

Companion Text Set to Read Aloud Anchor Text

Anchor Text: The Salamander Room | Grade: 1

About this Resource:

This text set centers around the topic of a high-quality read aloud anchor text, in order to build students' knowledge and vocabulary. Anchor texts are a part of Student Achievement Partners' Read Aloud Project and full lesson plans are hyperlinked. Each Related Text is a suggested lightweight resource that connects to the topic of the read aloud and builds student knowledge and vocabulary. Also included are high-interest, topically related Optional Supporting Resources and Writing/Culminating Tasks in varied genres. Suggested resources are free or almost free (requiring a teacher license or sign on) and can be used as read aloud texts or for small group or independent reading depending on their complexity. All are intended to be optional resources for the classroom and teachers are encouraged to modify, adapt, or supplement these text sets with related resources. Text Sets are intended to support approximately two weeks of instruction. For additional suggestions for use, read this blog post: <https://achievethecore.org/aligned/reading-to-learn/>.

Key Content (Synopsis of two weeks)

Read Aloud:
The Salamander Room

<http://achievethecore.org/page/3045/the-salamander-room>

Synopsis of Text:

A young boy, Brian, finds a salamander in the woods and wants to keep it as a pet. This story follows Brian as he uses his perseverance and imagination to convince his mom that he should be able to keep the salamander.

Related Text 1:
Habitat: Facts

<http://idahoptv.org/sciencetrek/topics/habitat/facts.cfm>

Synopsis, highlighting related learning:

This website gives students a basic understanding about what a habitat is. Even though the term "habitat" isn't used in *The Salamander Room*, Brian's mom asks him questions and these questions are all helping him create a more suitable habitat or "room" for the salamander.

Teacher note: Read "What is a Habitat?" section of this web page only.

Related Text 2:
Salamanders and Newts

<http://easyscienceforkids.com/all-about-salamanders-and-newts/>

Synopsis, highlighting related learning:

This article gives basic information about salamanders, including information about their metamorphosis and basic physical characteristics. *The Salamander Room* has information about where a salamander lives and what it likes to eat, and this article provides supplemental information about salamanders.

Related Text 3:
Slithery and Slimy

<https://www.raz-plus.com/books/leveled-books/book/?id=182&lang=English>

Synopsis, highlighting related learning:

This text compares reptiles and amphibians and gives basic facts about each. This builds students' background knowledge about amphibians, including salamanders.

Teacher note: Pages 1-5 and 11-16 connect most directly with this set.

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Optional Supporting Resources	
<p>Salamander Care and Feeding</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHOuPOdTfYE&spfreload=10</p>	<p>Description/rationale for inclusion: Invite students to create a salamander habitat in your classroom using local materials. Use the texts above and other sources as needed to design and build a home where a salamander can meet its needs for food, shelter, water, and space. Consider capturing some salamanders from your local stream or woodland park. Bring them into your classroom as “guests” for a few weeks. Then return them to their outside home.</p>
<p>Animal Habitats Habitats Song Habitat Habitat Song for Kids Jack Hartmann</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTp_YFZcvoU</p>	<p>Description/rationale for inclusion: This catchy song reinforces the basic definition of habitat or “the place that animals grow healthy and strong.” This is a key conceptual understanding from <i>The Salamander Room</i>.</p>
Writing/Culminating Tasks	
<p>Text Type 1: Informational</p>	<p>Description of task: Your teacher has given you an empty fish tank and wants you to create a habitat for a salamander.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. First, draw the habitat you would create.2. Label the things in the habitat (water, soil, sticks, leaves, etc.).3. Explain how the parts of your habitat would help a salamander get water, food, shelter, and space to grow healthy. <p><i>Teacher note: This assignment could be adapted to be about a different animal. If you already have a classroom pet, students could design a more suitable habitat for the classroom pet.</i></p>
<p>Text Type 2: Opinion</p>	<p>Description of task: My friend found a salamander outside! She wants to bring it over right now to live here in our classroom! Would our classroom be a good habitat for a salamander? Why? Explain how the classroom is or is not a place where a salamander could get water, food, shelter, and space to grow healthy.</p> <p>Use these sentence starters, if needed.</p> <p>The classroom is/is not a good habitat for _____because_____.</p> <p>One reason is_____.</p> <p>Also, the classroom has_____.</p> <p>A salamander needs_____.</p>

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	<i>Teacher note: This task could be adapted to any location (e.g., Is the Artic a good habitat for a salamander? Is the principal's office a good habitat for a salamander? Is a beach a good habitat for a salamander?).</i>
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