

## **LANGUAGE ARTS**

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The yo-yo curriculum in the Language Arts setting consists of various activities to learn and/or reinforce the following skills.

### **Language Arts Skills**

1. Reading and comprehension
2. Creative writing
3. Inquiry and information search
4. Demonstration and public speaking
5. Fluency
6. Originality
7. Spelling

## BOOKS/PERIODICALS/INTERNET ACCESS/VIDEOS

### BOOKS

#### **Non-Fiction**

Out of print, but available through the library systems.

1. World on a String by Helane Zeiger, TK Yo-Yos, Ltd. 1979. (TRICKS)
2. The One and Only Yo-Yo Book by George Malko, Avon Books, 1978. (HISTORY)
3. The Amazing Yo-Yo by Ross R. Olney, Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 1980. (TRICKS)
4. The Mature Person's Guide to Kites, Yo-Yos, Frisbees and other Childlike Diversions by Paul Dickson, 1977. (HISTORY, TRICKS)

In print.

1. The Klutz Yo-Yo Book by John Cassidy, Klutz Press, 1998. (HISTORY, TRICKS, SCIENCE)
2. Tops and Yo-Yos and Other Spinning Toys, Collector's Digest, L-W Book Sales, 1995. (COLLECTORS)
3. Toys in Space by Dr. Carolyn Sumners, TAB Books, 1994. (SCIENCE)
4. The Duncan Yo-Yo and Spin Top Trick Book, Flambeau Products Corp., 1992. (TRICKS)
5. Experimental Fun with the Yo-Yo by Al G. Renner, Dodd, Mead & Company, 1979. (SCIENCE)
6. Toying Around with Science by Bob Friedhoffer, Franklin Watts, 1995. (SCIENCE)
7. It's Yo-Yo Time by Stuart F. Crump Jr., Creative Communications, Inc., 1995. (TRICKS, SHORT STORIES)

#### **Fiction**

In print.

1. Slim and Jim by Richard Egielski, Laura Geringer Books, 2002. (Ages 3-7)
2. Yo-Yo Man by Daniel Pinkwater, Harper Collins Publishers, 2007. (age 4-8)
3. Spinning Toys by Dana Meachan Rau, Compass Point Books, 2005

Out of print, but possibly available in libraries or online.

1. YO! It's Captain Yo-Yo by Jon Buller, Grosset & Dunlap, 1993.
2. Loop the Loop by Barbara Dugan, Puffin Books, 1993.

## **INTERNET ACCESS**

1. You can find the National Yo-Yo Museum, National Yo-Yo League and information about the National Yo-Yo and National Spin Top Contests at:  
<http://nationalyoyo.org/>
2. You can find the National Yo-Yo League and information about state and national contests at <http://www.yoyoleague.com>
3. You can find information about the World Yo-Yo Contest by doing a search on “world yoyo contest.” The website changes as the venue changes every year.
4. Helpful yo-yo trick websites include:
  - a. [www.yoyoexpert.com](http://www.yoyoexpert.com)
  - b. [www.yoyotricks.com](http://www.yoyotricks.com)
5. Spintastics’ products: yo-yos, spin tops and diabolos. [www.yoyoplay.com](http://www.yoyoplay.com)
5. Helpful Spin Top videos can be seen at [www.scienceofspin.com](http://www.scienceofspin.com)
6. Spin Top Forum at itopspin.com
7. Perform a search on “yo-yo” or “spin top.”

## **VIDEOS/DVD's**

1. Spinology Instructional DVD, Novice to Advanced, Yo-Yo and Spin Top by Spintastics Skill Toys, Inc., 1999. (817) 400-9696.
2. Dennis McBride’s Instructional Video series. Introduction through 2-handed tricks, Dennis McBride, 1990-1992. (805) 688-0301.
3. Vid-E-Yo Instructional Video by Playmaxx Inc., (520) 322-0100.
4. Yomega Instructional Power Spin Yo-Yo Video, by Yomega Corp. 1995.
5. Yomega Yo-Yo Training Video, by Yomega Corp.
6. Duncan How to Yo-Yo video, Duncan Toys Co., 1992.
7. The Smothers Brothers YO-YO MAN Instructional Video, Eastman Kodak Co. 1988.

## Language Arts Activities

### READING FICTIONAL STORIES

Read the fictional book entitled Loop the Loop by Barbara Dugan. This picture book is intended for children of ages 4-8, but because of its subject matter, can effectively be used by students in grades 1-8. It is the story where the yo-yo becomes the center of a friendship formed between a young girl and an elderly woman who obviously has Alzheimer's Disease.

**1. Write an experience that you have had with an older person.**

**OR**

**Write a short story about a grandparent.**

**OR**

**Write a short story about an activities that you've done with an order person or grandparent.**

-Suggested grade levels: 3-8

- Standards of learning used:

1. Read, view and listen to complex information in the English language.
2. Write and speak effectively in the English language.
7. Understand interactions between people and cultures.

- Language Arts Skills developed:

1. Reading and Comprehension
2. Creative writing

**2. Classroom Discussion:**

**How does this simple story make you feel?**

**(Discuss Alzheimer's, cross-generational friendships)**

-Suggested grade levels: 1-8

-Standards of learning used:

1. Read, view and listen to complex information in the English language.
2. Write and speak effectively in the English language.
7. Understand interactions between people and cultures.

-Language Arts Skills developed:

1. Reading and Comprehension
2. Demonstration and public speaking

Read the picture look attached titled YO! It's Captain Yo-Yo. This short story is about a shy, young boy who finds a magical yo-yo with supernatural powers which ultimately allows the boy to save the earth from being invaded. In the process, the boy's self-esteem is strengthened.

**3. Write a short story where a yo-yo plays a part in accomplishing something good. This can be anything from increasing someone's self-esteem to saving the earth!**

- Suggested grade level: 2-5
- Standards of Learning used:
  1. Read, view and listen to complex information in the English language.
  2. Write and speak effectively in the English language.
- Language Arts Skills developed:
  1. Reading and comprehension
  2. Creative writing
  6. Originality

## **LIST MAKING**

**4. How many words can you think of that have “yo” in them?**

**5. How many words can you make out of the word “gyroscope?”**

**6. How many things can you think of that spin?**

- Suggested grade levels: 1-8
- Standards of Learning used:
  1. Read, view and listen to complex information in the English language.
  2. Write and speak effectively in the English language.
  6. Understand and apply scientific concepts
- Language Arts Skills developed:
  5. Fluency

**7. Make up creative names for a yo-yo company.**

**Examples: Whirled on a String, Spintastics**

**Associated Art activity:**

**7a. Design a logo for your company.**

- Suggested grade level: 3-8
- Standards of Learning used:
  3. Use and interpret the arts
- Language Arts Skills developed:
  6. Originality

## **RESEARCH**

**8. Conduct a periodical search for “yo-yos” at the library. (Boy’s Life and Sports Illustrated for Kids are two good ones for this.) Report your procedure and findings.**

- Suggested grade level: 4-5
- Standards of Learning used:
  1. Read, view and listen to complex information in the English language.
  5. Conduct research and communicate findings.

- Language Arts Skills developed:
  1. Reading and comprehension
  3. Inquiry and information search

**9. Research Alzheimer's Disease (as related to the fictional story Loop the Loop in Activity #1). Use resources such as library systems and internet access. Write and/or present findings to the class.**

- Suggested grade level: 4-8
- Standards of Learning used:
  2. Write and speak effectively in the English language.
  5. Conduct research and communicate findings.
- Language Arts Skills developed:
  2. Creative writing
  3. Inquiry and information search
  4. Demonstration and public speaking

**10. Research gyroscopes. Write and/or present to the class how a gyroscope works.**

- Suggested grade level: 4-8
- Standards of Learning used:
  1. Read, view and listen to complex information in the English language.
  2. Write and speak effectively in the English language.
  5. Conduct research and communicate findings.
  6. Understand and apply scientific concepts.
  8. Use information to make decisions.
- Language Arts skills developed:
  1. Reading and comprehension
  3. Inquiry and information search
  4. Demonstration and public speaking

### **CREATIVE THINKING**

**11. Imagine you are the yo-yo. Write what you may be thinking or feeling when performing a series of tricks.**

**12. Describe the conversation between the yo-yo and the string OR between one side of the yo-yo and the other when performing a series of tricks.**

- Suggested grade level: 3-8
- Standards of Learning used:
  2. Write and speak effectively in the English language.
- Language Arts Skills developed:
  2. Creative writing
  6. Originality

**13. Describe a problem or situation and how you could use a yo-yo to get out of a predicament. Act it out in a short play.**

**(Example: How to get a hat out of a tree.)**

-Suggested grade level: 2-8

-Standards of Learning used:

2. Write and speak effectively in the English language.

3. Use and interpret the arts.

8. Use information to make decisions.

-Language Arts Skills developed:

2. Creative writing

4. Demonstration and public speaking

5. Fluency

6. Originality

**14. After receiving yo-yo skill instruction in Physical Education class and /or reading yo-yo trick sheets or books listed in the reference area of this Language Arts section:**

**a. Invent your own yo-yo trick.**

**b. Name it.**

**c. Describe in written detail how to perform the trick.**

**d. Demonstrate the trick for the class and describe in detail how to perform the trick.**

-Suggested grade level: 4-8

-Standards of Learning used:

1. Read, view and listen to complex information in the English language.

2. Write and speak effectively in the English language.

3. Use and interpret the arts.

8. Use information to make decisions.

-Language Arts Skills developed:

1. Reading and comprehension

2. Creative writing

3. Inquiry and information search

4. Demonstration and public speaking

5. Originality

**15. Invent and design a board game using facts you have learned about yo-yos. (History, tricks, gyroscopic action)**

**(Ideas: 1. Move ahead as questions are answered correctly.**

**2. Move ahead if you land on a trick name and can perform it correctly.**

**3. Option to answer a question or perform a trick.)**

-Suggested grade level: 3-8

-Standards of Learning used:

3. Use and interpret the arts.

- 6. Understand and apply scientific concepts.
- 8. Use information to make decisions.
- Language Arts Skills developed:
  - 1. Reading and comprehension
  - 6. Originality

## **WORD RECOGNITION/COMPREHENSION**

### **16. Complete the attached Word Search.**

#### **a. Names of yo-yo tricks.**

-Suggested grade level: 2-5

-Standards of Learning used:

- 1. Read, view and listen to complex information in the English language.

-Language Arts Skills developed:

- 5. Fluency
- 7. Spelling

### **17. Complete the attached Crossword Puzzle by using the book Loop the Loop.**

-Suggested grade level: 2-4

-Standards of Learning used:

- 1. Read, view and listen to complex information in the English language.
- 5. Conduct research and communicate findings.

-Language Arts Skills developed:

- 1. Reading and comprehension
- 3. Inquiry and information search
- 7. Spelling



## NAMES OF YO-YO TRICKS

Find the following words in the puzzle below. Words are hidden in all directions...up and down, side to side, diagonally...forward and backward.

AROUND THE CORNER  
BRAIN TWISTER  
DOUBLE OR NOTHING  
INSIDE LOOP  
PINWHEEL  
SPINNER  
TIME WARP  
WARP DRIVE

AROUND THE WORLD  
BREAKAWAY  
FLYING SAUCER  
LOOP THE LOOP  
POWER THROW  
THREE LEAF CLOVER  
TRAPEZE

ATOM SMASHER  
CREEPER  
FORWARD PASS  
OUTSIDE LOOP  
ROCK THE BABY  
TIDAL WAVE  
WALK THE DOG

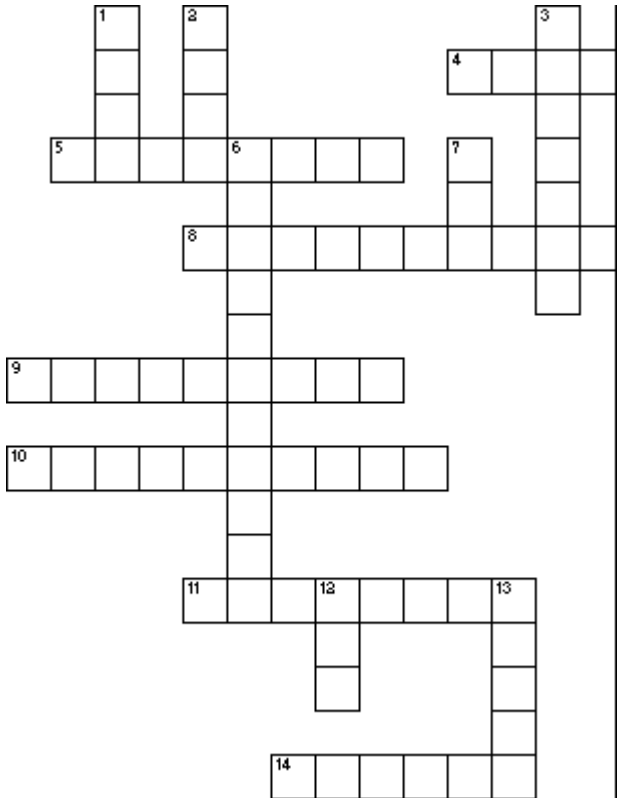
D	S	M	I	G	O	D	E	H	T	K	L	A	W	T	D	L	F	W	B
C	P	P	G	Z	B	O	S	E	O	E	T	Q	R	O	E	R	O	V	R
Z	O	W	I	M	X	O	A	F	M	R	L	A	U	E	E	O	R	G	A
P	W	A	P	N	F	N	Y	G	D	H	P	B	H	E	S	C	W	D	I
D	E	R	M	A	N	F	Y	P	P	E	L	W	V	S	B	K	A	K	N
L	R	P	S	G	R	E	K	W	Z	E	N	F	H	X	Y	T	R	Z	T
D	T	D	N	L	R	O	R	E	O	I	I	G	J	G	A	H	D	R	W
L	H	R	V	F	K	N	U	R	P	Q	D	G	U	S	W	E	P	E	I
R	R	I	X	M	U	D	N	N	T	A	B	F	O	B	A	B	A	C	S
O	O	V	I	V	X	O	C	O	D	I	E	Y	H	G	K	A	S	U	T
W	W	E	Z	J	T	R	Z	B	G	T	M	L	S	N	A	B	S	A	E
E	P	L	J	H	E	R	L	W	Q	M	H	E	T	U	E	Y	N	S	R
H	T	U	I	E	X	Q	P	E	V	Q	C	E	W	R	R	J	W	G	X
T	L	N	P	E	I	Q	I	G	W	K	E	I	C	A	B	H	E	N	T
D	G	E	T	I	D	A	L	W	A	V	E	Z	N	O	R	X	Q	I	Y
N	R	I	N	S	I	D	E	L	O	O	P	C	Y	K	R	P	J	Y	I
U	O	U	T	S	I	D	E	L	O	O	P	X	I	A	D	N	U	L	F
O	Z	L	N	W	L	P	O	O	L	E	H	T	P	O	O	L	E	F	T
R	C	R	U	K	Q	V	R	E	H	S	A	M	S	M	O	T	A	R	E
A	H	A	C	P	R	E	V	O	L	C	F	A	E	L	E	E	R	H	T

ANSWER TO WORD SEARCH:

NAMES FOR YO-YO TRICKS

D	S	M	I	G	O	D	E	H	T	K	L	A	W	T	D	L	F	W	B
C	P	P	G	Z	B	O	S	E	O	E	T	Q	R	O	E	R	O	V	R
Z	O	W	I	M	X	O	A	F	M	R	L	A	U	E	E	O	R	G	A
P	W	A	P	N	F	N	Y	G	D	H	P	B	H	E	S	C	W	D	I
D	E	R	M	A	N	F	Y	P	P	E	L	W	V	S	B	K	A	K	N
L	R	P	S	G	R	E	K	W	Z	E	N	F	H	X	Y	T	R	Z	T
D	T	D	N	L	R	O	R	E	O	I	I	G	J	G	A	H	D	R	W
L	H	R	V	F	K	N	U	R	P	Q	D	G	U	S	W	E	P	E	I
R	R	I	X	M	U	D	N	N	T	A	B	F	O	B	A	B	A	C	S
O	O	V	I	V	X	O	C	O	D	I	E	Y	H	G	K	A	S	U	T
W	W	E	Z	J	T	R	Z	B	G	T	M	L	S	N	A	B	S	A	E
E	P	L	J	H	E	R	L	W	Q	M	H	E	T	U	E	Y	N	S	R
H	T	U	I	E	X	Q	P	E	V	Q	C	E	W	R	R	J	W	G	X
T	L	N	P	E	I	Q	I	G	W	K	E	I	C	A	B	H	E	N	T
D	G	E	T	I	D	A	L	W	A	V	E	Z	N	O	R	X	Q	I	Y
N	R	I	N	S	I	D	E	L	O	O	P	C	Y	K	R	P	J	Y	I
U	O	U	T	S	I	D	E	L	O	O	P	X	I	A	D	N	U	L	F
O	Z	L	N	W	L	P	O	O	L	E	H	T	P	O	O	L	E	F	T
R	C	R	U	K	Q	V	R	E	H	S	A	M	S	M	O	T	A	R	E
A	H	A	C	P	R	E	V	O	L	C	F	A	E	L	E	E	R	H	T

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**  
**OF BOOK**  
**LOOP THE LOOP**



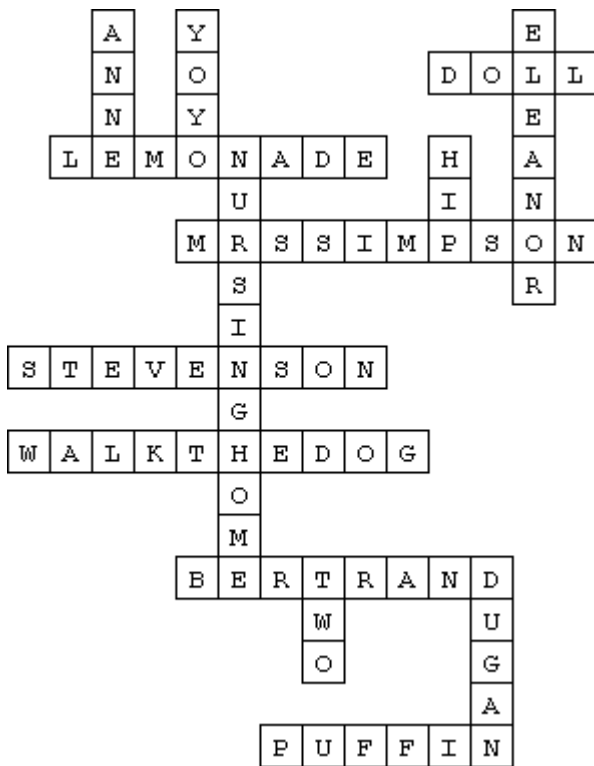
Across

- 4 What was Anne's favorite toy at the beginning of the story?
- 5 What did Mrs. Simpson buy from Anne?
- 8 Elderly woman's name.
- 9 Illustrator's name.
- 10 What was the first trick Mrs. Simpson did for Anne with her yo-yo?
- 11 Mrs. Simpson's cat's name.
- 14 Publisher's name.

Down

- 1 Name the girl in the story.
- 2 What toy did both Mrs. Simpson and Anne share a love for?
- 3 Anne's favorite doll's name.
- 6 Where did Mrs. Simpson live at the end of the story?
- 7 What bone did Mrs. Simpson break?
- 12 How many glasses of lemonade did Mrs. Simpson buy?
- 13 Author's last name.

Answer to Loop the Loop Crossword Puzzle



**END**