

# ★ Loreen Leedy Book Projects ★

www.LoreenLeedy.com

## Language Arts

### *The Furry News*

#### *How to Make a Newspaper*

ISBN 0-8234-0793-4; ISBN 0-8234-1026-9 (p)

*Big Bear starts a neighborhood newspaper.*

**Classy News:** Create a newspaper to report on classroom activities. Include topics such as *field trips; new students; new books; computer tips; class projects* and so on. Include photographs, comics, diagrams, drawings, and other visuals.

### *Look at My Book*

#### *How Kids Can Write & Illustrate Terrific Books*

ISBN 0-8234-1590-2

*The steps to create an original book.*

**Getting to Know Us:** Write a group book that each student contributes to. Each student has a page to:

- 1) Put a photograph or drawing of him/ herself.
- 2) Write about his or her hobbies, family, favorite foods, pets, and so on.
- 3) Include artwork or photos that go with the text.

**In the Future:** Brainstorm with students about how things may change in the next two decades. What new ways will people travel, eat, dress, sleep, work, and go to school?

### *Messages in the Mailbox*

#### *How to Write a Letter*

ISBN 0-8234-0889-2; ISBN 0-8234-1079-x (p)

*Mrs. Gator's students write lots of letters.*

**Giant Letters:** Make an oversized letter for a special occasion such as welcoming a new student or teacher, a new baby, and so on. Write and revise a rough draft first. Lightly sketch the words onto poster board. Finish by going over the pencil lines with a marker.

**Dear Role Model:** Write a letter to someone you admire, either a present-day person or a historical figure. Try to finish sentences such as:

*I admire you because...*

*I plan to follow your example by...*

*I was surprised to learn that...*

### *There's a Frog in My Throat!*

#### *440 Animal Sayings a Little Bird Told Me*

Co-authored with Pat Street

ISBN 0-8234-1774-3; ISBN 0-8234-1819-7 (p)

*Hundreds of animal idioms and their meanings*

**Picture a Saying:** Each student picks a favorite saying to illustrate, either from the book or a saying on a different topic such as sports. Put a folded flap over the meaning, so viewers can guess before peeking underneath to see what the saying really means.

**Saying Search:** Collect examples of animal sayings in everyday speech, in magazines, newspapers, books, and on TV. Add each new one to a poster. Do people use animals sayings often and don't even realize it?

**Sayings Skits:** Students act out sayings such as *She has a bee in her bonnet* or *Don't rat on me!* The audience tries to guess what saying it is.

## Math

### *Follow the Money!*

ISBN 0-8234-1587-2; ISBN 0-8234-1794-8 (p)

*George the quarter travels around the economy.*

**Money on the Move:** Write your own version of the story using either a coin or a bill. Think of the places the money might go as it is earned, spent, lost, found, put into gum ball machines and cash registers, saved in piggy banks, etc. How many hands will it pass through in a day? **Option:** Make a map of the money's travels.

**My Money:** Figure out how you use money for one week. Write down when you get money and what you do with it... save it, spend it, give it away? Were your purchases worth it afterwards? What changes (if any) would you want to make?

## ***Fraction Action***

ISBN 0-8234-1109-5; ISBN 0-8234-1244-X (p)

*Miss Prime stars in stories about fractions.*

**Fraction Fiction:** Write and illustrate a story problem using halves, thirds, or fourths. For example: *David got ten dollars for his birthday. He spent one fourth of it on a race car. How much money did he have left?* Fold a large sheet of paper in half to make a four-page mini book. Put the title on the front, the problem on page 2, a drawing on page 3, and the answer on page 4.

## ***The Great Graph Contest***

ISBN 0-8234-1710-7; ISBN 0-8234-2029-9 (p)

*Two friends compete to make the best graphs.*

**Goofy Graphs:** Think of a fun graphing question such as: “If you could be any animal, what would you be?” Take a survey of your class, group the answers into appropriate categories such as Reptile, Mammal, Bird, and Imaginary, then make a graph to display the results. What was the most popular answer?

**Where in the World is My Family From?:** Find out what countries your classmates and their family members are from. Make a graph to display the results.

**Option:** Take a survey to see how many languages your classmates and their family members speak.

## ***It’s Probably Penny***

ISBN 0-8050-7389-2

*Lisa and Penny explore probability.*

**I Probably Will (or Won’t):** Think of some activities you will, might, or definitely won’t do over the weekend. Write down your predictions ahead of time; then keep track of what you actually do during the weekend. Were your predictions accurate?

**Never Again!:** Interview a relative to find out something that happened that he or she decided to avoid afterwards. (Examples: eating hot peppers or getting a bad sunburn.) Did they avoid doing it again?

## ***Mapping Penny’s World***

ISBN 0-8050-6178-9; ISBN 0-8050-7262-4 (p)

*Lisa makes maps based on her dog Penny’s life.*

**3-D Map:** Make a scale model of a place such as a classroom or playground using heavy paper or clay on a cardboard base. Provide a scale, a compass rose, and label important features.

**Mapping My World:** Think of fun themes for maps such as: *My Route to School; Great Places to Visit in Our State; Where My Relatives Live*, etc. Trace existing maps for a large area such as a town or state. For a smaller area, measure it with a tape measure or by pacing it off. Use gridded paper, choose a scale that will fit, and label map as shown in the book.

## ***Measuring Penny***

ISBN 0-8050-5360-3; ISBN 0-8050-6572-5 (p)

*Lisa measures her dog Penny plus other dogs.*

**Measure Me:** Measure various body parts using standard tools such as rulers plus nonstandard tools such as paper clips, bottle caps, and pens. Body parts to measure could include ears, hair, feet, fingers, palms, etc. Find unusual measurements to make such as the distance from wrist to elbow, or from ear to ear.

**Silly Records:** Think of several fun feats for an Amazing Measuring Meet. How long can you stand on one leg? How many cups you can balance? How far can you throw a cotton ball? How fast can you tear a piece of paper into 100 pieces?

## ***Missing Math***

ISBN 978-0-7614-5385-7

*A town’s numbers mysteriously vanish.*

**A Digit Diet:** How long can you go without using any numbers? Under what circumstances do you have to start using them again: using money; telling time; keeping score; using the computer?

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## ***Mission Addition***

ISBN 0-8234-1307-1; ISBN 0-8234-1412-4 (p)

*Miss Prime's students practice adding.*

**Add a Problem:** Invent adding story problems such as *Two bunnies came to the meadow to nibble grass. Five minutes later, three more bunnies came. How many bunnies were there?* Illustrate the word problem and include the appropriate equations.

**Adding Critters:** Make your own adding manipulatives out of clay. Make frogs, snakes, hamsters, or other favorite animals. Use them to act out adding problems.

## ***The Monster Money Book***

ISBN 0-8234-0922-8; ISBN 0-8234-1558-9 (p)

*A clubhouse of goofy monsters talks money.*

**A Monstrous Job:** Make the parts for a silly monster from clay or paper maché. In addition to a body, arms, legs, and a head, include wings, a tail, horns, and other fun features. Assemble and name the new monster, then think of a job for him. Describe how much he earns, spends, and saves. Can he afford to buy a fancy cave?

**Monster Fund-raising:** Find a worthy project your class can raise money for such as a class trip, or a charity. Brainstorm to think of creative ways to earn money or get donations. Make flyers and posters explaining why people should assist your cause. Set a realistic goal and make a graph to show the amount raised and how much more is needed.

## ***Subtraction Action***

ISBN 0-8234-1454-X; ISBN 0-8234-1764-6 (p)

*Miss Prime's students subtract at the fair.*

**Subtraction Stories:** Brainstorm with students to think of story ideas using subtraction... *losing teeth; selling extra toys at garage sale; buying something at a reduced price; disappearing food.* Pick an idea and write and illustrate a story, including the necessary equations.

**Subtraction Journal:** Think about when subtraction happens in everyday life and write about it in a journal. Did you spend money? Give part of your lunch to a friend? Lose a button? Empty the cookie jar? Throw away broken toys? Share your examples with the class.

## ***2 X 2 = BOO!***

### ***A Set of Spooky Multiplication Stories***

ISBN 0-8234-1190-7; ISBN 0-8234-1272-5 (p)

*Silly witches, bats, and ghosts multiply the fun.*

**Multiplying Puppets:** Student groups choose one of the stories to act out. Make the character puppets out of cloth, felt, or paper. Practice the lines for each “actor” and put on a show for the whole class.

**Double Duty:** In the story *Seeing Double*, the girl witch doubles herself to cut her work in half. What would happen if you doubled yourself? Would you get homework done twice as fast? Or would you get in twice as much trouble?

## **Science**

### ***Blast Off to Earth: A Look at Geography***

ISBN 0-8234-0973-2; ISBN 0-8234-1409-4 (p)

*Alien robots explore the Earth.*

**Personal Geography:** Where exactly do you live? Draw your school, town, state, country, continent, and even your planet and galaxy on paper plates, then link them from top to bottom into a chain from farthest to nearest.

**Option:** Plot on a map the location of where everyone in your class was born.

**Geography Contest:** Do research in the library using maps, almanacs, and the encyclopedia or search the internet to find out the “winners” in your area in a variety of categories such as *Largest Lake; Longest River; Highest Point; Largest Island; Deepest Lake;* and so on.

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## ***The Edible Pyramid: Good Eating Every Day***

(revised edition: 2007)

ISBN 0-8234-2074-2; ISBN 0-8234-2075-2 (p)

*A feline waiter explains the food pyramid.*

***A Giant Edible Pyramid:*** Make a large pyramid shape out of paper or cardboard. Divide into sections as shown in the book and label accordingly. Draw or cut out magazine photos of various foods and glue them into place in the pyramid.

***Mixed-up Meals:*** What ingredients go into soups, stews, and casseroles? Interview a cook or look at a cookbook, then draw a diagram showing where the ingredients of a particular dish go in the various sections of the food pyramid.

***Multicultural Cuisine:*** As you study people of a different culture, figure out where their foods fit into the food pyramid. Do you eat some of the foods they do? Make a Venn diagram that shows in one circle the foods only you eat, in the other circle the foods only they eat, and in the overlapping section the foods both of you eat.

## ***The Great Trash Bash***

ISBN 0-8234-0869-8; ISBN 0-8234-1634-8 (p)

*The town of Beaston cleans up.*

***Banish the Trash:*** Choose an area to clean up, perhaps a section of the playground. Keep track of the number and type of pieces of trash (paper, metal, plastic, or wood.) Make a large bar graph to display the data you collected.

***Pollution Solutions:*** Do research and brainstorm to think of ways that kids, parents, and teachers can reduce trash and live “green.” Use recycled paper to make a book of ideas. Illustrate with photos or drawings.

**Coming in Fall 2008!**

***Crazy Like a Fox: A Simile Story***

## ***Messages From Mars***

ISBN 0-8234-1954-1

*100 years from now, students tour the Red Planet.*

Co-authored by Andrew Schuerger, Ph.D.

***Plan a Mission:*** If you were going to Mars, what supplies and special equipment would you need to take along? Make a list using the information in the book about what the conditions on Mars will be. How long will you be there and what will you do? What will you do for fun on the way?

## ***Postcards From Pluto:***

### ***A Tour of the Solar System***

(revised edition: 2006)

ISBN 0-8234-2064-7

*Dr. Quark takes students to see the planets.*

***Postcards From the Space Station:*** Write a postcard as if you were an astronaut living on the space station. Read real stories about astronauts to find out what they experienced. What can you see as you orbit the Earth? What do you miss the most? What do you do all day?

***Postcards From the Past:*** Write a postcard as if you were a historical figure such as Rosa Parks, Paul Revere, or Abraham Lincoln. Describe the events the person experienced as if it all just happened and they want to tell a friend.

## **Social Studies**

### ***Celebrate the 50 States!***

ISBN 0-8234-1431-0; ISBN 0-8234-1631-3 (p)

*Maps and facts from each U.S. state.*

***Stately Postcard:*** Design a souvenir picture postcard that showcases a particular state. Include landmarks, wildlife, special foods, and/or other distinctive state attractions. Use wide, blocky lettering and fill it up with state symbols such as the state flower, animal, tree, and bird. Also include famous landmarks, mountains, rivers, lakes, buildings, and local foods.