

Daily Skill-Builders

Reading

Grades 5–6

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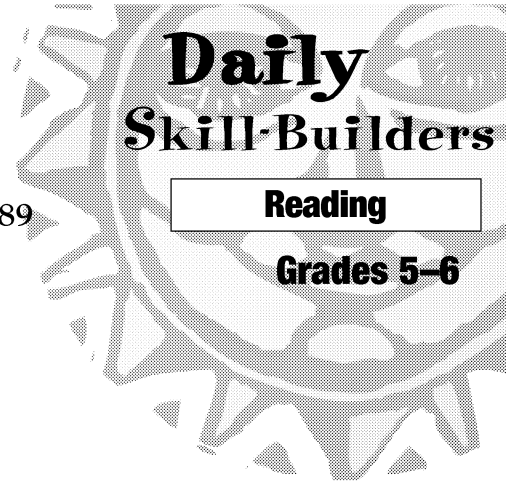
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To the Teacher

Introduction to *Daily Skill-Builders*

The *Daily Skill-Builders* series began as an expansion of our popular *Daily Warm-Ups* series for grades 5–adult. Word spread, and eventually elementary teachers were asking for something similar. Just as *Daily Warm-Ups* do, *Daily Skill-Builders* turn extra classroom minutes into valuable learning time. Not only do these activities reinforce necessary skills for elementary students, they also make skill-drilling an engaging and informative process. Each book in this series contains 180 reproducible activities—one for each day of the school year!

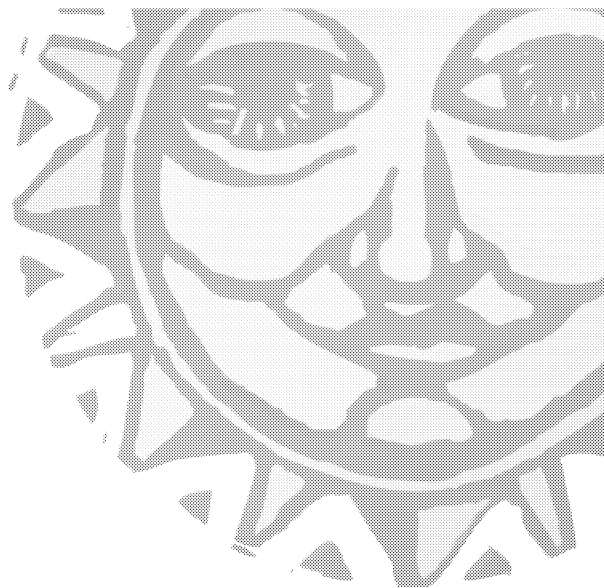
How to Use *Daily Skill-Builders*

Daily Skill-Builders are easy to use—simply photocopy the day’s activity and distribute it. Each page is designed to take approximately ten to fifteen minutes. Many teachers choose to use them in the morning when students are arriving at school or in the afternoon before students leave for the day. They are also a great way to switch gears from one subject to another. No matter how you choose to use them, extra classroom minutes will never go unused again.

Building Skills for All Students

The *Daily Skill-Builders* activities give you great flexibility. The activities can be used effectively in a variety of ways to help all your students develop important skills, regardless of their level.

Depending on the needs of your students and your curriculum goals, you may want the entire class to do the same skill-builder, or you may select specific activities for different students. There are several activities for each topic covered in *Daily Skill-Builders*, so you



can decide which and how many activities to use to help students to master a particular skill.

If a student does not complete an activity in the allotted time, he or she may complete it as homework, or you may allow more time the next day to finish. If a student completes a skill-builder early, you may want to assign another. *Daily Skill-Builders* give you options that work for you.

Students in one grade level vary in their abilities, so each *Daily Skill-Builders* covers two grades. In a fourth-grade class, for example, some students may need the books for grades 3–4. Other students may need the greater challenge presented in the 4–5 books. Since all the books look virtually the same and many of the activities are similar, the students need not know that they are working at different levels.

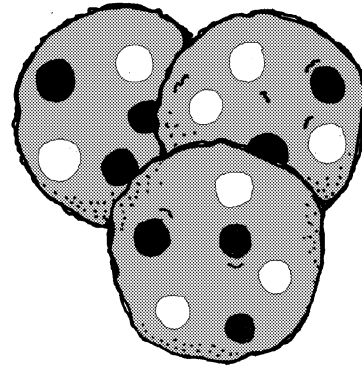
No matter how you choose to use them, *Daily Skill-Builders* will enhance your teaching. They are easy for you to use, and your students will approach them positively as they practice needed skills.

Cookie Directions

Follow the directions after reading the recipe.

Best Black and White Chip Cookies

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Combine $2\frac{1}{4}$ cups flour, $\frac{2}{3}$ cup cocoa powder, 1 teaspoon baking soda, and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt in a small bowl.
3. In a large bowl, beat 1 cup butter, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar, $\frac{2}{3}$ cup brown sugar, and 1 teaspoon vanilla extract until creamy.
Then beat in 2 eggs.
4. Gradually beat in dry mixture (from step 2).
5. Stir in 12 ounces white chocolate chips and 6 ounces semi-sweet chocolate chips.
6. Drop by well-rounded teaspoons onto an ungreased baking sheet.
7. Bake 7–11 minutes.
8. Cool on baking sheet; then remove to wire racks.



1. Circle the verb(s) in each step above.
2. Underline each word that is a unit of measurement.
3. Below, make a list of foods you would need to buy in order to make these cookies.



Barnstorming Details

The main idea is the overall point of a piece of writing. **Details** are the items of information—examples, facts, figures, and so on—that support the main idea. Read the following article. Pay attention to the details that help writers to describe or inform. Then circle the letter of the answer to each question below.

In 1910, when airplanes were still a new invention, a group of daring pilots and stuntmen and stuntwomen called barnstormers rose to fame. Barnstormers delighted and terrified their audiences with such death-defying stunts as barrel rolls, loops and spins, wing walking, and flying upside down. At the height of their fame, some of their air shows attracted crowds of 50,000 people.

With that huge a following, many barnstormers and barnstorming teams became famous; some even became rich. In 1922, Major Ivan Gates and the Gates Flying Circus was perhaps the most famous barnstorming show. Another popular air show was the Five Blackbirds—the only African-American barnstorming team during that time.

Bessie Coleman, or Queen Bess as she was called, was the first African-American woman pilot. She performed at air shows all over the country, looping and flying upside down 1,000 feet in the air.

Perhaps the most famous barnstormer was Charles Lindbergh. He got his start as a performer in these air shows, but he became an international hero when he made his historic nonstop flight from New York to Paris. This, perhaps, was the greatest daredevil stunt of all.

1. What were barnstormers?
 - a. people who attended air shows
 - b. pilots and stuntpeople who performed air shows
 - c. tornadoes that devastated farms
2. Why was Bessie “Queen Bess” Coleman important?
 - a. She was the first African-American woman pilot.
 - b. She performed in England.
 - c. She flew from New York to Paris.
3. What was the name of the only African-American barnstorming team?
 - a. the Five Blackhawks
 - b. the Five Black Cats
 - c. the Five Blackbirds
4. What were some of the stunts done by barnstormers?
 - a. barrel rolls
 - b. wing walks
 - c. both a and b

The Cause of It All

For each numbered pair of sentences, circle the letter of the answer that could be the cause for both.

1. The grass was too tall.
He couldn't finish his chores.
 - a. It was too hot.
 - b. The lawnmower broke.
 - c. He was tired.
2. She was able to surf in the Pacific.
He missed his friends.
 - a. The family went on vacation.
 - b. She got a new wet suit.
 - c. His friends moved away.
3. All the furniture is chewed.
She has an animal to take for a walk.
 - a. They have old furniture.
 - b. They have a new puppy.
 - c. Her little brother got a stroller.
4. She learned there were three new videos in.
Her little sister attended story hour.
 - a. They went to the park.
 - b. She went clothes shopping.
 - c. They went to the library.
5. She couldn't afford to pay her bills.
She had a lot of free time.
 - a. She didn't have a job.
 - b. Her credit card was at its limit.
 - c. She had lost her checkbook.
6. He got a strike.
She missed her friend's phone call.
 - a. They went bowling.
 - b. She needed a new cell phone.
 - c. He swung at a bad pitch.
7. They rode their bikes to school.
Some children walked.
 - a. They got new bikes.
 - b. The bus never came.
 - c. They were late.
8. They almost choked on the popcorn.
They laughed until their sides ached.
 - a. They were hungry.
 - b. Their shoes were brand new.
 - c. They went to a very funny movie.
9. The treasure was never found.
The passengers had to be rescued.
 - a. The ship sank.
 - b. He buried it and never told anyone.
 - c. The roller coaster got stuck.
10. Everyone has clean clothes.
There is no longer a heaping pile of dirty clothes on the bathroom floor.
 - a. They gave away old clothes.
 - b. They bought new clothes.
 - c. They did the laundry.

Help Wanted

Ms. Lopez owns an employment office. She received a long list of employment positions that she needs to **categorize** and put in her database. Help her sort the jobs into the correct categories by writing the numbers of the jobs next to the correct sections.

1. High school English teacher needed. Must have patience and stamina. Call for more information.
2. Fast-growing company needs help keeping up with software needs and hardware purchases. If you compute my meaning, please call. Disc is an emergency!
3. Is there a doctor in the house? We need doctors at this hospital fast! Call!
4. Person who can polish silver needed for full-time work. Your past employment references must shine. Call—before 5:00 P.M.
5. Have we got a job for you! Here at Lemon-Aid Motors there are no sour deals! Come sell some cars and squeeze yourself some big bucks! Call.
6. Annette C. Dent Driving School looking for instructor with nerves of steel to fill in for an extended medical leave.
7. Help! I've mixed up my floppies with my hard drives, and somebody's taken my cookies. Work for me so I can once again cruise the information highway.
8. Do you have what it takes to be a cutlery salesperson? We need someone on the cutting edge with a sharp mind to market these beauties door to door. Call for more information and tell them the Blade sent you.
9. We need a skilled clockmaker and repair person for our new store, Goin' Cuckoo. Must be able to count to 12. Call.
10. Dr. Megan Tist is looking for a partner for her successful dental practice. It's work you can really sink your teeth into. For more information to chew on, call us!

Healthcare _____

Education _____

Computers _____

Sales _____

General Help _____

Where Am I?

An author can use the **setting** for different purposes. Some are listed below.

- a. **The setting can help establish the tone and/or the mood.** For example, a dark, rainy night in an old house might signal fear or mystery.
- b. **The setting can be a metaphor** for an emotion or a comment on life.
- c. **The setting can be deliberately vague,** in order to focus on the plot or to stimulate the reader's imagination to fill in the details.
- d. **The setting can be crucial to the story,** as in some survival stories.

Identify the reason for each setting. Match each purpose with the letter above. Write the letter of the correct answer on the lines provided.

- ___ 1. Once upon a time, in a faraway kingdom, lived a beautiful princess and a handsome prince. They were so wealthy, that they had nothing to do all day but sit on their thrones and twiddle their thumbs—that is, until they were given the latest video-gaming system with 653 different games, crystal-clear graphics, surround sound, and super-sensitive controllers. Now their twiddling thumbs are busy beating every level in every game, and they no longer sit on their thrones.
- ___ 2. The balmy, tropical breeze stroked Shaundra's hair as she gazed into the sunset, its lingering rays splashing pink and orange and violet against the deepening sky. The warm waves lapped at her bare feet, surrounding them with soft, white sand. Shaundra sighed with contentment. *Two weeks of nothing but paradise*, she thought dreamily.
- ___ 3. "Grab the line before you get separated," he hollered over the sound of crashing waves.
I dug my arms through the frigid water, frantically kicking my legs to propel my tired body to the rope, the one lifeline left in the churning ocean. I grabbed, and missed. "I can't do it," I yelled back. "Don't worry about me. I'm not going to make it. Save yourself." Mark, however, wouldn't accept that for an answer.
- ___ 4. Her recovery began in the garden. She watched through the spring as shoots pushed through soggy ground, knowing their roots were reaching deep, deep into the soil. As weak sun warmed the earth, she saw the shoots come alive, reaching for the warmth, glowing in its light. Their slender stems grew thick and strong; leaves unfurled, embracing the air. When summer's heat pressed in, she found herself basking in its power, energized by its brilliance, as were the growing things, now in full bloom. Their colorful heads tilted skyward to receive the sun's renewing power. Yes, her recovery began in the garden.

Best Bets for Reference

There are many **reference books** available in your school or public library, specific to the information you might be seeking. Here are some examples.

- a. a dictionary of musical terms
- b. an encyclopedia of African American slavery
- c. biographical sources
- d. books filled with quotations
- e. law dictionaries
- f. medical dictionaries
- g. encyclopedias of film
- h. U.S. census information
- i. Who's Who books

On the line provided, write the letter of the best type of reference book from the list above to use to find the information below.

1. to look up the disease diabetes _____
2. to find out who said, "Speak softly and carry a big stick" _____
3. to check a legal term _____
4. to find out the history of the movie Casablanca _____
5. to find out the differences between a violin and a viola _____
6. to learn the history of the slave trade _____
7. to find out about a person's accomplishments _____
8. to find the average teacher's salary in the United States _____

