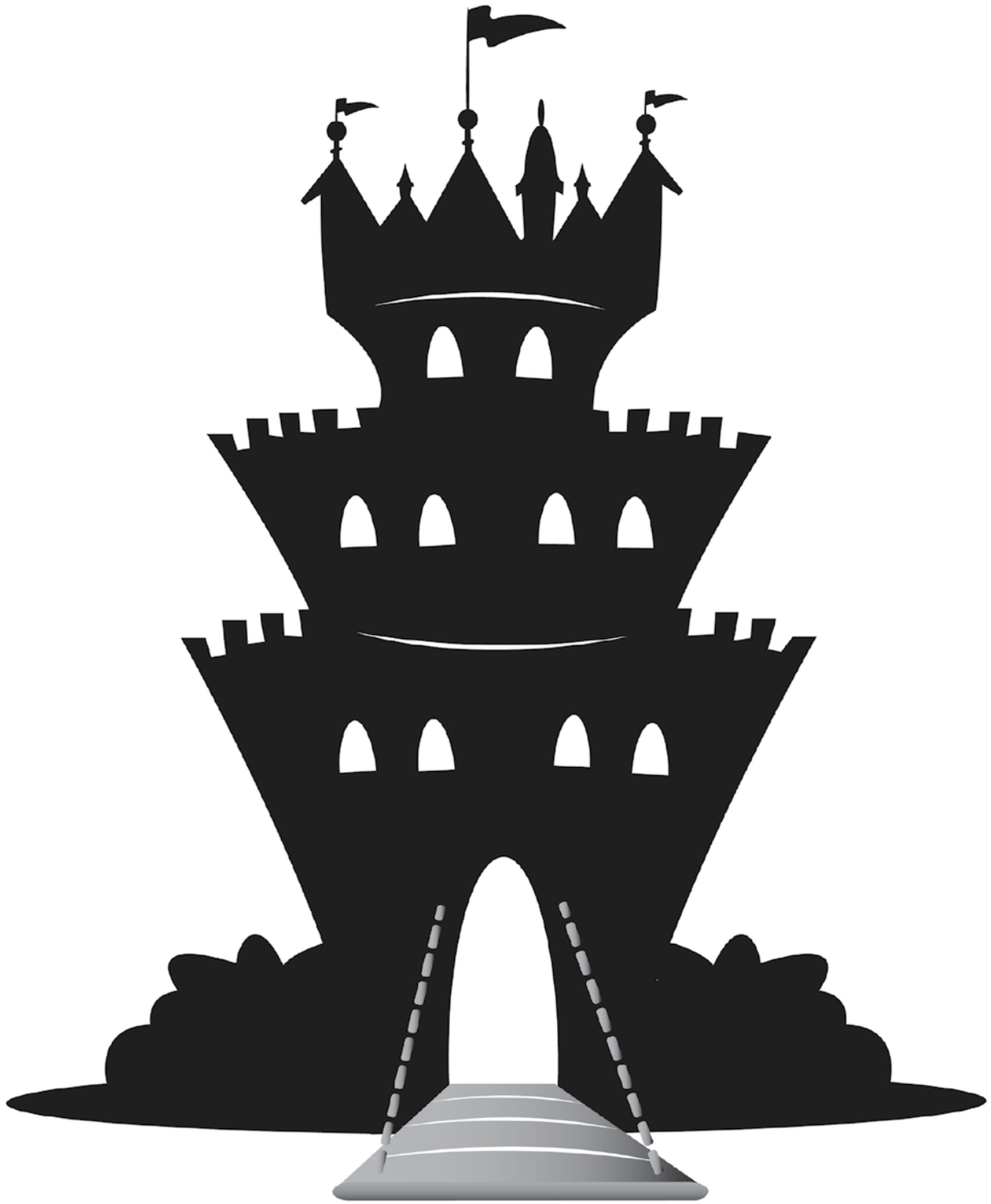
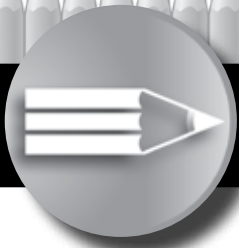


Month 2 - Castles





Cut and Paste

Castles

Introduction:

Imagine living in a stone castle high up on a mountain, dining with the king and queen, and ordering servants to meet your every wish. Doesn't that sound like fun? In reality, castles were cold, stinky, dirty fortresses built to keep out the enemy. Let's uncover the truth about castles, from the fascinating people who lived in these ever-changing, historical structures to the reasons why they were built.

Main Idea #1:

It's hard to believe the first castles were built over 900 years ago for kings, noblemen, and their families to live in.

Main Idea #2:

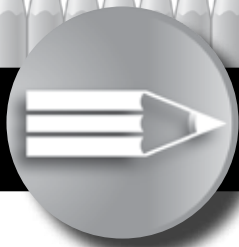
Interestingly, the construction of these fortresses changed over many years.

Main Idea #3:

There are many reasons kings and their court lived behind the sturdy, but smelly walls of a castle.

Conclusion:

It's easy to see that castles are not the fanciful palaces we often make them out to be. The next time you imagine yourself living in a castle, remember the clever kings that built these medieval fortresses for the purpose of keeping their enemies away at ALL cost. Still think you might want to live in a castle?



Cut and Paste

DETAIL SENTENCES:

The first structures were built of wood.

Masons used mortar and stone to build thick curtain walls.

Royalty needed to stay safe during battles caused when common people became upset over the strict, sometimes impossible rules the king enforced.

In addition, a deep ditch was dug around the outside of the castle and filled with water.

The opponents dug underground holes leading up to the walls they built, causing them to fall.

These farmers grew crops which they shared with the castle dwellers, thus being protected by the king and his knights.

In the same way, kings fought kings to add more territory to their kingdom and power to their name.

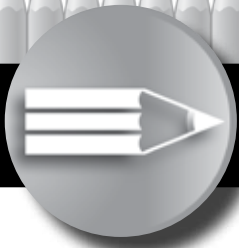
Nevertheless, castles were extra large dwellings with plenty of room for the king and his court.

This ditch, known as a moat, kept rivals from approaching the palace.

Undoubtedly the most common reason for such secure buildings was to keep enemies away.

Small slits left in the walls were used for firing arrows at the enemy.

SP2 (continued)



Cut and Paste

The king and queen shared their castle with soldiers, known as knights, who helped protect the fortress.

Certainly, this seems like a swarm of people inside one single castle.

Masons were stone or brick layers skilled in building strong blockades.

The curtain walls were eventually rounded to prevent them from collapsing due to the underground openings.

Stone castles were then constructed with walls as tall as 115 feet.

Not only that, these powerful structures were built to symbolize the power the king had over his kingdom.

A drawbridge was constructed to stretch across the moat which could be easily raised or lowered.

Peasants were allowed to farm the land surrounding the castle.

However, the wood rotted easily and caught fire quickly, making these buildings unsafe.

The commoners fought to regain control of their own land surrounding the castle.

It didn't take long, though, for the enemy to figure out how to collapse these solid partitions.

Also within the castle's walls lived the lords and their ladies plus servants and their families.

SP3



Expository/Informative Writing – Detail Sentences

Name: _____

Look at this TOPIC and DETAIL list. On another piece of paper, write a *detail sentence* for each bulleted detail or from the facts you discovered in your reading. You can use the sentence starters at the bottom of the page to help you.

TOPIC: Castles

- built high on hills or mountainsides
- built of stone and brick
- surrounded by a moat
- built to keep out enemies
- royalty, workers, and soldiers lived in castles

Sentence Starters:

Did you know that _____? These strong fortresses _____.

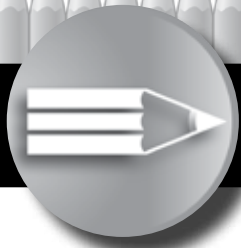
You might be amazed to know that _____.

Castles were _____. Castles have been inhabited by _____.

Surprisingly, _____. Are you aware that _____?

BONUS: Pretend you are a medieval architect.

Draw a **diagram** of a castle you must build. **Label** all of the important parts.



Sentences about CASTLES

Name: _____

Sentences are made of two parts – a “who/what” part and a “doing/describing” part:

The castle/smelled musty.

↑ ↑
who/what doing/describing

Read each sentence and use a **SLASH /** to separate the who/what and doing/describing parts of the sentence.

The king lived in a stone palace.

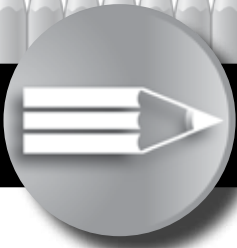
A moat surrounded the fortress.

The drawbridge spanned the width of the moat.

Knights protected the mansion.

The enemy escaped from the dungeon.

The royal family controlled the peasants.



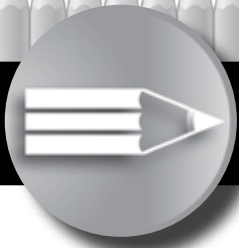
Sentences about CASTLES

Now write another sentence about a castle and its royalty. Use a slash to separate the who/what and doing/describing parts of the sentence. Be sure to begin with a capital letter and end with a period!

Do you think your sentences belong in a **narrative story** or an **expository/informative piece**?

BONUS: List the word referents for castle used in the sentences! Can you think of more?

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General or Specific?

Name: _____

Read each pair of descriptions below. Circle the example in each pair that uses effective specific detail, rather than overly **general detail**. Which description tells you more? Which is more entertaining?

1.) The king's robe was fancy.

A long, red velvet robe with fur trim wrapped around the king's shoulders.

2.) The moat, filled with cloudy water, flowed like a river around the outside of the castle.

There was water around the castle.

3.) The crown was pretty.

The queen wore a bejeweled crown made of solid gold.

4.) A transparent ghost with green sparkly eyes moved through the walls of the castle.

I saw a ghost in the castle.

5.) The dungeon was scary.

The wolves howled outside the door of the darkened dungeon.

6.) The castle was attacked.

One hundred knights on armored horses attacked the fortress.

BONUS: Go back and read each GENERAL description.

Underline any overly general adjectives.



Elaborative Segment

Name: _____

A Knight

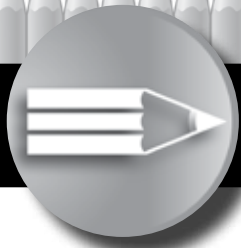
REMEMBER: When you elaborate, you STOP THE ACTION and observe.

- Use the five senses to describe!
- Your elaborative segment should make the reader feel as though he or she is *right there* with the main character.
- Use specific rather than general details.
- Remember that sentence variety is important!

Write an ELABORATIVE SEGMENT of the **character** below. Tell SPECIFICALLY what he looked like (color, features, size), what sounds it made, how he behaved. Do NOT write a grocery list. Use interesting words and make it entertaining!

Standing in front of the stone castle was a knight.

SP8



Castle Facts and Opinions

Name: _____

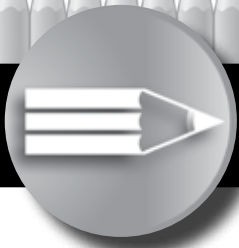
It is important to know the difference between FACTS (information on a topic) and OPINIONS (how someone feels about a topic). Read this list. Write **F** for fact, **O** for opinion.

- _____ Kings and Queens lived in castles.
- _____ I'd hate living in a castle.
- _____ I think it would be an adventure to explore a castle.
- _____ Most castles were built between 1100 and 1500.
- _____ Moats were built around a castle to protect the royal family.
- _____ I think knights were the bravest men of all.
- _____ Castle towers would be the best place for me to play.
- _____ The king ruled his kingdom and all who lived in his castle.
- _____ The commoners battled the king to get their land back.

BONUS: Complete this sentence telling what you like best about castles.

What I like best about castles is _____

Does that sentence state a fact or an opinion? _____



A King's Story

Name: _____

Your class read a narrative story about a King. Write the title and author below:

A King's Story: _____

By: _____

Think about this story. Fill in the summarizing framework. On another paper, explain what you liked best about the story. Use the sentence starters to help you.

This story is about _____.

CHARACTER and SETTING

The problem, adventure, or experience was _____

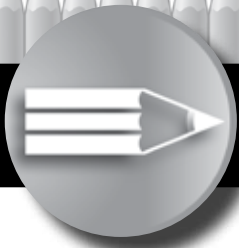
MAIN EVENT

The problem was solved, adventure or experience concluded when _____

CONCLUSION

- The part I enjoyed most was when _____.
- It reminded me of the time when _____.
- The most exciting scene was _____.
- The funniest part was when _____.

SP10



Flip the Sentence Subject

Name: _____

REMEMBER: In order for your writing to be interesting, you must use good sentence variety. That means that each sentence should begin a bit differently. One way to break up a “broken record” of redundant sentence structure is by “flipping the sentence subject.”

DIRECTIONS: Look at the sample sentence revision. Then, try your hand at revising the other redundant sentences using this technique. Think of a better word than the helping verbs “was” or “were”.

EXAMPLE: *There was a palace in the distance.*
In the distance stood a palace.

Now it’s your turn. Revise this sentence by “flipping the sentence” and using a more interesting verb.

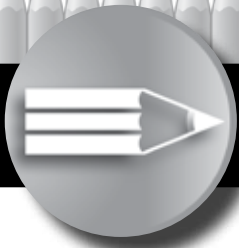
1) There was a moat around the palace.

2) There was a knight on the balcony.

3) There was a tall stone tower at the corner.

4) There were alligators in the moat.

SP11



Elaborative Detail

Name: _____

Crown

REMEMBER: When you elaborate, you STOP THE ACTION and observe.

- Use the five senses to describe!
- Your elaborative segment should make the reader feel as though he or she is right there with the main character.
- Use specific rather than general details.
- Remember that sentence variety is important!

Write an ELABORATIVE SEGMENT describing a crown. Tell SPECIFICALLY what it looked like (color, features, size). Do NOT write a grocery list. Use interesting words and make it entertaining!

I stared at the most beautiful **crown**.

SP12