

Nonfiction Writing

All-About Books



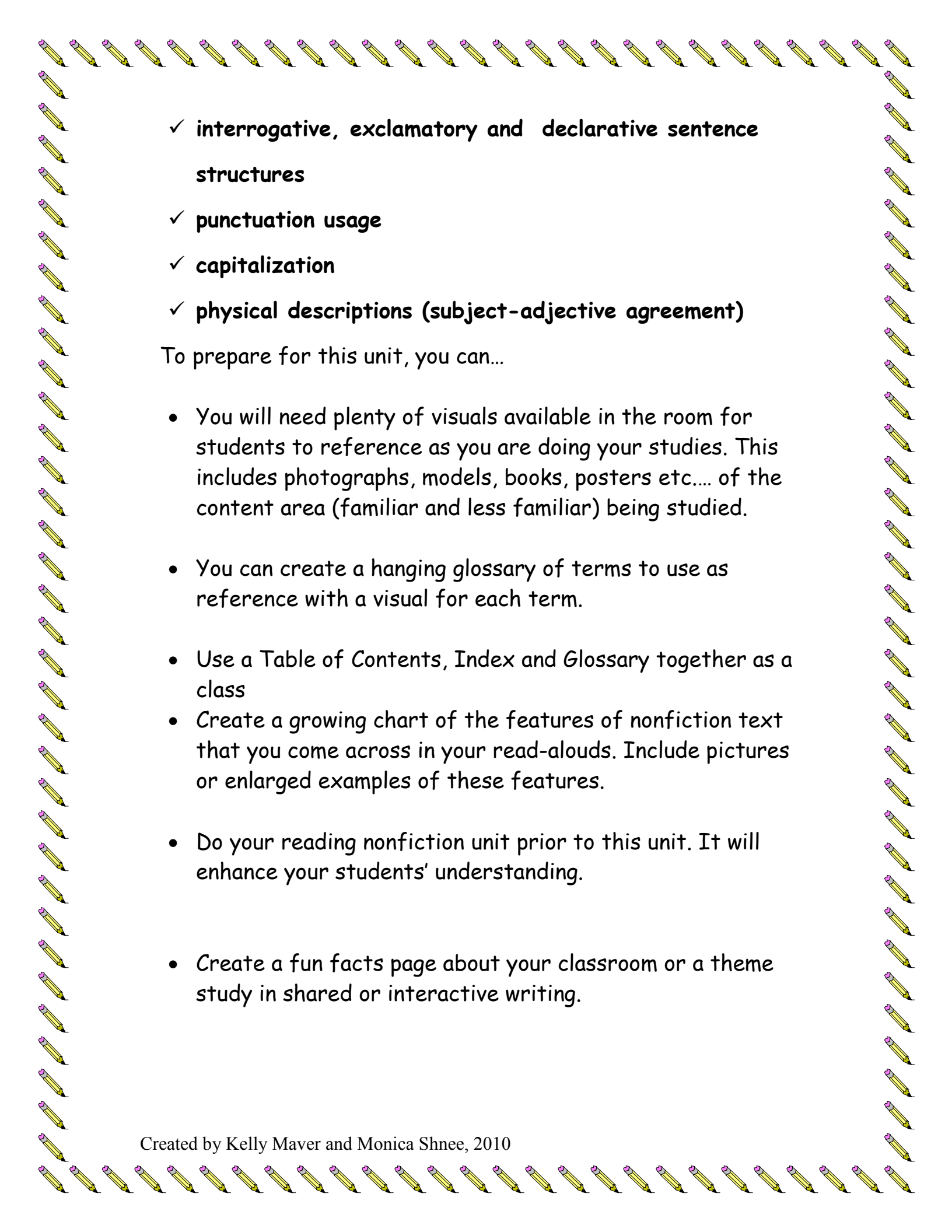
The "Organization" Unit

"Writers are experts who can teach someone all about..."

In this study, students are being asked to plan and organize a large portion of writing. Students can start with a topic that is more familiar to them (such as food or school). Following the familiar "all about" study, students can then focus on a less familiar content area such as an animal study. This will help students understand both the format of nonfiction and the content.

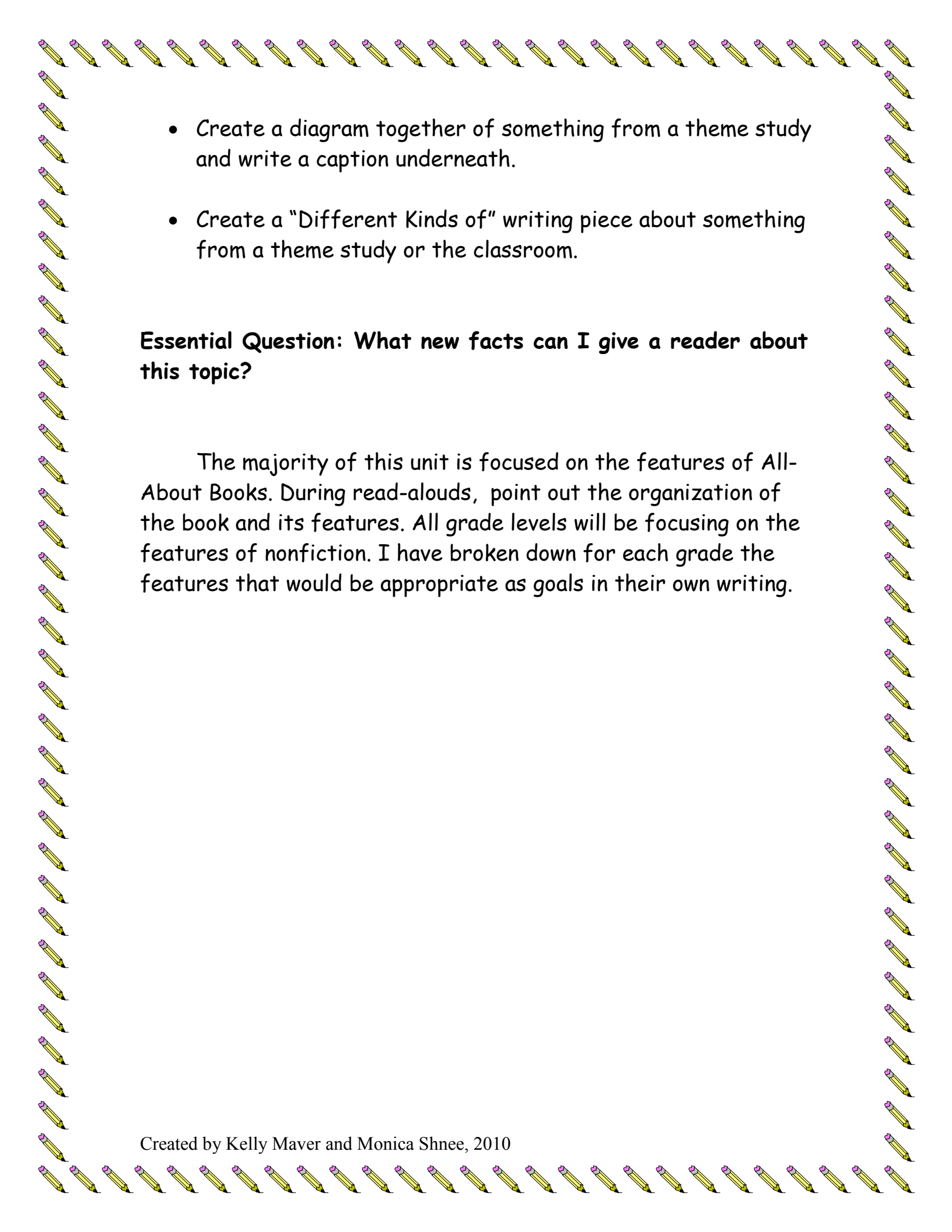
Language Elements for Learners Taught in This Unit:

- ✓ **vocabulary (content)**
- ✓ **present tense verbs (current topics)**
- ✓ **past tense verbs (historical topics)**
- ✓ **subject-verb agreement**
- ✓ **voice (third person)**
- ✓ **pronouns and subject agreement**
- ✓ **oral language**

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- ✓ **interrogative, exclamatory and declarative sentence structures**
 - ✓ **punctuation usage**
 - ✓ **capitalization**
 - ✓ **physical descriptions (subject-adjective agreement)**

To prepare for this unit, you can...

- You will need plenty of visuals available in the room for students to reference as you are doing your studies. This includes photographs, models, books, posters etc.... of the content area (familiar and less familiar) being studied.
- You can create a hanging glossary of terms to use as reference with a visual for each term.
- Use a Table of Contents, Index and Glossary together as a class
- Create a growing chart of the features of nonfiction text that you come across in your read-alouds. Include pictures or enlarged examples of these features.
- Do your reading nonfiction unit prior to this unit. It will enhance your students' understanding.
- Create a fun facts page about your classroom or a theme study in shared or interactive writing.

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- Create a diagram together of something from a theme study and write a caption underneath.
 - Create a "Different Kinds of" writing piece about something from a theme study or the classroom.

Essential Question: What new facts can I give a reader about this topic?

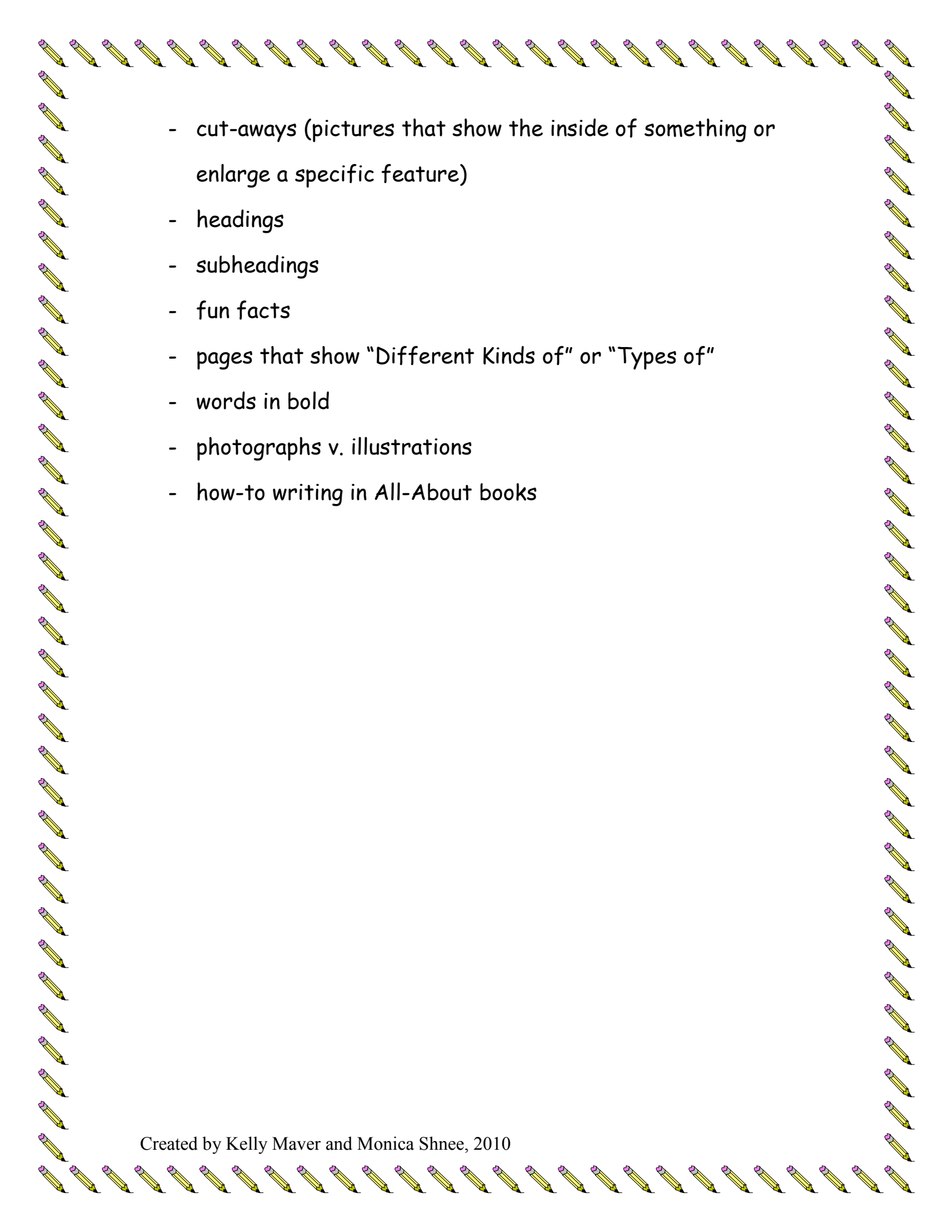
The majority of this unit is focused on the features of All-About Books. During read-alouds, point out the organization of the book and its features. All grade levels will be focusing on the features of nonfiction. I have broken down for each grade the features that would be appropriate as goals in their own writing.

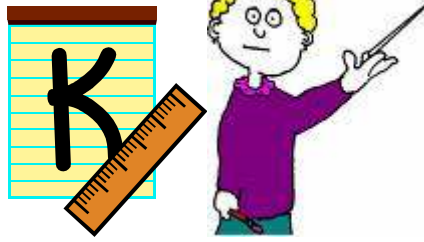


Features to Emphasize in All-About Read-Alouds

These books are extremely helpful for ELLs because the visuals are self-explanatory and the best scaffold. You can ask your learners to write labels, captions, sentences and titles in their own language. You can begin each unit with the season and an All About. It is a great way to start the year and get learners into the habit of connecting what they learn in nonfiction with what they will read in fiction.

- Nonfiction formats and styles of writing (True/False, Question/Answer and more!)
- Table of Contents
- titles
- an index
- a glossary
- diagrams ("parts of page")
- captions

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- cut-aways (pictures that show the inside of something or enlarge a specific feature)
 - headings
 - subheadings
 - fun facts
 - pages that show "Different Kinds of" or "Types of"
 - words in bold
 - photographs v. illustrations
 - how-to writing in All-About books



**The main goals for kindergartners in this
All-About unit of study are:**

- to choose a topic that he/she is an expert on
- to create a poster or a booklet that gives at least three facts about the topic
- to create a simple diagram about his/her topic with labels
- to use facts not just "fluff" or opinions to create the story
- to illustrate and color like a "scientist" using real colors
- to use a format for the All About book from a mentor text

Possible All About Mentor Texts:

Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf by Lois Ehlert (and other titles)

Why Don't Tigers Eat Bananas? by Katherine Smith

The Important Book by Margaret Wise Brown

Going to the Hospital by Michelle Bates

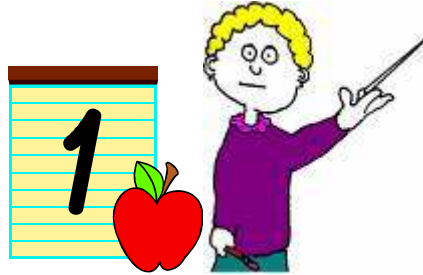
I am a Leaf by Jean Marzollo (and other titles)

The Pumpkin Book by Gail Gibbons (and other titles)

Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother Too? by Eric Carle

If You Hopped Like a Frog by David Schwartz

Goals for First Graders in this
All-About Unit of Study are:



- to create subtopics off of a topic that they are an expert on
- to plan, use and create a complete table of contents with page numbers
- to try to create a glossary for their book
- to be able to determine the placements of an index or a table of contents (back vs. the front)
- to create a "Different Kinds of" page and a "Parts of" page
- to create a Fun Facts page
- to use vocabulary that is relevant to the topic
- to create an All-About book using structures and the format from a mentor text
- to have real facts (at least 3 chapters worth) that will give their reader more facts
- to create headings for their chapters

Possible All-About Mentor Texts:

Ready Freddy series by Abbey Klein (final pages)

The Important Book by Margaret Wise Brown

Penguins by Gail Gibbons (and other titles)

Why Don't Tigers Eat Bananas? by Katharine Smith

Cloud Dance by Thomas Locker

Are You a Dragonfly? by Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries

Why Do Leaves Change Color? by Betsy Maestro

If You Hopped Like a Frog by David Schwartz

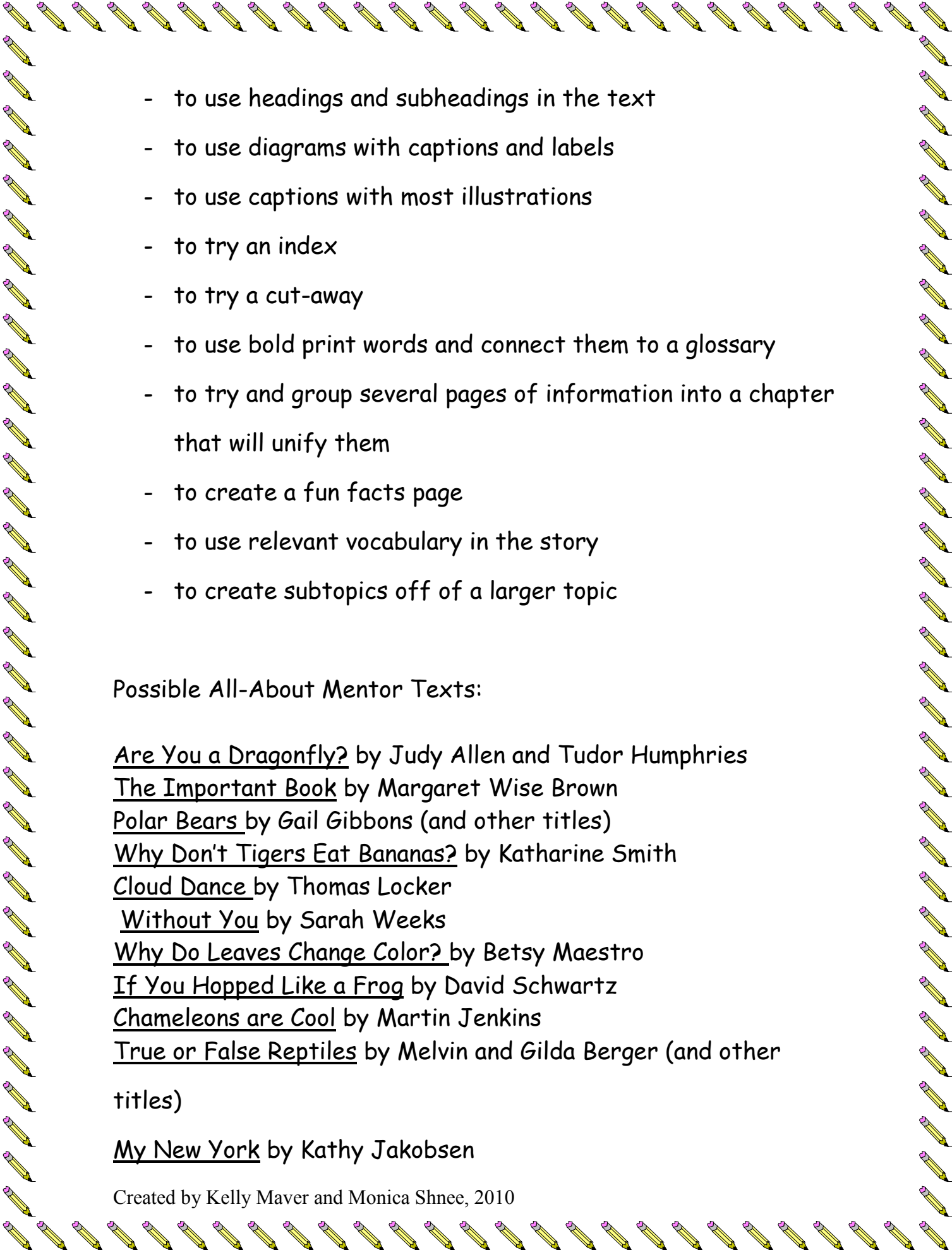
Chameleons are Cool by Martin Jenkins

True or False Reptiles by Melvin and Gilda Berger (and other titles)



Goals for Second Graders in the All-About unit of study

- to create a nonfiction text using the features and style of a mentor author (including personal narrative combined with an All-About text)
- to try and incorporate how-to writing into the book when possible
- to organize, modify, plan and create a table of contents

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- to use headings and subheadings in the text
 - to use diagrams with captions and labels
 - to use captions with most illustrations
 - to try an index
 - to try a cut-away
 - to use bold print words and connect them to a glossary
 - to try and group several pages of information into a chapter that will unify them
 - to create a fun facts page
 - to use relevant vocabulary in the story
 - to create subtopics off of a larger topic

Possible All-About Mentor Texts:

Are You a Dragonfly? by Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries

The Important Book by Margaret Wise Brown

Polar Bears by Gail Gibbons (and other titles)

Why Don't Tigers Eat Bananas? by Katharine Smith

Cloud Dance by Thomas Locker

Without You by Sarah Weeks

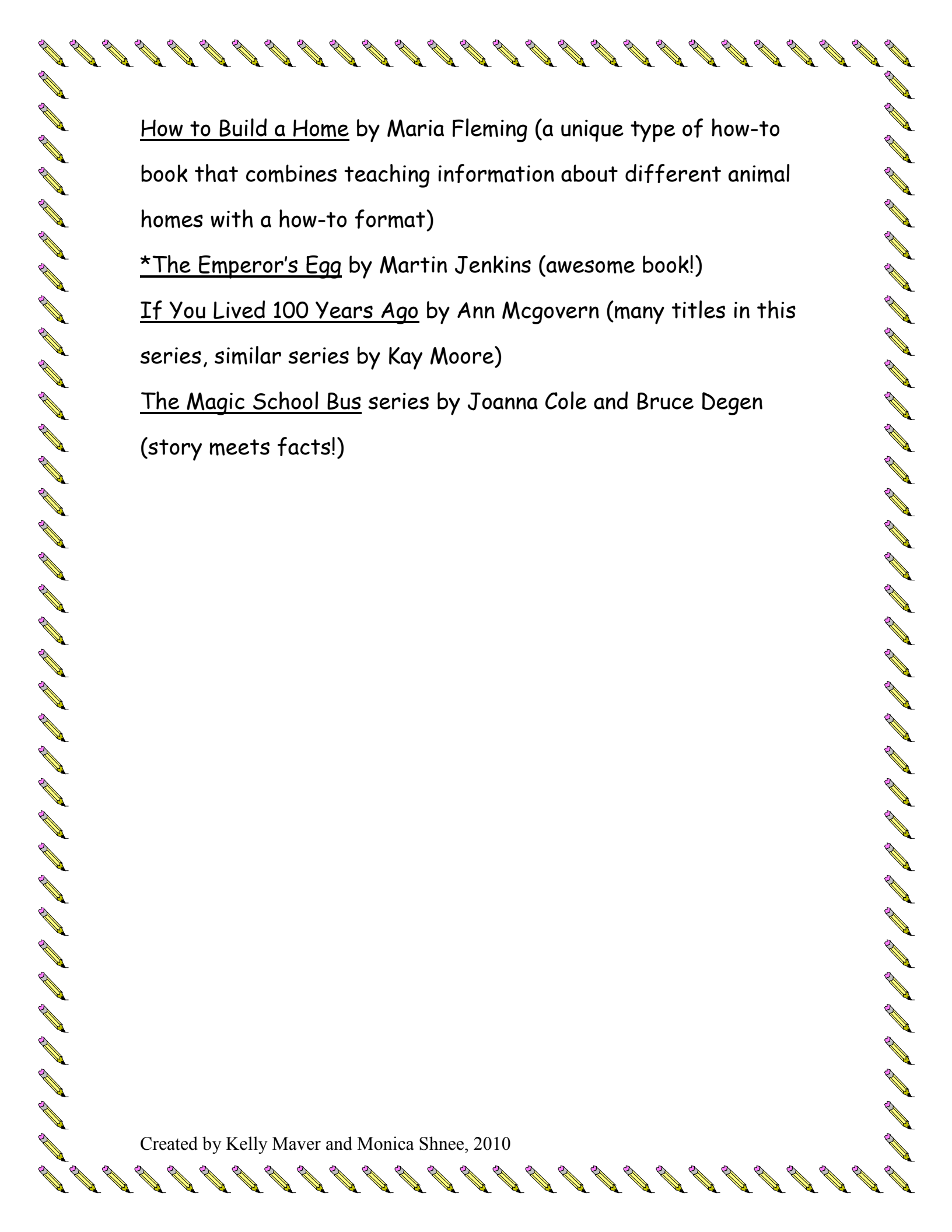
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Chameleons are Cool by Martin Jenkins

True or False Reptiles by Melvin and Gilda Berger (and other titles)

My New York by Kathy Jakobsen



How to Build a Home by Maria Fleming (a unique type of how-to book that combines teaching information about different animal homes with a how-to format)

*The Emperor's Egg by Martin Jenkins (awesome book!)

If You Lived 100 Years Ago by Ann Mcgovern (many titles in this series, similar series by Kay Moore)

The Magic School Bus series by Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen (story meets facts!)