

SHORT LESSONS TO TRY AT HOME



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This bundle includes lessons 1-10

1. What Is Poutine?
2. Why are some people left handed?
3. Talk Like a Pirate Day
4. Witches Delight
5. National Parfait Day
6. National Ugly Sweater Day
7. Winter Quotes
8. Snowman Poem
9. World Poetry Day
10. World Tapir Day



Each lesson takes ~ 15 min to teach

Good for all ages!



These lessons are designed to be used in RPM (Rapid Prompting Method) lessons. RPM is a teaching method developed by Soma Mukhopadhyay. For more information on RPM go to <https://www.halo-soma.org/>.

Legend for the lesson

Each lesson contains teaching points followed by a related sensory activity and/or question.

As you read the teaching point the **BOLD** words are the key words for the teaching point and should be written down on your paper as you teach.

Following the teaching point you will find:

S=Sensory activity (could include drawing, spelling, reading, looking at pictures, etc)

Q=Questions to go with teaching point (choices will be given in brackets after the question for students who need them, but not every student needs to use them)
Lessons should feel conversational so comment on each answer chosen and each response given.

We recommend reading over the lesson before teaching it and modifying questions as needed depending on what goals you are working on with your child.

For more information on teaching lessons using RPM we recommend the following books written by Soma Mukhopadhyay:

- Understanding Autism through Rapid Prompting Method (Red)
- Curriculum Guide for Autism Using RPM (Orange)
- Developing Communication for Autism Using RPM (Green)

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Lesson 1: What Is Poutine?

Fries. Gravy. Cheese curds. These are the ingredients that make up Canada's national dish, **poutine**.

S - Let's practice spelling the mmmm mmmm good POUTINE

Q - What do you think is the most important ingredient in poutine? FRIES / GRAVY / CHEESE CURDS

You've probably heard of fries and gravy, but maybe you've never had cheese curds. They're small pieces of **curdled milk**, blobs roughly the size of peanuts in the shell, with a mild and cheddar-like flavor.

S - Let's practice drawing some blobs about the size of peanuts in the shell.

Q - What kind of milk did we just draw? (CURDLED / FRIED)

Fresh cheese curds have a **rubbery** texture that causes a **squeak** when you bite into them.

Q - Now that I've described them, do they sound GOOD or BAD to you?

Q - Can you think of something else that is rubbery and can squeak? (DOG / BALL)

Poutine **originated** in **Quebec** and its exact origins are a bit of a mystery. It first appeared in 1950s rural Quebec snack bars. It was widely popularized across Canada and beyond in the 1990s.

Q - What's a word that goes with origin? (BEGIN / END)

Q - And up until the 1990s where did you need to go to have some delicious poutine? (MANITOBA / QUEBEC)

So **why** is it called poutine?

S - Practice asking WHY

The word poutine comes from the word pudding (or pouding in French). Since pudding was often used as a way to mix a variety of foods, in Québec, the term poutine became a French-Canadian **slang word** for **mess**.

Q - So what does poutine mean? It means (MESS / JAM)

S - Let's take a look at a picture of poutine (*see below*). Do you think it's the right name for the dish? GOOD CHOICE / BAD CHOICE

Many Canadians **mispronounce** it despite it being a national dish, ask any Quebecer and they'll quickly tell you it's pronounced **POOT-IN**, not **POO-TEEN**.

Q - If you're mispronouncing it, you're saying it CORRECTLY / INCORRECTLY

People think poutine **tastes delicious** despite its messy appearance. When it all comes together, mess can be a beautiful thing.

Q - What do you think, would you like to try some poutine? YES PLEASE / NO WAY

Q - Do you AGREE / DISAGREE that mess can be beautiful?

Creative Writing: Write an ad selling poutine to someone who has never heard of it before.



Lesson 2: Why are some people left handed?

Are you **left** or **right** handed? Chances are you are right handed as **studies** show that only 10% of the people in the **world** are left handed.

S - Since its Left Handers day - let's start off by warming up spell LEFT HAND

Q- So we learned that only 10% of the people in the _____ (WORLD/CITY) are left handed

Q - Does it sound like most of the people in the world are left handed? YES/NO

Historically, being left handed has been considered a **negative** thing by many **cultures**.

Q - So in many cultures being left handed has been considered a _____ (HAPPY/NEGATIVE) thing.

Q- What would be another word for Negative? Do you think negative sounds like it was considered a LUCKY or BAD thing?

S - Let's practice tracing our left hand with our pencil on the paper

In **latin** the word for left is "sinistra" which translates into the english words "**unlucky**" or "**sinister**". However the word right is often used as a **synonym** for the word correct.

Q- If someone asked us - we could tell them that sinister means left in which language? FRENCH/LATIN

S- Let's spell SYNONYM - now a synonym means that two different words mean the same thing. An example would be the words shut and close.

Q- So synonyms mean that two words mean the SAME or DIFFERENT things?

50 years ago it was decided that left handers are amazing people and should be **celebrated!** So now every year **August 13th** is known as Left Handers day. The day is used to raise **awareness** about the awesomeness of being a lefty!

Q- 50 years ago it was decided that left handers are amazing and should be _____ (CELEBRATED/RESCUED)

Q- When you think about a celebration what is something you think about? (Do you think about a BATH TUB or a PARTY?)

Everyday items like **scissors, can openers, rulers and watches** are all mass produced for right handed people. It is not uncommon for people who use their left hands to have **trouble** with these items.

S - Let's spell SCISSORS

Q- Now scissors are most often used for cutting - what is something that we could cut with a pair of scissors? (Could we cut ROCK/PAPER)

A popular **nickname** for people who use their left hand is a "**south paw**". This nickname is most used to describe lefty's who participate in the sports of baseball and boxing.

Q- So this sport nickname is known as SOUTH or EAST paw?

Q- If someone gives you this nickname there is a good chance you are playing in which sport? Baseball and SOCCER/BOXING

Q- Do you think you would enjoy playing baseball or boxing? YES/NO/NOT SURE

So the real question is - **why** are some people left handed? Why isn't everyone right handed? It really is a bit of a **mystery!**

S - Let's spell MYSTERY

Q- What do you think - if the reason some people are left handed is a bit of a mystery do you think they are UNSURE or POSITIVE they know why?

Q - Let's see if we can think of someone who could help us solve a mystery - do you think a SCIENTIST or DETECTIVE could help us?

While a detective usually helps to solve mysteries, in this case we could also ask a **scientists** to help us. Scientists have studied our **DNA** and believe that being a lefty is **genetic** - meaning it's just the way we are born.

Q - So scientists believe that being left handed is _____ (SILLY/GENETIC)

Q - If I said that it being genetic means that are just born being left handed - would you AGREE or DISAGREE?

Dictation: Let's practice spelling:

LEFT, HAND, PAW, SCIENCE

Lesson 3: Talk Like a Pirate Day

On **September 19th** you may hear people saying strange things like “Arrr!” and “Ahoy” and you wonder **why**?

S - Let's practice spelling the question WHY

Q - And what day can you hear these strange sounds? September (19 / 3)

This is the day many people around the world now **celebrate** International **Talk Like a Pirate Day**.

S - Let's spell PIRATE

Q - What's a word that goes with pirate? (SHIP / PARROT / GOLD)

Two friends named John Baur (“Ol' Chumbucket”) and Mark Summers (“Cap'n Slappy”) **invented** this fun holiday because they think talking like a pirate is a lot of fun!

Q - if something is invented is it NEW or OLD?

Q - and why did they do it? Because it's ____ (BORING / FUN)

Ok let's see how much fun it is! **Aye! Ye landlubbers!**

Q - Aye is just a way to say yes but it sounds like a BODY PART / CEREAL

Q - Ye just means you, so ye landlubbers means you're being called landlubbers, which is someone who doesn't know about sailing they stay on the land. What do you think, is that a COMPLIMENT or an INSULT?

You can celebrate by wearing **eye patches** and shouting things like “**Avast, mateys!**” (Stop friend!) and “**Shiver me timbers!**” (I'm shocked!)

S - Let's practice covering one of our eyes with our hand, just like an eye patch. Do you think it would be EASY or HARD for you to wear an eye patch?

Q - So your friend is about to bump into something, what do you say (AVAST MATEY / SHIVER ME TIMBERS)?

Did pirates actually talk like this? Probably not! “Shiver me timbers?” Peg-legged pirates? Talking parrots? All of those familiar pirate sayings and ideas came from Robert Louis Stevenson's 1883 novel, **Treasure Island** and subsequent movies.

S - Take a look at this picture from Treasure Island (see pg 8), do you AGREE / DISAGREE that he looks like a pirate?

S - Just for practice try pointing to the parrot, ok and how about his one remaining leg.

Q - Does it surprise you that pirate speak is actually from a story rather than actual pirates? YES / NO

The idea that all pirates talked alike is probably wrong to begin with. During the Golden Age of Piracy, there were many different pirate crews from **many different countries**. This means that they almost certainly would not all have spoken the same **language**, let alone used the same **slang phrases**

Q - Why is it unlikely pirates all talked the same? Because they spoke different _____ (JUMBLES / LANGUAGES)

Q - Would you be interested in learning a new language? YES / NO

Creative Writing: Let's practice our pirate speak. Use these terms in a sentence (Or practice spelling these words):

Aye - yes

Avast - stop

Matey - friend

W.P.A. FEDERAL CHILDREN'S THEATRE
PRESENTS ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON'S

TREASURE ISLAND



FEDERAL ART PROJECT N J

Lesson 4: Witches Delight

Halloween is one of our favourite times of year, so let's read a poem together about Halloween. It's called **Witches Delight**.

Q - What is our poem called? MONSTERS/WITCHES Delight?

Q - What is a word that would go with Witch? (MAGIC/BROOM)

**I have a recipe
For witches delight,
It's enough to make you
Want to take flight.**

Q- So let's look at these first two lines again - I have a recipe for witches delight - Does it sound like witches delight might be something you would EAT or WEAR?

Q- The second line reads - It's enough to make you want to take flight - What is a word that goes with flight? (APPLE/FLY)

S - This first verse has two rhyming words - the first one is delight - let's spell DELIGHT

Q - What is the second rhyming word? Do you think it's FLIGHT/YOU?

**First you add three
Rattlesnake tails,
One cup curdled milk,
And a handful of snails**

S - Let's practice spelling the word CURDLED

Now curdled might be a new word for you - it means **sour** or **rotten**. Curdled milk is no good. It will make you sick.

Q - What does curdled mean? ROTTEN/TASTY

Q - Does adding one cup of curdled milk to our witches delight sound like it would taste YUMMY or GROSS?

S- We are also adding some snails - let's spell SNAIL

Q - What is a word you would use to describe a snail? (FAST/SLIMY)

**Mix in a bucket,
Stir with a mop,
Then boil for one hour
Until slimy slop**

S- Let's practice drawing a bucket together. (Prompt or help as much as needed)

Q- Now according to the poem - what do we need to mix all the ingredients together? Do we need a MOP or a SPOON?

Q- How would we know if something is boiling? Would it look BUBBLING AND HOT or ICY AND COLD?

**Sprinkle with bug,
Leave overnight,
And in the morning
You'll have quite a fright.**

S- Let's spell FRIGHT

Q- What do you think you'll have quite a fright might mean? You will LAUGH or be SCARED?

Q- What kind of bugs should we sprinkle on the top?

**For there is nothing as
Ghastly as Witches Delight!**

S - Let's practice spelling the word GHASTLY

Q- What do you think another word for ghastly might be? (DANCING/FRIGHTFUL)

Q- What is something you would describe as ghastly? I think I would pick spiders - what about you? Do you think SPIDERS or SNAKES are more ghastly?

Q- Do you think Witches Delight might be something you would want to eat this Halloween season? FOR SURE/NO WAY

Q - What would be something you enjoy eating at Halloween? (CANDY/APPLES)

Creative Writing: To finish off the lesson let's practice spelling some scary creatures we would find at Halloween!

BLACK CAT
SPIDERS
OWLS
SNAKES

Lesson 5: National Parfait Day

November 25th is a day to celebrate the **dessert** known as a **parfait**! Today we will learn about what this dessert is and more importantly - how do we make it?

S- The word dessert is a tricky one to spell - let's practice spelling DESSERT

Q- On November 25th what dessert are we celebrating? (COOKIES/PARFAIT)

No one knows who invented this delicious treat - but the first mention of it being used in history was in **1894** in the country of **France**. The word parfait is actually a french word that means "**perfect**".

Q- So if someone asked us what country this delicious dessert comes from - what could we tell them? Does it come from FRANCE or SWEDEN?

Q- The word parfait is the a french word that means _____
(COLOURFUL/PERFECT)

The french version of a parfait starts with a **custard** - which is made by boiling cream, egg, sugar and syrup. Custard is similar to **ice cream** - the only difference is ice cream contains no egg!

S - Let's spell CUSTARD

Q- Custard is used in the french parfait and is similar to what other sweet treat? (Is it similar to CAKE or ICE CREAM?)

Q- Speaking of ice cream - I am wondering what your favourite flavour of ice cream might be?

Once the custard is made the next ingredient you will need is some **fresh fruit**. A variety of **blueberries, raspberries and strawberries** are the most **popular** choices. In North American parfaits granola and nuts are also often included.

Q- So we have our custard - what else do we need? Do we need fresh SOCKS or FRUIT?

Q- What kind of berry do you think you would add to your parfait? Would you prefer to add BLUEBERRIES or STRAWBERRIES?

S - Let's practice drawing the fruit that you picked. Can help as much as needed.

Parfaits are usually served in **tall clear glassware** - to eat this amazing creation you will need a **special spoon** - it has an extra **long handle** and is known as a parfait spoon.

Q- What would you say? Are parfaits usually served in PLASTIC or GLASS?

Q- Yes, they are served in tall clear glassware so you can see how pretty and colourful it looks - what would be another word for tall? (Would you say SHINY or GIANT?)

Q - Now we didn't really talk about it - but why do you think you need a spoon with a long handle? (Do you think it's to reach the BOTTOM or TOP of the dessert?)

Once the parfaits are layered in the glassware they are **refrigerated** to keep them nice and **cool**. This makes it the perfect dessert to **enjoy** on a hot, steamy day!

Q -So why are the parfaits refrigerated? (Is it to keep them nice and WARM or COOL?)

Q- In what season does it sound like we should enjoy these delicious desserts?
(SUMMER/WINTER)

Q- Now that we have learned a bit about parfaits - do you think this might be a dessert you might like to try? YES/NO/MAYBE

Word Game

We know we need fresh fruits for our parfait - let's try and come up with a rainbow selection for our parfait.

Can you think of a fruit that is

RED/ORANGE/YELLOW/GREEN/PURPLE/BLUE

Lesson 6: National Ugly Sweater Day

It's December 16, 2022 and you notice a lot of people are wearing very **ugly sweaters** and wearing them **proudly**.

Q - What's special about the sweaters worn on this day, they are all ____ (UGLY / WET)

Q - And how do people feel about their super ugly sweaters? They feel ____ (LOUD / PROUD)

Ugly Sweater Day is a fun holiday-inspired occasion where people of all ages wear old, unstylish sweaters (or retro-inspired new sweaters) in a **tongue-in-cheek** fashion.

S - Let's see if we can push our cheek out with our tongue (demonstrate this)

Q - This funny facial expression and term means that you are doing something in a **sarcastic** way, not in a sincere way. So wearing these sweaters in a tongue and cheek fashion, is it because you really think they are BEAUTIFUL or you are trying to be FUNNY?

The day is meant to be an informal, **humorous**, and fun alternative way to celebrate the holiday season. If you don't celebrate Christmas, no problem, there are plenty of ugly winter sweaters out there. Some even have dragons, classic cartoon characters, so there's something ugly for everyone!

S - Let's practice spelling HUMOROUS

Q - What do you think would be funny to put on a sweater? (DANCING SANTA / BIKE RIDING LLAMA)?

The English language doesn't have a special word for something that's **both ugly and cherished**, but other languages do. In Japanese it's known as busakawa. In French, it's jolie laide. And the idea is that there are some things in life that are so ugly, they're beautiful.

Q - Do you think English needs a word like they have in Japanese and French that means ugly but beautiful? YES/NO
(Optional - if yes - why don't we create one? - if needed can suggest BUGLY / UGIFUL)

You can wear your ugly sweater just for laughs or you can host an Ugly sweater **party!**

Q - What's something you might see at a party? (CAKE / BALLOONS)

Q - How do you feel about parties? LIKE THEM / NOT FOR ME

S - Take a look at this picture of ugly sweaters (see *below*), which sweater do you think wins the “ugliest” award? (point to answer)

National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day is all about honoring those things that are so ugly that everyone loves them! You can make your own ugly sweater by picking a sweater you have and adding **tacky** items to it! It’s an ugly and fun do it yourself project!

S - Let’s spell TACKY - it just means showing bad style which is what we want in an ugly sweater!

Q - Can you think of something we could sew onto a sweater that would be tacky? Maybe (POM-POMS or TINSEL)?

Creative Writing: Describe the perfect ugly sweater, then let’s try drawing it together!

What colour should the base of the shirt be? GREEN / RED / YELLOW

What picture should we add? RUDOLF / SNOWMAN / BELLS

What tacky designs should we add? POLKA DOTS / STRIPES / RAINBOWS



Lesson 7: Winter Quotes

Winter is here! With it comes the **cold**, the **darkness**, the **bad weather**.

Q - Which season is here? (WINTER / SUMMER)

S - Spell COLD or DARK

But it also can be quite a **beautiful** time of year!

Q - Winter can be so beautiful, do you AGREE or DISAGREE?

Today we're going to read some famous **quotes** about winter to help us get excited for the long winter season.

S - Spell QUOTE - the quotes are things famous people have said in the past about winter.

S - Quotations are always enclosed by quotation marks in writing, let's practice printing some quotation marks " " (can motor model as necessary)

The first quote is from **author** Lewis Carroll who famously wrote Alice in Wonderland which is quite a **silly book**.

Q - Do you enjoy silly books? YES / NOT REALLY

He said "I wonder if the **snow** loves the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a **white quilt**; and perhaps it says "Go to **sleep**, darlings, till the **summer** comes again."

Q - What does he compare snow to? A white (QUILT / ROUGH)

Q - How do you think it would feel to sleep under a blanket of snow? (COLD / HOT)

Poet Edith Sitwell once said "Winter is the time for **comfort**, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk **beside the fire**: it is the time for **home**."

Q - Comfort and home are words that often go together, can you think of another word that goes with comfort and home? (BED / COUCH)

Q - It is really nice sitting by a fire in the winter, use fire in a sentence. (The fire is _____ (HOT / BLUE))

Author John Steinbeck said “What good is the **warmth** of summer, without the **cold** of winter to give it **sweetness**.”

Q - So he’s saying that the summer warmth only feel nice and sweet because the winter is so ____ (ELEGANT / COLD)

Q - Do you AGREE or DISAGREE with John Steinbeck?

Q - What’s something you think of as sweet? (CAKE / DIRT)

Our final quote is by poet Mary Oliver and it’s in the form of a **poem**.

S - Spell POEM

“Snow was falling, / so much like stars / filling the dark trees / that one could easily imagine / its **reason for being** was nothing more / than **prettiness**.”

Q - What does she say is the reason snow exists? (PRETTINESS / QUILTS)

S - Let’s look at a picture of snow on trees (*see pg 17*).

Q - Do you AGREE / DISAGREE that it’s pretty?

Q - How do you think you would feel walking through those woods? (SO NICE / TOO COLD)

Creative Writing: You can write your own poem about winter! An acrostic poem uses the letters from the word winter to write your poem. You can choose just one word for each letter or a phrase! (For students who are not open ended yet, you can give choices, or choose one of the three boards and give hints for a word that would work in the poem - for example - for W - do you want to say WOOLIES or WICKED. For I - I’m thinking of something that water turns into when it’s really really cold, IDEAS or ICE)

W
I
N
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R



Lesson 8: Snowman Poem

It's cold, it's long, it's the season of **Winter!**

Q - What season are we talking about today? (WINTER/SUMMER)

And with winter comes **snow!**

S - Let's spell SNOW

Q - And what's a word that goes with snow? (WHITE / ZIPPER) how about (BARK / FLAKES)

There are lots of **fun** activities to do in the snow. My favourite is building a **snowman!**

S - Let's draw 3 circles on top of each other just like a snowman (motor model as necessary).

Q - Do you like building snowmen too? (LIKE IT / NOT REALLY)

We're going to read a **poem** about a snowman today.

Q - What kind of writing will we read today? A ____ (NOTE / POEM)

It's called "**Chubby Little Snowman**".

Q - What's a word that goes with chubby? (PLUMP / JOLLY)

S - Let's take a look at a snowman (*see pg 19*)

Q - Do you agree that he looks chubby? AGREE / DISAGREE

S - Snowmen commonly have a carrot nose, try pointing to the carrot.

S - They usually have sticks for arms, practice pointing to them.

Ok let's hear the poem!

A chubby little snowman

had a carrot **nose**.

Along came a **rabbit**,

and what do you **suppose**?

Q - Who is visiting the snowman? A ____ (LION / RABBIT)

Q - Let's think about the rhymes used here, we have nose rhyming with (WHAT / SUPPOSE)?

Q - And what's another word that rhymes with NOSE and SUPPOSE? (HOSE / BARN)

The poem continues:

That hungry little bunny
looking for his **lunch**,
ATE the snowman's **carrot nose**...
Nibble, nibble, **CRUNCH!**

Q - What did the bunny have for lunch? (HAT / CARROT NOSE)

Q - Let's talk about the rhyme, lunch rhymed with (CRUNCH / HUNGRY)

Q - Ok here's a challenging one, can you think of another word that rhymes with lunch and crunch? (JAM / MUNCH)

Creative Writing: Let's look at our snowman picture again and write some rhyming words for the different parts of a snowman. (Can increase the challenge by using these words in a sentence)

S - He's wearing a hat, spell HAT

Q - What's a word that rhymes with hat? (MAT / JOY)

S - We already talked about his stick arms, spell STICK

Q - What's a word that rhymes with stick? (WATER / THICK)

S - Look at those coal eyes! Spell COAL

Q - What's a word that rhymes with coal? (KITE / MOLE)



Lesson 9: World Poetry Day

Since March 21st is known as **World Poetry Day** - we thought it would be great to take a look back at the **history** of poetry and where it all began!

Q- March 21st is known as World _____ (POETRY/CAKE) Day?

Q - Now would you say the history of poetry is the PAST or FUTURE of poetry?

Q- Would you consider yourself a fan of poetry? YES/NO/MAYBE

The word poetry originates from the **Greek** word **poieo** - which means **I create**. Poetry is used to convey love, lyrics, anger and magic - it is one of the **ultimate methods** of creating.

S- Let's practice spelling the word CREATE - when we are creating we are making something - we are bringing it to life!

Q- Poetry is one way to create and bring your ideas to life - can you think of another way to create? (Do you think PAINTING or DANCING would be a great way to create something?)

Did you know that poetry as an art form has been around **longer** than our **ability** to read the written word? You could say that poetry has been around forever! Historians believe the earliest forms of poetry were **chants and songs** that were created to pass on oral history.

Q- Does it surprise you to learn that poetry has been around longer than we have known how to read? YES/NO/MAYBE

Q- Historians believe that the earliest forms of poetry were songs and _____ (CHANTS/JUMPING)

Q- Now a chant is when words or phrases are spoken in unison - usually by a crowd of people. Do you think unison means they are speaking them TOGETHER or SEPARATELY?

It is believed that songs and chants were used as a way to pass along oral history because using the **poetic notation** - which is **repetitive** in nature - would make it easier to **remember**.

S - Let's spell REPETITIVE

Q- Do you think the repetitive nature of poetic notation would be helpful because you are saying the information OVER AND OVER or JUST ONCE?

Q - Do you AGREE or DISAGREE that repeating things over and over in a rhythmical way would make them easier to remember?

Poetry is actually considered to be so old that historians **can't determine** when it actually began. The oldest example of written poetry is **The Epic of Gilgamesh** - which was written over **3000 years ago**.

Q- Does it sound like poetry has been around for a LONG or SHORT time?

Q- Yes, a long time! In fact - they believe the first written poetry was created how many years ago? (Was it 1000 or 3000 years ago?)

Poetry of all genres and ages have made their way **around the world**. Poetry is an amazing way to learn and understand other **cultures** as well as the **emotions** of others.

Q - So poetry is an amazing way to learn about other cultures and _____
(LESSONS/EMOTIONS)

Q- Can you tell me an emotion? (Would you say that SURPRISE or JOGGING is an emotion? What about SKATING or ANGER?)

Creative Writing

Some poetry is written with lines that end in rhyming words - let's get ready to write some poetry by coming up with some rhyming words together.

What is a rhyming word for:

SNOW (LOW/BLOW/GLOW/KNOW)

BALL (ALL/HALL/MALL/TALL)

MAN (CAN/TAN/FAN/RAN)

RIGHT (TIGHT/SIGHT/LIGHT/NIGHT)

Lesson 10: World Tapir Day

One of the strangest-looking mammals living today is the **tapir**, a visual hodgepodge of an **elephant** and a **wild hog**.

S - Let's take a look at a picture of a tapir (*show first picture on pg 24*)

S - Try pointing to his weird snout

Q - I said it looked like a mix of an elephant and wild hog, do you AGREE / DISAGREE / CAN'T DECIDE?

The Thai word for tapir is "P'som-sett," which means "**mixture is finished**" because the tapir looks like a **blend** of whatever parts were left over from other animals.

Q - Do you think mixture and blend mean the SAME thing or have DIFFERENT meanings?

Yes we call words with the same meaning **synonyms**.

Q - Let's practice thinking of synonyms, I could say tapirs are large, but what's another way to say large? (BIG / SMALL)

Q - I could say tapirs are beautiful, but what's another way to say beautiful? (JOY / PRETTY)

World Tapir Day is April 27th. It exists to **raise awareness** about the species of tapir that inhabit Central and South America and Southeast Asia and to **raise funds** to purchase land to protect it from human encroachment.

Q - have you ever heard of tapirs before today? YES / NO / MAYBE

S - The funds/money raised helps buy land for the tapirs to live safely on, let's practice drawing some dollar signs. \$\$

Tapirs are among the most **primitive** mammals on Earth, having changed very little over the past 20 million years or so. The first fossil evidence of tapirs dates back so far in history that they are often called **Living Fossils**.

Q - So you could say tapirs have been around a SHORT or LONG time?

Q - So long they're called living fossils! What's a word that goes with fossil? (ROCK / PAINT), or (NEW / OLD)

Even though they've been around so long, they are now **endangered** so their future is uncertain.

S - Let's practice spelling ENDANGERED

Q - I'm sure you noticed the word danger in the middle as you spelled it, endangered animals are at risk of **extinction** meaning the species is gone from the earth for good. So would you say it's GOOD or BAD for tapirs or any animal to be endangered?

Weighing hundreds of pounds, the tapir is the largest land mammal in South America. They are often confused with **pigs** or small **hippos**, but they are actually more closely related to **horses** and **rhinos**.

S - Let's take one more look at the tapir (show first picture)

Q - which animal do you think it most closely resembles (PIG / HIPPO / HORSE / RHINO)?

That long snout isn't just for looks. It's actually **prehensile**, meaning it's made to wrap around and **grab** things. Tapirs use their noses to grab fruit, leaves, and other food. For food that may seem out of reach, the creature can stretch its nose way up, wrap around the morsel and pull it down to eat.

S - Let's practice spelling PREHENSILE

S - Let's grab this pencil with our hands. Now imagine doing that with your nose!

Q - What do you think it would be like to have your own prehensile nose so you could grab things with it (USEFUL / WEIRD)

Tapir are **exceptional swimmers**. Tapirs take to the water to find additional forage. They not only swim well; they can also walk underwater, moving at a good clip along a lake bottom if needed. When alarmed, a tapir can even hide underwater and use its snout like a snorkel.

Q - What's a word that goes with swimming? (LAKE / OCEAN)

S - Let's pretend this piece of paper is the water and our finger is the snout of the tapir, we can push through the paper to use our snout as a snorkel.

Q - Does it surprise you that this large horse-like animal can swim so well? REALLY SURPRISING / NOT AT ALL SURPRISING

Creative Writing

Take a look at this picture of a tapir swimming (*show second picture on pg 24*).

Let's write some sentences about him. Use your imagination!

Look at him go, point to some of the water

The tapir is ____ (SWIMMING / WALKING)

Does the water look (CLEAN or DIRTY) to you?

Look at his nose, it's pointing towards the water, point to his nose.

The water smells _____ (GOOD / BAD)

Notice his ears, he looks like he's hearing something, point to his ear

He hears a _____ (BIRD / CROCODILE)



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