

Days to Celebrate

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Celebrations, History

Grade Level: K to 5th grade

Book Brief: A month-by-month guide to special days of the year.

Author:

Lee Bennett Hopkins

Illustrator:

Stephen Alcorn

Content Connections:

Social Studies, Math, Science, Art



TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the text based on the

front cover illustration. The back cover says, "Every day is a day to celebrate." What does that mean? Do your students agree?

The Pictures: This book is divided by month. Before reading any of the poems, look at the calendar for the current month. What important days are in this month? Can the students think of any days to add?

Prior Knowledge: Ask students which days they already celebrate this month. How do they celebrate? Do they know *why* they're celebrating?

Vocabulary: (will vary from poem to poem)

Purpose for Reading: Each individual poem will obviously have its own theme and purpose. Try to make connections by asking the following question: "Why did the editor, Lee Hopkins, put this poem in this month?"



WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What kind of poem is this?
- ◆ Whom or what is the poem about?

- ◆ What poetic devices is the poet using?
- ◆ Is there a rhyme scheme? Are there any examples of figurative language?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: Revisit the purpose: "Why is this poem in this month? Is it about the month? Was it written by someone born in this month? Is it *about* someone born in this month?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students to think about all the days their families celebrate. How do they celebrate? Why do they celebrate? Do they celebrate any days that aren't listed on the calendar in the book? Ask students to share stories with the class. Is there anyone who celebrates a wacky holiday, like Pi Day (March 14)?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.



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