



Mrs. Shafer's Shenanigans

A publication of McMillan Elementary

Math, Reading, & Writing

In writing this week, we began a new unit focusing on studying a mentor's craft. Students were introduced to the author Jonathan London (the author of *Froggy* books). We looked closely at his books for the style he used. Students noticed London uses lots of onomatopoeia (sound words), adjectives, hyphens (-), ellipses (...), and he stretches words out (FRROOOGGYYY! W-h-a-a-t?). Eventually, students will begin using those techniques in their own writing.

In reading, we have continued to study characters and work with partners. While reading, students formed opinions about their characters and jotted them down on sticky notes to share with partners. Students also learned to include how their characters are feeling when they retell the story. We practiced by watching the video text "Mouse for Sale" (see my blog for the video). We want students to focus on the important parts of a story—when a character has strong feelings about something, — not little details that aren't important. In the video, when the mouse is bouncing up and down, he's excited because he sees somebody that might buy him. I'm not focusing on boys walking in the door—not important.

In math, we read the book *How Big is a Foot?* This was about a king who wanted to have a

bed made for the queen that was 3 feet wide and 6 feet long—using his foot as a measurement. The apprentice who made the bed used his own foot, and the bed turned out much too small for the queen. Students learned that no matter where in the world you are, you know exactly how big a foot is because it's the same for everyone. Students then used rulers to create their own bed for the queen measuring 3 x 6 feet. They had to work in groups of 5, come up with a plan, and work together in a team to accomplish the task. We also spent two days doing pumpkin activities. Students were placed in groups of 4 to complete an observation/prediction sheet. They had to label the parts of a pumpkin, come up with adjectives to describe it, test the pumpkin to see if it floated, estimate the number of seeds inside, then actually count the seeds. I think many students were surprised by the number of seeds inside a small pumpkin!

In science, we learned about 6 sources of water: rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, oceans, and glaciers.

Word Wall Words of the Week

work first cold tell

Reeths-Puffer Schools

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Special Dates to Remember:

- ☺ Nov. 3—Adopt-a-Reader training for students
- ☺ Nov. 5—Guest Teacher (meeting)
- ☺ Nov. 11—Adopt-a-Reader Begins
- ☺ Nov. 25—Music Begins
- ☺ Nov. 26-30—Thanksgiving Break
- ☺ Dec. 5 - Children's Theatre Production @ H.S.



Remember to return both library books on Wednesday!

Reading logs are due on Fridays.

Other News

Halloween Party

Thank you so much to everyone who donated items for the party, or for coming. The students had a great time.

Stay warm tonight!!!!

With colder weather coming, please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for school, including: warm jackets, hats, and even mittens.

Thank you!