

A Note from the Author

As the teacher of fourth-grade gifted students, I understand the importance of working smarter, not harder. This book includes everything you need to help your little friends learn how to make good choices and avoid distractions.

This book is organized in three sections:



Lesson plans to teach students how to avoid distractions and make positive choices



Activities that use *The Garden in My Mind* story to teach Common Core Standards



Explanation of a behavior-management system that focuses on the theme of gardening

In addition, these activities are organized according to **Revised Bloom's Taxonomy**. Each activity is coded using stars.

Remembering



Applying



Evaluating



Understanding



Analyzing



Creating





Teaching Social Skill Sheets





Name: _____ Date: _____

Predict the Truth

DIRECTIONS: Before you read *The Garden in My Mind*, look at each statement and choose whether it is true or false. Circle your answer in the left-hand column. After you read the story, look at each statement again and decide if it is true or false. Circle your answer in the right-hand column.

BEFORE READING	STATEMENT	AFTER READING
<i>True or False</i>	If someone is trying to distract you, you should make eye contact with him or her.	<i>True or False</i>
<i>True or False</i>	If someone is playing and being silly in class, you should respond by telling another student.	<i>True or False</i>
<i>True or False</i>	It is okay to tell the teacher if someone is distracting you.	<i>True or False</i>
<i>True or False</i>	Choosing to sit beside your friend in class is always a good idea.	<i>True or False</i>
<i>True or False</i>	If you are trying to make a choice, it is best to think about the positive and negative consequences of the choice.	<i>True or False</i>
<i>True or False</i>	If someone is distracting you, he or she is probably distracting other students in the classroom.	<i>True or False</i>
<i>True or False</i>	Some students will always make bad choices, and they can't help it.	<i>True or False</i>

SKILL

Ignoring Distractions from Others

Practice the Skill

Choose one or more of the following activities to help reinforce the Skill of Ignoring Distractions from Others:

- 1 Have students work in groups of three or four to create skits where the students act out the appropriate ways to avoid distracting behaviors.
- 2 Have students work in pairs to create a rap that teaches them how to ignore distractions from others.
- 3 Have students create a play whose characters have to use the tips to avoid someone who is distracting them, either in class or at home.
- 4 Have students write a poem in which the main character has to teach his or her friend how to ignore distractions.



Reinforce the Skill

Hold students accountable for meeting the expectations you have set throughout the year.
Reward positive behavior!



Teaching Language Skill Sheets

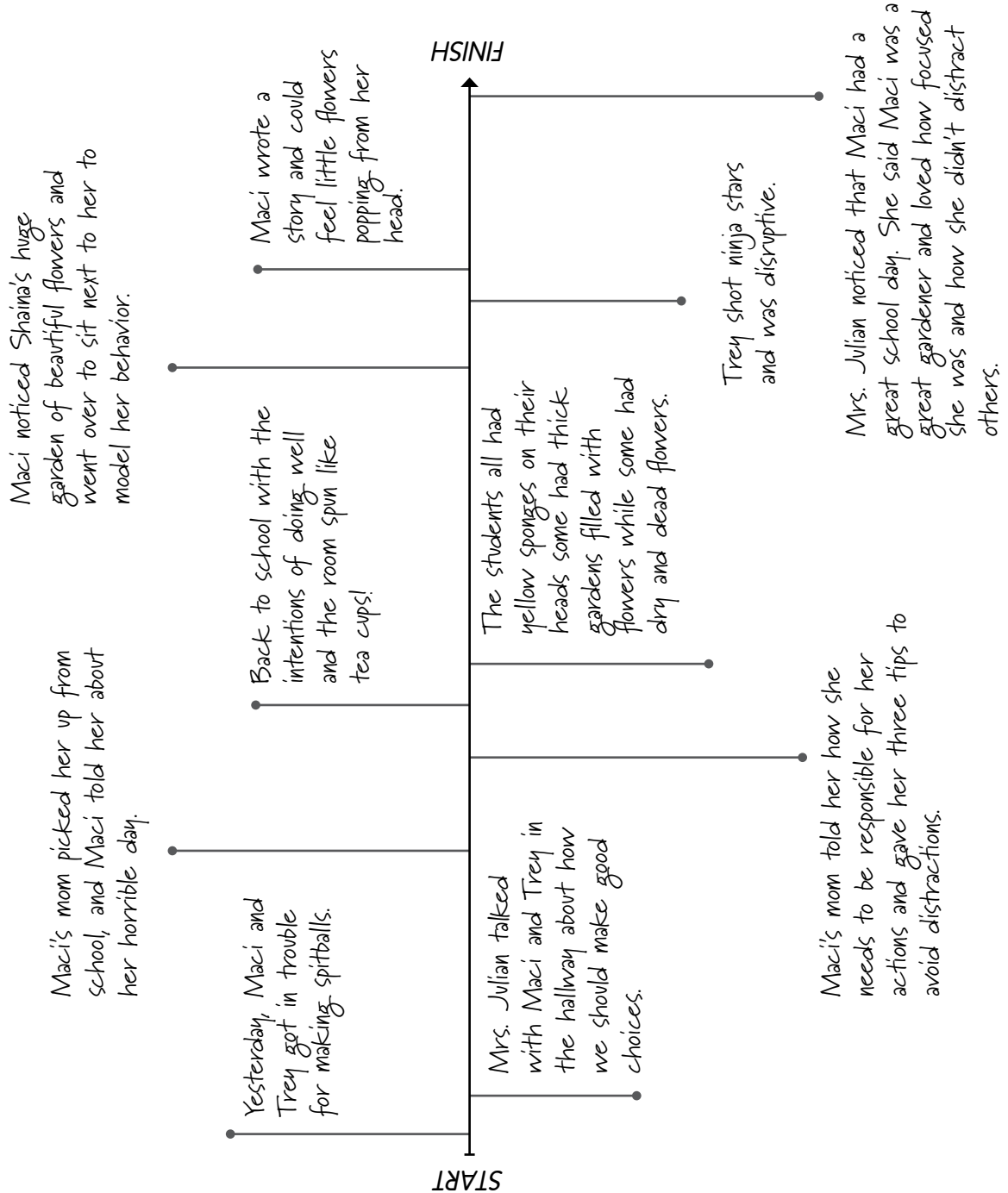




Name: _____ Date: _____

Timeline (GRADES 3-5)

DIRECTIONS: Read *The Garden in My Mind*, then create a timeline for the events as they happened in the story.





Name: _____ Date: _____

Draw the Story (GRADES K-2)

DIRECTIONS: List the transition words you found in the story to show the sequence of events over time. Then, draw pictures of the main events in the story.

First	Next	Then	Last



Name: _____ Date: _____

My Understanding

DIRECTIONS: While reading *The Garden in My Mind*, identify and write down in the left-hand column three main points of the story that made you think. Record your thoughts about the story in the "My Reaction" column. Remember, good readers make connections and predictions as well as visualize and summarize while they read.

What the Story Says	My Reaction
<p>"Trey sprawled out on the carpet—belly first, like one of those polar bear rugs I've seen on TV."</p>	<p>I was able to visualize what Trey looked like because I have seen a polar bear rug before.</p>