Dew Bright Sample Activity 3

Activity: Distance Words Race
Subject: Math
Grades: 3–5
Time: 5–7 minutes
Purpose: Help learners apply the distance formula, reason with factor pairs, and communicate mathematical relationships through precise, structured writing.

This sample shows how speed and time can be connected in a meaningful story while meeting an exact word-count challenge.

Important Tips for Teachers and Students

For Teachers:

- Keep the routine short, clear, and purposeful
- Model the task before adding speed, teams, points, or competition
- Adapt the activity to your learners' needs without weakening the core thinking skill
- Praise thoughtful reasoning as well as correct answers
- Ensure creativity strengthens subject learning

For Students:

- Try the task, even if your first idea is not perfect
- Give reasons, not only answers
- Listen to other learners' ideas
- Be ready to improve, adjust, or explain your response
- The goal is not to be the fastest every time; the purpose is to become a stronger thinker

© Dew Bright Solution Institutional Use Only Redistribution, copying, or resale is prohibited | **Designed by Oleh Borysiuk**

Dew Bright Creative Thinking System

Elementary

#	Activity Name	Core Thinking Skills Trained	When to Use	Teacher Steps	Example Prompts	Teacher Tips	Time
1.	*Distance Words Race* **Intro**	✓ Formula interpretation ✓ Applied mathematical reasoning ✓ Structured writing fluency	**Structured Operations & Multi-Step Thinking** *Use this version to introduce formula-to-story writing by helping learners link distance, speed, and time clearly while controlling exact word count in a short topic-based story.*	1. **Tell the class:** *"Today we will use a math formula to build a short story. The math must be correct, and the story must have an exact number of words."* 2. Write the **formula** on the board: Distance = Speed × Time 3. Write **one topic** on the board: river 4. Write **one distance number** on the board: 16 5. **Explain the challenge:** *"Your story must have exactly the same number of words as the distance."* 6. **Add the math rule:** *"You must choose one speed and one time that multiply to make the distance. Both numbers must appear meaningfully in your story."* 7. Demonstrate **one full example** aloud by choosing one valid speed-time pair and writing one short story with the exact word count. 8. Count the words with the class and briefly check the formula together. 9. Point out what made the model successful: a correct speed-time pair, an exact word count, and a clear match to the topic. 10. **End by saying:** *"Strong math writers connect the formula, the numbers, and the story carefully. Next lesson, you will do this faster on your own."*	**Topic:** river **Distance:** 16 **Teacher's equation:** Speed = 4 km/h Time = 4 hours **Teacher's story (16 words):** *"At noon, a boat moved along the river for four hours at four kilometers per hour."* **Teacher:** *"Four times four equals sixteen, and the story uses exactly sixteen words."*	Model the full sequence slowly so learners see how the formula, the factor pair, and the word count connect. Check the equation first, then count the words. Choose a distance with an easy factor pair in the Intro so the structure feels clear. Remind learners that every word matters, so they should plan before writing.	5–7 min

© Dew Bright Solution Institutional Use Only Redistribution, copying, or resale is prohibited | **Designed by Oleh Borysiuk**

Dew Bright Creative Thinking System

Elementary

1.	*Distance Words Race* **Activation** **Dew Bright Thinking Powers:** • *Connect* • *Shape* • *Support*	✓ Formula interpretation ✓ Applied mathematical reasoning ✓ Structured writing fluency	**Structured Operations & Multi-Step Thinking** *Use this routine as a fast math-writing challenge when learners are ready to interpret a formula, choose a valid speed-time pair, and build a topic-based story with an exact word-count constraint.*	1. Write the **formula** on the board: Distance = Speed × Time 2. Choose **one topic** for the lesson and write it on the board. **Examples:** forest, beach, mountain, city, village, desert, river, park, polar region 3. Write **one distance number** on the board. Use a number between 15 and 20, preferably choosing a composite number. **Examples:** 15, 16, 18, 20 4. **Explain the challenge:** *"Your story must have exactly the same number of words as the distance."* 5. **Add the math rule:** *"You must choose one speed and one time that multiply to make the distance. Both numbers must appear meaningfully in your story."* 6. Give students **2–3 minutes** to think and write. 7. The first learner to finish raises a hand and reads the story aloud. 8. **Check three things:** • **the speed** and **time** multiply correctly to match the distance • the story uses exactly the correct number of words • the story fits the lesson topic clearly 9. If the story is correct, highlight the matching formula and the exact word-count control. 10. Repeat with a **new distance** if time allows. 11. End by highlighting one especially strong formula-to-story match.	**Topic:** forest **Distance:** 15 **Student's equation:** Speed = 5 km/h Time = 3 hours **Student's story (15 words):** *"A hungry bear ran through the forest for three hours at five kilometers per hour."* **Teacher:** *"Great. Three times five equals fifteen, and the story uses exactly fifteen words."*	Keep the formula visible so students connect the writing task to the math clearly. Check the equation first, then check the word count. Use distances with more than one factor pair so learners have several valid options. Remind learners that every word counts, so they should plan before writing. Praise both mathematical accuracy and strong descriptive control.	5–7 min

© Dew Bright Solution Institutional Use Only Redistribution, copying, or resale is prohibited | **Designed by Oleh Borysiuk**

Beyond the Activity – Understanding the Thinking, Growth, and Transfer Taking Place

Activity	**Core Skills Being Built**	**What This Trains in Students**	**What Growth Looks Like**	**How This Transfers to Life**	**Teacher Look-Fors**	**Student Takeaway**
Distance Words Race	Applied formula interpretation and structured writing	Interpreting formulas, choosing factor pairs, and controlling exact word count in meaningful writing	Students match formulas more accurately, control word count more carefully, and connect numbers to descriptions more clearly	Strengthens applied reasoning, constraint control, and expressing math through precise language	Correct factor pairs, exact word counts, clear topic fit, and stronger planning before writing	*"I can turn math into clear, controlled writing."*

© Dew Bright Solution Institutional Use Only Redistribution, copying, or resale is prohibited | **Designed by Oleh Borysiuk**