

A-Book-A-Week: Classroom Instruction

It's Thanksgiving

Activity Card #1	Literacy Development Category Lots of Links: A Thanksgiving Art Project
Suggested Activity Order <p><i>With a book of poems like Prelutsky's <u>It's Thanksgiving</u>, it's important for us to explain to children that not all books are read from start to finish at one sitting. This week, we'll highlight poems to be read on different days. As they're short, an activity will follow each reading.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Before you read <i>The Middle of November</i>, show the pictures on pages 17-19 to the children and ask where the boys and girls are, and what they are doing. (You may want to point out that the tepee on p. 18 is not the type of home the Wampanoag peoples lived in and that war bonnets are NOT worn by all Native Americans).2. After you have finished reading the poem, you can ask your children what types of materials the children were using to make their art projects. Re-read the line "out of paper, paste, and clay" if they cannot remember.3. Tell children that they will make a Thanksgiving project, just like the children in the poem.4. Following the directions at Kids Domain, make the hands and feet turkey from paper. http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft/hand-tur.html	Materials Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> <u>It's Thanksgiving</u> book<input type="checkbox"/> Directions for the Hands and Feet Turkey from Kids Domain website.

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Activity Card #2	Literacy Development Category Language Development
<p>Suggested Activity Order</p> <p><i>Forms of the verb to be are often very difficult for children to use correctly. In this activity, children will work with past tense plural (were) and present tense singular (am). We are less concerned with making sure the children understand past and present than that they have the opportunity to use these verb forms correctly.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read the poem <i>The First Thanksgiving</i>.2. Hold up the cards one at a time, saying "The Pilgrims were grateful for ____" (turkey, deer, berries, bread, and corn).3. Distribute the five cards to five children. Have each child stand and say "The Pilgrims were grateful for ____ (name of picture)"4. Ask children as a group to think of things they are grateful for.5. Then, have individual children stand to say, "I am grateful for ____ (whatever the child has thought of)."6. Conclude by saying, "The Pilgrims were grateful long ago. And we are grateful today."	<p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> <u>It's Thanksgiving</u> book<input type="checkbox"/> Pictures of things Pilgrims were grateful for (found at end of these materials)

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Activity Card #3	Literacy Development Category: Acts of Writing
Suggested Activity Order <i>In the poem It's Happy Thanksgiving, the little boy narrator describes the wonderful time and happy feelings he experiences as his family visits Grandma. In Activity #2, children talked about things or people they were thankful for. Today, they will create Thank You certificates for someone special to them.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Before reading the poem <i>It's Happy Thanksgiving</i>, look at the pictures on pages 6 - 11 and talk with children about what this poem might be about.2. Read the poem.3. Ask children to describe the feelings the little boy has for his grandmother. Then ask each child to name someone special in his or her life.4. Show the Thank You certificates to the children.5. Fill in the names suggested by the children on each certificate. Show them where to "sign" their names, and let them decorate the certificates.6. Conclude by saying, "We can use writing to let people know how much we care them. Remember to give this Thank You certificate to your special person."	Materials Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> <u>It's Thanksgiving</u> book<input type="checkbox"/> Thank You certificate (you can design your own or you can use the one at the end of these materials).

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Activity Card #4	Literacy Development Category: Artist's Craft: Working with Rhyme
Suggested Activity Order <p><i>There are a number of reasons why children so love Jack Prelutsky's poetry. Naturally, they enjoy the humor he conveys. And they also love his very strong commitment to rhyme. In this activity, children make connections between Prelutsky's rhyme and their own growing understanding of rhyming words.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Write the words for <i>If Turkeys Thought</i> on chart paper.2. Find the AY picture card set from the A-Rhyme-A-Week location.3. Read <i>If Turkeys Thought</i> to the children. Then, show them the picture of <i>day</i> from the AY picture set.4. Explain to the children that Jack Prelutsky (show his picture) is the man who wrote this poem, and that to write it, he had to think about words that would rhyme just like they do!5. Point to <i>Rain, Rain Go Away</i> card and show how it has the same rhyming words as in Prelutsky's poem -- <i>away</i> and <i>day</i>.	Materials Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> <u>It's Thanksgiving</u> book<input type="checkbox"/> AY rhyming pictures<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rain, Rain Go Away</i> card<input type="checkbox"/> Prelutsky's picture at... <p>http://www.poets.org/LIT/poet/jprelfst.htm</p>

If you are looking for some additional Thanksgiving poems, take a look at this website. There's a great poem by NCTE poetry award winner Aileen Fisher entitled "All in a Word" that you can use to talk about letters and their sounds.

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/1465/Thanksgiving/poetry.html>

Thank You Certificate

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