

# Engaging Readers All Year Long

Month-by-month ideas for promoting reading and writing in the elementary classroom.



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# EXAMPLE



## Calendar

Events are organized into monthly, weekly, and daily observances/celebrations.

Anything with an underline is a link you can click to learn more about that particular observance/celebration.

## Digital Resource Spotlight

This is where you'll find an online resource that pairs with one of the observances/celebrations in the calendar section.

It is a supplement to relevant reading and writing activities.

## Activity Spotlight

Here, you'll find an activity that pairs with one of the observances/celebrations in the calendar section.

## Book Spotlight

This is where a book title that pairs with one of the observances/celebrations in the calendar section will be highlighted.



# September



## Calendar

Monthly:

- Hispanic Heritage Month
- National Yoga Month

Daily:

- 11th: 9/11 Remembrance Day
- 22nd: First day of autumn
- 30th: Orange Shirt Day

## Activity Spotlight

Discuss why books are challenged. Look up a list of grade-appropriate books that are often challenged (that they'll be familiar with).

Click [here](#) for a Q&A to help answering their questions.

## Book Spotlight

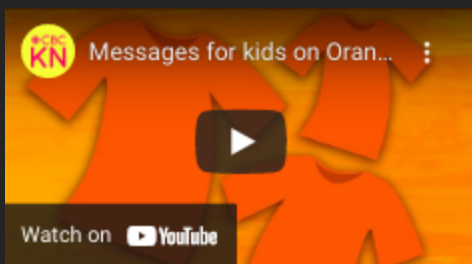


"Ed's bad mood begins as something really small, hardly a thing at all. But before long it grows, gathers pace, and spreads through the whole town.

Can Ed sweep his troubles away?"

## Digital Resource Spotlight

A message for kids about Orange Shirt Day (CBC).



# October



## Calendar

Monthly:

- National Bullying Prevention Month
- Learning Disabilities and Dyslexia Awareness Month

Weekly:

- 3-9: National Fire Prevention Week
- 10-16: Teen Read Week

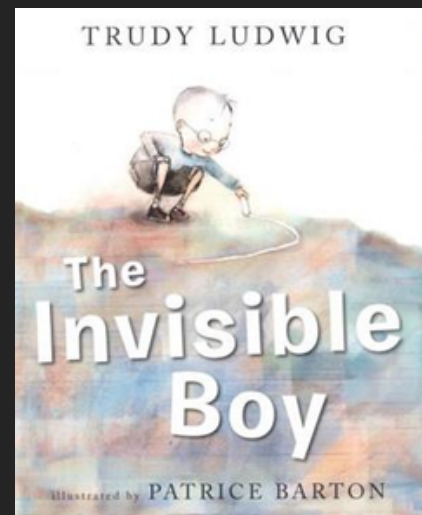
Daily:

- 31: Halloween

## Activity Spotlight

Crumped Paper Activity is a hands-on way to teach about and discuss the consequences of hurtful words and actions.

## Book Spotlight



"A gentle story that teaches how small acts of kindness can help children feel included and allow them to flourish."

## Digital Resource Spotlight

The History of Halloween for kids!



# November



## Calendar

Monthly:

- Writing Month

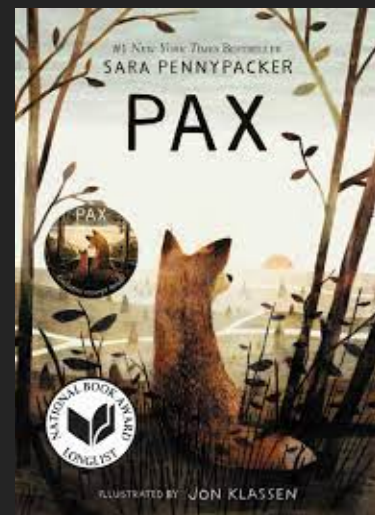
Daily:

- 11: Remembrance Day

## Activity Spotlight

Postcards for Peace: A Canadian project to connect students with Veterans via postcards.

## Book Spotlight



"A beautifully wrought, utterly compelling novel about the essential truths that define us and the devastating costs of war."

## Digital Resource Highlight

Sentence Writing Strategies for Elementary Students!





# December



## Calendar

Monthly:

- Winter holidays

Daily:

- 11: Letter Writing Day
- 21: First day of winter
- 31: New Year's Eve

## Activity Spotlight

Intro to letter writing:

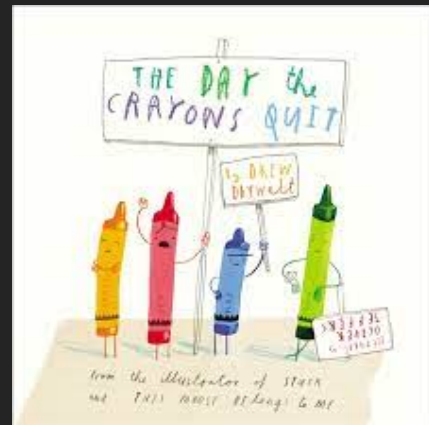
Practice writing different kinds of letters!

## Digital Resource Highlight

An exploration of winter celebrations all around the world!



## Book Spotlight



Poor Duncan just wants to color. But when he opens his box of crayons, he finds only letters, all saying the same thing: His crayons have had enough! They quit!

What can Duncan possibly do to appease all of the crayons and get them back to doing what they do best?

# January



## Calendar

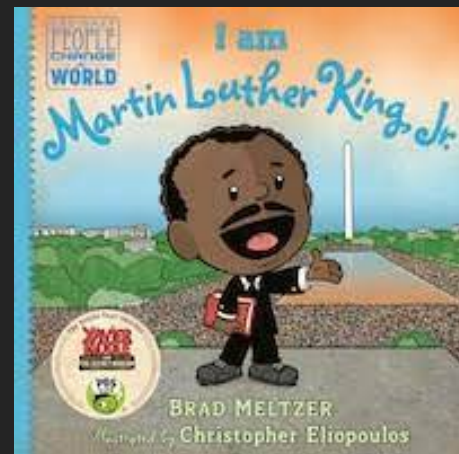
Daily:

- 1: New Year's Day
- 3: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 3: JRR Tolkien's Birthday
- 24: Compliment Day

## Activity Spotlight

Learn how to give a good compliment!

## Book Spotlight



"This friendly, fun biography series [focuses on] one great role model at a time, these books encourage kids to dream big. Included in each book are: a timeline, photos, comic-book-style illustrations, childhood moments, and facts."

## Digital Resource Highlight

The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



# February



## Calendar

Monthly:

- Black History Month
- National Bird Feeding Month

Weekly:

- 20 - 26th: Freedom to Read Week

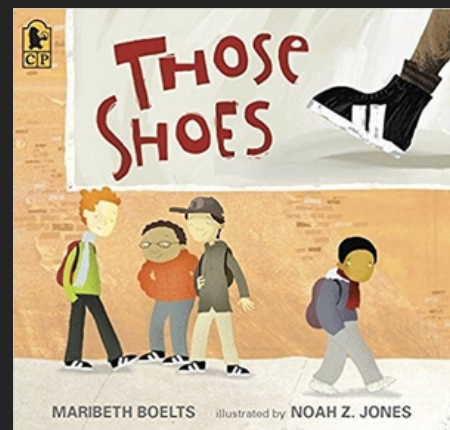
Daily:

- 100th Day of School
- Lunar Near Year
- 2: Groundhog Day
- 2: 2s Day
- 14: Valentine's Day
- 17: Random Acts of Kindness Day

## Activity Spotlight

Read books that highlight and celebrate Black History Month.

## Book Spotlight



"All Jeremy wants is a pair of those shoes, the ones everyone at school seems to be wearing...Jeremy soon sees that the things he has — warm boots, a loving grandma, and the chance to help a friend — are worth more than the things he wants."

## Digital Resource Highlight

Kids explain Black History Month.





# March



## Calendar

Monthly:

- [Women's History Month](#)
- [Music in Our Schools Month](#)
- [Read Across America](#)

Daily:

- 14: [Pi Day](#)
- 17: [St. Patrick's Day](#)
- 20: [First Day of Spring](#)
- 20: [Very Hungry Caterpillar Day](#)
- 22: [World Water Day](#)

## Activity Spotlight

Read books that highlight and celebrate Women's History Month.

## Book Spotlight



"Shaking Things Up introduces fourteen revolutionary young women—each paired with a noteworthy female artist—to the next generation of activists, trailblazers, and rabble-rousers."

## Digital Resource Highlight

The Very Hungry Caterpillar - Animated Film



# April



## Calendar

Monthly:

- [Math Awareness Month](#)
- [Financial Literacy Month](#)
- [National Autism Month](#)
- [Poetry Month](#)
- [School Library Month](#)
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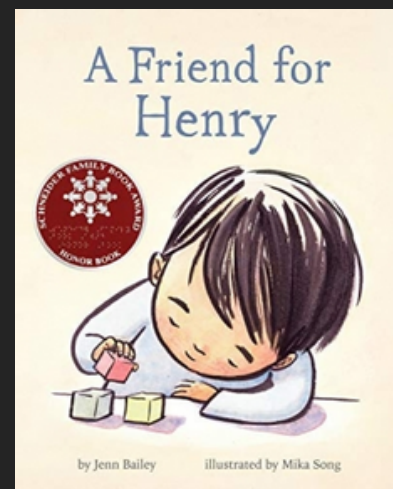
Daily:

- 1: [April Fool's Day](#)
- 12: [Beverly Cleary's Birthday: Drop Everything And Read \(D.E.A.R. Day\)](#)
- 22: [Earth Day](#)
- 23: [Shakespeare's Birthday](#)
- 29: [Poem In Your Pocket Day](#)

## Activity Spotlight

[Celebrate Poem in Your Pocket Day!](#)

## Book Spotlight



"[On] a day full of too close and too loud, when nothing seems to go right, will Henry ever find a friend—or will a friend find him?"

With insight and warmth, this heartfelt story from the perspective of a boy on the autism spectrum celebrates the everyday magic of friendship."

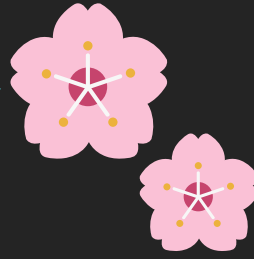
## Digital Resource Highlight

"If You Give a Child a Word (Spoken Art). Children performed an original poem around a single word they each chose that represented their own spirit, their hopes, dreams and vision for their future."





# May



## Calendar

Monthly:

- Asian American and Pacific-Island Heritage Month
- Mental Health Awareness Month
- National Pet Month

Daily:

- 4: Star Wars Day
- 5: Cinco de Mayo
- 2nd Sunday: Mothers' Day

## Activity Spotlight

Read books that highlight and celebrate Asian American and Pacific-Island Heritage Month.

## Book Spotlight



"When Heather goes to school for the first time, someone asks her about her daddy, but Heather doesn't have a daddy. Then something interesting happens. When Heather and her classmates all draw pictures of their families, not one drawing is the same."

## Digital Resource Highlight

"Mental health is important, but do you know what it means? CBC Kids News contributor Ainara Alleyne breaks it down and explains other terms like "mental illness" and "stigma." "



# June

## Calendar

Monthly:

- Pride Month

Daily:

- 1: Say Something Nice Day
- 3rd Sunday: Fathers' Day
- 19: Juneteenth
- 20: First day of Summer

## Activity Spotlight

Read books that highlight and celebrate LGBTQIA+ voices and stories.

## Book Spotlight



**A TEACHER RESOURCE**

## Digital Resource Highlight

"June is Pride Month in many places across the world. But do you know why the celebrations began in the first place? "



"Seeing Gender is an of-the-moment investigation into how we express and understand the complexities of gender today. Deeply researched and fully illustrated, this book demystifies an intensely personal—yet universal—facet of humanity. "



## References

We Are Teachers. "The Big List of Holidays and Special Days to Celebrate at School." We Are Teachers, <https://www.weareteachers.com/school-holidays/>. Accessed 29 July 2022.