



Where Are You Going?

Where are you going, bird in the sky?
"Searching for bugs, so very high."

Where are you going, squirrel on the ground?
"To eat an acorn, I just found."

Where are you going, busy little bee?
"Visiting flowers under a big shade tree."

Where are you going, little black ant?
"Looking for food beside the white plant."

Where are you going, little girl sitting in the sunbeam?
"Inside my house, to eat a bowl of ice cream."

Where Are You Going Activity

(Grade Level: First Grade – Second Grade)

Materials: Overhead Projector or SMART Board, copies of poem for students, crayons, bulletin board or wall, and curious little minds. ***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 and sharpen listening skills. Students will also learn sentence building, punctuation, and drawing.

- 1. Picture Walk:** Turn on your Overhead or SMART Board and begin with a picture walk, by asking students what they see in the picture. Use the picture prompts for discussing each object in the picture as well as the colors. Some example of questions may be, “What is the squirrel doing? Where is the bee going? Is there a person in the picture?”
- 2. Discuss Title:** Discuss the title of the poem and ask students what it may mean. ***Teacher Note*** *Where Are You Going*, was written about a child who is curious about the environment surrounding her.
 - Engage students in discussion about their environments. Begin by talking about an animal or insect, plant, etc., that you may be curious about and would like to find out more about.
 - For example, you might explain how you hear an owl near your home everyday. Tell them about the sound it makes and discuss the reasons you are curious about the owl.
 - Call on a few students to share their curiosities about an animal or insect they may see or hear and want to know more about.
 - **Poetry Discussion:** With this discussion 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 works by Jack Prelutsky, who writes poetry books for kids 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 it exciting. They come in many different forms and can be about anything you want. Below are a few examples of poetry types you might 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.

- **Acrostic Poetry:** certain letters, usually the first in each line form a word or message when read in a vertical sequence.
 - **Free Verse Poetry:** written in either rhyming or unrhymed lines that have no real rhythm or pattern.
 - **Lyric Poems:** sometimes written about your feeling or moods. You could write a lyric poem and create a tune to go along. Sing on!
 - **Narrative Poems:** tell a story and can be about anything you want. Sometimes the poem lines have a rhyming pattern and sometimes they don't. Explain to students that the poem "Where Are You Going" is a rhyming poem.
- If you decided to check out a book, this is a great time to read a couple of short poems to your students.
3. **Rhyming Poetry Warm-Up:** Tell students that "*Where Are You Going*" is a rhyming poem. Ask students if they understand what rhyme means. You may need to give a brief example if there aren't many hands raised.
 - First, choose a simple word to write on the board. Then ask students for a word that rhymes with the one you wrote. For example, you may write, "bat." This should get the rhyming brain juice cells moving.
 - Pick two more words from the poem if you choose. Such as "tree" or "high." Make sure to call on students whose hands are not raised so you can see who may need a little extra support with the lesson.
 4. **Pass Out Copies of Poem:** Ask a student to pass out the poem. As they are distributing the poem remind your students that they will need to listen very closely. You may also explain that rhymes in a poem are always at the end of the line.
 5. **Read Poem:** Once students have a copy, read "*Where Are You Going*" and ask them to follow along with you. At the end of each line pause for a few seconds.
 - **Time for Students To Read Aloud:** When you have finished reading the poem, have students read along with you the second time.
 6. **Poem Discussion:** Ask students what the poem is about.
Here are a few sample questions you may use to get their brainpower juice flowing:
 - Where is the bird going? What is it searching for?
 - Who was going to the shade tree in the poem?
 - What is an acorn? What animal was looking for an acorn?

7. **Circle Rhyming Words:** Ask a student to read two lines of the poem and have him or her name the rhyming words. When students have identified the rhyming words, circle them using your Overhead Projector or SMART Board.
- If a student is unable to find the rhyming words, ask them to call on another student to help them find it. This tactic helps produce teamwork among students.
 - Once rhyming words have been identified ask students to circle the words the students found.
 - Ask another student the meaning of the rhyming words. For example, “What does ground and found mean? What are those words used for?”
 - Continue around the room asking students to read two lines of the poem and circle them. Also continue asking students the meaning of the words.
 - Circle the rhyming words along with your students on your transparency, if you decided to use an Overhead Projector.

8. **Drawing and Writing Activity:**

Pass out writing activity to students. Explain that they will write a story about themselves looking at an animal or insect they have seen before and would like to learn more about by answering the questions (see questions on work sheet, below). Then ask them to draw a picture about what they wrote.

- Review the picture in the poem again about the girl looking outside the window at the animals and insects.
- Remind students to write the story first by answering the questions. Encourage students to use periods at the end of their sentences and to use complete sentences.
- After their writing is completed, remind students to draw a picture in the rectangle about their writing.
- Tell students to be creative in their pictures, include houses, apartments, buildings or people that may have been around. Details!

9. **Show Off Your Little Authors:**

- Ask students to share their writing and illustrations with the class by reading their completed answers to the class.
- Create a “curiosity wall” outside your classroom wall or a bulletin board for all to see.
- Encourage staff to view your “curiosity wall.” Your little authors will be quite proud.

**** “Where Are You Going” Activity Completed: Ask students to give themselves a pat on the back and kiss their brains! Great work today! ****

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Writing and Drawing Activity

Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

What animal or insect are you curious about?

I am curious about

Where did you see it?

When did you see it?

Why do you want to learn more about it?

Draw a picture of yourself looking at an animal or insect you would like to learn more about.

Name: _____