



Back To School Pledge

I pledge to respect my teacher and do my homework every day.
This year, I will get it done before bed, and I'll earn a few minutes to play.

I pledge to respect my backpack, pencils, and notebooks.
This year, I will not smear anything sweet, rotten or sticky on my textbooks.

I pledge to play my instrument sitting or standing during band.
This year, I will not play my instrument while doing a headstand.

I pledge to sit in the cafeteria like a human being and not be rude.
This year, I will not act like an animal or make vomiting noises while I eat my food.

I pledge to listen to my teacher and follow the rules on the playground.
This year, I will not act like a wolf and howl at the girls and follow them around.

I pledge to respect my bus driver and follow the each bus rule.
This year, I will not distract the driver by barking like a dog all the way home from school.

I pledge to follow these rules and be a positive role model until the end of the year.
This year, the younger students are watching me, so I must be sincere

Back To School Activity **(Grade Level: First-Second Grade)**

Materials: Overhead Projector, or SMART Board, copies of writing and drawing activity, pencils and crayons. ***Note*** If you choose to use the SMART Board you may go to ***Mightybook.com*** and pull up the lesson online.

Goal of Activity: The rhyming poem can be used as an additional resource to reinforce rhyming words, build reading, writing and listening skills. This activity will give you an idea of student levels. They will also discuss how they can be a positive role model for younger students in the poem.

- 1. Picture Walk:** Using the Overhead or SMART Board, begin with a picture walk. Ask students what they see in the picture. Some sample questions, might be, “What are the children doing in the picture? Do you think they are going to school or returning from school? What are they wearing?”
- 2. Discuss Title:** Discuss the title of the poem. For example, ask students, “What a pledge means?” You might discuss how students say the pledge of allegiance in school, etc. ***Teacher Note*** *The poem was written as a creative tool to open discussion on how older students could be positive role models for younger students in their school.*
 - Get their brain juice flowing, and make sure to keep students on task by discussing the title and its meaning.
 - Other questions you might ask, “Why do you think the student in the poem is writing a pledge? Find out what answers they come up with and have fun with their ideas.
- 3. What is Poetry:** It’s still the beginning of the school year, and you might have a lesson for poetry later in the year. Though, your students may be familiar with poetry and rhyming sounds at this level. You may want to treat this section as a brief re-introduction to poetry. Tell students they will read a rhyming poem about a student who did not make good choices in school. Then, ask students if they know what a rhyme is. Below are two examples that you may want to use to discuss with them.
 - **Rhyming Poems:** Use repetition of the same or similar sounds for two or more words at the end of the lines. Give students an example, such my hat is very fat or the rat played baseball with a bat. This should help them begin to think about rhyming. Come up with a few other rhyming words to warm them up.
 - **Poems:** When people juggle their words, patterns and rhythms together to make them exciting. They come in many different forms and can be about anything you want. You might add that songs start as poems, etc.

This is an Optional Lesson for further discussion about Poems

You might want to check out a book of poetry for kids at the library. There are many great poetry books that you may be familiar with. Two recommendations are, *The Random House Book of Poetry for Children*, and *Ride a Purple Pelican* by Jack Prelutsky. This is a book full of exciting rhymes that are fun and age appropriate.

- Ask students if they know what a poem is. You might explain that poems are fun when you juggle your words, patterns and rhythms together to make them exciting. They come in many different forms and can be about anything you want. Below are a few examples of poetry types to discuss with your students.
 - **Rhyming Poems:** use the repetition of the same or similar sounds for two or more words at the end of the lines.
 - **Free Verse Poetry:** written in either rhyming or unrhymed lines that have no real rhythm or pattern.
- If you decided to check out a book, this is a great time to read one very short poem (for this age group) to your students. This way you can get their brain juice valves warmed up for rhymes.

4. **Rhyming Poetry Warm-Up:** Reinforce that “*Back To School Pledge*” is a rhyming poem as you’ve discussed. You might say, for example, “this means that we will look and listen for rhymes at the end of each line.” You may need to give a brief example.

- First, choose a simple word to write on the Overhead or SMART Board. Then ask students for a word that rhymes with the one you wrote. For example, you may write “head.” A student might answer with “bed.”
- Pick two more words that you make up and repeat the step above. Or have your students make up rhyming words that you write down.
- Make sure to call on students whose hands are not raised in case they need a little extra support with the activity.

5. **Students Read Poem Aloud:** Using your Overhead Projector or SMART Board, ask two students to come up and read the first two lines of the poem.

- Ask a student to read the first line. Then ask another student to read the second line. Have those two students work together to decide which words rhyme.
- When the two students agree ask them to circle the words on the SMART Board or Overhead. Have these students return to their seats.
- Ask the class if the rhyming words are correct.
- Call on other students and ask them the meaning of the two lines in the poem.
- Continue the steps above until you reach the end of the poem.

6. **Poem Discussion:** After students have read the poem and circled the rhyming words discuss the poem with them.

Here are a few sample questions you might use to open discussion:

- What was this poem about?
- Did it sound like the student was following the rules?
- How do you think you can be a good role model for younger students?

7. **Rhyming Word Activity:** Have students write eight rhyming word pairs from the poem.
8. **Drawing Activity:** Get their brain valves moving, by asking them to write two sentences. One will be about something they use to do when they were not following school rules. Explain that this could be something like running in the hall, or chit chatting with friends when it was work time, etc. The second sentence will be about something they do or can do to follow school rules and be a positive role model for younger students. An example may be, walking in the hall so I won't fall or hurt someone, using good manners to speak to others, etc. This is a good activity to find out the level of their writing skills and to see what they come up with. Allow them to be creative.
- Then have students draw a picture of themselves being a positive role model.
- ***When “Back To School Pledge” activity is completed: *Tell students to kiss their brains and give themselves a pat on the back! *** Great Work Today!***

Name _____

"Back To School Pledge"

Writing and Drawing Activity

Draw a picture of yourself doing something at school as a positive role model.

Write a sentence about how you do not follow the rules.

Write a second sentence about something you do now that makes you a positive role model.
