

A is for Apple Assignment 23

Most Important Things First!

One of the most important skills young students must learn for academic growth is being attentive and carrying through on instruction. Unless students fully understand and actively think through what they are being taught, the lesson has failed. This week I would like the students to be especially attentive during their at-home lessons.



Handwriting

Complete pages 81–82 of the handwriting book.

Dictation

Students will review the use of the apostrophe with an oral exercise and with another dictation session. This time teacher should first read the sentence, then repeat the italicized word and ask if the word has or does not have an apostrophe. Remind students that words with an apostrophe show possession.

ORAL EXERCISE 5 ON APOSTROPHES

1. I don't know where *John's* basketball is.
Answer: *John's* has an apostrophe. (The basketball belongs to John.)
2. Go to your *father's* office.
Answer: *Father's* has an apostrophe. (The office "belongs to" Father?)
3. We saw a lot of *ducks* in the pond.
Answer: *Ducks* does not have an apostrophe. (Nothing belongs to the ducks.)
4. I need to buy some new *glasses*.
Answer: *Glasses* does not have an apostrophe. (Nothing belongs to the glasses.)
5. Do not forget to wear your *boots*!
Answer: *Boots* does not have an apostrophe. (Nothing belongs to the boots.)
6. I picked up *someone's* wallet.
Answer: *Someone's* has an apostrophe. (The wallet belongs to someone.)
7. We washed the guest *room's* sheets and blankets.
Answer: *Room's* has an apostrophe. (The sheets and blankets belong to the room.)
8. There are many *trees* in his neighborhood.
Answer: *Trees* does not have an apostrophe. (Nothing belongs to the trees.)
9. Nathan went to his *uncle's* farm.
Answer: *Uncle's* has an apostrophe. (The farm belongs to Nathan's uncle.)
10. How do you get the mud off your *shoes*?
Answer: *Shoes* does not have an apostrophe. (Nothing belongs to the shoes.)

Before giving the dictation, review the *ie* and *wh* letter combinations and remind students to capitalize the first word in the sentence and to include an end mark.

EXERCISE A

1. Be brief.
2. Why did they?
3. It's a shield.
4. Where are they?
5. Look at that whale!

Reading and Phonics

Complete pages 219–228 of volume 2.

Poetry

Memorize stanzas 1–5 of Henry Charles Beeching's "Going Down Hill on a Bicycle." Students should concentrate on the voice and gestures of the stanzas that they are memorizing for the Poetry Bee. (See following.)

Poems to Recite for our Day of Poetry

This year students will participate in the Poetry Bee (April 19th at 1:30) with the recitation of a poem and a sentence, telling the title, author and what the poem is about. (See below.)

Poems to Recite for Speech Night

"Going down Hill on a Bicycle" by Henry Charles Beeching
by Lily Sheridan

Introduction: Do you remember the thrill of riding a bicycle down a hill? If you don't, listen to "Going Down Hill on a Bicycle" by Henry Charles Beeching and it will make you once again feel like you are a bird in flight.

I Meant To Do My Work Today by Richard Le Gallienne
Recited by Olivia Humbert

Introduction: The poem you are about to hear is *not* about making excuses about not doing our work. It's about not forgetting to stand in wonder of the great and beautiful things that God has created.

"There is But One May" by Christina Rossetti

Recited by Sarah Malachowski

Introduction: We have only a couple of more weeks of May, and even though it might have some bad weather, it only comes by once a year and we shouldn't let it go by without enjoying the flowers and blooming trees. Listen to Christina Rossetti's beautiful poem about this beautiful month of the year.

"A Chill" by Christina Rossetti

Recited by Patrick Mohan

Introduction: Christina Rossetti's poem 'A Chill' is about a child who wants to be protected and cared for, just as little lambs and birds are by their mothers.

“The Lord Will Provide” by William Cowper

Recited by Gwen Gianotti

Introduction: Even though things might look hopeless for you today, God will provide for you—just at the right time. Listen to and be encouraged by William Cowper’s poem that talks about the Lord’s care for us.

“The Cow” by Robert Louis Stevenson

Recited by Owen Ireland

Introduction: What do you think about cows? Maybe you don’t think about them at all. But the poet Robert Louis Stevenson thought enough about them to write a poem about one, and a boy who did not take it for granted.

“Merry Little Alice” by Christina Rossetti

Recited by Iliana Lott

Introduction: A little girl named Alice is happy. It’s not because her father is important. It’s not because her family is rich. And it’s not because they live in a big house. Listen to the poem and find out why Alice is called “*Merry Little Alice*.”

“Rosy Maiden Winifred” by Christina Rossetti

Recited by Laneya Worthington

Introduction: It is morning. The sun is shining in a blue sky and there is a beautiful smell of flowers in the air. Can you understand why Rosy Maiden Winifred thinks the birds are singing, “All is well”?

“The Lowest Place” by Christina Rossetti

Recited by Rita Haselbarth

Introduction: The lowest place is really something high. How so? It is the place that Jesus took when he died on the cross for people’s sin. The speaker in the poem is thankful that by Jesus’ lowering himself, we can, by his grace, be by his side.

The Cow

By Robert Louis Stevenson

The friendly cow all red and white,
I love with all my heart:
She gives me cream with all her might,
To eat with apple-tart.

She wanders lowing here and there,
And yet she cannot stray,
All in the pleasant open air,
The pleasant light of day;

And blown by all the winds that pass
And wet with all the showers,
She walks among the meadow grass
And eats the meadow flowers.

Merry Little Alice
By Christina Rossetti

Dancing on the hilltops,
Singing in the valleys,
Laughing with the echoes,
Merry little Alice.

Playing games with lambkins
In the flowering valleys,
Gathering pretty posies,
Helpful little Alice.

If her father's cottage
Turned into a palace,
And he owned the hilltops
And the flowering valleys,
She'd be none the happier,
Happy little Alice.

Rosy Maiden Winifred
By Christina Rossetti

Rosy maiden Winifred,
With a milk pail on her head.
Tripping through the corn,
 While the dew lies on the wheat
 In the sunny morn.

Scarlet shepherd's-weatherglass
 Spreads wide open at her feet
 As they pass;
Cornflowers give their almond smell
 While she brushes by,
 And a lark sings from the sky
 "All is well."

The Lowest Place
By Christina Rossetti

Give me the lowest place: not that I dare
Ask for that lowest place, but Thou hast died
That I might live and share
Thy glory by Thy side.

Give me the lowest place: or if for me
That lowest place too high, make one more low
Where I may sit and see
My God and love Thee so.

I Meant To Do My Work Today

By Richard Le Gallienne

I meant to do my work today—
But a brown bird sang in the apple tree,
And a butterfly flitted across the field,
And all the leaves were calling me.

And the wind went sighing over the land,
Tossing the grasses to and fro,
And a rainbow held out its shining hand—
So what could I do but laugh and go?

The Rainbow

By William Wordsworth

My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow in the sky:
So was it when my life began;
So is it now I am a man;
So be it when I shall grow old,
Or let me die!

The child is father of the man;
And I could wish my days to be
Bound each to each by natural piety.

Suggested Reading

Ai-Ling Louie. *Yeh-Shen*. Philomel, 1982. This book is based on the oldest known version of the Cinderella story, set in China. Remember that my weekly book suggestions are for the benefit of parents to develop their child's interest in reading, and they are not required for the class.