

# Second Grade ELA Study Guide

**Video Title:** *The Rubber Band Rule*

**Theme:** Think before you post—your words can “snap back”

**Grade Level:** 2nd Grade

**Time Needed:** ~45–60 minutes

**Goal:** Help students understand the consequences of online words and actions through reading, writing, speaking, and creative thinking.

## ELA Standards Addressed (2nd Grade)

- **RI.2.1** – Ask and answer questions about key details in a text/video.
- **RI.2.2** – Identify the main topic and explain how it is supported by key details.
- **SL.2.1** – Participate in collaborative conversations about grade-level topics.
- **W.2.3** – Write a narrative that recounts a well-elaborated event.
- **L.2.4** – Use context to understand word meaning and relationships.

## Step 1: Watch the Video – "The Rubber Band Rule"

**Before Watching:** Write this question on the board:

**“Why should we think before we post something online?”**

**After Watching – Comprehension Questions:**

- What is the Rubber Band Rule?
- What kinds of things can “snap back” on you?
- Why should we be careful about what we post online?

**Main Idea:** Our words and actions online can have lasting effects—even if we delete them.

## Step 2: Vocabulary Focus – Stretchy Words vs. Snappy Words

Introduce two categories:

*Stretchy Words* = Kind, helpful, respectful

*Snappy Words* = Mean, rude, embarrassing

**Activity:**

Give each pair of students a set of words or phrases (on cards). Have them sort them into two piles: *Stretchy* or *Snappy*.

Then discuss why each belongs where it does.

**Step 3: Writing Prompt – Think First Story**

Prompt:

**"Tell about a time when you thought before you said or did something."**

Or

**"Write a short story where someone learns the Rubber Band Rule."**

**Encourage:**

- Sequencing (first, then, next, finally)
- Describing feelings and results
- Using the words "snap back," "think first," or "Media Master"

**Step 4: Small Group Discussion – What Would You Do?**

Give each group a scenario. Have them discuss and decide: **"What would a Media Master do?"**

Example Scenarios:

- You see someone getting teased online.
- You find a funny photo of your friend.
- Someone says something unkind in a group chat.

**Each group shares their solution with the class.**

**Step 5: Design a Media Master Badge**

**Goal:** Help kids see themselves as positive digital citizens.

**Materials:** Circles or shield templates, crayons, markers.

Students draw and color a badge that shows:

- A positive online action (stretchy choice)

- A phrase like “I Think First!” or “Kindness Online!”
- A symbol of a Media Master (lightning bolt, superhero, rubber band, etc.)

Hang these up as a bulletin board display!

## **Wrap-Up: Snap or Stretch Game – Lightning Round!**

Teacher reads each scenario aloud; students give a thumbs-up for Stretch or cross arms for Snap.

Example prompts:

1. “I posted a video of my friend without asking.” SNAP
2. “I commented ‘Great job!’ on someone’s picture.” STRETCH
3. “I made a joke that hurt someone’s feelings.” SNAP
4. “I thought before I typed and chose kind words.” STRETCH

## **Optional Extensions**

- **Home Connection:** Send home a “Think First” mini-poster to color.
- **Reading Center:** Choose a picture book about kindness or responsibility (e.g., *What If Everybody Did That?* by Ellen Javernick) to reinforce the message.
- **Rubber Band Rule Anchor Chart:** Create a class anchor chart that lists “What Media Masters Do.”

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