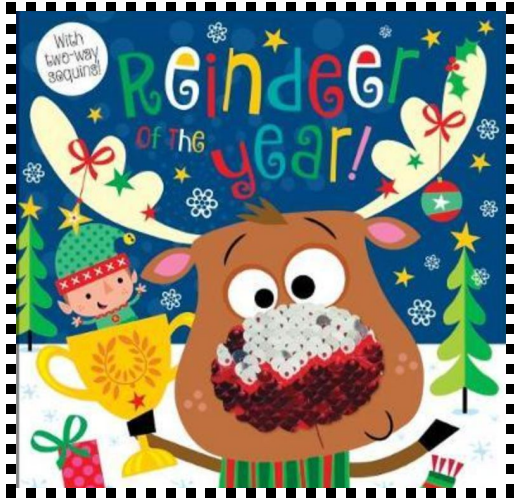


# DECEMBER LESSON OF THE MONTH

## GRADES 2-4

What student doesn't love a little friendly competition?? Engaging our students and teaching them to love to read and write is one of the biggest challenges we as teachers face. With this book, Reindeer of the Year, your students won't be able to put their pencils down, as they convince you, that their reindeer is the BEST reindeer this year.



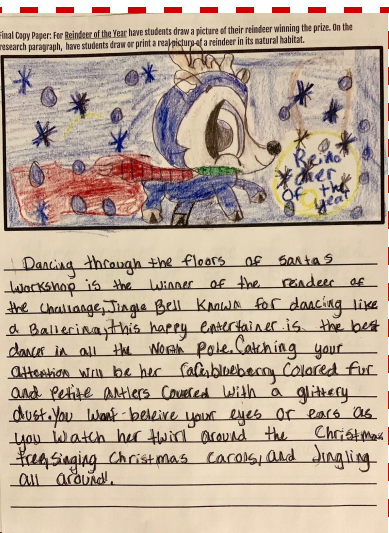
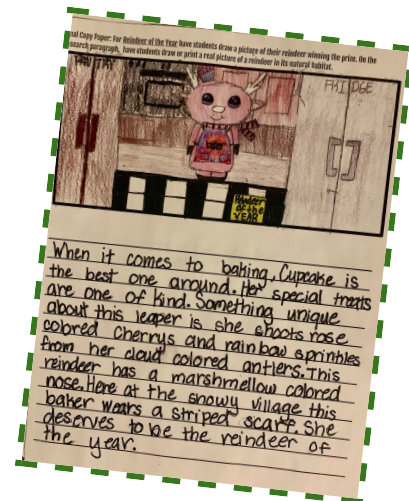
The contest is on, and **SANTA'S** reindeer are showing off their **SKILLS** as they **PRANCE** and **preen** to try and win the prize. But who will be named **Reindeer** OF THE **YEAR**?

With innovative **two-way sequin patches** on every spread, readers will **love** getting involved in the **sparkly** showdown, as they choose the winner! A perfect read aloud to share this **Holiday Season!**



### Materials for Writing Piece:

- Read aloud books about Reindeer
- Detail Generating Questions
- Sentence starters
- Student writing page



### Materials for Art Connection:

Have students create their reindeer holding the golden cup!

- Glue / scissors
- Colored construction paper (to create their reindeer)
- First place trophy

# **THE LESSON: REINDEER OF THE YEAR**

- ON THE FIRST DAY, read aloud THE BOOK about reindeer
- STUDENTS WILL CHOOSE/create a reindeer WHO THEY WOULD LIKE TO BE THE WINNER  
(Some students might need to choose one reindeer from the book to write about, while others will be able to create a whole new addition to Santa's crew!)
- STUDENTS WILL answer THE DQG ABOUT THE reindeer THEY CHOSE/created  
(teachers might want to make the word referent chart together first if your students are not familiar with creating them on their own yet)
- USING SENTENCE STARTERS, STUDENTS WILL create a DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH EXPLAINING WHY THEIR reindeer IS THE BEST reindeer THIS year!



## **WANT AN EXTENSION LESSON TO GO WITH THIS???**

I absolutely love pairing my fiction writing with an expository piece. Have your students do a little research about reindeer to go with their descriptive segment. I have included a sample of research questions to help guide your students in their search for information, as well as a final copy page to go with their paragraph.



## Detail Generating Questions for Reindeer of the Year

Reindeer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

What talent does your reindeer have that will be used to impress others?

Give a few details about your reindeer's features. ( size, color, hooves, tail, nose, antlers)

What is unique about your reindeer?

Does your reindeer remind you of something or someone?

If your reindeer could talk, what would he/she say?

Create a few word referents to replace the word "reindeer" in your piece:

ADJECTIVES	NOUN: REINDEER
Ex: dancing	entertainer

# SENTENCE STARTERS FOR REINDEER OF THE YEAR

(Reindeer Name) is here to impress with his/her...

First on stage...

Catching your attention first...

Not going unnoticed...

He/she \_(dances)\_\_ around at \_\_(turbo speed)\_\_\_...

He/she sets off \_\_\_\_\_...

You will find...

(Reindeer name) is known for...

His/Her \_\_\_\_\_ is one of a kind!

You won't believe \_\_\_\_\_

When it comes to \_\_\_\_\_ he's/she's the best reindeer around!



# REINDEER RESEARCH: REINDEER FACTS PARAGRAPH

How long have reindeer been around?

Where are they found?

What are some of their unique features?

What are baby reindeer called?

Who are relatives of the reindeer?

Do they have any predators?

What is an amazing fact about reindeer?

Come up with two additional questions to research!

1.

2.

# REINDEER RESEARCH PARAGRAPH SENTENCE STARTERS

Did you know...?

Would you believe...?

Can you believe...?

You'd never guess...

It is amazing that...

Many people don't know that...

You'll be shocked to learn...

Upon their back you will find...

Standing tall on their head...

Another interesting feature...

Their \_\_\_\_\_ will be sure to catch your attention as they...

As a baby reindeer are known as \_\_\_\_\_.

It is fascinating to think about...

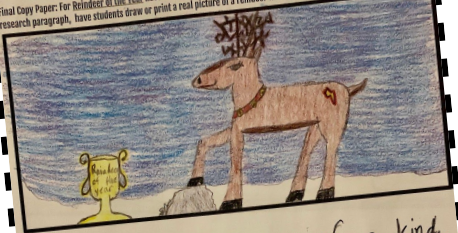
Something I'll never forget about reindeer is that...

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.




# MORE EXAMPLES:

Final Copy Paper: For Reindeer of the Year have students draw a picture of their reindeer winning the prize. On the research paragraph, have students draw or print a real picture of a reindeer in its natural habitat.




Here comes a one of a kind reindeer with her paint skills, quick reflects, and her fast thinking brain. It is the one and only Layla. Layla is the fastest multitasker around as she steals the stage. Layla can steadily run a race while painting. During tests, she currently is most likely to finish first. When it comes to all the reindeer Layla is the best reindeer around.

Final Copy Paper: For Reindeer of the Year have students draw a picture of their reindeer winning the prize. On the research paragraph, have students draw or print a real picture of a reindeer in its natural habitat.




Blitzen is a one of a kind reindeer having only one antler with one point. Thanks to his amazing colts, he is the highest jumper in Elf Village, maybe even the entire North Pole! This flying creature has a black shiny nose and smooth quotes. He also has many famous thank the good Lord for helping me through lifes tough challenges. He is very humble and definatly deserved the reindeer of the year award.

Final Copy Paper: For Reindeer of the Year have students draw a picture of their reindeer winning the prize. On the research paragraph, have students draw or print a real picture of a reindeer in its natural habitat.




First on stage is the reindeer with silky fur and crooked antlers. This merry jumper is ready to impress the crowd. As he leaps across the stage, his rosy-red scarf glistens in the light. There is no doubt that Prancer is the reindeer of the year that is known for his lengthy leap.

Final Copy Paper: For Reindeer of the Year have students draw a picture of their reindeer winning the prize. On the research paragraph, have students draw or print a real picture of a reindeer in its natural habitat.



First on stage is Star to show you her humor. The tall sleigh leader made the audience giggle, laugh and cry they laughed so hard. You will find she has bright star yellow stars on her antlers. The funny mythical deer's nick name is shooting star. If you take a close look you will see she has heart shaped hooves. Star had pink soft fur that whooshed in the wind. When it comes to humor she's the best reindeer around.

Final Copy Paper: For Reindeer of the Year have students draw a picture of their reindeer winning the prize. On the research paragraph, have students draw or print a real picture of a reindeer in its natural habitat.



Every year Santa holds a little competition called the reindeer games. This year a 2 foot tall, white reindeer with black horns is going to win. Her name is Teeny! This small reindeer will mystify the judges with wait for it... Magic! The competition doesn't stand a chance. There was ohhs and awws when she stepped on the stage. She pulled out deck of cards. She pulled one out, she put the card in her coat and wows! she was gone and she didn't reappear!