

YOUR FREE READER'S COMPANION

The Bell Ringer Bonus Pack

A companion to ELA Bell Ringers · by K. R. Whitfield

Thank you for picking up ELA Bell Ringers: 200 Daily Middle School Warm-Ups. This free companion pack gives you 20 brand-new bell ringers that are not in the book, a full-year pacing calendar, a no-prep substitute plan, and a reusable exit ticket you can photocopy. Everything here is classroom-ready and drops straight into the routine you already run.

Teacher to teacher: the first five minutes set the tone for the whole period. When students walk in and know exactly what to do, you buy back your class. Keep it short, keep it consistent, and let the answer key do the heavy lifting so you can take attendance in peace. You have got this. - K. R. Whitfield

20 Bonus Bell Ringers

These 20 warm-ups are extra practice you will not find inside the book. Each one is written for a 5 to 7 minute start, and complete answers are provided at the end of this pack. Numbering runs continuously from 1 to 20.

Grammar and Usage

1. Choose the correct verb. Write the full sentence: The team of players (is / are) ready for the game.
2. Choose the correct pronoun and write the full sentence: Neither of the girls brought (their / her) lunch today.
3. Copy the sentence and add the missing commas: Before we left we packed water snacks and a map.
4. Choose the correct word and write the full sentence: The dog ran (quick / quickly) across the yard.

Vocabulary

5. The prefix "re-" means "again." In one short sentence, explain what the word "rebuild" means.
6. Use the context clues to define the underlined word. Write your definition: After hiking all day with no lunch, we were FAMISHED and ate everything in sight.
7. Choose the best synonym for the word "enormous": tiny, huge, empty, quiet. Write your answer.

Reading Comprehension

8. Read the passage, then state the main idea in one sentence: Honeybees do far more than make honey. As they move from flower to flower, they carry pollen that helps plants produce fruit and seeds. Without bees, many of the foods we eat every day would become scarce.
9. Read the passage, then answer: How does Maya most likely feel, and how do you know? Cite one detail. Maya read the callback list twice, but her name was not there. She folded the paper slowly and stared out the window without saying a word.
10. Read the passage, then answer the detail question in a complete sentence: Sea otters wrap themselves in kelp before they sleep. This keeps them from drifting away with the current while they rest. Why do sea otters wrap themselves in kelp?

Writing

11. Write one clear topic sentence for a paragraph about why students should get regular exercise.
12. Combine these two short sentences into one smooth sentence: The rain started suddenly. The game was canceled.
13. Fill in the blank with a transition word that shows contrast, then write the full sentence: I studied hard for the test; _____, I still felt nervous.

Figurative Language

14. Identify the type of figurative language in this sentence: The classroom was a zoo after the fire drill. Name it and explain in one sentence what it means.
15. Identify whether this sentence uses a simile or a metaphor: Her smile was as bright as the sun. Write your answer.
16. Identify the type of figurative language, then explain what it really means: The wind howled and clawed at the windows all night.

Editing and Proofreading

17. Copy the sentence and fix the capitalization errors: my family visited new york city last august.
18. Copy the sentence and fix the spelling error: We recieved a package on the porch this morning.
19. Copy the sentence and add the missing apostrophe in the correct place: The teachers desk was covered in papers.
20. Rewrite this run-on sentence as two correct sentences: I finished my homework then I went outside to play.

Complete Answer Key

1. The team of players is ready for the game. ("Team" is a collective noun acting as one unit, so it takes the singular verb "is.")
2. Neither of the girls brought her lunch today. ("Neither" is singular, so it pairs with the singular pronoun "her.")
3. Before we left, we packed water, snacks, and a map. (Comma after the introductory clause, plus commas separating the three items in the series.)
4. The dog ran quickly across the yard. ("Quickly" is an adverb describing how the dog ran.)
5. To rebuild something means to build it again. (The prefix "re-" adds the meaning "again" to "build.")
6. Famished means very hungry. (The clues "no lunch" and "ate everything in sight" show extreme hunger.)
7. huge. ("Huge" is the closest synonym for "enormous.")
8. Main idea: Honeybees are important because they help plants grow the food we eat, not just because they make honey.
9. Maya most likely feels disappointed or sad. Evidence: her name was not on the callback list, and she folded the paper slowly and stared out the window without speaking.
10. Sea otters wrap themselves in kelp so they do not drift away with the current while they sleep.
11. Model answer: Regular exercise helps students stay healthy, focused, and ready to learn. (Any single sentence that clearly states the paragraph's controlling idea is acceptable.)
12. Model answer: The rain started suddenly, so the game was canceled. (Any smooth combination showing the cause-and-effect link, such as using "so" or "because," is acceptable.)
13. Model answer: I studied hard for the test; however, I still felt nervous. (Accept another contrast transition such as "nevertheless" or "still" used correctly.)
14. Metaphor. It compares the noisy, chaotic classroom to a zoo without using "like" or "as," meaning the room was wild and out of control.
15. Simile. (It compares her smile to the sun using the word "as.")
16. Personification. It gives the wind human and animal actions ("howled" and "clawed"), meaning the wind was very loud and blew forcefully against the windows.
17. My family visited New York City last August. (Capitalize the first word, the proper noun "New York City," and the month "August.")
18. We received a package on the porch this morning. (Correct spelling: "received," following the "i before e except after c" rule.)

19. The teacher's desk was covered in papers. (Add an apostrophe before the "s" to show the desk belongs to one teacher.)
20. I finished my homework. Then I went outside to play. (Split the run-on into two complete sentences with a period.)

Full-Year Pacing Calendar

Use this 36-week map to rotate through all six skills and finish the year with mixed review. Each block is four weeks.

Weeks	Focus Skill	What to Emphasize
1-4	Grammar and Usage	Parts of speech, subject-verb agreement
5-8	Vocabulary	Prefixes, suffixes, context clues
9-12	Reading Comprehension	Main idea, key details, inference
13-16	Writing	Topic sentences, combining sentences
17-20	Figurative Language	Simile, metaphor, personification
21-24	Editing and Proofreading	Capitalization, punctuation, spelling
25-28	Grammar and Vocabulary	Pronouns, commas, synonyms and antonyms
29-32	Reading and Writing	Inference, transitions, paragraph focus
33-36	Mixed Review	Spiral all six skills, exit ticket check-ins

No-Prep Substitute Day Plan

Leave this page for any substitute so the class runs itself. It uses only the ELA Bell Ringers book and takes no preparation. Every bell ringer has a complete answer in the back of the book.

1. Open ELA Bell Ringers to the day's assigned bell ringer and project it or read it aloud to the class.
2. Give students 5 to 7 minutes to complete the warm-up in their notebooks, working quietly on their own.
3. Review the answers together as a class using the answer key printed in the back of the book.
4. Have a few volunteers share and explain their answers so students hear the reasoning.
5. For an extension, ask students to write one new sentence that uses the same skill they just practiced.
6. Collect notebooks or have students exchange and check a partner's work before the period ends.

Reusable Exit Ticket

Photocopy this simple three-prompt exit ticket, or have students copy it onto a scrap of paper at the end of class. It takes two minutes and gives you a quick read on the day's learning.

1. One thing I learned today:
2. One word or rule I want to remember:
3. One question I still have:

Happy teaching, and enjoy the calm that a steady bell ringer routine brings to your room. - K. R. Whitfield