

UPPER ELEMENTARY

WINTER-THemed ELA ACTIVITIES

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE, INFERENCES, GRAMMAR, Theme, AND NOVEL ACTIVITIES

Name: _____ Date: _____
WINTER WORD SEARCH
 Find the Winter words in the word search below.

Teacher Guide Page
Winter Songs Theme Analysis

Teacher Guide Page
Winter Mad Libs Grammar

Teacher Guide Page
Winter Novel Would You Rather Read...

THEME STATEMENTS

- Human beings are always searching for acceptance.
- Bravery comes in many forms.
- Change is hard.
- Human beings are courageous and are called upon to have courage.
- Family is important.
- It is okay to have boundaries.
- Don't judge a book by its cover.
- Greed can ruin life.
- Kindness is one of the most important things we can give.
- Love is blind.
- With great power comes great responsibility.
- Wisdom comes from learning through experiences.
- Persistence is key.

THEME TOPICS IN LITERATURE

- Acceptance
- Adoption
- Ambition
- Apathy
- Art
- Justice
- Kindness
- Knowledge
- Lone
- Love

Teacher Guide Page
Winter Figurative Language

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Simile	Definition: Compares two unlike things using "like" or "as." Example: He walked into school cool as ice .
Metaphor	Definition: Comparing two things that are not alike to suggest they have something in common. Example: She was a walking snowstorm of chaos and chatter.
Hyperbole	Definition: an exaggeration that can't possibly be true. Example: I could sleep for a century after shoveling the driveway.
Onomatopoeia	Definition: The repetition of beginning consonant sounds in two or more neighboring words or syllables. Example: The whirling winter winds whipped wildly down the street.
Alliteration	Definition: The formation of a word from a sound associated with what is named. "Boom" or "buzz." Example: The fire pop! pop! popped! as it burned the logs.
Oxymoron	Definition: Giving something nonhuman, actual human qualities. Example: The storm punched the windows like it wanted inside.

PARTS OF SPEECH

NOUN	Definition: Person, place, thing, or idea Example: pen, dog, Landon, Colorado
VERB	Definition: An action or state of being Example: run, jump, think
ADVERB	Definition: Describes how, when, where, or how often Example: quickly, yesterday, there, often
ADJECTIVES	Definition: Describes a noun Example: green, happy, tall
PRONOUNS	Definition: Replaces a noun Example: he, she, it, they
CONJUNCTIONS	Definition: Words that connect sentences or clauses Example: and, but, or, so
PREPOSITIONS	Definition: Shows the relationship between a noun and other words in a sentence Example: on, under, over, between
INTERJECTIONS	Definition: Words that express strong feelings or emotions Example: wow, ouch, hooray

WINTER MAD LIBS

Fill in each blank in the story using the part of speech labeled in parentheses. Be creative—the sillier your words, the funnier the story will be!



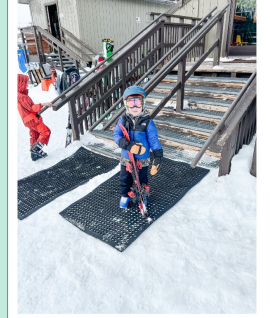
busy

WINTER STORIES

would you rather read



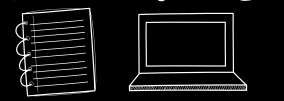
WINTER PICTURE inferences and evidence



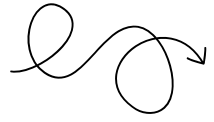
Make as many inferences as you can about the picture below and provide at least one piece of evidence for each inference. Write in complete sentences.



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AN UPPER ELEMENTARY ELA



WINTER ELA ACTIVITIES BUNDLE

This engaging seasonal unit gives students multiple ways to practice key ELA skills while keeping them hooked with winter season-themed texts, songs, and activities. With teacher guides, scaffolded practice, and ready-to-go student pages, you'll have everything you need to bring a little winter-time energy into your classroom—without sacrificing depth or rigor.

- ✓  **Winter Figurative Language Foundations:** Students identify and explain simile, metaphor, idiom, personification, alliteration, hyperbole, allusion, and irony using winter-themed sentences and passages.
- ✓  **Theme and Main Idea Through Winter Songs:** Students analyze curated winter songs to determine theme, central idea, tone, and figurative language using structured organizers and reference pages.
- ✓  **Grammar Review Through Winter Mad Libs:** Students apply knowledge of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections to complete a humorous winter Mad Libs story.
- ✓  **Making Inferences From Winter Pictures:** Students examine winter-themed images and make detailed inferences supported by clear evidence, strengthening comprehension and critical thinking.
- ✓  **Independent Reading Through Winter Novel Choices:** Students compare winter-related novel summaries and justify their preferences using evidence-based reasoning.

WINTER-THEMED ELA ACTIVITIES BUNDLE

This winter-themed bundle of activities helps upper elementary students practice figurative language, grammar, inferences, theme, and independent reading skills while keeping them engaged with seasonal texts, songs, and novels. With teacher guides, reference charts, and scaffolded practice, you'll have everything you need to make winter-time both academic and fun.

✨ Here's what they'll learn:

- **Figurative Language Foundations:** Identify, explain, and create similes, metaphors, idioms, personification, irony, and more in winter-themed sentences.
- **Grammar Review Through Winter Mad Libs:** Students apply knowledge of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections to complete a humorous winter Mad Libs story.
- **Making Inferences From Winter Pictures:** Students examine winter-themed images and make detailed inferences supported by clear evidence, strengthening comprehension and critical thinking.
- **Theme Through Music:** Listen to winter-time songs across genres and analyze lyrics for theme, imagery, and tone.
- **Independent Reading Choices:** Explore novels through "Would You Rather" activities that get students thinking critically about genre, plot, and style.

📖 Why this works:

Instead of random holiday worksheets, these activities combine seasonal engagement with real ELA skill-building. Students move from surface-level responses to deeper analysis using high-interest media and texts they can relate to. With built-in teacher guides, reference pages, and answer keys, you can run these activities with confidence and keep the rigor high—even during busy winter-time weeks.

💡 Perfect for:

- Teachers who want seasonal activities that *still hit standards*
- Students who need engaging, high-interest practice to stay motivated during winter season
- Any upper elementary ELA class looking to weave seasonal fun into figurative language, grammar, inferences, and theme work

Teachers like you have said...



This resource cost me money! **After reading this, the students couldn't wait to read some of these novels.** I had a bunch in my library, but I ordered the rest quickly. When they came, my students couldn't wait to get their hands on the new books! That made my teacher heart happy!"
– Kingdom A.



My kids loved using this resource for their school day. **They were engaged in the resource and had no trouble getting started. It didn't take a lot of time to prepare this resource, so it was easy for to use quickly.** –Shannon H.



I love all of Martina's things! I bought this because my students loved the similar packet she made with Valentines English activities - I especially love the pick a book activity :) –Literary Jane



"I love all of Martina's resources, so when I heard she was making a Halloween DIGITAL activity, I had to jump on it! This was perfect for my students to do remotely. **They got to choose which activities they wanted to do, so I love the variety. Plus, most of these topics were already covered in class (thanks to her other units), so I didn't have to reteach anything!"**
–Christian B.



My students loved the "would you rather" horror book activity! Many of them found new books to try out and had fun discussing with one another why they would pick one over the other! –Niewo Knows Best



I used this mainly for the mood and tone tasks and it did not disappoint. **My students were so engaged and interested in these activities. Everything you do is GOLD."** –Jennifer S.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

WINTER-THEMED ELA ACTIVITIES

DIGITAL GOOGLE SLIDES LINKS:

WOULD YOU RATHER READ NOVEL SLIDES:

PICTURE INFERENCE SLIDES:

DIGITAL STUDENT ACTIVITY PAGES (GOOGLE SLIDES):


TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE	CONTENT
3	Winter Word Search (COLOR)
4	Winter Word Search (BLACK AND WHITE)
5	Winter Word Search ANSWER KEY
7	Figurative Language TEACHER GUIDE PAGE AND LINKS
8	Figurative Language Reference Pages
12	Winter Figurative Language (COLOR)
15	Winter Figurative Language (BLACK AND WHITE)
18	Winter Figurative Language ANSWER KEY
19	Winter Songs Theme/Main Idea Activity TEACHER GUIDE PAGE AND LINKS
21	Theme reference pages
25	Winter songs Theme/Main Idea Activity (COLOR)
27	Winter songs Theme/Main Idea Activity (BLACK AND WHITE)
29	Winter Mad Libs Grammar TEACHER GUIDE PAGE AND LINKS
34	Parts of Speech Reference Pages
35	Winter Mad Libs Grammar (COLOR)
36	Winter Mad Libs Grammar (BLACK AND WHITE)
37	Winter Picture Inferences TEACHER GUIDE PAGE AND LINKS
38	Winter Picture Inferences (COLOR)
40	Winter Picture Inferences (BLACK AND WHITE)
42	Winter Novel Would You Rather Read... TEACHER GUIDE PAGE
43	Winter Novel Would You Rather Read... (COLOR)
45	Winter Novel Would You Rather Read... (BLACK AND WHITE)

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TEACHER GUIDES FOR EACH ACTIVITY

Includes teacher guides, activity materials, full-size reference materials, and student worksheets.




Teacher Guide Page Winter Songs Theme Analysis

Overview
This activity uses music with winter vibes to help students practice theme analysis. Students will listen to short clips from a curated list of songs across genres and analyze the lyrics for themes, imagery, and seasonal connections.


Disclaimer
I just play the songs, I don't show the videos. Always preview all songs before playing to check for appropriateness in your classroom.

Why This Activity?
Music provides a powerful and relatable entry point for middle school students. Songs use figurative language and emotional appeals that connect with students' lives.




Teacher Guide Page Winter Figurative Language

Overview
This activity helps students review and practice identifying types of figurative language in a winter-themed context. Students will use a reference chart and analyze examples of figurative language in winter-themed texts.



Teacher Guide Page Winter Mad Libs Grammar

Overview
This activity provides a playful way for students to review parts of speech while creating a silly winter-themed story. Students fill in the blanks using the labeled part of speech before reading the full story aloud.



Teacher Guide Page Winter Photo Inference Activity

Overview
This activity uses winter-themed images to help students practice making inferences. Students will examine visual details such as facial expressions, body language, objects, and weather elements to determine what is happening in the photo and how the characters might feel. Students then support each inference using evidence from the image.


Why This Activity?
Learning to infer is foundational to reading comprehension — and pictures provide a low-barrier entry point. Students first analyze what they can see, then connect observations to deeper meaning. The winter theme adds a relatable and engaging context that sparks curiosity and discussion.

Instructions

- Introduce the Activity**
 - Explain that students will infer what is happening in each winter image.
 - Model how to cite visual evidence using sentence frames like:
 - ✓ "I can infer ____ because I notice ____."
 - ✓ "This detail makes me think ____ since ____."
- Image Observation & Note-Taking**
 - Display the first image.
 - Ask students what they notice first, then encourage deeper details.
 - Pause for quick notes or partner discussion.
- Inference + Evidence Practice**
 - Students work individually, in pairs, or small groups to answer:
 - What is happening in the picture?
 - How might the person/people feel?
 - What **specific clues** support your ideas?
- Wrap-Up Writing / Discussion**
 - Share-out time for different inferences and evidence.
 - Optional writing prompt: Write a caption or short paragraph that matches the mood of the scene.

Differentiation Ideas

- Support:** Provide sentence frames or label key objects in the image.
- Challenge:** Ask students to infer what happened *before* or *after* the picture.
- Engagement:** Students choose one winter image to create an imaginative short story.



Teacher Guide Page Winter Novel Would You Rather Read...

Overview
This activity helps students explore new novels while practicing decision-making and written explanation skills. Students read short synopses of two books, decide which one they would rather read, and explain their reasoning.

Why This Activity?
This "Would You Rather" structure builds buzz around independent reading by presenting students with real choices. It also encourages them to think critically about what draws them to a book—whether it's genre, plot, theme, or style.

Instructions

- Introduce the Activity**
 - Show students the slides (included in a separate file).
 - Each slide presents two fall-themed novels with cover images and a synopsis.
- Student Choice**
 - Students read both synopses.
 - They choose which book they would rather read.
 - They write a short explanation for their choice, citing something specific from the synopsis that appealed to them.
- Optional Add-On**
 - If you have physical copies of the books, display them in the classroom.
 - Encourage students to check them out for the activity.
 - Use this as a springboard into book talks, reading, or literature circles.

Differentiation Ideas

- Support:** Provide sentence starters (e.g., "I would rather read ____ because...").
- Challenge:** Ask students to connect their choice to a specific genre, book, or theme.
- Engagement:** Let students vote on their favorite results on a class chart.

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SIX WINTER ELA ACTIVITIES

Name: _____ Date: _____

WINTER WORDS

Find the Winter words in the words below.

W O O D
I C I
N G L
T S N
E O V
D A Y

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Definition: Compares two unlike things using "like" or "as."

Example: He walked into school cool as ice.

DETERMINING THE TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Determine which type of figurative language is used and then explain its meaning or how it is that particular type of figurative language.



like to suggest
as and chatter.
y be true.
veling the
ant sounds in two

PARTS OF SPEECH

NOUN

Definition: Person, place, thing, or idea

Example:

VERB

Definition:

Example:

ANALYZING THE THEME OF WINTER SONGS

Listen to the famous winter songs and/or read the lyrics and determine the theme and main idea of the music. Provide one piece of evidence (a song lyric) that proves your theme.



WINTER MAD LIBS

Fill in each blank in the story using the part of speech labeled in parentheses. Be creative — the sillier your words, the funnier the story will be! Once all blanks are filled, read your version of the story out loud to a partner or small group.

"The Most Unexpected Snow Day Ever"



WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES

Look at each picture and make an inference about what you see. Then write your inference.

Name: _____ Date: _____

WINTER NOVEL WOULD YOU RATHER READ...

Read the synopsis for each novel pair and then write the title of the book you would rather read. Then write an explanation as to why you'd prefer that book.

Would you rather read book one:

Explanation: _____

Would you rather read book two:

Explanation: _____

Would you rather read book three:

Explanation: _____

Would you rather read book four:

Explanation: _____



Teacher Guide Page 1 Winter Songs Theme Activities

DISCLAIMER: I JUST PLAY THE SONGS. I DON'T SHOW PREVIEW ALL VIDEOS AND SONGS BEFORE SHOWING

I've compiled a list and links to videos of songs with a winter theme. I've selected songs from various musical genres, allowing you to pick the song of your choice. I only play the first sections of the songs (the chorus once). If the links don't work, they are readily available.

1. Taylor Swift - Back To December (Taylor's Version) (Lyric Video)
<https://youtu.be/qc2Z-OX9wnc?si=1SVp1aOVHgne1EF>
2. The Dream Academy - Life In A Northern Town [Lyrics] by Mica
https://youtu.be/QSmG3Rndgt8?si=HR_od62XGymx2wyG
3. My Wish by Rascal Flatts (with lyrics) by Melodies and Memories
<https://youtu.be/KN9Hj9-IduM?si=f6c2WEnuxOFap1Wb>
4. Steve Miller Band - Winter Time (Lyrics) by To Bid You Farewell
<https://youtu.be/KU3Cinqa1qc?si=ibUgviitbPFjhKL9>
5. Noah Kahan & Hozier - Northern Attitude (Lyrics) by PLAYDATE
<https://youtu.be/BTQIEZOWbrs?si=T7uwZT7atNzpKeYF>
6. The Beatles - Here Comes The Sun (Lyrics) by ALL MIXED
<https://youtu.be/BCGH8eU-IA?si=VF3HqD8TI-IGGaKkM>
7. Disney Frozen - Let It Go Song with Lyrics by Matalan
<https://youtu.be/QnN6alKaWdE?si=idWoGK1O71VIB9E2>

THEME STATEMENTS

- Human beings are always searching for acceptance.
- Bravery comes in many forms.
- Change is hard.
- Human beings are courageous when they are called upon to have courage.
- Family is important.
- Family is important, but it is okay to have boundaries.
- Don't judge a book by its cover.
- Greed can ruin your life.
- Kindness is one of the most important things we can give to others.
- Love is blind.
- With great power, comes great responsibility.
- Wisdom comes from learning through life experiences.
- Perseverance pays off in the end.
- Only the strong survive.
- Life isn't always fair.
- We should remember where we came from.

THEME TOPICS IN LITERATURE

- Acceptance
- Adoption
- Ambition
- Apathy
- Art
- Beauty
- Betrayal
- Birth
- Bravery
- Change
- Communication
- Cooperation
- Courage
- Creativity
- Cultures
- Death
- Discovery
- Divorce
- Dreams
- Equality
- Fairness
- Faith
- Family
- Friendship
- Good vs. Evil
- Greed
- Growing Up
- Happiness
- Hate
- Honesty
- Hope
- Immortality
- Independence
- Judgment
- Justice
- Kindness
- Knowledge
- Loneliness
- Love
- Moving
- Music
- Nature
- Peace
- Peer Pressure
- Perseverance
- Power
- Pride
- Progress
- Religion
- Rumors
- Running away
- Sacrifice
- School Life
- Science
- Self-Discovery
- Self-Esteem
- Sharing
- Siblings
- Suffering
- Survival
- Teamwork
- Temptation
- Trust
- War
- Wealth
- Wisdom
- Youth



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WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES ACTIVITY

Name: _____ Date: _____

WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES

Directions: Look at each winter picture. Make an inference about what is happening, what you think is true, or what you think you know based on the image. Then write one piece of evidence from the picture that supports your inference. Write in complete sentences.



Picture One Inference: _____

Evidence: _____

Picture Two Inference: _____

Picture Six Inference: _____

Evidence: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES

Directions: Look at each winter picture. Make an inference about what is happening, what you think is true, or what you think you know based on the image. Then write one piece of evidence from the picture that supports your inference. Write in complete sentences.



Picture One Inference: _____

Evidence: _____

Picture Two Inference: _____

Evidence: _____

Picture Three Inference: _____

Evidence: _____

Picture Four Inference: _____

Evidence: _____

Picture Five Inference: _____

Evidence: _____



Teacher Guide Page Winter Photo Inference Activity

Overview

This activity uses winter-themed images to help students practice making inferences. Students will examine visual details such as facial expressions, body language, objects, and weather elements to determine what is happening in the photo and how the characters might feel. Students then support each inference using evidence from the image.

Why This Activity?

Learning to infer is foundational to reading comprehension — and pictures provide a low-barrier entry point. Students first analyze what they can see, then connect observations to deeper meaning. The winter theme adds a relatable and engaging context that sparks curiosity and discussion.

Instructions

1. Introduce the Activity

- Explain that students will infer what is happening in each winter image.
- Model how to cite visual evidence using sentence frames like:
 - ✓ – “I can infer ____ because I notice ____.”
 - ✓ – “This detail makes me think ____ since ____.”

2. Image Observation & Note-Taking

- Display the first image.
- Ask students what they notice first, then encourage deeper details.
- Pause for quick notes or partner discussion.

3. Inference + Evidence Practice

- Students work individually, in pairs, or small groups to answer:
 - What is happening in the picture?
 - How might the person/people feel?
 - What **specific clues** support your ideas?

4. Wrap-Up Writing / Discussion

- Share-out time for different inferences and evidence.
- Optional writing prompt: Write a caption or short paragraph that matches the mood of the scene.

Differentiation Ideas

- Support:** Provide sentence frames or label key objects in the image.
- Challenge:** Ask students to infer what happened before or after the picture.
- Engagement:** Students choose one winter image to create an imaginative short story.

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WINTER PICTURE

inferences and evidence

WINTER PICTURE

inferences and evidence

WINTER PICTURE

inferences and evidence

WINTER PICTURE

evidence

WINTER PICTURE

inferences and evidence

WINTER PICTURE

inferences and evidence

WINTER PICTURE

inferences and evidence

WINTER PICTURE

inferences and evidence



Make as many inferences about the below and at least one evidence inference to write in sentence



Make as many inferences as you can about the picture below and provide at least one piece of evidence for each inference. Make sure to write in complete sentences.

TEN

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WINTER SONG THEMES AND FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

Each lesson plan has a teacher guide, all teacher links, student resources, and any applicable reference sheets.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ANSWER KEY

- Idiom.** Example: We were on thin ice after we forgot our homework.
Meaning: **We were close to getting into trouble.**
- Metaphor.** Example: Her glare was a blizzard, freezing everyone in place.
Meaning: **Her angry look felt harsh and intense.**

12. _____ His breath was like a tiny cloud puffing in the air.

Meaning: _____ after we forgot our homework again.

DETERMINING THE TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Determine which type of figurative language is used and then explain its meaning or how it is that particular type of figurative language.



6. _____ The wind screamed outside my window.

Meaning: _____

13. _____ The campfire cracked jokes while we were sleeping.

Meaning: _____

DETERMINING THE TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Determine which type of figurative language is used and then explain its meaning or how it is that particular type of figurative language.

1. _____ We were on thin ice after we forgot our homework.

Meaning: _____

Figurative LANGUAGE

Simile
Definition: Compares two unlike things using "like" or "as."
Example: He walked into school **cool as ice**.

Synonym
Definition: Comparing two things that are not alike to suggest something in common.

Figurative LANGUAGE

Simile
Definition: Compares two unlike things using "like" or "as."
Example: He walked into school **cool as ice**.

Metaphor
Definition: Comparing two things that are not alike to suggest something in common.
Example: She was a walking snowstorm of cold.

Hyperbole
Definition: an exaggeration that can't possibly be true.
Example: I could sleep for a century after school.

Repetition
Definition: The repetition of beginning consonant sounds in more neighboring words or syllables.
Example: The **whirling winter winds** whipped the street.

Alliteration
Definition: The formation of a word from a sound with what is named. "Boom" or "buzz."
Example: The fire **pop! pop! popped!** as it burned.

Personification
Definition: Giving something nonhuman, actual human qualities.
Example: The storm **punched** the windows in.

Idioms
Definition: An expression of two or more words that mean something other than the actual or literal meaning.
Example: We were **left out in the cold** when we were picked first.

Allusion
Definition: An allusion is a figure of speech that refers to a place, person, or event.
Example: That test was my **kryptonite** — and I failed.

Irony
Definition: the expression of one's meaning by using the opposite of that which is normally signifies the opposite.
Example: The warning sign for slipping was that someone slipped on.

Teacher Guide Page Winter Figurative Language

Overview

This activity helps students review and practice identifying types of figurative language in a winter-themed context. Students will use a reference chart and apply their knowledge to sentences that include idioms, similes, metaphors, hyperboles, personification, irony, and more.

Why This Activity?

Middle schoolers often recognize figurative language when they hear it in conversation, songs, or commercials, but they struggle to label and explain it. This activity gives them seasonal, high-interest examples and plenty of practice connecting definitions with real usage.

Instructions

1. Introduce Figurative Language

Use the reference chart (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, alliteration, onomatopoeia, personification, idioms, allusion, irony). Read through definitions and examples together.

2. Independent Practice

- Identifying the type of figurative language in each sentence.
 - Explaining the meaning of the phrase or why it represents that type.
3. **Review & Discuss**
Go over the answer key as a class. Encourage students to explain their thinking and notice that some phrases could spark debate (e.g., idiom vs. metaphor).

4. Extension Options

- Have students create their own winter-themed figurative language examples for each type.
- Use them to create a "class book" or display.
- Tie it into writing: challenge students to add at least three figurative language devices to a winter-themed narrative.

Differentiation Ideas

- Support:** Provide sentence stems like "This is a _____ because it..."
- Challenge:** Ask students to explain how figurative language affects imagery, tone, or meaning in writing.
- Engagement:** Let students act out or illustrate examples for their peers.

SONG FOUR:

Main Idea: _____

Theme: _____

Text Evidence: _____

SONG FOUR:

Main Idea: _____

Theme: _____

Text Evidence: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

ANALYZING THE THEME OF WINTER SONGS

Listen to the famous winter songs and/or read the lyrics and determine the theme and main idea of the music. Provide one piece of evidence (a song lyric) that proves your theme.



Name: _____ Date: _____

ANALYZING THE THEME OF WINTER SONGS

Listen to the famous winter songs and/or read the lyrics and determine the theme and main idea of the music. Provide one piece of evidence (a song lyric) that proves your theme.



THEME STATEMENTS

- Human beings are always searching for acceptance.

THEME TOPICS IN LITERATURE

- Acceptance
- Adoption
- Ambition

THEME STATEMENTS

THEME TOPICS IN LITERATURE

- Acceptance
- Adoption
- Ambition
- Justice
- Kindness
- Knowledge

Teacher Guide Page Winter Songs Theme Analysis

DISCLAIMER: I JUST PLAY THE SONGS, I DON'T PREVIEW ALL VIDEOS AND SONGS BEFORE.

I've compiled a list and links to videos of songs with a selection of songs from various musical genres, allowing the sake of time and my sanity. I only play the first section (chorus once). If the links don't work, they are readily available.

1. Zac Brown Band - Colder Weather (Lyrics) by To Bid

<https://youtu.be/ApyGfWDVj8I?si=MOF8vGRdzHVpX>

2. Early Winter by Gwen Stefani w/ lyrics by TheSweetest

<https://youtu.be/gompdRREYYM?si=G00Dee1sdWj2>

3. My December (Lyrics) - Linkin Park by Your Fav Lyrics

<https://youtu.be/YvdCscgkMAA?si=Ij3PD6h4R2nfa9>

4. Taylor Swift - evermore (Official Lyrics Video) ft. Bon Iver

<https://youtu.be/EXLqZZE072g?si=0MIGNJC0dXHPG>

5. The Rolling Stones - Winter - Lyrics by Pallas800

https://youtu.be/cpUuU07_IMC?si=Xy97_DAWRk1XY

6. Sara Bareilles, Ingrid Michaelson - Winter Song (Official Lyrics Video)

<https://youtu.be/UKOCWDJ4IA?si=UhfPhTn5tmFKY>

7. Fleetwood Mac - Landslide [Lyrics] by Shayan Shokri

<https://youtu.be/ONzuVds4hPE?si=GvuqVaxYeEIA>



Teacher Guide Page Winter Songs Theme Analysis

Overview

This activity uses music with winter vibes to help students practice theme analysis. Students will listen to short clips from a curated list of songs across genres, then analyze the lyrics for themes, imagery, and seasonal connections.

Disclaimer

I just play the songs, I don't show the videos. Always preview all songs before playing to check for appropriateness in your classroom.

Why This Activity?

Music provides a powerful and relatable entry point for middle schoolers. Many songs use figurative language and emotional appeals that connect easily to literary analysis skills. Plus, the fall theme helps engage students in a seasonal and creative way.

Instructions

1. Introduce the Activity

- Explain that students will analyze the lyrics and overall theme of each song.
- Remind them to listen for imagery, figurative language, tone, and message.

2. Play Song Clips

- For time management, play only the first section up to the chorus.
- Pause after each clip for quick discussion or notes.
- Use teacher notes provided for any special start times or cautions.

3. Analyze Themes

- Students can work individually, in pairs, or as a whole class to identify:
 - What is the central theme or message of this song?
 - How does it connect to winter, change, memory, or nostalgia?
 - What figurative language devices stand out?

4. Wrap-Up Writing / Discussion

- Compare how different genres express similar winter themes.
- Optional writing prompt: Choose one song and explain how its theme connects to your own winter experiences.

Differentiation Ideas

- Support:** Provide lyric excerpts or guiding questions.
- Challenge:** Ask students to compare a song to a poem or short story with a similar theme.
- Engagement:** Let students suggest and analyze their own "winter vibe" songs.

DIGITAL STUDENT NOTEBOOK AND GOOGLE SLIDES INCLUDED

4-6 Winter ELA Activities

File Edit View Insert Format Slide Arrange Tools Extensions Help

Fit Background Layout Theme Transition

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

11 WINTER MAD LIBS

12 PARTS OF SPEECH

13 WINTER MAD LIBS

14 WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES

15 WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES

16 WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES

17 WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES

Name: _____ Date: _____

WINTER MAD LIBS

Fill in each blank in the story using the part of speech labeled in parentheses. Be creative — the sillier your words, the funnier the story will be! Once all blanks are filled, read your version of the story out loud to a partner or small group.

"The Most Unexpected Snow Day Ever"

It was a _____ (adjective) winter morning when I _____ (verb, past tense) out of bed and slipped on my _____ (noun). I _____ (adverb) rushed to the window and couldn't believe my eyes — piles of _____ (plural noun) covered everything!

I got bundled up and ran outside, _____ (verb ending in -ing) toward the yard. Suddenly, a _____ (adjective) voice shouted, "Stop!" I looked around but only saw the snowman we built yesterday. _____

Before I could even _____ (verb), his _____ (noun) started to glow. The snowman stretched his arms and said, "I need a _____ (adjective) helper today!"

I _____ (verb, past tense) backward, amazed. The snowman handed me a _____ (noun) and told me to start _____ (verb ending in -ing) all the _____ (plural noun) around the yard.


"_____ (exclamation)!" I shouted as one flew into the air. But the snowman laughed and said, "Just _____ (verb) your best!" We worked _____ (adverb) to clean up the snowy mess.

Then, the snowman pointed to a giant _____ (noun) in the sky. "If that _____ (verb ending in -ed) open, winter magic will vanish forever!" he explained.

I had no idea what to do, so I _____ (verb) for help. Suddenly, a group of _____ (plural noun) marched out of the snow _____ (adjective) as could be.

We (23 – verb, past tense) toward the sky and watched as the snowman jumped _____ (adverb) high to close the _____ (noun). Snowflakes sparkled everywhere.

Best snow day ever!



4-6 Winter ELA Activities

File Edit View Insert Format Slide Arrange Tools Extensions Help

Fit Background Layout Theme Transition

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

22 WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES

23 WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES

24 WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES

25 WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES

26 WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES

27 WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES


28 WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES

WINTER NOVEL WOULD YOU RATHER READ...

Read the synopsis for each novel pair and then write the title of the book you would rather read. Then write an explanation as to why you'd prefer that book.

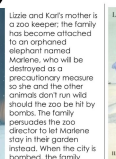
WINTER STORY

would you rather read...



AN ELEPHANT IN THE GARDEN

Lizze and Karl's mother is a zoo keeper. The family has become attached to an orphaned elephant named Marlene, who will be destroyed as a precautionary measure so she and the other animals don't run wild should the zoo be hit by bombs. The family persuades the zoo director to let Marlene stay in their garden instead. When the city is bombed, the family flees with thousands of others, but how can they walk the same route when they have an elephant in tow, and keep themselves safe? Along the way, they meet Peter, a Canadian navigator who risks his own capture to save the family.



The Long Winter

The town of De Smet in the Dakota Territory is hit with terrible blizzards in the hard winter of 1880-81, and the Ingalls family must ration their food and coal. When the supply train doesn't arrive, all supplies are cut off from the outside. Soon there is almost no food left, so young Almanzo Wilder and a friend must make a dangerous trip in search of provisions.

WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER READ?

EXPLANATION AND EVIDENCE FOR WHICH NOVEL YOU WOULD RATHER READ

THREE

4-6 Winter Inferences

File Edit View Insert Format Slide Arrange Tools Extensions Help

Fit Background Layout Theme Transition

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

3 WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES

4 WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES

5 WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES


6 WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES

7 WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES

8 WINTER PICTURE INFERENCES

WINTER PICTURE inferences and evidence

Make as many inferences as you can about the picture below and provide at least one piece of evidence for each inference. Make sure to write in complete sentences.



SEVEN

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