

Lesson Plans/Activities for Teachers to do with Students Using Mr. Lemur Books

Practicing the Reading Strategy of Inferring (can be used with any of the Mister Lemur books; for grades 1-5)

- Use post-it notes to cover up the definitions the author has provided at the bottom of pages with words students may be unfamiliar with
- Project the page from the book onto a projection screen so all students can see the words
- Point out those words in the story or poem
- Ask students to use other clues around the word to infer what the word means
- After making their best guess at what the word means, ask older students to use dictionaries to look up the actual definition of the word to check if they were correct

Rhyming Practice & Word Families (for grades K-2)

- Read a poem to the students asking them to listen for pairs of rhyming words
- If you are projecting a copy of a poem onto a projection screen, then circle the rhyming pairs of words with different color markers
- Choose a pair of rhyming words that are easy for students to think of more rhymes for (like “fun” and “run” from “Train of Thought,” or “bug” and “hug” from “Petting Zoo”) and write them at the top of a large sheet of paper. Ask students to brainstorm other rhyming words in the same “word family” and record them on the paper. See how many rhyming words the class can come up with.

Practicing the Reading Strategy of “Mental Images” (any grade)

- Choose and read a poem to the class without showing them the illustration (suggestion: “Continental Plates”)
- Have students draw on a blank paper what they “see” in their mind when they hear the words from the poem

Creative Writing Ideas (for grades 3-6)

- Read the poem, “Two Thousand Forty-Three” and then ask students to invent a job of the future and write an expository paragraph describing it
- Read the poem, “The Writer’s Block” and then ask each student to pick two well-known characters from two different stories (as is suggested in the line from the poem that reads, “Some see Harry Potter hang out with The Grinch from Dr. Seuss” and write their own narrative story about the adventures of these two characters
- Read the poem, “My New Hat” and ask students to design their own creative hat and draw a picture of it as well as write a descriptive paragraph about their invention

Rhythm & Music

- Read “Come and Join the Body Band”
- Have the class sit in a big circle and have students volunteer suggestions of different things they can do to make body music
- Record the suggestions on a sheet of large paper
- Then write a “body music” song together and play it (e.g., “half of the class makes a buzzing sound for 8 counts, while the other half of the class clicks their tongues and stomps their feet for 8 counts,” etc.)

Science Connections

- Read the poem “Summer Vacations” and then follow up with a science lesson about why we have seasons
- Read the poem “Toucan” and have students research other animals that have symbiotic relationships during their time in computer lab
- Read the poem “My Rain Squeeze” when teaching the water cycle during the weather science unit
- Read the poem “Alternative Energy” for Earth Day and brainstorm realistic ways to be green and earth-friendly