



Raising Readers Newsletter April, 2014

Check out this newsletter for some great reading tips and resources!

Celebrate National Poetry Month!

What is National Poetry Month?

National Poetry Month is a month-long, national celebration of poetry established by the Academy of American Poets. The concept is to widen the attention of individuals and the media—to the art of poetry, to living poets, to our complex poetic heritage, and to poetry books and journals of wide aesthetic range and concern. We hope to increase the visibility and availability of poetry in popular culture while acknowledging and celebrating poetry's ability to sustain itself in the many places where it is practiced and appreciated.

What are the goals of National Poetry Month?

The goals of National Poetry Month are to:

- Highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets
- Introduce more Americans to the pleasures of reading poetry
- Bring poets and poetry to the public in immediate and innovative ways
- Make poetry a more important part of the school curriculum
- Increase the attention paid to poetry by national and local media
- Encourage increased publication, distribution, and sales of poetry books
- Increase public and private philanthropic support for poets and poetry

Here are some great resources!

30 Ways to Celebrate National Poetry Month:

<http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/94>

Sign-up to receive a poem each day!

<http://www.poets.org/poemADay.php>

More information about National Poetry Month and poetry

<http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/41>



Celebrate Poem in Your Pocket Day!

Celebrate Poem in Your Pocket Day on Thursday, April 24th! In 2002, the Office of the Mayor, in partnership with the New York City Departments of Cultural Affairs and Education, initiated Poem in Your Pocket Day as part of the city's National Poetry Month celebration. In 2008, the Academy of American Poets took the initiative national, encouraging individuals around the country to join in and channel their inner bard. Each year on Poem in Your Pocket Day, schools, bookstores, libraries, parks, workplaces, and other venues ring loud with open readings of poems from pockets.

Participate in this special day! Check out this website for some outstanding resources: <http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/406>

Do you have a Twitter account?

You can also share your poem selection on Twitter by using the hashtag #pocketpoem.



Sick

By: Shel Silverstein

"I cannot go to school today,"
Said little Peggy Ann McKay.
"I have the measles and the mumps,
A gash, a rash and purple bumps.
My mouth is wet, my throat is dry,
I'm going blind in my right eye.
My tonsils are as big as rocks,
I've counted sixteen chicken pox
And there's one more--that's seventeen,
And don't you think my face looks green?
My leg is cut--my eyes are blue--
It might be instamatic flu.
I cough and sneeze and gasp and choke,
I'm sure that my left leg is broke--
My hip hurts when I move my chin,
My belly button's caving in,
My back is wrenched, my ankle's sprained,
My 'pendix pains each time it rains.
My nose is cold, my toes are numb.
I have a sliver in my thumb.
My neck is stiff, my voice is weak,
I hardly whisper when I speak.
My tongue is filling up my mouth,
I think my hair is falling out.
My elbow's bent, my spine ain't straight,
My temperature is one-o-eight.
My brain is shrunk, I cannot hear,
There is a hole inside my ear.
I have a hangnail, and my heart is--what?
What's that? What's that you say?
You say today is. . .Saturday?
G'bye, I'm going out to play!"

One of Mrs.
Smith's favorite
poems! This will be
the poem in my
pocket on April
24th!

Poetry Activities and Games for Kids

What better time is there to start writing poetry than when you are a kid? Help your kids celebrate National Poetry Month this April by teaching them some simple poetry activities and games. Here are a few fun poetry ideas:

Acrostic Poems

An acrostic poem is one in which the first letter of each line spells out a word or message. Have the kids write their names or some other word vertically down the left hand side of the page. Now have them come up with a poem, describing themselves or the topic they have chosen, by using these letters as the first letters of each line.

Example: I have chosen the word *poetry*.

Poetry is fun to write
Opens many windows of opportunity
Expressing yourself
This is not hard to do
Reading works of other poets for inspiration
You can do it!

Magnetic Poetry

Buy some magnetic words, place them on the fridge, and let your kids arrange them to create silly sentences. Students can also utilize this same concept online! Visit the Kids' Poetry Pages at www.magneticpoetry.com and let them choose from the Kids' Kit, First Words, Best Friends, or Storymaker. They will be given a virtual fridge and virtual magnetic words to play around with.

Silly Rhymes

Have the kids choose one of their favorite poems or nursery rhymes and turn it into a funny creation of their own. Have them change the characters' names, verbs, or nouns to create a unique poem. Instead of "Mary had a little lamb," they could change it to "Becky had a giant ham" (HowStuffWorks). Encourage them to write their poems down and illustrate them with drawings.

Another way to get kids interested in poetry is to have them read poems written in a style that is easy to follow, such as rhyme. A lot of children's books are written in rhyme, like Dr. Seuss's stories. Shel Silverstein has also written a lot of poetry that the kids will enjoy.

Learning how to write poetry can be a fun experience for kids, and what better time to start than during National Poetry Month? These 3 activities are fun, simple, and encourage kids to master their writing skills.

- <http://voices.yahoo.com/national-poetry-month-poetry-activities-games-2829751.html>

Try It At Home: Fluency Evaluation Rubric

Sticking to the poetry-themed resources in this newsletter, try this out! This evaluation tool can be used not only with poetry, but other stories or passages your child reads! Use this tool to have your child to evaluate your reading too!

Here is a simple fluency evaluation tool that takes the core components of fluency into consideration. You can use this tool to rate how fluently your child reads a given passage or text. One idea might be to record your child and play it back to them, so they can hear their reading! This is a great tool for conversation!

Reader read the passage without error.

5 4 3 2 1

Reader read the passage at an appropriate rate of speed.

5 4 3 2 1

Reader read the passage using expression (intonation, stress, pauses).

5 4 3 2 1



Fluency is ...
the ability to read text accurately and quickly.

Fluency is important because ...
it frees students to understand what they read.

Fluency practice ...
is essential for students to bridge the gap between word recognition and comprehension.

Reading Fluency can be developed by ...
having students engage in repeated oral reading and modeled fluent reading.

– The Partnership for Reading

Movie Events

Come join us to watch "How to Train Your Dragon" at four movie theaters around the state! Before the movie parents will have the opportunity to listen to a Hoosier Academy staff member discuss strategies to encourage your child to be an active reader! We would love for your family to read the book before you join us. Books can be purchased at www.amazon.com or check it out from your local library. Recordings of chapters from the book being read aloud will be posted on the Hoosier Academy website on April 8th. Don't miss out on this opportunity!



Brownsburg Theater

Date: 4/21 at 10:00am

Address: 1555 N. Green St. Brownsburg, IN 46112

Grades: The whole family is welcome!

Cost: FREE

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Evansville Showplace North

Date: 4/22 at 10:00am

Address: 4200 North 3rd Ave Evansville, IN 47710

Grades: The whole family is welcome!

Cost: FREE

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Hamilton 16 + IMAX

Date: 4/23 at 10:00am

Address: 13825 Norell Rd. Noblesville, IN 46060

Grades: The whole family is welcome!

Cost: FREE

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



Portage 16 + IMAX

Date: 4/24 at 10:00am

Address: 6550 American Way, US HWY 6 Portage, IN 46368

Grades: The whole family is welcome!

Cost: FREE

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

10 Non-Book Ways to Get Your Child Reading!

- 1. Play board games.** Scrabble or Boggle are specifically good for building vocabulary and spelling.
- 2. Collect trading cards.** There are card series to appeal to most interests, from sports to space travel, Yu-Gi-Oh! to Beanie Babies.
- 3. Learn “how to.”** Is there something your child would really like to do, such as perform magic tricks or add sequins to her jeans? Encourage her to find out how by reading about it.
- 4. Get cooking.** Invite your child to help you bake a cake or a special meal together. If necessary, simplify and rewrite a recipe's instructions so he can read it to you.
- 5. Make cards.** Have your child make her own cards for holidays, birthdays, party invitations, and thank-yous. Help her write a personal message to each recipient.
- 6. Create signs and labels.** Help your early reader build his vocabulary by creating stickers or signs for his room that identify toys or furniture: "bike," "desk," etc.
- 7. Take a road trip.** Write down travel directions and have your child serve as navigator when you drive. Give your co-pilot a map before you go, and ask her to mark the route according to the directions.
- 8. Put on a play.** You can perform the play for a special celebration or family party. Help your child find an appealing script or create one together based on a favorite movie. Remind your child that he must memorize his lines by reading them over and over.
- 9. Write messages for your child.** Even if you spend hours together in the same room, there are many reasons to write to your child. Drop a letter in her school bag or email her a joke she can forward to her friends. Post a list of chores on the refrigerator, and write family news or appointments on a wall calendar.
- 10. Host a scavenger hunt.** Make a list of items that your child and his friends need to find inside your house or around the neighborhood. Provide written clues that lead to the treasures.



- <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/more-reading-resources/10-non-book-ways-to-get-your-child-reading>

Reading Tips Sent to Your Phone or E-mail!

WHAT IS REMIND101 AND WHY IS IT SAFE?

Remind101 is a one-way text messaging and email system. With Remind101, all personal information remains completely confidential. Teachers will never see your phone number, nor will you ever see theirs.

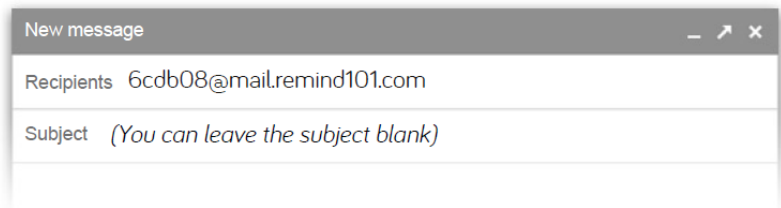
Visit www.remind101.com to learn more.

To receive messages via text, text @6cdb08 to (317) 456-7266. You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe @6cdb08'.



*Standard text message rates apply.

Or to receive messages via email, send an email to 6cdb08@mail.remind101.com. To unsubscribe, reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.



Notes: 2-3 reading tips will be sent out each week. If you ever want to unsubscribe, follow the instructions listed in the pictures above. **Standard text message rates apply!**

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