

YOUR COMPANION TO READING
OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



EVERYTHING
YOU NEED TO ACE
ENGLISH
LANGUAGE ARTS
IN ONE BIG FAT
NOTEBOOK

From the
BRAINS
behind
BRAIN
QUEST!



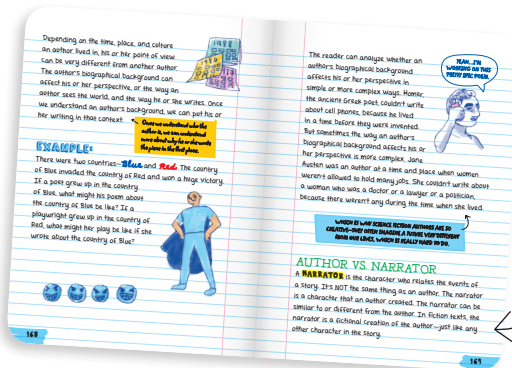
Hey, how did
your summer
reading go?

With over 325,000 copies in print!

The ultimate summer reading companion for middle schoolers!

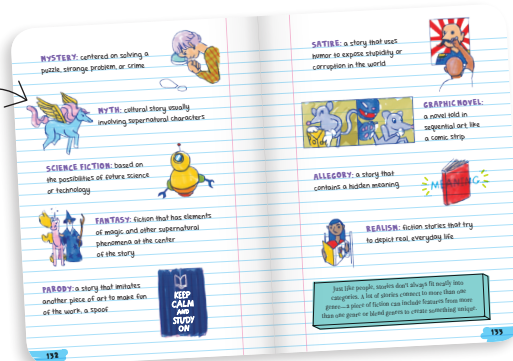
Outside of the classroom, it can be difficult for children to get the most out of their summer reading. So why not pair summer reading lists with **EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO ACE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN ONE BIG FAT NOTEBOOK** and set students up for success. It helps build reading comprehension over the summer break by offering a guide to the key elements that make up every story. Explore plot, character, dialogue, tone, and more—including sections on poetry and drama.

WHY A BIG FAT NOTEBOOK?



Key concepts are broken down into bite-sized pieces and presented with a variety of examples.

Fun doodles keep kids engaged and help them retain information.



Definitions are pulled out of the text to help kids remember important terms.

Most all plots follow this basic sequence, which was first described by the German novelist and playwright **CHRISTOPHER WOLFF** and is sometimes described as **FREYTAG'S PYRAMID**.

DRAMA the way events work together to create excitement in a story.

RESOLUTION the end of a story where the problems are resolved.

PLOTLINE the main path that a story takes.

1. **EXPOSITION**—The author sets the scene and explains what's going on.

2. **RISING ACTION**—a series of crises that lead to the climax.

3. **CLIMAX**—the most exciting moment of a story, where both people and events change.

4. **FALLING ACTION**—the events that follow the climax.

5. **RESOLUTION**—the conclusion, in which all the tensions of the plot are resolved.

PLOT the sequence of events in a story that together create action and build drama.

Climax the most exciting moment of a story, where both people and events change.

Rising Action a series of crises that lead to the climax.

Falling Action the events that follow the climax.

FREYTAG'S PYRAMID

Exposition The author sets the scene and explains what's going on.

Resolution the conclusion, in which all the tensions of the plot are resolved.

Topic Versus Theme
Two pieces of writing may be about the topic of courage, but they may have different themes.

EXAMPLE With the topic of courage, different authors can write on different themes.

Author #1's theme: leaving the courage to reach out for help.

Author #2's theme: courage and helping the truth.

Topic: Courage

Author #3's theme: Courage and following your dream.

Author #4's theme: Getting the courage to start again.

Author #5's theme: leaving the courage to stand up for yourself.

Classic Themes
There are all kinds of themes in stories and poems, but here are some of the big ones you'll see over and over again.

The Importance of Love and Friendship
EXAMPLE In J.R.R. Tolkien's **LEAD OF THE KING**, evil is vanquished only when a friend helps a friend.

Dealing with Loss
EXAMPLE In Frances Hodgson Burnett's **THE SECRET GARDEN**, Mary Lennox has to learn to deal with the loss of both of her parents.

The Importance of Family
EXAMPLE In Madeline L'Engle's **A WINDSWEPT TOWN**, it is the love Mary and her mother, Doris, Wallace have for their missing father that gives them the courage to journey through time and space to find him.

Helpful diagrams make difficult concepts easier to understand.

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Does a setting describe how something happens or where it happens?

2. In a story about a game in a bottle who belongs to a prince who lives in a beautiful castle, what is the setting?

3. How does the last stanza of Wordsworth's poem "I WANDERED LONELY AS A CLOUD" change the setting of the poem?

4. True or false: The Darling family in **PETER PAN** had a similar experience of bedtime as the character Oliver Twist in **OLIVER TWIST**.

5. True or false: If two authors describe a similar setting like visiting the ocean, they're saying pretty much the same thing.

6. List three features that a setting can include.

7. True or false: Another word for setting is "surroundings."

8. True or false: The setting doesn't have much impact on a story.

9. True or false: If two stories are set in the same place, you can expect pretty similar things to happen.

10. Paragraph the setting of the following passage from **AT THE BATHING CURE** by Edgar Rice Burroughs:

Together we stepped out to stand in silent contemplation of a landscape of new mind and beautiful. Before us lay and level above ourselves down to a blue sea. As far as the eye could reach the surface of the water was dotted with countless tiny islands—some of varying heights, granite rock—others completely in progress language of tropical vegetation, myriad mingled with the magnificent splendor of coral blazes.

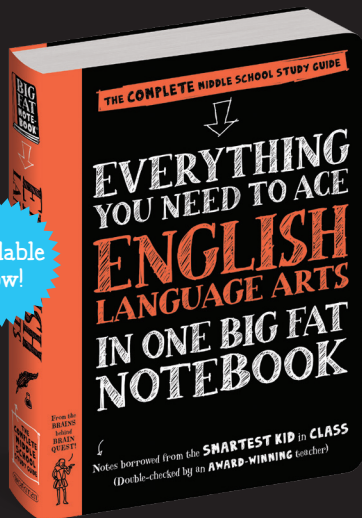
ANSWERS

Quizzes at the end of every chapter help kids check their knowledge.

Covers Key Concepts

GENRE	Identify the kind of story you're reading
OBJECTIVE SUMMARY	Give a short account of the story without stating your opinion
TEXTUAL ANALYSIS	Study the evidence to understand the meaning of the story
AUTHORSHIP AND NARRATION	Identify the author and the narrator and understand the difference
SETTING	Describe the surroundings and time in which the story takes place
CHARACTER	Identify the individuals in the story and their traits
PLOT	Understand the sequence of events that make up every story
THEME	Identify the unifying idea in the story
STONE	Describe the mood or attitude of the story

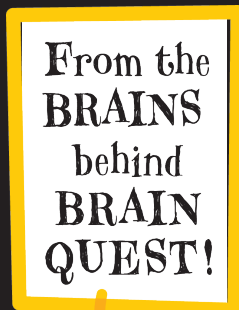
NO MORE SUMMER READING SLUMP!



Available Now!

Everything You Need to Ace English Language Arts in One Big Fat Notebook

Flexibound paperback
5 7/8" x 8" • 512 pages
\$14.95 US
\$21.95 CAN.
£10.99 UK
978-0-7611-6091-5
No. 16091



The **BIG FAT NOTEBOOKS** meet Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and State Standards.

From the **EDITORS OF BRAIN QUEST**: America's #1 educational bestseller with 42 million copies in print.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Booksellers

Moira Kerrigan
212.614.7548
moira@workman.com

Media

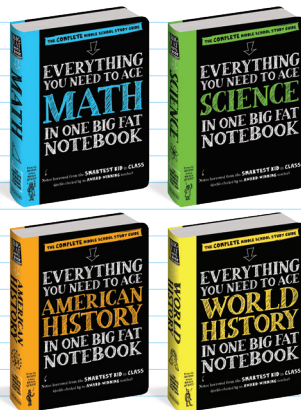
Diana Griffin
212.614.7775
diana@workman.com

Librarians and Teachers

Caitlin Rubinstein
212.614.5604
caitlinrubinstein@workman.com

VETTED BY THE BEST TEACHERS IN AMERICA: Winners of the most prestigious national honors program for excellence in teaching—the National and State Teacher of the Year Awards.

ALSO AVAILABLE:



Workman books are distributed in Canada by Thomas Allen & Son, Ltd.: 1.800.387.4333.

Workman books are distributed in the UK and Ireland by Melia Publishing Services: (01628) 633673.

workman

BIG FAT NOTE-BOOK, BRAIN QUEST, and WORKMAN are registered trademarks of Workman Publishing Co., Inc.