

Unit 8

Writing About A Favorite Season

(opinion)

Part 1: Standards Addressed in This Activity

- W.1.1 Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or name the book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply a reason for the opinion, and provide some sense of closure.
- W.1.5 With guidance and support from adults, focus on a topic, respond to questions and suggestions from peers, and add details to strengthen writing as needed.
- W.1.8 With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

Part 2: Description of Activity

The student will participate in prewriting activities and then write an opinion piece about a favorite season of the year.

Part 3: Teacher and Student Instructions

Task A: Pre-writing

1. Read picture books and/or show short videos about the seasons. Examples are given in the Resources section.
2. Ask students to think about the different kinds of things they can do during each of the four seasons. Allow time for brainstorming and sharing. Record students' ideas on a whiteboard or chart paper. Examples are given on the next page.

Four Seasons Brainstorming Examples:

Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
build a snowman	play in a rain shower	go barefoot	harvest a garden
ride downhill on sleds	pick flowers	play outdoors	go on a hayride
celebrate holidays	watch and listen for signs of new life	work in the garden	carve pumpkins
drink hot cocoa	my birthday	go swimming	hide in a pile of leaves
		go to the park	

- Use picture books, videos, and students' ideas to create lists of words to use in an essay: winter words, spring words, summer words, fall words. Fill in **Season Words Graphic Organizer**. Examples are given.
- Ask students to fold a piece of art paper into four sections and draw a picture in each section. The pictures should show a favorite thing to do in winter, in spring, in summer, and in fall.

Directions for the Student

An **opinion** is something you believe or feel strongly about. It is neither right, nor wrong. You have opinions about lots of things: the best TV shows, your favorite sport, or the best snack. Think about the four seasons. Which is the best?

What makes your choice the BEST season for you? Think of as many reasons as you can. Share them with a partner.

Task B: Writing Your Opinion

Students will use completed graphic organizers to write a first draft. See prompt. Guide students through the other steps of the writing process (revising, editing, publishing) once their first drafts are complete.

Prompt:

What is the best season of the year: winter, spring, summer, or fall? Be sure to include 3 reasons that support your opinion. Draw a picture to go with your essay.

Part 4: Handouts/Suggested Responses

Season Words Graphic Organizer

"Seasons Song" lyrics

Books and Videos

- *Green Eyes*, Abe Birnbaum
- *Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors*, Pamela Zagarenski
- [*A Book of Seasons*, Alice and Martin Provensen: a picture book on video \(5:47\)](#)
- [*4 Seasons in a Year* a catchy song that reviews characteristics of each season \(2:49\)](#)
- [*Seasons Song* video: an even catchier song about characteristics of each season \(4 min\)](#)

Seasons Song

Here we go, oh-oh, Seasons of the Year, Here we go, oh-oh, Seasons of the Year...

Here comes the spring with the rain pouring down,
Here comes the spring with the flowers in the ground,
Here comes the spring with the rainbow in the sky,
Here comes the spring to bring new life.

Here we go, oh-oh, Seasons of the Year, Here we go, oh-oh, Seasons of the Year...

Here comes the summer with the heat from the sun,
Here comes the summer with the kids having fun,
Here comes the summer with the warm breeze,
Here comes the summer with the trees so green.

Here we go, oh-oh, Seasons of the Year, Here we go, oh-oh, Seasons of the Year...

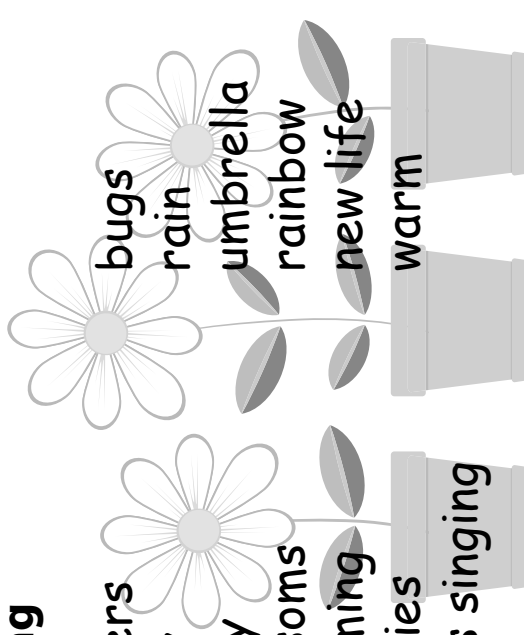
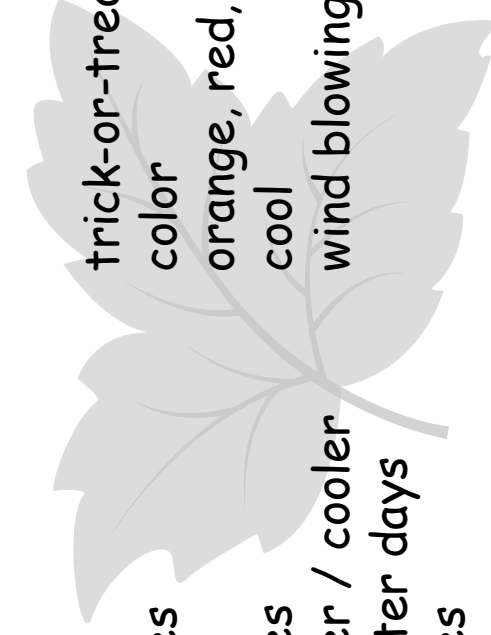
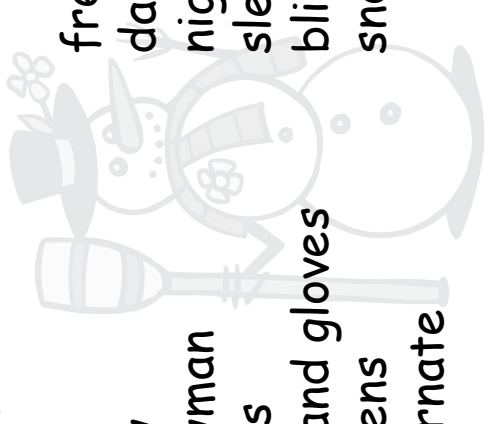
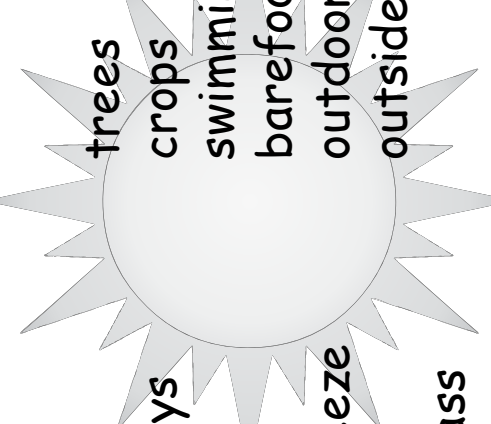
Here comes the fall with leaves changing color,
Here comes the fall with the climate getting cooler,
Here comes the fall with the leaves falling down,
Here comes the fall with the wind blowing loud.

Here we go, oh-oh, Seasons of the Year, Here we go, oh-oh, Seasons of the Year...

Here comes the winter with the ice and the snow,
Here comes the winter with the freezing cold,
Here comes the winter with the days getting shorter,
Here comes the winter with the nights getting longer.

Season Words Graphic Organizer

Name: _____ Sample _____

<p>Spring</p>  <p>flowers rainy sunny blossoms blooming bunnies birds singing</p> <p>bugs rain umbrella rainbow new life warm</p>	<p>Fall</p>  <p>rake leaves pile apples colder / cooler shorter days leaves</p> <p>trick-or-treat color orange, red, yellow cool wind blowing</p>
<p>Winter</p>  <p>ice snow snowman boots hat and gloves mittens hibernate</p> <p>freezing cold days shorter nights longer sledding blizzard snow ski</p>	<p>Summer</p>  <p>sun, heat longer days warmest hot warm breeze sunshine green grass</p> <p>trees crops swimming barefoot outdoors outside</p>

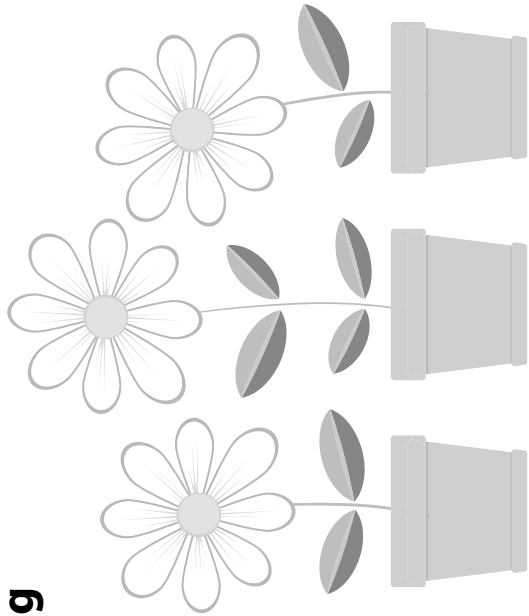
Season Words Graphic Organizer

Name: _____

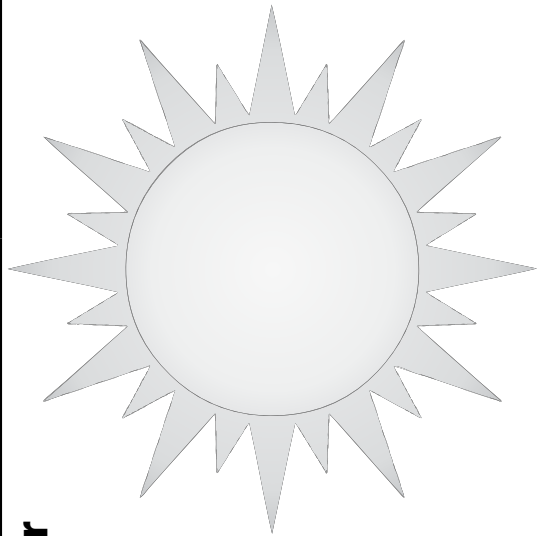
Winter



Spring



Summer



Fall



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(opinion)

Name: _____

What is the best season of the year: winter, spring, summer, or fall? Be sure to include 3 reasons that support your opinion. Draw a picture to go with your essay.

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What is the best season of the year: winter, spring, summer, or fall? Be sure to include 3 reasons that support your opinion. Draw a picture to go with your essay.

Summer

I think summer is
the best season of
all.

In summer I stay
outside after dark
and go swimming.

In summer I play
on a baseball team
with my friends.

I think summer is
my favorite season.