

Dear Student,


This has been an different time and educational journey for you and myself! I am so proud of you. You are working so hard and you have made so much great progress this year. We have shared many wonderful memories and have also had fun learning!

You are such a hard worker. You enjoyed EPIC and loved working on you AR Points! You always took pride in your work. You always focused on your work and kept working hard until it was completed. I always enjoyed how you never gave up when you did not know or understand something the first time. You always keep trying until you got it! You have made such great progress with reading skills this year. So keep working and practicing and reading! When you are home..... Remember a book can take you to many places when you are unable to leave your home.

I am so proud of how much you have grown in learning! Keep up the great work! You make teaching the greatest job in the world and I will always remember all you shared with me this year. You have given your classmates smiles, helping hands, compliments, care and concern every single day. I have heard you say, "I LOVE learning and school!" You can also keep in contact with me on the REMIND APP, FACEBOOK, KIDS MESSENGER! If you want you can email me @ ronda.hall@db.k12.oh.us or write me a letter at the below address Ronda Hall.... PO BOX 6985..... Raceland,Ky 41169.... I would LOVE to hear from you!

Remember to work hard on your reading, wash you hands, stay safe, and keep smiling... Cause we will see each other again!!!. I know you are being Good Hornets by helping you families and be kind to others! You all are in my prayers and I hope to hear from you soon!!! Remember...the more you read...the better you read. So, read, read, read and read!!!! Can't wait to see you ! I miss you!

Love, Mrs. Hall

I miss you! 

THE STAR POLISHER

I have a great job in the universe of occupations.
what do I do?



I'm a "star polisher."



it's a very important job.

if you want to know how important,
just go out at night and look at the stars
twinkling and sparking.

you see, I'm a teacher, an educator, an mentor.
the stars are the children in my class.

my job is to take them in
whatever shape they come,
and shine and buff them
and then send them out



to take their places as bright twinkling beacons
in the sky.

they come into my room in all shapes and sizes.
sometimes they're bent, tarnished, dirty, crinkly, or broken.

some stars are cuddly and soft.

some are prickly and thorny,
as I buff and polish,

i train and teach my little stars;

I tell them that the world cannot do without them
each night as i look at the sky,

I'm reminded of my very important job
and awesome responsibility.



then i get my soft buffing cloth
and my bottle of polish



in preparation for tomorrow
--for my class of little stars.



-leah becks

I MISS YOU ALL GREATLY.....Love, Mrs. Hall

PERSPECTIVE & POINT OF VIEW ACTIVITIES

TEXT 1

I'm not at the point where I'm counting the seconds yet. Yes, my calendar at home is covered with giant red X's, and they're creeping closer to the big circle around the last day of school. I really am running on empty, like a racecar trying to coast to the finish. When I showed up last August, fresh from college and several rounds of practice teaching, I really thought I was ready. I had been flooded with so much advice from my old teachers and several relatives who had taught in the past. However, you can get all the advice in the world, and it's not going to prepare you for the real thing. Until this point, though, I've weathered every little storm that's churned up in my class. The colds and flus and rashes. The class rabbit getting loose and biting Joey Templeton. The fire drills, the tornado drills, the malfunctioning radiators. We've got seven days left, and I'm just trying to survive until that last bell and my escape to the beach. All that stands between me and that big summer break – which is why I left the corporate world for teaching in the first place – is three math tests and determining the final grades. I can practically smell that salty ocean air.

Analyze the details to determine the narrator. Cite evidence to support your answer.

TEXT 2

The truth is, it always gets worse before it gets better. I'm talking about the condition of the school, of course. With about a month left till summer, things start to slowly go downhill. Then, with about a week to go, things really pick up speed. Distracted students miss the wastebasket while throwing their cafeteria scraps away. Teachers pile the recycle bins with uncollected tests and essays. The floors are scuffed from hundreds of shoes running for the door once that final bell rings. And in the students' rush to get into the summer sunshine, lockers are left full of items that need to be cleared out. Some of the items are harmless enough. Old papers. Pens and pencils. Things like that. Sometimes, though, you'll find a sandwich that looks like it was made during the Eisenhower administration. Once the building's empty, though, there's an incredible peace and quiet. I can't describe how lovely it is. I can go about my work without being disturbed. The summer sun streams through the classroom windows. My favorite songs hum from my little radio. And I can work at my own pace without anyone watching, except for an occasional fly-by by the principal. I go from room to room, working on one per day. I strip and re wax the floors. I wash the boards and dust the sills. Some would say it's unfortunate I'm working inside during the summer, but they really don't understand how peaceful a school is in summertime. Especially one filled with 800 rambunctious students nine and half months of the year who are not especially concerned with keeping their surroundings neat and tidy.

Analyze the details to determine the narrator. Cite evidence to support your answer.

TEXT 3

Of course I'm looking forward to having Mark and Lei around more. Summer also means my whole schedule is about to be thrown into chaos. Mark and Lei will be going to sports camps for a good chunk of the break. However, there are still about four full weeks that I'll need to take off. That's so we can take our annual road trip to Yellowstone. That means that between now and the end of the school year I'm doubling my work hours. That's the only way my boss will let me take those four weeks off. I'm working absolutely crazy hours. That schedule isn't helped by the fact that the last few weeks of the school year are always chock full of field trips. Parents are required to help chaperone. I actually don't mind it, but the timing isn't ideal. In the middle of my crazy schedule, I've had to take half days off to chaperone several class trips. I've been to the art museum. I've been to the fire station. I've also been to not one, but two Civil War battlefields! However, it's all worth it for those four weeks. Yellowstone is one of the most beautiful places in the country. That's part of it, but it's really the time with Mark and Lei that's so special. With my work schedule and their sports and music lessons during the school year, I really cherish that big chunk of time with them in the summer.

Analyze the details to determine the narrator. Cite evidence to support your answer.

TEXT 4

This school year, I've paid special attention to the seasons changing outside of the classroom window. Funny, it's not something I'd ever really concerned myself with in the last 25 years. This year, of course, is different. I'm ashamed I'd never really taken in the wonder of that giant maple tree, my silent companion outside the room's south window. The fiery colors it gave off this autumn. The way the frost clung to it like a sheen of crystal in the winter. Now, deep into spring, the blossoms beginning to pop and unfurl in new possibilities. New possibilities. That's what's really been on my mind, I suppose. I know I've been distracted. I hope it hasn't affected the students. I'd guess not, since they're as bright and engaged as ever. There are still a couple weeks left. I'm really trying to soak it all in – to create a museum in my mind so I can visit this time and place later, this place that's been my life. I know there will be the usual end-of-year wrap-up with the students. Some of them will give me little cards or cookies or apples or gift certificates. I'll give them a heartfelt speech about following their dreams. Same as every year. Only this year I know that I'll have to make a real effort to hold back a waterworks of tears. Then I'll clean out my desk, the cabinets, pull my posters from the walls. Twenty-five years of memories.

Analyze the details to determine the narrator. Cite evidence to support your answer.

TEXT 5

I'll be honest. I envy the teachers. All they have to do is grade their final assignments, total up some numbers, submit their final grades, and then pack up their classrooms. Then they're off into the fun and sun for ten weeks. For me the summer is catch-up time and get ahead-time. I need to make the budget for next year. I need to review next year's curriculum for every class and every grade level. I need to decide whether we're actually going to make the switch from textbooks to tablets next year, like we keep debating. I need to update the student handbook. Most importantly, I need to hire two new teachers since we've got two retirements in the math department. That's a whole separate job in itself! That means advertising the openings, reading resumes, and conducting interviews. Then, finally, training the new hires. These are my summer plans! However just to get to summer in the first place, I have to finish planning the graduation ceremony and do 26 annual exit interviews with all the teachers. Oh, and, of course, I need to write my graduation speech. I know I should just use the same one every year with some slight modifications. However, for some reason I start from scratch every year. I guess it's because writing that speech is one of my few chances to be creative anymore. I don't want to give up that chance to express myself.

Analyze the details to determine the narrator. Cite evidence to support your answer.

TEXT 6

I really wish the teachers at this school would plan with each other more. This year, I have three finals on the same day! That is not all. I also have a final project due that same day, too! I know all of us have different class schedules. It's impossible for everyone to be happy at this time of year, but I am feeling pretty unlucky. At least – to my credit – I'm taking the initiative and not leaving things till the last minute. I've made an elaborate schedule of study time over the next couple weeks. It should set me up well for my finals the third-to-last day of school. It will make that final bell all the more glorious. Once I burst out those front doors into the summer sun, I'm not going to touch a book for a full week. I just want to really recharge and refresh my brain before I start in on the summer reading list. Other than that, I have no real plans for summer. Other than, of course, riding my bike and playing baseball. Though this morning I saw a brochure on my parents' nightstand for a summer camp in Delaware. Are they sending me to summer camp? Why wouldn't they have mentioned that by this point? Shouldn't I have a say in it? I'm getting distracted! My schedule says I'm supposed to be studying for my history final right now. I need to focus. Mental note: I should definitely ask my parents about this summer camp brochure at dinner tonight.

Analyze the details to determine the narrator. Cite evidence to support your answer.

END OF YEAR PERSPECTIVES

Name: _____ Date: _____ Text # _____

Who is the narrator of the text?

What evidence from the text helped you determine the narrator?

END OF YEAR PERSPECTIVES

Name: _____ Date: _____

Text #	Narrator	Text Evidence

END OF YEAR PERSPECTIVES

Name: _____ Date: _____

Text #	Narrator	How does the narrator view the end of the year?

END OF YEAR PERSPECTIVES

ANSWER KEY

TEXT	NARRATOR
1	First Year Teacher
2	Custodian
3	Parent
4	Retiring Teacher
5	Principal
6	Student

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE SORT

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Cut out the sentences at the bottom. Read each statement and sort it depending on whether it contains a simile or a metaphor.

SIMILES	METAPHORS

The ocean was a magnet pulling me closer to it.

My skin felt like fire after spending all day out in the sun.

I've always wanted to visit a beach where the water is as clear as crystal.

My favorite beach towel for vacation is as soft as velvet.

The cheers at the sound of the final school bell were thunder to my ears.

If I stay home too long during summer break, I just end up a couch potato.

It's so windy by the ocean that after a few hours my cheeks were as red as roses.

The sound of the waves crashing on the beach was music to my ears after a hard year at school.

Convincing my mom that I needed a beach trip over the summer was as easy as taking candy from a baby.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE SORT

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Cut out the sentences at the bottom. Read each statement and sort it depending on whether it contains a hyperbole or personification.

HYPERBOLE	PERSONIFICATION

The worst thing about summer break is how quickly the time flies.	The swimming pool beckons to me like a long lost friend.	My family and I go to the pool a million times during the summer.
The family trip to see my grandma in the summer takes forever because she lives out in the middle of nowhere.	I love a good storm during summer break because I can stay up all night listening to the wind howling through the trees.	My teacher's smile was a mile wide when she dismissed us on the last day of school.
As soon as the bell rings on the last day of school, I can hear summer calling my name.	On the last day of school, the sun shone brightly in the sky, ready to welcome us to summer break.	My backpack weighed a ton after cleaning out my desk and locker at the end of the year.

Painting a Picture with FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write three of each kind of figurative language devices listed below describing the school year. You can describe the overall year or pick and choose certain memories to describe.

Simile:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Metaphor:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Painting a Picture with Figurative Language

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write three of each kind of figurative language devices listed below describing the school year. You can describe the overall year or pick and choose certain memories to describe.

Hyperbole:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Personification:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

END OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Choose from the list when assigning end of the year awards. Not all awards will be used.

Number Whiz
Dependable
Most Organized
Most Athletic
Voracious Reader
Witty Writer
Class Poet
School Spirited
Class Clown
Friendly
Class Spokesperson
Creative
Class Environmentalist
Timekeeper
Future Teacher

END OF THE YEAR AWARDS #1

Name: _____ Date: _____

Harry

One student from each class got to read the school news over the loudspeaker each week. When it was Harry's turn, he added in a number of made-up news stories. One said that students could get extra credit by wearing roller skates to class the next day. One was all about how scientists found that chocolate pudding could cure any sickness. Another was about how Justin Bieber would be teaching at the school in the spring. Harry thought that all of these stories were really funny, and so did the other students, but the principal decided that she would be reading the news from then on.

After that, there was another time during history class. Harry had gone to the thrift store and bought a dozen different pairs of secondhand glasses. Every time Mr. Buck, the teacher, turned around, Harry would switch glasses. The look on Mr. Buck's face was hilarious. You could see that he could tell that something was off, but he couldn't tell exactly what it was. Harry was always doing wacky little things like that. Everything he did was totally harmless, but it was all pretty clever.

You definitely have to pay attention when you're around Harry. Even if you're good friends, it's sometimes like he just can't help himself. One day, Harry had two sandwiches for lunch. He started eating the first one and went on and on about how great it was. He kept saying that his mother made the most amazing sandwiches and that we were really missing out. Finally, I traded him my tater tots for his second sandwich. I just had to try it! I unwrapped it and took a bite, and there was paper inside! I peeled off the top layer of bread and there was a note that read, "Fooled You!"

He really is a good guy and a great friend, but you have to put up with some stuff like that.

1. What end-of-year award would be a good fit for Harry?

2. Cite evidence from the text to support your choice.

END OF THE YEAR AWARDS #2

Name: _____ Date: _____

Toni

Toni had a habit during the first week of the school year. There were five grade levels at our school, which meant that there was one for every day of the week. For each day, Toni would try to say hello to each and every person in one of the grades. She started before school, and she would use recess, lunch, and any other free second to accomplish this. She knew most of the students already, so she would just check in with them and ask how their summers were. For any students she didn't know, she would introduce herself and learn whatever she could about them, and she would be sure to tell the new students that she'd be happy to answer any questions they had.

Toni actually had a tiny notebook that she carried to help her remember people. She would jot down their names and a couple things about each person to help her remember. Over the first few weeks of school, she'd scan over it so that she was sure to remember everyone's names. She made sure to check in with the new students every week or two to see how they were doing.

After the winter break, she would start all over again. She'd take that first week of school to check in with everyone again and see how their break had been.

It might seem like she was just interested in being popular, but it's not like Toni ever ran for class president or anything. I think it had more to do with the fact that she moved a lot when she was younger. I think that her mom was in the military. She once told me that it was always hard starting out at a new school, but she said that she always felt a whole lot better once she knew a few people.

1. What end-of-year award would be a good fit for Toni?

2. Cite evidence from the text to support your choice.

END OF THE YEAR AWARDS #3

Name: _____ Date: _____

Murray

If you need something on a field trip, you go to Murray. He brings along absolutely everything in his backpack. He has tissues, hair pins, rubber bands, pens, pencils, snacks, paper, and even a calculator. He's prepared for anything. One time on a nature hike, Mr. Kiln, our teacher, got turned around and lost the trail we had been following. He went right to Murray. That's because he knew that Murray would have a compass and a map. Sure enough, he did. We were back on the trail in minutes.

Murray takes the best notes, so he's the person you go to if you miss a day of school. He'll let you borrow them to copy down to make sure that you don't fall behind. Actually, on that note, he's also the person Mr. Kiln will send your work home with if you're going to be absent for more than a day. That responsibility used to be given to whoever lived closest to the absent student, but that student would often forget to drop off the work. That's not the case with Murray. He always drops by right after school or practice so that you can be sure to have your work in case you want to get started.

Murray tried out for the basketball team this year. He probably shouldn't have made the team. He's actually not very good at basketball, but practice is just as important as the games to Coach. For a full practice, you need to have at least ten guys. Unfortunately, our team has a big problem with guys missing practice, so Coach has actually been known to keep some guys on the team just because he can count on them to show up every day for practice. Murray may never score a point in a real game, but his attitude and commitment has been really important to our success.

1. What end-of-year award would be a good fit for Murray?
2. Cite evidence from the text to support your choice.

END OF THE YEAR AWARDS #4

Name: _____ Date: _____

Ping

Mrs. Paddington was trying to hang a mobile of the solar system above her desk. Her step ladder was pretty wobbly, and she couldn't reach the hook on the ceiling. Finally, totally frustrated, she gave up. When she did, Ping popped up from his seat. He snatched the mobile, scrambled up the wobbly ladder, perched atop it with ease, and hung the mobile. He then hopped down and plopped back into his seat. The whole thing looked about as easy for him as tying his shoe.

Back at his desk, he pulled a baseball from his bag as he waited for class to start. He practiced a number of different grips on the baseball. Last week, his parents had bought him a video that was supposed to teach "how to pitch like the pros". He had quickly mastered nine out of the ten grips in the video. At the championship game a few nights ago, Ping struck out fifteen batters during his team's victory.

After science class, he went out to recess. Ping's school shared a recreation area with the high school. Their recess times sometimes overlapped. When it did, Ping liked to join in the basketball games played by the high school kids. They were much older and bigger, but Ping always held his own. That's why they always welcomed him back.

As recess was ending today, Ping saw some of his classmates throwing sticks up into a tree. They were trying to reach a Frisbee that had gotten stuck in one of the tallest branches. Ping happened to be holding his trusty baseball. He wound up. With one throw, he knocked the Frisbee loose.

Just then, Ping's friend John zoomed by him, sprinting for the school building. "Race you back!" John yelled. Ping smiled. John had a pretty big head start, but Ping took off for the school and beat him easily.

1. What end-of-year award would be a good fit for Ping?

2. Cite evidence from the text to support your choice.

END OF THE YEAR AWARDS #5

Name: _____ Date: _____

Roberto

Roberto got permission once again to put on a class play in front of the whole school. Just like the two years before, he had written the script himself. He let me read it, and it was full of imagination. It was about a group of friends that built a time machine to save the world from an evil robot. Roberto is a great actor, too. He usually takes the lead role in his plays. He acts in the plays put on by the town theater, too. He is always really amazing in them. He actually received an acting award last year, even though it's definitely not his main focus.

Where Roberto really shines, in my opinion, is when he makes the sets for his plays. He'll take old bedsheets and paint these incredible scenes on them. Some are beautiful landscapes with vivid colors. Some are big crowds of people where you can make out each individual face. Some are backgrounds that show rooms in the play. It all depends on what the play is about. In every case, the sets are spectacular. He also makes a lot of the props himself. Using simple materials like cardboard or basic household items, he can transform the stage into another world.

Roberto gets a lot of attention for these plays. You might think that he would be full of himself, but he's not. He's a pretty quiet boy that usually spends recess under a tree with his sketchpad. In ten minutes, he'll make an incredible drawing of a bird or a frog that would take me a month to do half as well. He'll sometimes even sketch his classmates while they're playing on the playground. I think he's probably drawn everyone in our class at this point. I'm guessing that most of these sketches are hanging up on fridges or in lockers. Every one of them I've seen has been amazing, and he'll usually include a little poem about the student that is written on the bottom of the sketch.

1. What end-of-year award would be a good fit for Roberto?

2. Cite evidence from the text to support your choice.

END OF THE YEAR AWARDS #6

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lupita

Lupita probably has the strongest arms in our school. No, it's not because she lifts weights or anything like that. It's because Lupita checks out a load of books from the school library at the end of every week. I don't mean a handful of books. I mean a *stack* of books...like at least ten. She carries them home, and then she carries them back on Monday. You might think that maybe she is just showing off, that she's getting the books for her parents or a brother or sister, or that maybe she really does just like the exercise.

Here's the thing... Anytime another student is doing a book report, Lupita seems to know more about the book than the student giving the report. On a few different occasions, Lupita has even corrected Mr. Kell, our teacher, when he was talking about a particular book.

Sure, that can be a little annoying at times, but Lupita can be very helpful, too. She is very friendly, and she has a good relationship with pretty much everyone in class. If you are looking for something to read or need a book for a project, just ask Lupita. She will ask questions to get as much information as possible from you. Then she will have a list of books for you to read, just like that. It is pretty amazing.

I guess that one of the drawbacks of all this is that we don't see too much of Lupita outside of school. On weeknights and weekends, you will never find her at the mall or at the ball fields. In the summer, the only time you might see her is at the local bookstore where she has a part time job. I'm pretty sure that she gets a 20% discount on books, which is awesome for her.

1. What end-of-year award would be a good fit for Lupita?

2. Cite evidence from the text to support your choice.

END OF THE YEAR AWARDS #7

Name: _____ Date: _____

Cody

Cody always makes sure that his fellow students and Mrs. Hooper are properly separating the trash from the recycling. He put up little posters next to each trash bin explaining what can be recycled and what can't. Next to each trash bin, he also put a box for the recycling. At the end of the week, he loads it all into a cart hooked behind his bike. He then pedals the seven miles out to the county recycling center. He's asked the principal if he can put these signs up in all of the other classrooms, too. She said yes. The principal is also looking into a recycling service so that Cody doesn't have to transport it all by himself.

Something else that Cody does is that he makes sure to turn out the lights in any room that isn't in use. Our class will head out to recess or to lunch, and Cody will hang back toward the end of the line. He'll watch Mrs. Hooper like a hawk to make sure that she turns the lights off. As we're walking down the hall, he'll look left and right at all of the other classrooms, too. If there are any lights on, he'll pop over to the window to see if there's anyone inside. If not, he'll open the door and turn the lights off.

In the cafeteria, we now eat our meals using reusable plates, cups, and silverware. Up until a couple years ago, everything was paper or plastic that just went into the garbage. Then Cody showed up and explained to everyone how bad this was. He had all these facts and figures memorized about how much stuff we use every day ending up in landfills. Pretty soon, everyone was calling for the school to switch to reusable cafeteria items.

1. What end-of-year award would be a good fit for Cody?

2. Cite evidence from the text to support your choice.

END OF THE YEAR AWARDS #8

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mychal

Mychal has a favorite spot for watching all of our school's sporting events. He'll be right in the middle of all the students, parents, and other fans. He loves the center row of the center section, about halfway up from the game. He says that he likes that spot because he loves to feel the positive energy of our school's fans. Of course, Mychal is easy to spot. He's always covered head to toe in our school colors, green and white. Some of his clothes also have our school logo, a shamrock. He has a white cap with a shamrock on it. He has a green sweater that reads "Shelton Shamrocks". He even has white pants that are covered with green shamrocks. He always has some sort of sign to wave around, too. His favorite one reads, "Shamrock Pride!"

Being in the middle of the crowd also allows Mychal to lead cheers. Shelton Public doesn't have regular cheerleaders, so Mychal was more than happy to take on this role himself. Every few minutes, he'll stand and start a cheer that the crowd can join in on. He has such a great and positive energy that people love it when he starts a cheer. The other school's fans will sometimes even join in on the fun!

Recently, Mychal has started attending other kinds of events, too. He's been cheering on our science olympics team at their competitions. He supports our debate team, too. His support starts long before the events. Whenever there's an event at night or on the weekend, Mychal will spring into action. He'll spend all his free time at lunch and between classes trying to get as many students as possible to attend the competition. He's never pushy about it. He'll just explain how fun it is to cheer and support something that we're all a part of. Mychal will sometimes even hand out buttons reading "Shamrock Pride!" while he's making the rounds.

1. What end-of-year award would be a good fit for Mychal?
2. Cite evidence from the text to support your choice.