

THE GREAT RHYME TRAVEL MACHINE PRESENTS: AFRICAN AMERICAN HEROES



Supplemental Activities Packet

This packet contains classroom activity suggestions and worksheets to reinforce concepts from the Playbook® story and to go beyond the story into the content areas of Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Art, Health, etc., as well as Character Development.

Activities range in age appropriateness and skill level so that teachers can choose activities that best suit their particular students. An Answer Key is provided on the last page.

Name _____



ELECTION TIME

Directions: Every four years America has a presidential election. This is when we elect our leaders. Shirley Chisholm ran for president in 1972. She was the first African American woman to do this. Though she did not win, she led the way for others to reach for their dreams. Shirley *did* become the first African American Congresswoman and served for many years. How many election themed words can you find in the puzzle below? Shirley and Kelly want to know!

Y C A R C O M E D E B A T E N
 S P E E C H N G I A P M A C D
 T S U R T N E D I S E R P S V
 S M T R E P U B L I C A N A T
 E A T E L E V I S I O N L A B
 T A D E M O C R A T R T E N D
 A C A N D I D A T E S L O G E
 T I T A S L O G A N P I S B O
 S R S G O S M T T O T C D L O
 U E U O T E R M E C I T E E E
 T M R S I T E P E T O T B A E
 E A T L T A T L I L A E A D T
 B A L L O T E L L V T B T E T
 H C E E P S O A P O S T E R S
 R E C I E P B N V L C B I D M

Democrat	candidates	America	posters	vote	debate	ballot
states	people	president	television	leader	campaign	Republican
term	trust	speech	politics	election	democracy	slogan

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UNDER KELLY'S SPELL



Kelly is the school spelling champ! She's always helping kids who have trouble with words. It is a talent she likes to share.

Directions: Share *your* talent with words by correcting these misspelled words for Marcus. Cross out the word with your pencil and write the correct spelling on the line provided. He must have been in a big hurry when he wrote these sentences! There's a lot to fix. But, like they say, "two heads are better than one," especially when it comes to spelling!

1. I read eleven books this weak. Next time I'm going to try for twelve! I hope I can carry them all in my book bag!
2. Melinda is a cool sister, but I sometimes wish she wood let me in the bathroom first. When we're getting ready for school, I have to wait a really long time to get in.
3. Miss Chalk's dairry is so interesting! Maybe she will read more passages from it tomorrow. Kelly likes it, too.
4. I wander if Shirley ever got to eat her peanut butter sandwich. My nose was very surprised by its flight plan! I bet George made lots of sandwiches when he grew up.
5. I hope Kelly gets to be class presadant. She is a very hard working and she is a good friend, too. I'm glad I know her.
6. George Carver was able to grow heathy plants like me. I think we would make a great team at the next Science Fair. I wonder if he will ever come back to see us.
7. That *Rhyme Travel Machine* makes lots of noese when it works. I like to hear that "Bing, Bang...BOOM!" There must be someone giving it all that power.
8. If I go to the liberry on Saturday I'll pick out another book on plants. That way I can grow even bigger flowers next spring. I think I'll give some to Miss Chalk.
9. Kelly read a good rhyme from the sliver book when she was on stage. Everyone loved it and they clapped and clapped. Miss Chalk was so proud!
10. I need a dictionary. I think I misspelled a lot of werds on this page. Maybe Kelly will help me look over these sentences. Two heads are better than one.

THE ADVENTURES CONTINUE



Directions: In the story, *The Great Rhyme Travel Machine Presents: African American Heroes*, events happened in a certain order. This order is called **sequence**. If things are in the right sequence, then the story makes sense.

Listed here are important events from the story, but they are in the wrong order. Can you put them back in the correct sequence before the next adventure starts? Write the number next to the sentence on the line provided.

- _____ Melinda, Marcus and Kelly write a rhyme for the machine.
- _____ Shirley's peanut butter sandwich hits Marcus in the nose.
- _____ Kelly gets cheers for her inspiring election rhyme.
- _____ Miss Chalk reads a special page from her diary.
- _____ The class goes to Art class to paint self-portraits.
- _____ Some kids laugh at the white poufy George Washington wig.
- _____ Young George lands headfirst out of the Rhyme Travel Machine.
- _____ George puts a rose in Sarah Chalk's diary.
- _____ Kelly thinks about dropping out of the election after reading a book about presidents.
- _____ Kelly decides to run for Sixth Grade Class President.



THE ART IN SCIENCE

George Washington Carver was a very smart scientist. He loved Botany, the study of plants. But he was a very talented painter as well. These two talents really compliment each other. Whenever George took out his paintbrush to paint a flower or plant, it helped him become a better observer. When you draw or paint something, you notice little details that you may not have seen before. There *is* art in science!

Directions: With your teacher's help, pick out a natural object. This could be a flower, a leaf, a small rock or something similar. Put the object on your desk and take a close look at it. In the space provided below, **draw a picture** of your object. Be as detailed as you can. Look for things you didn't notice at first. Add color if you think it will help others see the cool qualities of your object. Write a title for your picture on the line provided.



Now, write three sentences describing your object. Tell what you learned about it that you didn't know before. Did you find the art in science?

PRESIDENTIAL POSTERS



Melinda and Marcus both wanted to help Kelly with her election for Sixth Grade Class President. Marcus brought plants with Kelly's name on them to give away. Melinda made a pretty poster with a **slogan** that said, "Vote For Kelly - She Really Adds Up." To win an election you must have the support of many people. Friends can really make a difference!

Part A: Imagine that one of your best friends or classmates is running for Class President. It's up to you to be a good supporter and help him or her win. On the lines below, write three sentences that describe why your friend would make a great class president. You can mention a school subject they are good at and also tell about times they may have helped others.

On a separate sheet of paper, design an election poster for your friend. You may use pictures, words, or both. Include things in your poster that you just wrote about your friend. Include a **slogan** for your candidate. Remember your job is to get kids to vote for your candidate!

Part B: The rhyme that Kelly used for her election speech was very moving. That means it touched people's emotions. It made them understand who she really was on the inside and what she truly cared about.

Imagine that **you** are running for president! It is time to write **your** speech. On a separate sheet of paper, write a poem that tells who you are and shows what you believe in. It should be at least two stanzas (verses) long so you can make a statement. Look back at Kelly's election rhyme for inspiration. Notice which lines rhyme and how each sentence has a rhythm or beat that complements the others.

Ask your teacher if you can share your election rhyme with the class. Think about Kelly as you read. Use good expression and volume. If others share their rhymes, then you be a good listener, too!



Name _____

DEAR DIARY



When Miss Chalk found out that her long lost diary had been discovered she was very happy. A diary is both a record of events that happened in a person's life *and* how they felt at the time. We all go through periods when we are cheerful, but there are days when we have to solve problems as well.

Directions: The two spaces below are pages of a diary ... *your* diary!

On the first page, write a diary entry about a time when you experienced something that really made you feel happy. (Examples: a special school field trip, a surprise birthday party, attending a play)


On the second page write a diary entry that tells about a time when you had to solve a problem or overcome a fear. (Examples: going to a new school for the first time, giving your first book report in front of class, or helping a family member who was sick)

Date _____

Date _____

When you are done, ask your teacher if you can share *one* of your diary entries aloud with the class. Choose the entry that means the most to you and you will leave your classmates spellbound!

LET'S MAKE A DATE!



Did you know that you can find out how old anyone is by first knowing the year they were born? It's easy! All you have to do is **subtract** (or take away) the year they were **born** from the **current year**. To find out how old they are including months, you must also know the **month** of their birthday.

Here's an example: If it is currently July, 2008 and the person's birth was in March 1958, you can set up your math problem this way.

$$2008 - 1958 = 50$$

In March, 2008, the person was 50 years old. Now, figure out the number of months between March and July: 4 months. This means that the person is currently 50 years and 4 months old!

Directions: Look at the word problems below. Using the **current year** and your subtraction skills, help Melinda find out how old the imaginary characters might be. Then figure out the details of the school election results and participation! Show your work in the space provided.

1. PETE PIRATE - He was born on a ship in 1708. He never even lived in a house! If you can imagine someone living a *very* long time, how old would he be today?
2. DORA DELIGHTFUL - Dora was born with a smile on her face in 1895. She's still smiling after all these years because she reads good books! How old is she now?
3. SANDY SANDCASTLE - She was born in April, 1949. Her family always vacationed near the shore. Sandy was a beach baby for sure! If it is now October, 2008, how old is she in years and months?
4. MARK MOONDUST - His father bought him a telescope for his first birthday. He was born in July, 1969. He still dreams of living on the moon one day. If it is now March, 2008, how old is he in years and months?
5. TAMMY TOMTOM - When she was just a baby she shook her rattle to the beat of the radio's music. Now she plays drums in a band! She was born in February, 1985. If it is now December, 2008, how old is she in years and months?
6. The three candidates for Sixth Grade Class President are Kelly, Carl, and Lisa. 634 people vote in the election. If Carl receives 200 votes and Lisa receives 215 votes, how many votes does Kelly receive?
7. The election takes place Monday through Friday. Half of the ballots are cast on Monday and Tuesday. Another $\frac{1}{4}$ of the ballots are cast on Wednesday. If 318 ballots are cast on Monday and Tuesday, how many ballots are cast on Thursday and Friday?
8. The Student Council needs to count the votes to determine the winner, now that the election is over. There are 630 ballots to be divided evenly between members of the student council to count. If each student counts 105 ballots, how many students helped count?

A GREAT DEBATE

During real presidential elections the candidates often take time to **debate** each other on important topics. A **debate** could be described as a very organized one-to-one (or team-to-team) discussion about an issue. Shirley Chisholm was an expert debater. She was known for being a good speaker and this skill helped her throughout her life.

There are two sides to any debate. One is the **Affirmative** ... the "yes, let's do that" side. The other is the **Negative** ... the "no, let's not do that" side. After a topic has been decided and stated out loud, then the debaters take turns talking about why they're affirmative or negative. They tell facts and use examples to get their points across. When both debaters have spoken and commented on each others points, each is allowed a final summary of their position. Being polite is a must...even when the topic is an emotional one! The group usually picks the winner by deciding which side spoke well, who was honest, and who was most convincing. Just like in sports, there could be a tie if all debaters made good presentations.

There are many types of debates. We're about to explore debating by using a simple format for groups of kids.

Directions: Even though Melinda and Marcus are twins, there are still things they just don't agree on. Here are a few of those topics:

- Kids should have cell phones at school
(Melinda: *Affirmative* Marcus: *Negative*)
- Kids should be able to have TVs in their bedrooms
(Melinda: *Negative* Marcus: *Affirmative*)
- Kids should be allowed to spend their allowance on anything
(Melinda: *Negative* Marcus: *Affirmative*)



Think about the statements above. How do they apply to your life?

On the lines below, write down whether you are *Negative* or *Affirmative* for each one of these topics.

Topic One - Cell phones at school _____

Topic Two - TV in kids' bedroom _____

Topic Three- Spending allowance _____

Pick **one** of the topics above and write down the reasons you are **Negative** or **Affirmative** on a separate sheet of paper. This might be paragraph describing your feelings and why you feel this way. Remember to be honest and use your own experiences to help you write your position. Your teacher may ask you to present your viewpoints to the class.

A GREAT DEBATE (CONTINUED)

FOR TEACHER USE ONLY

Part A:

Have your class discuss the topics listed on the previous "Great Debate" activity sheet: cell phones at school, TV in kids' bedrooms, and spending allowance.

Use this easy format for an instant debate!

- A. State the first topic out loud. Then say, "All Affirmative on this topic may stand."
- B. Anyone who is standing may take a turn to speak or may remain silent. Call on students who wish to speak.
- C. Then say to the class, "All Negative on this topic may stand."
- D. Anyone who is standing may take a turn to speak or may remain silent. Again, call on students who wish to speak.
- E. After both sides have had a chance to speak, ask your class, "Are there any rebuttals from either side?" (Explain that this means, "Does anyone have something else to add to what they have heard?")
- F. Following any rebuttals, ask one person from each side of the issue to summarize the main statements of their viewpoint.
- G. The class should then go on to the next topic and follow the same routine. Everyone learns, so everyone is a winner!

Part B- Extended activity:

Have your students write down three more topics that they would like to see the class discuss. They will discover a great debate!



ANSWER KEY FOR TEACHER USE ONLY



The Adventures Continue

1. Miss Chalk reads a special page from her diary.
2. Kelly decides to run for Sixth Grade Class President.
3. The class goes to Art class to paint self-portraits.
4. Kelly thinks about dropping out of the election after reading a book about presidents.
5. Some kids laugh at the white poufy George Washington Wig.
6. Melinda, Marcus and Kelly write a Rhyme for the machine.
7. Young George lands headfirst out of the Rhyme Machine.
8. Shirley's peanut butter sandwich hits Marcus in the nose.
9. George puts a rose in Sarah Chalk's diary.
10. Kelly gets cheers for her inspiring election rhyme.

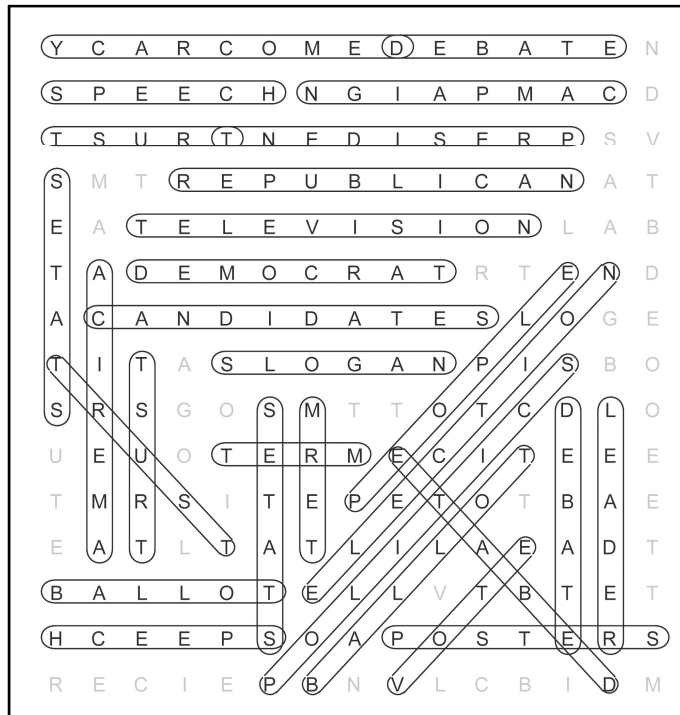
Kelly's Spell

1. week
2. would
3. diary
4. wonder
5. president
6. healthy
7. noise
8. library
9. silver
10. words

Let's Make a Date!

1. Answer will vary based on current year.
2. Answer will vary based on current year.
3. 59 years, 6 months
4. 38 years, 8 months
5. 23 years, 10 months
6. 219 votes
7. 159 ballots
8. 6 students

Election Time





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