

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
January	4
February	36
March	66
April	98
May.....	129
June	161
Appendix	192
Word Play Answer Key	197

Summary of Standards for Language Arts

Writing

- Uses the general skills and strategies of the writing process
- Uses stylistic and rhetorical techniques in written compositions
- Uses grammatical and mechanical conventions in written compositions
- Gathers and uses information for research purposes

Reading

- Uses the general skills and strategies of the reading process
- Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary works
- Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of informational texts

Listening and Speaking

- Uses listening and speaking skills and strategies for a variety of purposes
- Uses viewing skills and strategies to understand and interpret visual media
- Understands the characteristics and components of the media

*Used with permission by McREL (Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning) www.McREL.org

Introduction

Celebrate the day with a page from the past! Each daily page in this publication contains a high-interest, short account of a historical event, fun celebration, festival, or birthday of some important person (some of whom you may never have heard about). A response designed around Bloom's Taxonomy actively engages the reader's attention. In addition, each daily page includes:

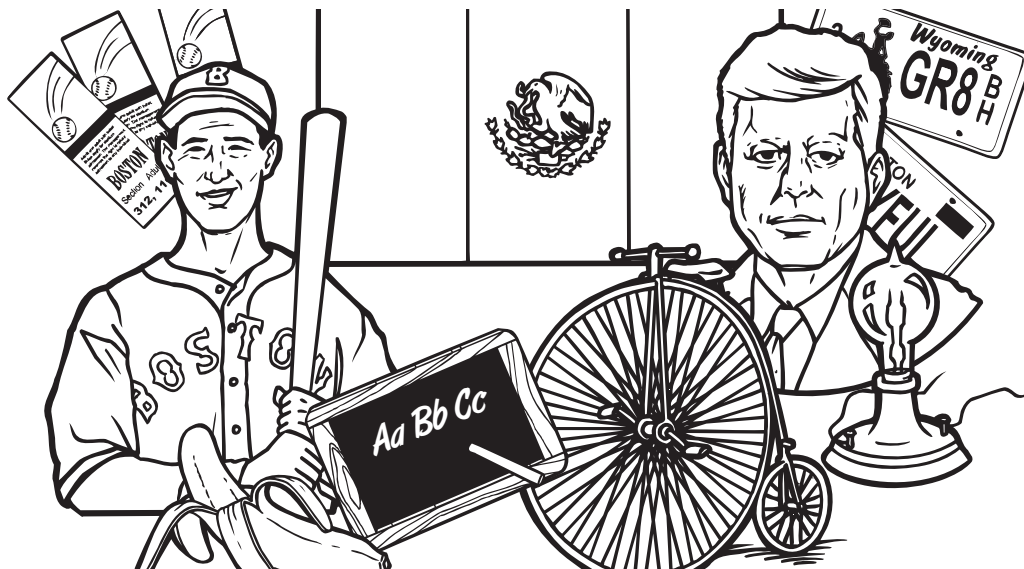
- A story-related Independent Activity
- A Word Play exercise related to the featured story
- Other Events occurring on that same day in history
- A Fascinating Factoid not covered in the story

The dates and facts of the events covered are as authentic as possible. In cases where discrepancies were noted during research, the most frequently used date and data for the event were used in this publication.

There are endless possibilities for ways to use the daily pages. Some ideas are:

- Incorporate the pages into your opening exercise. (Have the page duplicated and ready for students when they arrive. You may choose to read and discuss the story and then complete the other activities throughout the day as time permits.)
- Use the pages as a source of information and start your day with a morning message for your students. (Your message might be "Good morning, students! Did you know that today is the day that the largest banana split was made? We're going to read about it later in the day.")
- Assign the daily page as an alternative to regular homework.
- Conduct a reading minilesson in the history/social studies content area with the daily pages.
- Offer the daily pages for extra credit work.
- Provide enrichment with the daily pages.

You will surely find even more ways you can use these pages to enhance learning opportunities for your students. Whether you use every page or just pick and choose, this publication can help you make learning in your classroom an awesome experience!



March 26

Robert Frost's Birthday

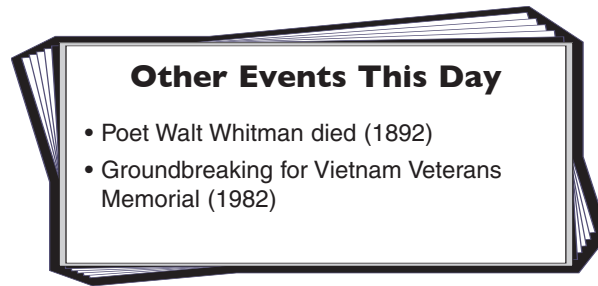


Robert Frost was one of America's leading poets and a four-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize. He was born in San Francisco on March 26, 1874, and raised in Massachusetts. After attending Dartmouth College for a short time, Frost drifted through several jobs such as teaching, cobbling, working as an editor, and farming. Mr. Frost's first poem was "My Butterfly." It was published in 1894.

In 1895, Mr. Frost married Elinor White, who served as his inspiration for writing. They lived in England for a while where he became associated with famous English poets who helped develop his talents. By the 1920s, Frost was the most celebrated poet in America. Robert Frost's work is associated with the life and landscape of New England, but he was not considered just a regional poet. Collections of Mr. Frost's poetry were published in *A Boy's Will* and *North of Boston*. Some of his most notable poems include "The Death of the Hired Man," "After Apple-Picking," "Mending the Wall," "The Road Not Taken," and "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening."

Response

Mr. Frost wrote about the life and landscape of his area. If you were to write about your life and surroundings, list three titles of poems you might write.



Other Events This Day

- Poet Walt Whitman died (1892)
- Groundbreaking for Vietnam Veterans Memorial (1982)

Fascinating Factoid: Robert Frost was the first poet to be involved in the inauguration of a U.S. president—John F. Kennedy. Mr. Frost had written a poem for the occasion called "Dedication." Blinded by the sun's glare on the snow-covered Capitol grounds, he was unable to read it. Thinking quickly, he instead recited from memory "The Gift Outright," a poem he had written in 1942.

Word Play

Let's see what you know or can find out about poetry. Match each type of poetry to its definition.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. lanturne | a. five unrhymed lines, 5-, 7-, 5-, 7-, 7-syllable pattern |
| _____ 2. diamante | b. three unrhymed lines, 5-, 7-, 5-syllable pattern |
| _____ 3. haiku | c. praises and glorifies person, place, or thing |
| _____ 4. ode | d. five lined verse shaped like a like a Japanese lantern |
| _____ 5. tanka | e. seven lined contrast poem set set in diamond shape |
| _____ 6. limerick | f. unrhymed poem of 22 syllables, 2-, 4-, 6-, 2-pattern |
| _____ 7. cinquain | g. rhymed humorous or nonsense poem of five lines with aabba rhyming pattern |
| _____ 8. monorhyme | h. rhyming verse of 12 lines, 60 syllables formatted in 3 stanzas of 8, 4, 4, 4 syllables each and rhyming pattern of aabb, ccdd, eeff |
| _____ 9. minute poem | i. all lines have the same ending rhyme |

Activity

- A *Quinzaine* is a special type of poetry. The name comes from the French word meaning "fifteen." A *Quinzaine* is an unrhymed verse of fifteen syllables, seven of which are in the first line, five in the second line, and three in the third line. The first line makes a statement. The next two lines ask a question or two regarding that statement.

Example:

I'm a very nice big girl,
Am I a big girl?
Am I nice?

Write your own *Quinzaine*.

April 27

Samuel Morse's Birthday



Samuel Morse was born on this day in 1791 in Charlestown, Massachusetts. He is remembered as the inventor of the telegraph and Morse Code although he was more an artist than a scientist. He grew up in Massachusetts and majored in philosophy and chemistry at Yale University. Mr. Morse studied art in England and lived there as an itinerant artist for a few years. He then returned to America to teach art. He followed in his father's footsteps for a while by writing geography textbooks. Together with his brother, R. C., he founded the *New York Observer* in 1823.

From 1837, Mr. Morse worked on the telegraph, first in partnership with Alfred Vail, Leonard Gail, and F. O. J. Smith. In 1844, Mr. Morse demonstrated the telegraph to Congress by transmitting the famous message "What hath God wrought" over a wire from Washington DC to Baltimore. He later experimented with submarine cable telegraphy. The telegraph was eventually patented in Morse's name through a grant of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1854. The telegraph was an important contribution to our communication system.

Morse Code is a system of dits (dots) and dahs (dashes) tapped at precise intervals of time between dits and dahs, between letters, and between words. The most well-known usage of Morse code is for sending the distress signal SOS, meaning "Save Our Ship."

Response

Explain the similarities between the telegraph and today's Internet.

Other Events This Day

- U.S. Poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson, died (1882)
- First benefit payment by the U.S. Social Security System (1937)


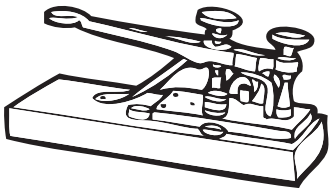
Fascinating Factoid: Some people believe that the telegraph was the forerunner of the Internet.

Word Play

Use Morse Code to decode the message below.

A.-	B_...	C_... .	D_... .	E.	F.._..
G_... .	H....	I..	J._... .	K_... .	L._... .
M_... .	N_..	O_... .	P._... .	Q_... .	R._..
S... .	T_..	U_... .	V_... .	W_... .	X_... .
Y_... .	Z_... .				

....	.-	
....
...	.-
...	

Activities

- Create a design of your name or initials in Morse code.
- Write a message to a friend using Morse code.
- Create a code of your own.