



WINTER BREAK LEARNING PACK

K–12 adaptable

Parent & tutor friendly

Print-ready & classroom-ready

Winter Break Reading & Writing Pack

Simple, low-stress routines families can use in 10–20 minutes a day to keep reading and writing skills fresh.

What's inside

Daily reading & writing menus, micro-lessons, leveled tasks, trackers, bingo, and a completion certificate.

Time needed

Use as a full program (15–20 min/day) or pick 1–2 quick activities when time is tight.

Best for

Families, tutors, and teachers who want to prevent the “January slump” without heavy homework.

How to use this pack:

Choose one item from each row on most days of break:

- One quick **reading** activity
- One short **writing** prompt or response
- One **family or fluency** activity

 Mark your progress on the **challenge tracker**

 Keep it light. If it feels like a battle, scale back to 5 minutes and celebrate small wins.

SECTION 1

Winter Break Learning Schedule

Use this sample or customize this schedule however suites you. Don't worry if you miss days. Aim for consistency over perfection. Even 2–3 focused days per week make a dif ference.

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
☐ 10 minutes reading ☐ 1 writing prompt ☐ 1 vocabulary word	☐ 10 minutes reading ☐ 1 writing prompt ☐ 1 vocabulary word	☐ 10 minutes reading ☐ 1 writing prompt ☐ 1 vocabulary word	☐ 10 minutes reading ☐ 1 writing prompt ☐ 1 vocabulary word	☐ 10 minutes reading ☐ 1 writing prompt ☐ 1 vocabulary word

Highlights of the week:

SECTION 2

Daily Reading Choice Menu

Pick ONE reading task most days.

10-MINUTE OPTIONS

- Read one page aloud using your best expression. Then read it again more smoothly.
- Read quietly for 10 minutes. Star one sentence that felt powerful or important.
- Read a nonfiction paragraph and tell someone the **three most important facts**.
- Choose a character and describe their personality using **3 pieces of evidence** from the text.

FLEXIBLE FORMATS

- Read a recipe, game instructions, comic, article, or short story—anything with real words counts.
- After reading, sketch your favorite scene or moment in 3 minutes.
- Read a page and then summarize it in **one sentence**.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

After reading, choose one question to answer:

- What surprised you most?
- What is the main idea?
- What does the author want you to think or feel?
- What do you still wonder?
- What part did you connect with and why?

Tip for adults: If a child struggles to answer, reread a small section together and model how you think through the text.

SECTION 3

Short Writing Prompts

Use 1–3 prompts per week. Keep responses between 5–10 sentences for most prompts. Older students can extend to a short paragraph or page.

CREATIVE WINTER PROMPTS

- Write a 6-sentence story using these words: **snow, hope, lost, surprise, warm, sparkle.**
- Describe your perfect winter day using all five senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch).
- Imagine a snow globe world. What rules does it have? Who lives there? What happens if the globe is shaken?
- Rewrite a familiar song, poem, or holiday jingle with silly or surprising new details.

PURPOSEFUL WRITING PROMPTS

- Write a thank-you letter to someone who helped you this year—teacher, friend, coach, family member.
- Write a note to “Future You” about what you’re proud of this year and what you hope to learn in January.
- Explain to a younger student how to stay focused during homework time.
- Write a short review of something you read, watched, or played. Would you recommend it? Why or why not?

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 12 horizontal dashed lines.

SECTION 4

Leveled Vocabulary Boost

Choose one new word from reading, a show, or a conversation.

K-2: Draw & Say 3-5: Build & Use 6-8: Compare & Connect 9-12: Use in Context

K-2

My word is: _____

It means:

Say it in a sentence:

Draw it here if you can:

K-2

My word is: _____

It means:

Say it in a sentence:

Draw it here if you can:

SECTION 4

Leveled Vocabulary Boost

Choose one new word from reading, a show, or a conversation.

K-2: Draw & Say 3-5: Build & Use 6-8: Compare & Connect 9-12: Use in Context

3-5

My word is: _____

It means:

Synonyms:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Antonym:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Say it in a sentence:

3-5

My word is: _____

It means:

Synonyms:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Antonym:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Say it in a sentence:

Tip for adults: Instead of quizzing, ask “Where else might we use this word?” or “When would this word be helpful?”

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Choose one new word from reading, a show, or a conversation.

K-2: Draw & Say 3-5: Build & Use 6-8: Compare & Connect 9-12: Use in Context

6-8

My word is: _____

Part of speech: _____

It means: _____

Narrative sentence:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Informational sentence:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

8-8

My word is: _____

Part of speech: _____

It means: _____

Narrative sentence:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Informational sentence:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Tip for adults: Instead of quizzing, ask “Where else might we use this word?” or “When would this word be helpful?”

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Leveled Vocabulary Boost

Choose one new word from reading, a show, or a conversation.

K–2: Draw & Say 3–5: Build & Use 6–8: Compare & Connect 9–12: Use in Context

9-12

My word is: _____

Part of speech:

It means:

Context paragraph:

Write 3–5 sentences using this word to show tone, voice, and purpose.

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My word is: _____

Part of speech:

It means:

Context paragraph:

Write 3–5 sentences using this word to show tone, voice, and purpose.

Tip for adults: Instead of quizzing, ask “Where else might we use this word?” or “When would this word be helpful?”

SECTION 5

5-Minute Reading & Writing Micro-Lessons

Use when you're short on time or motivation.

READING MICRO-LESSONS

- **Speed Then Smooth:** Read a paragraph for 30 seconds and mark where you stop. Reread and try to get a little farther without rushing.
- **Find the Spark:** Identify one sentence that feels powerful. Underline or rewrite it and explain why it stands out.
- **Switch the Setting:** Change the location where the story takes place. How would that change the problem or solution?
- **Author's Hook:** Reread the first 3 lines. What did the author do to hook your attention?

READING MICRO-LESSONS

- **Spicy Sentences:** Take a plain sentence (e.g., "The dog ran.") and turn it into a detailed, interesting one.
- **Picture Prompt:** Look at any picture (photo, drawing, cover). Write 3 sentences describing what just happened or what will happen next.
- **Fix the Paragraph:** Rewrite a short, messy paragraph you create with missing capitals/punctuation and weak words.
- **3-Sentence Summary:** Summarize what you read in exactly 3 sentences —no more, no less.

Micro-lessons are perfect for car rides, waiting rooms, or nights when everyone is tired but you still want a small learning win.

SECTION 6

Family Reading Games

Keeps reading playful and low-pressure. Let kids choose the books whenever possible. Choice builds buy-in.



GAME 1: READ & FREEZE

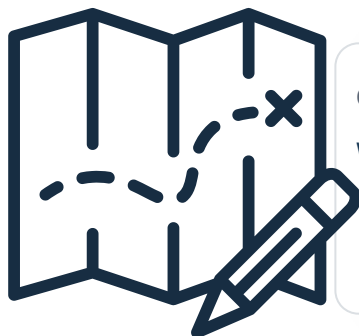
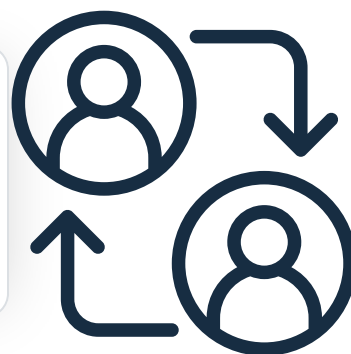
Take turns reading aloud. At any point, someone can say “Freeze!” and the next reader jumps in exactly where the last person stopped.

- Helps attention, fluency, and listening.
- Make it sillier by using different voices or emotions.

GAME 2: CHARACTER SWAP

Retell a scene but change one character’s personality (shy to bold, kind to sneaky, serious to silly).

- How does that change the story?
- What stays the same?



GAME 3: VOCABULARY SCAVENGER HUNT

While reading, work together to find:

- 3 words that show the weather
- 3 words that show feelings
- 3 words that show action

GAME 4: TWO-VOICE READING

Choose a passage with dialogue. Two people read different characters. Add expression, gestures, and even simple props. Great for confidence, fluency, and comprehension.



SECTION 7

Practice Passages & Quick Responses

Use for comprehension, vocabulary, and writing practice. Read one passage out loud and one silently. Then respond using the prompts below.

FICTION – THE LATE BUS

The bus was already five minutes late, and snowflakes were beginning to stick to Maya’s backpack. She checked her watch again. If the bus didn’t come soon, she would miss the morning review—and the quiz that counted for half her grade. The street was quiet except for the soft crunch of her boots and the distant scrape of a snow shovel.

NONFICTION – SNOWPLOWS AT WORK

In many cities, snowplows are the first vehicles to head out when a winter storm begins. Their job is to clear snow and spread salt or sand so roads stay as safe as possible. Drivers often work overnight shifts and follow planned routes, starting with main roads and emergency routes before moving to neighborhood streets.

Comprehension Quick-Checks

- What is one important problem or focus in the passage?
- What do you learn about the character (fiction) or topic (nonfiction)?
- Which detail helps you picture what’s happening?
- What is one question you still have?

Writing Response Options

- Write one paragraph that continues the story (fiction) or explains why the topic matters (nonfiction).
- Write a short email to a friend summarizing what you read.
- Compare the two passages. How are they similar? How are they different?

SECTION 8

Winter Reading Bingo

Challenge: Can you get three-in-a-row? A full row? A full board? Color in or check off each square you complete.

Read under a blanket.	Read to a pet or stuffed animal.	Read a poem.	Read for 12 minutes straight.	Retell a story using 8 emojis.
Read a nonfiction paragraph.	Find 3 feeling words.	Read in a silly voice.	Teach someone a new word.	Read the same page twice.
Read the back of a cereal box or snack label.	Share a favorite book.	Read the directions for a game.	Read with a flashlight.	Find 3 action verbs.
Read with a family member	Read something funny.	Read outside (even for 3 minutes!)	Find a word you want to look up.	Write a 3-sentence summary.
Read in your coziest spot.	Draw a scene from what you read.	Change the ending of a story.	Recommend a book to someone.	Finish a full page without getting distracted.

SECTION 9

January Reset Roadmap

Getting ready for a smoother start after break.

QUICK FAMILY CHECKLIST

- Declutter backpacks and binders.
- Set a realistic bedtime and wake-up schedule a few days before school starts.
- Choose 1–2 academic goals for January (reading, writing, math, or organization).
- Pick two days per week for a short homework or study routine.

CONNECT WITH EDUQUENCHER

- Log in or create your free EduQuencher account.
- Browse EduQuencher’s academic course catalog together.
- Identify which courses or supports match your child’s goals.
- Note down any questions you’d like to ask a tutor or coach.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHECKLIST

- ☐ Durable backpack
- ☐ Laptop or Chromebook (if required by school)
- ☐ Scientific calculator (TI-30 or similar)
- ☐ Graphing calculator for advanced math (TI-84 or TI-89)*
- ☐ Mechanical pencils + lead refills
- ☐ Pens (blue, black, red)
- ☐ Highlighters
- ☐ College-ruled notebooks (multiple subjects)
- ☐ 3-ring binders (1–2 inch)
- ☐ Dividers
- ☐ Loose-leaf notebook paper
- ☐ Graph paper
- ☐ Folders for each subject
- ☐ Index cards (100–200 pack)
- ☐ Sticky notes (various sizes)
- ☐ Planner or digital calendar system
- ☐ USB drive or cloud storage access
- ☐ Earbuds/headphones