

Fun Plays for Special Days Book

- * Shrove Tuesday
- * Saint Patrick's Day
- * Easter

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Introductory Statement

'Fun Plays For Special Days'

THE IMPORTANCE OF DRAMA IN EDUCATION

As one of the creative art forms, Drama plays an important role in education. It is a medium through which important historical and current events come alive.

Human situations also come alive, inspiring understanding for all those involved.

In education, Drama provides opportunities for students to gain a better understanding of important events and situations from the viewpoint of personal experience and stepping into other people's shoes. The content comes alive and becomes relevant to the student's world. It also enables them to express themselves both individually and in a group.

OBJECTIVES OF THE BOOK

'Fun Plays for Special Days' focuses on special days, weeks and times that occur during each year. The plays, containing a great deal of verse, are suitable for middle and upper primary and can be used for both classroom activities and school assemblies.

GENERAL OUTCOMES

1. Through the educational mediums of Drama and Oral Speaking, the students will gain an understanding of the historical and cultural significance of the special celebrations and events featured.
2. The students will comprehend the reasons for the celebrations in various countries of the world.
3. The students will develop personal confidence when participating in public speaking and performance.
4. Opportunities will be provided for all class members to be involved in these plays.
5. Other year levels will gain both knowledge and understanding while watching the plays being performed.

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS AND SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

Each of these plays focuses on a special day, week or time, which is celebrated or remembered during the year.

'PANCAKES GALORE!' enables students to comprehend the origins of Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday and the reasons for its continuation each year.

'A HUNDRED THOUSAND WELCOMES' features St. Patrick's Day. It enables the students to gain an understanding of why St. Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland and why St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in Ireland and in other countries. This play also gives insights into life in Ireland.

'EASTER ALL AROUND THE WORLD' helps students comprehend some of the Easter traditions and rituals that are observed in Australia and in other countries.

'THE TALE OF BRUNO E. BUNNY' enables the students to gain an understanding of the real reasons for celebrating Easter. Bruno E. Bunny is one stressed out Business Bunny. He is so caught up making sure enough chocolate eggs are produced to meet the demand this year that he is not spending enough time with his family. His family and his employees help to gently remind him of what Easter is really all about.

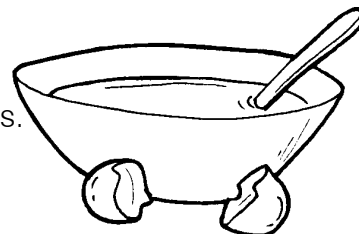
FORMAT

Each play consists of narrative style poetry, dialogue between characters and simple stage directions. Each play also incorporates character, props and costume lists.

POINTERS FOR USE IN THE CLASSROOM

1. Teachers may modify sections of the plays to suit differing requirements, circumstances and conditions.
2. In order to achieve full participation and to ensure that all the children are participating in the performance, there can be more than one narrator. There can be a choir of narrators!

PANCAKES

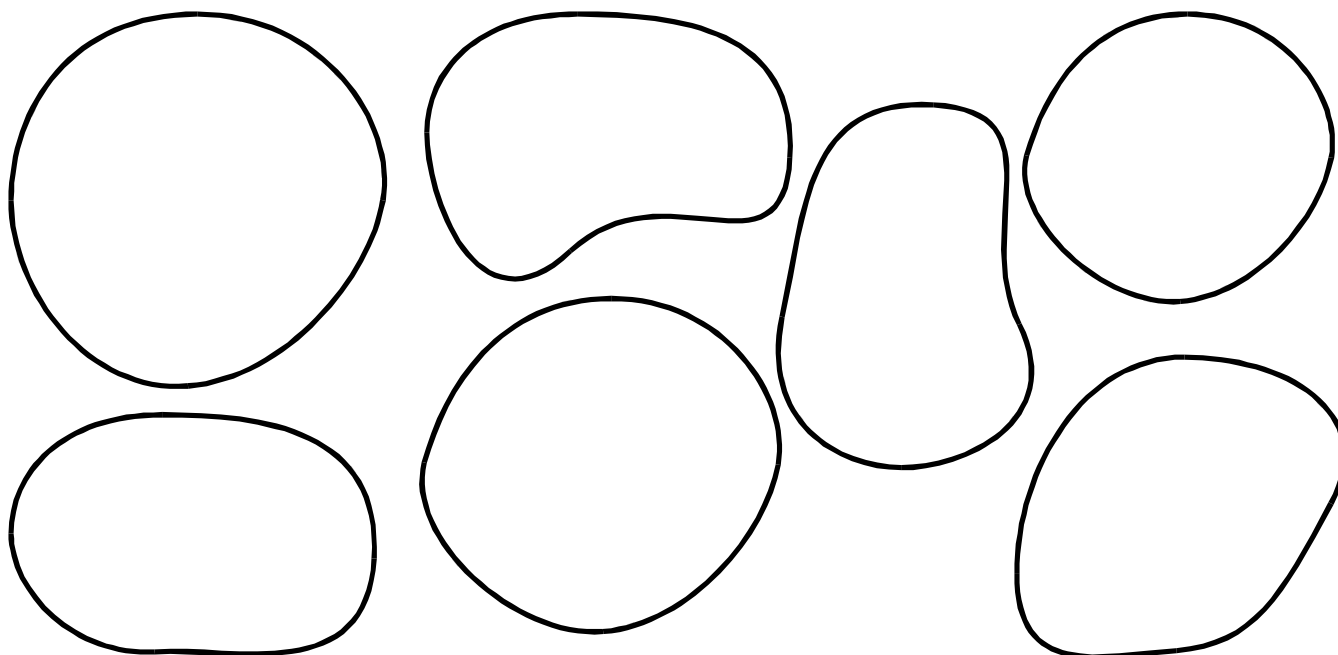


Complete this acrostic poem using interesting and descriptive words.

P _____
A _____
N _____
C _____
A _____
K _____
E _____
S _____

Create a Pancake Creature

Think of different toppings and fillings for pancakes.
Write them on these pancake pictures.



LIMERICK WRITING

The last line
rhymes with
the first

two
lines.

The third and fourth lines
rhyme with each other.

Complete the rest of the limerick!

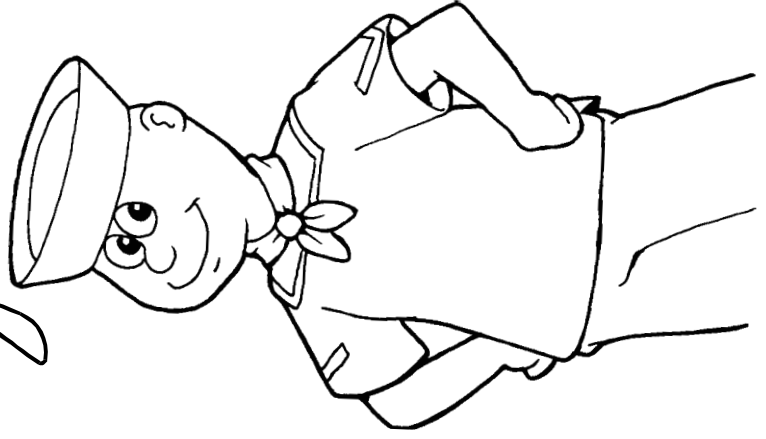
Sailor Sam went on board his ship,

An Example

A nice young fellow named Mike.
Decided to go on a hike.
After walking for three hours
He sat down amongst the flowers
and said, "Next time I'll ride my bike!"

Write your own limerick.

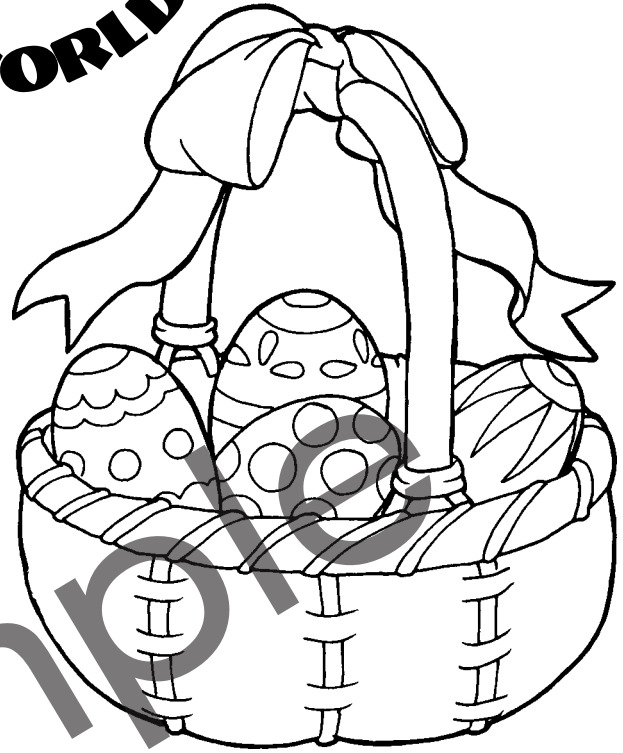
Write your own limerick.



EASTER ALL AROUND THE WORLD

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Narrator(s)
Egg Cracker 1
Egg Cracker 2
Maamoul Makers
Egg Rollers
Mask Wearers
Easter Bonnet Wearer 1
Easter Bonnet Wearer 2
Figolli Makers
Egg Decorators
Pancake Makers
Easter Egg Hunt Participants
Holiday Makers
Show Goers



PROPS

Hard-boiled dyed eggs, some decorated
Maamoul (Lebanese Easter cakes, these can be real or substitutes)
Figolli (Maltese Easter pastries)
Easter bonnets
Colourful masks
Taped celebration music
Cardboard pancakes
Light frying pans
Brightly coloured small chocolate eggs
Books or newspapers
Scripts for Narrator(s)

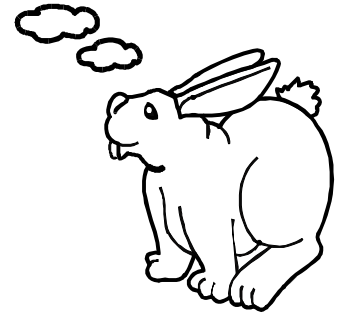
COSTUMES

Participants can use their imaginations and what they have available to them, depending on their role in this play.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE STAGE

All characters are allocated a space facing audience. When it is their turn, participants perform from where they are positioned. Some will move around then return to their spot.

THE TALE OF BRUNO E. BUNNY



CAST OF CHARACTERS

Bruno E. Bunny
Brenda, Bruno's wife
Brad, their son (one cool dude)
Brianna, their daughter
Bunny Factory Employees (three)
Lambs (two)
Narrator(s)

PROPS

'Factory' setting: long table or similar
Table
Chairs
Tinfoiled chocolate Easter eggs, or substitutes
Fake money
Photocopied scripts for Narrator(s)
A picture of a cross
One large candle (unlit)
One chicken egg (hardboiled, blown, or plain)
Hot cross buns
Large basket

COSTUMES

Bunny costumes (ears, whiskers, tracksuits all in one colour, etc.)
Lamb costumes (sheepskins, cotton wool, tracksuits, tails)
Bow ties for Narrators
Shirts for Narrators
Long trousers, jeans, etc. for Narrators

