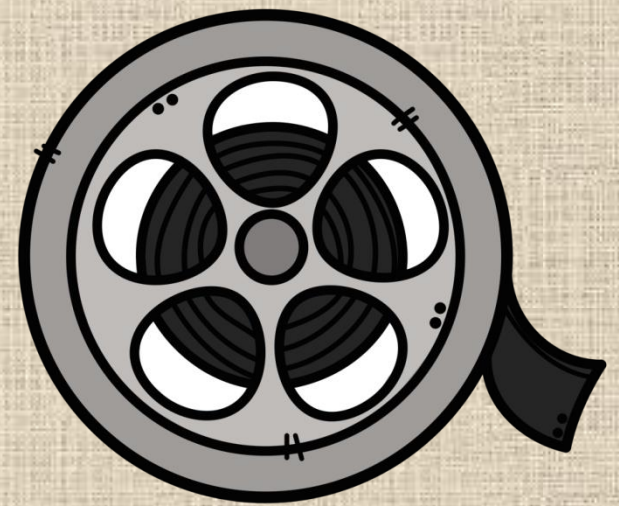


# Using Animated Shorts to Teach Setting and Comparing Stories



# THE BOX

Where to find the Video

Each of these links go to the same video. Multiple links are included since I have no control over individuals removing their video files from the Internet.

[Youtube](#)

[Youtube](#)

[Youtube](#)

[Vimeo](#)

Google Slides

\*\*\*\*\* YOU MUST MAKE A COPY OF This FILE TO YOUR GOOGLE DRIVE BEFORE IT IS EDITABLE. \*\*\*\*\*

Click here to go to [Google Drive](#).

# Student Pages



# The Box

Complete the chart to explain the importance of the setting of *The Box*.

Locations Where the Story Takes Place

Importance of the Setting

What is Taking Place at This Location

Mood - Atmosphere of the Setting

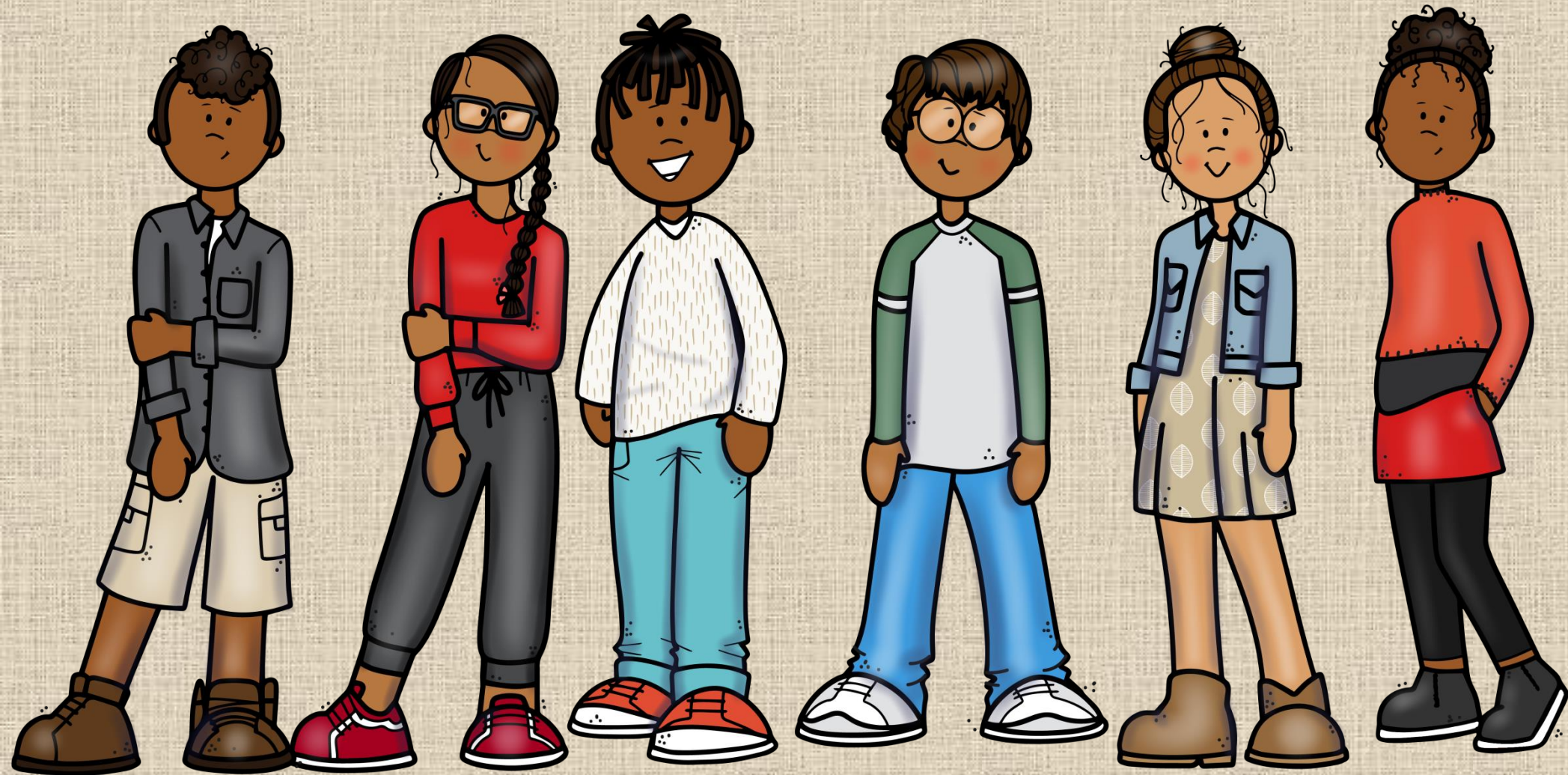


Comparing *The Box* to Mahmoud's story from *Refugee*

Question	The Box	Mahmoud in Refugee
Why do the boys leave home?		
What is the journey to the coast like?		
What is the boat ride like?		



# Answer Keys



# The Box

Complete the chart to explain the importance of the setting of *The Box*.

## Locations Where the Story Takes Place

The story takes place in war-torn present-day Syria.

## Importance of the Setting

The end of the film lists these disturbing facts:

8.4 million children – more than 80 percent of Syria's child population – have been directly affected by the brutal and violent conflict in Syria.

6.1 million children need education support.

More than 6 million children have been displaced from their homes.

More than 16,600 unaccompanied and separated children have crossed Syria's borders.



## What is Taking Place at This Location

A civil war is taking place between the Ba'athist Syrian Arab Republic led by President Bashar al-Assad and various domestic and foreign forces opposing the Syrian government.

In 2000, al-Assad became president. He rules the country like a dictator. As the people in Syria became unhappy with his power, protests demanding a democratic government rule the country started. This has caused a chain reaction of al-Assad killing people who speak against him causing more and more citizens to fight against al-Assad.

More than 250,000 people have died and millions have fled their homes.

## Mood - Atmosphere of the Setting

The film begins in a light-hearted way with a young child happily playing with a cardboard box. The mood swiftly changes when war comes close. Once the child's home is bombed, the boy is alone except for his pet cat. The box turns into shelter in a refugee camp. The refugee camp flashes through scary scenes. The people look sad. Children are eating leaves, taking baths in tubs, and bombs explode nearby.

During a wind storm, the box blows away causing the boy to make a mad dash for his shelter. He walks endless hours carrying the box. The boy imagines his parents are near but soon realizes they are just figments of his imagination.

The film ends with the hope that the boy will sail in his cardboard boat to safety. The mood is terribly sad as the boy's pet cat refuses to get into the boat with him.

# Comparing *The Box* to Mahmoud's story from *Refugee*

Question	The Box	Mahmoud in Refugee
Why do the boys leave home?	The boy plays happily in his home. He builds a playhouse out of a cardboard box and climbs inside the comforting structure with his pet cat. During the night, the house is bombed.	The side wall of Mahmoud's apartment building is blown away. He takes Waleed, his younger brother, and Hana, his baby sister, out of the building while their mother gathers up needed possessions. They meet their father in the street. He tells them it is time to go to Germany.
What is the journey to the coast like?	The film skips to the boy and his cat in a refugee camp. The boy leaves the box and sees disturbing images of struggling people around the camp. Bombs explode in a nearby field. During a windstorm, the box blows away. The boy races to catch it. He then walks endless hours carrying the box to the coast.	The group gets into their car and heads toward Turkey. They are stopped along the road by four soldiers waving rifles. The soldiers get into the car and direct the way they travel saying it is the only safe direction. The car is attacked by bullet fire. Mahmoud's family gets out just in time. The Bisharas then walk with hundreds of other refugees north toward Turkey. The family gets a ride from the refugee camp to the Mediterranean Sea.
What is the boat ride like?	The boy reaches the coast with his cardboard box. He refolds the box in the same fashion that you fold a piece of paper into a toy boat. The boy's pet cat refuses to get into the cardboard boat. The film ends with the boat sailing away.	Finally when hope is just about lost, Mahmoud's family receives a call that the boat is ready. The boat turns out to be an overloaded raft. The raft hits rocks and everyone is dumped in the Mediterranean Sea. After trying to stay afloat, another raft comes by. Mom and Mahmoud grabbed on. The people on board will not let them climb in because they are already overloaded. Mahmoud asks if they would take his baby sister. They do. Mahmoud receives a life jacket from a dead man and places it on Mom. The Greek Coast Guard picks up Mom and Mahmoud. They are reunited with Dad and Waleed. They are taken to a refugee camp in Lesbos. There they are able to get a ferry to Athens.

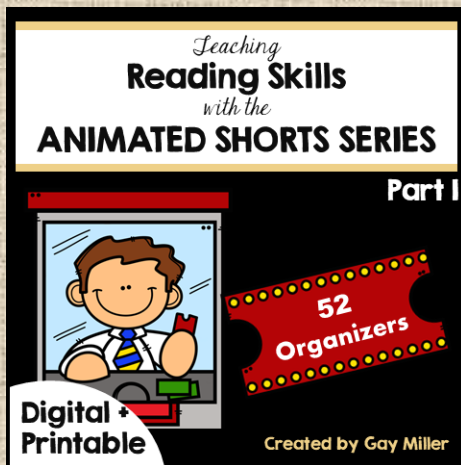
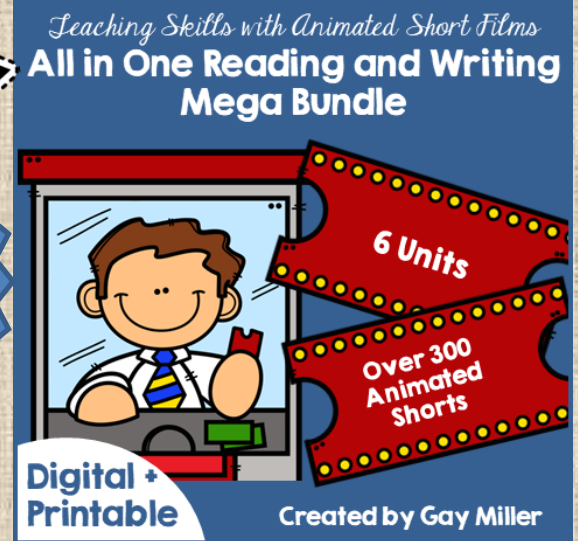


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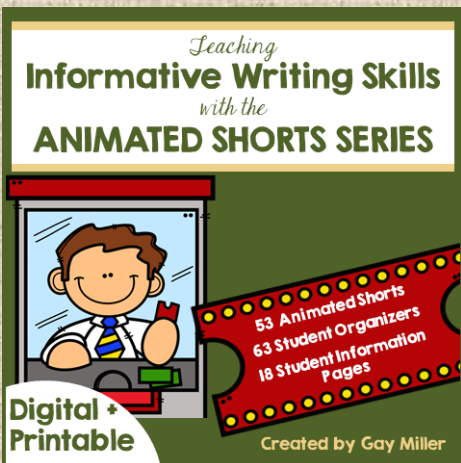
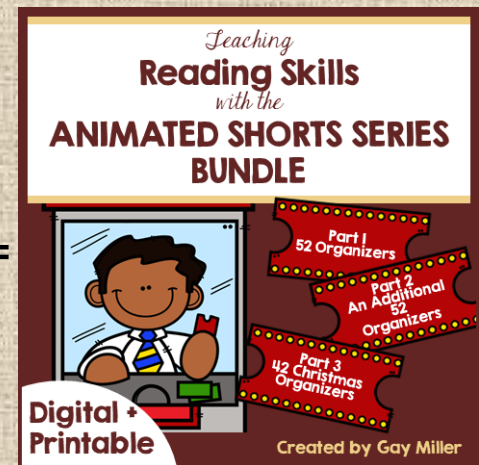
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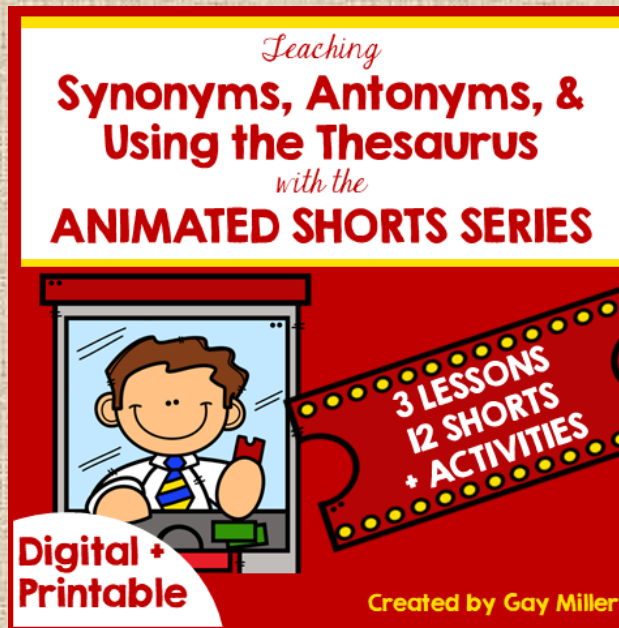


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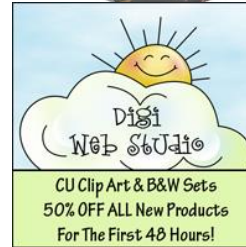
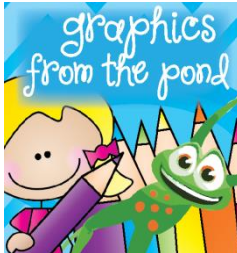
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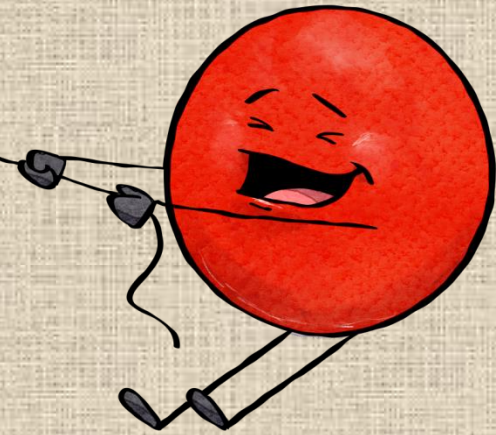


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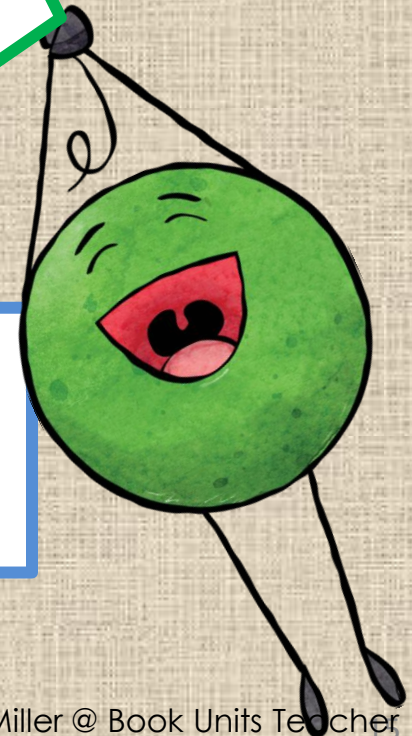
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