

READING ACTIVITIES

BANNER NAMES:

Students will be given a banner sized piece of paper and sets of colored markers, as well as sketching or scrap paper. Ask them to write out their names on the scrap paper. For each letter of their names, they must think of a sport, object, or hobby that they like, or a characteristic that describes their personalities. For instance, Tim might like tennis, and his first letter "T" could be shaped like a narrow tennis racket for the stem, with yellow-green balls in a row to make the header line across. If Tim is generally an impatient person, his letter "I" could be slanted, with double dashes on both sides of it to illustrate he likes things to go fast. Our Tim also likes music, so he could fashion the "M" with music notes, with the bar dipping in the middle - you get the picture. For ideas, have students brainstorm their hobbies, how they would describe themselves, etc., and have a stack of magazines handy for inspiration as well. Each letter should be drawn on sketch paper first, and when the student is happy with the design, then it can be transferred to the banner paper and colored in with markers.

PEOPLE WORDS:

Have a competition between similarly graded classes, to make "people letters". A teacher will call out a short word ("cat", "dog", etc.) and students must organize quickly on the playground or in the gymnasium to make the letters. Assign the first letter to one class or team, the middle letter to another, and the last letter of each word to another team.

SIDEWALK CHARACTER PAINTINGS:

Organize a pastel chalk sidewalk painting event, where teams of students or classes will take familiar characters from novels or even picture books they studied this year, and create a chalk painting. Designate a space on your playground for the event, invite parents and press (ask parents to supply lemonade, sandwiches, and cookies to make it a real event - perfect for an end-of-school year event), and photograph all the entries. Students should work together to plan their entries before the actual event, drawing sketches and organizing who does what. Each square should be outlined for each group - make them large!! - with room as well to work around. When the event is over and your photos have been processed, do post a school hallway bulletin board of the entire, wonderful event!

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

Each student will bring a lunch bag to school, with an illustration on the front of the bag of their favorite meal menu. They can also include an actual food object or ingredient inside the bag, recipes, or the restaurant menu itself. Put all of the bags on a table, along with a piece of lined paper for students to write their guesses on whose bag it is. Give them a half hour or so to go through the bags, and then guess whose dinner belongs to which student.

DAFFY DEFINITIONS:

Take a section of your white or black board for this game. Write down about five difficult words, words which will challenge your students; number each of them. Then ask your students to work in three teams to come up with a reasonable guess of what each word means. They will write out their definitions on a piece of paper and

hand them in. You will already have recorded the correct answers on a separate piece of paper (it should look exactly the same as the student entries). You will read four definitions for each word, with each student team debating which one they will choose. The team with the most correct guesses wins the game.

**** Do you have some great Reading Activities?**

We'd love to hear about them and either add them to our list, or create a new one for you!

Write to: everydayteaching@gmail.com **