

B is for Buffalo

Assignment 4

- *reading.* Complete Lesson 4 in your B is for Buffalo textbook, volume 1.
- *handwriting.* Complete Lesson 4 of your handwriting book. If you feel that your child needs the “basics,” by all means print out the handwriting sheets I post week by week online, which may be found on under “Materials needed.”
- *outside reading.* To make solid progress, most students need also to do some outside reading. Here is a recommendation that I gave last year: Here is a book suggestion for this week: *Bored—Nothing To Do!* Doubleday, 1978. This is just one of Spier’s ingenious creations that opens a window on the trouble that children can create when bored. Filled with whimsical illustrations, it captures the essence of childhood. You will most likely have to read a lot of the words, but point to words that your child may be able to read.
- *poetry memorization.* Memorize stanza 4 of Helen Hunt Jackson’s poem “September.”
 - * So much poetry mentions or describes the natural wonder of the world—kinds of birds, kinds of flowers, kinds of trees, etc. In today’s world, unfortunately, many children are separated from nature’s beauties by remaining indoors and have no idea, to the surprise of many older people, what a ram, a rose bush, or nettle looks like. Because much of the beauty of Helen Hunt Jackson’s poem depends on a basic knowledge of plants, much of the poetry lessons might turn to discussions of botany.
 - * Stanza 1 of the poem begins a long description of autumn’s sensory wonders. Parents may ask students during what season flowers bloom. Perhaps most, if not all, will say in *springtime*. However, gardeners know very well that all flowers do not bloom in spring. The goldenrod is a plant native to North America, where Helen Hunt lived, that is particularly beautiful in September when its flowers blossom in yellow clusters I already showed students a picture of the goldenrod for them to appreciate the poem more.

