

# 42 PAGES & 15 ACTIVITIES CHALLENGES, SELF-DISCOVERY FINDING YOUR VOICE THROUGH MUSIC



# WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THIS RESOURCE:

Intended Audience: Ages 4-8

Digital Integration: The digital world is where education is heading. Teachers are expected to incorporate digital components into their classrooms. This resource has it covered! With interactive activities, writing prompts for students to type their responses, and the ability for the teacher to assign the pages of the resource to his/her students and review/grade their submitted assignments makes this resource even more valuable.

SEL Components: Teaching to the WHOLE child and not just focusing on academics is so critical. There are life lessons, character traits, and important social-emotional learning virtues woven within this resource. The SEL concepts within this book are facing your fears, having courage, stage fright, and believing in yourself. This book also covers the fine arts category of: The Magic of Operas

Standards-Based: No matter what state you teach in, the activities and lessons in this resource are standards-based. Just SOME of the standards that are covered are:

Predicting

Story Concepts

Main Characters

Setting

Problem / Solution

Text Connections

Summarizing

Creative Writing

Writing Prompts

Vocabulary

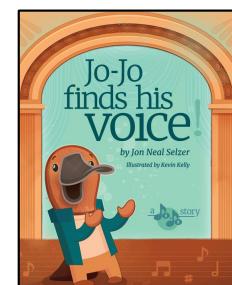
Reading Comprehension

Theme

Art / Creative Opportunities

Open-ended Questioning

Fine Arts Concepts- Opera Vocabulary, Research Projects





## SUMMARY OF BOOK

### What if one song could change everything?

*Jo-Jo Finds His Voice!* isn't just a story—it's a gentle, joyful invitation to discover the courage within. Perfect for children ages 4–8, this beautifully illustrated book uses the world of **opera** to explore something every child faces at some point: **the fear of being seen and heard**.

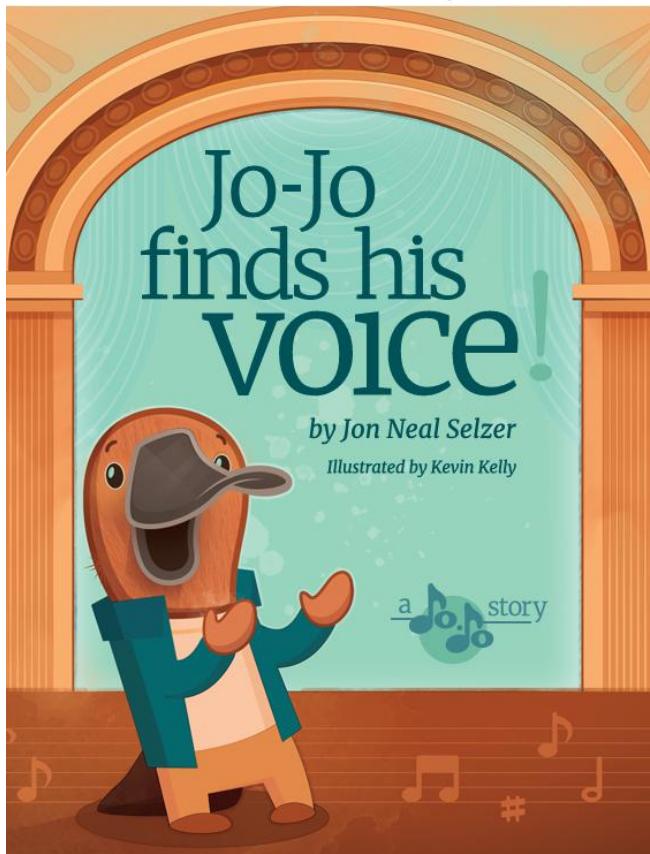
Through Jo-Jo's journey, young readers will:

- Discover the **magic of music and the arts** as tools for confidence and self-expression
- See that **stage fright** is normal—and something we can overcome
- Learn the value of **facing fear instead of giving up on new adventures**

This debut title launches a 5-part series introducing children to the arts, including dance, visual arts, musical theatre, and symphonic music. Each story is crafted not only to entertain but to uplift and build self-esteem, emotional intelligence, and a love for creativity.

Whether you're a parent, grandparent, teacher, or music educator, *Jo-Jo Finds His Voice!* is a story that will speak to your heart—and stay with your child long after the last page.

Click on the cover below to purchase this book.



By Jon Neal Selzer

# Predicting

# PREDICTING

What do you predict (think) the book Jo-Jo Finds His Voice is going to be about?





Write what you think the theme or message of the story is below.



A large rectangular box for writing the theme or message of the story.

**THEME / MESSAGE**



# STORY CONCEPTS

**Characters:**

**Setting:**

**Problem:**

**Favorite Part:**

**Solution:**

# SUMMARIZING

Beginning:

**B**

Middle:

**M**

End:

**E**

In your own words, write a couple of sentences from the story's beginning, middle, and end. Put it all together, and you will have the summary of the story.





# MUSIC

**The book states that  
"Jo-Jo loves music."**

Directions: Fill in the following questions about what you love about music.

Do you like to sing?

What is your favorite  
type of music?

If you could play any  
instrument, what would it be  
and why?

What is your favorite song?

What is your favorite song?

# Reading Comprehension

## Reading Comprehension Questions

1. Question: What is Jo-Jo's favorite thing to do?

2. Question: Why did Mrs. Picklejuice ask Jo-Jo to stay after class?

3. Question: What did Jo-Jo and his family visit in Sydney, Australia?

4. Question: What happened when Jo-Jo tried to sing his solo during rehearsal?

5. Question: How did Jo-Jo finally find his voice for the concert?



## True or False Questions

Directions: Write a "T" on the line if the statement is TRUE and an "F" if it is FALSE.

1. Jo-Jo is a duck-billed platypus who loves to sing. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Jo-Jo's music teacher, Mrs. Picklejuice, thought platypuses could never be good singers. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Jo-Jo's family went to the Sydney Opera House to watch a movie. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Jo-Jo found a book called *Finding Your Voice!* in the library. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Jo-Jo never sang his solo at the concert. \_\_\_\_\_

# Reading Comprehension Questions- Answer Key

## Reading Comprehension Questions and Answers

1. Question: What is Jo-Jo's favorite thing to do?

Answer: Jo-Jo loves singing and music.

2. Question: Why did Mrs. Picklejuice ask Jo-Jo to stay after class?

Answer: She wanted Jo-Jo to sing for her and invited him to join the school choir.

3. Question: What did Jo-Jo and his family visit in Sydney, Australia?

Answer: They visited the Sydney Opera House to watch an opera called *The Ring*.

4. Question: What happened when Jo-Jo tried to sing his solo during rehearsal?

Answer: Jo-Jo lost his voice and couldn't sing.

5. Question: How did Jo-Jo finally find his voice for the concert?

Answer: Jo-Jo believed in himself, took a deep breath, and sang with enthusiasm and energy during the performance.

## True or False Questions and Answers

1. Question: Jo-Jo is a duck-billed platypus who loves to sing.

Answer: True.

2. Question: Jo-Jo's music teacher, Mrs. Picklejuice, thought platypuses could never be good singers.

Answer: True.

3. Question: Jo-Jo's family went to the Sydney Opera House to watch a movie.

Answer: False. They went to watch an opera called *The Ring*.

4. Question: Jo-Jo found a book called *Finding Your Voice!* in the library.

Answer: True.

5. Question: Jo-Jo never sang his solo at the concert.

Answer: False. Jo-Jo sang his solo beautifully during the concert.

## The Duck-Billed Platypus

The duck-billed platypus is one of the most unusual animals in the world. It has a flat bill like a duck, webbed feet for swimming, a furry body to keep warm, and a tail like a beaver. This animal is found only in Australia, where it lives in rivers, streams, and lakes.

Platypuses are excellent swimmers. They use their webbed feet to paddle through the water and their tails to steer. When they dive underwater, they close their eyes and ears. Instead of seeing or hearing, they use their special bill to sense movement and find food. Platypuses eat insects, worms, and small shellfish. Even though the platypus is a mammal, it is very different from most mammals. Instead of giving birth to live babies, the platypus lays eggs! After the eggs hatch, the mother feeds her babies with milk.

The duck-billed platypus is a fascinating creature that shows us how unique animals can be. Did you know that Duck-billed platypuses actually glow? It is a specific phenomenon called biofluorescence, and it's only visible under ultraviolet (UV) light. So, while you won't see a platypus glowing in the wild with your naked eye, if you were to shine a UV light on one, you would indeed see its fur light up with an eerie blue-green hue! Scientists are still learning more about this amazing animal.



## Questions to answer from the informational passage.

You will use these answers to write your mini-research paper.

1. Question: What does a duck-billed platypus look like?

2. Question: Where does the duck-billed platypus live?

3. Question: What does a duck-billed platypus eat?

4. Question: How does a duck-billed platypus find its food?

5. Question: What is one interesting fact that you learned about the duck-billed platypus?

## ANSWER KEY

### Questions for Students

1. Question: What does a duck-billed platypus look like?

Answer: A duck-billed platypus has a flat bill like a duck, webbed feet, a furry body, and a tail like a beaver.

2. Question: Where does the duck-billed platypus live?

Answer: Duck-billed platypuses live in rivers, streams, and lakes in Australia.

3. Question: What does a duck-billed platypus eat?

Answer: They eat insects, worms, and small shellfish.

4. Question: How does a duck-billed platypus find its food?

Answer: It uses its bill to sense movement in the water and find food.

5. Question: What is one interesting fact that you learned about the duck-billed platypus?

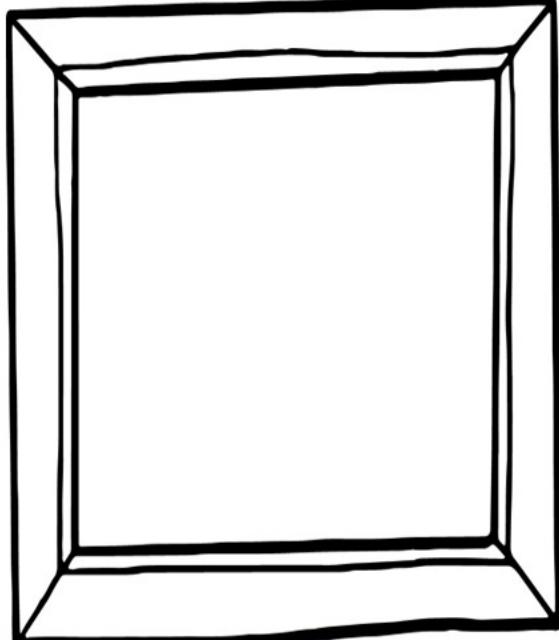
Answers will vary

## What I Learned About the Duck-Billed Platypus

Directions: Use the information from your answers on the question page to help write your research paper.



Draw a picture of a Duck-Billed Platypus here.





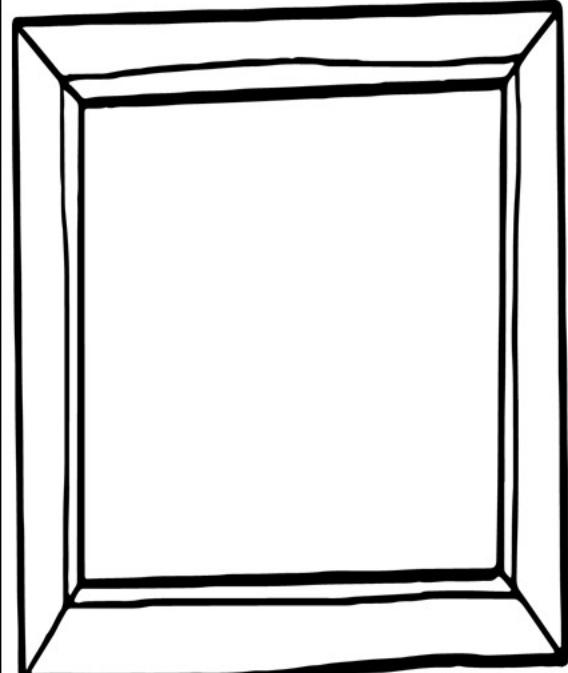
## Mini Research Project: Duck-Billed Platypus

# What I Learned About the Duck-Billed Platypus

Directions: Use the information from your answers on the question page to help write your research paper.



Draw a picture of a Duck-Billed Platypus here.



Objective:

Students will research and present information about a famous opera, learning about its story, characters, music, and cultural background. They will answer key questions, organize their findings, and present them in a written report with optional visual or creative components.

### 1. Choose an Opera

Students choose or are assigned one of the following well-known operas. You can select the Opera that the whole class will research or have individual students or groups research different Operas.

(Short summaries are provided for each Opera to help students choose.)

- *The Magic Flute* by Mozart
- *Carmen* by Bizet
- *La Bohème* by Puccini
- *Hansel and Gretel* by Humperdinck
- *The Barber of Seville* by Rossini

### 2. Answer the provided Guided Research Questions.

### 3. Write the Research Paper- Suggestion below

Students use their answers to create a 3-4 paragraph paper, including:

- **Introduction** (Title, composer, language, quick overview)
- **Body** (Characters, plot, music, setting, special features)
- **Conclusion** (What they learned or found interesting)

### 4. Students will answer the Reflection Questions.

### 5. Optional Creative Extensions- Students will choose one to do.

# SUMMARIES OF EACH OPERA

## 1. *The Magic Flute* Summary:

A prince named Tamino is given a magic flute to help him on a journey to rescue a princess named Pamina. Along the way, he faces challenges, meets strange creatures, and learns the difference between good and evil. The flute's magical music helps protect him. In the end, love and wisdom win.

## 2. *Carmen* Summary:

Carmen is a brave and free-spirited woman who works in a factory. She loves to sing and dance, and many people admire her. A soldier named Don José falls in love with her, but things get complicated when Carmen chooses someone else. The story shows strong emotions and difficult choices.

## 3. *La Bohème* Summary:

This opera tells the story of young artists living in Paris. A writer named Rodolfo meets a kind girl named Mimi, and they fall in love. Life is hard, and they face cold winters, illness, and sadness, but they also share joyful moments. The opera is both beautiful and heartbreakingly real.

## 4. *Hansel and Gretel* Summary:

Based on the fairy tale, this opera follows brother and sister Hansel and Gretel as they get lost in the forest. They find a magical gingerbread house owned by a wicked witch. With clever thinking and teamwork, the children defeat the witch and find their way home. It's a fun and spooky adventure!

## 5. *The Barber of Seville* Summary:

Figaro is a funny and clever barber who helps people with more than just haircuts! In this story, he helps a man named Count Almaviva try to win the heart of a woman named Rosina. There are numerous tricks, disguises, and silly situations. In the end, love wins—and Figaro saves the day!

# Research Guided Questions

Directions: You may answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper or using the provided template.

- What is the title of your opera?
- Who wrote the music and when?
- What language is the opera sung in?
- Where and when does the story take place?
- Who are the main characters?
- What is the opera about? (Summary of the story)
- What is one famous song or scene from the opera?
- What are the costumes or scenery like?
- What emotions or messages does the opera show?
- Why do you think people still enjoy this opera today?

# Research Guided Questions

Directions: Answer the following questions to help you with your research paper.

What is the title of your opera?

What language is the opera sung in?

Who are the main characters?

Who wrote the music and when?

Where and when does the story take place?

What is the opera about?  
(Summary of the story)

What is one famous song or scene from the opera?

What are the costumes or scenery like?

What emotions or messages does the opera show?

Why do you think people still enjoy this opera today?



# OPERA RESEARCH PAPER



Name of Opera:



# OPERA RESEARCH PAPER



Name of Opera:

# OPERA REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What surprised you most about your opera?

Would you like to watch this opera one day? Why or why not?

What would you change about the story if you could?



## Optional Creative Extensions

Students, choose one of the following to go with your paper:

Draw a scene or a costume from the opera

Create a mini-poster with facts and images.

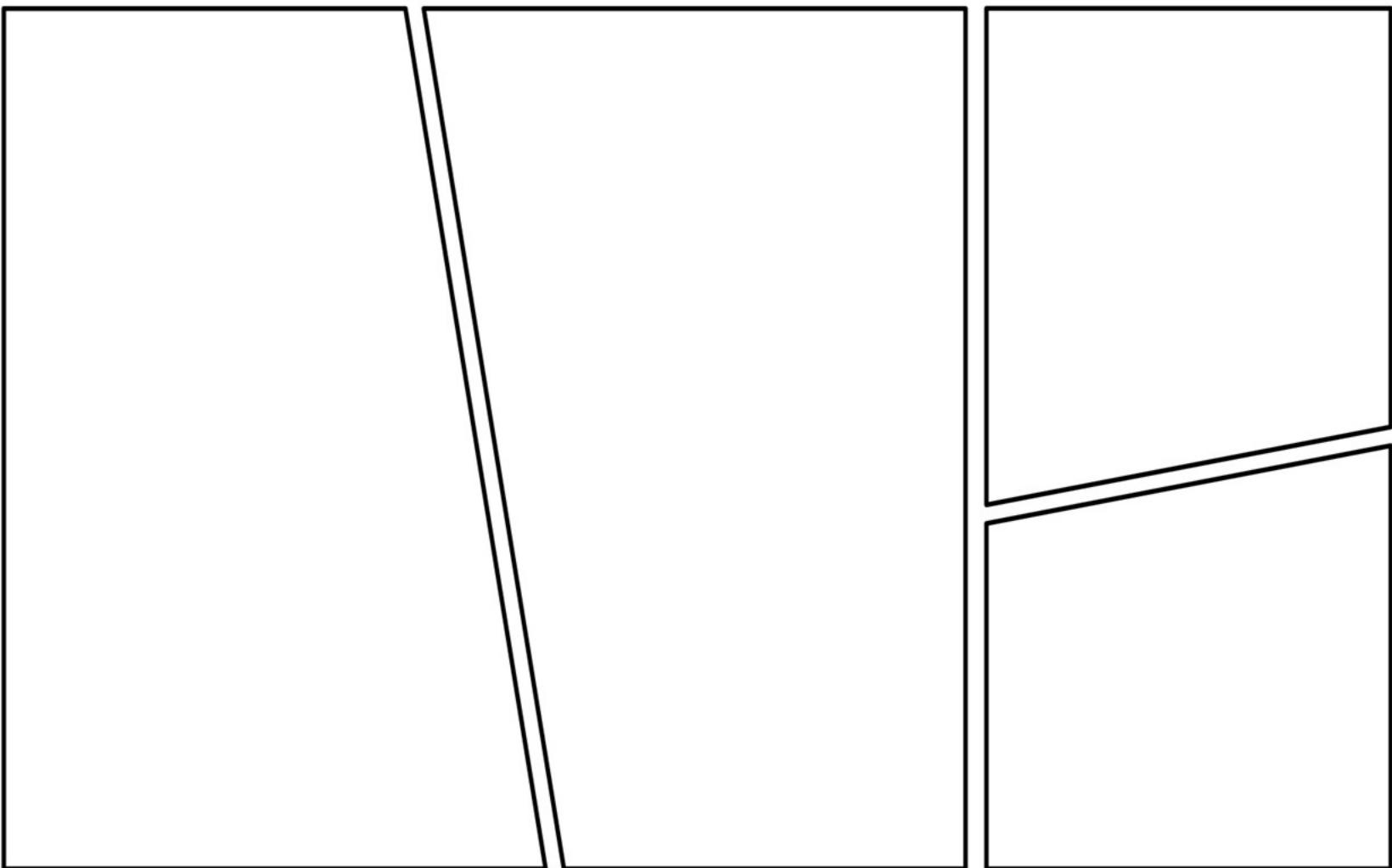
Write a "review" of the opera as if you saw it on stage.

Create a comic strip from a scene in the opera.- (Templates provided)



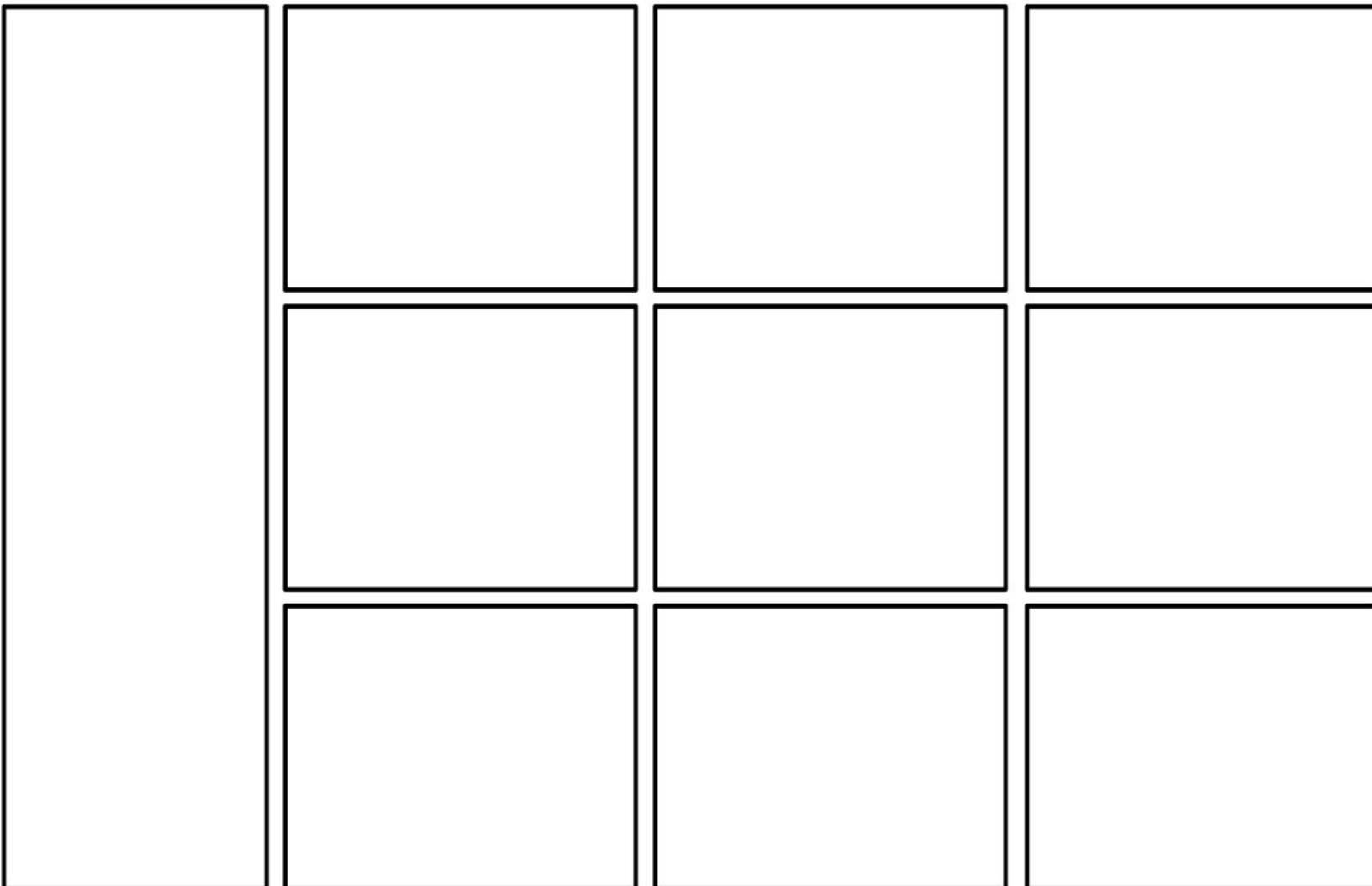


## Comic Strip Template #1



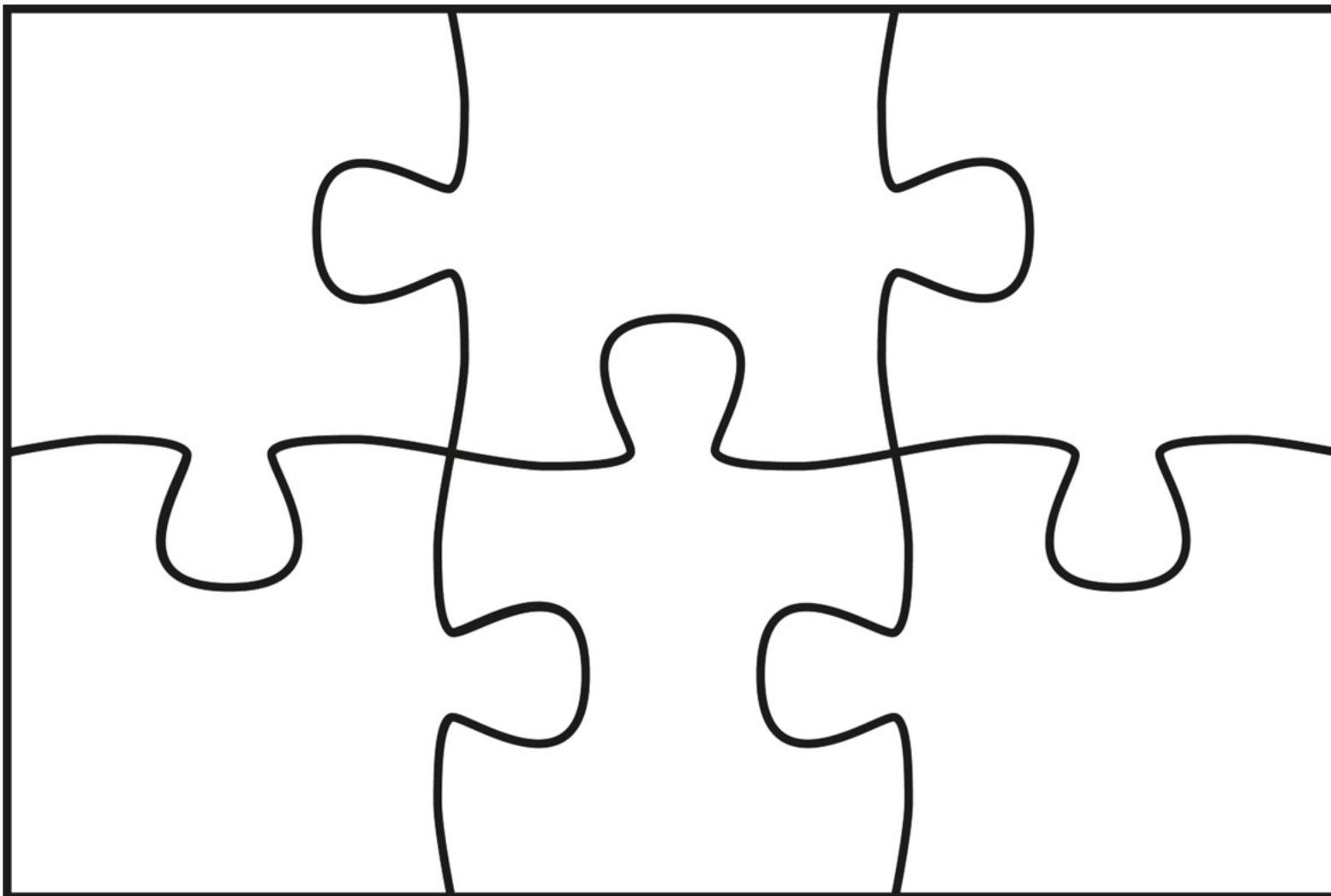


## Comic Strip Template #2





## Comic Strip Puzzle Template #3



# STORY QUESTIONS

Who wrote the opera  
"The Ring"?



List some of the places that  
the characters in the story  
looked for Jo-Jo's voice.

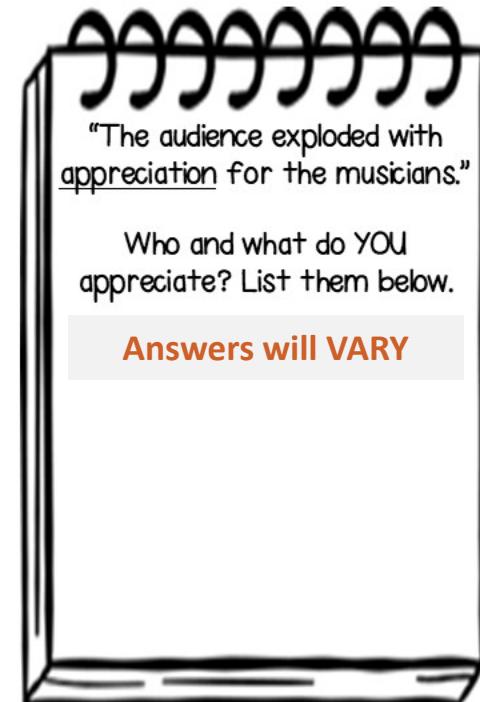
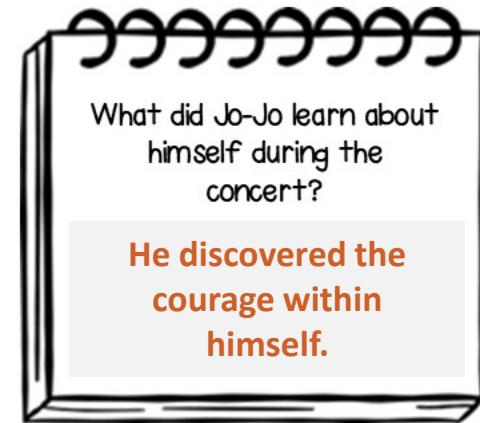
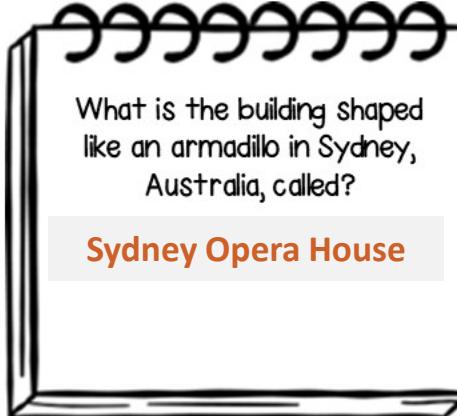
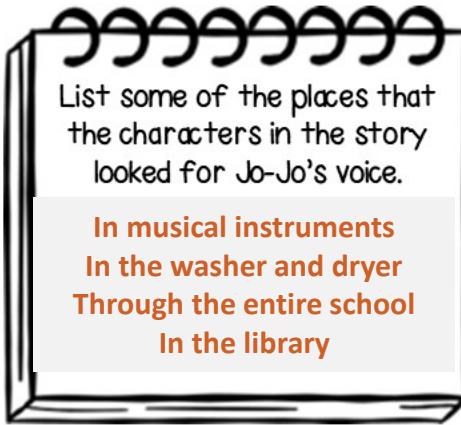
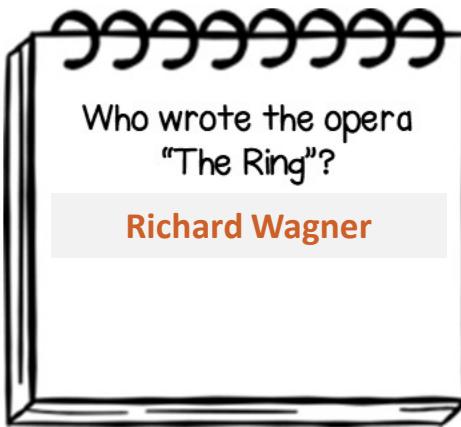


What did Jo-Jo learn about  
himself during the  
concert?

"The audience exploded with  
appreciation for the musicians."

Who and what do YOU  
appreciate? List them below.

# STORY QUESTIONS



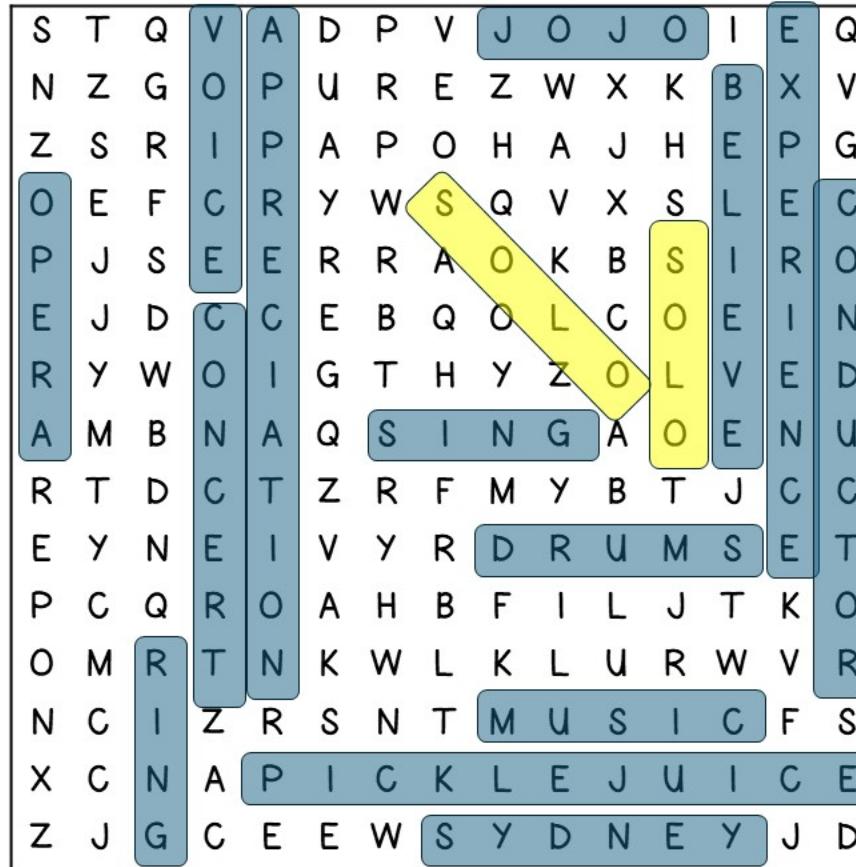
# VOCABULARY WORD FIND



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Z	S	R	I	P	A	P	O	H	A	J	H	E	P	G
O	E	F	C	R	Y	W	S	Q	V	X	S	L	E	C
P	J	S	E	E	R	R	A	O	K	B	S	I	R	O
E	J	D	C	C	E	B	Q	O	L	C	O	E	I	N
R	Y	W	O	I	G	T	H	Y	Z	O	L	V	E	D
A	M	B	N	A	Q	S	I	N	G	A	O	E	N	U
R	T	D	C	T	Z	R	F	M	Y	B	T	J	C	C
E	Y	N	E	I	V	Y	R	D	R	U	M	S	E	T
P	C	Q	R	O	A	H	B	F	I	L	J	T	K	O
O	M	R	T	N	K	W	L	K	L	U	R	W	V	R
N	C	I	Z	R	S	N	T	M	U	S	I	C	F	S
X	G	N	A	P	I	C	K	L	E	J	U	I	C	E
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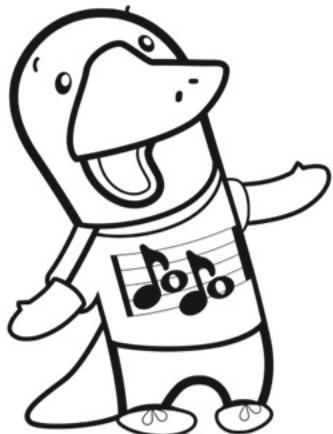
APPRECIATION	DRUMS	SOLO	SING
CONCERT	RING	EXPERIENCE	JOJO
CONDUCTOR	PICKLEJUICE	MUSIC	VOICE
SYDNEY	OPERA	BELIEVE	Which word is found in the puzzle twice?

# VOCABULARY WORD FIND

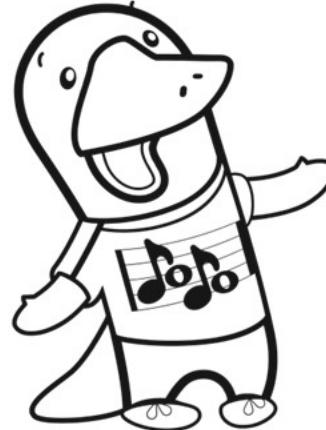


APPRECIATION	DRUMS	SOLO	SING
CONCERT	RING	EXPERIENCE	JOJO
CONDUCTOR	PICKLEJUICE	MUSIC	VOICE
SYDNEY	OPERA	BELIEVE	Which word is found in the puzzle twice? <b>SOLO</b>

"BELIEVE



in



"YOURSELF!"





## GOOGLE SLIDES LINK: FOR THE DIGITAL SECTION OF YOUR RESOURCE:

### WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO GET STARTED:

1. Download link for the Google Slide product (by clicking the star icon at the bottom of this page and make a copy).
2. Have access to the internet and a Google account. (FREE)
3. Open this file in your own Google Drive and engage while in the edit mode.

### THIS IS YOUR MASTER TEMPLATE!

Click the **STAR** below to make a master copy on Google.

2. Once you make your master copy and rename it to the title of your choice, you can assign it to your students in Google Classroom, on their Google Drives, on Canvas, etc.

\*There are multiple platforms that you can use this digital file with.

\*\*To show and/or explain how to complete the assignment to your students, download it as a PowerPoint from your Google doc.

If you notice an issue with your file or notice an error, please contact me at:

[kristen@thebrightcookie.com](mailto:kristen@thebrightcookie.com)

I will be more than happy to sort it out!

**CLICK HERE**



Dear Customer,

I am the passionate owner of [The Bright Cookie](#), where I create professional week-long comprehensive lesson plans, classroom activities, and customized resources for educators and authors alike.

My experience is diverse and extensive, spanning 21 years of teaching in Title I and affluent schools. This breadth of experience has equipped me with a deep understanding of the unique needs of students across the educational spectrum. I am ESL and GT certified, hold a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, and have undergone numerous digital and curriculum training sessions.

My priority focuses on the WHOLE child and targeting state curriculum frameworks and standards to help empower teachers to have creativity, fun, and diversity in their classrooms.

All resources are designed to be engaging and fun, incorporating cross-curricular components, SEL (social-emotional learning) aspects, creative writing, academic concepts, creative/art opportunities, and more!

Also, there is an option to include digital integration through Google Classroom or other platforms to each resource. This enables teachers to combine digital components into their lessons, including an exciting new game option, Blooket, to accompany the themes, vocabulary, story development, characters, etc.

Learning can be engaging, fun, and memorable for all students. I believe that the more engaged students are in lessons, the more they will retain the message or concepts taught.



*Kristen*  
THE BRIGHT COOKIE

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# Credits

Thank you to all the incredible artists who contributed to this resource with their beautiful design elements and expertise!

Click on the image of Jo-Jo to be taken to the author's website.

