

Fall Close Reading Quickies

Squirrels

Pumpkins

Jack-o-Lanterns

Apples

Candy Corn

**5 Differentiated
Nonfiction Passages**

A Letter to the Teacher:

Thank you for your purchase! I hope these passages find themselves to be very useful in your classroom and help motivate your students to learn all about the different topics of fall! These passages are designed to use one part (or read) a day. The directions for each day/read are on the front of each passage and the questions should be copied onto the back. There are two versions of each passage with the Lexile level at the top. The questions are designed to be used for either level of text therefore you can differentiate and discuss the questions and answers without students knowing they had different passages! I use one passage a week, with one activity a day. This usually takes me between 5-10 minutes. This is a great and easy way to squeeze in some quick fluency and comprehension practice. If you have any questions about how to use these passages, please feel free to ask! I can be reached at adventuresofroom129@gmail.com Thank you again and enjoy!

Title	Pages	Lexiles	Concepts Covered
Squirrels	4-6	660L 580L	Main idea, context clues, inferring, compare/contrast
Apples	7-9	780L 690L	Main idea, context clues, inferring, persuasive writing
Pumpkins	10-12	920L 870L	Main idea, context clues, inferring, compare/contrast
Candy Corn	13-15	980L 860L	Main idea, context clues, author's perspective, text structure
Jack-o-Lanterns	16-18	770L 830L	Author's perspective, text structure, text features, fact/opinion

Squirrels

What has a bushy tail, pointed ears, and excellent eyesight? That would be the squirrel. Squirrels are **mammals** just like us. There are over 280 different **species** of squirrels. They live in the countries of North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. The most common squirrel in America is the gray squirrel.

Squirrels eat a variety of different things. They are **omnivores**, which means they eat both plants and other animals. They enjoy eating nuts, fruits, seeds, tree bark, roots, insects, and caterpillars.

Did you know that a squirrel's front teeth never stop growing? They get worn down by chewing on the nuts and tree bark. Squirrels are extremely **active** animals. They are most active in the winter. They also enjoy taking naps. A squirrel's body helps it be able to live. Its back legs are double-jointed, which helps them run and down trees. Their front teeth are

very sharp. They use them to dig into the tree bark to get a good **grip** when running. They have five toes on their back feet and four toes on their front feet.

Squirrels are adorable creatures but be careful. You should never try to feed a squirrel as it could bite you.



Close Reading

Day One

Do your first read completely without stopping. Then answer question #1 in a complete sentence.

Day Two

Do your second read. While you read mark up your text using the close reading symbols.

Day Three

Do your third read. Fill in the organizer using the information from the text.

Day Four

Answer questions 2-4 in complete sentences. Make sure to use evidence!

Day Five

Answer your response to text question. Make sure to use evidence from the text in your answer!

Squirrels

What has a bushy tail and pointed ears? That would be the squirrel! Squirrels are mammals. There are over 280 different types of squirrels. They live in North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. The most common squirrel in America is the gray squirrel.

Squirrels eat lots of different things. They eat both plants and other animals. They enjoy eating nuts, fruits, seeds, roots, insects, and caterpillars.

Did you know that a squirrel's front teeth never stop growing? They get worn down by chewing on the nuts and tree bark. Squirrels are very active animals. They are most active in the winter. They also enjoy taking naps. A squirrel's body helps it be able to live. Their front toes are very sharp. They use them to dig into the tree bark

to get a good grip when running. They have five toes on their back feet and four toes on their front feet.

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Squirrels

Name: _____

Day One: What is the main idea of the text?

Day Two: Pick two words from the text to define using context clues.

Word	Context Clues	Definition

Day Four:

2. How are squirrels able to run up and down trees?

If you saw a squirrel in your backyard, it was most likely which squirrel? Explain how you know.

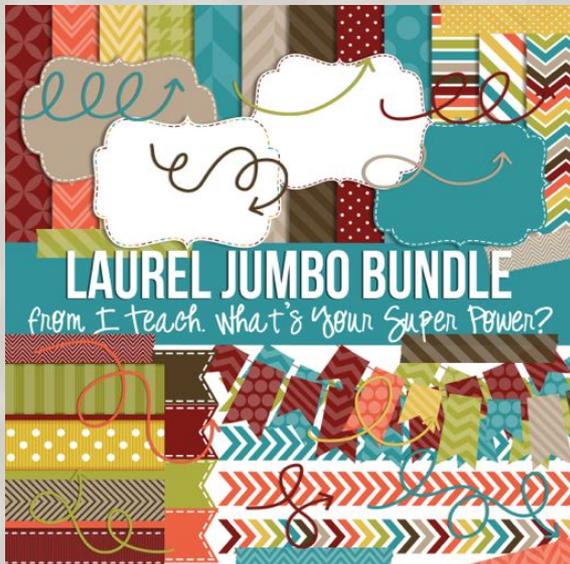
Why do you think squirrels are most active in the winter? Explain.

Day Five: Response to Text How are squirrels and humans alike and how are they different from another? Use details from the text to support your answer.

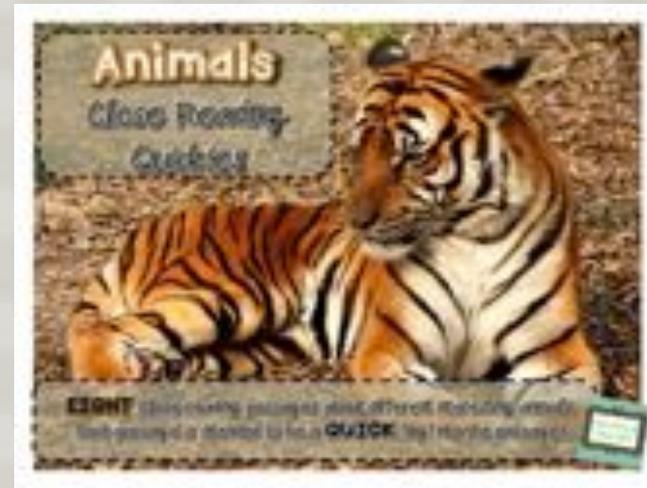
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