Little Books

For

November

Using the little books:

Each little book has one, two or three of these options:

- print and black and white illustrations

  This option is best if the book is being read by the class or a group, with a copy for each child. The picture tells the child what the words are likely to be, so early readers can be successful. The pictures may be coloured later.

- print with no illustrations

  The children can draw their own illustrations, once they have been taught the words and can read the little book - or each page can be taught and then the illustration drawn.

- print with coloured illustrations.

  To print a class set of little books in colour is likely too expensive, but the teacher can teach from a coloured copy. The coloured copy could be tacked on a bulletin board for 'read the room' activities, or put in the class library for later reading.

Making the little books.....

The pages in the little books in PDF have been turned so that they should photocopy correctly.

To photocopy from one-sided copies, the pages should stand the 'tall' portrait way. On the top of the pile, page 1 and 8 should face right, under it page 2 and 7 should face left, page 3 and 6 should face right and page 4 and 5 at the bottom of the pile should face left. Fold in half, of course.

To staple, use a 'long neck' stapler and put two staples on the fold.

Ideas for Teaching the Little Books

1. November

This is a good little book to use on the first school day in November. Print out the colour copy to use for demonstration.

Discuss what the children know about the month of November. The weather is getting cooler, there may be birthdays, and there is Remembrance Day, the only special holiday in November. Discuss Remembrance Day and wearing poppies and why this is a special day. (You will, of course, go into this in more detail nearer the day.)

Show the coloured copy and read it through to the students. Why is there no colour on page 2? Are the trees bare where you live? If you live on the BC coast, the trees will still have leaves at the beginning of November, but they will be gone by the end of the month. How do we dress to go outdoors this month? You may already have snow where you live, or may get some before the end of the month. The students will be wearing coats and mitts and scarves to go outdoors - and boots if there is rain or snow.

Talk about the poppy that we wear on Remembrance Day, and the reason why.

Read the book through several times, touching under the words. You can print the words out on a chart, too - and now highlight the words the students already know and the important words in each sentence. Can the children read the little story?

Give out the individual books in black and white, and have the students read them. Then they can be coloured.

2. NOvember

This is a take-off of the poem by Thomas Hood, written in 1844 in the very foggy/ smoggy London of that day, when the people often could not see across the street.

I have used the icon for 'no', and it is a good thing to teach this as it is often seen.

Print out the coloured booklet, and print out the poem on a chart.

Read the little book through to the students, and then talk about each page going through it again. Read it several times, touching under the words.

You can make a chart - the things we see or do in November, and the things we can't see or do.

When the students are familiar with the words, you can give out the black and white copy for them to read and colour, or the copy with no illustrations. They may enjoy using the 'no' symbol over their own illustrations of things they cannot see in this month.

You can also use this as a class book, by using this poem as a model. Where there are rhyming words, you can use other rhymes - or just examples and have only the last two lines rhyme.

3. Remembrance Day

Talk about Remembrance Day. Talk about the two great world wars, and how terrible they were, and how happy people were when the wars ended. Canada's soldiers fought in the wars and many were killed in battle, and Remembrance Day is the time to honour them. Every town or city in Canada has a marker or cenotaph, and most have the names of the soldiers. If you live in a small town where the cenotaph is within walking distance, take the class to see it on November 10.

Remembrance Day is November 11, and talk about the first war being over and the peace agreements were signed at 11:00 a.m. on November 11 - the 11th day of the 11th month. Discuss the minute of silence at that time.

This little book tells about Remembrance Day. There is only the black and white one to photocopy.

Go over the words many times, until the students can 'read' the book. Look for words that they know.

4. Five Little Poppies

Talk about the poppies we wear on Remembrance Day, and the meaning of them.

This little poem has five talking poppies, and as you first read it to the students, discuss the speech bubble (or balloon), and how we know who is talking. Perhaps your children have seen comic books.

Print the poem on a chart, and read it to the students. Find words that the students know and highlight them. Find the word 'said' on four of the pages. You can also look at the ordinal numbers to fifth, and print them separately.

There is only a black and white copy for this little book. Give each student a little book.

When the students are familiar with the poem and can 'read' it through, following the words with a finger, they can colour the poppies red. On page 7, all the poppies are speaking, so the students can draw the points to each of the poppies.,

5. Rain

Rain may not be a suitable subject for you this month, but on the BC coast it is the weather for November!

There are four versions of this little book. First, a coloured one for you to use for teaching, two versions of the black and white one, and one without illustrations.

Have the words written on a chart. Read through the little book, and the chart. Find words the students know, and highlight them. Look at 'drip' and 'drop', and 'dripped' and 'dropped' - words that look alike.

When the students know the words and they are memorized, give out the version of the little book that you like - they can put their own words in one version. Colour the pictures.

Have the students read the little book to each other and share their ideas.

6. When the Rain Comes Down

This little book can be a phonics lesson! Read the coloured little book through to your students first, and then go through the book looking carefully at the words. If you have the words on a chart as well, that will help. Print 'drip drop drip drop' and look at the words. Talk about the sounds of short i and short o. Then add 'plip plop plip plop' and 'flip flop flip flop'.

Read through the little poem until the students have it memorized. You can do actions with it - fingers coming down for drip drop, swishing side to side for flip flop like windshield wipers, and stomping feet for plip plop.

Give out the black and white copy and have the students read it through, touching under the words with a finger. Colour the pictures, or have them draw their own with the no illustrations version.

7. It's Raining Cats and Dogs

This is an old expression and some of your students may not have heard it. When you say it, what do they imagine? The meaning is simply raining hard, and it is difficult to find where that saying originated.

Read the little book to the students (it only comes in black and white....) and discuss the meaning. Talk about the bubble or balloon with the question mark - we had a poppy one with the speech bubble, but now we have little circles, which of course means thinking rather than speech. Print the poem on a chart and re-read it, and find all the words that the students know.

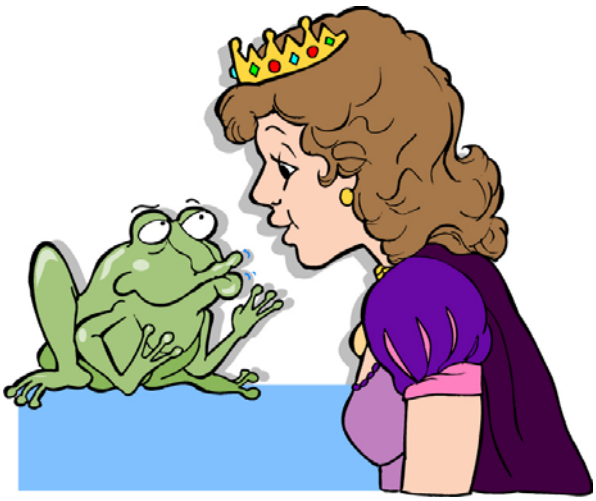
What would it be like if it really did rain cats and dogs? It would be very interesting, but also dangerous!

When the students know the poem by heart, give out the photocopied books and have the students read it to each other..... and then they can colour the illustrations - or use the version with no pictures and the children can draw their own illustrations.

8. What Do the Letters Say?

As a phonics nut, I may have a few odd things in this little book!

1. The sound of the letter goes between the slashes: /a/ and the name of the letter is when the letter stands alone.
2. The letter q makes the sound /kw/.
3. The letter x is not at the beginning of any word, and to put exit or other word with a vowel in front is not accurate. It does not make the sound of the letter name - the letter name says 'ex'. I have used the word 'kiss', which is close to the sound /x/ makes. The children do remember this, especially if you add XXXX to a letter, meaning kisses!



9. All Kinds of Shoes

Did you know? Just as people have different faces, they have different feet! They are all different sizes and shapes..... And what we wear on our feet can be very different, too.

Do you wear the same kind of shoes all year? Have the students brainstorm shoes they wear in hot weather, cold weather, rainy weather and snowy weather. Then we wear all sorts of different kinds of shoes for different activities. Have the children tell you about the different things they like to do, and if different shoes are needed.

Print the poem on a chart and find all the words the children know, and highlight them. Find the rhyming words, too. Read the poem over until the students can read it themselves, touching the words.

Give out the little books, and the students can read to each other. Colour the pictures.

10. The End of November

This little book reviews November, and talks about this month being dark and dreary - but when the end of November comes - then it is December! The weather will still be dull, but the holidays make it seem much more cheery.

This may be the first time you talk about Christmas, unless you are already practicing for a Christmas concert, so the children will be excited to think of December and the pleasures of the holidays.

Print the poem on a chart and find all the words the children know, and highlight them. Find the rhyming words, too. Read the poem over until the students can read it themselves, touching the words.

Give out the little books, and the students can read to each other. Colour the pictures.