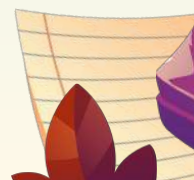


September 2026 Book of the Month with Activities!





Quote of the Month

“Alone we can do so little,
together we can do so
much.”

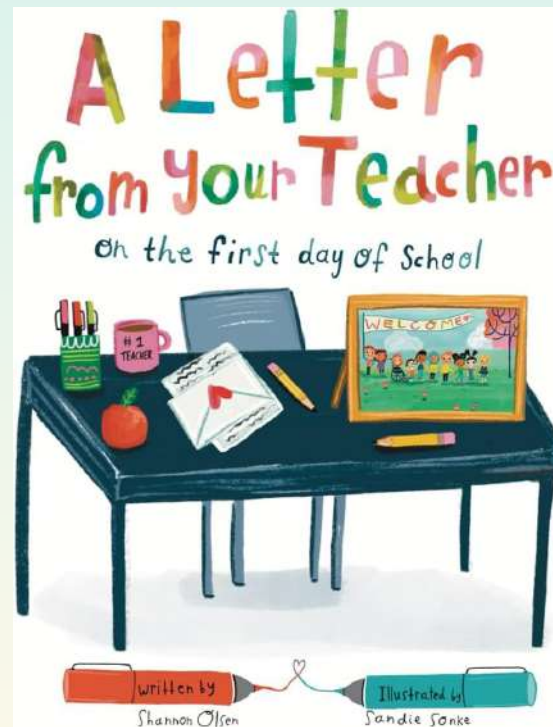
-Helen Keller



September Book of the Month

A Letter From Your Teacher on the First Day of School

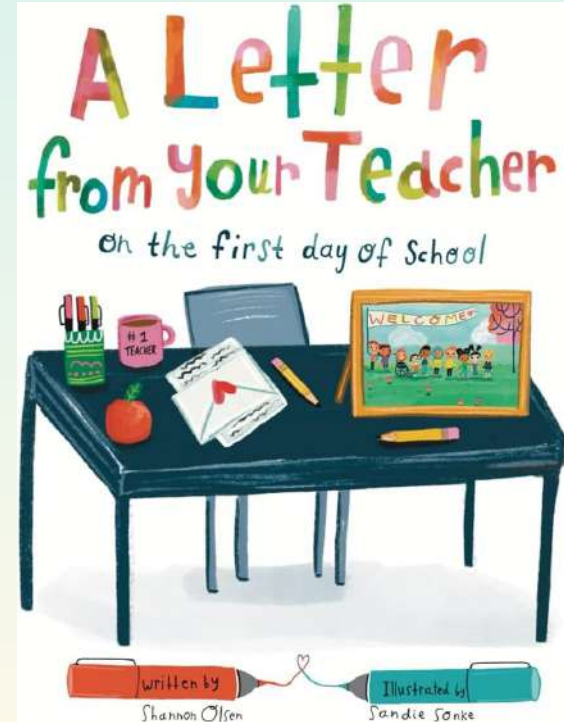
By Shannon Olsen



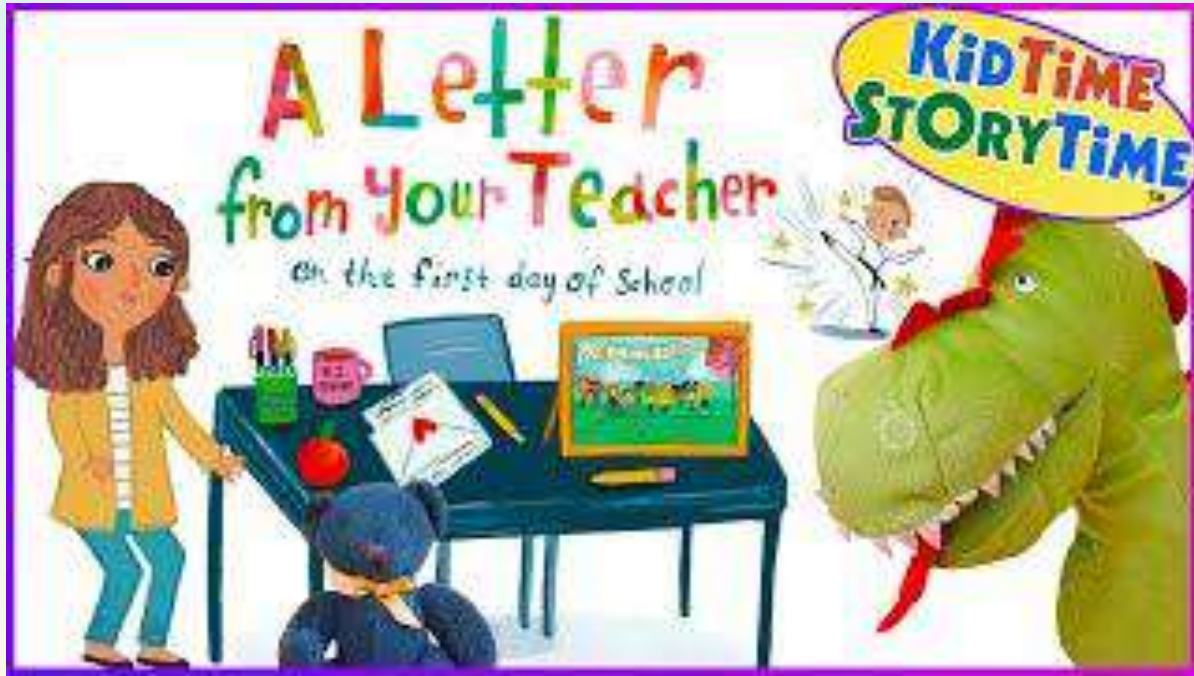


Book Summary

In honor of the start of the 2026-2027 school year, "A Letter From Your Teacher on the First Day of School" offers welcoming words to begin building positive classroom relationships! The story describes all the ways in which a teacher will support her students throughout the school year, by creating a learning environment that helps students grow not just academically, but also personally and emotionally. "A Letter From Your Teacher on the First Day of School" encourages students to share what makes them unique, and sets the tone for a culture of belonging and community.



Read-Aloud Video



Click for Related Book Activities!



A LETTER FROM YOUR TEACHER

All About Me and
Letter Writing
Activities



All the things that make me ME!

SELF PORTRAIT:	MY HOBBIES & TALENTS:

MY FAVORITES:

Favorite subject: _____

Favorite food: _____

Favorite toy: _____

Favorite movie: _____

Favorite color: _____

Favorite thing to do for fun: _____

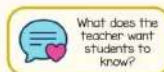
Classroom
Expectations and
Feelings
Reflections

Discussion
Questions/
Reading Guide



A Letter From Your Teacher Read-Aloud Questions

Use these prompts to talk about belonging, trust, and first-day feelings.



What does the teacher want students to know?



What kind of classroom does the teacher hope to build?



Which words make the classroom feel welcoming?



What would you write back to the teacher?



What is one goal you have for the year?



MY GOALS FOR THIS YEAR



what I want to achieve this year:



I hope to learn

I want to get better at

I am excited to try

I hope to make new friends by



Goal-Setting
Worksheets

Theme of the Month:

Belonging



Belonging is all about feeling like you are an important part of a group, and knowing that you are welcomed, valued, and accepted for being who you are. When you belong somewhere, you know that you matter and that you have an important place within a community.



Theme of the Month Activities

Belonging Poster



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION | PARENTING | JANUARY 5, 2024

Build a Sense of Belonging in the Early Childhood Classroom

Written by: Cheri J. Meiners



Belonging Activities

Belonging and Inclusion Worksheets

MAKE A LIST OF: WAYS TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS	
EXPLAIN THE PHRASE: EMBRACE OTHERS	
Convince someone who leaves others out that they should include others.	



Habit of Mind:

Communicating with Clarity and Precision

Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision

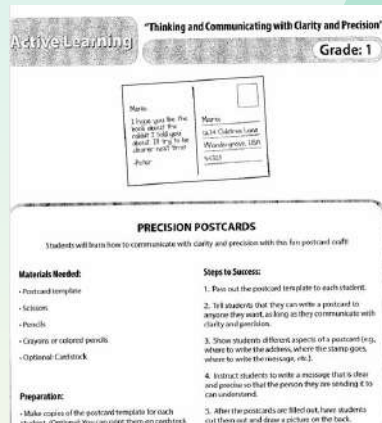
Be clear!



- ✓ Trying my best to share my thoughts and ideas clearly when I speak and when I write.
- ✓ I make sure not to stretch the truth, leave important parts out, or make things sound bigger or smaller than they really are.

In "A Letter From Your Teacher on the First Day of School", the narrator encourages her students to share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences with her in order to build meaningful

relationships. **Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision** is about being clear and accurate: it's important that we use exact words to share organized thoughts and make our ideas easy to understand. How can we use clear communication to create a positive environment and set expectations this month?



Fun Classroom Activities to Boost Kids' Communication Skills



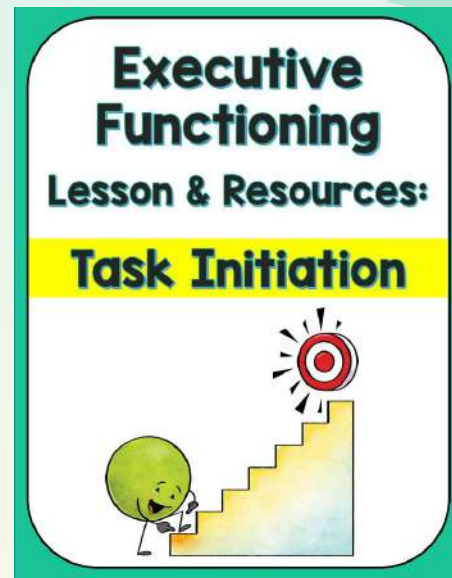
Executive Functioning Focus:

Task Initiation



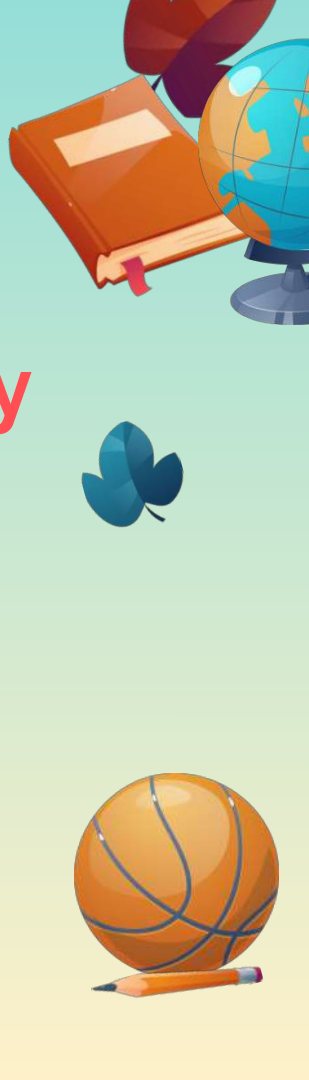
"A Letter From Your Teacher on the First Day of School" describes how we can welcome our students back to a great year at P.S. 131! In order to be successful, it's important that we are proactive in completing tasks, even right after a long summer break.

Task initiation is about the ability to get started on tasks independently and without delays or hesitation. This month, let's help students begin the school year strong and feel ready for learning and growing again!



Interventions for Students who Struggle with Task Initiation





Limited print copies of **“A Letter From Your Teacher on the First Day of School”** are available in the school library (Room 212). Please visit or reach out to Ms. Keiser at dkeiser@schools.nyc.gov if you would like to borrow a copy.