



The Ella Collection

<http://www.theellacollection.com/>

My Letter to President Barack Obama

Author: Lana Dajani

The book is about an 8 year old girl – Ella – who is passionate about the environment. As she rides the bus to school, Ella notices that her community is polluted. At school, she finds that students leave trash behind on the playground after lunch. Ella leads by example and encourages her classmates to clean up and pick up trash off the playground.

Ella wants to create a National Cleanup Day so that children and adults across the United States can get involved and help protect the environment. She writes a letter to President Barack Obama because she realizes that he has access to a larger audience.



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Instructional Ideas

The Ella Collection believes it is important to build reading, reading comprehension, and writing skills. Below are instructional ideas related to *My Letter to President Barack Obama*. All tasks are appropriate for students aged 5-10 (Kindergarten to grade 5). These strategies, skills, and graphic organizers will facilitate student understanding of the text and can be implemented based on your grade level standards in English Language Arts.

<p><u>Before Reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Anticipation GuideAsk and Answer QuestionsKWL ChartPrediction Frames <p><u>During Reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Author's PurposeCause-Effect ChartSequence ChartStory MapsThink and Mark Strategy <p><u>After Reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ask and Answer QuestionsBook Discussion QuestionsCharacter DescriptionCharacter WebCompare and Contrast Ella and yourselfFact and OpinionReader's TheatreReading Comprehension QuestionsReading Comprehension Questions Answer Key	<p><u>Reading Strategies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Verbal Responses for Reading StrategiesMaking ConnectionsMaking Connections: Pictures and QuotesAsking QuestionsQuestioningVisualizingWhat I SeeInferringInferring from Pictures <p><u>Vocabulary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Vocabulary BuildingVocabulary Word MapWord BankWord Castle <p><u>Writing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Letter to the PresidentLiterature Log ResponsesTic-Tac-Toe WritingWriting Ideas <p><u>Websites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Do SomethingWhite HouseEarth Day NetworkKids F.A.C.E.Global Youth Service Day
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National Council of Teachers of English and International Reading Association Standards

<http://www.ncte.org/standards>

*The Ella Collection Instructional Ideas meet the National Council
of Teachers of English and International Reading Association
Standards listed below.*

Students read a wide range of print and nonprint texts to build an understanding of texts, of themselves, and of the cultures of the United States and the world; to acquire new information; to respond to the needs and demands of society and the workplace; and for personal fulfillment. Among these texts are fiction and nonfiction, classic and contemporary works.

Students read a wide range of literature from many periods in many genres to build an understanding of the many dimensions (e.g., philosophical, ethical, aesthetic) of human experience.

Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).

Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.



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After Reading

Ask and Answer Questions

Book Discussion Questions

Character Description

Character Web

Compare and Contrast Ella and yourself

Fact and Opinion

Reader's Theatre

Reading Comprehension Questions

Reading Comprehension Questions Answer Key



Name: _____

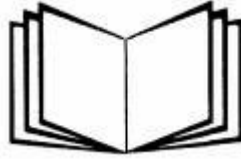
Topic: Environment



Ask and Answer Questions

Directions: Before reading, draw or write what you want to know about the topic. After reading, draw or write what you learned in the book.

What I want to know	What I found out



Book Discussion Questions

What might have happened if a certain event had not taken place?

Find a passage that tells you about the main character's personality.

What picture has the author's writing left in your mind?

How did you feel while reading the book? Why did you feel that way?

What was the most exciting event in the book?

What was the lesson in the story?

Name: _____

Character Description

Directions: Write how Ella acts, looks, feels, and what she says in the book.

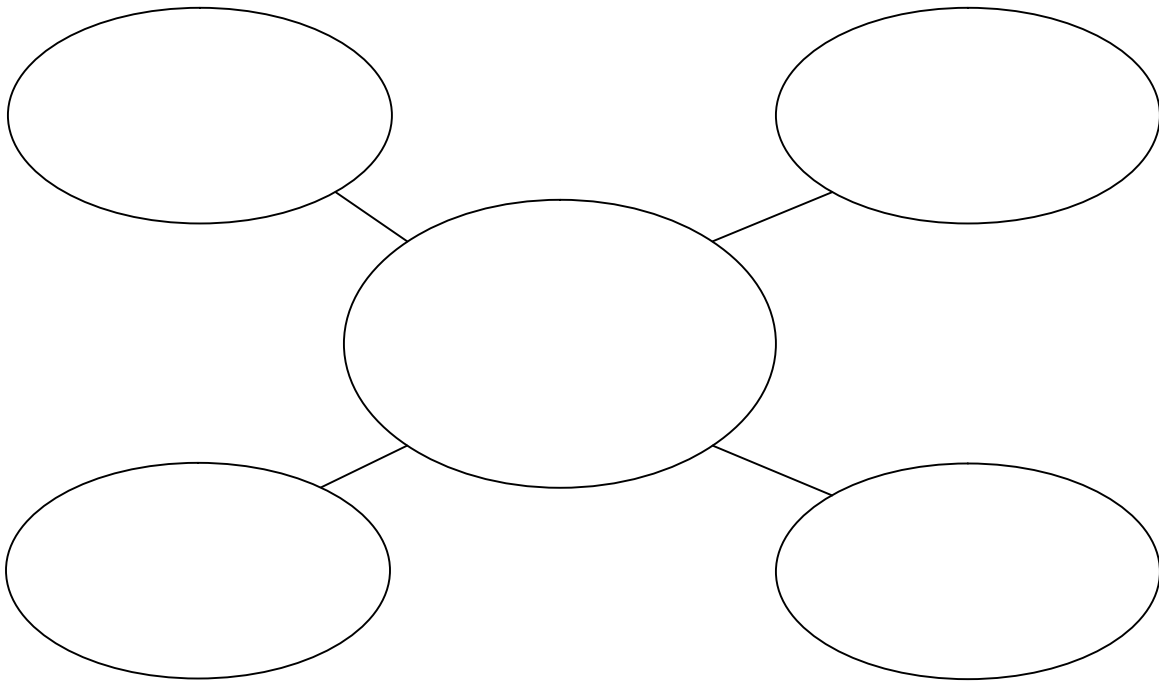
<p><u>Acts</u></p>	<p><u>Looks</u></p>
<p><u>Feels</u></p>	<p><u>Says</u></p>



Name: _____

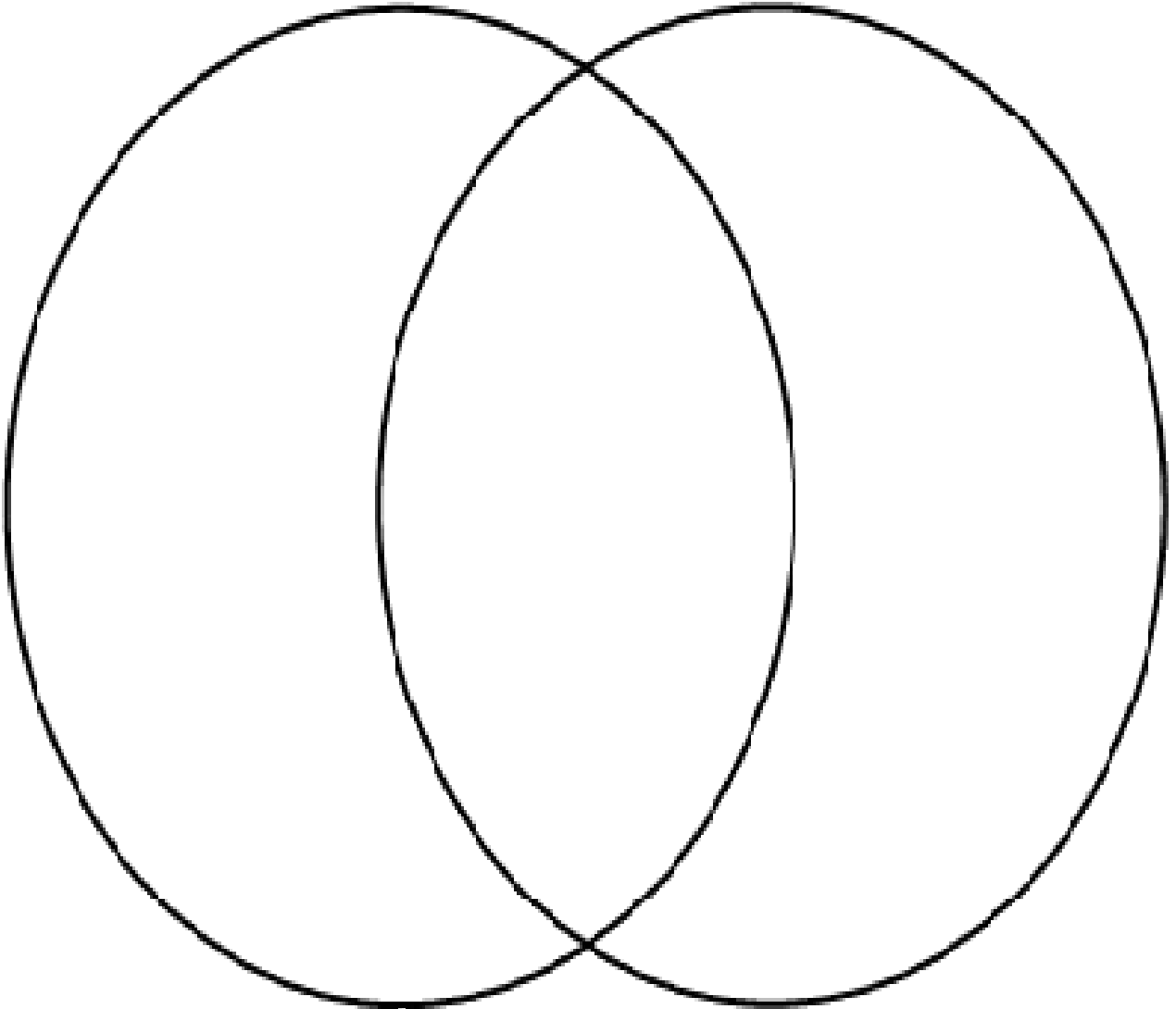
Character Web

Directions: Write Ella's name in center circle of the web. Tell information about what she thinks, feels, looks, and says in the other circles.



Name: _____

Compare and Contrast Ella and yourself.





Name: _____

Fact and Opinion

Directions: Write a fact from the book and then tell your opinion about the fact.

Fact	Opinion



Reader's Theatre

Below are resources for implementing the Reader's Theatre into your literacy environment after reading this book.

http://www.mandygregory.com/readers_theater.htm

<http://www.readinga-z.com/guided/theater.html>

<http://www.literacyconnections.com/rasinski-readers-theater.php>

Reading Comprehension Questions

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read and answer the questions:

1. Who does Ella write a letter to?
 - a. Chloe
 - b. Her mother
 - c. President Barack Obama
 - d. President Bill Clinton

2. What does Ella notice the streets were full of as she rode the bus?
 - a. balloons
 - b. buildings
 - c. children
 - d. litter

3. What does Ella ask her classmates to do after lunch?
 - a. Pick up trash
 - b. Play hide and seek
 - c. Read a book
 - d. Work on a science project

4. Why does Ella write a letter to President Barack Obama?
 - a. To complain about school
 - b. To finish an extra credit report
 - c. To inform him of a problem and her solution
 - d. To share information about her family

5. Which word describes Ella?
 - a. Careless
 - b. Messy
 - c. Responsible
 - d. Uncaring

Reading Comprehension Questions Answer Key

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read and answer the questions:

1. Who does Ella write a letter to?
 - a. Chloe
 - b. Her mother
 - c. *President Barack Obama*
 - d. President Bill Clinton

2. What does Ella notice the streets were full of as she rode the bus?
 - a. balloons
 - b. buildings
 - c. children
 - d. *litter*

3. What does Ella ask her classmates to do after lunch?
 - a. *Pick up trash*
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 - b. To finish an extra credit report
 - c. *To inform him of a problem and her solution*
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5. Which word describes Ella?
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 - b. Messy
 - c. *Responsible*
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