

Holidays: Preschool-2nd Grade

A RIF Guide for Educators

Themes: Holidays, Months of the Year, Seasons

Book Brief: This guide is designed for use with books about holidays at the Preschool to 2nd Grade reading level. Adapt the questions and activities in this guide to the book you are reading.

Content Connections: ELA, Social Studies

Time To Read!

Before we read, let's look at...

The Cover: What is the title of this book? Who is the author? Who is the illustrator? What is happening in the cover illustration? Based on the cover, what holiday is this book about?

Prior Knowledge: Provide children with a brief introduction to the holiday featured in this book.

Vocabulary: Identify 3-5 words that are likely to be new to your students and introduce them before you read this book with your class.

Purpose for Reading: It's important to be able to identify the main topic of a book. As we read, think about the main topic of this book.

While We Read

Monitoring Comprehension

- Retell the story, including key details.
- Choose two or three pages and make connections between the illustrations and the text. For example, identify what person, place, thing, or idea is depicted in the pictures.
- What did you learn about this holiday from the book?
- Draw a connection between a character or real person from the book and the holiday itself. What is the relationship between them?

Let's Think About

Our Purpose: What is the main topic of this book? What holiday is featured in this book, and what does the author want you to know about it?

Extending Our Thinking: Use the concept of holidays to help you teach the calendar and the seasons. Go through a 12-month calendar as a class, identifying one or two holidays in each month. Identify the month when the holiday falls and the season of the year. Discuss how the month or season affects how that holiday is celebrated. (For example, think about things like weather and if school is in session.) To make it more fun, try to identify less well known holidays in addition to major holidays. You can also make this activity specific to the holiday featured in the book you are reading.