



Teacher Appreciation Day Activities

1. When reading this story aloud, pause before the last rhyming word in each “Eeny meeny miney” part so that children will fill in the final word:
“Eeny meeny miney mick. So many colors that I could . . .”
2. Challenge children to make up their own “Eeny meeny miney” parts. What if Maybella had to choose a favorite book to read to Mrs. Shepherd? Or a song to sing to her? Or a fun game to teach her? What “eeny meeny miney” words could go with each of these?
3. Illustrator Thor Wickstrom has so many characters to draw, keep track of, and keep consistent in the Mrs. Shepherd books—23 students plus Mrs. Shepherd and any additional characters in each book! Bravo, Thor! Challenge students to draw TWO illustrations of your class doing different activities (i.e. at recess, during art, at lunch)—include ALL students and try to keep the characters consistent (recognizable in each illustration). Discuss how hard this challenge was and any strategies/techniques they used.
4. The Mrs. Shepherd stories are CHARACTER STORIES. A main character with a flaw is in a given situation/scene and that character’s flaw gets in the way time after time until finally the flaw says the day. Show students the organizer on the following page and fill in the blanks for one or more of the Mrs. Shepherd stories. Then students can try planning and writing their own character stories. You might try writing a class story first as a model before students work on their own stories. NOTE: Lynn’s stories may have 4-5 “gets in the way” parts, but students should have just 3 for their stories.

Name: _____ Teacher: _____

WRITING CHARACTER STORIES

Character with a flaw _____

Scene/Situation _____

Flaw gets in the way

#1

#2

#3

Flaw saves the day _____

On back of paper brainstorm possible names for your character (a thesaurus could be helpful)