



# Have You Tried Our Slide Decks?

Dear teachers,

Have you tried our slide decks? These interactive student-facing lesson plans have become a teacher favorite. They're an engaging way to take kids through a reading experience—and a major time-saver for you. Each slide deck comes with a do-now, links to read and listen to the story, multimedia, discussion questions, and a choice board. Use them with your whole class, in small groups, or as a self-guided independent assignment.

This year, we've added even more slide decks to Scope Online. Find them in the Resources tab on any story page.

If you haven't tried them yet, I hope you'll give one a whirl—and tell me how it goes. Our team is always looking for ways to make our resources even more useful to you.

In the meantime, I wish you a lovely and restful holiday break. See you in 2022!

Kristin and the *Scope* Team



Kristin Lewis, Editor  
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## Connect With Us!

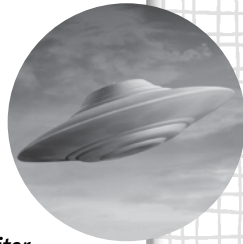
Scope Community for Middle School ELA Teachers

@\_KELewis @ScholasticTeach

## Staff Picks

"The nonfiction feature is a fascinating ride through the history of UFOs and the search for extraterrestrial life. Your students will have lots to discuss!"

—Adee Braun, *Managing Editor*



"The haiku by Jason Reynolds will lead to rich SEL discussions and will be a wonderful addition to your digital citizenship unit." —Lauren Salisbury, *Education Editor*



"Elizabeth Ann, the black-footed ferret in our debate about cloning, is sure to spark spirited discussion in your classroom. She's also adorable!"

—Mackenzie Carro, *Senior Editor*



**Register at Scope Online to get all the amazing resources that come with your subscription!**

- 1** Go to [scope.scholastic.com](https://scope.scholastic.com)
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# Your December 2021 / January 2022 Issue

To get your online resources, you will need to register at [scope.scholastic.com](https://www.scholastic.com).

Find your lesson plans at Scope Online!

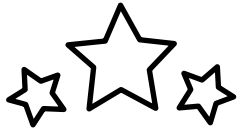
| Story   | Summary   | Skills and Standards**   | Multimedia  | Skill Building Activities   | More Resources   |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Grammar</b> , pp. 2-3<br>"School Lunch Around the World"                         | Students practice using <i>their</i> and <i>there</i> while learning all about what kids around the world eat for lunch.  | <b>Featured Skill:</b> conventions of standard English<br>CCSS: L.3  | <b>Video:</b> Grammar Hack: <i>There, Their, or They're?</i>  | Print, project, or share digitally!<br>More practice with <i>their</i> and <i>there</i>   | ✓ Lesson plan<br>✓ Text-to-speech<br>✓ Answer key  |
| <b>Narrative Nonfiction</b> , pp. 4-10<br>"Are Those Aliens?"                       | This fascinating nonfiction feature explores the mysterious history of UFO sightings in the U.S., as well as the search for extraterrestrial life today.        | <b>Featured Skill:</b> evaluating evidence<br>CCSS: R.1, R.2, R.3, R.4, R.5, R.7, W.1, W.2, SL.1, L.4, L.5, L.6        | <b>Audio:</b> Article and vocabulary<br><b>Video:</b> Beyond the Story<br><b>Vocabulary Slideshow</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Preparing to Write:</b> Explaining UFOs</li> <li>• <b>Close-Reading &amp; Critical-Thinking Questions</b></li> <li>• <b>Video Discussion Questions</b></li> <li>• <b>Choice Board</b></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vocabulary:</b> Definitions</li> <li>• <b>Quiz*</b></li> <li>• <b>Core Skills:</b> Summarizing*, Text Features, Text Structure*</li> </ul> | ✓ Lesson plan<br>✓ Text-to-speech<br>✓ Lower Lexile<br>✓ Spanish version<br>✓ Answer key |
| <b>Drama</b> , pp. 11-15<br><i>The End of Jimmy Valentine</i>                       | Students will love performing this charming play based on O. Henry's short story "A Retrieved Reformation."   | <b>Featured Skill:</b> analyzing character<br>CCSS: R.1, R.2, R.3, R.5, R.7, R.9, R.10, W.3, W.9, SL.1, SL.2, L.4, L.6 | <b>Audio:</b> Vocabulary  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Preparing to Write:</b> Writing Your Scene</li> <li>• <b>Theme Anticipation Guide</b></li> <li>• <b>Close-Reading &amp; Critical-Thinking Questions</b></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vocabulary:</b> Definitions &amp; Practice</li> <li>• <b>Quiz*</b></li> <li>• <b>Choice Board</b></li> <li>• <b>Core Skill:</b> Inference</li> </ul>                     | ✓ Lesson plan<br>✓ Text-to-speech<br>✓ Answer key  |
| <b>Poem</b> , pp. 16-17<br>"Characters" by Jason Reynolds                           | Students read a haiku by Jason Reynolds, then use it as a model to write their own haiku. Plus! We've paired the poem with a special author chat with Reynolds. | <b>Featured Skills:</b> analyzing and writing poetry<br>CCSS: R.10, W.3  | <b>Audio:</b> Poem read-aloud by Jason Reynolds   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Poetry Analysis</b></li> <li>• <b>Poetry Planner</b></li> </ul>   | ✓ Lesson plan<br>✓ Text-to-speech<br>✓ Answer key  |
| <b>Debate</b> , pp. 18-20<br>"Should We Clone Her?"                                 | Should we clone endangered species? Students read arguments on both sides of the debate and take a stand.   | <b>Featured Skill:</b> argument writing<br>CCSS: R.1, R.2, R.4, R.6, R.8, W.1, W.4, W.5, SL.1, L.4, L.6                | <b>Audio:</b> Article and vocabulary  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Essay Kit</b></li> <li>• <b>Vocabulary:</b> Definitions &amp; Practice</li> </ul>   | ✓ Lesson plan<br>✓ Text-to-speech<br>✓ Answer key  |
| <b>Paired Texts</b> , pp. 21-25<br>"The Age of Superheroes"                         | A nonfiction text exploring the fascinating origin story of Superman is paired with an essay about why we love superheroes.                                     | <b>Featured Skill:</b> synthesizing<br>CCSS: R.1, R.2, R.3, R.4, R.5, R.6, R.7, R.9, W.2, SL.1, SL.2, L.4, L.5, L.6    | <b>Audio:</b> Articles and vocabulary   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Preparing to Write:</b> Design Your Superhero</li> <li>• <b>Close-Reading &amp; Critical-Thinking Questions</b></li> <li>• <b>Choice Board</b></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vocabulary:</b> Definitions &amp; Practice</li> <li>• <b>Quiz*</b></li> <li>• <b>Core Skills:</b> Text Evidence*, Central Ideas and Details*</li> </ul>                           | ✓ Lesson plan<br>✓ Text-to-speech<br>✓ Answer key  |
| <b>You Write It</b> , pp. 26-27<br>Interview: "Teens' Invention Keeps Drivers Safe" | Students turn our interview with three teens protecting drivers from dangerous floods into an article.  | <b>Featured Skills:</b> summarizing, key ideas<br>CCSS: R.1, R.2   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Writing Planner</b></li> </ul>  | ✓ Lesson plan<br>✓ Text-to-speech<br>✓ Answer key<br>✓ Model text                        |
| <b>Fiction In a Flash</b> , pp. 28-29<br>"My Favorite"                              | After reading a poignant story by Rachel Vail, students complete an activity focused on repetition, then write their own stories.                               | <b>Featured Skill:</b> repetition<br>CCSS: R.1, R.2, R.3, R.4, R.5, R.6, W.3, L.4, L.5, L.6                            | <b>Audio:</b> Story and vocabulary<br><b>Video:</b> Author Read-Aloud                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Narrative Planner</b></li> <li>• <b>Vocabulary:</b> Definitions &amp; Practice</li> </ul>   | ✓ Lesson plan<br>✓ Text-to-speech<br>✓ Answer key  |
| <b>Short Read</b> , pp. 30-31<br>"The Happiness Challenge"                          | In this bite-sized article, students learn five daily habits that experts say increase happiness.   | <b>Featured Skill:</b> constructed response<br>CCSS: R.1, R.2, R.4, W.1, W.4, W.5, L.4, L.6                            | <b>Audio:</b> Article and vocabulary<br><b>Slideshow:</b> Happiness Hacks                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Short Write Kit</b></li> <li>• <b>Vocabulary:</b> Definitions &amp; Practice</li> <li>• <b>Quiz*</b></li> </ul>   | ✓ Lesson plan<br>✓ Text-to-speech<br>✓ Answer key  |
| <b>Contest</b> , p. 32<br>"First-Line Fiction Contest"                              | Students choose one of three first lines by famous author Sayantani DasGupta and use it to write an original piece of fiction.                                  | <b>Featured Skill:</b> narrative writing<br>CCSS: W.3  | <b>Video:</b> Author Talk with Sayantani DasGupta   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Contest Checklist</b></li> </ul>  |  |

\*\* Common Core Anchor Standards. For grade-level-specific Common Core standards as well as Texas State Standards, go to Scope Online.

\* Available on two levels

# What to Love This Month at Scope Online

Explore these resources—and more—at [scope.scholastic.com](https://scope.scholastic.com).



## Targeted Skill Instruction

Have you seen our special skills collections? We've assembled our best stories, videos, and activities to teach mood, theme, central ideas, and more!



## Interactive Poll

After reading the debate about cloning extinct and endangered species, students can vote yes or no—and see how other students are voting.



## Author Read-Aloud

Don't miss Rachel Vail's video read-aloud of her short story, "My Favorite."



## First-Line Contest

Our annual contest is back! Students choose a first line by Sayantani DasGupta and use it to write an original piece of fiction.

## Join the *Scope* Community!

Harness the power of other *Scope* teachers by joining our Facebook group at [facebook.com/groups/ScopeMag](https://facebook.com/groups/ScopeMag).



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