
make even	straighten up	excuse	rationalize
arrange in a line	warrant	adjust	explain

justify meaning align	justify meaning defend
adjust	explain
straighten up	rationalize
arrange in a line	excuse
make even	warrant



2. Fill in the word web with synonyms for **overturn**.

start	abolish	cancel	accept
nullify	establish	annul	form



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True or False

- 1. I The **acoustics** in the concert hall are far superior to those in the school’s auditorium.
- 2. I The songwriter creates his sound using soft **acoustics**, loud trills, and blaring outbursts.
- 3. F This is one of my favorite pieces of **acoustics**.
- 4. F They played **acoustics** music for the wedding.
- 5. I Our choir loves singing in the church because of the great **acoustics**.



6. Sort the following words that mean penitentiary onto the T-chart.

rectional institution	the river	ention facility
use of correction	mmer	house

Slang	Standard/Formal
big house	correctional institution
slammer	detention facility
up the river	house of correction



7. Circle six words in the box that are synonyms of **penitentiary**.

lockup	outside	correctional facility
liberated	emancipated	unregimented
reformatory	prison	freed
limitless	jail	penal institution

# From the Desk of Zoe Washington ~ Chapters 1-3

<div>1. Look at the graphic organizer.</div> <div><div><div>Zoe's 12th Birthday</div><div><div>party</div><div>Hawaiian-ish pizza</div><div></div></div></div></div> <div>Which information belongs in the empty space?</div> <div><div>a. Stevie Wonder</div><div>b. Ruby Willow's cookbook</div><div>c. movie marathoning</div><div>d. Medford Middle School Basketball</div></div>	<div>2. Which word best describes Zoe's reactions to getting a letter from her father?</div> <div><div>a. disgusted</div><div>b. surprised</div><div>c. frightened</div><div>d. upset</div></div>
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## Constructed Response - Setting

Complete the chart to explain the importance of the setting of *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*.

Location of the Story	Importance of the Setting

Time of the Story	Mood - Atmosphere of the Setting

Setting

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.3](#) Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3](#) Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

# Comprehension and Constructed Response Answer Keys



# From the Desk of Zoe Washington ~ Chapters 1-3

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## Constructed Response - Setting Answer Key

Complete the chart to explain the importance of the setting of *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*.

### Location of the Story

Zoe's party is held in Beacon Hill which she describes as her favorite neighborhood in Boston.

Zoe's family lives in a duplex (two-family home).

A reader can infer that Zoe attends Medford Middle School because of the t-shirt that Trevor wears.

### Importance of the Setting

The setting is ideal for a realistic fiction novel. Actual places are mentioned adding to the realism of the story.

Beacon Hill is a real neighborhood in Boston. You will find the cobblestone streets that Zoe describes there.

Readers can infer Zoe comes from a middle-class family based on the description of her home. She lives in a duplex. Patricia, the mother that lives next door, is a nurse.

## Setting

### Time of the Story

The novel is set in present day. It mentions the kid baking competition on the Food Network that first aired in 2015. The novel was published on January 14, 2021. This narrows the actual date down to a 6 year span.

### Mood - Atmosphere of the Setting

Complications are already beginning to arise. Zoe is mad at Trevor who lives in the other half of her duplex. His proximity will likely add to the complications presented in the story.

Zoe receives a letter from her father who is in prison at the Massachusetts State Penitentiary. (Although the book does not say this, this prison is in Concord which is only a 30 minute drive from Boston. This makes the trip short enough for Zoe to travel there if Zoe decides to do this.)

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.3](#) Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

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# Student Packet without Common Core State Standards



## Important Update

Originally 46 states adopted the Common Core State Standards. Many teachers have commented that they love having the standards on pages with constructed response writing prompts for accountability reasons. Now educational trends are changing. Many states have repealed Common Core and adopted their own state standards. To meet the needs of teachers both using and not using Common Core Standards, I have opted to provide the writing questions both with and without standards.

To make creating a printable student packet easier, the comprehension and constructed response questions are both included in this section.

# From the Desk of Zoe Washington ~ Chapters 1-3

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## Constructed Response - Setting

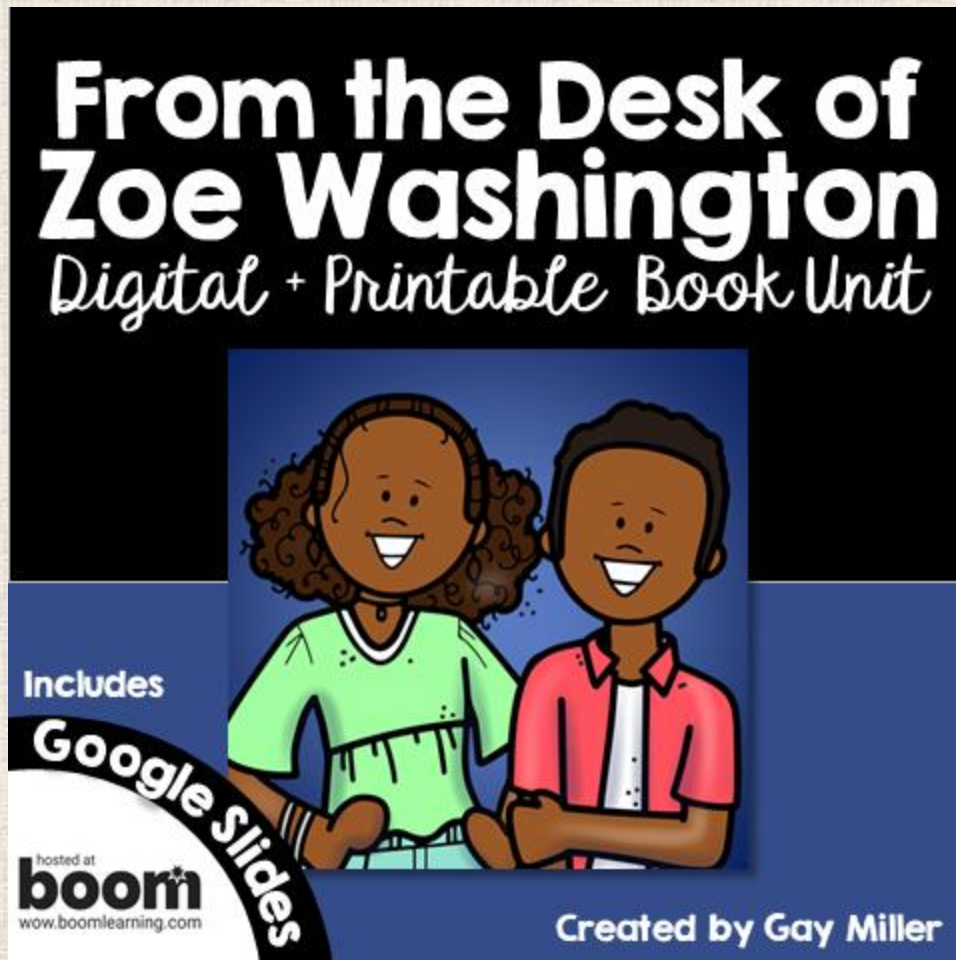
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Location of the Story	Importance of the Setting
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Setting



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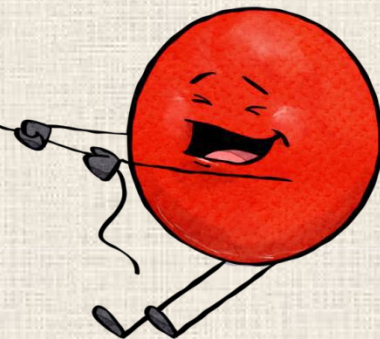


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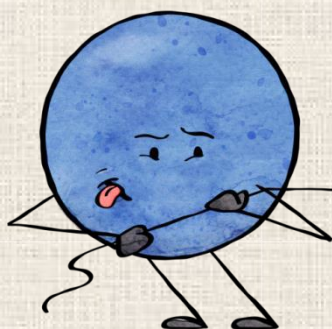
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