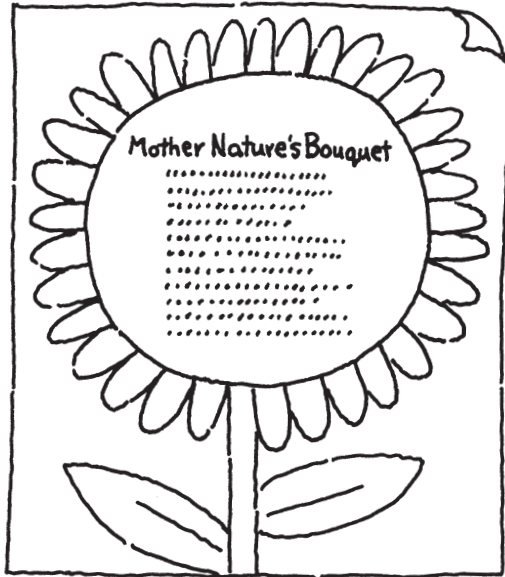


Mother Nature's Bouquet

Sweet joy! The flowers have come!
They've followed the showers.
They've grown with the sun.
They've risen up high.
They've spread their leaves.
They've opened their petals
to welcome the bees.
They've brightened the day
in their own sweet way.
They've grown to become
Mother Nature's bouquet!



Mother Nature's Bouquet



Introducing the Poem

- ☉ Write the poem on chart paper. Draw a large circle around the words to represent the center of a flower. Draw petals around the circle.
- ☉ Your class will enjoy acting out the poem as you read it aloud. Students can crouch down and pretend to be little flowers waiting to receive the showers and sunshine. Raise your hands high in the air and let your fingers “drizzle” down like rain. Hold your arms in a circle above your head to represent the sun coming out after the rain. The “flowers” can pretend to grow and bloom by slowly standing up and stretching out their arms.

Talking About the Poem

- ✿ Ask students if they have ever heard the saying, “April showers bring May flowers.” What do they think it means? Begin a discussion about the things that plants need to grow.
- ✿ Circle the words *sweet*, *flowers*, *grown*, *from*, *green*, and *brightened*. Point out the consonant clusters at the beginnings of these words and model how to blend the sounds together.
- ✿ Place a sticky note under the words *sweet*, *bees*, and *green*. Say the words aloud several times. Ask students what sound these words have in common. Invite a volunteer to underline the double *ee* spelling pattern that makes the long-*e* sound in each word.

Working With Words

Initial Consonant Pass-Around: Bring in a beautiful spring flower and have children pass it around the circle. As each child receives the flower, he or she says a word beginning with the letter *f*. Repeat the game. This time, challenge children to remember and repeat all the preceding words before adding a new one as the flower moves around the circle. When the list of words gets too long to remember, start again.

Shared Writing

Flower List Poem: Write the word *Flowers* at the top of a sheet of chart paper. Ask children to think of words that describe flowers. List their ideas. Write the word *Flowers* again at the bottom of the list to conclude the poem.

Extending the Poem

May Bouquets

Your class can create its own beautiful May bouquet by making colorful flowers from coffee filters.

Materials

- ❁ old newspapers
- ❁ round coffee filters
- ❁ paper cups
- ❁ water
- ❁ food coloring (various colors)
- ❁ paintbrushes
- ❁ 12- by 18-inch sheets of light-green construction paper
- ❁ scraps of dark green construction paper
- ❁ scissors
- ❁ glue
- ❁ black markers

- 1 Spread out newspapers and provide each child with two coffee filters stacked together. (Using two filters provides added durability.)
- 2 Put about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of water into each of a number of paper cups. Add 8 to 10 drops of food coloring to each cup. Set out enough cups for your class to share. Provide lots of different colors!
- 3 Have children paint the colored water onto the filters. The filters will soak up the color beautifully to create delicate patterns. Allow time for for the filters to dry.
- 4 Have children glue the “flower” onto a sheet of the light-green paper. (The flower should be positioned at the top of the sheet to leave room for a stem, as shown.) Children may want to twist or fold the coffee filters to create different-shaped flowers.
- 5 Show students how to cut stems and leaves from the dark green paper. Then have them glue the stems and leaves onto their flowers.
- 6 Children can copy your class list poem from the “Shared Writing” activity (see above) next to their flowers.

