

I have gotten a lot of questions about my "Thursday Book Bags" so I have decided to add the files for download on my website.

I did NOT receive a grant for these bags. My school uses the program Accelerated Reader and I had many books in my room that were not AR books so the kids didn't read them. These were the books that I used to fill the bags. Many of the materials in the bags I had as well. Lots of the games and activities were things I had purchased from Scholastic Book Clubs. Other items I bought for specific bags after I decided to create them.

In this packet of files, you will find:

- some files for specific bags
- reminder notices for missing items or forgotten bags
- a parent letter and permission slip

If you decide to make the bags, good luck! My students have LOVED them! 😊

Dinosaur Names

Author: Holly Davis



If the dinosaurs had such peanut-sized brains,
why were they given such difficult names?

Why not “Beak Mouth” or “Bonehead” or “Horny” or “Chops”,
instead of a mouthful like **Triceratops**?

And as sure as the winged **Archaeopteryx** flew,
a much simpler name like “Fly Guy” would do.

If dinosaurs knew that their names were so tough,
they'd turn in their graves and cause earthquakes and stuff!

Why not “Spiny” or “Spike” for our friend **Stegosaurus**?

And “Stretch” seems to work for the long **Brontosaurus**,

Their names should be simple and bold and distinct--

I wish that long dinosaur names were extinct!



“How to Delay Your Bedtime”

A family play written by Bruce Lansky



Directions: You can read this bed time play with your family. Everyone will choose a part. It's ok to have more than one part. Read it a few times . . . the last time you read it, make sure you're reading with expression and making it really funny and interesting! Have fun and good night!

“How to Delay Your Bedtime”

A family play written by Bruce Lansky

Characters:

Narrator

Child

Mom

Dad

Narrator:

(Reads title of poem)

Refuse to turn off the TV. Say:

Child:

All my friends watch this show.

Narrator:

Shout:

Child:

No Fair!.

Narrator:

when you're told to go to bed. Then ask:

Child:

Why can't I stay up till ten like all my friends?

Narrator:

When Dad says:

Dad:

If all your friends jumped off the Brooklyn Bridge would you jump, too?

Narrator:

Sneer:

Child:

Yes!

Narrator:

Whine:

Child:

I'm too tired to walk upstairs to bed.

Narrator:

Make Dad carry you up the stairs.

Narrator:

Pout:

Child:

I'm too tired to brush my teeth.

Narrator:

Wait till Dad squeezes the toothpaste onto your brush and starts brushing your teeth for you. Then groan:

Child:

Ouch, you're hurting me.

Narrator:

When Mom comes in to say good night and asks you to pick up your clothes, yawn:

Child:

I'm too tired to pick up my clothes.

Narrator:

Watch while you Mom picks them up for you. Beg:

Child:

I need a bedtime story.

Narrator:

When Mom finishes the story, ask :

Child:

And then what happened?

Narrator:

Tell her:

Child:

That story got me excited. Now I need a backrub to make me sleepy

Narrator:

When Mom starts rubbing, give directions:

Child:

Rub a little higher. No, a little to the left. No, more to the middle.

Narrator:

When Mom stops rubbing, grumble:

Child:

I was just starting to feel sleepy-- don't stop now.

Narrator:

When Mom says:

Mom:

For the last time, good night!

Narrator:

Whine:

Child:

I'm thirsty. Can I have a glass of water?

Narrator:

When Mom asks you to promise you won't wet the bed, say :

Child:

I promise.

Narrator:

But cross your fingers. Start crying. When Dad comes to comfort you, sob :

Child:

There's a monster under my bed.

Narrator:

When he turns on the lights, you'll see that it's only your shoes, socks, crayons, and the toy you got last Christmas but only played with once because you lost it. Tell him:

Child:

Leave the door open so I can see the hall light!

Narrator:

When he opens the door, plead :

Child:

Open it wider!

Narrator:

When Dad leaves, get the toy from under your bed and play with it in the light shining through your doorway.

THE END!

OOPS!

I forgot to return my book bag today! Please help me to remember it tomorrow. Thank You!



Student's Name

Bag Title

OOPS!

Bag Title: _____

My book bag was missing the following items:



Please help me find these items and return them to school tomorrow, so I can continue participating in the book bag program. Thank You!

Student's Name

Dear Parents,

It's time to introduce the take home literacy bags I have to share with your child. These bags- called "Thursday Book Bags"- are take home activities & books in a themed tote bag. The purpose of these bags is to encourage a love for reading. I have tried to choose high interest topics. Many of the bags will be related to our State Learning Standards, but not all. I have also included bags that are just plain fun!

Each week your child will have the choice to take home a large canvas bag filled with books, activities, and a journal. They are not required to take a bag home every week- just when a bag sparks their attention! Literacy bags will be sent home on Thursday and need to be returned the next Tuesday.

Please note that all books and activities in the bags have not been purchased by the school. Because I have personally purchased everything in the bags I am asking that any students and families that choose to take part in this project replace any missing or damaged books or activities that occur while the bag is in your care. Most books or activities did not cost more than five dollars each.

Also, students that do not have a parent permission slip (bottom of this page) will NOT be able to take part in this activity- which is OK. If you would rather not have your child participate, that is OK. If you have any questions, concerns or comments about this new endeavor please feel free to call at _____.

Please see and keep the back of this sheet for rules and reminders about the book bags!

Thank You,

✂ *****

I understand **and agree** that:

- ✓ My child will be able to participate in the literacy bag program.
- ✓ My child will return bags in a timely fashion (they are due back the following Tuesday).
- ✓ We will replace any missing or damaged items (damage will be determined by teacher) with a maximum fee of five dollars for each item or \$20.00 for an entire bag.

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Thursday Book Bag Rules

1. You are responsible for the bag you choose. Do not eat or drink around it. Do not leave it at someone else's house, don't leave it on the bus or let anyone borrow it. This bag is the property of our classroom and you are responsible for it while it is in your care.
2. Bring the bag back on Tuesday! I know sometimes you might forget and that's ok- you will get a reminder note to help you remember the bag or find a forgotten item. Repeated reminders will mean you will not be allowed to borrow a bag for a few weeks.
3. If you lose or damage an item, be honest about it! You aren't in trouble and you will be allowed to borrow a bag again as soon as the item is paid for or replaced.
4. If you take a bag please make time to write in the journal that comes with it. Though this is not mandatory, it is important that we learn to be reflective readers who think about and evaluate what we are reading. Also, it's fun to get a bag and read about what other people did with it!
5. You don't have to read or do everything in the bag! The purpose of these bags is for families to engage in literacy together. You might not have time for all of the activities, but I hope your family will enjoy spending some time together, reading and playing. The important thing is that you are showing your child that reading is valuable and worth making time for- and that is something they can keep with them for a lifetime!

Happy Reading!



Hi! I'm Little Critter. I live in Critterville. I have a mom and dad and a little sister and a little brother. But I am the oldest. Do you have any sisters or brothers? I have lots of pets, too. I have a dog and a cat and a mouse and a grasshopper and a frog. And a snake and a bunch of fish and some turtles, too. Do you have pets?

Here's what I like to do... play baseball and football and ride my bike and my skateboard. I like to go fishing and go to the beach and go to the mall. What do you like to do? I go to Critterville Elementary School. I'm in first grade. Miss Kitty is my teacher. I ride the school bus to school with my best friends, Tiger and Gator. Tiger does karate. He's really good. He's learning how to chop a piece of wood in half with his bare hands. Gator plays basketball. He can jump really high.

I also like to read comics. Super Critter ones are my favorite. Do you like comics?

Anyway, I've got to go now. My mom is calling me to clean my room, so bye for now.

Talk to you later!

Your friend,

LITTLE CRITTER

For “Your Teacher’s Monster” (next page)

Glue the directions to the OUTSIDE of a file folder. Follow the directions to draw the monster and glue it inside the file folder.

Laminate for durability.

Students will follow your directions and draw inside the journal then flip open the file folder to see if they followed directions exactly!



My Teacher's Monster

Directions: Read and follow the steps below to draw your teacher's Monster inside of the Monster Journal. When you are done, open the folder to see if you have drawn your teacher's Monster!

No peeking inside until you are done!

1. Draw a medium sized green circle at the top of your paper.
2. Now, draw a green body. The body has two arms and two legs. They are kind of squiggly.
3. Next, draw a green triangle on each side of the monster's head. These are its ears.
4. On the top of the monster's head, draw three yellow lines. This is the monster's hair.
5. In the middle of the monster's face, draw a blue circle. In the middle of the circle, draw another blue circle. Color in the second circle. This is its eye.
6. The monster has a heart shaped mouth under its eye.
7. The monster has 6 purple dots on its arms and legs. Draw them and color the dots purple.
8. Now you can color the rest of the monster green.
9. Are you ready? Did you follow the instructions? Open up the folder and see if you have drawn your teacher's Monster!