

Name: _____

Homeroom _____



Language Arts Plans for the
Blizzard Bag ~ Grade 4

Learning Target:

- *Applies the writing process in a variety of formats*
- *Applies punctuation and capitalization in everyday writing*
- *Applies parts of speech and grammar rules in everyday writing*
- *Spells grade-level words appropriately*

Choose one prompt from the list below. Circle it.

- What do you like about snow? Write a descriptive paragraph! Use juicy adjectives to SHOW, not tell!
- Think about snow like a scientist! Write an informational paragraph that tells facts about snow using a book or Internet resource.
- Write a snow day story about an adventure you had when school was unexpectedly called off!
- Imagine a snow day where you were caught in school! Describe a snow day sleep-over at school!

Use the space below to pre-write. You may create a web, a list, or even sketch pictures to help you organize your thoughts.

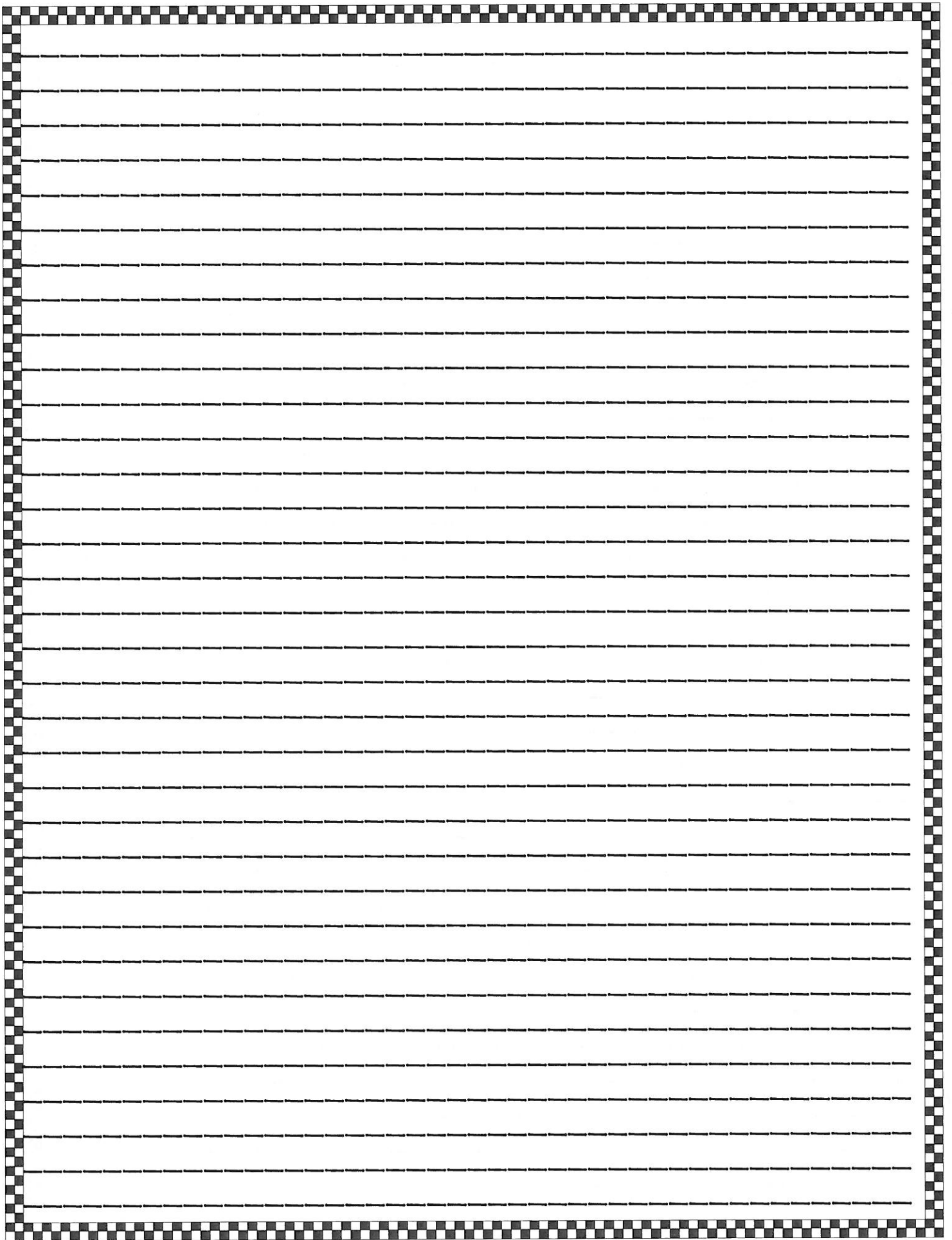
Now use the spaces below to draft your writing.

A large area of horizontal dashed lines for writing, consisting of 20 lines spaced evenly down the page.

Have someone at home help you edit and revise your draft above using a colored pencil, marker, or crayon. Use the remaining lines on the next few pages to publish your writing piece.

by _____

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal dashed lines.



Name _____



Bitsy's Bad Summer

Read the story. Fill in the web on page 33.

.....

Bitsy was a gray squirrel who lived in an oak tree behind a yellow house. Her home was a nice, dry nest built of twigs. Bitsy lined the nest with soft fur and feathers. Each day, she gathered nuts and bark for her supper. Bitsy hid tasty acorns so she would have food in the winter. When she could, Bitsy dined upon mushrooms, grasses, and seeds. Sometimes, she scurried up the neighbor's bird feeder for a snack. Bitsy drank from the little stream that meandered through the woods, or she lapped dew on leaves and grass. Bitsy enjoyed her quiet life.

One summer day, a tall woman moved into the yellow house. She carried a fat, black cat with leaf-green eyes. Bitsy knew a few cats. A multicolored cat lived in the house next door. That cat stayed inside and watched birds from the windowsill. An orange tabby cat sometimes wandered into Bitsy's yard to lounge in the sun-dappled grass. Once, Bitsy ran right up to the orange cat's nose. The cat reached a lazy paw towards Bitsy, but she was too slow to scare Bitsy. The black cat was different.

Every morning, the tall woman opened the door. The cat she called Midnight, stalked outside and crouched beneath the oak tree. She stared at Bitsy with her leaf-green eyes. Bitsy flicked her tail and scolded the cat. Midnight coiled, ready to spring, her black tail swishing back and forth. Bitsy sensed danger. Late in the evening, the woman opened the door for Midnight. By the time the cat was safely inside, it was time for Bitsy to snuggle up in her nest, safe from predators that hunt in the dark.

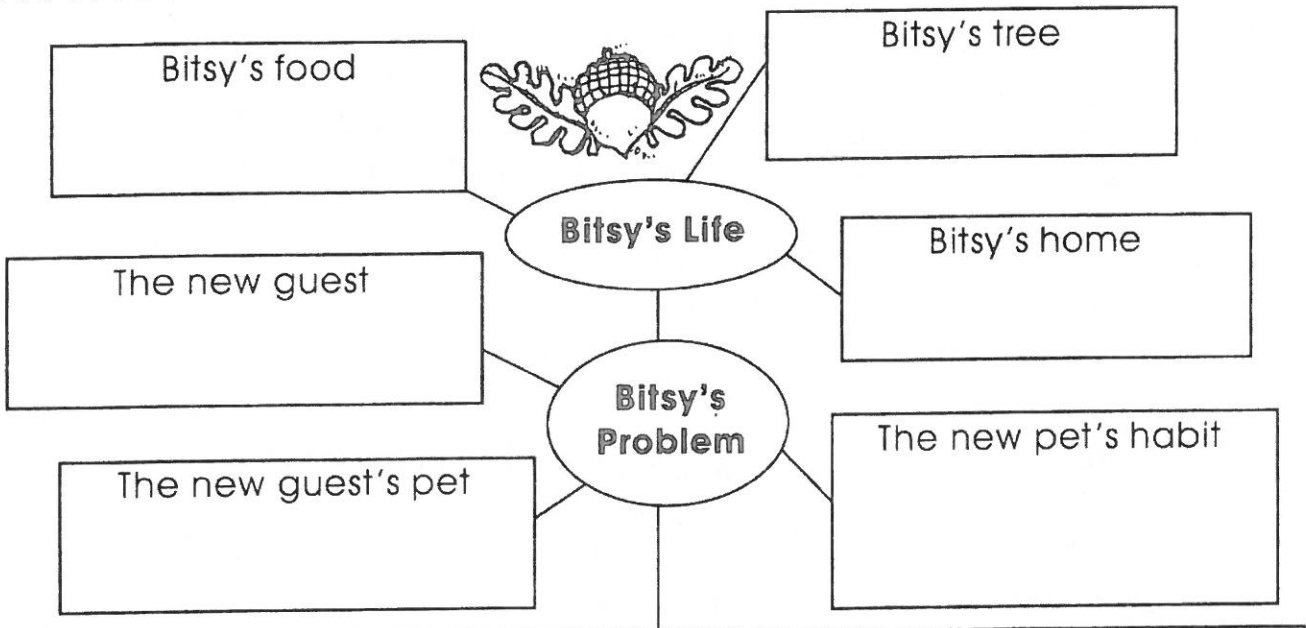
Midnight kept Bitsy from burying acorns and dining on seeds and mushrooms on the ground. Once, Bitsy raced down her tree to bury an acorn before the cat saw her. The tip of a sharp claw raked Bitsy's tail as she raced back up the tree. "Too close!" she thought. "I must be clever, or I will starve!"

Early the next morning, Bitsy scurried down the tree to search for food before Midnight returned. When the door opened, and Midnight took up her post beneath the oak, Bitsy jumped from branch to branch, climbing along fences and rooftops in search of safe places to eat and drink. She was constantly alert to dangers from wild animals and pets. She sniffed the air for dogs and cats. She kept her ears and eyes open for foxes, raccoons, and hawks. It was hard work, but she did not starve.

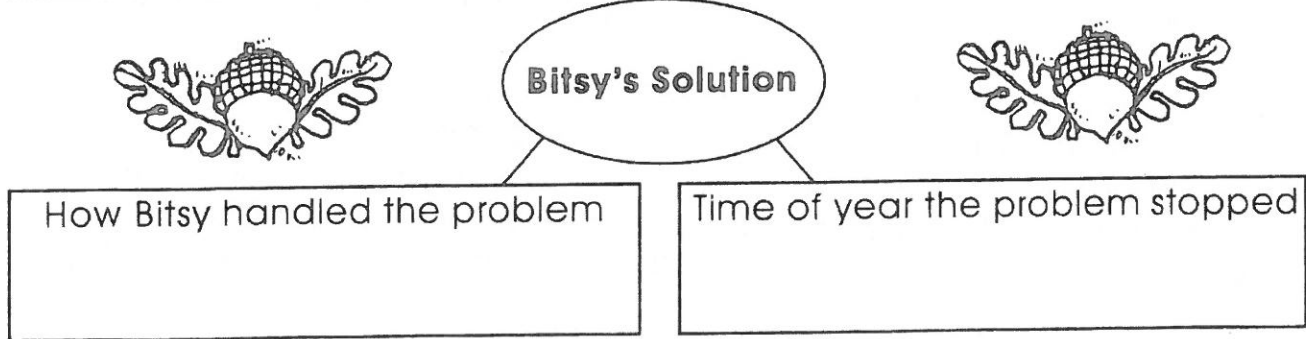
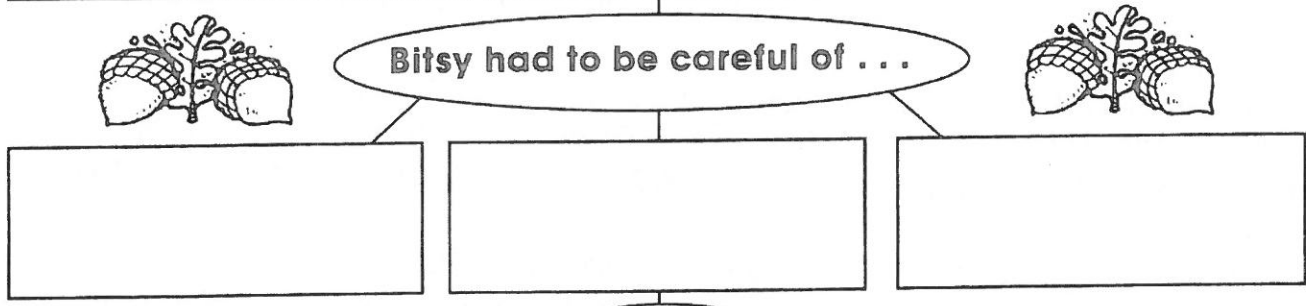
One day, when the leaves were changing colors, the tall woman packed her bags and her cat in the car and drove away. Bitsy raced up and down her tree in celebration. Her bad summer was over at last!

Bitsy's Bad Summer (cont.)

Fill in the web below with information from the story on page 32.



Bitsy might starve because _____
Bitsy was scared because _____



Name _____



The Babysitting Blues—Part One

Read the first part of a story. Complete the activities on page 37.

.....

Mrs. Bradford smiled broadly as she let me in the house. "Cassie, you don't realize how grateful Mr. Bradford and I are to see you! We know you have finals at the community college. We were afraid we wouldn't be able to get a babysitter on such short notice. We will be home about midnight. Here's a list of instructions and an emergency number to call if necessary."

"Bye, Bettie!" Mr. and Mrs. Bradford both said. "Be sure to listen to Cassie!" They kissed their daughter on the cheek and left.

After they left, I read Mrs. Bradford's note. It said:



Cassie,

1. Warm spaghetti in the microwave and feed Bettie.
2. Give Bettie a bath and put on her pajamas.
3. Play a game with Bettie.
4. Put Bettie to bed.
5. Relax and watch television until we return.

"Simple enough," I thought as I put the note down and headed for the kitchen to feed Bettie.

I found the spaghetti in the refrigerator. As I placed the container in the microwave, little Bettie stood in front of the open refrigerator and put her hands in a bowl of chocolate pudding. "No, Bettie!" I said firmly as I pulled her away.

"Cassie want some?" Bettie asked as she laid her hands on my mouth and all across my face. I knew she was trying to be nice, but she still made a mess.

I quickly wiped her hands and my face and lowered her into her chair. After heating the spaghetti, I began to feed her dinner.

"Ooh, yummy, yummy!" Bettie clearly loved to eat spaghetti. She loved it so much that she grabbed some off her plate and threw it into the air! It landed everywhere, including my hair. "Uh-oh," Bettie said with a big smile.

lame _____



The Babysitting Blues—Part One (cont.)

“Bettie! Come back!” I yelled as I chased her into the living room, leaving a trail of spaghetti as I went. I finally caught her at the piano rubbing her hands across the keys. She said she wanted to play a song for me because she liked me so much. I thought that was nice. But she left spaghetti all over the piano. That meant I had even more mess to clean up!

I carried Bettie back to the kitchen and fed her the little bit of spaghetti left in the bowl. Then, I checked the first item off Mrs. Bradford’s list. Next on the list was Bettie’s bath. She certainly needed one. This time I was not going to let her out of my sight.

1. Briefly describe Cassie.

2. Briefly describe Bettie.

3. Write a brief summary of the three ways that Bettie created mischief for Cassie.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Now, read the next part of the story!

