

Enhancement Activities/Strategies for Gifted/High Ability Learners: Sample Reading/Language Arts Learning Plan

Big Idea/ Topic

- Details and Examples from the Text

Standard Alignment

- **ELAGSE4RI1:** Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text
- **ELAGSE4RI4:** Determine the meaning of general academic language and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area.
- **ELAGSE4SL1:** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 4 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly
- **ELAGSE4W8:** Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; take notes and categorize information and provide a list of sources.

Advanced Research

Challenge students to create a newspaper or magazine as a long-term project. This could even be a project for a small group of students to do together. Ideas to include in the newspaper/magazine: editorials, advertisements, comics, articles about topics of interest, book reviews, puzzles, photographs, weather forecast, and more. Encourage students to analyze multiple magazines/newspapers and determine the components they want to include.

Communication

[Inferencing Jones Sample Page: Inspiration in Baseball](#) This is a sample page from CriticalThinking.com (part of the Inferencing Jones Beginner book) and is a great example of helping students think critically about a text and answer questions. Consider having students work together in pairs to read, discuss, and analyze the questions before answering each one. The discussions students will have allow for alternate viewpoints and a deeper understanding of the text, especially where personal knowledge is needed to provide a rationalization. The answers: (1) T, 9; (2) U, we are not told what Jim thought about basketball; (3) T, 7; (4) d; (5) 4, 1, 3, 2; (6) b; (7) c; (8) d; (9) d; (10) PT, 17; (11) PF, 17. There is also an Inference Jones Beginning App Lite available for [Apple](#) (iPad and iPhone) and Android.

Critical Thinking and Critical Problem-Solving Skills

Think about the characters in the books we have read. Brainstorm a list of problems or challenges the characters have. Use the [engineering design process](#) to create a solution for one of the problems. Will it be a new invention? An adaptation to something that already exists? Will the character need to adapt his thinking and consider things from a different perspective?

[Breakout EDU](#) (You can sign up for a free game if you do not have an account.) [A Visit to the Forest Preserve](#): Using **details to develop settings, experiences, characters, events** (including dialogue). Digital Breakout games are an easy way to challenge students to collaborate, use critical thinking, and communication to “breakout” (like an escape room concept, but everything is digital). If this is your students’ first experience with a Breakout Challenge, you may need to be prepared to give hints to help guide students. I find the best hints are questions to make them think more. Allow the students time to struggle before providing a hint. I encourage students to use the back of their recording sheet to write down solutions they try. Oftentimes, they will figure out the answer by working through what does not work. (*Handout on p. 3*)

Creative Thinking and Creative Problem-Solving Skills

Set up a FREE account for your students on [Pixton](#). Once students create a bitmoji-like character (10 minutes), they can then create comics to depict or explain vocabulary words. Then take it to the next level and have students create a comic strip to summarize a reading passage, including some direct quotes.

Awareness of Self—Student’s Well-being

Encourage students to keep a journal while they work to complete the [Mensa Excellence in Reading Challenge](#). Once they have read all the books on the list, you can submit their sheet for a free certificate and t-shirt (no cost for shipping). Students could even start a virtual or in-person book club to discuss the books. Many of the books are available on the Libby App and other Public Library options for digital books.

Digital Breakout EDU Challenge Recording Sheet: A Visit to the Forest Preserve

My Name _____

Names of the Students in My Group: _____



You and your friend decide to go on a nature hike at the local forest preserve. There is a lot to see but you only have an hour before you must be home for dinner. Can you do all the activities you want in the short amount of time you have?

Record the Correct Lock Combination for Each Lock

Lock		Correct Combination				
	Color Lock					
	Word Lock					
	Shape Lock					
	Color Lock					

What are some ways you can add more details to your settings, experiences, and/or characters in your writing?

What's the difference between indirect and direct characterization? Give an example.