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Introduction

Do you know kids who just don't like to read? Such readers are easy to spot. When it's time to read, they're the ones who suddenly have to go to the toilet or the sick bay. And while some of the more covert ones will just sit quietly, looking at the pictures in a book, others may become disruptive and do their best to keep any reading in the classroom from happening at all—for themselves or anyone else.

The simple fact is NOT EVERYONE LIKES TO READ! As teachers and parents, however, we have the opportunity to help the reluctant reader find value in books.

In *Literature Activities for Reluctant Readers*, methods for reaching our less-than-enthusiastic readers are outlined. A selection of engaging books and activities to support each method are also suggested.

Teacher's Guide

What can you do to help children grow to love books? Here are some ideas.

- One extremely important thing you can do to help your reluctant readers get hooked on reading is to be genuinely thrilled with books. Don't confine your interest in books only to reading time. Share books about many things throughout the day.
- Do your best to supply books for your students that relate to a subject in which they have a keen interest. Work with your students and their parents to determine areas of interest.
- At school, and in the home, children must be surrounded by interesting books and interested readers. If a value is attached to books and reading, children will begin to wonder what they are missing if they do not read.
- Give children time to read books of their choice in class on a regular basis. During this time, you read a book of your choice, too!
- Try to connect books to other curricular areas whenever possible. Books make more sense if they become an integral part of a child's whole learning experience.
- Invite guest readers from your community.

Kids like to know that others they know enjoy books. For example, the owner of a place where kids like to go in their after school time.

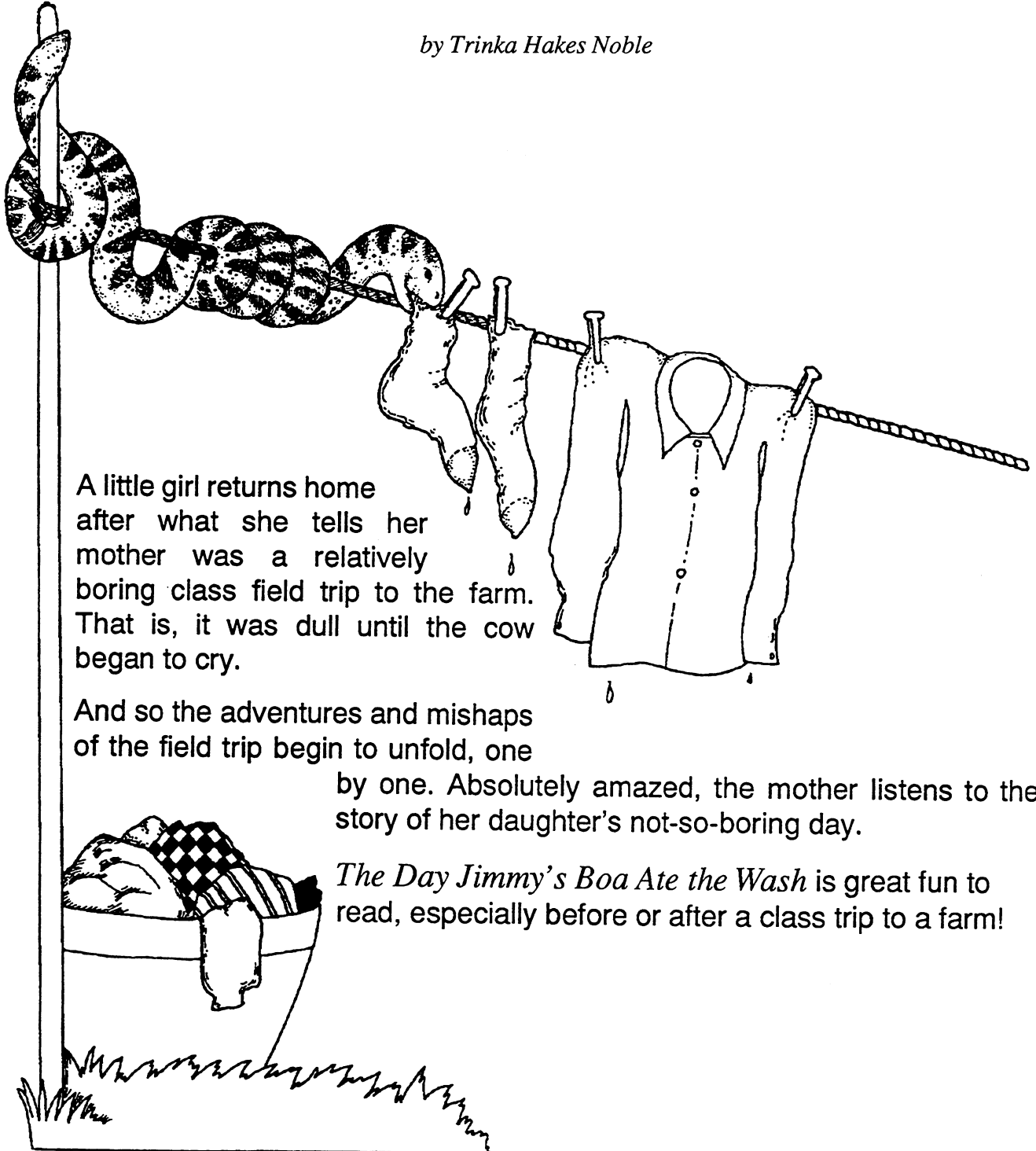
- Read aloud with enthusiasm daily.
- Discuss what you read, not to test the kids on their ability to remember facts from the book, but to share ways to relate what's read to their own lives.
- Use co-operative learning strategies to engage your students. They will often feed off the excitement and ideas that can be generated in a group setting.
- Encourage students to write in a journal about what they've read and how they feel about it.

Literature Activities for Reluctant Readers follows this format:

1. A method for stimulating an interest in reading is introduced with a page that can be colored and used for display in a learning centre. Fill the centre with books related to the particular method described on the sheet.
2. These methods are each followed by a selection of engaging books and activities which support the method introduced.

The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash

by Trinka Hakes Noble



A little girl returns home after what she tells her mother was a relatively boring class field trip to the farm. That is, it was dull until the cow began to cry.

And so the adventures and mishaps of the field trip begin to unfold, one

by one. Absolutely amazed, the mother listens to the story of her daughter's not-so-boring day.

The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash is great fun to read, especially before or after a class trip to a farm!

Field Trip Story

