

Adventures with Books

By Jennifer Smith

Aesop's Fables, Valentine's Day, and President's Day

Aesop's Fables Unit

There are many different collections of these fables, and any of them should work for this unit. The one that I use is *The Aesop for Children*. You could purchase a collection (there are some available on Amazon) or borrow one from the library. Then you're all set to begin.

1. "The Crow and the Pitcher"

- Make a puppet and act out the story. Here are some helpful links:
<https://www.childoftheredwoods.com/articles/the-crow-and-the-pitcher>
<https://iheartcraftythings.com/crow-puppet-craft.html>
- Have children estimate how many beads or pebbles it will take to make a glass of water overflow.
- Write a paragraph about a time in which you solved a problem in a creative way.

2. "The Fox and the Stork"

- Put on a play to act out the story.
- Illustrate your favorite part of the story.

3. "The Lion and the Mouse"

- Make a lion mask.
<https://kidscraftroom.com/handprint-paper-plate-lion-masks/>
- Make a sequencing map for this story.
- Write a paragraph about how you have helped someone who is older than you.

4. "The Tortoise and the Hare"

- Have a race. One person can play the part of the tortoise and another the hare.
- Make a paper plate tortoise and hare.
<https://www.freekidscrafts.com/paper-plate-turtle/>
<https://www.craftymorning.com/paper-plate-bunny-rabbit-craft-kids/>
- Rewrite the story with two other animals as the main characters.

Valentine's Day Unit

Book ideas:

The Valentine Bears by Eve Bunting

Olive, My Love by Vivian Walsh

The Day it Rained Hearts by Felecia Bond

These activities will work with any Valentine's Day book:

- Make a torn paper heart. (Cut a heart shape out of poster board. Tear pieces of red and pink construction paper and glue them onto the heart cutout.)
- Make a Valentine's Day bird feeder.
<https://www.simplejoy.com/love-birds-valentines-day-bird-feeders/>
- Write a story about a Valentine's Day mix-up.
- Make (and eat) heart-shaped cookies. Decorate with red or pink icing and sprinkles. Squeeze in some math by having kids measure ingredients.

President's Day Unit

Book suggestions:

George Washington and the General's Dog by Frank Murphy

The Story of Abraham Lincoln by Patricia A. Pingry

A Picture Book of George Washington by David A. Adler

A Picture Book of Abraham Lincoln by David A. Adler

Activities:

- Write a paper about the life of George Washington or Abraham Lincoln.
- Make a toilet paper tube George Washington or Abraham Lincoln.
<http://www.survivingteacherssalary.com/president-lincoln-washington-toilet-paper-tube-craft-for-kids/>
- Memorize and recite part of a speech given by Washington or Lincoln. Bonus points if you dress the part!