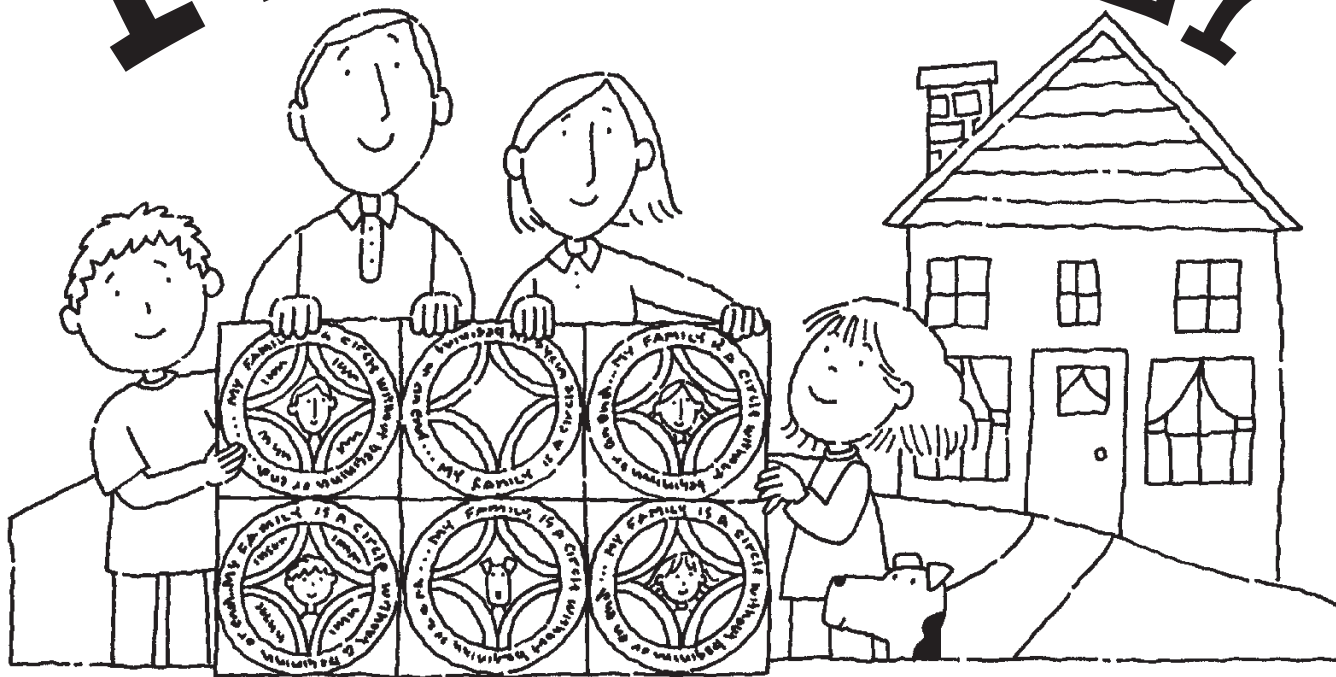


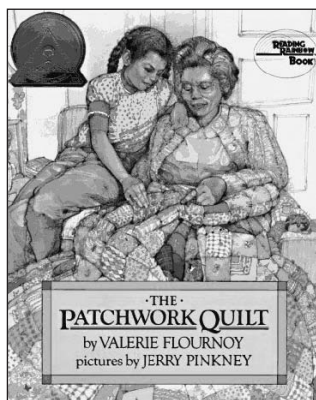
E is for FAMILY



Celebrate a very special relationship using a variety of reading, writing, speaking, graphing, and art activities that focus on the family.

MY FAMILY QUILT

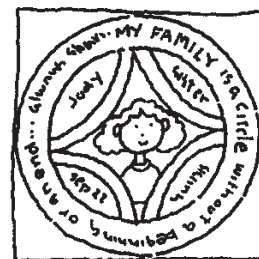
A unit on the family is perfect for any time of the year, but November would be a great time since it is especially fitting for parent visitation during American Education Week. Begin this unique family project a week or two prior to American Education Week so that you can extend the activities into the time when parents will be visiting schools. Introduce the undertaking with a special story about family and quilts called *The Patchwork Quilt* by Valerie



Flournoy and illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (Penguin Putnam) and talk about the importance of family and what family means to each of your students. Then tell children about an activity that they will begin in school and will be finished at home where they can work with a family member. Duplicate a supply of the "My Family Quilt" reproducible patterns, enough so that there will be one quilt square for each member of the student's family. It might be fun to include a square for a family pet as well. If

there are an odd number of people in the student's family, make some blank quilt squares by whiting out all the written copy and having the child color the square creatively to add to the quilt so that it will have an even number of squares. After the family quilts have been completed, display them all together in the classroom for a great look, joining the squares together on a bulletin board or wall to make one giant quilt. Then prepare kids for a speaking experience to be carried out during American Education Week.

Assign each child a day when they can share their quilt and talk about each member of their family. Children will certainly feel comfortable talking about a topic that they know so well.



FAMILY READING

Spark independent reading with a collection of books about families and family life. Set aside time in school for students to read and encourage children to compare the families in the stories they have read with their own families. Suggest that kids take books home to read with members of their family. When the students are comfortable with a book, encourage them to give book talks to share ideas about the similarities and differences that they noted between the characters in the story and their own families.

FAMILY BOOK LIST

Use the suggested books below or ask your librarian for help selecting appropriate books to fill your bookshelves with interesting family stories.

Mrs. Katz and Tush

by Patricia Polacco
(Picture Yearly)

Nana Upstairs & Nana Downstairs

by Tomie dePaola
(Puffin)

Our Granny

by Margaret Wild
(Houghton Mifflin)

Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born

by Jamie Lee Curtis
(HarperCollins)

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

by Judith Viorst
(Atheneum)

A Chair for My Mother

by Vera B. Williams
(Mulberry)

Pete's a Pizza

by William Steig
(HarperCollins)

Julius, the Baby of the World

by Kevin Henkes
(Greenwillow)

Family Pictures: Cuadros de Familia

by Carmen Lomas Garza
(Children's Book Press)

Owen

by Kevin Henkes
(Greenwillow)

How My Parents Learned to Eat

by Ina Friedman
(Houghton Mifflin)

For more advanced readers:

Beezus and Ramona

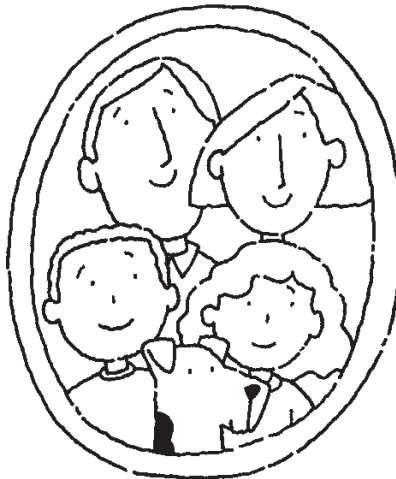
by Beverly Cleary
(Morrow)

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing

by Judy Blume
(Dutton)

Busybody Nora

by Johanna Hurwitz
(Harper Trophy)



FEAST ON YOUR FAMILY

Gather together a collection of family portraits and share them with your class. Then explain that everyone will be creating a portrait of his or her own family. Give each student a sheet of art paper and a piece of chalk so that they can plan where each member of their family will be positioned in the portrait. Suggest that children think about whether they will draw just heads, the upper halves of

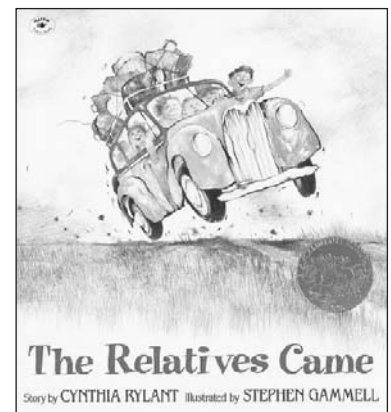
bodies, or full bodies in the portrait. Then have kids finish their drawings using chalk, crayons, or markers. Next have students identify their portrait... "The _____ Family" and sign their work of art. Laminate the drawings to preserve them and, after displaying the portraits at school, suggest that they take them home to use as the centerpiece of their Thanksgiving table.

OUR FAMILY WALL

Create a family wall for viewing during family visitation by posting the laminated family portraits on a wall outside of the classroom. Add the heading, "Our Family Gallery." Parents traveling to and fro in the halls during American Education Week will surely enjoy looking at your family portraits. You might like to place a desk with a pad of paper and a slotted comment box with the heading "Share your positive comments about our artwork." Your kids will love to hear praise from others.

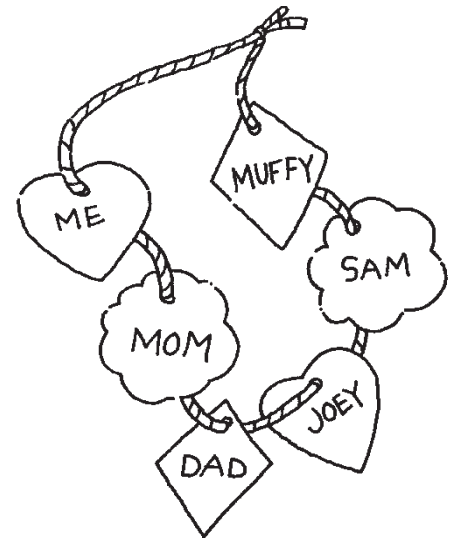
FAMILY LAUGHS

Don't forget to include the Caldecott award-winning honor book, ***The Relatives Came*** by Cynthia Rylant and illustrated by Stephen Gammell (Pearson Learning), with your family stories. It's the perfect pairing of words and illustrations that captures the energy and love that flows from a family reunion. Kids will adore Gammell's ebul-

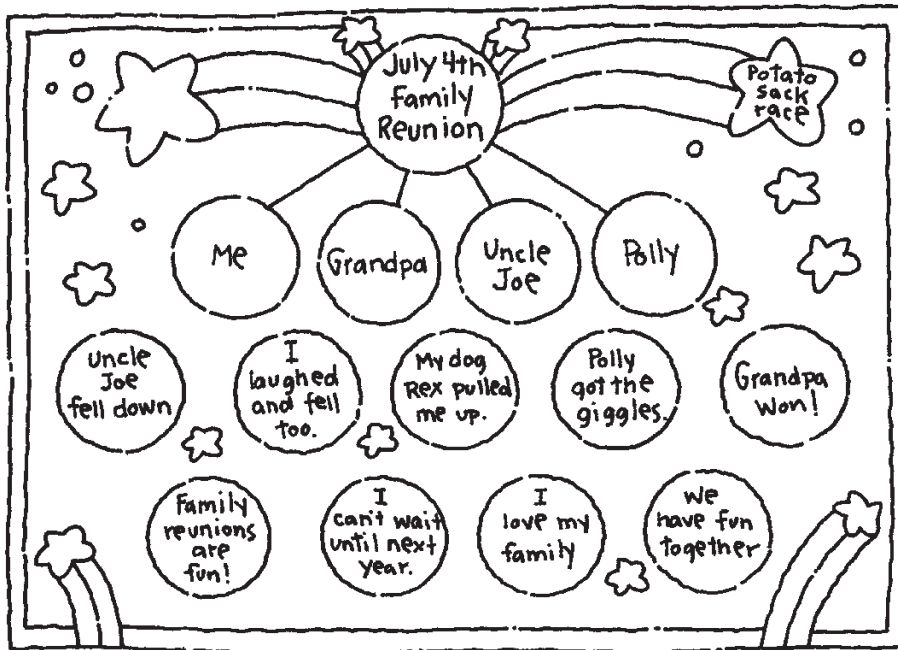


FAMILY TREASURES

Create some family treasures emphasizing descriptive language. Work together to brainstorm a list of adjectives that best describes family members. Get kids started by suggesting words like funny, loving, caring, dependable, responsible, energetic, kind, cheerful, pretty, handsome, cute, adorable, generous, etc. Having dictionaries, thesauruses, and synonym finders on hand will help find a great selection of adjectives. Duplicate the family treasure baubles for the class. Instruct children to choose the special shape and color that represents each person in their family. Have them write the person's name on the front of the bauble and the adjective that describes this person on the back.



Punch holes in each of the baubles and string them onto a length of yarn to make a necklace. Encourage children to describe each person included on their necklace to the class. When you have finished, display the family treasures by hanging them on the back of each child's chair or on a special Family Treasures bulletin board. Be sure to add all the adjectives to your word wall.



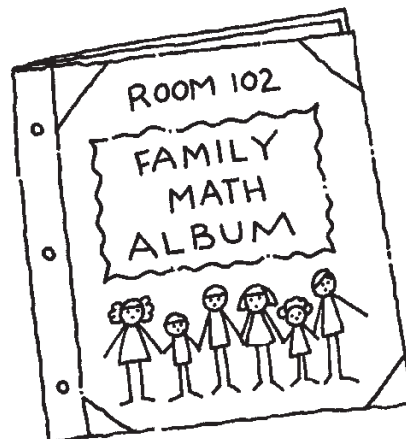
lient pictures of family life. After reading the story aloud, encourage kids to share their memories of fun family gatherings. Next, have children focus on one special gathering that they remember as lots of fun and loaded with laughter. Review the technique for organizing thoughts by using a graphic organizer to write a story. Begin with a circle at the top of the page and ask students to write the family event they will be describing inside the circle. Next branch off into a row of circles, one for each person involved in the event. The third row of circles can hold ideas of funny things that happened or were said. Include a final row of circles to record students' thoughts about how they feel about their family, the event, or future family events.

Encourage students to use this graphic organizer to help them write a memoir story about a lively family gathering. Allow several sessions to write and refine the story and then have children select a partner to assist in editing. Remind kids to help their friends improve their stories with constructive ideas. When finished, have each child write a final draft of the story and share it with the entire class. If time

allows, gather the stories into a book format complete with illustrations or a family photo.

FAMILY MATH

A focus on the family can offer a variety of lessons in math, too. Give your students practice in collecting, recording, and evaluating family information in the form of graphs or timelines. Duplicate a Family Math Album instruction sheet that includes a different activity for each day of the week. Have children gather and record the information on the appropriate day and then return the information to school to share the results with classmates. Turn all the pages into a Family Math Album for visitors to enjoy.



My Family Quilt

Make a quilt square for each member of your family.

1. Cut out the quilt square.
2. Draw a picture of the person in the center.
3. Tell more about the person by filling in the information around the picture.
4. Color each quilt square.
5. Use tape to fasten all the squares together to make a large quilt.
6. Return the quilt to school on _____ to share with the class.

The quilt square template consists of a large square with a dashed border. Inside, there is a central circle with a dashed outline. Four curved dashed lines radiate from the center to the corners of the square, dividing the space into four segments. Each segment contains a dashed line for drawing and a label for writing:

- Top-left segment: "This is"
- Top-right segment: "He/She is my"
- Bottom-left segment: "Birth date"
- Bottom-right segment: "She/He enjoys"

Along the left and right curved borders of the square, there are two phrases written in a curved path:

- Left side: "My family is a circle without a beginning or an end... always sharing, forever caring. On this I can depend."
- Right side: "always sharing, forever caring."

Name _____

Family Math Album

We are focusing on the family this week in math class.
Gather facts from the members of your family each day.

Monday

FAMILY COUNT

Count the boys and girls in your family.

Name boy girl

Name	boy	girl

Tuesday

HAIR COLOR

Check the color of hair for each family member.

Name Brown Blonde Black Red Grey Other

Name	Brown	Blonde	Black	Red	Grey	Other

Wednesday

EYE COLOR

Check the eye color of each family member.

Name Brown Blue Green Grey

Name	Brown	Blue	Green	Grey

Thursday

BIRTH MONTH

Write down the month of birth for each family member.

Name Birth Month

Name	Birth Month

Friday

FAMILY TIMELINE



FAMILY TIMELINE: Cut out each half on dotted line. Tape halves together to create one long timeline for the important events in your family. Write in the birthday for each person in the family and any other special happenings or events.



**FAMILY TREASURE
BAUBLES**
(see directions on p.3)

