

## B is for Bear Assignment 6

- The B is for Bear students are coming along very well in their reading. Their handwriting seems to be improving, too. Please encourage your child, however, to be more patient and always to use *cursive*.
- Complete Lesson 6 in your B is for Bear textbook, volume 1.
- Complete Lesson 6 of your handwriting book.



- Memorize the first stanza of John Keats' "To Autumn." This week students will begin memorizing one of the most famous odes written in the English language. Each set of lines should be memorized one line at a time by repeating the first ten times, the second ten times, and then the entire two lines five times, as many times as is necessary as is necessary during the week for the student to be able to recite the whole set by heart. In between the repetitions, parents can do the following.
  - Define the words *mellow*, *bosom-friend* and *maturing*.
  - Have a discussion of the seasons. You might want to ask your child what his or her favorite season is. Each season has its own characteristics that we enjoy. Have the students fill in the blank. Autumn is a season of \_\_\_\_\_. You might want to fill in the line first, such with any of the following: harvest, cooler air, falling or decaying leaves (the reason why the season is called "fall"), and playing sports such as football and field hockey.
  - Throughout the ode, Keats personifies autumn. (This will not be the only poem that the students study this year in which there is personification, which is a figure of speech in which non-human objects or ideas are given human attributes.) Calling autumn a "close-bosom friend of the maturing sun," Keats is giving human characteristics to an idea. Explain that Keats is using figurative language to express the idea that when the sun "matures," or becomes less intense because of its position in the sky, cooler weather naturally follows. As your child memorizes the poem, constantly remind him or her that the poet is addressing the season, or talking to autumn. In addition to personification, Keats is using *apostrophe*, which is a figure of speech in which the speaker talks to something or someone that cannot answer him.

- Students should write out the two dictation exercises (found at the bottom of the online assignment page) in their dictation books. Parents should be writing misspelled words down on the dictation page and going over it. Students should bring their dictation textbooks every week to class for me to review.
- Here is a suggested book for reading: Brinton Turkle. *Thy Friend, Obadiah*. 1969. Reprint. Paw Prints, 2007. A story about appreciation and regret. Introduction to Quakers in New England.