



Reading Counts



Upcoming Events of Interest

The following are some upcoming workshops or events that might be of interest to students participating in the America Reads/America Counts program.

- Monday, November 7th, 2:30 p.m. – South 235 – *Classroom Management Workshop* – Dr. Smith will be sharing some tips for getting your tutees attention and keeping it. Highly recommended for all tutors!
- *Team Leader Session* – Be on the lookout for email from your team leaders about a short session to discuss how the program is doing. These will be at different times and locations depending on your tutoring location.
- Thursday, November 10th 12:45 – 1:45 p.m., College Union Room 114. *Recognition of Child Abuse: What Happens Next?* (Gold Workshop). Sign up through <http://gold.geneseo.edu>

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Team leader Brandi Daniels with a class of students.

Ask Rachel – Helpful Hints and Techniques

Rachel Tanchyk
Team Leader – Mt. Morris

Dear Rachel:

A lot of students in my third grade classroom that I tutor in have a lot of problems with fluency. Do you have any suggestions of fun ways they can practice reading fluency?

*Thanks,
Janet*

Dear Janet,

There is an activity that I use in my third grade classroom that the students absolutely love. Have students read a short passage; a section or page from a book. Have a friend time them with a stop watch, and record the time afterwards. The student is to read the same section or page two more times and record those times as well. They should be proud of themselves as they see their time decrease. Emphasize to the class/students participating in the activity that this isn't a competition, and that they are only competing against themselves to try and beat their own time.

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Ask Rachel, *continued from page 1*

Dear Rachel:

I tutor in a kindergarten classroom, and some children have trouble writing their name. How do I help them improve?

Chelsea

Dear Chelsea:

Have the student watch you write their name several times on lined paper. Then, have them hold the pencil how they normally write, and guide their hand as you trace the letters in their name. Next have them try to trace the letters in their name without assistance. Finally, have them try to write their name over completely on their own.

Dear Rachel,

The students in the kindergarten class are learning the letters of the alphabet, and recognizing different letter sounds. Do you have suggestions of any lessons or activities I could use to practice letter sounds and letter recognition with the students?

Thank you,
Kallie

Dear Kallie:

Students are big fans of hands-on activities where they can use concrete materials to learn. For letters and letter sounds, fill a medium-sized bucket with sand, rice or macaroni. Then take plastic letters and bury them deep down under the sand or whatever other material you chose. Have students use a shovel to dig around and scoop out letters from the bucket. Once a student has successfully scooped out a letter, have them tell you what it is, say what sound it makes, and to make it more complicated, tell you a word that starts with that letter. As for some more activities to practice letter sounds, clay is always very popular. Have students form letters, upper and lower case. As a last activity, make different bins for each letter of the alphabet. Next, gather objects that start with each letter sounds. Students must recognize what letter the object starts with, then place it in the bin.

Integrating Math and Reading Into Your Lessons!

Heather Chirico
Team Leader – Geneseo

All students learn differently. It is one of the fundamental facts that every teacher needs to realize to be effective. Providing students with alternative ways of learning is one of the best alternatives. An abstract concept may connect for one child, but another may need a more concrete lesson. Providing a differentiated lesson is easier then you may think!

It's simple and easy to do! One way to do this is to integrate two or more subjects into your lesson. Math and Reading are two subjects that can easily be intertwined and provide great rewards.

The child who can't read well, but knows math concepts well, will benefit from reading about math because their previous knowledge will help them decode words they may not know. The child who doesn't know math concepts well, but can read fluently, will be able to see the math concepts in a different form then they may be used to.

Excellent Books to Try:

- [The Greedy Triangle](#) by Marilyn Burns
- [Math Curse](#) by John Sieszka
- [The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure](#)
by Hans Magnus Enzensberger
- [Wild Fibonacci](#) by Joy M. Hulme
- [How Many Blue Birds Flew Away?](#) by Paul Giganti
- [Go Figure!](#) by Johnny Ball
- [The Grapes of Math](#) by Gregory Tang



Ideas and Activities

Fall Into Math Fun

Emily Tatar

Team Leader - Livonia

Below are a few fun math activities that students can enjoy because they go along with the Fall season.

- **Leaf Math:**
 - First have each student gather a collection of leaves and select one or two that look symmetrical.
 - Next, make a rubbing of the leaf (either by rolling clay on top to make an imprint or simply doing a crayon rubbing on paper).
 - Flip the leaf over and do a rubbing for the other side. If the leaf's two sides line up, then it is symmetrical.
- **Pumpkin Math:**
 - Cut open a pumpkin and have the group estimate how many seeds are in the pumpkin.
 - Give each group a portion of the seeds to count.
 - Add up the group totals.
 - Whose estimate was closest to the actual number? How far off was the best estimate?
 - If you like, wash, lightly salt, and roast the pumpkin seeds.
- * other activities can be done with pumpkins like weight and waistline measurements.
- **Apple Graph:**
 - Have a "taste sampling" session with the class where each student can try about 3 or 4 different types of apples (Red Delicious, McIntosh, Green, Empire).
 - Have each student record which is their favorite.
 - Make a class bar graph containing favorite types of apples (a graph could also be made of least favorite apples to show the differences).



Fall Holiday Fun: Literacy Activities for K-6

Brandi Daniels

Team Leader - Dansville

Fall is a wonderful time of year to be tutoring in schools. Halloween and Thanksgiving present opportunities for many fun, exciting and engaging literacy activities. The following are some Halloween activities to try with your students:

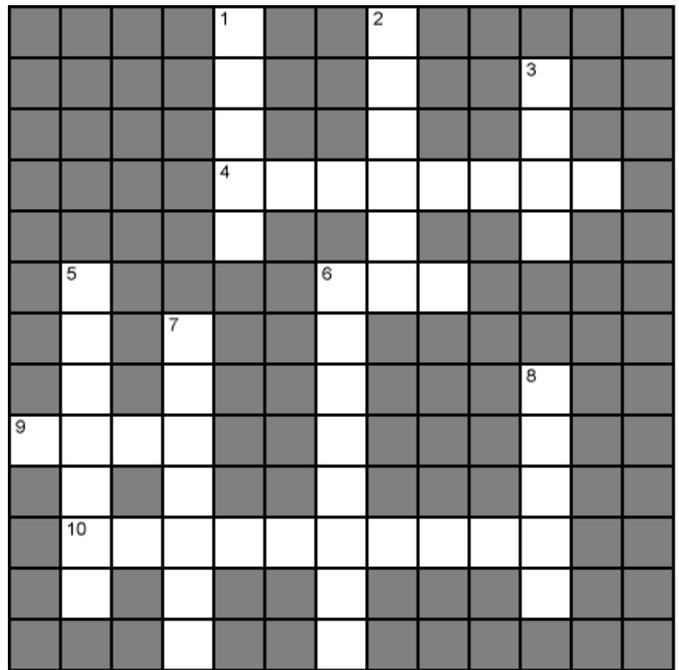
- ❖ Create Epitaphs – This activity is fun, creative and can be incorporated into a poetry or rhyming lesson.
- ❖ At <http://www.farmersmarketonline.com/ff5.htm> there are some interesting pumpkin riddles for older students.
- ❖ Create a Monster – Write a descriptive paragraph about a monster and read it aloud to your students. The students will use the descriptors in your paragraph to create an illustration of what the monster should look like. This can be used with all ages.
- ❖ Spooky Adlibs – 3-5 grade students can create a fun and spooky adlib story using the template found at : http://www.education-world.com/a_tech/techlp/pdfs/spookystory.xls
- ❖ Salem Witch Hunts – Students in grades 4+ are fascinated by the story of the Salem Witch Hunts. You can build upon their fascination and provide a valuable learning experience by having the students execute an internet search to find facts relating to the event. After the search have a discussion and create a web on the interesting facts they found.

Here are some fun activities to try with your students:

- ❖ Webquest - A fun and informational activity about Thanksgiving can be found at <http://www.hazelwood.k12.mo.us/%7Ecdavis01/webquests/kpw/>
- ❖ Word Search - a quick and easy activity <http://www.edhelper.com/Thanksgiving37.htm>

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Math Crossword Puzzle



Fall Holiday Fun (Continued from page 3)

- ❖ Hand Turkeys – Students create hand turkeys using construction paper. Write I am thankful for...and put a different word on each feather/finger.
- ❖ Contributions of Native Americans – With students in grades 4+ search the web for the contributions of Native Americans to our society. Discuss these contributions and write a paragraph about how their life would be affected if those contributions were not made.
- ❖ Great Picture Book- *Three Young Pilgrims*, by Cheryl Harness, is a great picture book for students in grades 1-2. This very pictorial book is perfect for young readers to visualize the first Thanksgiving and what life was like for the Pilgrims and Indians. There are visual representations of their food, the layout of the colony of Plymouth, the setup of the Mayflower, the timeline of historical occurrences and even worldly happenings. This book may truly represent what it was like for the Pilgrims to journey to the New World and start a new life. This is a good book for looking at Thanksgiving through the eyes of a Pilgrim.

For more ideas and information check out:
<http://www.teacherplanet.com/calendar/10-OCT.htm>

Across

4. You use this to get a sum.
6. A group
9. You can never divide a number by _____.
10. One fifth and two tenths are _____ fractions.

Down

1. All the sides of a square are _____.
2. Do this to get a quotient.
3. Nine is the square _____ of eighty-one.
5. A whole number
6. You _____ to find the difference between two numbers.
7. You get this when you multiply.
8. It's the percent that equals 1/2.



Upcoming Events (continued from page 1)

- Monday, November 14th – 5:00 p.m. – College Union 322+323 – *Activity Circle* – this is your last chance of the semester to come and share your activity ideas with your peers. Please come prepared with something to show.
- Wednesday, December 7th, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., College Union 322+323 – **Final Reflection** – please come share your thoughts about participating in the program and enjoy some pizza!