Leach LITERACY TRAINING

Reading and Writing Notebooks: *Handouts*

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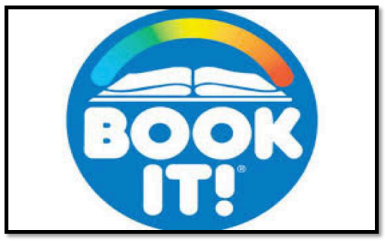
For more information about Balanced Literacy trainings, please visit
www.leachliteracytraining.com

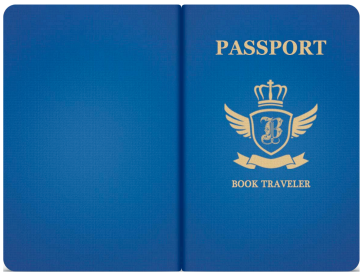
A Reader's Notebook Should Contain…

- Space to write about themselves as a reader
- Space to keep track of books read and to be read
- Space to reflect on their thinking related to books they have read
- Space to use the learning from their mini-lessons as it applies to the books they are reading
- Space to keep some notes from mini-lessons
- Authentic (kid-created) responses to reading and about reading

I'm the Kind of Reader…



READER'S HAVE GOALS



READING TAKES YOU PLACES…

SOMETIMES YOU GO THE SAME PLACE OVER AND OVER AGAIN!

MONTH BY MONTH

Classrooms that use Writer's Workshop understand that for students to write best they need to be writing on topics of their **own choosing**.

Writer's Notebooks support teachers in their quest to have students who know what to write about!

What is a Writer's Notebook?

A writer's notebook is not a diary or a journal! But rather a place to hold onto ideas for writing! A place to write down what you noticed and don't want to forget. A writer's notebook gives you a place to **live like a writer.**

Writer's Notebooks give students the opportunity to live and act just like "real" writers.

The notebook can work as a scrapbook to collect important relics from your life or as a container to hold all the beautiful writing you collect and all the ideas you have for writing about yourself.

Writer's Notebooks...

- Provide a reason and a place to hold onto new and neat ideas for writing.
- Gives students a place where writing matters to them.
- Develops a love of writing and an authentic way of thinking and living like a writer! Always looking for the next idea!
- Create excitement in the act of collecting ideas for writing that hold personal meaning for your students.
- Provide a place for a writer to practice a new skill related to writing or a place to practice writing related to a specific genre.

Aimee Buckner, *Notebook Know-How,* p.5

Top 10 Things to Put in a Writer's Notebook

10. What amazes/surprises/angers you
9. Quotes or inspiring passages from books/poems/music
8. What you notice- those little THOUGHTS that pop in your head!
7. Ideas for stories
6. Snatches of talk you overhear- Facebook posts!
5. Memories
4. Lists
3. Photos, articles, cards, post cards, ticket stubs or other artifacts
2. Your own sketches, drawings or doodles
1. What you wonder about

There are 3 ways to use a Writer's Notebook:

1) **Random Gatherings of SEEDS for Writing**
2) **Specific Gatherings- Collecting ideas/information related to a specific writing task or genre**
3) **Trying Things Out- as directed by teacher**

"We think, "I'll remember that." But it's not true. So much would have been lost if I weren't writing details down in a notebook. When I read old entries it's as if I've kept a *map* to all the people I used to be."

***A Writer's Notebook;* Ralph Fletcher p.67**

Notebook Implementation…

- Teachers will spend some time “talking-up” the Writer’s Notebook and showing off their own of course!
  - Modeling how to use the Writer’s Notebook.
  - Counting down the days until the kids receive their Writer’s Notebooks.

- Show kids different kinds of notebooks! Let them bring in a notebook of their choosing or provide composition books and let them decorate.

- Launch Writer’s Notebooks with enthusiasm in your classroom.

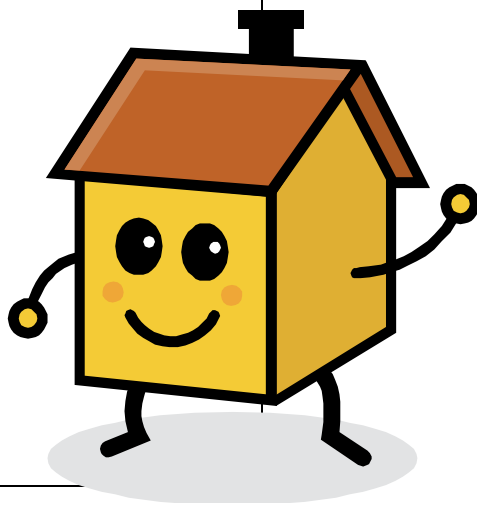
Sunshine

Lightning

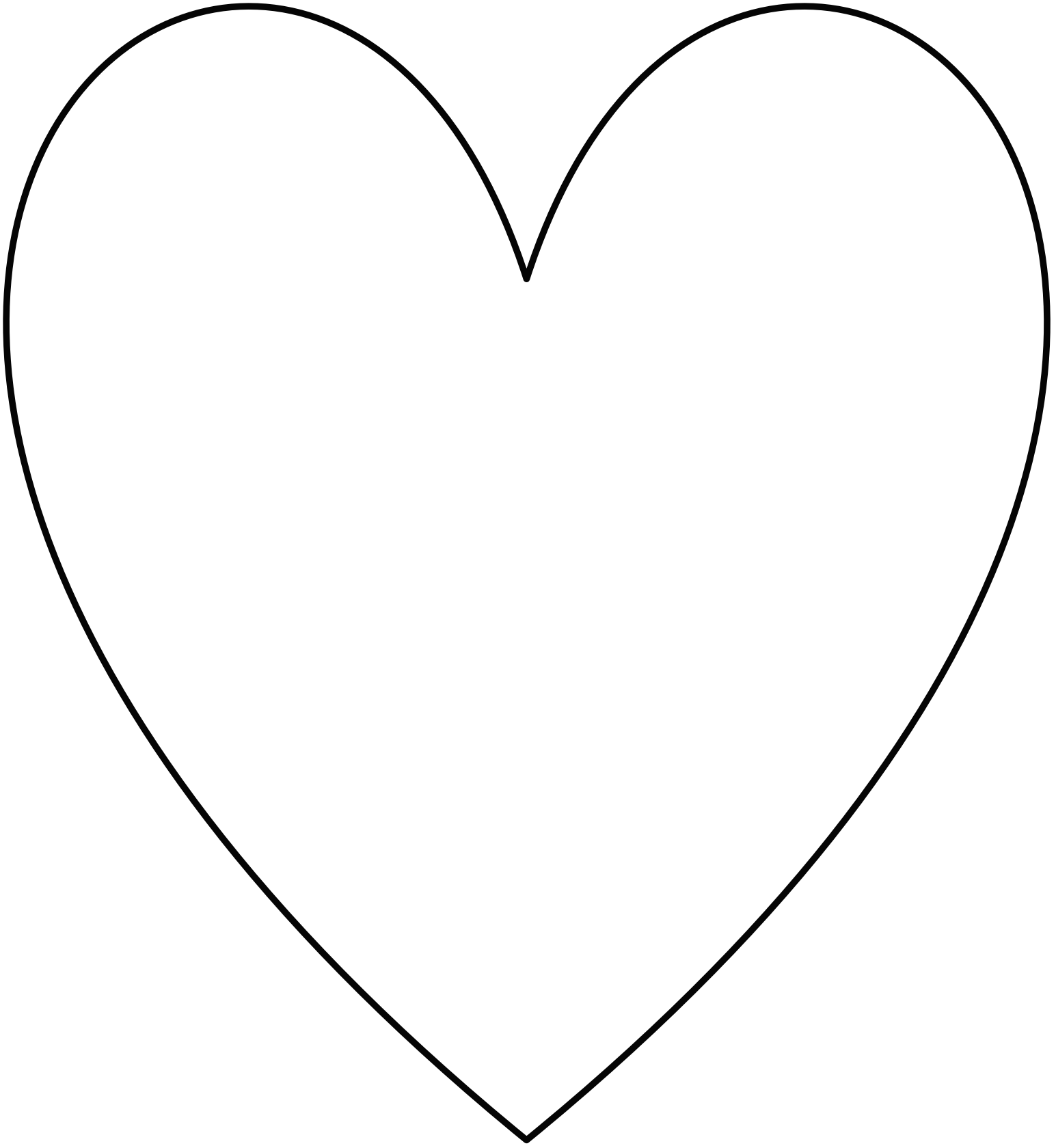
"Memories have a way of embedding themselves in special places. They soak into the rugs and sofas and walls and closets. If you want to recover a memory, try describing the place connected to it."

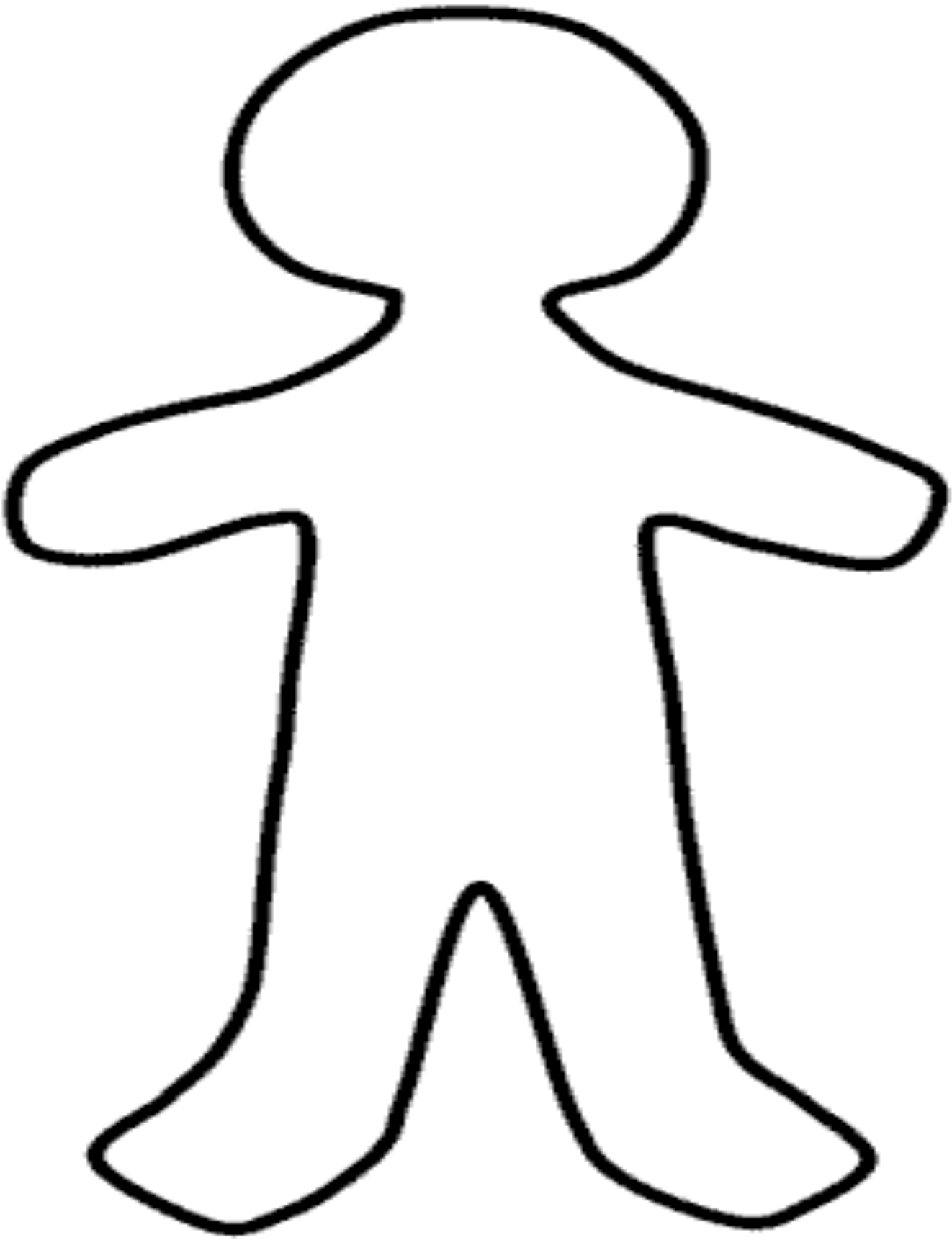
A Writer's Notebook; Ralph Fletcher p.89

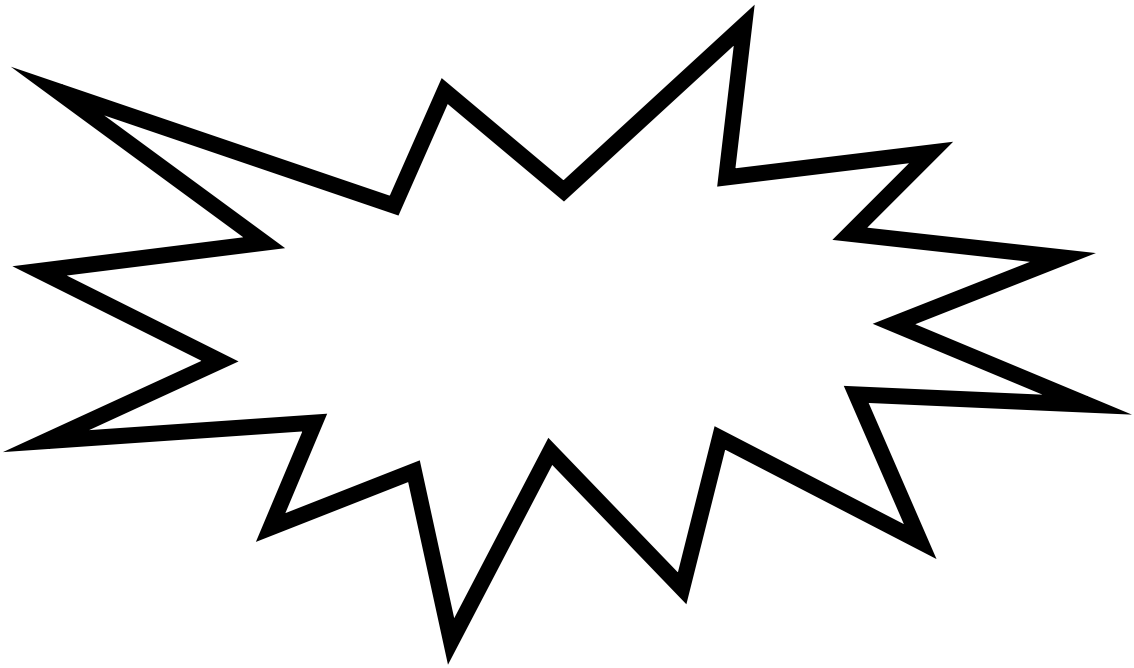
Special Places...



Mapping Ideas: Heart Maps







Special People…

Person	Relationship	Adjective	Memory

“We can’t give children rich lives, but we can give them the lens to appreciate the richness that is already in their lives.