

Little Books

For

January



Using the little books:

Each little book has one, two, three or four 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.

- print with fill-ins

With this copy the students can fill in blanks to personalize the book.

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. Resolutions

This is a good little book to teach on the first day back after the holidays. Discuss the new year and the word 'resolutions'. These are usually things in which we would like to improve. Are there any ways you can try to do better this year?

Print the poem on a chart and read it through several times. Have the students highlight words they know and the rhyming words. Talk about this child, and that he/she expects to 'miss a few'.

Read it several times more, until the students have the words memorized. and most can say it with you. Show your coloured copy and read the little book. What does the child think he/she will miss?

Hand out the little books for the students, read the poem through and they can colour the pictures.

2. January

This is a simple poem that is easy to memorize. Talk about January - the weather, the new year, and the interesting things you will do.

Follow the usual directions of printing on a chart, looking for known words and rhyming words, read it through a number of times, show the coloured little book and then give out the student copies. Read these through, touching the words - and then colour the pictures.

3. The Months of the Year

This little book is a song, sung to 'Three Blind Mice'. Show a year's calendar and the months. You can have a chart with the months on the bulletin board and go through this when you do the calendar. Talk about the months and the seasons, and bring in the children's birthdays.

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4. Snow From the Sky

This is a simple little book, which will be fun for your lower readers. This is what happens in January! From blue sky to cloudy sky to snow - and then about the word snow... Talk about the compound words using 'snow', such as snowball, snowman, snowflake, etc.

The second copy is the same as the colour but in black and white, and the third copy has fill-ins on the page where snow lands. Use a colour word and then an outdoor noun to personalize the little book for all or just some of your students.

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5. The Snowman

We can hope to have warm days in January when the snowman melts! This little book could be part of a science experiment - bringing in snow to see what happens, and perhaps you could even make a small snowman outdoors sitting in a plastic basin, and then bringing him in to watch what happens.

Follow the usual directions of printing on a chart, looking for known words and rhyming words, read it through a number of times, show the coloured little book and then give out the student copies. Read these through, touching the words - and then colour the pictures.



6. Winter!

This lesson could begin with brainstorming two lists - what the students like about winter and what they do not like. Some things might be on both lists - and you can talk about our differences and why people might disagree.

Follow the usual directions of printing on a chart, looking for known words and rhyming words, read it through a number of times, show the coloured little book and then give out the student copies. Read these through, touching the words - and then colour the pictures.

There are four versions - one for the students to fill in the blanks with their own likes and dislikes as well as the coloured, black and white, and the one with no illustrations.

7. Red Mittens

This was a favourite one for me to make! I am not sure how well the black and white version will photocopy, as the mittens are a bit faint - if you find that they don't show up, simply copy the coloured version as the amount of black would not be too great.

For this one, you may not want to print it on a chart as it is fairly long, so a suggestion would be to print each of the 12 pages separately on larger paper and use these as your teaching copy.

Practice counting down from ten, and you can use this with a lesson on subtracting 1 from each number.

I have put the mittens in groupings - can your children tell how many are left by these groupings?

Do your students know what a clothespin is?

Follow the usual directions of looking for known words and rhyming words, read it through a number of times, show the coloured little book and then give out the student copies. Read these through, touching the words - and then colour the pictures.

8. It's an In-Day

You will likely have in-days in January, and this is a good little book to choose then. It is simple, and the children should be able to read from known words and the picture cues.

To begin, you could brainstorm a list of possible things to do on an in-day, and go over the rules of behaviour on these days.

Follow the usual directions of printing on a chart, looking for known words and rhyming words, read it through a number of times, show the coloured little book and then give out the student copies. Read these through, touching the words - and then colour the pictures.

The last of the four versions has fill-ins, with spaces for names and the thing that person likes to do. On an in-day, each student could have their friends fill in one page each.....

9. In the Winter

There are special things that we can only do in the winter, and some things that can be done at any time of year. This little book talks about what children like to do at this time of year.

Brainstorm two lists, one of things the children like to do in the winter, and the other of things they like to do in the winter that can be done at other times of the year.

Follow the usual directions of printing on a chart, looking for known words and rhyming words, read it through a number of times, show the coloured little book and then give out the student copies. Read these through, touching the words - and then colour the pictures.

The last version has fill-ins for names, so the children can print the names of their friends and classmates.

10. Chinese New Year

Talk about the Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated. If you have children in your classroom that celebrate this holiday, this becomes more interesting and personal.

The students will be interested in the customs, and finding in what year they were born. Some teachers have made a dragon, with a cardboard box for a head and a body made with the rolled butcher paper.

Talk about the Chinese writing, and how each symbol has meaning as our words do. I put the writing twice - the first as the inked brush strokes and the second that the students may want to colour.

Follow the usual directions of printing on a chart, looking for known words and rhyming words, read it through a number of times, show the coloured little book and then give out the student copies. Read these through, touching the words - and then colour the pictures.



