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“Found Poetry”

A “found poem” is a collection of special words or phrases chosen from a piece of literature by groups of students. When read or spoken aloud, these selected lines form a “found poem,” centering on the feeling or imagery created by the text. This activity enables students to return to the text and focus on vivid imagery, memorable passages, and exciting vocabulary.

The following lesson is a variation on the creation of the original “found poem.”

1. Divide the book into six parts (sections). For each section, write a paragraph of dialogue or text that seems to capture the story line. Prepare “text cards” of the paragraphs. (These cards will be distributed to student groups.)
2. Glue each paragraph section to colour-coded construction paper (one colour for each section) and label the six parts (group 1 through group 6). Laminate the cards for durability.
3. Divide the class into small groups of four or five students. Distribute the text cards. (All the members of group 1 receive a copy of the group 1 text card, group 2 members receive the group 2 text card, etc.)
4. Instruct students to appoint a recorder. Children in each group select 4–8 special words or phrases from the text cards (not sentences) and list their choices on a piece of paper. Every member of the group should make at least one contribution to the list. (It may be necessary to model this activity using another piece of literature.)
5. The teacher then copies the words and phrases selected by the groups onto a chart for display. Children read and enjoy their new “found poem.”

Suggestion: Duplicate the poem so that all the children can have a copy to take home.

“The Polar Express Poem”

Hissing steam
 Squeaking metal
 Train standing perfectly still
 Apron of steam
 Snowflakes fell
 “All aboard,”
 The Polar Express.
 Other children
 Pajamas and nightgowns
 Christmas carols
 Candy with nougat centres
 Hot cocoa
 Lights of towns and villages.
 Cold, dark forests
 Lean wolves
 White-tailed rabbits
 Quiet wilderness
 Mountains so high
 Scrape the moon.
 North Pole
 Huge city
 Filled with factories
 Christmas toys
 Hundreds of elves
 Santa’s helpers.
 Santa’s sleigh
 Reindeer
 Pranced and paced
 Silver sleigh bells
 Magical sound
 Elves cheered.
 Any gift
 Santa’s giant bag
 One silver bell
 Gave a hug
 Cut a bell
 Reindeer’s harness
 The first gift of Christmas.

Use the sample poem and directions to guide students as they create a class “found poem.” Display the poem on a chart and make copies for the children to take home.

The Polar Regions Game

To play the Polar Regions Game you will need the game board (pages 38–39), game markers (coins, buttons, paper squares, etc.), task cards (pages 36–37), and a die or spinner.

Directions: This game is for two to three players or two teams of two players. (Teams act as one player, but they can answer the questions together.) Each player will need a game marker.

1. Place the task cards face down in a pile near the game board.
2. Take a task card and answer the question.
3. If you answer correctly, roll the die or spin the spinner and move the number of spaces shown.
4. If you answer incorrectly, stay on the same space.
5. The first player or team to reach the end wins.

Answers for The Polar Regions Game

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. The north polar region or the far north or the top of the world | 16. Anchorage to Nome |
| 2. Antarctica or the south polar region | 17. Canada, Greenland, Siberia, U.S.A. |
| 3. Antarctica | 18. “real people” |
| 4. polar bear, seal, walrus, caribou | 19. food, clothing, and other products |
| 5. dogsled and boat | 20. a canoe |
| 6. a rookery | 21. one |
| 7. fat and feathers | 22. a boat |
| 8. krill, fish, shrimp, squid | 23. a whole family |
| 9. 24–32 km an hour | 24. a kind of dog used by Eskimos to pull sleds |
| 10. burn it for heat and light | 25. a barren desert of ice |
| 11. when they are hunting on the tundra | 26. a chick |
| 12. large, flat land where the Eskimos hunt | 27. 2 months |
| 13. from the store | 28. the Emperor penguin |
| 14. parkas, boots, mittens | 29. seagulls, skuas, seals |
| 15. a dogsled race | 30. birds |

Holiday Banners

Here is a great gift idea for children to make and parents to treasure!

Materials:

- inexpensive white or off-white fabric
- coarse sandpaper — one sheet 22 cm x 28 cm for each child
- paper towels
- crayons
- scribble paper
- pencils
- marking pens (permanent)
- dowel sticks — one per child about 33 cm long
- coloured wool
- iron
- pinking shears (optional)
- tissue paper (for wrapping gift)

Preparation:

- Cut fabric into approximately 25 cm x 36 cm rectangles (one for each child).
- Use pinking shears for an interesting edge, which also prevents raveling of the material.
- Talk with students about possible subjects for their banners: a Christmas tree, a wreath, an elf, Santa, a snowman, an angel, etc.

Procedure:

1. Have children use pencils to design banners on scribble paper. When they are satisfied with their pictures, have children use permanent marking pens to sketch their designs on the sandpaper. Encourage them to include some kind of border and to fill up the space provided (very tiny details will not show up). Be sure to leave a 5 cm blank space along the top. This will be folded over the dowel stick. Do not write words on the sandpaper. They will come out backwards!
2. When the picture is completed, lay the sandpaper face up on a pad of newspapers. Lay the fabric over the sandpaper and cover the fabric with two layers of paper towelling to protect your iron. (See illustration A.)
3. Iron the area slowly for several seconds.
4. Check to see if the colour has come through on the fabric. Peel the fabric away from the sandpaper.
5. Optional: Let children write “Merry Christmas” or “Happy Holidays” on their banners with marking pen. Teacher may write child’s name and the date in a bottom corner. (See illustration B.)
6. Use a hot-glue gun to attach the banner to the dowel.
7. Tie coloured wool on each end as shown.
8. Roll the banner up and wrap it with tissue paper.

