

STAND-UP

Social-Emotional Learning: Self Awareness, Self Management
Reading Strategy: Repairing Comprehension

SEOT: Tinkering (1) Go Through A Lot Of Stuff; (2) Watch, Wonder, Try, Tweak

version: v2023-05-15

START HERE



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WHAT'S IN THIS PDF:

- This title page and File Table of Contents (links to files)
- Handout A grade 4
- Handout B grade 6
- Handout C grade 8
- Handout D grade 10
- Answer key to questions in the handout
- BONUS Answer Key for teachers using the Repairing Comprehension reading strategy graphic organizer. (The graphic organizer is available in the <u>Repairing Comprehension Reading Bundle</u>)
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What's in this PDF

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	 Reading time: 6 min 43 sec Speaking time: 13 min 26 sec 	Google Docs	one-click copy
	1681 words, 180 sentences, 36 paragraphs	Microsoft Word (1)	one-click copy
SEL Story	virtual online handout:	Easel by TpT	one-click copy
+	Handout B - Grade 6	PDF	one-click copy
SEOT Lesson	 Reading time: 6 min 18 sec Speaking time: 12 min 36 sec 	Google Docs	one-c cl copy
(1) Go Through A Lot Of Stuff; (2) Watch, Wonder, Try, Tweak (TINKERING) + Discussion Questions	1576 words, 135 sentences, 36 paragraphs	Microsoft Word (1)	one copy
	virtual online handout:	Easel by TpT	one-click copy
	Handout C - Grade 8 • Reading time: 5 min 50 sec • Speaking time: 11 min 40 sec • 1461 words, 98 sentences, 36 paragraphs virtual online handout: Handout D - Grade 10 • Reading time: 5 min 43 sec • Speaking time: 11 min 26 sec • 1430 words, 86 sentences, 36 paragraphs	PDF	one-click copy
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		Easel by TpT	one-click copy
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	virtual online handout:	Easel by TpT	one-cl ck opy
	Answers Answers to discussion questions in handout (included)	PDF	one-click copy
Answers	BONUS Answers Sample answers for the Repairing Comprehension reading strategy graphic organizer (not included) If you would like a copy of this graphic organizer, please upgrade to the Repairing Comprehension Bundle)	PDF	one-click copy

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Easel by TpT

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STAND-UP

SEL Story #008



Paragraphs match

Stand-up, Sips, and Seinfeld

The live in a world of streaming media. You can binge-watch entire seasons on Netflix, Disney+, and Amazon Prime. You can watch all 180 episodes of Seinfeld back to back if you want to.

- 3. TV Guide called Seinfeld the greatest show of all time. People called it a "show about nothing." Seinfeld himself called it a show about being stupid. Either way, the jokes were about finding the funny side of nothing and everything.
- 4. The show starred stand-up comedian Jerry Seinfeld. Seinfeld played a version of himself, but with made-up events. Both the real Seinfeld and the made-up Seinfeld lived in New York. But, the made-up Seinfeld had adventures with a best friend, former girlfriend, and quirky neighbor.
- 5. Seinfeld ended in 1998 when the show was at its most popular. Over 76 million people watched the season finale live. Seinfeld was the first primetime TV show to cost over \$1 million for a 30-second ad in the US.
- 6. NBC didn't want the show to end. They even offered comedian Seinfeld \$100 million to do a tenth season. But Seinfeld knew to end when things were great. After all, Seinfeld was a master stand-up comedian who knew comedy was all about timing.
- 7. So, what do you do after becoming a cultural icon and everyone knows who you are? You return to your roots. You do what you're good at. For Seinfeld, it meant going back to doing stand-up routines. He started to perform again in the comedy clubs of New York.
- 8. Seinfeld believes that comedy is all about writing. First, you write a draft version of the joke. Then you revise the joke and play with the words. Finally, you tinker with the timing and make the joke funnier. Seinfeld spends a lot of time breaking down and analyzing things. He thinks his comedy process is like fixing mechanical watches. "I like to get into the gears of how it works."

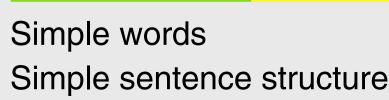
Handout A

page



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- 9. Seinfeld did an interview with the New York Times. He explains how one of his jokes works. He talks about a Pop-Tart joke he's been working on for two years. "In comedy, what you do is you think of something that you think is funny, and then you go from there. It's a fun thing to say, Pop-Tart. I like the first line to be funny right away."
- Seinfeld describes how he starts the story. He builds up the story to get to the climax of the joke. Seinfeld figures out how funny a sentence is by counting the number of funny words. He even counts the syllables. He cuts off letters from a word if it sounds too long. He does this to get the timing just right.
- 11. Then Seinfeld tests the jokes in his routines. He pays close attention to where the crowd laughs. Seinfeld also pays attention to where they don't get the joke. He mixes different jokes into his sets to keep things interesting. The order of jokes might change because he's constantly tinkering. Seinfeld is always paying attention to how the audience reacts.
- 12. One day, Seinfeld talked with a close friend, Barry Marder. Marder is also a comedian. Seinfeld noticed how natural and funny the conversation between them was. Seinfeld later told the story on The Tonight Show. "We were driving around one time, and I said, 'You know, this is such a funny conversation. I wonder if this is a show."
- 13. Talk shows follow a pattern. The host introduces the guest to the crowd. Then the guest comes out on stage. A band plays some music. The host and guest joke back and forth. Finally, the guest starts talking about something they're promoting. The guest might be involved in a new movie, an event, or a book launch.
- 14. Seinfeld wonders, why not cut to the jokes? Film funny friends talking. See what happens naturally. What if things aren't scripted? What if the jokes weren't pre-planned? Just have two comedians driving around in cars. They could drink and sip coffee. Film for a long time, mix the best parts, and post it online. Seinfeld called this a web series.
- 15. Facebook and Yahoo were social media giants at that time. They didn't like the idea. They didn't think people would watch longer, funny videos on smartphones. The social media experts thought anything over five minutes would be boring to watch.
- 16. Remember, this was a time before podcasts were a thing. People didn't stream original content from the internet yet. Eventually, Crackle thought the idea could work. Seinfeld started making episodes for Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee.
- 17. The first episode aired in 2012. The web series started with a conversation between Seinfeld and Larry David. David was the co-creator of the Seinfeld TV series. Having David as the first guest made sense. It connected Seinfeld's old TV show with his new web series.
- 18. Seinfeld wasn't sure his web series would work. He tried things out during the first ten episodes. Seinfeld simply had conversations with comedians he liked spending time with. Then, he tried to figure out how to make the videos enjoyable. He knew people would watch exciting things.



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Handout A page 2



Simple words
Simple sentence structure

- 19. Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee gives people an insider's look. You can see what these famous people are like. You get to look at them when they're not on stage. It's different from a talk show because nothing is pre-planned. Seinfeld lets people talk to see where the conversation goes.
- 20. David Letterman hosts The Late Show with David Letterman. TV Guide ranked this talk show the seventh greatest TV show of all time. Letterman is also a friend of Seinfeld. He interviewed Seinfeld about his new web series. Letterman asked Seinfeld why he wasn't invited to be on the show. Letterman had to ask to be a guest.
- 21. Seinfeld didn't invite Letterman right away because he wasn't sure the show would be funny. He didn't want to waste his friend's time. "When I did the first ten shows which is why I didn't invite you, by the way, because I didn't know or think that it would work it was really a pure just kind of a home garage experiment; it was a pure experiment."
- 22. How does Seinfeld make the web series work? They film about three hours of video from many angles. The video they film is boring. It's just everyday, ordinary life. After all, nobody can be funny all of the time.
- 23. They edit the video to keep viewers interested. They use fast cuts and switch to different shots or scenes. They switch between different angles. They also use music to drive the story. Seinfeld spends hours chatting with funny people. Then, he spends weeks editing the content down. He ends up with a 10 to 20-minute video of the best stuff.
- 24. Over the years, the web series became more popular. It got so big Seinfeld managed to do an episode with then-President Barack Obama. The experiment finished its eleventh season in 2019. In 2022, Netflix brought all 84 episodes onto its streaming platform. The original web series had eleven seasons. Netflix changed the order of videos. They posted six seasons on their streaming platform based on topics.
- 25. The last episode of Seinfeld's web series brought things full circle. It connected everything back to the beginning. It showed Seinfeld and Marder having a funny conversation while doing everyday tasks. Seinfeld does a lot of observing, tinkering, and revising. That's the secret to turning ordinary life into something extraordinary.

Handout A page 3



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Simple words
Simple sentence structure

26. Stand-up, Sips, and Seinfeld from an SEOT perspective

27. We can learn a lot about how to tinker by looking at how Seinfeld explores humor.

28. TINKERING IDEA: Go Through A Lot Of Stuff

29. Seinfeld did an interview with PBS Newshour. He explained how he writes jokes. "You need a lot of stuff. You need stuff. It's like a bakery. You need fresh donuts. And it kind of takes you down the road of what you see and who you are. And you must always be able to look around. You have to be able to see it and go there's something funny there. I have to find it."



- 30. There's a saying about finding the diamond in the rough. It means finding something with potential if you improve it. You can find the hidden gem by exploring ideas. But, even if you find the best joke, it may not be excellent. Why? Because you're starting with only a few ideas.
- 31. If you needed to make an eleven-minute video, most of us would only film eleven minutes. Some of us might film thirty minutes to get extra stuff. Then we could cut it down to the best eleven minutes. However, Seinfeld recorded around three hours of video. He carefully edited it to the funniest eleven minutes for his web series.
- 32. Try this if you're experimenting with ideas but haven't found something great yet. Explore more stuff. Figure out what you have. Then, connect the pieces to see what happens.
- 33. TINKERING IDEA: Watch, Wonder, Try, Tweak
- 34. Seinfeld posted on Twitter. He talked about a book. It's about his web show. The book was coming out in November 2022. He gave a summary. "Here's a show about nothing, that people said would never work, and now a decade later, it's successful enough to be on Netflix. How does that happen?"
- 35. Seinfeld didn't start his web series to get it on Netflix. Instead, he noticed something funny. Then, he wondered about possibilities. Next, he experimented. He wanted to see what might happen. Seinfeld kept using this pattern. He kept watching, guessing, and testing to improve his web series.
- 36. Social media specialists said the idea wouldn't work. Seinfeld did the opposite. He wondered how it might work. After all, Seinfeld knew about making things funny. Seinfeld knew that if he wanted to succeed online, he needed to look at everything. He looked at tiny details in his video. He put pieces of video together to make things funnier. Seinfeld had faith. He trusted his process of analysis and tinkering. He knew his process would lead to something interesting.

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Handout A page 4



Social Emotional Learning

STAND-UP

SEL Story #008



Questions

1.	According to Seinfeld, how is comedy all about writing? [RECALL]
_	
2.	What does playing with words mean? Why did the article's author choose to use the verb "play"? [UNDERSTAND]
_	40
3.	How did Seinfeld apply his comedy process (Question 1) to his web series project? For each step in his comedy process, find examples of what that looked like in creating and producing the Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee web series. [APPLY]

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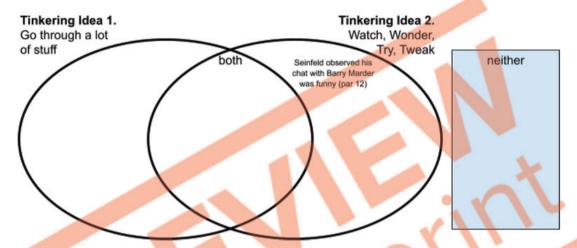
Questions educircles.org

Handout A

page 5

4. Go through paragraphs 12 to 25, which describe Seinfeld's web series. For each paragraph, decide if this is an example of 1) "going through a lot of material" or 2) "watching, wondering, trying, or tweaking." Record examples from each paragraph. [ANALYZE]

PRO TIP: There might be multiple examples in a paragraph. If an example doesn't fit either tinkering idea, put it in the "neither" box on the right. Write the paragraph number beside each example. For example: (par 12)



5. Was the web series more successful because Seinfeld 1) went through a lot of stuff or 2) watched, wondered, tried, and tinkered? Look at your analysis from Question #4 and the tinkering idea descriptions on Page 4. Explain your answer with evidence from the text and your own thinking to support your answer. [EVALUATE]

6. Think about a problem you are facing or a goal / project you are working on. Explain the problem, goal, or project. Develop a solution to the problem or an action for the goal / project that would result in huge progress. Make sure to apply one of the tinkering ideas from this article. Explain which tinkering idea you used and how you applied it. [CREATE]

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Questions

Handout A

page 6

Name Class Date

STAND-UP

SEL Story #008



Paragraphs match

Stand-up, Sips, and Seinfeld

The live in a world of streaming media. You can binge-watch entire seasons on Netflix, Disney+, and Amazon Prime. In fact, you can watch all 180 episodes of Seinfeld consecutively, should you choose to do so.

- 3. TV Guide called Seinfeld the greatest show of all time. People called it a "show about nothing," although Seinfeld himself called it a show about being stupid. Either way, the humor was about the comical analysis of nothing and everything.
- 4. The show starred stand-up comedian Jerry Seinfeld. Seinfeld played a fictional version of himself. He lived and observed life in New York with his best friend, former girlfriend, and quirky neighbor.
- 5. Seinfeld ended in 1998 when the sitcom was at its peak. Over 76 million people watched the season finale live. It was the first primetime TV show to charge over a million dollars for a thirty-second commercial spot during the US broadcast.
- 6. NBC didn't want the show to end. They even offered comedian Seinfeld \$100 million to do a tenth season, but Seinfeld knew to end on a high note. After all, Seinfeld was a stand-up comedian who was a master of comedic timing.
- 7. So, what do you do after becoming a cultural icon? You return to your roots. You do what you're really good at. For Seinfeld, it meant returning to do stand-up in New York's comedy clubs.
- 8. Seinfeld believes that comedy is all about writing. First, you draft the joke, then you play with words and tinker with timing until you get the joke just right. Seinfeld spends a lot of time breaking down and analyzing things. He compares his comedic process to fixing tiny mechanical watches. "I like to get into the gears of how it works."

Handout B page 1





Simple words
Simple sentence structure

- 9. In an interview with the New York Times, Seinfeld breaks down one of his jokes. It's a Pop-Tart joke he's been working on for two years. "In comedy, what you do is you think of something that you think is funny, and then you go from there. It's a fun thing to say, Pop-Tart. I like the first line to be funny right away."
- 10. He describes how he sets up the story. He refines the build-up to the climax of the joke. Seinfeld measures the humor in a sentence by counting the number of funny words. He even counts the syllables. If a word is too long, he shaves off letters to get the timing just right.
- 11. Then he tests the material in his routines. Seinfeld pays close attention to where the crowd laughs and where he loses them. He rotates different jokes into his sets to keep things interesting. However, he's constantly tinkering and paying attention to how the audience reacts.
- 12. One day, Seinfeld talked with a close friend and fellow comedian, Barry Marder. Seinfeld noticed how genuinely organic and funny the conversation between them was. He later retold the story on The Tonight Show, "We were driving around one time, and I said, 'You know, this is such a funny conversation. I wonder if this is a show."
- 13. Talk shows follow a predictable pattern. The host presents the guest to the audience. Then the guest comes out on stage while the band plays some music. The host and guest joke back and forth before the guest eventually moves on to something they're promoting. The guest might be involved in a new movie, an event, or a book launch.
- 14. Seinfeld wonders, why not just cut to the jokes? Just film funny friends talking and see what happens naturally. What if things aren't scripted? What if the jokes weren't pre-planned? Just have two comedians driving around in cars and sipping coffee. Film a bunch of footage, splice together the best parts and post it online as a web series.
- 15. Social media giants of the day, Facebook and Yahoo, dismissed the idea. They didn't think that producing longer-form funny videos to watch on smartphones could work. They insisted that content longer than five minutes would be boring to watch.
- 16. Remember, this was a time before podcasts were a thing. People didn't stream original content from the internet yet. Eventually, Crackle bought into the idea, and Seinfeld started making episodes for Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee.
- 17. The first episode aired in 2012. The web series started with a conversation between Seinfeld and Larry David, the co-creator of the Seinfeld series. Having David as the first guest seemed appropriate. It connected Seinfeld's old TV show with his new web series.
- 18. Seinfeld wasn't sure the web series would work during the first ten episodes. He simply had conversations with comedians he enjoyed spending time with. Then, he tried to figure out how to make the videos engaging so people would watch them.



Handout B page 2



Simple words
Simple sentence structure

- 19. Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee gives people an insider's look. You get a sense of what these famous people are really like behind-the-scenes. However, unlike a talk show, nothing is pre-planned. Seinfeld just follows the natural flow of conversation to see what happens.
- 20. David Letterman hosts The Late Show with David Letterman, which TV Guide ranked as the seventh greatest TV show of all time. Letterman is also a friend of Seinfeld. He interviewed Seinfeld about his new web series and asked why he hadn't been invited to appear on the show. Letterman had to ask to be a guest.
- 21. Seinfeld didn't invite Letterman right away because he wasn't sure the show would be funny enough to have his friend on it. "When I did the first ten shows which is why I didn't invite you, by the way, because I didn't know or think that it would work it was really a pure just kind of a home garage experiment; it was a pure experiment."
- 22. How does Seinfeld make the web series work? They film about three hours of footage from a bunch of different angles. The footage itself is incredibly dry. It's just everyday, ordinary moments. After all, nobody can be hilarious all of the time.
- 23. The magic lies in editing, using fast cuts, angle changes, and music to drive the story. Seinfeld spends hours chatting with funny people. Then, he spends weeks editing the content down to a concise 10 to 20-minute video.
- 24. Over the years, the web series' success grew in popularity. It got so big Seinfeld managed to do an episode with then-President Barack Obama. The experiment finished its eleventh season in 2019. In 2022, Netflix brought all 84 episodes onto its streaming platform. Although the original web series had eleven seasons, Netflix shuffled the content into six seasons based on themes.
- The final episode of Seinfeld's web series brought things full circle. It showed Seinfeld and Marder having a funny conversation while doing everyday tasks. But, by observing, tinkering, and revising, Seinfeld makes ordinary life into something extraordinary.

Handout B page 3





Simple words
Simple sentence structure

26. Stand-up, Sips, and Seinfeld from an SEOT perspective

27. We can learn a lot about the art of tinkering by looking at how Seinfeld explores humor.

28. TINKERING IDEA: Go Through A Lot Of Stuff

29. Seinfeld did an interview with PBS Newshour. He explained the joke-writing process. "You need a lot of stuff. You need stuff. It's like a bakery. You need fresh donuts. And it kind of takes you down the road of what you see and who you are. And you must always be able to look around. You have to be able to see it and go there's something funny there. I have to find it."



Strategies. Effort. Optimize. Tinker.

- 30. There's a saying about finding the diamond in the rough. It means finding something that has potential if you polish it. You can find the "diamond in the rough" if you go through enough raw material. However, even if you find the best joke, it may not be exceptional. Why? Because you're starting with just a few ideas.
- 31. Most of us would film eleven minutes of material for an eleven-minute program. Some of us might film thirty minutes to get extra stuff. Then we could cut it down to the best eleven minutes. However, Seinfeld recorded around three hours of conversation. He then meticulously revised it down to the funniest eleven minutes for his web series.
- 32. Try this if you're experimenting with ideas and have yet to find something great. Explore more stuff, figure out what you have, and then connect the pieces to see what happens.

33. TINKERING IDEA: Watch, Wonder, Try, Tweak

- 34. Seinfeld posted on Twitter about The Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee Book. The book was coming out in November 2022. Seinfeld summarized his web series in a few sentences. "Here's a show about nothing, that people said would never work, and now a decade later, it's successful enough to be on Netflix. How does that happen?"
- 35. Seinfeld didn't start his web series to get it on Netflix. Instead, he noticed something funny, wondered about possibilities, and experimented to see what might happen. He kept using this pattern of watching, guessing, and testing to improve his online show.
- 36. Social media specialists said the concept wouldn't work, but Seinfeld did the opposite. He wondered how it might work. After all, Seinfeld had lots of personal experience figuring out how to make something funny. Seinfeld understood that if he wanted to succeed online, he needed to study and examine everything. He dove into tiny details until everything was planned and choreographed to comedic perfection. Seinfeld had faith. He trusted his comedic process of deep analysis and tinkering would eventually lead to something interesting.

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Handout
B
page 4



Social Emotional Learning

STAND-UP

SEL Story #008



Questions

1. According to Seinfeld, how is comedy all about writing? [RECALL]

2. What does playing with words mean? Why did the article's author choose to use the verb "play"? [UNDERSTAND]

3. How did Seinfeld apply his comedy process (Question 1) to his web series project? For each step in his comedy process, find examples of what that looked like in creating and producing the Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee web series. [APPLY]

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Questions

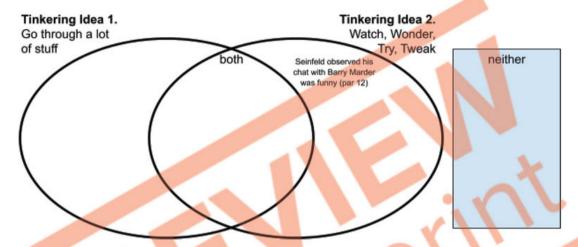
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Handout B

page 5

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5. Was the web series more successful because Seinfeld 1) went through a lot of stuff or 2) watched, wondered, tried, and tinkered? Look at your analysis from Question #4 and the tinkering idea descriptions on Page 4. Explain your answer with evidence from the text and your own thinking to support your answer. [EVALUATE]

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Questions

Handout B

page 6

STAND-UP

SEL Story #008



Paragraphs match

Stand-up, Sips, and Seinfeld

The live in a world of streaming media, where you can binge-watch entire seasons on Netflix, Disney+, and Amazon Prime. In fact, you can watch all 180 episodes of Seinfeld consecutively, should you choose to do so.

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- 4. The show starred stand-up comedian Jerry Seinfeld. He played a fictional version of himself, living and observing life in New York with his best friend, former girlfriend, and quirky neighbor.
- 5. Seinfeld ended in 1998 when the sitcom was at its prime. Over 76 million people watched the season finale live. It was the first primetime television show to be able to charge over a million dollars for a thirty-second commercial spot during the US broadcast.
- 6. NBC didn't want the show to end and even offered comedian Seinfeld \$100 million to do a tenth season, but Seinfeld knew to end on a high note. After all, Seinfeld was a stand-up comedian who was a maestro of comedic timing.
- 7. So, what do you do after becoming a cultural icon? You return to your roots and do what you know best. For Seinfeld, it meant returning to do stand-up in New York's comedy clubs.
- 8. Seinfeld believes that comedy is all around writing: drafting the joke, playing with words, and tinkering with timing until you get the joke just right. Seinfeld spends a lot of time breaking down and analyzing things. He compares his comedic process to fixing intricate mechanical watches. "I like to get into the gears of how it works."

Handout
C
page 1

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Simple words
Simple sentence structure

- 9. In an interview with the New York Times, Seinfeld breaks down a Pop-Tart joke he's been working on for two years. "In comedy, what you do is you think of something that you think is funny, and then you go from there. It's a fun thing to say, Pop-Tart. I like the first line to be funny right away."
- 10. He describes how he sets up the story and refines the build-up to the climax of the joke. Seinfeld measures the humor in a sentence by counting the number of funny words. He even counts syllables and shaves off letters to get the timing just right.
- 11. Then he workshops the material and pays close attention to where the crowd laughs and where he loses them. He rotates different jokes into his sets to keep things interesting. However, he's constantly tinkering and paying attention to how the audience reacts.
- 12. During a conversation with close friend Barry Marder, Seinfeld noticed how genuinely organic and funny the conversation was between the two comedians. He later retold this experience on The Tonight Show, "We were driving around one time, and I said, 'You know, this is such a funny conversation. I wonder if this is a show."
- 13. Talk shows follow a predictable pattern. The host presents the guest to the audience, and then the guest comes out on stage accompanied by the band. The host and guest banter back and forth before the guest eventually moves on to something they're promoting: a new movie, an event, or a book launch.
- 14. Seinfeld wonders, why not just cut to the jokes? Just film funny friends talking and see what happens organically. It's not scripted; the jokes aren't pre-planned. Just two comedians driving around in cars and sipping coffee. Film a bunch of footage, splice together the best parts and post it online as a web series.
- 15. Social media giants of the day, Facebook and Yahoo, dismissed the idea of producing longer-form humorous videos to watch on smartphones. They insisted that content longer than five minutes would bore audiences.
- 16. Remember, this was a time before podcasts were really a thing, and people didn't stream original content from the internet. Eventually, Crackle bought into the idea, and Seinfeld started making episodes for Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee.
- 17. The first episode aired in 2012. The web series kicked off with a conversation between Seinfeld and Larry David, the co-creator of the Seinfeld series. Having David as the first guest seemed appropriate. It connected Seinfeld's previous project with this new web series.
- 18. Seinfeld wasn't sure the web series would work during the initial ten episodes. He simply had conversations with comedians he enjoyed spending time with and then tried to figure out how to make the content engaging so that people would watch.

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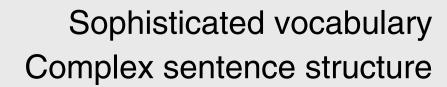
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Simple words Simple sentence structure

Handout

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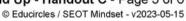


- 19. Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee offers people an insider's look at some conversations with famous people. However, unlike a talk show, nothing is pre-planned. Seinfeld just follows the natural flow of conversation to see what happens.
- 20. David Letterman, the host of The Late Show with David Letterman, which TV Guide ranked as the seventh greatest TV show of all time, is a friend of Seinfeld's. He interviewed Seinfeld about his new web series and asked why he hadn't been invited to appear on the show, mentioning that he had to request to be a guest.
- 21. Seinfeld hesitated to invite Letterman because he wasn't sure the show would be funny enough to warrant his friend's presence. "When I did the first ten shows - which is why I didn't invite you, by the way, because I didn't know or think that it would work - it was really a pure just kind of a home garage experiment; it was a pure experiment."
- 22. How does Seinfeld ensure the web series' success? They film about three hours of footage from a bunch of different angles. Watched alone, the footage is incredibly dry, capturing mundane. ordinary moments. After all, nobody can be hilarious all of the time.
- 23. The magic lies in editing, using fast cuts, angle changes, and music to drive the narrative. Seinfeld spends hours chatting with funny people and then spends weeks editing the content down to a concise 10 to 20-minute segment.
- Over the years, the web series' success grew to the point that Seinfeld could feature an episode with then-President Barack Obama. The experiment finished its eleventh season in 2019. In 2022, Netflix brought all 84 episodes onto their streaming platform and shuffled the content into six thematic seasons.
- 25. The final episode of Seinfeld's web series brought things full circle, with Seinfeld and Marder having a funny conversation doing everyday tasks. But, by observing, tinkering, and revising, Seinfeld makes ordinary life into something extraordinary.

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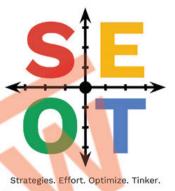
Simple words Simple sentence structure

26. Stand-up, Sips, and Seinfeld from an SEOT perspective

27. We can learn a lot about the art of tinkering through Seinfeld's examination of humor.

28. TINKERING IDEA: Go Through A Lot Of Stuff

29. In an interview with PBS Newshour, Seinfeld explained the joke-writing process: "You need a lot of stuff. You need stuff. It's like a bakery. You need fresh donuts. And it kind of takes you down the road of what you see and who you are. And you must always be able to look around. You have to be able to see it and go there's something funny there. I have to find it."



- 30. You can find the proverbial diamond in the rough if you go through enough raw material.

 However, even if you find the best joke, it may not be exceptional because you're starting with a limited number of ideas.
- 31. Most of us would film eleven minutes of material for an eleven-minute program. Some of us might capture a thirty-minute segment and edit it down to the best eleven minutes. However, Seinfeld recorded approximately three hours of conversation. He then meticulously whittled it down to the funniest eleven minutes for his web series.
- When you're experimenting with ideas and have yet to find something great, you need to explore more stuff, assess what you have, and connect the pieces to see what happens.
- 33. TINKERING IDEA: Watch, Wonder, Try, Tweak
- 34. Seinfeld tweeted about releasing The Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee Book in November 2022. He referred to his web series: "Here's a show about nothing, that people said would never work, and now a decade later, it's successful enough to be on Netflix. How does that happen?"
- 35. Seinfeld didn't start his web series to land it on Netflix. Instead, he noticed something funny, wondered about possibilities, and experimented to see what might happen. He consistently applied this cycle of observation, speculation, and trial to improve his web series.
- 36. Although social media specialists said the concept wouldn't work, Seinfeld wondered how it might work. With lots of personal experience, Seinfeld knew his path to online success lay in dissecting and scrutinizing the jokes. He dove into every detail until everything was intentionally choreographed to comedic perfection. Seinfeld simply had faith that his comedic process of deep analysis and tinkering would eventually lead to something interesting.

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Social Emotional Learning

STAND-UP

SEL Story #008



Questions

1.	According to Seinfeld, how is comedy all about writing? [RECALL]
_	
2.	What does playing with words mean? Why did the article's author choose to use the verb "play"? [UNDERSTAND]
_	40 11
3.	How did Seinfeld apply his comedy process (Question 1) to his web series project? For each step in his comedy process, find examples of what that looked like in creating and producing the Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee web series. [APPLY]
_	

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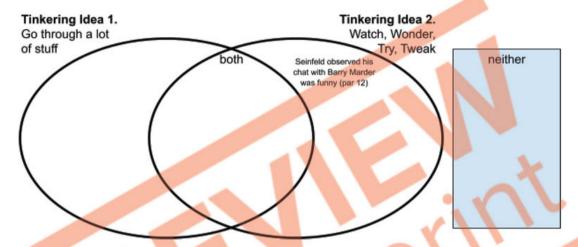
Questions educircles.org

Handout C

page 5

4. Go through paragraphs 12 to 25, which describe Seinfeld's web series. For each paragraph, decide if this is an example of 1) "going through a lot of material" or 2) "watching, wondering, trying, or tweaking." Record examples from each paragraph. [ANALYZE]

PRO TIP: There might be multiple examples in a paragraph. If an example doesn't fit either tinkering idea, put it in the "neither" box on the right. Write the paragraph number beside each example. For example: (par 12)



5. Was the web series more successful because Seinfeld 1) went through a lot of stuff or 2) watched, wondered, tried, and tinkered? Look at your analysis from Question #4 and the tinkering idea descriptions on Page 4. Explain your answer with evidence from the text and your own thinking to support your answer. [EVALUATE]

6. Think about a problem you are facing or a goal / project you are working on. Explain the problem, goal, or project. Develop a solution to the problem or an action for the goal / project that would result in huge progress. Make sure to apply one of the tinkering ideas from this article. Explain which tinkering idea you used and how you applied it. [CREATE]

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Questions

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Name Class Date

STAND-UP

SEL Story #008



Paragraphs match

Stand-up, Sips, and Seinfeld

today's world of streaming media, platforms like Netflix, Disney+, and Amazon Prime enable us to binge-watch entire seasons of shows. Indeed, it's even possible to watch all 180 episodes of Seinfeld consecutively, should you choose to do so.

- 3. TV Guide called Seinfeld the greatest show of all time. People called it a "show about nothing," although Seinfeld himself referred to it as a show about being stupid. Either way, the humor revolved around the comical analysis of nothing and everything.
- 4. The show starred stand-up comedian Jerry Seinfeld playing a fictional version of himself, living and observing life in New York with his best friend, former girlfriend, and eccentric neighbor.
- 5. Seinfeld ended in 1998 when the sitcom was at its prime. Over 76 million people watched the season finale live, and it was the first primetime television show to command over a million dollars for a thirty-second commercial spot during the US broadcast.
- 6. NBC didn't want the show to end and even offered comedian Seinfeld \$100 million to do a tenth season, but Seinfeld knew to end on a high note. After all, Seinfeld was a stand-up comedian who was a virtuoso of comedic timing.
- 7. So, what do you do after becoming a cultural icon? You go back to your roots you do what you know best. For Seinfeld, it meant returning to stand-up in New York's comedy clubs.
- 8. From Seinfeld's perspective, comedy revolves around writing: drafting the joke, playing with words, and tinkering with timing until you perfect the laughs. Seinfeld spends a lot of time dismantling and analyzing things. He likened his comedic process to fixing intricate mechanical watches. "I like to get into the gears of how it works."

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Handout D page 1





Simple words
Simple sentence structure

- 9. In an interview with the New York Times, Seinfeld deconstructed a joke he's been working on for two years. "In comedy, what you do is you think of something that you think is funny, and then you go from there. It's a fun thing to say, Pop-Tart. I like the first line to be funny right away."
- 10. He describes how he establishes the story, refines the build-up to the climax of the joke, and measures the humor in a sentence by counting the number of funny words. Even syllables matter to him, as he shaves letters to achieve perfect split-second timing.
- 11. Then he workshops the material and pays close attention to where the crowd laughs and where he loses them. He rotates different jokes into his sets to keep things interesting, but he's constantly tinkering and scrutinizing the sounds of the audience.
- 12. During a conversation with close friend Barry Marder, Seinfeld observed the authentic humor and natural flow between the two comedians. He later recounted this experience on The Tonight Show, "We were driving around one time, and I said, 'You know, this is such a funny conversation. I wonder if this is a show."
- 13. Talk shows follow a predictable pattern. The host presents the guest to the audience, who enters accompanied by the house band. Engaging in lively repartee, the host and guest eventually transition to discussing the guest's latest promotional endeavor, be it a movie, event, or book launch.
- Seinfeld ponders, why not focus directly on the humor? Capture amusing conversations between friends as they unfold spontaneously with no script or pre-planned jokes, just two comedians cruising in cars and sipping coffee. Record abundant material, stitch together the highlights, and post it online as a web series.
- 15. Social media heavyweights of the day, Facebook and Yahoo, dismissed the concept of producing lengthier humorous videos for smartphone viewing. They insisted that content exceeding five minutes would bore audiences.
- 16. Remember that this period preceded the widespread popularity of podcasts and online streaming of original content. Ultimately, Crackle embraced the idea, and Seinfeld commenced creating episodes for Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee.
- 17. The inaugural episode, released in 2012, featured a conversation between Seinfeld and Larry David, the co-creator of the Seinfeld series. Hosting David as the first guest aptly connected Seinfeld's previous major endeavor with this new undertaking.
- 18. Seinfeld remained uncertain about the web series' success during the initial ten episodes. He engaged in conversations with comedians he enjoyed spending time with and then endeavored to craft content compelling enough to retain viewers.

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Handout





Simple words
Simple sentence structure

- 19. Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee offers audiences an insider's perspective, similar to a talk show. However, the unscripted nature of the web series sets it apart, as Seinfeld follows the organic flow of conversation to see what unfolds.
- 20. David Letterman, the host of The Late Show with David Letterman, which TV Guide ranked as the seventh greatest TV show of all time, is a friend of Seinfeld's. When he interviewed Seinfeld about his new web series, Letterman inquired why he hadn't been invited to appear on the show, mentioning that he had to request to be a guest.
- 21. Seinfeld hesitated to invite Letterman because he needed to be more confident the show would be funny enough to warrant his friend's presence. "When I did the first ten shows which is why I didn't invite you by the way, because I didn't know or think that it would work it was really a pure just kind of a home garage experiment; it was a pure experiment."
- 22. How does Seinfeld ensure the web series' success? They record roughly three hours of footage from various angles. When viewed independently, the raw material captures mundane, ordinary moments. After all, nobody can constantly be hilarious.
- 23. The magic lies in editing, employing rapid cuts, angle shifts, and music to drive the narrative. Seinfeld devotes hours to conversing with amusing individuals, then dedicates several weeks to condensing the content into a concise 10 to 20-minute segment.
- 24. Over the years, the web series' popularity soared, enabling Seinfeld to feature an episode with then-President Barack Obama. The experiment concluded its eleventh season in 2019. In 2022, Netflix acquired all 84 episodes and reorganized them into six thematic seasons for their streaming platform.
- 25. The final episode of Seinfeld's web series brought things full circle, showcasing a humorous exchange between Seinfeld and Marder as they engaged in commonplace tasks. But, by observing, tinkering, and revising, Seinfeld makes ordinary life into something extraordinary.

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Handout D page 3





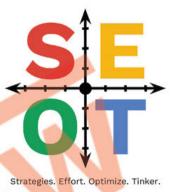
Simple words
Simple sentence structure

26. Stand-up, Sips, and Seinfeld from an SEOT perspective

27. We can gain significant insights into the art of tinkering through Seinfeld's examination of humor.

28. TINKERING IDEA: Go Through A Lot Of Stuff

29. In an interview with PBS Newshour, Seinfeld detailed the joke-writing process: "You need a lot of stuff. You need stuff. It's like a bakery. You need fresh donuts. And it kind of takes you down the road of what you see and who you are. And you must always be able to look around. You have to be able to see it and go there's something funny there. I have to find it."



- 30. You can find the proverbial diamond in the rough if you go through enough raw material. However, even if you identify the best joke, it may not be exceptional when starting with a limited number of ideas.
- 31. Most of us would record eleven minutes of material for an eleven-minute program. Some might capture a thirty-minute segment and edit it to the best eleven minutes. However, Seinfeld recorded approximately three hours of conversation, meticulously condensing it to the funniest eleven minutes for his web series.
- 32. When you're experimenting with ideas and have yet to discover something remarkable, it's essential to explore more material, assess what you have, and connect the pieces to see what happens.

33. TINKERING IDEA: Watch, Wonder, Try, Tweak

- 34. Seinfeld tweeted about the release of The Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee Book in November 2022, referring to his web series: "Here's a show about nothing, that people said would never work, and now a decade later, it's successful enough to be on Netflix. How does that happen?"
- 35. Seinfeld didn't initially create his web series with the aim of landing it on Netflix. Instead, he observed something humorous, pondered the potential outcomes, and experimented to see the results. He consistently applied this cycle of observation, speculation, and trial to refine and enhance his web series over time.
- 36. Although social media specialists claimed that the concept was destined to fail, Seinfeld wondered how it might work. With ample personal experience, Seinfeld understood that his path to online success lay in dissecting and scrutinizing a joke, delving into minute detail, and orchestrating each aspect for optimal humor. He maintained unwavering belief in his process of thorough examination and refinement, trusting it would ultimately result in something interesting.

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Social Emotional Learning

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Name	Class	Date

STAND-UP

SEL Story #008



Questions

1. From Seinfeld's perspective, how does comedy revolve around writing? [RECALL]

2. What does playing with words mean? Why did the article's author choose to use the verb "play"? [UNDERSTAND]

3. How did Seinfeld apply his comedy process to his web series project? For each step in his comedy process, explain what that looked like in creating and producing Seinfeld's web series. [APPLY]

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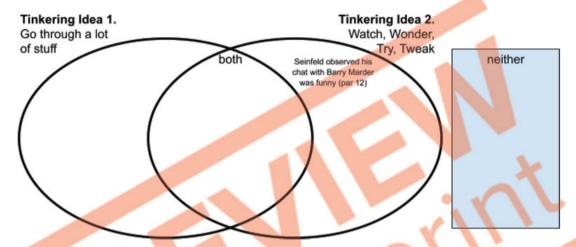
Questions educircles.org

Handout D

page 5

4. Go through paragraphs 12 to 25, which describe Seinfeld's web series. For each paragraph, decide if this is an example of 1) "going through a lot of material" or 2) "watching, wondering, trying, or tweaking." Record examples from each paragraph. [ANALYZE]

PRO TIP: There might be multiple examples in a paragraph. If an example doesn't fit either tinkering idea, put it in the "neither" box on the right. Write the paragraph number beside each example. For example: (par 12)



5. Was the web series more successful because Seinfeld 1) went through a lot of stuff or 2) watched, wondered, tried, and tinkered? Look at your analysis from Question #4 and the tinkering idea descriptions on Page 4. Explain your answer with evidence from the text and your own thinking to support your answer. [EVALUATE]

6. Think about a problem you are facing or a goal / project you are working on. Explain the problem, goal, or project. Develop a solution to the problem or an action for the goal / project that would result in huge progress. Make sure to apply one of the tinkering ideas from this article. Explain which tinkering idea you used and how you applied it. [CREATE]

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SEL Story 008

STAND-UP

Social-Emotional Learning: Self Awareness, Self Management
Reading Strategy: Repairing Comprehension

SEOT: Tinkering (Go Through A Lot Of Stuff; Watch, Wonder, Try, Tweak)

version: v2023-05-15

ANSWERS / DISCUSSION GUIDE

NOTE: I came up with these answers based on my lived experiences and professional experiences as a Grade 8 Teacher in Ottawa, Canada. Like all question and answer keys, this document contains bias. Teaching resources and discussion guides normalize power inequities, single stories, and social norms.

I create content. I'm part of a system that needs a little help to amplify stories and perspectives that we don't often hear. I have unconscious bias. I don't know what I don't know.

If you think an answer in this resource is missing, biased, or incorrect, please email me at <u>Mike@educircles.org</u> with your perspective. This way, I can update this document to benefit from each other's perspectives, lived experiences, and teaching experiences. (If you like this note, you'll love this <u>Who is Invisible</u> slideshow.)

Questions

- 1. According to Seinfeld, how is comedy all about writing? [RECALL]
- 2. What does playing with words mean? Why did the article's author choose to use the verb "play"? [UNDERSTAND]

Answers will vary. Here are two things to look for:



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3. How did Seinfeld apply his comedy process (Question 1) to his web series project? For each step in his comedy process, find examples of what that looked like in creating and producing the Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee web series. [APPLY]

Answers will vary, but there are three things to look for.



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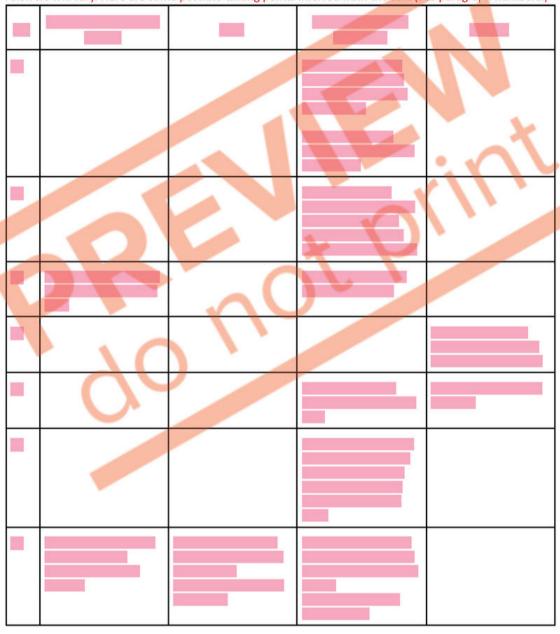
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4. Go through paragraphs 12 to 25, which describe Seinfeld's web series. For each paragraph, decide if this is an example of 1) "going through a lot of material" or 2) "watching, wondering, trying, or tweaking." Record examples from each paragraph. [ANALYZE]

PRO TIP: There might be multiple examples in a paragraph. If an example doesn't fit either tinkering idea, put it in the "neither" box on the right. Write the paragraph number beside each example. For example: (par 12)

Answers will vary. Here are some possible talking points inferred from the text (see paragraph numbers.)



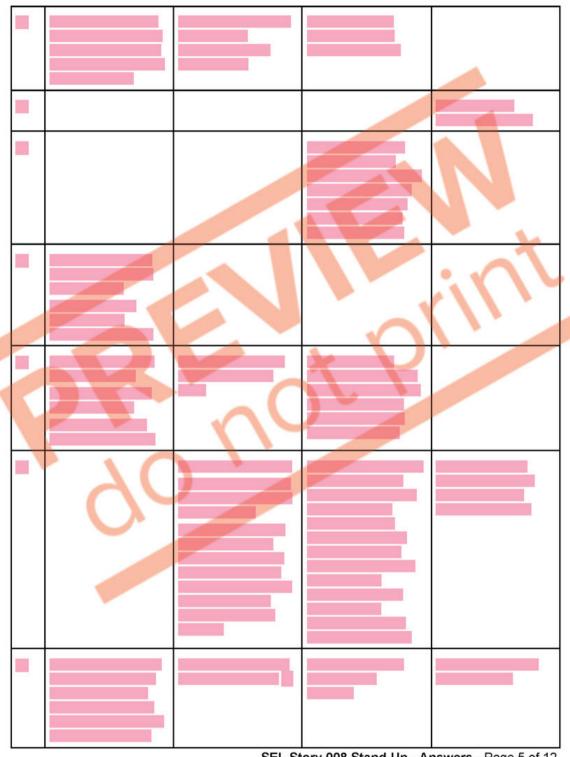
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5. Was the web series more successful because Seinfeld 1) went through a lot of stuff or 2) watched, wondered, tried, and tinkered? Look at your analysis from Question #4 and the tinkering idea descriptions on Page 4. Explain your answer with evidence from the text and your own thinking to support your answer. [EVALUATE]

There's no right or wrong answer, but here are three things to look for:



It (E	Says vidence in text)	I Say (Stuff I know / my thinking)	And So (Inference)
•			

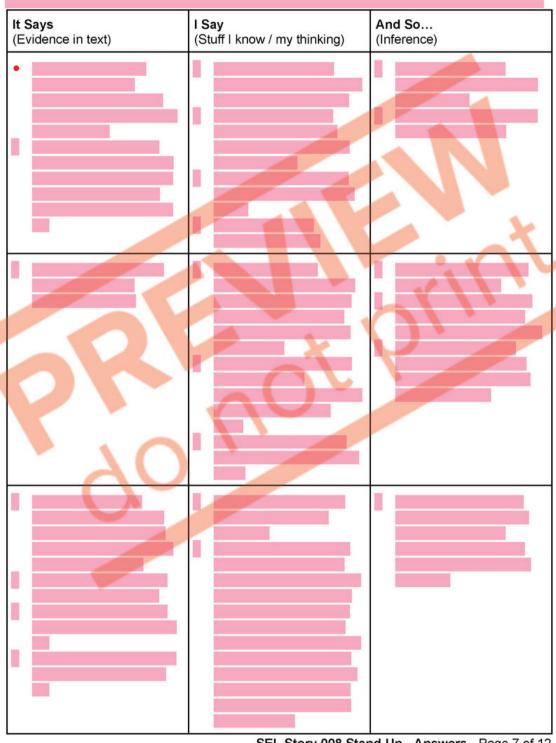
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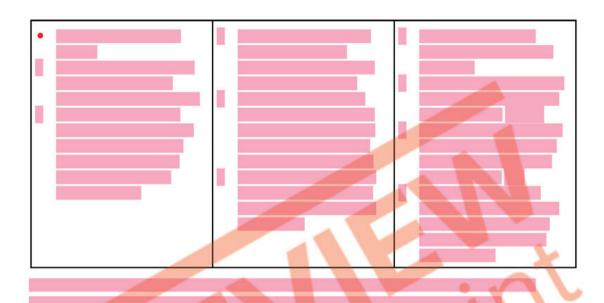
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It Says (Evidence in text)	I Say (Stuff I know / my thinking)	And So (Inference)
	0	

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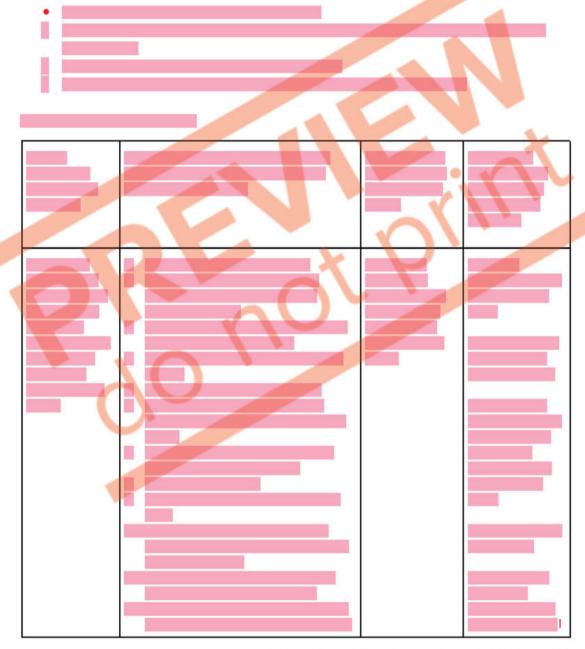
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6. Think about a problem you are facing or a goal / project you are working on. Explain the problem, goal, or project. Develop a solution to the problem or an action for the goal / project that would result in huge progress. Make sure to apply one of the tinkering ideas from this article. Explain which tinkering idea you used and how you applied it. [CREATE]

Answers will vary. Here are some things to look for:



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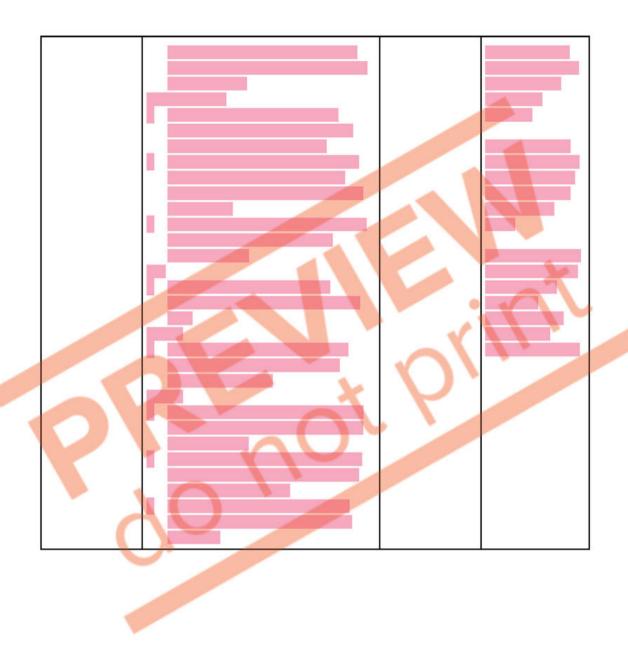


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Name Bonus Answer Key SEL Story #008: Stand-Up Class Date

REPAIRING COMPREHENSION

Repairing Comprehension is a strategy we use to check our understanding of a text. We're constantly monitoring new information and fixing things we don't get. Does this sentence make sense with what I know from life? Does this sentence make sense with things I've read?

If something doesn't make sense, we have to go back and figure out why. Reread the section and double-check your thinking. If it still doesn't make sense, you might have to go back even further to figure out why. You can also decide to skip a part for now but don't forget to come back to it later on. A text might start to make more sense as we read more information.

Title of today's text: _____ Stand-Up, Sips, and Seinfeld

REPAIRING COMPREHENSION



- 1. Read a paragraph and SAY SOMETHING
 - Ask a question
- Make a connectionForm an opinion
- 2. Does your SAY SOMETHING make sense with stuff you know about the world?
 - o If not, re-read the paragraph.
 - Use PEEP to clarify your thinking.
- 3. Does your SAY SOMETHING make sense with stuff you already read in this text?
 - o If not, re-read the paragraph.
 - o Re-read the other stuff you already read.
 - Use PEEP to figure out why it doesn't make sense.
- 4. PEEP: Point, Evidence, Explanation, Point



Repairing Comprehension - Handout - Before, During, After - Page 1 of 4

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This is a BONUS discussion guide to help teach reading strategies

This reading strategy handout is NOT included

Please upgrade to the bundle if you also want this graphic organizer



BONUS Answers Page 1 (Repairing Comprehension)

Name Bonus Answer Key SEL Story #008: Stand-Up Class Date

Before Reading

Before you read the article, look at the title and any illustrations. Let's turn our minds-on and activate any prior knowledge before we read.

Say something about the title of the article. (Ask a question, make an inference, make a connection, form an opinion, etc).

1. Write down the title of the article

____ Stand-Up, Sips, and Seinfeld

2. Based on the title, complete the following table

Point (your "say something")	Evidence	Explanation
I think	because it says right here	and this proves my point because
I think	because it says right here	and this proves my point because
9.C		

STOP and CHECK!

- □ I came up with a "say something": □ question, □ connection, □ inference, □ opinion
- □ I have □ a point □ evidence from the text □ I explain how my evidence proves my point

Repairing Comprehension - Handout - Before, During, After - Page 2 of 4

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BONUS Answers page 2 (Repairing Comprehension)

Name Bonus Answer Key SEL Story #008: Stand-Up Class Date	Name	Bonus Answer Ke	v SEL Stor	v #008: Stand-Up	Class	Date
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During Reading

Use the **Repairing Comprehension** strategy as you read. Stop after every paragraph to "say something": ask a question, make an inference, make a connection, form an opinion, etc

1. Come up with an example where you originally thought something, but then as you kept on reading, your idea changed or you realized your initial ideas might be wrong.

Point (your "say something")	Evidence	Explanation
At first I thought	because it says right here	and this proves my point because
But, then I realized	because it says right here	and this proves my point because

2. Come up with an example where you originally thought something, and then as you kept on reading, you realized your idea was correct. The new information backed up your ideas!

Point (your "say something")	Evidence	Explanation		
At first I thought	because it says right here	and this proves my point because		
Also, I think	because it says right here	and this confirms my point because		
STOP and CHECK! ☐ I came up with a "say something": ☐ question, ☐ connection, ☐ inference, ☐ opinion ☐ I have an example where my idea changed or my initial idea might be wrong.				

I have an example where my initial idea was correct and new information confirmed it.

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BONUS Answers page 3 (Repairing Comprehension)

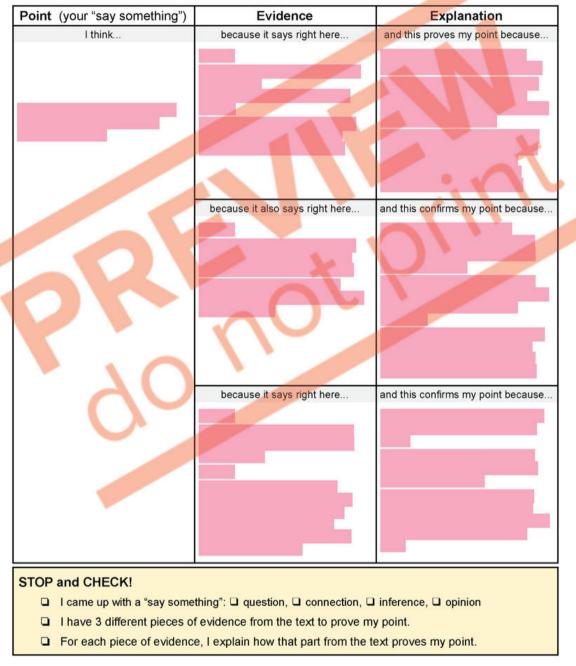
Name Bonus Answer Key SEL Story #008: Stand-Up Class Date

After Reading

Now that you have read the entire article, let's look at the big picture.

Based on the entire text, "say something" about the entire article (ask a question, make an inference, make a connection, form an opinion).

Find 3 different examples from the text that support your point.



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BONUS Answers page 4 (Repairing Comprehension)

Name	Class	Date	

Rubric - Repairing Comprehension

Everyone will have different "say somethings" because everyone has different life experiences. What we're looking for is how well supported your point is by evidence from the text. We're also looking to see how well you explain HOW your evidence supports your point.

	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
R1. Reading for Meaning	You answered all of the guiding questions.	You answered all the guiding questions.	You tried to answer the guiding questions.	You answered few of the guiding questions.
Ideas	Your point is supported by strong evidence from the text. You explained how your evidence proves your point well. It's a very insightful point that shows you really get the article.	Your point makes sense and you have good evidence from the text. You explained how your evidence proves your point.	Your point is a little confusing because there isn't enough evidence or explanation to support this idea or there are irrelevant details your evidence doesn't really prove your point.	I'm not sure how you came up with this point. There's not enough evidence from the text or there are too many irrelevant details.

	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
R4. REFLECTING on reading skills and	You answered all of the guiding questions.	You answered all the guiding questions.	You tried to answer the guiding questions.	You answered few of the guiding questions.
strategies Ideas	You very clearly explain how you used this strategy with strong support.	You explained how you used this strategy and you have good support.	How you used this strategy is a little bit confusing because there's not enough support or there are irrelevant details.	It doesn't seem like you used this strategy based on what is given here. There's not enough support or there are too many irrelevant details.

Repairing Comprehension - Handout - Rubric

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BONUS Answers page 5 (Repairing Comprehension)

If you answer YES to these two questions...

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Changelog

I occasionally update and improve these products over time. You know, add a new coat of paint, touch up a few words, fix any mistakes, etc.

Once you purchase this lesson package, you get future updates for free!

- Download the most recent version: <u>SEL Story 008 Stand-Up</u>
- How to update (or know if you need to update): HELP (SEL Story 008)

What's Changed?

Initial Release: Version 2022-05-15

- Differentiated text (four grades)
- Single PDF (with File Table of Contents and all handouts)
- Bonus answer key for reading strategy

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