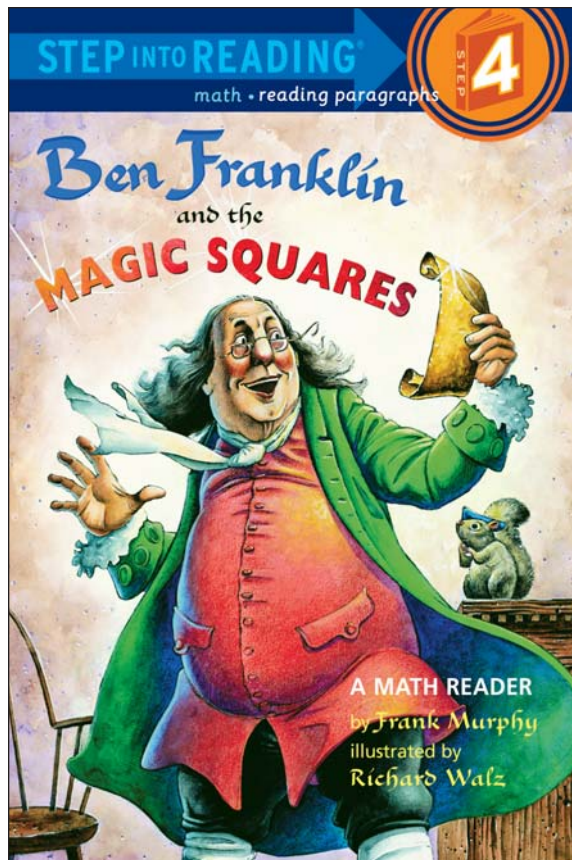




Teachers Guide



Pre-Reading Activity for *Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares*

Have students brainstorm all the inventions of the last 100 years. See if the class can figure out categories into which the inventions might fit. Circle ones that were created by Americans. Ask students: What does it take to become an inventor? What is the most amazing invention? What would you invent if you could create anything? Can you name 10 inventors?

As a class, brainstorm a list of skills or attributes that you think an inventor has (creative, smart, inquisitive, persistent, etc.) and rank the ones you think are most important. Which ones do you think Ben Franklin had?

Vocabulary/Word Study

Have your class fill in the following vocabulary chart relating to *Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares*.

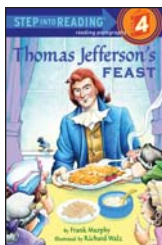
Vocabulary	I know this word	I need to find out more	I can define it in my own words	I can use it in a sentence
Colonies				
Almanac				
Witty				
Assembly				
Disagreements				
Twiddled				
Doodle				

Have students make their own vocabulary charts as they read the other books in this level. They can record unknown words on bookmarks to look up later or try guessing the meaning of the word based on the context.

Comprehension

Hand out the following chart and let students pick any three of the activities to show their understanding of the books in **Step 4**. They should turn in the chart and their work together.

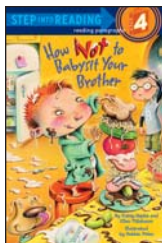
Write a song about the book to the tune of "London Bridge"	Create a character web that tells about the main character's personality, appearance, and conflicts	Choose a quote from the story that best represents what it is about and illustrate it.
Write five multiple choice questions about the events, characters, and setting of the story. Include an answer sheet.	Write a friendly letter to the main character. Be sure to use proper conventions!	Act out a scene from the book with a friend. Choose a scene that's important to the story, but doesn't give away the ending.
Create a story web that connects the following elements to the details within the story: characters, setting, problem, solution	Design a new book cover, including a brief summary (called flap copy). Try to interest others in reading the book with your description.	Create a pop-up piece of art that depicts a conflict from the story. On the back write a description of this scene.



Curriculum Connections

ART: Have students create a piece of sculpture that they think a main character from a **Step 4** story would enjoy, and explain the piece in a brief journal.

MUSIC: Have students choose a song that they think best represents the relationships or conflicts within a **Step 4** story, and explain why they chose it.



HEALTH: After reading *Thomas Jefferson's Feast*, lead a class discussion about the different foods that Jefferson learned about in France. Why were they new to him? Do you think they were the healthiest choices or not? Invite students to bring in dishes from various countries (or from their own cultural heritages) and sample a wide variety of foods. Talk about the types of foods that are healthy and what elements make it worth eating only sparingly in a good diet.



MATH: Have your students create Ben Franklin's Magic Squares after reading *Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares*.

LANGUAGE ARTS: Have students read *How Not to Babysit Your Brother* and *How Not to Start Third Grade* and then write their own "How Not to . . ." guide to other activities: win a soccer game, ride a bike, get straight As, etc.



Illustration © 2015 by Debbie Palen

Guide prepared by Tracie Vaughn Zimmer, a reading specialist and author of *Reaching for Sun*.



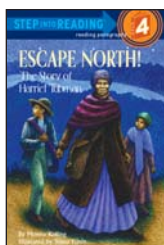
Book List

Choppers!

978-0-375-82517-0 (0-375-82517-7)
 GLB: 978-0-375-92517-7 (0-375-92517-1)
 Transportation • Nonfiction

Dactyls! Dragons of the Air

978-0-375-83013-6 (0-375-83013-8)
 GLB: 978-0-375-93013-3 (0-375-93013-2)
 Nonfiction • Dinosaurs

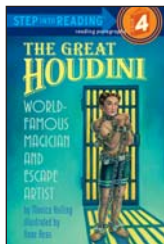


Escape North!

The Story of Harriet Tubman
 978-0-375-80154-9 (0-375-80154-5)
 GLB: 978-0-375-90154-6 (0-375-90154-X)
 Courage & Honor • Nonfiction • Black History
 Month • Biography & Autobiography
 African/African American Interest

First Kids

978-0-375-82218-6 (0-375-82218-6)
 Patriotism • Nonfiction • History & Social Studies



The Great Houdini

978-0-679-88573-3 (0-679-88573-0)
 Biography & Autobiography • Nonfiction • History
 & Social Studies

Helen Keller

978-0-679-87705-9 (0-679-87705-3)
 Biography & Autobiography • Courage & Honor
 Nonfiction

Hungry Plants

978-0-375-82533-0 (0-375-82533-9)
 Science & Nature • Nonfiction

How Not to Babysit Your Brother

978-0-375-82856-0 (0-375-82856-7)
 GLB: 978-0-375-92856-7 (0-375-92856-1)
 Family & Relationships • Humor • Character
 Education/Responsibility

How Not to Start Third Grade

978-0-375-83904-7 (0-375-83904-6)
 GLB: 978-0-375-83904-0 (0-375-93904-4)
 School • Humor • Back to School

Ice Mummy

978-0-679-85647-4 (0-679-85647-1)
 Nonfiction • History & Social Studies

Joan of Arc

978-0-375-80620-9 (0-375-80620-2)
 Biography & Autobiography • History & Social
 Studies • Religious & Biblical Stories • Girl Interest

The Mystery of the Pirate Ghost

978-0-394-87220-9 (0-394-87220-7)
 Mystery & Suspense

No Tooth, No Quarter!

978-0-394-84956-0 (0-394-84956-6)
 Humor • Health/Nutrition/Physical Fitness

Pompeii . . . Buried Alive!

978-0-394-88866-8 (0-394-88866-9)
 Ancient Worlds • Nonfiction • Science & Nature
 History & Social Studies

Race into Space

978-0-375-80195-2 (0-375-80195-2)
 Space • Nonfiction

The Secret of Foghorn Island

978-0-394-89614-4 (0-394-89614-9)

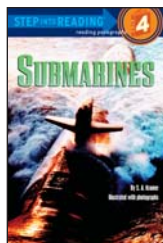
Mystery & Suspense

Soccer Sam

978-0-394-88406-6 (0-394-88406-X)

Sports • Hispanic/Hispanic American Interest
Friendship**Spooky America**

978-0-375-82500-2 (0-375-82500-2)

Supernatural • Myths, Legends & Folklore
Horror & Ghost Stories • Halloween**Submarines**

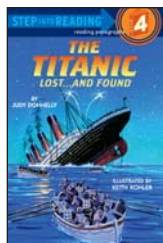
978-0-375-82574-3 (0-375-82574-6)

GLB: 978-0-375-92574-0 (0-375-92574-0)

Transportation • Nonfiction

Thomas Jefferson's Feast

978-0-375-82289-6 (0-375-82289-5)

Biography & Autobiography • Historical
Fiction/Colonial America • Historical Fiction
Humor**The Titanic: Lost . . . and Found**

978-0-394-88669-5 (0-394-88669-0)

Nonfiction • History & Social Studies

Tut's Mummy

978-0-394-89189-7 (0-394-89189-9)

Ancient Worlds • Nonfiction • History & Social
Studies**20,000 Baseball Cards Under the Sea**

978-0-679-81569-3 (0-679-81569-4)

Humor • Science Fiction • Adventure

Volcanoes!

978-0-679-88641-9 (0-679-88641-9)

Science & Nature • Nonfiction

Wild Cats

978-0-375-82551-4 (0-375-82551-7)

GLB: 978-0-375-92551-1 (0-375-92551-1)

Science & Nature • Nonfiction
Animals/Nonfiction**Math Readers****Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares**

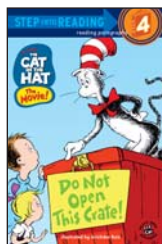
978-0-375-80621-6 (0-375-80621-0)

Biography & Autobiography
Concepts/Mathematics • History & Social Studies**The Fly on the Ceiling**

978-0-679-88607-5 (0-679-88607-9)

Biography & Autobiography •
Concepts/Mathematics • History & Social Studies*Engage even the most reluctant
readers with favorite characters!***Disney****The Little Mermaid**

978-0-679-82241-7 (0-679-82241-0)

Adventure • Self-Discovery • Love & Romance
Family & Relationships**Seuss****Do Not Open This Crate!**

978-0-375-82488-3 (0-375-82488-X)

Rhyme & Alliteration • Humor • Cooperation &
Teamwork