

Book Title: Pizza Party

Author's Name: Grace Maccarone Illustrated by: Emily Arnold McCully

Genre: Multicultural

Year: 1994

Summary: This is a simple beginning level story. A black father decides to have a pizza party for his son and his son's diverse group of friends. The children all work together to add the ingredients. They also have fun by laughing and joking. It teaches the steps of creating a homemade pizza. The father guides but the children make it, which reinforces independence.

Activity One: Create a recipe!

Source: original

Description: Students will use the example of a pizza from the story to think about what is required to make another food item, such as tacos. They will include not only ingredients, but also preparation tasks and clean up.

Activity Two: Make Your Own Pizza

Source: original

Description: With cutout cardboard pizza toppings, students will draw their own pizza crust, and place the toppings on top according to what they like to eat on their pizza.

Book Title: My First Chinese New Year

Author's Name: Karen Katz

Genre: Multicultural

Year: 2002

Summary: This story is set around a Chinese family of four who is preparing for the New Year and all the celebration that comes with it. Colorful illustrations help readers visualize the activities. Step by step they get ready for each event. They enjoy a lot of food and fun, as each day of the week has a specific activity that must be completed to celebrate the Chinese New Year. It gives readers a sense of a different holiday and the traditions that surround it.

Activity One: Design a Costume

Source: original

Description: Students will, based on some of the costume ideas in the story, design their own costume that they could wear for the Chinese New Year parade. They should pay attention to color, detail and style of the outfit, and make sure to include an explanation for each of these.

Activity Two: Plan an Event

Source: original

Description: Students will choose an activity or event for a large group of people that could be added to the New Year festivities. They will create a time line explaining the activities that will go on, as well as location.

Book Title: Candy Shop

Author's Name: Jan Wahl Illustrated by: Nicole Wong

Genre: Multicultural

Year: 2004

Summary: This is the story of a young Mexican boy named Daniel who loves to pretend he's a cowboy. He lives in an extremely diverse urban area, and his favorite place, the Candy Shop, has been vandalized! The owner, an immigrant from Taiwan, has been the object of prejudice. Daniel becomes very upset about this and becomes determined to make the owner feel better. This story shows the ability to rise above prejudice and be strong, even at a young age.

Activity One: Write A Letter!

Source: original

Description: Students are going to write a letter to those who vandalized the shop-owners sidewalk. They will need to form a logical argument for why the act was disrespectful and ways to resolve the problem.

Activity Two: Create A Community Flyer!

Source: original

Description: Students will design a pamphlet that could be posted up around town to promote equal treatment for all. Pamphlet needs to include tips on ways to encourage good relations among groups.

Book Title: Tar Beach

Author's Name: Faith Ringgold

Genre: Multicultural

Year: 1995

Summary: A young African-American girl lives in Harlem, a diversely populated urban area of New York. Taking place around the 1940's, the girl in this story dreams of flying over town. She is thinking of ways to make life better for the family, who is struggling with prejudice. She dreams of life without worry to make ends meet, and where everyone gets along peacefully. This is eye-opening for others of a different race, and represents struggle for all minorities.

Activity One: Journal Entry

Source: original

Description: Students will create a sample journal entry of what the young girl in the story may write after experiencing one of her dreams. They will need to include at least 3 feelings that she has, from a first-person perspective.

Activity Two: Draw a Self- Portrait

Source: original

Description: Students will imagine themselves flying over a place, as the girl in the story. They will draw at least 3 places below that have meaning to them, and a small caption explaining their reason and feelings for including it.

Book Title: Home Place

Author's Name: Crescent Dragonwagon Illustrated by: Jerry Pinkney

Genre: Multicultural

Year: 1990

Summary: A middle class white family is out hiking in the woods, when they come across some items that belong to another family. The young girl begins to think and decide whose items they could be. She imagines a large African-American family all sitting at the table together eating dinner. The girl creates specific family members and their interactions. This cozy story incorporates family and home life for different races and cultures.

Activity One: Draw a Picture!

Source: original

Description: Students will draw a picture of five things that relate to their family. They should be items that remind them of family or they use with family. This will serve as kind of a "family map".

Activity Two: Create a Menu

Source: original

Description: As the family in the story ate a big meal, students will create a menu of food items that may be served at their families table. They should have a well balanced meal and it should look professional, as if it was at a restaurant.

Book Title: Franklin Is Messy

Author's Name: Paulette Bourgeois Illustrated by: Brenda Clark

Genre: Fantasy

Year: 1994

Summary: Story of a talking turtle who can't seem to find anything because his room is such a mess. Dad makes him clean before playing. After leaving to play with his friends he realizes he can't find his sword. Franklin ends up smashing his sword on accident while searching for something else in his room. He begins to realize how important cleanliness can be. This story teaches organization, creativity and cleanliness.

Activity One: Draw a Maze!

Source: original

Description: Students will draw a maze in a graph paper grid, in which the object will be from Franklin to start at the door of his room and make it to his sword, at the opposite corner. They will need to include obstacles such as objects that might make his room messy.

Activity Two: Make a To-Do List

Source: original

Description: Students will be asked to think of a day they had a lot to do, just as Franklin did when he had to tidy up his room. They will make a to-do list, containing all the important tasks they needed to complete, to help them organize.

Book Title: Cat in the Hat

Author's Name: Dr. Suess

Genre: Fantasy

Year: 1957

Summary: This is a fun magical book that rhymes and is a lot of fun to read. In this story, two young children are sitting in their house, very bored on a rainy day. Then, all of a sudden a talking, funny cat in a big red and white hat comes by to save the day. The cat then does several tricks to entertain the kids and their bossy pet fish. This story shows how creativity can entertain, even on a very dull day.

Activity One: Write a Poem

Source: original

Description: Students will create a fantasy character that has a funny quality in a similar way as the Cat in the Hat. They will write a ten line poem that uses rhyme to describe the character and what they do.

Activity Two: Write an Invitation

Source: original

Description: Students will pretend that they are one of the two children and write an invitation to the Cat in the Hat asking him to come over. They will need to include why they want his company, what they plan to do when he gets there, and when to come.

Book Title: Kate and the Beanstalk

Author's Name: Mary Pope Osborne Illustrated by: Giselle Potter

Genre: Fantasy

Year: 2000

Summary: In this retelling of the popular fantasy fairytale Jack and the Beanstalk, Kate is a young farm girl living with her mom. Magic beans help Kate to grow a huge green bean stalk in her garden. Kate climbs it to find a giant woman and her angry, sleeping husband. She then disguises herself as a boy to trick the couple, and after a third disguise, she kills the giant and his wife is happy.

Activity One: Write a Speech!

Source: original

Description: Students will choose one character from the story, and create a one minute speech in which the character they choose will describe their outlook on the events that occurred. They will need to include feelings, emotions and what they will do next.

Activity Two: Write a Song

Source: original

Description: Students will write a song, set to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle". The song will be from Kate's point of view. The message of the song should be to lull the giant away. Creativity will be basis of grade.

Book Title: Rainbow Fish to the Rescue

Author's Name: Marcus Pfister

Genre: Fantasy

Year: 1995

Summary: This book takes place underwater where many colorful shiny fish live together happily. They were stubborn and wouldn't let regular fish play with them. Then, one day Rainbow fish decided to stand up to his shiny fish friends by saving the regular striped fish when a shark came. Then all the other shiny fish let the striped fish stay and play. This book teaches teamwork and accepting differences.

Activity One: Write a Thank You Card

Source: original

Description: Taking the viewpoint of the striped fish, students will write a card to thank rainbow fish or the entire group of shiny fish for saving him from the shark. They must include emotions, reasons and how it made you feel. They are encouraged to add details and art to make the card more appealing.

Activity Two: Research Rainbow Fish

Source: original

Description: Students will use the internet or print materials to find more information on the rainbow fish featured in the book. They will write a short summary of what they found. Important things to look for may be what they eat, where they live or what they look like.

Book title: Miss Smith's Incredible Storybook

Author's Name: Michael Garland

Genre: Fantasy

Year: 2003

Summary: Zack is starting a new school year. Not really knowing what to expect, the new teacher Miss Smith comes in and says she loves to read from her big storybook. She then shocks Zack and his classmates because every time she read, the characters in her stories came to life and invaded the classroom. Warriors from history stories even come to life and roam the classroom. Full of fun and adventure, this teacher keeps her classroom attentive.

Activity One: Write a Short Play!

Description: Students will choose up to 4 characters that came to life in Miss Smith's storybook, and write a short play that gives the characters dialogue and interaction. There must be a problem and solution in the play.

Activity Two: Design a Bookmark!

Description: Students will choose at least 2 characters from the story and will make a bookmark that encourages reading that features these characters. They must include both words and pictures that show main events from the book to show comprehension.

Book Title: Amelia Bedelia 4 Mayor

Author's Name: Herman Parish

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Year: 1999

Summary: Amelia Bedelia works as a maid for an older couple, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers. She has a tendency to take everything literally in doing what she's been told, which often gets her into a lot of trouble. In this book, Amelia decides to follow Mr. Roger's joking advice to run for mayor, because she will do what she says she is going to, unlike the current candidate for mayor. With her silly but innocent antics, Amelia is a fun character to follow as she begins a campaign. As everyone has likely dealt with someone that does a lot of silly things, this story is relevant to all.

Activity One: Create a Billboard

Source: original

Description: Students will, after reading the story about Amelia's campaign, create a billboard that she could use to promote herself for mayor. A slogan will be required, and extra points will be given for cleverness with the saying.

Activity Two: Make a Comic Strip

Source: English Online website

(<http://english.unitechnology.ac.nz/resources/resources/books.html>)

Description: Using the events in the story, draw a comic strip featuring Amelia and her mayor journey. Try to include humor if possible, as well as colored drawings.

Book Title: This Is the Van That Dad Cleaned

Author's Name: Lisa Campbell Ernst

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Year: 2005

Summary: This story features a family of a dad and his three children. They are taking a trip in the family van, so Dad takes time to clean it and the children just end up making a mess. As the trip goes on, things get crazy as the fast food spills as ketchup splatters on the baby, and candy scatters all through the vehicle. This story teaches a great lesson, as at the end, the whole family works together the next morning to clean the entire van out, making Dad happy. This is a very cute book that uses fun repetition to discuss the messy van and fun family.

Activity One: Create a Collage

Source: original

Description: Searching through magazines and newspapers, students will make a collage of things that can make a mess in a small space, such as a vehicle. On a piece of poster board, students will combine these with a heading of cut out letters to make a messy collage!

Activity Two: Character List

Source: original

Description: Students will imagine that the characters in the story are performing the story in a play, and create a program with a listing of all the "actors" and their basic character traits and actions in the story.

Book Title: The Perfect Pet

Author's Name: Margie Palatini and Bruce Whatley

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Year: 2003

Summary: This is the story of a young girl named Elizabeth and her parents. As an only child, Elizabeth is lonely and really wants a pet. She thinks of so many techniques in order to convince her parents that a pet is a good idea, including surprising them with a flashlight while they are asleep. Each time she brings up the subject, they are prepared with reasons why that won't work. Elizabeth is a fun character as she finally finds an insect on the rug that she decides is a perfect pet. Her parents agree that a bug is the best pet.

Activity One: Create an Argument

Source: original

Description: Students will create a one page argument to support one pet option for Elizabeth, and provide at least 5 pros to that pet choice, as well as 2 cons.

Activity Two: Design a Book Jacket

Source: original

Description: Students will design a new book jacket for this story, including an illustration of Elizabeth and her bug pet for the front and a quick review of the book on the back!

Book Title: My First Garden

Author's Name: Tomek Bogacki

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Year: 2000

Summary: This is a story in which the author is thinking back to his childhood. Presented in a scrapbook type form, illustrations are accompanied with captions that help the reader understand how the author felt as a boy. He talks about his home in the big city as well as the activities he used to enjoy doing. He discusses in detail the small garden he created in the open area around his home, and describes how he cared for it. Providing a cozy feeling, this is a cute story of remembrance.

Activity One: Plant Some Seeds!

Source: original

Description: As a class, the students will choose a few seed types, and plant them in a small classroom garden. Using the story of the young boy as a guide, follow the timeline of planting and watering. Draw diagrams daily to monitor progress of growth.

Activity Two: Create a Scrapbook Page

Source: original

Description: Students will draw at least three pictures of them planting the seeds and then compile them together on one page as if they were going to create a scrapbook, including a heading and captions for each picture.

Book Title: I Am Not Going To School Today

Author's Name: Robie H. Harris Illustrated by: Jan Ormerod

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Year: 2003

Summary: A concept that many young children can relate to, this story explores a young boy's anxiety of starting school for the first time. He says that he isn't going to go, because he won't know anything on the first day. He shares his worry with his parents and they help reassure him. His first day of school ends up being a lot of fun, and he decides that school is a fun place. A fun story, this is good for readers to see that even if you are scared of something, you should give it a chance.

Activity One: Write Five Quotes

Source: original

Description: Students will develop five quotes (not directly used in the story) that the main character might say to his parents in response to their persuasion to attend school. Quotes should be convincing and sound real, as if the boy might actually say them.

Activity Two: Plan an Activity

Source: original

Description: Students will plan a fun first day of school activity, such as a get to know each other game that can be done to encourage first time students to like school. Students will include basic layout of the activity, and how it will play out with the whole class.

Book Title: How Many Days to America?

Author's Name: Eve Bunting Illustrated by: Beth Peck

Genre: Historical Fiction

Year: 1988

Summary: A family living in a dangerous Caribbean city takes a journey to America by boat to escape oppression. The children seem confused, but their parents reassure them that this is the best option. The family loads into a dirty, crowded boat and sits with other refugees trying to escape danger. After reaching a few areas of shore that were not accepting, they finally are able to enter land, and they have a thanksgiving meal to celebrate their new home.

Activity One: Make a Collection

Source: RIF Reading Planet website

Description: Each student will receive a basket, and they will be instructed to fill the small basket with items they would take on a ship if they were going on a long trip. They will take it home and bring it back into school. They will then describe their reasoning on each item in front of the class.

Activity Two: Write an Alternate Ending

Source: RIF Reading Planet website

Description: What would have happened if the group hadn't reached an inviting part of shore? Write an alternate ending in which the group encounters more hardship to find a safe landing, with a final ending.

Book Title: Landed

Author's Name: Milly Lee Illustrated by: Yangsook Choi

Genre: Historical Fiction

Year: 2006

Summary: Sun is a young boy living in China, and he wants to make the journey to America, just like his older brothers have. He knows though, due to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, he will be detained and have to take a test of his knowledge before being admitted to enter. So he spends time with several teachers learning the necessary information. Taking place in the late 1800's, this story shows how hard it was in this time for Chinese that yearned for America. Sun ends successfully entering America and meeting up with his brothers.

Activity One: Draw a Map

Source: RIF Reading Planet website

Description: They will draw a map that shows the route that Sun likely took to get from his home in China to his destination in America. Show arrows that indicate where his ship took him.

Activity Two: Write and Design a Postcard

Source: original

Description: Taking on Sun's perspective, students will design a postcard to send back to their parents in China after reaching their destination in America. A colored illustration of an America scene and at least 3 sentences will be required.

Book Title: The Huckabuck Family

Author's Name: Carl Sandburg Illustrated by: David Small

Genre: Historical Fiction

Year: 1999

Summary: This is the story of a family that raised popcorn in the state of Nebraska, and the obstacles they encountered. It takes place in the early 1900's, when the Depression was becoming an issue in America. The couple, along with their daughter Pony, lives on a popcorn farm. When an explosion occurs and most of the popcorn pops accidentally, the family has to leave their farm. They end up coming back to harvest only crops, no more popcorn!

Activity One: Write a Timeline

Source: original

Description: Create a time-ordered list of the main events in the story (at least 5 bullets), to indicate the order in which they occurred. Be specific to tell exactly what the family did at each point.

Activity Two: Pop Some Popcorn/Grand Discussion

Source: original

Description: Guided by the teacher, students will learn about popping corn the old fashioned way and then cook some as a group. Then, as they are eating it, they will describe their favorite part in a class discussion.

Book Title: Circle Unbroken

Author's Name: Margot Theis Raven Illustrated by: E.B. Lewis

Genre: Historical Fiction

Year: 2004

Summary: An African-American family living during the Civil War times decides that they can help out with the war by weaving baskets. In this time almost everyone not directly involved searched for a way to help. Although on a side of the war that was questionable, this family was no different. The children are taught very early to help with the weaving. The baskets are then donated to the soldiers.

Activity One: Make a Web Organizer

Source: original

Description: In order to extend thinking to other ways to help out with war, create a brainstorming web with the phrase "ways to help soldiers during a war" in the middle. Then fill it in with ideas to contribute to the cause.

Activity Two: Write Class Discussion Questions

Source: original

Description: Students will write five questions that the class can use as a basis to discuss events in the book. They can also include questions that they have about the story or the historical context.

Book title: I Wonder as I Wander

Author's Name: Gwenyth Swain Illustrated by Ronald Himler

Genre: Historical Fiction

Year: 2003

Summary: A curious young preacher's daughter, Annie is forced to move often. This poor religious family is suddenly without a female leader, as the mother died in the spring. Annie is constantly wandering around thinking about all her worries. Taking place in the Great Depression in the mountain range areas of America, this is a great example of a struggling family. Annie's courage and imagination help her to be happy in bad times.

Activity One: Write an Interview

Source: English Online

Description: Write five interview questions for Annie, the main character. They should try to find out her inner feelings and how she feels about her situation through the questions. Use cues from the story to get ideas about questions.

Activity Two: Author's Viewpoint

Source: English Online

Description: Pretend you are the author of this story and describe how and why you chose the title, the characters and the setting. They should be clear and concise in their explanation and use proper grammar and vocabulary.

Book Title: Dinosaur Bones

Author's Name: Bob Barner

Genre: Non- Fiction

Year: 2001

Summary: Dinosaur bones are introduced in a fun way in this book, which uses fun illustrations to diagram parts of these old animals. This story is set in rhyme, which helps to engage young readers. The pictures are in somewhat of a scrapbook format, and based on museum collections. Basic information is included about dinosaurs, and also detail on specific bones. The random fun facts included make the information interesting for kids. This book is very clever and kids would learn a lot and really enjoy it.

Activity One: Draw a Dinosaur

Source: original

Description: Students will draw their own skeleton of a dinosaur, following examples in the book. They will label each of the main bones, and write a short caption about that dinosaur.

Book Title: Oh Baby! Amazing Baby Animals

Author's Name: Kris Hirschmann

Genre: Non- Fiction

Year: 2003

Summary: This book is adorable, identifying main characteristics of many types of animals in their young stages. This book was apparently inspired by a New York zoo's photo advertisement campaign. The story includes many pictures along with helpful fun facts and statistics. It also includes activities that readers can actually do. The book has a very cute format, treating each baby animal as a human child, including a birth announcement and baby facts, such as measurements. There are seven animal babies included.

Activity One: Compare/Contrast

Source: original

Description: Students will choose one of the seven baby animals from the book and compare them to a human infant. Include details of characteristics and development. Research on human baby may be needed.

Book Title: Hospital

Author's Name: Janine Amos

Genre: Non- Fiction

Year: 202

Summary: This book is a summary of what it is like to go the hospital for a young child. It gives information on what to expect, and how to deal with the experience. This is a simpler book, aimed at early elementary grades. The book uses real life artifacts, such as a letter a young boy wrote regarding his fears about the hospital. An informational book, this story provides facts but also tried to ease the worried minds of children. The story also lays out exactly what goes on at the hospital, including immunizations, exams and doctors. It concludes with offering additional resources to use.

Activity One: Advice

Source: original

Description: Pretend that you are a hospital official and write a short summary of ways for children to deal with anxiety regarding hospital visits. Include at least 5 things to know in order to not worry about a hospital visit.

Book Title: Moon Landing

Author's Name: Richard Platt & David Hawcock

Genre: Non- Fiction

Year: 2008

Summary: This is a fun book that lays out the history and then the developments of space exploration. Focusing mainly on our moon, this is a very interesting story. It describes the mission of the first moon landing, and how it was accomplished. Photographs included show readers exactly what the moon looks like, so that they can picture it as they read. Technology is a main focus. There are even pop ups in the story to engage interest. Children will connect with the adventure idea and the chance to come along it the mission through this book. It is completed with the fun facts and statistics also.

Activity One: Solar System Chart

Source: original

Description: Students will use information about the solar system included in this book to draw and diagram a map of the planets and include a short description of the characteristics of each one.

Book Title: Shake, Rattle and Roll: The Founders of Rock and Roll

Author's Name: Holly George-Warren Illustrator: Laura Levine

Genre: Non- Fiction

Year: 2001

Summary: This is a book based on a form of music students may be less likely to hear on a daily basis. Rock and roll is fascinating to young readers, and this book gives historical evidence of rock and roll's success. In a timeline format, events that led to the success of this music type included in order. Short biographies of fourteen most influential artists of the time are included. There are a lot of fun illustrations that make each page bright and interesting. Information is packed in small text boxes to draw the reader to them.

Activity One: Examine Lyrics

Source: original

Description: Students will choose one song from the rock and roll era, and write down the lyrics. They will then note characteristics of the song that make it rock and roll.

Book Title: For the Love of Chimps: The Jane Goodal Story

Author's Name: Martha Kendall

Genre: Non- Fiction

Year: 2004

Summary: This is a biographical text that also gives information on chimpanzees. A woman who did a lot to help the endangered species, Jane Goodal is the focus. This book includes many photographs of the works Ms. Goodal did, and readers can connect with her good deeds. The book also includes interesting facts about this type of animal, such as their habits and characteristics. Set up in a story type format, this story is engaging and inspires reader connection.

Activity One: Biography

Source: original

Description: After reading this book, students will use information they learned about Jane to write a short biography of her. They will include facts as well as personal connections or opinions of what Jane did.

Book Title: Ocean Diving: Traveling Through Inner Space

Author's Name: W. Wright Robinson

Genre: Non- Fiction

Year: 1997

Summary: This story revolves around a topic that students find very scary, but also interesting. They know that sharks can be dangerous, and that scuba diving puts you at risk. With real photographs and interesting facts about deep sea diving, students will quickly engage. Sharks are the main focus, and information about them is plenty. The book also offers advice as to how to deal with sharks to have a successful diving experience. Providing a look at an experience many students in Indiana will never actually have, this story can be very helpful. Another book set in an adventure format, students will love reading this.

Activity One: Create a movie poster

Source: original

Description: Imagining that a movie was made in which scuba divers explore the ocean, students will create and design a poster to promote the new movie. They will need to include a colored drawing and caption about what happens in the movie (underwater).

Book Title: Backyard Detective: Critters Up Close

Author's Name: Nic Bishop

Genre: Non- Fiction

Year: 2002

Summary: This is a book kids will love! The author takes them inside the dirt in a backyard and encourages them to try it at home. Over 100 small creatures are included and discussed, as well as where these can be found. Students are given a backyard picture, and asked to look for specific critters in the dirt, which directly engages readers. Information is included with each picture, to guide identification for the readers. This is a fun informational book that should accompany real hands on nature experiences.

Activity One: Explore the Dirt!

Source: original

Description: Students will go outside and chose a one square foot section of dirt and explore what it under. They will write down what they find and use the book to identify any bugs that they locate.

Book Title: *Fire!*

Author's Name: ~~Joy Masoff, Barry D. Smith, Jack Reznicki~~

Genre: Non- Fiction

Year: 2002

Summary: This is a really good book that gives readers a very firsthand look inside a house fire. This book gives many descriptive details of what a fireman does in several situations. Also gives helpful information on what to do if a fire occurs in your own home. It is very helpful for young readers as a supplement to a school program on house fires. Photographs are included to show students what a fire can look like, and what burns can do. The book also includes what firemen actually do and what equipment they need and how they use it, which will help to engage readers.

Activity One: Write a newspaper article

Source: original

Description: Students will pretend to be a journalist, and write a one paragraph newspaper article about a pretend house fire that they are reporting on. Include details of the fire using information about them from the book.

Book title: Wally's Big Book of Gardening

Author's Name: Susanne Tommes Illustrator: Thea Ross

Genre: Non- Fiction

Year: 2002

Summary: This is a book that features Wally, a funny mole that guides readers through a garden and provides information. He talks about seeds, watering and several other important things to know about keeping and maintaining a successful garden. He lets readers know how much fun it can be to do this, and all the many things you can grow, such as flowers and vegetables. This is a great book to start out with before allowing children to plant their own garden or seeds.

Activity One: Design a Garden

Source: original

Description: Students will use information learned in the book to plan a garden. Using knowledge of how different seeds respond to watering, etc. students will place them in a square garden accordingly.