# Lesson Plan Summary
## The Backpack Travel Journals

### A Cluster Book Study for Books 5-8

| DURING THIS BOOK STUDY, EACH STUDENT WILL: | COMMON CORE STANDARDS ADDRESSED: |
|---|---|
| • Read, collect and document the clues from each of the 4 books to solve the mystery or mission of that particular book cluster.<br>• Fill in a "story map" with setting, character, main events and details of the story.<br>• Write a summary or re-telling of the main events in the story.<br>• Track and write favorite facts from the fiction book and non-fiction companion and draw a diagram, illustration or map.<br>• Make an acrostic poem with the vocabulary words.<br>• Present an oral summary of the adventure story and / or the most interesting facts to another student, teacher or adult.<br>• Participate in a book club of 4 students, each reading 1 of the 4 books in the cluster. | **Reading:**<br>• Reading comprehension<br>• Setting<br>• Main Idea and details<br>• Sequencing<br>• Conclusion<br>• Re-tell the story<br><br>**Writing:**<br>• Summarize<br>• Re-tell the story<br>• Research to build and present knowledge<br><br>**Speaking and Listening:**<br>• Presentation and integration of knowledge and ideas<br>• Compare and contrast themes, settings and plots of stories written by the same author about the same characters |



Created by: Paula Cirillo, 2009 Magic Tree House Teacher of the Year Peach Hill Academy Moorpark, California

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# Cluster Lesson Plan
## The Backpack Travel Journals

### A Cluster Book Study for Books 5-8

**Materials:**

- Copy of The Backpack Travel Journals for each student (see Appendix A)
- Colored pencils or crayons
- An "O" ring for each student (optional)

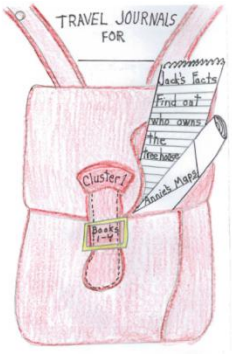
**SETTING UP THE BACKPACK FOR THE CLUSTER BOOK STUDY**

**Procedures:**

- Fold the **Backpack Travel Journals** paper (or cardstock) in half and glue the three edges leaving an opening on top.

- This is where the **Story Mapping with Annie** and the **Fact Tracking with Jack** journals will be folded and stored for each book read in the cluster.

- **Front of backpack** - Each cluster has a different mission for Jack and Annie to go on. Once the student discovers the mission he/she writes it on the front of the backpack on the "Jack's Fact's" notebook. (Appendix B- Answer Key)




- Color the backpack red (like Jack's).

- Trace over all the words in a thin black marker, for contrast (optional).

- **Back of backpack** – Write in the names of the four books in the cluster. Refer to the answer key for the words to write in the top of each pocket. It is different for each cluster. (Appendix B- Answer Key)

- The student will draw the picture and/or write something in each pocket as he/she finishes each book and solves each mission. (Appendix B-Answer Key)




Since children love collectibles, the **Backpack Travel Journals** from each cluster can be collected on an "O" ring and proudly displayed in a special place in the classroom.

Cluster2 -1LP712

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## HOW TO USE THE CLUSTER BOOK STUDY

### Whole Class Book Study

- Read the book together as a class. (A class set of books is best)
- Guide the students through each chapter, modeling how to summarize into one sentence.
- **TEACHING TO SUMMARIZE** – Each time you come to a main event, put it on a post-it on the board. You may have several. Decide together which one the chapter was "mostly" about or combine a couple into one sentence. They need lots of practice with this. Practice it throughout the day…with directions, paragraphs, and short stories.
- Fill in the **Story Mapping with Annie** worksheets together, at first. (lesson plan on following page)
- As some of the students are getting more proficient, allow them to read by themselves and to meet back to compare their sentences.
- Some of the students may be ready to read on their own and form a book club.



### Book Club

- Consists of four students, each reading one of the four books in the cluster.
- Each member will read their book independently and document information on the **Story Mapping with Annie** and **Fact Tracking with Jack** journals. (see Appendix A)
- The members will each have their sharing day when they retell the story and lead the group in filling in one of the four "pockets of information" on **The Backpack** (this is a teaching strategy known as "jigsawing").
- Together they will celebrate in completing the "mission" of that cluster and write in the completed answer on the back of the backpack.
- On other days, the members can share their favorite facts, compare & contrast settings, or share their favorite part of the book.



# Story Mapping with Annie

Finding the characters, setting, plot, and main events of a story

**Materials Needed:**

- Magic Tree House book
- Story Mapping with Annie worksheet (see Appendix A)
- Post-it notes for each student
- Colored pencils or crayons

**Directions:**

- The student will copy information onto the **Story Mapping with Annie** worksheet as they read.

**CHAPTER ONE** (Start at the icon of the book)

- Who pointed to the picture in the book? (Jack or Annie?)
- What is the picture Jack or Annie pointed to?
- What is the name of this magic book which starts the adventure?
- Move to the **Mission Key** scroll to fill in the goal of the mission for this book.

**CHAPTER TWO**

- Move to the **tree house window**. Draw the setting of where the tree house landed.
- Write the name of the time period under the tree house window.
- Move to the **Chapter 2 star**. Write the first main event upon landing in the new setting.

**CHAPTERS THREE – TEN**

- Student puts a post-it note on the page of the main event that happens in each of the next eight chapters. Jot down the event on the post-it. (Sometimes there is more than one event, so the students need to practice combining sentences and writing what the chapter is "mostly" about.)
- Teacher checks post-it note for accuracy. This continued practice with each story will teach the students how to choose the main events for re-telling a story.
- Student will write a few words or a sentence describing the main event of the chapter near the circled chapter number.

Collect a **Story Mapping with Annie** journal for each of the four books read in the cluster and store in **THE BACKPACK**.

# Fact Tracking with Jack

Being creative with the facts

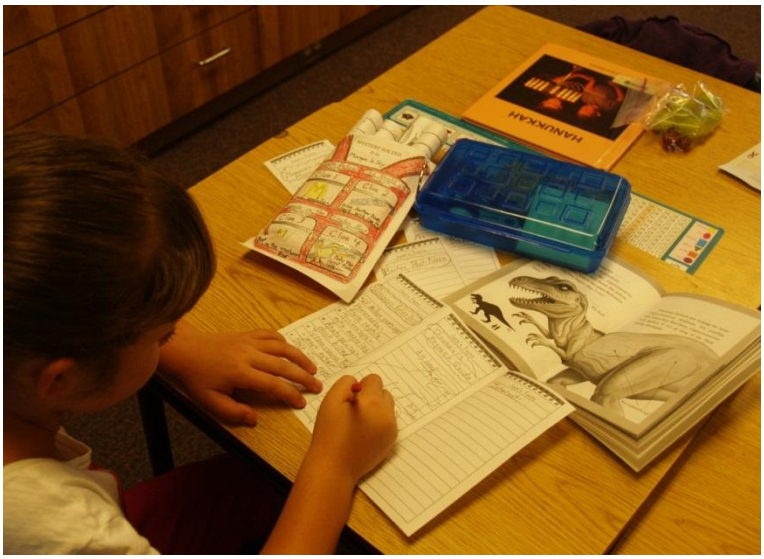
*A mini-research report

**Materials Needed:**

- Magic Tree House book
- Fact Tracker (formerly called The Research Guide)
- Copy of **Jack's Facts** notebook page (see Appendix A)
- Crayons, markers or colored pencils

**Directions:**

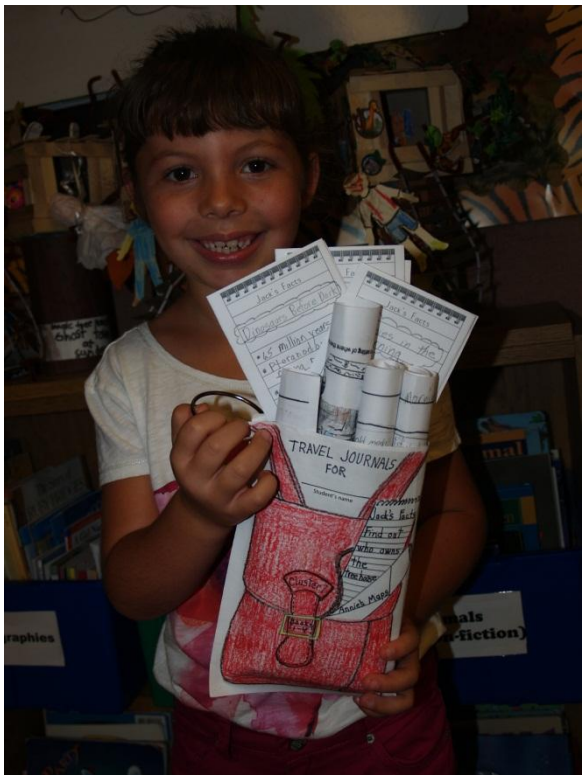
- Tri-fold the **Jack's Facts** notebook page like a brochure with the writing showing on top.
- **First column** – The student writes his/her three favorite facts next to the WOW, UNBELIEVABLE, and INTERESTING bullets on the page.
- **Middle column** – The student draws a diagram, illustration, map, or any other creation of his/her choice using the Fact Tracker. If there is no Fact Tracker for this Magic Tree House book, the student will use the facts in the book.
- **Last column** – The student makes an acrostic poem. Acrostic poems are a creative way to show the understanding and relationships of vocabulary words learned from the book. The finished product is a mini-research report. (See the answer key for examples)



Collect a **Jack's Facts** journal for each of the four books read in the cluster and store in **THE BACKPACK**.

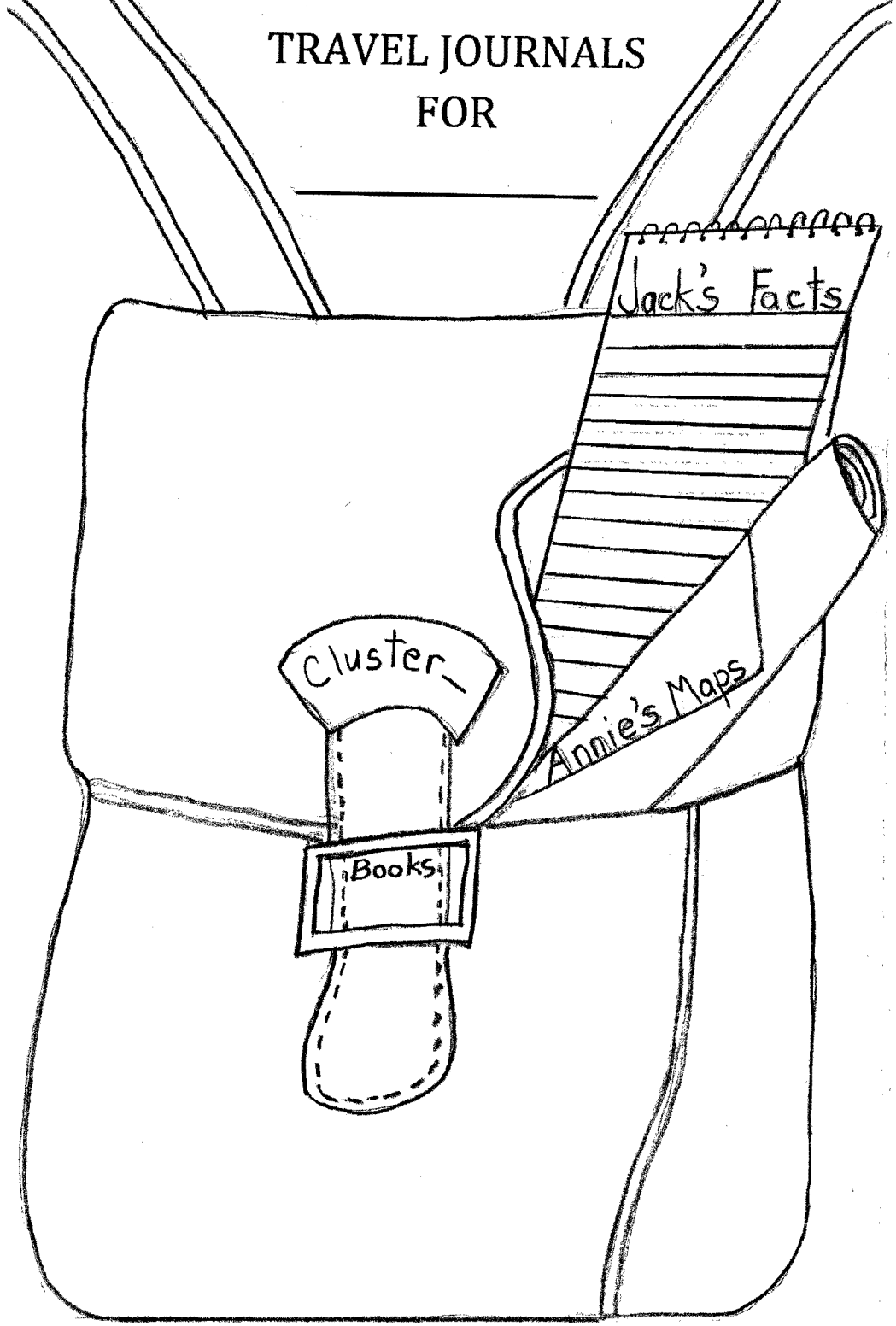
# APPENDIX A
## (Student Copies)

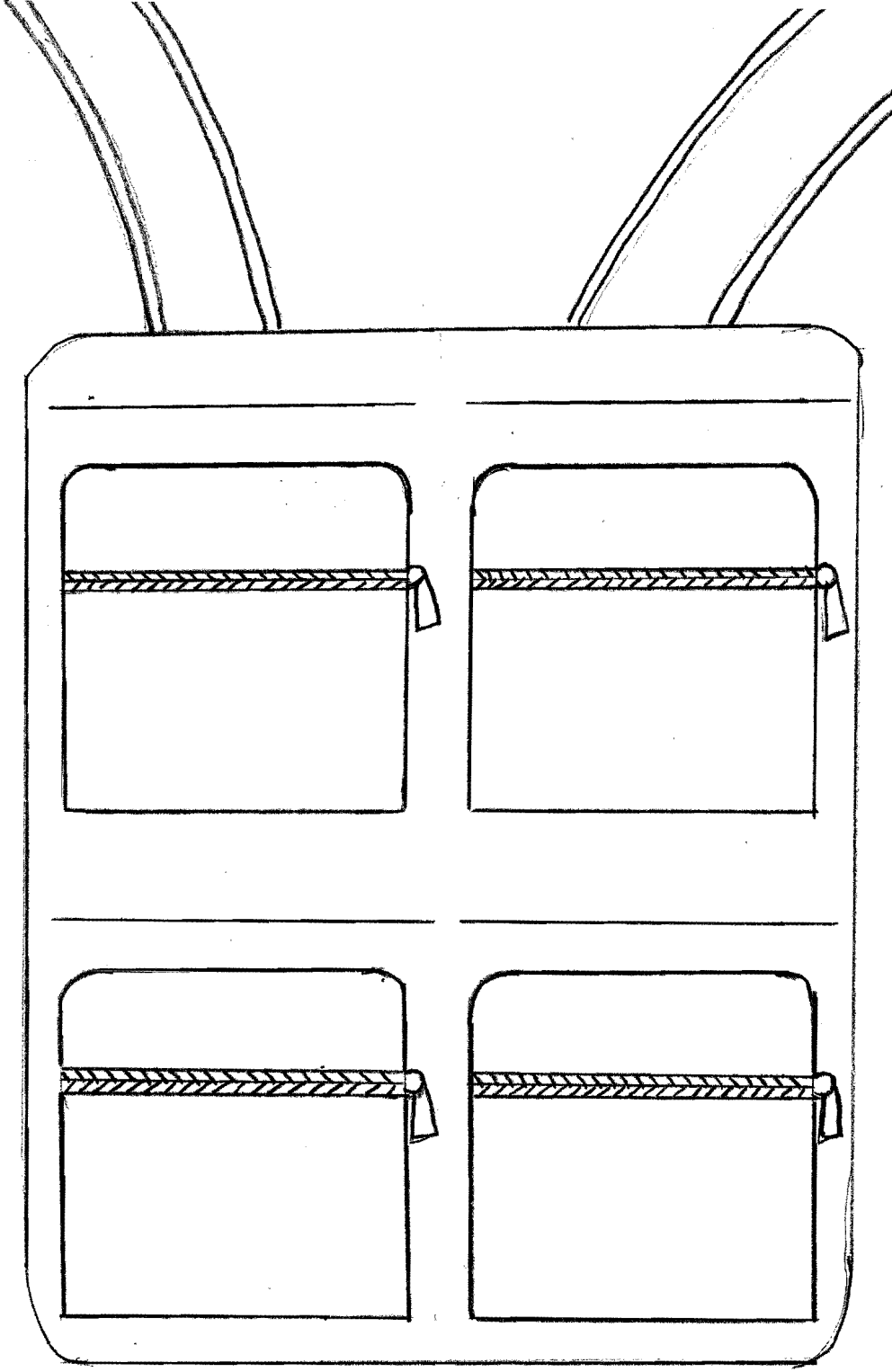
- **The Backpack Travel Journals** (backpack)
- **Story Mapping with Annie** (map)
- **Fact Tracking with Jack** (Jack's Facts notebook page)



TRAVEL JOURNALS
FOR

_____

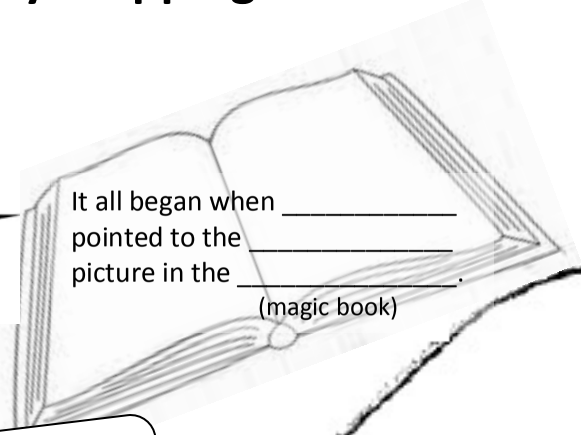


# Story Mapping with Annie for _____

(Title of Book)



It all began when _____
pointed to the _____
picture in the _____.
(magic book)

**Mission Key**
The goal of this mission is _____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____



Ch. 2
Ch. 3
Ch. 4
Ch. 5
Ch. 6
Ch. 7
Ch. 8
Ch. 9
Ch. 10
The ending



Draw the setting of where they landed

Give the main event for each chapter.

# Jack's Facts

List your 3 favorite facts.

WOW!

-

UNBELIEVABLE!

-

INTERESTING!

-

# Jack's Facts

Draw a diagram, illustration, or map

# Jack's Facts

Make an acrostic poem.

# APPENDIX B

(Answer Keys)
Suggestion: Make a copy of each answer key and put them in a binder for a Teacher's Guide.

- **The Backpack Travel Journals** – Cluster 2

- **Story Mapping with Annie** (answers will vary)

    5. NIGHT OF THE NINJAS

    6. AFTERNOON ON THE AMAZON

    7. SUNSET OF THE SABERTOOTH

    8. MIDNIGHT ON THE MOON

- **Fact Tracking with Jack** (*A mini-research report - answers will vary)

    5. NIGHT OF THE NINJAS (no Fact Tracker for this book. Use facts from this book or other author's works)

    6. RAINFORESTS Fact Tracker

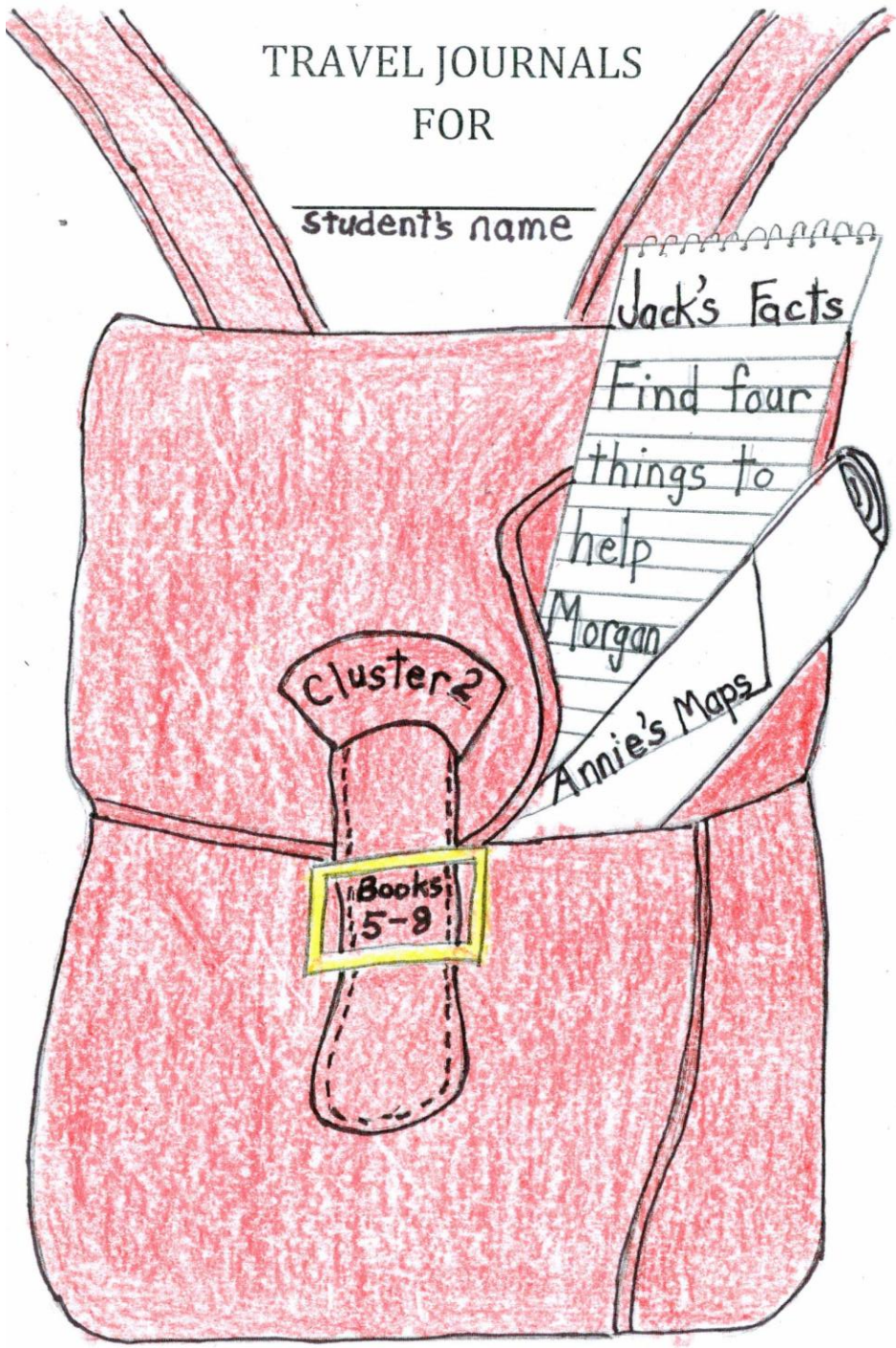
    7. SABERTOOTHS AND THE ICE AGE Fact Tracker

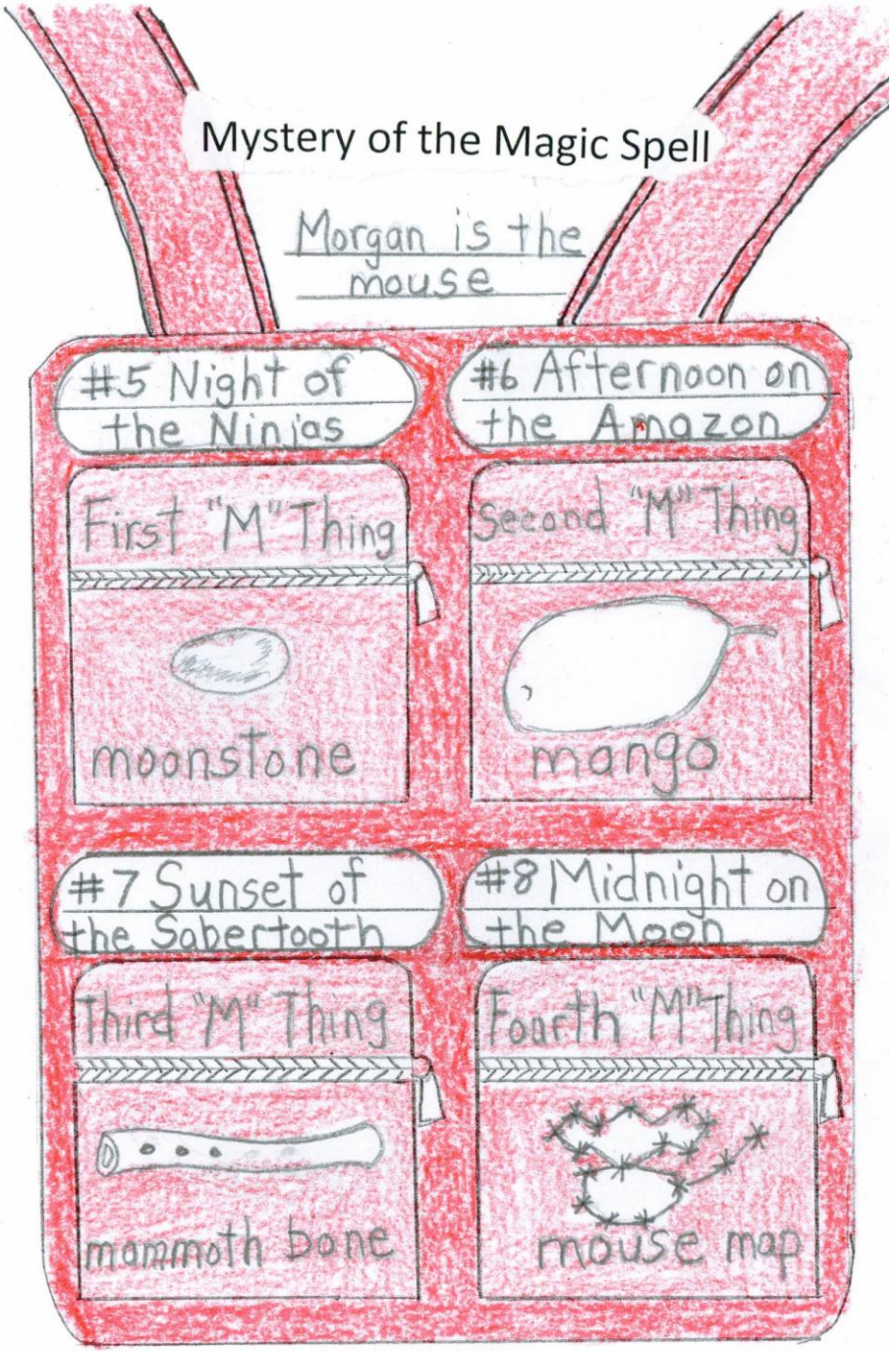
    8. SPACE Fact Tracker

**(Fact Trackers were formerly called Research Guides)**

TRAVEL JOURNALS
FOR

student's name



# Story Mapping with Annie for **#5 NIGHT OF THE NINJAS**

(Title of Book)




It all began when **Annie** (P.13) pointed to the **ninja** (p.11) picture in the **NINJA** book. (magic book)

**Mission Key**
The goal of this mission is:
**Find the # 1 "M"THING to help break the spell.**
_____
_____

Ch. 2

**Annie put Peanut, the mouse, in her pocket for the adventure.**

Ch. 3

**Once they landed, two ninjas climbed like cats into the tree house.**

Ch. 4

**Ninjas carried Jack & Annie and waded through an icy cold stream.**

Ch. 5

**When they got on land, the ninjas disappeared into a cave for a meeting with the ninja master.**

Ch. 6

**Samurai are coming and everyone must run. Ninjas leave J & A, but with advice to get back—USE NATURE, BE NATURE FOLLOW NATURE.**

Ch. 7

**They USE NATURE to find the east with a stick in the sand. They are scared when they meet up with a samurai warrior, so they act like a rock, NATURE,**

Ch. 8

**To get back to the tree house they FOLLOW NATURE-Let Peanut lead them to the crossing where they don't have to go back into the icy water.**

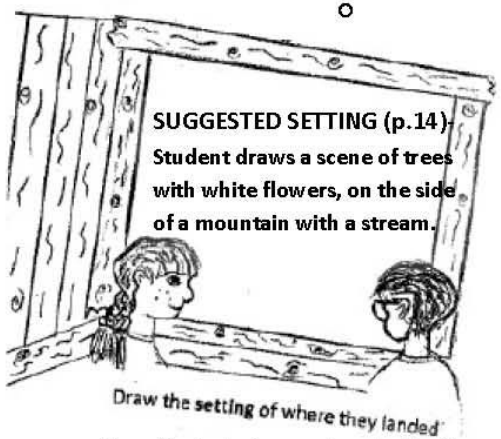
Ch. 9

**Ninja master, waiting in tree house for them, gave them their "M" THING (moonstone) for completing their mission.**

The ending.

Ch. 10

**Thanked Peanut and tucked him in a sock to sleep in the tree house.**



**SUGGESTED SETTING (p.14):**
**Student draws a scene of trees with white flowers, on the side of a mountain with a stream.**

Draw the setting of where they landed

Time Period—Japan, hundreds of years ago.

Give the main event for each chapter.

# Story Mapping with Annie for **#6 AFTERNOON ON THE AMAZON**

(Title of Book)

Chapter 1

It all began when **Jack** pointed to **the blue sky, green leaves, and flowers** picture in the **RAIN FOREST** (p.9). (magic book)

**Mission Key**

The goal of this mission is _____

**Find the # 2 "M"THING to help break the spell.**

_____

_____

Ch. 2

**Jack and Annie want to see the rainforest before it's too late from being cut down.**

Ch. 3

**They land in the canopy of the rain forest and climb down to the forest floor.**

Ch. 4

**Jack and Annie jumped into a canoe to get away from the army ants.**

Ch. 5

**They are in the Amazon River surrounded by animals and reptiles.**

Ch. 6

**Jack and Annie are caught in a thunderstorm on the river and a monkey helps them get out.**

Ch. 7

**Annie almost got attacked by a jaguar, but the monkey distracts him and saves Annie.**

Ch. 8

**Peanut lead Jack and Annie back to the tree house before the vampire bats come out.**

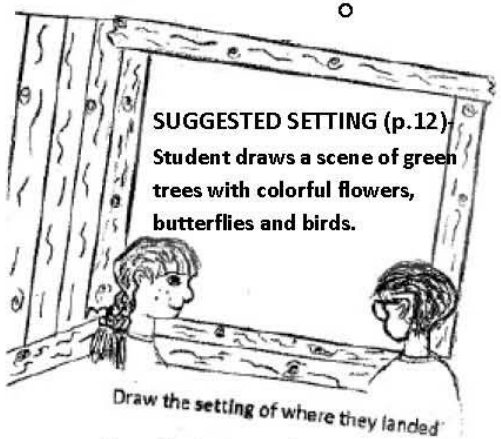
Ch. 9

**The monkey shows up at the tree house window and gives them a mango, an "M" THING.**

The ending.

Ch. 10

**They realize that the rain forest is a habitat that people should leave alone.**



**SUGGESTED SETTING (p.12):**
**Student draws a scene of green trees with colorful flowers, butterflies and birds.**

Draw the setting of where they landed

Time Period—contemporary

Give the main event for each chapter.

# Story Mapping with Annie for **#7 SUNSET OF THE SABERTOOTH**

(Title of Book)




It all began when **Annie** pointed to the **rocks and snow** (p.8) picture in the **LIFE IN THE ICE AGE** (p.11). (magic book)

**Mission Key**

The goal of this mission is **Find the #3 "M" THING to help break the spell.**

Ch. 2 — Jack and Annie saw Cro-Magnon hunters and then wandered into a bear's cave.

Ch. 3 — While running out of the bear's cave, they noticed a cozy looking cave with a warm glow.

Ch. 4 — They explore a Cro-Magnon's cave and put on their warm coats.

Ch. 5 — See Cro-Magnon paintings and learn about a sorcerer called "The Master of the Animals". They follow Peanut's tracks in the snow.

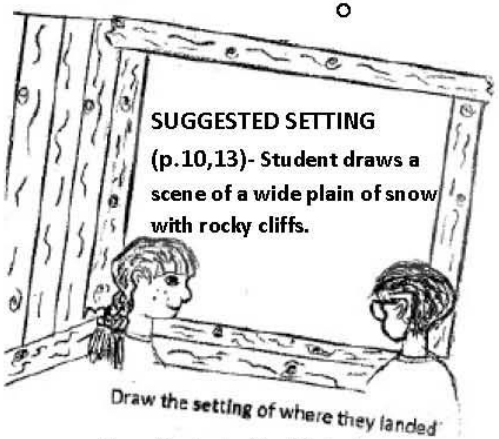
Ch. 6 — They see a Sabertooth Tiger, fall into a trap, but then look up to see the sorcerer and Peanut.

Ch. 7 — The sorcerer and a woolly mammoth rescue Jack and Annie from the pit. The sorcerer gives Jack a MAMMOTH BONE, an "M" THING.

Ch. 8 — While the woolly mammoth gives Jack and Annie a ride to the tree house, their path is blocked by the Sabertooth Tiger.

Ch. 9 — Jack played the mammoth bone flute and the sound made the Sabertooth leave.

Ch. 10 — The ending: Jack and Annie were happy to go back to their warm, safe home.



**SUGGESTED SETTING (p.10,13)- Student draws a scene of a wide plain of snow with rocky cliffs.**

Draw the setting of where they landed

Time Period—Pre-Historic

Give the main event for each chapter.

# Story Mapping with Annie for **#8 MIDNIGHT ON THE MOON**

(Title of Book)




It all began when **Jack** pointed to the **dome-shaped structure** (p.9) picture in the **HELLO, MOON** (p.11). (magic book)



**Mission Key**

The goal of this mission is **Find the #4 "M" THING to help break the spell.**

Ch. 2 — **Jack and Annie land on the moon in a moon base.**

Ch. 3 — **They put moon gear on and step out onto the moon.**

Ch. 4 — **They find a moon buggy and set out to explore the moon.**

Ch. 5 — **They discover the flag and message left by the first astronauts on the moon. Then they saw a giant moon man flying in space.**

Ch. 6 — **They try to get back to the moon base before their tank runs out of air, but they both fall and are stuck. Looking down on them is...the moon man.**

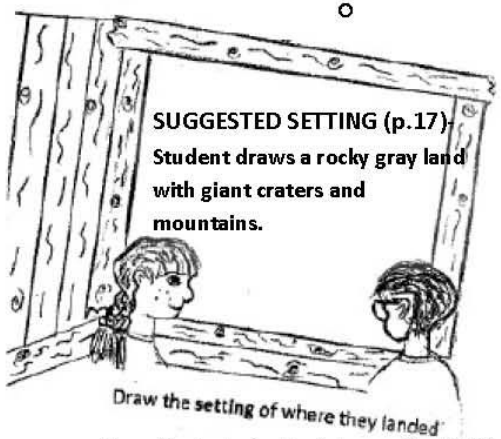
Ch. 7 — **Jack wrote the moon man a message and moon man wrote him a mystery map with stars.**

Ch. 8 — **The star MAP of a MOUSE is the "M" THING and they say a chant with the four "M" things. Peanut is gone and Morgan le Fay appears.**

Ch. 9 — **Jack and Annie completed their 4 missions and Morgan was freed from the spell.**

Ch. 10 — **The ending.**

**Jack remembered Morgan's – *"The universe is filled with wonders"*. This helps him to believe like Annie, in the impossible.**



**SUGGESTED SETTING (p.17)**
**Student draws a rocky gray land with giant craters and mountains.**

Draw the setting of where they landed

Time Period—In the future after 2031

Give the main event for each chapter.

#5

SAMPLE (answers will vary)

## Jack's Facts

List your 3 favorite facts.

**WOW!**

- A ninja master knows many secrets of nature.

**UNBELIEVABLE!**

- These Japanese fighters carried two swords to get their enemies.

**INTERESTING!**

- Ninjas lived in Japan between the 1300's to the 1600's.

## Jack's Facts

Draw a diagram, illustration, or map



Shadowy Ninja

## Jack's Facts

Make an acrostic poem.

**N**imble
**I**n a cave
**N**ature lovers
**J**apan
**A**gile

**M**ysterious
**A**s a shadow
**S**ecretive
**T**wo swords
**E**ast
**R**eady to defend
**S**amurai

#6

SAMPLE (answers will vary)

## Jack's Facts

List your 3 favorite facts.

**WOW!**

- The giant rafflesia is the biggest flower in the world and it smells like rotten meat.

**UNBELIEVABLE!**

- Animals flee in panic when they hear 30 million flesh-eating army ants marching through.

**INTERESTING!**

- Rain forest has three levels:

1- forest canopy
2- understory
3- forest floor

## Jack's Facts

Draw a diagram, illustration, or map

Red-Eyed Tree Frog



## Jack's Facts

Make an acrostic poem.

**R**ivers
**A**mazon
**I**o moth
**N**ight monkey

**F**ungi
**O**celot
**R**ubber tree
**E**quator
**S**ausage tree
**T**ropical pitcher plant

#7

SAMPLE (answers will vary)

## Jack's Facts

List your 3 favorite facts.

**WOW!**

- The most famous fossil site is at the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles.

**UNBELIEVABLE!**

- Sabertooth's teeth are 9 inches long.

**INTERESTING!**

- Sabers are very sharp knives. This is how the cat got its name.

## Jack's Facts

Draw a diagram, illustration, or map

Stuck in the Tar-pits



## Jack's Facts

Make an acrostic poem.

**S**aber
**A**rcheologists
**B**ones
**E**xtinct
**R**etractable Claws
**T**ar pits
**O**n the cliffs
**O**ver 600 Pounds
**T**hree feet tall
**H**unters
**S**milodon

#8

SAMPLE (answers will vary)

## Jack's Facts

List your 3 favorite facts.

**WOW!**

- There are 10 billion trillion stars in the universe

**UNBELIEVABLE!**

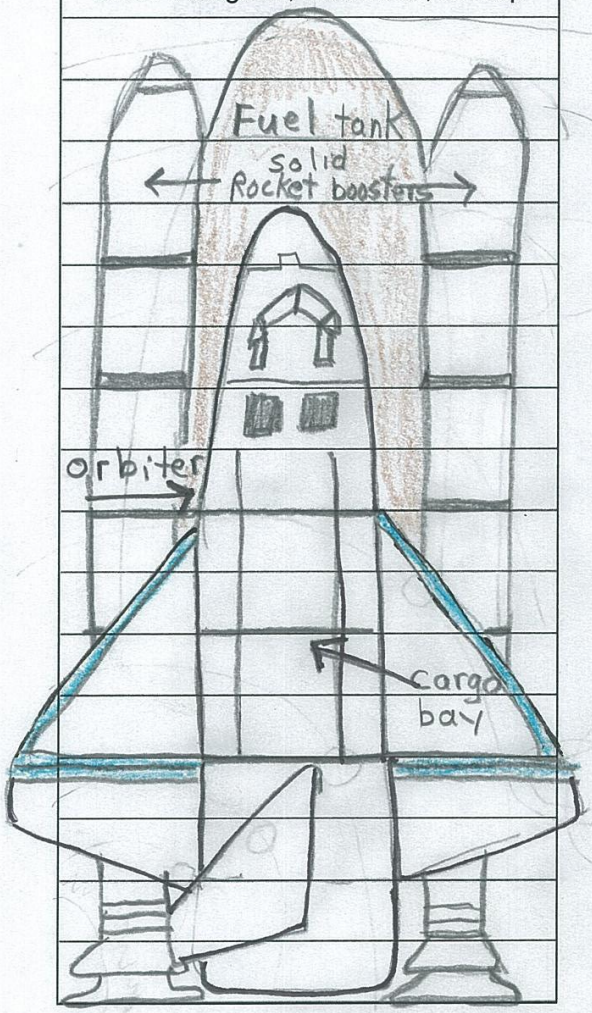
- Footprints in the moon's dust will last forever because there is no wind or rain.

**INTERESTING!**

- Someday space colonies may be built on the moon or mars.

## Jack's Facts

Draw a diagram, illustration, or map




## Jack's Facts

Make an acrostic poem.

**U**fo's
**N**ewton
**I**ss
**V**enus
**E**arth
**R**ockets
**S**pace Shuttle
**E**agle

**S**un
**T**elescopes
**A**stronomers
**R**ed Giant
**S**olar Sytem

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