

Spotlights: An Overview

Title and description	Text types	Language focus	Activities	Final project
Death of an Empress The 1914 sinking of the <i>Empress of Ireland</i> near Rimouski, Quebec.	Narrative texts, fictional postcards, newspaper articles, an editorial.	Letter formats, the passive voice, adjectives.	Identifying known and unknown information, discussion questions, writing a letter, constructing a timeline of events.	Choosing another disaster and putting a human face on it.
Games Ancient and modern toys and games for all ages.	Newspaper article, letter, interview, historical blurbs.	Action words, imperatives, reported speech, the past tense.	Performing a survey and an interview, writing a timeline, group discussions.	Produce a history or booklet of toys and/or games.
Welcome to My Mind A look at diaries and how to keep them.	Descriptive text, interview, excerpts from the Diary of Anne Frank, fictional journal entries.	Simple past tense.	Word web, writing short journal entries.	Students design and keep a journal for a specified time.
Brainbenders – Puzzles for Active Minds Puzzles, illusions, riddles and psychological quizzes.	Interview, descriptions and backgrounds of various puzzles.	Giving opinions.	Word Find, jigsaw reading, riddles, various internet research suggestions.	Word Find, jigsaw reading, riddles, various internet research suggestions.
Are You Mad? Making a Difference Organizations and people who Make A Difference (MAD) in their communities and around the world.	Newspaper articles, project descriptions, interview.	Past tense, expressing opinions, informal language and idiomatic expressions.	Finding their Care Quotient (CQ), giving a Spotlight MAD award, web searches.	Choose an area of interest and make people aware of it.

Title and description	Text types	Language focus	Activities	Final project
<p>Science: Friend or Foe?</p> <p>Modern technological breakthroughs and their moral and ethical implications.</p>	<p>Timeline, newspaper and magazine articles, interview.</p>	<p>Prefixes and suffixes, comparatives and superlatives, expressing pros and cons, and writing headlines.</p>	<p>Group work and discussions, debate on cloning and other issues.</p>	<p>Students take a stand on an issue and let others know how they feel about it.</p>
<p>Time Travel</p> <p>Travelling through history.</p>	<p>Trivia, biographical blurbs, interview</p>	<p>Historical lingo, question forms, the past tense and the pronunciation of –ed endings.</p>	<p>Filling in a timeline, finding new versions of old inventions, identifying great achievers from the past and present.</p>	<p>Students design their ideal trip back in time.</p>
<p>Being You, Being Me</p> <p>Celebrating people’s uniqueness and individuality.</p>	<p>Interview, biographical blurbs, narrative text.</p>	<p>Tag questions.</p>	<p>Filling in personality questionnaires, group discussions, trading places, writing a simple poem, crossword.</p>	<p>Create a project highlighting personal uniqueness.</p>
<p>Extreme Sports</p> <p>Exploring various aspects of extreme sports.</p>	<p>Descriptive and narrative texts, interview, advice column questions and answers, questionnaires.</p>	<p>Comparatives and superlatives.</p>	<p>Word webs, determining their “sports personality”.</p>	<p>Present or invent an extreme sport.</p>
<p>Fashion in the Cyber Age</p> <p>The influence of fashion in the past and present.</p>	<p>Descriptive texts, interview, internet ads, historical blurbs.</p>	<p>Fact vs. opinion, types of questions.</p>	<p>Group discussions, designing a futuristic item of clothing, performing a survey, writing a fashion blurb.</p>	<p>Students present a fashion project such as a magazine or fashion show.</p>

Title and description	Text types	Language focus	Activities	Final project
Survival Survival facts and stories.	Interview, catalogue write-ups, newspaper articles, book descriptions.	Adjectives to describe qualities, past tense markers, present perfect.	Internet search, filling in an order form, crossword, survival role play.	Create a survival game or pamphlet, or write an article about a true survival story.
Friends The importance, types, and characteristics of friendships.	Diary entries, questionnaire, narrative text, interview, newspaper article.	---	Finding out what type of friend they are, writing advice, express opinions in a group, writing a letter to an editor, writing a poem or song about a friend.	Present a personal project on friends during Friendship Day.
Mysteries Crime-fighting techniques and how they are used to solve mysteries.	Descriptive and narrative texts.	Cognates, prepositions of location.	Word web, coming to deductions based on clues, describing a scene, role play.	Students write and act out a mystery.
Tell Me a Story Children's stories and fairy tales, and their structure.	Recipes, biographical text, fairy tale, interview, newspaper article.	Adjectives, some/any.	Create stories orally in groups, web search, plotting a story, reinventing a fairy tale.	Students write and/or perform a children's story or fairy tale.
Page by Page Books of every genre.	Questionnaire, book descriptions, letter to the editor, biographical blurbs, interview, letters.	Expressing agreement/disagreement, adjectives.	Taking a survey, identifying opinions, giving an oral presentation, writing a movie description, group work.	Students take part in a Literacy for Life event.

Title and description	Text types	Language focus	Activities	Final project
<p>Music</p> <p>The history, uses, and current forms of music.</p>	<p>Timeline presenting the history of music, song lyrics, interview.</p>	<p>Poetry in music, expressing purpose.</p>	<p>Creating a recent music timeline, analyzing and writing a jingle, creating a music trivia game, word web.</p>	<p>Plan execute, and present a project during Music Festival Day.</p>
<p>Being Smart</p> <p>Multiple-Intelligence Theory and its applications in school.</p>	<p>Interview, newspaper article, biographical blurbs.</p>	<p>Academic vs. non-academic vocabulary, identifying subjective elements, making comparisons.</p>	<p>Determining and describing their own types of intelligence, web searches.</p>	<p>Find ways to celebrate the world's different types of intelligence.</p>
<p>Weird and Wonderful</p> <p>Unusual inventions, great creations and accomplishments, and world wonders.</p>	<p>Interview, biographical blurbs, geographical descriptions, visualization text, and journal entries.</p>	<p>Synonyms, superlatives, elements of a good story.</p>	<p>Weird vs. wonderful poll, nominating someone deserving of being portrayed in a movie, exercises to trigger creativity, writing a story.</p>	<p>Create a "personal stamp" by presenting a text, organizing an event, or researching a wonder.</p>