



2017 Bear Essential WORK SHEETS

Using Bear Essential with your Kindergartener, First- or Second-Grader

Bear Essential News is 100% family and classroom friendly and a great way to teach and enhance basic language arts curriculum to younger students. With our colorful kid-friendly format, a wide selection of editorial stories and columns on a variety of topics, every month there is something for every student in your classroom.

In our paper and on our monthly Work Sheets, the educational content and activities in *Bear Essential News* are cross-referenced to the Common Core Curriculum standards for grades 3 – 8. Because our Young Reporters Program is focused on this age group, we have more detailed referencing for those grades with plans to expand in the future. Until that time, we are happy to offer teachers of younger students who want to use *Bear Essential News* in their classrooms this easy reference for using the paper in the classroom. The language arts common core standards for K–2 are in a file attached below. You'll see the sample classroom activities are easily aligned with the common core, so you can spend your time with your students, not cross-referencing your brilliant lessons.

So please, use *Bear Essential News* and tell us what you think! Your comments are always welcome at www.beaessentialnews.com or email us at info@beaessentialnews.com. Have a great year with *Bear Essential News*!

Reading

- Find capital and lower case letters, and/or sight words

Example: circle every capital R or capitalized word that you see. Timed for 1 minute. Works in pairs or singles.

- Ask: who, what, where, when, why after reading a news article. Project the article on a screen or Smart Board to identify and underline where in the text the answers are found. Perfect for small or whole-class learning.
- Know and identify various text features (e.g., bold print, captions, subheadings, headlines) to locate key facts and information.
- Identify main topic and retell key details of a text after reading aloud.
- Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills as students read *Letters to Boomer* aloud to the teacher or another classmate. Make a list of common mistakes to guide whole class instruction.



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Writing

- After reading examples, write a Letter to Boomer. Identify features of a letter of this type (e.g., format of a friendly letter, writing a narrative)
- Use digital tools to produce and publish a Letter to Boomer (any grade) or a Young Reporter story (second-graders may submit stories to the paper after the winter break).
- Write an opinion piece after discussing a problem in one of the *Letters to Boomer* entries or another story and brainstorming possible solutions.
- Use a combination of illustrations, dictation and writing to extend an idea or topic from the main feature or any news story.
- Collaborate with a group of 3 – 5 students for peer reading and writing activities based on topics from *Bear Essential News* articles and columns.

Listening and speaking

- Participate in collaborative conversations about topics presented in the text.
- Create drawings or other visual displays to clarify and share thoughts, feelings and personal experiences related to the text.
- Ask and answer questions to clarify comprehension, gather more information or deepen understanding.
- Produce complete sentences in order to provide requested details about a text and to express thoughts and feelings clearly
- Tell a story or recount an experience with appropriate details relating to a topic or story in the paper.