

Title: At the Crossroads

Author: Rachel Isadora

Publisher: Greenwillow Books

Copyright Year: 1991

Level: 3rd Grade

Genre: Multicultural

Synopsis: This book takes place in South Africa. It talks about children waiting for their fathers to come home from the mines. Their fathers are away for long periods of time. At school they sing "Our Father's are Coming Home." After school, they go to wait at the crossroads for them to return. They wait all night for them to come.

Theme: Father's working away from home

Activity 1

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objectives: The students will learn where South Africa is and research about the country.

Activity: The students will receive a map of Africa and have to color in the country of South Africa. Then, the students will use the internet or encyclopedia to find five different facts about the country. They will write them down and report what they found to the class.

Activity 2

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objectives: The students will write about what their parents or adults they live with do for a living.

Activity: Have the students write and illustrate what their parents or other adult in their lives do for a living. Then, the students will share their writings with the class.

Title: Harlem

Author: Walter Dean Myers

Publisher: Scholastic

Copyright Year: 1997

Reading Level: 5th Grade

Genre: Multicultural

Synopsis: This book is a poem written about the people of Harlem. It talks about where they people come from. It also talks about art and expressionism. It has beautiful pictures and imagery. It is also a Caldecott Award Winning book.

Theme: Harlem

Activity 1

Source: <http://www.kckps.org/readalouds/harlem.html>

Objectives: Students will listen, read, and learn about poetry.

Activity: The teacher will provide the students with different authors of poetry for them to read. The teacher will do a mini-lesson on different types of poetry. Using Venn Diagrams, the students will compare and contrast two authors and write about their similarities and differences.

Activity 2

Source: Heather Schilling

Objectives: The students will write their own "Where I am From Poem"

Activity: The teacher will show the students the format in which they need to write their poem. Also, the teacher will read aloud a poem they have written about where they are from. The teacher will pass out the example and the students will write their poem using that format. After writing, they will illustrate the part of their poem they like best.

Title: Chicken Sunday

Author: Patricia Polacco

Publisher: Philomel Books

Copyright Year: 1992

Level: 4th grade

Genre: Multicultural

Theme: Putting others before yourself

Synopsis: Three friends want to buy a beautiful hat for Miss Eula from Mr. Kodinski's shop. They are mistakenly blamed for throwing eggs at his shop. To make up for everything and to buy the hat, they make Pysanky eggs and sell them at his shop. They make enough money to buy the hat, but Mr. Kondinski gives them the hat for Miss Eula.

Activity 1

Source: http://www.knmetv.org/education/images/FA-chicken_sunday.pdf

Objectives: The students will create a hat of their own and write a story about it.

Activity: Have the students bring in a stocking hat. Make sure you have extras (and they are washed). Then, let the children decorate them with beads, puffy paint, etc. When they are done, have the students write a story about them wearing their hat. Have them talk about who they meet and what people say about their hat.

Activity 2

Source: http://www.knmetv.org/education/images/FA-chicken_sunday.pdf

Objectives: The students will create a Pysanky egg and write a letter to the person they are going to give it to.

Activity: For this activity, hopefully some parent volunteers can help with the making of them or give the class some of the supplies. The teacher will do a mini-lesson on Pysanky eggs. The student will decorate the eggs and then pick somebody who they want to give it to. They will then write a letter to them explaining what the egg is and why they wanted to give it to them.

Title: Tree of Cranes

Author: Allen Say

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Co.

Copyright Year: 1991

Level: 3rd Grade

Genre: Multicultural

Synopsis: This book takes place in Japan. The boy in the story has an American mother. She makes origami cranes, digs up a tree, and puts the tree in their house with the cranes on it. She then tells her son about Christmas. He is excited and wakes up to find a kite that he wants next to the tree.

Theme: 1st Christmas

Activity 1

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objectives: The students will write about the first Christmas they can remember.

Activity: The students will re-create the first Christmas that they can remember. What presents did they get? Where were they at? What did they eat? Do they have any special traditions they do as a family?

Activity 2

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objectives: The students will create origami and write a story about the animal or object that they make.

Activity: Students will create their own origami animals or objects. The teacher will provide hand-outs and the students will be able to pick between two or three different ones. After they have finished their origami masterpieces, have the students write a story about their new friend. What's its name? Where is it from? What does it eat? Dose it have special powers? Encourage them to be creative!

Title: One Cold Night

Author: Claire Ewart

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons

Copyright Year: 1992

Reading Level: 4th

Genre: Multicultural

Synopsis: Toward the end of fall, the Snow Woman tucks people in and gets them ready for winter. She knocks the final leaves off the trees, freezes the fields, and makes animals scarce, except for the black bear. Coyotes come out of the clouds and chase the bear into his den. Then, snow begins to fall.

Theme: Winter

Activity 1

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students will write their own story explaining a natural occurrence.

Activity: After reading more Native American tales, the students will be creative and write a story about a natural occurrence of their choice. Some topics they could write about are: rivers, tornados, rain, summer, or fog. Students need to make sure they are original with their stories.

Activity 2

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students will research an animal that hibernates and write a report.

Activity: Each student will select an animal that hibernates during the winter to write a report over. Students will find out information like what they eat to get ready for winter, where they stay, and how long they hibernate. The students will also draw a picture of the animals they have chosen.