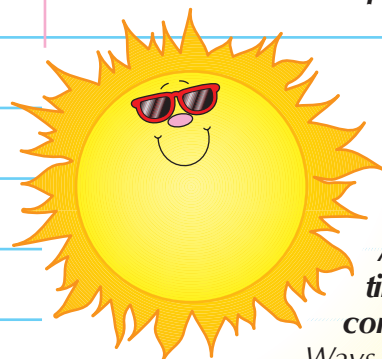


AUGUST Writing Activities

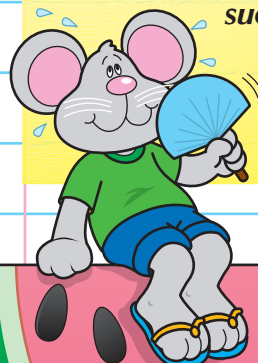
As summer blazes to an end and excited faces fill your classroom, engage students in writing! Focus on topics that will cause children to appreciate unique events this month, get to know each other better, and to settle into their new routines. Happy new school year!



Heat Beaters

August is a good time to help students compile a Top Ten Ways to Beat the Heat

list. Have each student come up with five usual (eat ice cream) or unusual (sit on ice cream) ways to cool off. Post all the ideas on a bulletin board and have students come by and vote for their favorites by putting check marks and their initials by two of them. Tally the votes to create a Top Ten list and publish it in your August newsletter. Reward the class for their contributions with a cool treat such as ice cream!



Yummy Watermelon

National Watermelon Day is August 3. Students may be interested to know that watermelons are 92% water, and the world record for the largest watermelon is 225 pounds. Serve watermelon as a special snack and then supply students with red, green, and black construction paper to make watermelon slices. Ask students to write similes (comparisons using like or as) about watermelon on the slices. For example, watermelons taste like sunshine, are as red as roses, as juicy as..., as sweet as..., etc. Post the crafts and the facts about watermelon on a bulletin board titled Watermelon—What a Melon!

Word Bank Words

sun	summer	splash
butterfly	sizzle	outdoors
heat	watermelon	sunglasses
bright	vacation	pool
playground	travel	fun

You've Got a Friend

The beginning of a new school year is an ideal time to make new friends. Discuss the value of friendship with the class and ask students to write about a time when they either needed a friend or were a friend. Call on volunteers to share their special stories.

Good Advice

Students can show off their problem solving skills with this activity. Have students come up with their own back-to-school advice by pretending to be newspaper columnists. Write the following letter on the board and have each child compose a response. Place the responses in a center and allow students to enjoy reading the advice.

DEAR COLUMNIST,
I'M HAVING TROUBLE GETTING UP EVERY MORNING AND GETTING USED TO SCHOOL AFTER A LONG SUMMER VACATION.
CAN YOU HELP ME?
SIGNED,
SLEEPY SUE

Dear Sleepy Sue,
Getting up after a good summer is hard. Try going to bed on time at night. You could use an alarm clock or get your parents to help also.
Signed,
Doug

Smile When You Say That!



The first week of August is National Smile Week. Ask students to list three-five things about being back in school that make them smile and to then create a poem from that list. Have each child write her finished poem in the shape of a smile.

Editor's Checklist

Create an editor's checklist for students to use when turning in work. Include items such as:

- ☒ Name and date are on my paper.
- ☒ I have checked my spelling.
- ☒ All sentences have the correct punctuation mark at the end.
- ☒ Every sentence begins with a capital letter.
- ☒ I read the sentences, and they make sense.

Have students use the checklist and make any corrections before turning in their work.

What's Under the Beach Umbrella?

Take a trip to the shore! Have students staple and decorate a piece of colorful paper to resemble a beach umbrella. Staple this page over a sheet of writing paper. Have students write about what is under the beach umbrella when the umbrella is lifted.

I am a seaweed covered sea monster that crawled out of the ocean to catch the rays.

What's under the Beach Umbrella?