

Parent Resource Newsletter

Poetry and Reading Fluency

Using Poetry to Teach Reading



If you ever recited a nursery rhyme, played "Itsy-Bitsy Spider" or sung "If You're Happy and You Know It," you prepared your child for learning to read. Familiar songs and poems strengthen your child's ability to hear the sounds of our language — a skill

that serves well when they learn to connect sounds with letters (phonics) in kindergarten and 1st grade. Part of teaching reading is motivating the children to practice, practice, and practice. You can use children's poetry to encourage kids to read and become fluent.

Poetry and reading fluency are an excellent match for all students. Integrating poetry into reading is a great way to promote fluent reading through repeated reading of readable and intriguing texts. However, despite the wonderful potential of poetry to explore language, it is one of the most often neglected components of the language arts curriculum. Turning poetry into a performance, which it is meant to be, and turning away from too much critical analysis, can give poetry its rightful place in the reading-language arts curriculum. Moreover, when poetry performance is fostered, reading fluency is also nurtured as students attempt to make their oral interpretations just right — and this means repeated readings, but in a very natural and purposeful way.

Simply select a day for a poetry party. Prior to the event, select a poem to learn from poetry books and anthologies from a library, or have your child compose their own poem. Over the next several days, practice reading poems in preparation for the poetry party.

When the poetry party day finally arrives, the lights are dimmed, a lamp on a desk is turned on, hot apple cider and popcorn are served, and your children take turns performing their poems. Your child's expressive and interpretive readings of their poems are responded to with warm applause.

Resource: Timothy V. Rasinski (2000) *The Reading Teacher*

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO Helping Your Child Succeed in School

Some Favorite Children's Poets

There are favorites among the children's poets; Jack Prelutsky, Shel Silverstein, Judith Viorst, & Eloise Greenfield to name a few. Below are a few of their books. Visit the library with your child & check them out.

- **Jack Prelutsky**
 - *The New Kid on the Block*
 - *Something BIG Has Been Here*
 - *A Pizza the Size of the Sun*
 - *The Dragons Are Singing Tonight*
 - *The Baby Uggs Are Hatching*
 - ...and numerous more
- **Shel Silverstein**
 - *A Light in the Attic*
 - *Where the Sidewalk Ends*
 - *Falling Up*
- **Judith Viorst** writes fiction/nonfiction for children and adults
 - *If I Were In Charge of the World and Other Worries*
- **Eloise Greenfield** writes fiction and poetry
 - *Nathaniel Talking*

Did You Know ?



Visit:
www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/home
to celebrate **National Poetry Month** and **Poem in Your Pocket Day on April 26th** at your local library or bookstore.

April is **National Poetry Month**; 30 days of celebrating the joy, expressiveness, and pure delight of poetry. It was inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in 1996, and National Poetry Month is now held every April, when publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries, schools and poets around the country band together to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture. Thousands of businesses and non-profit organizations participate through readings, festivals, book displays, workshops, and other events.

Title I News

Help Holden School Receive Federal Funds

Title I Eligibility Forms for 2018-2019 School Year

Title I is a Federal Grant designed to provide supplemental Reading and Math instruction in qualifying elementary schools. Schools may receive funds for this instruction if 40% or more of the students attending the school qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Once funds are distributed to a school, any student with an academic need in Reading and Math can participate and benefit from our Title I program.

The **only** way to determine if Holden Elementary School will receive federal money from the Title I program for the next school year is to have each family complete the **confidential Title I Eligibility Form**. Title I funds are used for programs such as Title I Preschool, Reading and Math Support, and Parent Involvement activities. It is extremely important that you complete this form and return it to Holden Elementary School. This form has been sent home with your child. If you have yet to complete this form, please do so and return it to Holden Elementary as soon as possible. **One form should be completed for each family.** Thank you for your help.

APRIL DATES to KEEP in MIND

- April 22 - **Earth Day** - Celebrate the Earth today.
- April 23 - **Home Run Day** - Take in a ball game.
- April 25 - **Administrative/Secretarial Day** - Thank someone who works hard to make your life easier.
- April 26 - **Take Your Daughter to Work Day**
- April 27 - **Arbor Day** - Hug a tree or better yet, plant one. Celebrate the importance of trees.
- April 30 - **National Honesty Day** - Let's be honest. Tell the truth today.

Site Review

Resources available for Parents and Families:

Check out this Website:

www.coolmath.com - CoolMath calls itself "an amusement park of math and more." Children can play online math games that help them with addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, money and more. CoolMath is geared toward ages 13 and up, but sister site **CoolMath4Kids.com** is appropriate for ages 3 through 12. **CoolMath-Games.com** includes math games for preschoolers.

Kids' Corner



Earth Day Activities for Kids

April 22nd is Earth Day, an annual celebration dedicated to environmental awareness. Discover ways you and your family can participate in Earth Day while also practicing reading and writing skills.

- 1. Read a book!** Dr. Seuss's book *The Lorax* may be one of the best known children's books about the environment and trees. Read *The Lorax* as a family. Talk about the difference between the lands before and after the Once-ler arrived. Talk about ways the Lorax spoke for the trees and why it's important to speak up for something you believe in.
- 2. Plant a tree!** Learning how to choose the right tree or plant for your area involves reading and understanding the tags provided with plants. Work together to understand the symbols related to the amount of sunlight and water appropriate for a plant and how much fertilizer is recommended or how deep to dig a hole. You will be learning and digging in the dirt at the same time!
- 3. Go for a walk!** One great family activity is to go on a nature walk in your neighborhood. As you walk, use a journal to record any wildlife, animal tracks, insects, or interesting plants that you see. Draw pictures and write captions too.
- 4. Give yourself a hand!** Trace your hand and cut it out. On each finger, write one way you can help the Earth. Ideas might include turning off a light when leaving a room, shutting off the water when brushing teeth, or opening a window instead of using the air conditioner. Display your Earth Day hand on the refrigerator for all to see!

Regardless of the activity you choose, be sure to make this Earth Day the best one yet!

Here are our 2017-2018 Title I Contacts for our Title I Program at your school:

- **Literacy Coach, Mrs. Kristin Garner:**
Schoolwide Holden School (330-676-8400)
- **Family Engagement Coordinator,**
Ms. Pam Bose: All Schools (330-676-7425)
- **Federal Grants Coordinator, Mrs. Karen Rumley,** Director of Instructional Program:
All Schools (330-676-7600)

April Showers !



**Parents
plus
Schools
equals
Success**