



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> <p>Anticipation Guide Ask and Answer Questions KWL Chart Prediction Frames</p> <p><u>During Reading</u></p> <p>Author's Purpose Cause-Effect Chart Sequence Chart Story Maps Think and Mark Strategy</p> <p><u>After Reading</u></p> <p>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</p>	<p><u>Reading Strategies</u></p> <p>Verbal Responses for Reading Strategies Making Connections Making Connections: Pictures and Quotes Asking Questions Questioning Visualizing What I See Inferring Inferring from Pictures</p> <p><u>Vocabulary</u></p> <p>Vocabulary Building Vocabulary Word Map Word Bank Word Castle</p> <p><u>Writing</u></p> <p>Letter to the President Literature Log Responses Tic-Tac-Toe Writing Writing Ideas</p> <p><u>Websites</u></p> <p>Do Something White House Earth Day Network Kids F.A.C.E. Global Youth Service Day</p>
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KDSL

kdsl.wordpress.com



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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Vocabulary

Vocabulary Building
Vocabulary Word Map
Word Bank
Word Castle

Vocabulary Building

<u>Definition</u>	<u>Examples</u>
<u>Explanation</u>	<u>Nonexamples</u>
<u>Word</u>	
<u>Picture</u>	<u>Questions and Answers</u>

Vocabulary Word Map

Word

Picture

Sentence



Word Bank

Word	Definition	Picture

Word	Definition	Picture



Word Castles

Word		
Synonym	Picture	Definition
Antonym	Connect to what I know	Sentence