

There's No Place Like Place

The Four-Get Method

1. Get it ready

Think about a place that has special meaning

Share ideas

Talk to others about ideas, including details

Make a plan

2. Get it down

Using your plan as a guide, write about the special place

Skip lines

Write fast

If you get stuck, lower your standards and move on

3. Get it better

Read your writing

Does it say what you want it to say?

Is it courteous to the reader?

Get help from others

Compliments

Questions

Suggestions

Make changes

4. Get it out there

Share it with others

Display it

Send it

Read it out loud

Nonfiction Book Activities

1. Read a nonfiction book aloud. Model note-taking as you read, then have students continue writing important facts that they hear. When finished, make a FACT OR FICTION flap book (see sample). Have students write fact statements on the flaps. Under the flaps they can tell whether the fact statements are true or false, and create an illustration. Flap books are also good for vocabulary words (words on flaps; meanings with drawings underneath).
2. After reading a book, have students write a memo (see template) to the author. A memo, short for memorandum, is a concise written communication using a standard format. Students enjoy writing them because memos are short and because the format is different than kids are used to. Ask them to respond to the book: what they liked, what questions they have, or what would make the book better. Send them!
3. Read one of the books in the "How It Was" series aloud. As you read, have groups of four students take notes and complete graphic organizers (see template). Each group will need a blank organizer for every chapter. Have them write the chapter name inside the circle. Each student is responsible for filling in one part of the organizer. Rotate roles after each chapter. Student #1 writes terms that relate to the place, and their meanings. Student #2 writes interesting details about the place. Student #3 writes some main points made about the place, and Student #4 writes a few connections (experiences/books) to the information. After finishing the book, have groups illustrate one of the chapters. Arrange in order and display.

CLASS MEMO

TO:

FROM:

DATE:

RE:

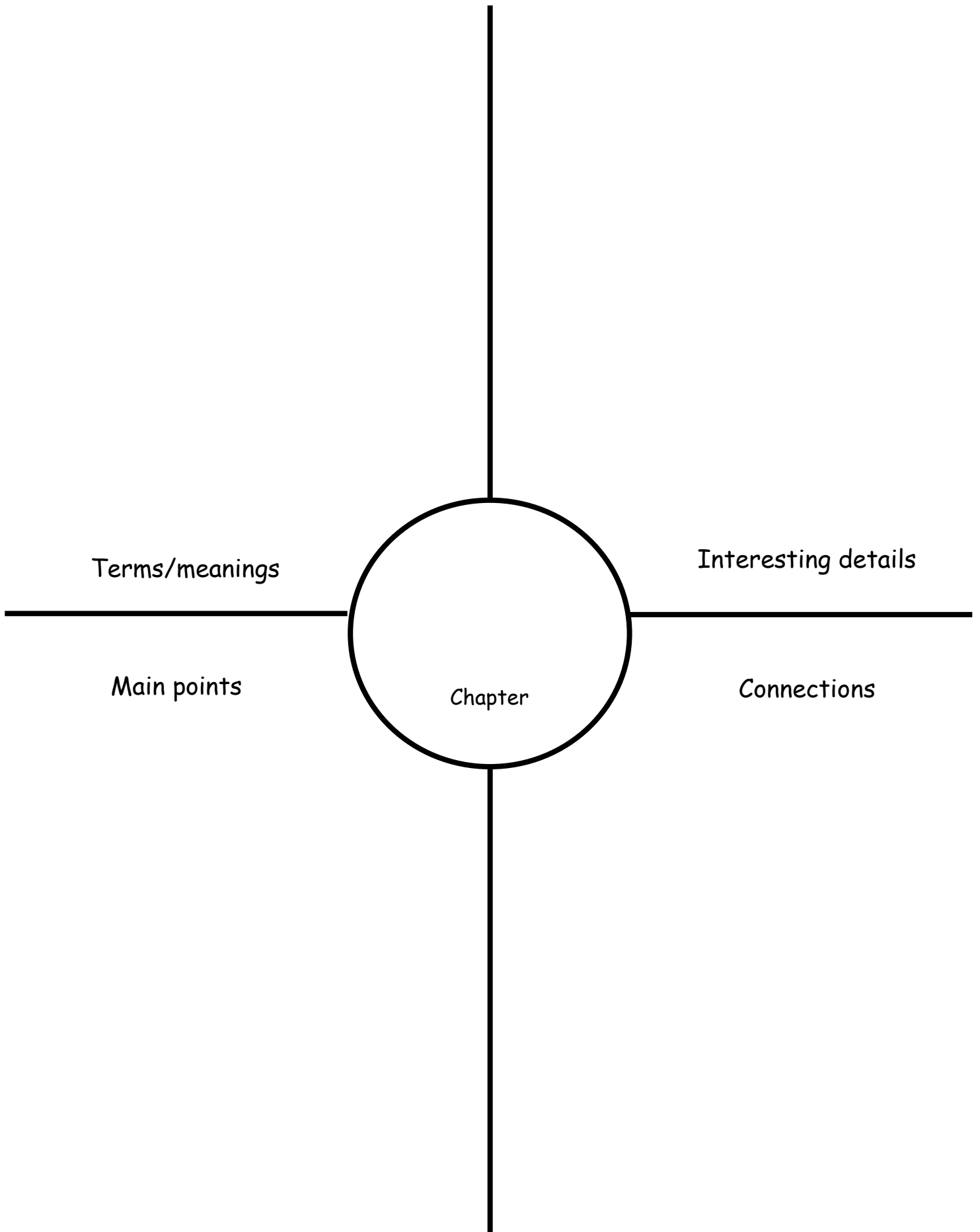
CLASS MEMO

TO:

FROM:

DATE:

RE:



Terms/meanings

Interesting details

Main points

Chapter

Connections