

**Title:** Frederick

**Author:** Leo Lionni

**Publisher:** Scholastic, Inc.

**Reading Level:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**Copyright Year:** 1967

**Genre:** Fantasy

**Synopsis of Story:**

Frederick, a field mouse, did not collect food for the winter like his friends did. They often asked him what he was doing. He would say he was collecting sun rays, colors, and words for the winter. His friends did not understand and kept on working. When winter came, and they went to their winter hideout, the food supply dwindled and so did their spirits. It was Frederick who lifted them up with this sun rays, colors, and poetic words he had collected prior to winter that helped all his friends survive that winter.

**Theme:** This book has a theme of spirit and how the simple things can help you survive hard times.

**Activity One:** License Plates

**Origination of Idea:** This idea was adapted from a similar activity seen on the calendar titled Teachers.

**Objective:**

- Students will analyze the main character and come up with letters, numbers, or a word that describes Frederick.

**Description of Activity:**

- Read Frederick out loud to the class
- Discuss the main character and ask the class what they think of Frederick (some might say he is lazy or others might say he is creative)
- Give the students a template of a license plate and ask the students to design a license plate for Frederick (they have 8 spaces to fill with letters, numbers, or a word)
- On the back of the license plate, they should write a few sentences describing why they chose the letters, numbers, or words.
- Encourage creativity!

**Activity Two:** Book Talk/Oral Report

**Origination of Idea:** This idea was adapted from a similar activity seen in Heather Schilling's Literacy Block class.

**Objective:**

- Students will demonstrate their understanding of the book by orally explaining the 5 story elements in a short oral report.

**Description of Activity:**

- Students will read Frederick individually
- When finished, students will make a brief outline of their oral book report that will contain the 5 story elements (plot, character, theme, point of view, and setting).
- Students will give their report to the class and turn in the outline to the teacher
- Students may read a sample page or two to help them develop their report
- They should describe the plot, but not give away the ending

**Title:** Fall Leaves Fall

**Author's Name:** Zoe Hall

**Publisher:** Scholastic Press

**Reading Level:** 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

**Copyright Year:** 2000

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

**Synopsis of Story:**

How can you tell fall is coming? In this book a brother and sister describe how they know when fall is coming. Then, they explore all the activities they do during fall. They jump in leaves, make a leaf collection, drink warm cider, and eat a lot of cookies. Their favorite activity is to glue leaves on paper and make pictures out of them. Next, they talk about the end of fall and how they cannot wait until next year when fall comes again.

**Theme:** This is a book has a fall theme and describes activities that can be done during the fall.

**Activity One:** Leaf Collection

**Origination of Idea:** This activity was found in the book Fall Leaves Fall.

**Objective:**

- Students will collect and identify their favorite leaves.

**Description of Activity:**

- After reading Fall Leaves Fall as a class during the fall season, take the students outside and ask them to find 4 different types of leaves.
- As the teacher, you will have already prepared a poster that has all the possible leaves they could have found near the playground. They should be labeled with their proper names and be large enough so the students can read the names.
- When you get back inside, hang up your poster and explain to the students that they will be making their own leaf collection posters.
- Have them place their leaves in a heavy textbook and keep them there for a few days so they will be pressed
- A few days later, reread the book and get out the leaves they collected
- Have them glue their leaves on the large paper you give them and then have them label their leaves

**Activity Two:** Leaf Pictures

**Origination of Idea:** This activity was found in the book Fall Leaves Fall.

**Objective:**

- Students will be creative and use leaves to make pictures just as the children in the book did. (pass the book around for them to obtain ideas)

**Description of Activity:**

- A few days before you read Fall Leaves Fall as a class, have the students go outside and collect some leaves. Come back inside and press them in their textbooks, being careful not to lose them.
- After you read the book ask the students to get their leaves out and try to make pictures just as the students in the book did. (They made pictures of fish, people, and chickens using the leaves and drawing in extra parts with crayons.)
- Pass the book around so the students may obtain ideas, but encourage them to make their own pictures and be creative!

**Title:** Crawdad Creek  
**Author:** Scott Russell

**Publisher:** National Geographic Society  
**Reading Level:** 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Copyright Year:** 1999  
**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

**Synopsis of Story:**

Michael and Lizzie lived near a creek and spent a lot of time there. Dad suggested it might be a good place for them to pan for gold. At first they had fun panning for gold, but soon found a different sort of treasure than they expected. The more time they spent at the creek, the more they learned about the beauty of nature. Together, they observed individual animals and insects and by the end of the summer they could name almost all species they saw.

**Theme:** This book has a theme of connecting with nature.

**Activity One:** Field Trip to a Creek or Nature

**Origination of Idea:** This is an original idea from the brain of Julie Hamm

**Objective:**

- Students will have a similar experience to Michael and Lizzie's.

**Description of Activity:**

- Read Crawdad Creek either individually or as a class
- Discuss how Michael and Lizzie's attitude about nature changed
- Discuss how the students feel about nature
- Take them outside (hopefully there is a creek or observation pond nearby) and have them sit down with their notebooks and describe what they are seeing
- Bring a timer and have them focus on one area for five minutes at a time, recording or sketching the things they say
- Have them do at least 2 sketches of something interesting they see
- Have them write 2 paragraphs about what they are seeing
- There is to be no talking during observation time!

**Activity Two:** Essay

**Origination of Idea:** This is an original idea from the brain of Julie Hamm

**Objective:**

- The students will form and defend their own opinion of nature

**Description of Activity:**

- Have students read Crawdad Creek individually

- Have a class discussion when everyone is finished reading about Michael and Lizzie's opinion of nature (They think it is beautiful and love to spend time observing it)
- Have the students list and describe reasons why they agree or disagree with Michael and Lizzie's opinion of nature.
- Have them form this list into an organized essay where they will defend their opinion
- Tell them to incorporate information from the book into their essays

**Title:** Sadaku and the Thousand Paper Cranes

**Author:** Eleanor Coerr

**Publisher:** The Penguin Group

**Reading Level:** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Copyright Year:** 1977

**Genre:** Historical Fiction

**Synopsis of Story:**

Sadaku Sasaki was only two years old when the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in Japan, but died ten short years later from leukemia. The radiation from the bomb had infected her body. While she was in the hospital, her best friend, Chizuko told her the legend of the thousand paper cranes and it inspired Sadaku to make 1,000 paper cranes. She fell 356 cranes short, but her classmates, friends, and family finished them for her so she could be buried with them. Everyone raised enough money so that Sadaku could have a statue in the Hiroshima Peace Park as a reminder for all children that died because of the bomb.

**Theme:** This book has a theme of bravery, survival, and perseverance.

**Activity One:** Make 1,000 Paper Cranes

**Origination of Idea:** This is an original idea from the brain of Julie Hamm

**Objective:**

- Students will become involved in a project that strives to inspire and help others

**Description of Activity:**

- Read Sadaku and the Thousand Paper Cranes as a class
- When finished, discuss the legend of the thousand paper cranes and why Sadaku wanted to make 1,000 paper cranes
- Show the students how to make a paper crane (this will take a lot of practice)
- Tell them it is their goal as a class to make 1,000 paper cranes.
- Instruct them to get their family, friends, and members of the community to join in for this project
- When you have reached your goal, string the cranes up around your classroom and the school as a reminder to be brave and persevere OR
- Donate the paper cranes to Riley Children's Hospital
- When finished have the students write a brief reflection of the experience of making the cranes and exactly what they stand for

**Activity Two:** Collage

**Origination of Idea:** This activity was adapted from a similar activity seen on the website:

<http://www.englishcompanion.com/assignments/reading/103readingactivities.htm>

**Objective:**

- Students will expand connections with the book and make a collage

**Description of Activity:**

- Students will read Sadaku and the Thousand Paper Cranes individually
- When they finish, they will pick up a piece of construction paper, scissors, glue, and magazines or newspapers off the back table
- They will begin to create a collage of pictures, words, or letters that relate to the characters, setting, theme, or plot of Sadaku and the Thousand Paper Cranes
- They will cut out the items and paste them on the paper
- On the back of the paper they will write brief descriptions of why each item was chosen and how it relates to the book



**Title:** Moose's Loose Tooth  
**Author:** Jacqueline A. Clarke

**Publisher:** Scholastic, Inc  
**Reading Level:** 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

**Copyright Year:** 2003  
**Genre:** Fantasy

**Synopsis of Story:**

Moose had a loose tooth and needed some help pulling it out. He asked his friends for help and together they all tried to pull it out. After a lot of tugging and pulling it finally came out, but Elephant accidentally ate it! Moose still wanted the Tooth Fairy to come so he made Elephant sleep under his pillow. The Tooth Fairy left all the friends a special surprise and an even bigger surprise for Elephant because he did such a great job guarding the tooth.

**Theme:** This book has a theme of teeth

**Activity One:** Making Moose Teeth

**Origination of Idea:** This idea was adapted from a similar activity seen on the website:  
<http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/pages/1702.shtml>

**Objective:**

- Students will help make a model of Moose's teeth

**Description of Activity:**

- Read the book Moose's Loose Tooth as a class
- When you are finished explain to the students that they will be helping you make a model of Moose's teeth
- In the beginning of the book he talked about how big his teeth are, so explain that the model will be much bigger than human teeth and that it will be made of marshmallows
- Assign some students to flatten the marshmallows to make incisors
- Assign some students to flatten and clip the corners of the marshmallows to make canines
- Assign some students to make molars by pressing a paper wad in the middle of the marshmallow
- Then have them watch as you attach the teeth together in the correct order using toothpicks (3 molars on the side ends, one canine on each side and 4 incisors across the front)
- Set the two sets on top of one another with paper towel in between them and let dry
- Once they are dry you can talk about Moose's teeth and you can even practice flossing them with yarn

**Activity Two: Elephant's Story**

**Origination of Idea:** This is an original idea from the brain of Julie Hamm

**Objective:**

- Students will write the sequel of Moose's Loose Tooth

**Description of Activity:**

- Have students read Moose's Loose Tooth individually
- When they have finished, come together as a class and discuss some possibilities of what could happen with Elephant's loose tooth
- Have the students write their own sequel to this book