

Week of April 20th-24th

Hello families,

I hope all is well. This week in the packet there will be the leveled reader for your student to read and practice the comprehension questions at the end of the book. They can read it all in one day or they can break it up into chunks. If they would like to respond to the reading menu writing response piece using the leveled reader as the text they may or they can use whichever book they are currently reading or a book they are using on Epic! During the phone check in call I will be asking your student to read a page of the leveled reader so that I can hear their fluency. I will also ask to check in about the math on Khan Academy and how the lesson went.

For feedback, I will need a picture of the reading menu once complete. It can be sent to me through DoJO or through email.

Packet will have:

- Leveled reader
- Reading Skill Worksheet (respond to text-to-text questions on the lined paper after the leveled reader in the packet).
- Reading Menu 19
- Cursive practice page

Math- Khan Academy links for videos will be posted on DoJO.

Keep reading, Practice math fact fluency with the flashcards or Moby Max, ask questions, and remember to keep your heads up!

If for any reason the time that I am calling for check-ins does not work for you and you need to change, please feel free to let me know and we will find a time that works.

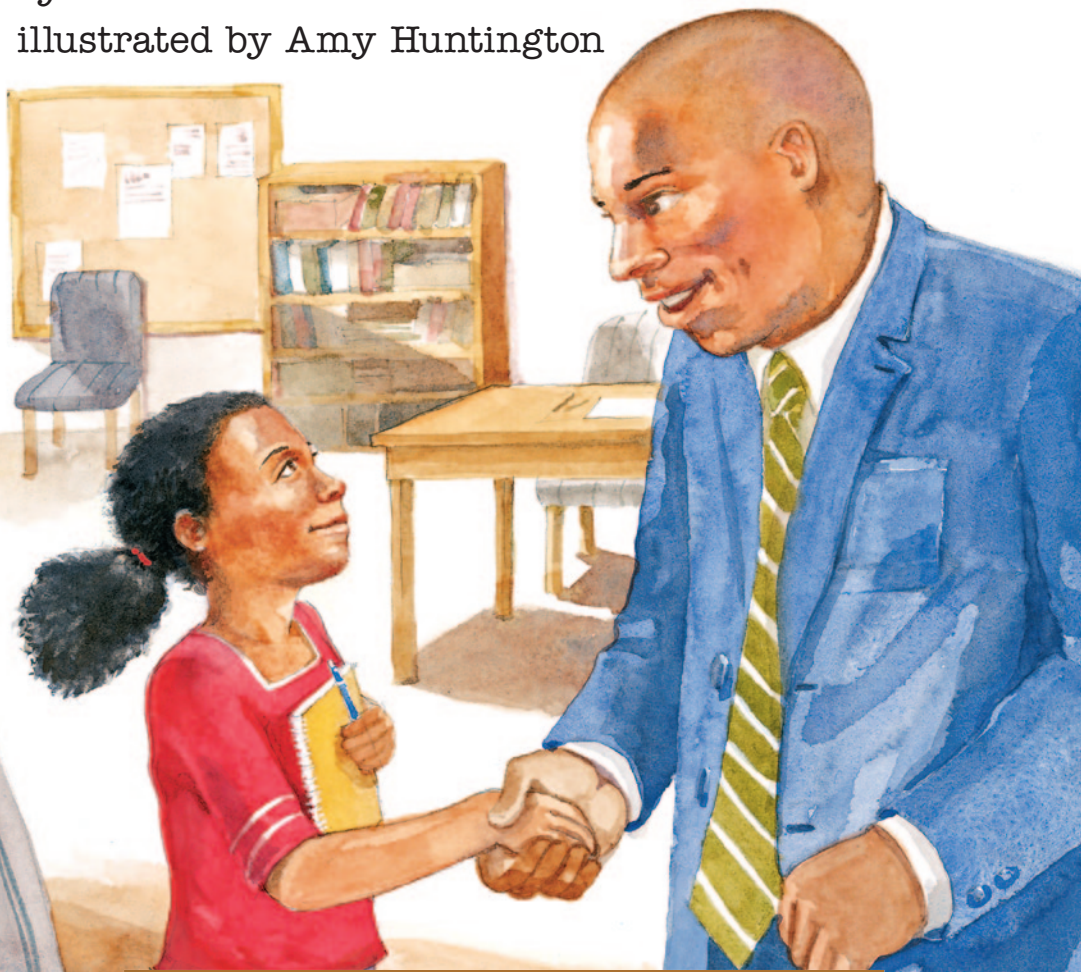
Sincerely,

Ms. Burdulis & Mr. Hunt

The Big Interview

by B. J. Wallom

illustrated by Amy Huntington



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT

The Big Interview



by B. J. Wallom
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Brenda Taylor woke at sunrise. This was her big day. She couldn't stop thinking about it. She imagined what she would say—and what *he* would say.

Brenda was a reporter for her school newspaper. Today, she would interview Rashad Fuller, the star linebacker for the Blue Bay Pelicans pro football team. Fuller, a community hero, visited his old elementary school every year.


Brenda had asked the editor of the school paper if she could interview Fuller this year. He **granted** her request.




Brenda practices for her interview with Rashad Fuller.

 Brenda imagines being a tennis champion.



 For the fifth grader, this was a dream come true. Brenda idolized many athletes. She wanted to follow in their footsteps. Right now, her sport was tennis. Sometimes, Brenda would lie in bed late at night and think about winning the championship at Wimbledon. Her parents arranged for her to have tennis lessons once a week. In return, she always had to finish her homework.

 When Brenda came home with the news of her big interview, her two older brothers began giving her questions to ask Fuller.

“What does he eat?” Brandon said.

“How often does he lift weights?” Bryan said.

Brenda’s big interview seemed to be on everyone’s mind.



▶ Brenda practices her tennis stroke while her brothers and her father shoot hoops.

▶ The interview was important to everyone—except Brenda’s father. He would have been just as excited if her interview was with the school principal. Dr. Philip Taylor believed sports were an important part of life. He encouraged his children to stay fit and play sports. But he wanted his children not only to take care of their bodies, but also to develop their minds.

“Work hard in all areas, and many things are possible,” he often said. “You cannot be dependent on just one thing.”



🔊 At breakfast that morning, Brenda’s father asked, “Are you ready for your big moment?”

“Yes, Dad,” she said, “I’m in good shape.”

Fuller was known by nearly everyone in Blue Bay. He was the only Pelicans player who had been born in the city. Because he had done so much for the children of Blue Bay, the city council had even passed an ordinance making his birthday Rashad Fuller Day.

🔊 “I think it’s great that you look up to Rashad,” Dr. Taylor said. “Just keep in mind there are many role models in our community.” Dr. Taylor often told his children how the words of one great individual had changed his life.

When Dr. Taylor was young, Arthur Ashe, the great tennis player, visited his school. Ashe was already famous for his tournament victories.

During his visit, Ashe urged students to choose doctors, engineers, and teachers as role models, *not* athletes. He said that it was very difficult to become a professional athlete. Understanding this was important for many young people who thought sports were the way to wealth and fame. Ashe told students to set high goals and study hard. If they did, many other rewarding careers would be open to them.

Young Philip Taylor listened and learned. He continued to play sports. But his studies began to come first.



Arthur Ashe holds his Wimbledon trophy high.

🔊 Brenda and her brothers were all too familiar with their father's story. Once more, they listened politely as he recalled the day Arthur Ashe visited his school.

Then the Taylor children rushed off to school. Brandon and Bryan were, as usual, wearing their Pelicans jerseys.

At school, Brenda was greeted like a celebrity.


🔊 "Ask him how I can become a professional football player," her friend Darren Johnson said.

"Find out how much money he makes," Sandra Sanchez said.


"Ask him what kind of car he drives," Jimmy Shapiro said.

🔊 Brenda's friends tell her what to ask Rashad Fuller.



 Brenda's head was filled with ideas. Finally, the hour arrived. She was called from her classroom to meet with Rashad Fuller in the principal's office.

Brenda was surprised when she walked into the office. Fuller wasn't what she expected. He didn't look like the player she saw on TV. That player was huge. He ran all over the field. He made big plays. He shared high fives with his teammates.

 Rashad Fuller looked like someone who worked in a bank. He was wearing a blue suit. He looked serious but seemed friendly and polite. For some reason, he reminded Brenda of her father.

"Hello," Brenda said. She shook Rashad Fuller's hand. "I'm Brenda Taylor."




Brenda tries to stay cool when she meets Rashad Fuller.



 Brenda started the interview by asking Fuller how he got started in sports.

“I was always good at football,” he said. “In high school, it became obvious that I was better than the other boys. Football became the most important thing in my life.” He told Brenda how his fame spread. Colleges around the country talked to him. He was offered athletic scholarships. He chose the University of Michigan.

 But in his senior year of high school, Fuller injured his knee. He was unable to play any more that year. “That’s when I met my hero, my role model,” Fuller told Brenda.

“Who was that?” she asked him. “Ronde Barber? Marcus Allen?” They were all-star pro footballers when Fuller was in high school.

“No,” Fuller said. He smiled. “My hero was Dr. Philip Taylor. He treated my knee.”

“My dad?” Brenda blurted out.

🔊 “Dr. Taylor is your father?” Fuller asked.
Brenda nodded.

“Yes, you do look like him,” Fuller smiled.

Her father was Rashad Fuller’s inspiration!
Brenda naturally wanted to hear more. “Why was my dad your hero?” she asked.

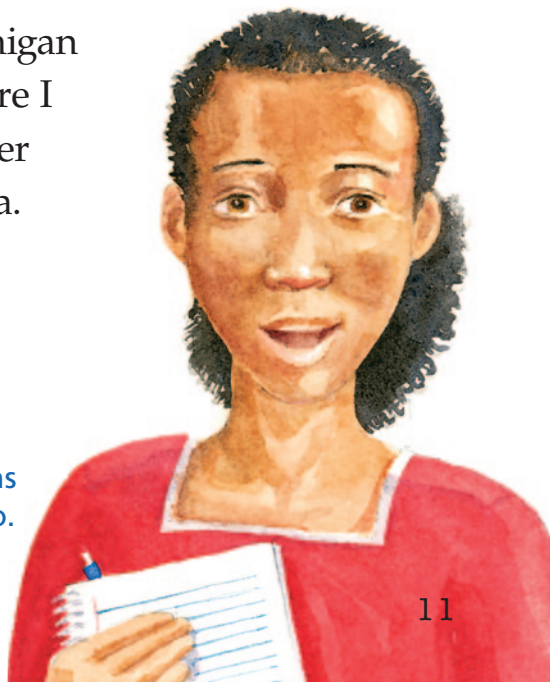
“Because he said that all things were possible if I worked hard,” Fuller said.

Brenda smiled. “That sounds very familiar,” she said.

🔊 Fuller told Brenda how her father had advised him to become the best football player he could. But Dr. Taylor also told Fuller to take advantage of other opportunities.


“He explained that Michigan was a great university where I could study for a career after football,” Fuller told Brenda.

🔊 Brenda is amazed to learn her dad was Rashad Fuller’s hero.






 Rashad Fuller's high school team

 “But what about sports?” Brenda blurted out. “My friends all want to be like you.”

Rashad Fuller's answer shocked her. “They'll probably never be like me,” he said.

He told Brenda how lucky he was. He said that of the 60 players on his high school team, only six went on to play football in college. Of the 100 players on his college team, only three had careers as professional football players.

 Yet, Fuller continued, many of his college teammates had successful careers outside of sports. One owned a computer company. Another former player was a judge. Several teammates were police officers. Fuller also told Brenda that after four years of playing professional football, he knew his time was running out.

🔊 “I’m 26 years old,” Fuller said. “I can’t imagine playing past 30.” He mentioned his knee, which had already required four operations. “If my knee gets hit hard again, I may need another. But I’m ready for my next job.”

Brenda asked him what that might be.

“At Michigan, I studied to become a doctor like your father,” he said. “When I retire from football, I’m going to medical school.”

🔊 Brenda’s next comment surprised her. It just popped out, a **violation** of all rules of good reporting.

“But you don’t need the money,” she said.

“No, I don’t,” Fuller said. “But I need to do something important with my life. I want to achieve more. *Work hard in all areas, and many things are possible.*”



🔊 The future
Dr. Rashad Fuller

🔊 That familiar line made more sense, coming from a famous athlete. Brenda thanked Fuller and went to the computer lab. She began writing.



🔊 Brenda begins her story.

Brenda finished her story and went back to class. "How was it?" the other students began asking. Even her teacher was curious.

"Mr. Fuller is one of my heroes," Brenda said. "Read my story to learn why."

🔊 Turning to her schoolwork, Brenda found herself working harder. She wanted to do well. She thought about her tennis lesson coming on the weekend. She promised herself that she would squeeze in extra practice after school.

Most of all, she wanted to go home and tell her other hero about her big day.

Responding



TARGET SKILL

Author's Purpose Why did the author write *The Big Interview*? Copy the chart below. Write the author's reason for writing the story. Then list details that support those reasons.

Detail: In college, Rashad Fuller studies to become a doctor, and he plays football.

Detail: ?

Detail: ?

Author's Purpose: To show readers that there are many ways to succeed in life if you work hard






Write About It

Text to Text Think of something you have read about someone whose ideas surprised you. How did you feel about that character? Write a paragraph that tells about your reaction.

**TARGET VOCABULARY**

dependent
deteriorating
effective
exception
granted

issue
minimum
ordinance
urge
violation

**TARGET SKILL** **Author's Purpose** Use text details to figure out the author's viewpoint and reasons for writing.**TARGET STRATEGY** **Summarize** Briefly tell the important parts of the text in your own words.**GENRE** **Realistic Fiction** is a present-day story with events that could take place in real life.

Level: R

DRA: 40

Genre:

Realistic Fiction

Strategy:

Summarize

Skill:

Author's Purpose

Word Count: 1,395

5.4.19

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Online Levelled Books



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Name: _____

Book Title: _____ Book Author: _____

Lined writing area with 20 horizontal lines for notes.

Name _____ Date _____

Story Map: _____

Title _____

Setting	Characters
<p style="text-align: center;">Plot</p> <p>Beginning</p> <p>Middle</p> <p>End</p>	

READING MENU 19

After reading, choose 1 question and circle it. Questions 1-6 are best for fiction stories and questions 7-9 are best for nonfiction books. Record your answer to the question in complete sentences.



1. Compare and contrast the setting of this story to the setting of the last story you read.	2. If you were giving a gift to the main character, what would you give? Why?	3. Retell the beginning, middle and end of your story.
4. Find words in your text that have prefixes or suffixes. Explain their meaning.	5. What is the theme, or central message, of the story. How do you know?	6. How do the illustrations in the story help you to understand what is happening? Give some specific examples.
7. Will you read more books about this topic? Why or why not?	8. Write a letter to persuade your teacher to teach about the topic of your text. Give specific reasons.	9. What new facts have you learned from your book?

SELF CHECK

- I answered the entire question that I chose.
- I wrote in complete sentences.
- I used evidence and examples from the text to support my answer.
- I edited my work to make sure that it makes sense.

Name: _____

Book Title: _____ Book Author: _____

Blank lined area for writing the answer to a question.

	0	1	2
Completion	Question is not answered.	Question is partially answered.	Answer is complete.
Sentences	Answer is not in complete sentences.	Answer is in complete sentences.	Answer is in complete sentences and part of the question is used in the answer.
Thoughtfulness	Answer shows little effort or thought.	Answer shows limited thought.	Answer is thoughtful.
Text Evidence	Answer does not include text evidence.	Answer has limited use of text evidence.	Answer is supported with significant text evidence.
Editing	Answer has many errors.	Answer has some errors.	Answer has very few errors.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Cursive Writing: White Snow Bright Snow

White Snow, Bright Snow

*Softly, gently in the secret night,
Down from the North
came the quiet white
Drifting, sitting, silent flight,
Softly, gently, in the secret night.*

*White snow, bright snow,
smooth and deep.
Light snow, night snow,
quiet as sleep.
Down, down, without a sound:
Down, down to the
frozen ground.*

Name: _____

Date: _____

Cursive Writing: White Snow Bright Snow

*Covering roads and
hiding fences,
Sifting in cracks and
filling up trenches.
Millions of snowflakes,
tiny and light,
Softly, gently, in
the secret night.*

By Alvin Tresselt