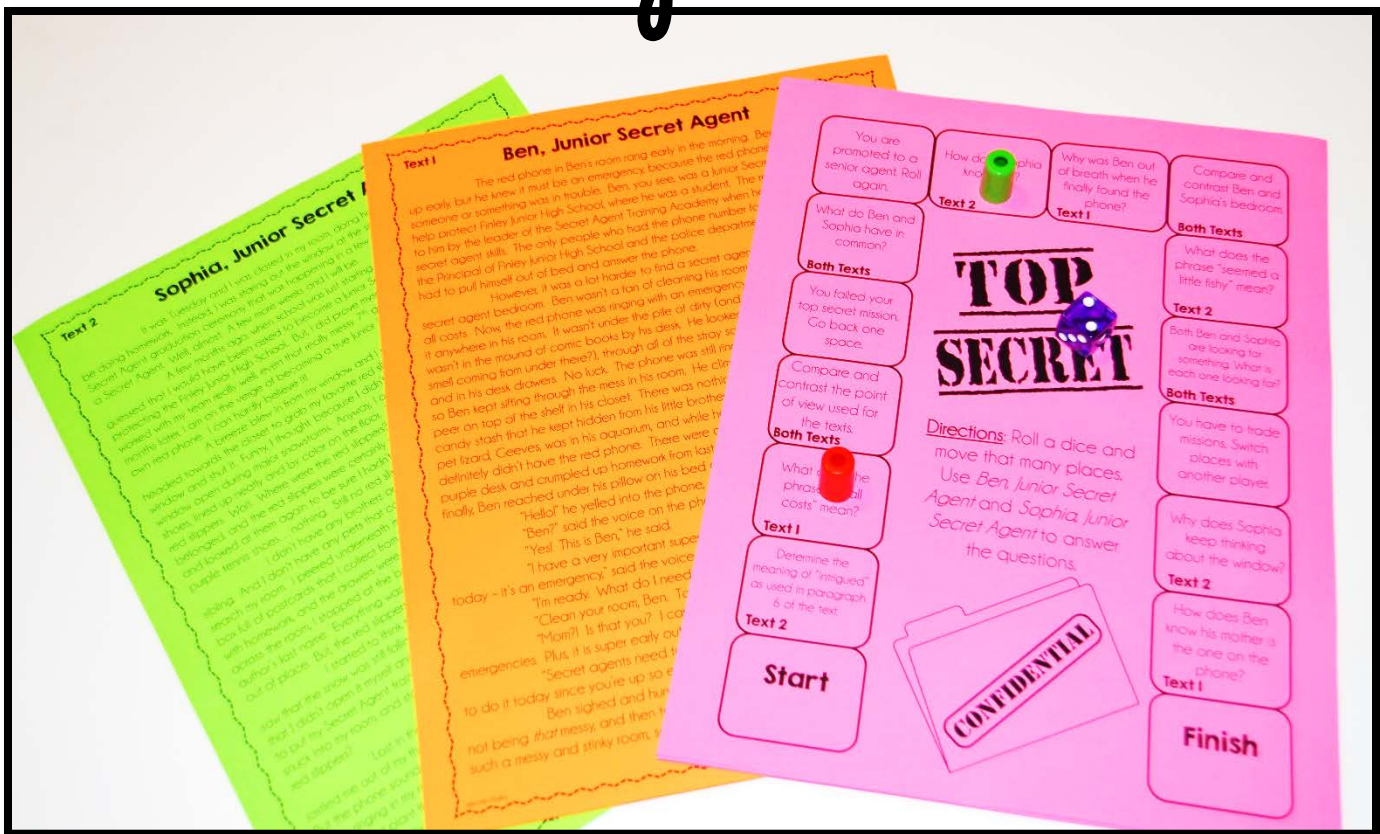


# Paired Passages

## Reading Centers

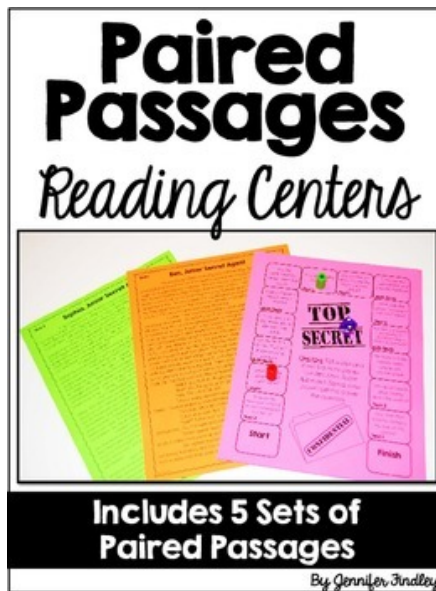


**FREE Reading Center**

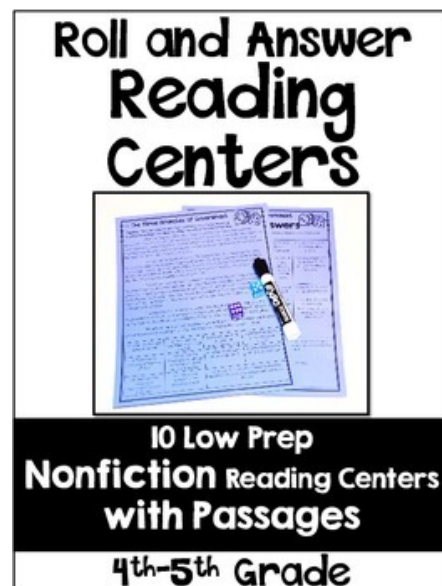
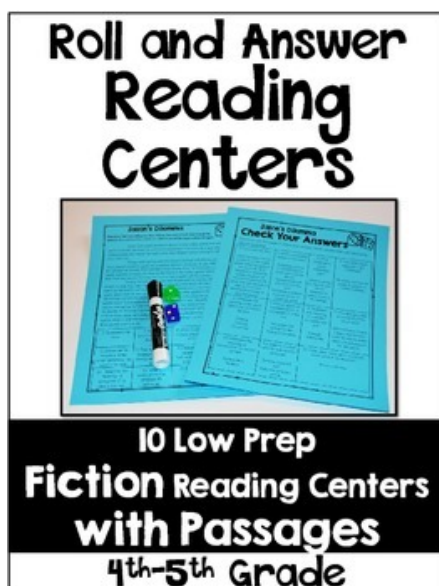
By Jennifer Findley

# About this Freebie

This free center is a complete reading center from my paired passages reading centers resource. If you are interested in the complete set that includes four other reading centers click on the image below.

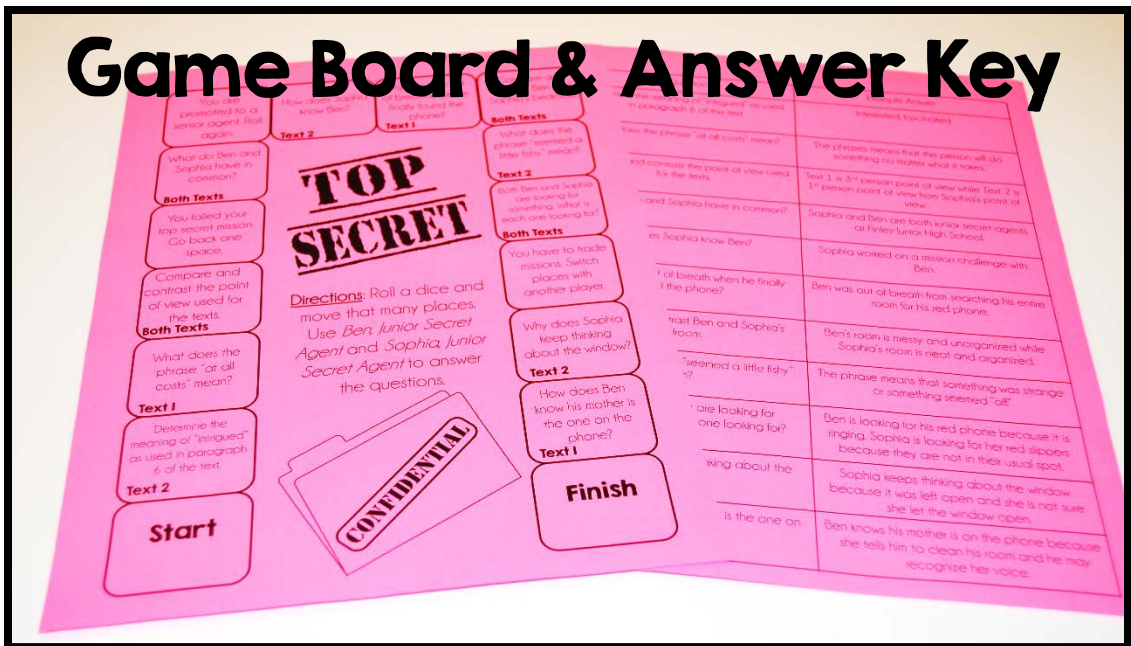
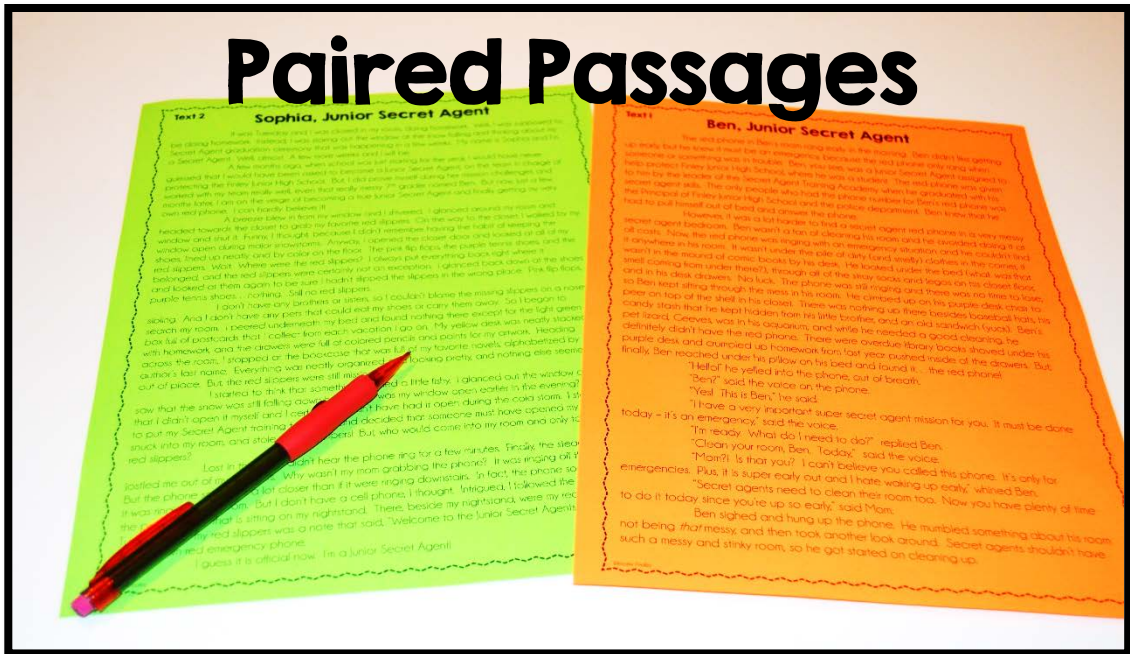


If you want some more easy to use reading centers, click on the images below to see the fiction reading center and nonfiction reading centers.



# Centers at a Glance

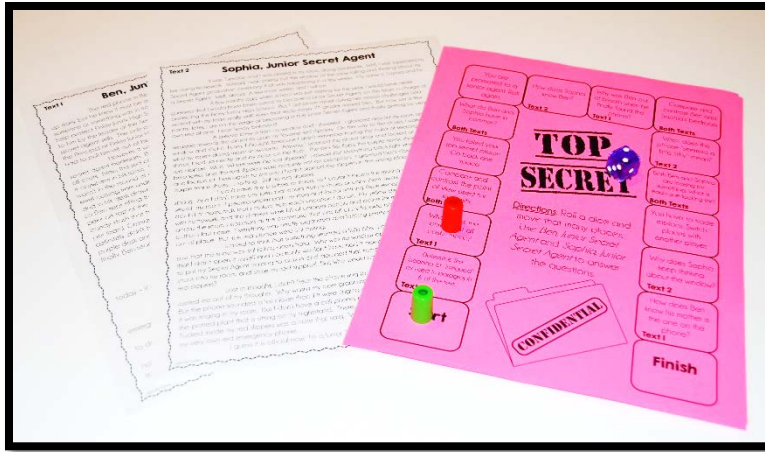
Each center includes two passages that are paired in some way and a themed game board. The game board includes 11 questions. Some of the questions are for Text 1, some for Text 2, and some for Both Texts. The questions are labeled according to which text(s) are needed to answer them. The center also includes an answer key with example answers.



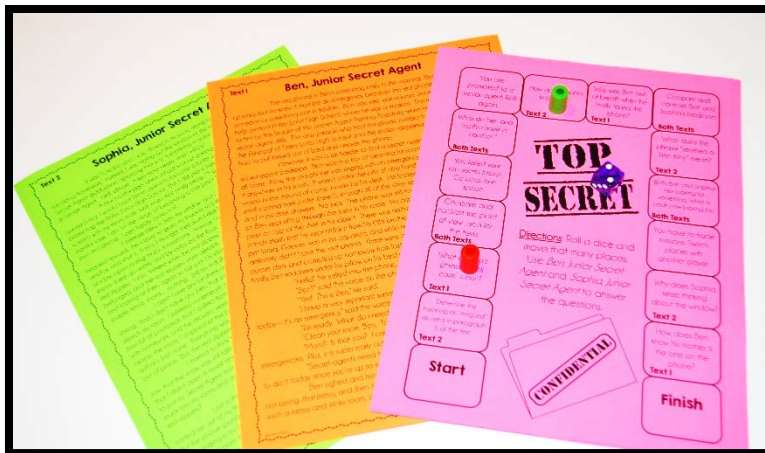


# Options for Use

**Option 1:** Print the passages to the students and give them to them at the beginning of the week. Have the students read the passages prior to going to the center. Then when they come to the center, they are ready to play the “game” and answer the questions. The passages could even be read whole group or sent home for homework.



**Option 2:** This option works well if the students will have a chance to go to the center 3 times a week. The first 1 or 2 days the students will read the passages and discuss. Then on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> day, the students will “play” the game.



## Options for Playing

**Option 1:** Have the students take turns rolling and moving that many places. Have the student who rolled answer the question while the other student listens and adds to the answer before checking the answer.

**Option 2:** Have the students take turns rolling and moving that many places. However, have both students answer the question in a written format before discussing.

**Option 3:** Have both students roll and move that many places. Then both students write the answers to their questions at the same time before discussing with each other.

# Ben, Junior Secret Agent

The red phone in Ben's room rang early in the morning. Ben didn't like getting up early, but he knew it must be an emergency, because the red phone only rang when someone or something was in trouble. Ben, you see, was a Junior Secret Agent assigned to help protect Finley Junior High School, where he was a student. The red phone was given to him by the leader of the Secret Agent Training Academy when he graduated with his secret agent skills. The only people who had the phone number for Ben's red phone was the Principal of Finley Junior High School and the police department. Ben knew that he had to pull himself out of bed and answer the phone.

However, it was a lot harder to find a secret agent red phone in a very messy secret agent bedroom. Ben wasn't a fan of cleaning his room and he avoided doing it at all costs. Now, the red phone was ringing with an emergency situation and he couldn't find it anywhere in his room. It wasn't under the pile of dirty (and smelly) clothes in the corner, it wasn't in the mound of comic books by his desk. He looked under the bed (what *was* that smell coming from under there?), through all of the stray socks and legos on his closet floor, and in his desk drawers. No luck. The phone was still ringing and there was no time to lose, so Ben kept sifting through the mess in his room. He climbed up on his purple desk chair to peer on top of the shelf in his closet. There was nothing up there besides baseball hats, his candy stash that he kept hidden from his little brother, and an old sandwich (yuck). Ben's pet lizard, Geeves, was in his aquarium, and while he needed a good cleaning, he definitely didn't have the red phone. There were overdue library books shoved under his purple desk and crumpled up homework from last year pushed inside of the drawers. But, finally, Ben reached under his pillow on his bed and found it. . . the red phone!

"Hello!" he yelled into the phone, out of breath.

"Ben?" said the voice on the phone.

"Yes! This is Ben," he said.

"I have a very important super secret agent mission for you. It must be done today - it's an emergency," said the voice.

"I'm ready. What do I need to do?" replied Ben.

"Clean your room, Ben. Today," said the voice.

"Mom?! Is that you? I can't believe you called this phone. It's only for emergencies. Plus, it is super early out and I hate waking up early," whined Ben.

"Secret agents need to clean their room too. Now you have plenty of time to do it today since you're up so early," said Mom.

Ben sighed and hung up the phone. He mumbled something about his room not being *that* messy, and then took another look around. Secret agents shouldn't have such a messy and stinky room, so he got started on cleaning up.

# Sophia, Junior Secret Agent

It was Tuesday and I was closed in my room, doing homework. Well, I was supposed to be doing homework. Instead, I was staring out the window at the snow falling and thinking about my Secret Agent graduation ceremony that was happening in a few weeks. My name is Sophia and I'm a Secret Agent. Well, almost. A few more weeks and I will be.

A few months ago, when school was just starting for the year, I would have never guessed that I would have been asked to become a Junior Secret Agent, on the team in charge of protecting the Finley Junior High School. But, I did prove myself during her mission challenges and worked with my team really well, even that really messy 7<sup>th</sup> grader named Ben. But now, just a few months later, I am on the verge of becoming a true Junior Secret Agent and finally getting my very own red phone. I can hardly believe it!

A breeze blew in from my window and I shivered. I glanced around my room and headed towards the closet to grab my favorite red slippers. On the way to the closet, I walked by my window and shut it. Funny, I thought, because I didn't remember having the habit of keeping the window open during major snowstorms. Anyway, I opened the closet door and looked at all of my shoes, lined up neatly and by color on the floor. The pink flip flops, the purple tennis shoes, and the red slippers. Wait. Where were the red slippers? I always put everything back right where it belonged, and the red slippers were certainly not an exception. I glanced back down at the shoes and looked at them again to be sure I hadn't slipped the slippers in the wrong place. Pink flip flops, purple tennis shoes... nothing. Still no red slippers.

I don't have any brothers or sisters, so I couldn't blame the missing slippers on a nosey sibling. And I don't have any pets that could eat my shoes or carry them away. So I began to search my room. I peered underneath my bed and found nothing there except for the light green box full of postcards that I collect from each vacation I go on. My yellow desk was neatly stacked with homework, and the drawers were full of colored pencils and paints for my artwork. Heading across the room, I stopped at the bookcase that was full of my favorite novels, alphabetized by author's last name. Everything was neatly organized and looking pretty, and nothing else seemed out of place. But, the red slippers were still missing.

I started to think that something seemed a little fishy. I glanced out the window and saw that the snow was still falling down hard. Why was my window open earlier in the evening? I know that I didn't open it myself and I certainly wouldn't have had it open during the cold storm. I started to put my Secret Agent training to action and decided that someone must have opened my window, snuck into my room, and stole my red slippers! But, who would come into my room and only take my red slippers?

Lost in thought, I didn't hear the phone ring for a few minutes. Finally, the steady ringing jostled me out of my thoughts. Why wasn't my mom grabbing the phone? It was ringing off the hook. But the phone sounded a lot closer than if it were ringing downstairs. In fact, the phone sounded like it was ringing in my room. But I don't have a cell phone, I thought. Intrigued, I followed the sound to the potted plant that is sitting on my nightstand. There, beside my nightstand, were my red slippers! Tucked inside my red slippers was a note that said, "Welcome to the Junior Secret Agents", along with my very own red emergency phone.

I guess it is official now. I'm a Junior Secret Agent!

You are promoted to a senior agent. Roll again.

How does Sophia know Ben?

**Text 2**

Why was Ben out of breath when he finally found the phone?

**Text 1**

Compare and contrast Ben and Sophia's bedroom.

**Both Texts**

What do Ben and Sophia have in common?

**Both Texts**

You failed your top secret mission. Go back one space.

**TOP SECRET**

What does the phrase "seemed a little fishy" mean?

**Text 2**

Both Ben and Sophia are looking for something. What is each one looking for?

**Both Texts**

Compare and contrast the point of view used for the texts.

**Both Texts**

You have to trade missions. Switch places with another player.

What does the phrase "at all costs" mean?

**Text 1**

Directions: Roll a dice and move that many places.

Use *Ben, Junior Secret Agent* and *Sophia, Junior Secret Agent* to answer the questions.

Why does Sophia keep thinking about the window?

**Text 2**

Determine the meaning of "intrigued" as used in paragraph 6 of the text.

**Text 2**

How does Ben know his mother is the one on the phone?

**Text 1**

**Start**



**Finish**

# Answer Key

Question	Example Answer
Determine the meaning of “intrigued” as used in paragraph 6 of the text.	Interested, fascinated
What does the phrase “at all costs” mean?	The phrases means that the person will do something no matter what it takes.
Compare and contrast the point of view used for the texts.	Text 1 is 3 <sup>rd</sup> person point of view while Text 2 is 1 <sup>st</sup> person point of view from Sophia’s point of view.
What do Ben and Sophia have in common?	Sophia and Ben are both junior secret agents at Finley Junior High School.
How does Sophia know Ben?	Sophia worked on a mission challenge with Ben.
Why was Ben out of breath when he finally found the phone?	Ben was out of breath from searching his entire room for his red phone.
Compare and contrast Ben and Sophia’s bedroom.	Ben’s room is messy and unorganized while Sophia’s room is neat and organized.
What does the phrase “seemed a little fishy” mean?	The phrase means that something was strange or something seemed “off.”
Both Ben and Sophia are looking for something. What is each one looking for?	Ben is looking for his red phone because it is ringing. Sophia is looking for her red slippers because they are not in their usual spot.
Why does Sophia keep thinking about the window?	Sophia keeps thinking about the window because it was left open and she is not sure she let the window open.
How does Ben know his mother is the one on the phone?	Ben knows his mother is on the phone because she tells him to clean his room and he may recognize her voice.



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