



## Thankful

A gray squirrel said, "I'm thankful for my acorn."  
A little girl eating said, "I'm thankful for my corn."

A redbird said, "I'm thankful for my nest."  
A skunk sleeping in the woods said, "I'm thankful for my beauty rest."

A tiny brown bug said, "I'm thankful for this delicious leaf."  
The very dry ground said, "I'm thankful for this rain. Oh, what a relief."

An otter floating in the water, asks you, "What are you thankful for?"

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## **Thankful Poem Activity** **(Grade Level: First- 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 this lesson online.

**\*\*Thanksgiving Thankful Craft\*\*** At the end of the writing activity there is an optional activity for students to make a write about something they are thankful for.

**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 allow students to be creative and imaginative as well as encourage discussion about Thanksgiving. **\*Teacher Note\*** *The poem was written as a creative tool to open discussion about the Thanksgiving holiday and to think about things students are thankful for.*

1. **Picture Walk/Title Discussion:** Using the Overhead or SMART Board, begin with a picture walk. Ask students what they see in the picture. Encourage discussion about the colors in the picture, what the girl is doing and what they see outside.
  - *Ask students what the title may mean. Engage them in discussion about their Thanksgiving holiday and how they celebrate, etc.*
  
2. **What is Poetry:** Your students are probably familiar with poetry and rhyming sounds at this level. Tell students they will read a rhyming poem about the sounds that turkeys make. Then, ask students if they know what a rhyme is. Below are two examples that you may want to use to discuss poems 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.

**3. Rhyming Poetry Warm-Up:** Reinforce that “*Thankful*” is a rhyming poem.

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 another 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.

**4. 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 together.

- Have these students sit down then ask two more students to tell the class the rhyming words.

- Ask the class if the rhyming words are correct. If the class agrees ask these student to circle the rhyming word on the Overhead or SMART Board.
  - 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.
5. **Poem Discussion:** After students have read the poem and circled the rhyming words discuss the poem with them. Encourage them to discuss the poem and rhyming words and the meaning of thankful again.
6. **Writing and Drawing Activity:** Pass out the activity to each student. They are to draw a picture of something they are thankful for and write three to four sentences about it. You may have them write first and draw last. These little artists may get carried away and run out of time to write.

**\*\*\*When "Does A Turkey" activity is completed:** Quietly gobble like a turkey (while seated) **and kiss their brains!** \*\*\* **Great Work Today!**

***Don't forget to do the Thanksgiving Thankful Craft included after the Writing and Drawing Activity below.***



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**“Thankful”**

**Writing and Drawing Activity**

**Draw a picture of something you are thankful about.**

**Write a 3-4 sentences about how you celebrate Thanksgiving and things you are thankful for.**

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## “Thankful” Thankful Tree Activity

### Goal of Activity:

Students will use their cutting, and drawing skills. Students will write about something they are thankful for and draw a picture about their sentences.

### Materials

- ✓ **Scissors**
- ✓ **Crayons**
- ✓ **Construction Paper** (students will trace hand on paper)
- ✓ **1 Copy of Thankful Tree template below** (you may print this out and make it thicker by coloring it in more or draw your own tree. You will only need one tree.)

### Steps To Make A Thankful Tree

1. **Trace Hand:** Have students trace their hand on construction paper. These will be the leaves for the tree. Then have students write their names and something they are thankful for.
2. **Time to Cut and Decorate Handprints:** Have students cut out their handprint. They can color and decorate them, but remind students not to decorate the

words they wrote. Make sure they are coloring around the words and on their fingers.

3. **Tree:** There is a template included below for you to start with. You may make it thicker and fill it in for the student’s handprint or you can make your own tree to add their handprints to. Be creative!
4. **Show-off:** Staple the class tree to a bulletin board outside your room and place the student handprints on and around the tree for all to see. Be creative, you may have other ideas to use their handprints for. Let your creative imagination run free as a bird! Enjoy!

***\*\* Students have completed the Thankful Tree Activity. Tell them to wash their hands then kiss their brains! Great work today! \*\****

