



Three CHEERS for Winnie-the-Pooh

BY JACQUELINE CLARKE

Pooh and his friends in the Hundred Acre Wood have lived in the hearts and minds of readers for 75 years. Celebrate Pooh's birthday (Oct. 14th) with a "smackerel" of activities that are bound to leave you humming!

The Thoughtful Spot

Just like Pooh, everyone needs a quiet place! Create a "thoughtful spot" to help students think and reflect. Place a comfortable chair or several floor pillows in a small corner. Decorate the area with natural objects and inspirational messages. Provide paper and pencils for journaling.

Invite students to use this space to:

- work out conflicts with classmates
- solve a personal problem
- gather ideas for writing
- plan projects together

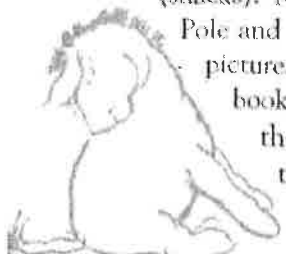


Pooh's a Poet! (Did You Know It?)

A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh* and *The House at Pooh Corner* contain many whimsical poems, made up by none other than Pooh himself. As you discover a "hummm" (as Pooh likes to call them) type it and ask students to illustrate. Compile the poems into a book to share. Encourage students to add their own "humms."

North Pole "Expotition"

Use Pooh's expedition (or "expotition" as he calls it) as inspiration for your own imaginary trip. Read aloud Chapter VIII of *Winnie-the-Pooh* in which Pooh and his pals find the North Pole (they mistake it for a "pole" stuck in the dirt). Then have students create labeled drawings to represent their own images of the North Pole. The next day, students can dress in boots (like Christopher Robin) and come armed with "provisions" (snacks). Together, chart a route to the North Pole and "pack" suitcases with student-drawn pictures of clothing and equipment. Use books and Web sites to help students on their travels. Upon return, ask students to draw a second picture of the North Pole. How has their image changed?



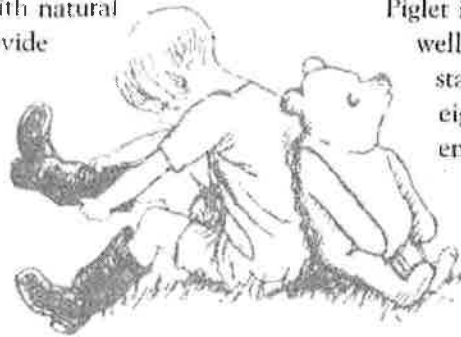
Pooh Trivia

As you read *Winnie-the-Pooh* and *The House at Pooh Corner*, challenge students to invent their own Pooh trivia game. Here are a few questions to get you started: What is Winnie-the-Pooh's real name? (Edward Bear); Who is Trespassers Will? (Piglet's grandfather); and What game did Pooh invent? (Poohsticks)



What a Character

Piglet is cautious. Eeyore is fretful. Pooh is... well, Pooh-like! Help students better understand each character. Divide students into eight groups and assign each group a different character, such as Rabbit, Roo, or Tigger. On a sheet of chart paper, have each group list words or phrases that describe their character. Each group can then share their "character sketch" with their classmates. Invite students to answer the question, "Which character do you identify with the most and why?" Have children who chose the same character get together and come up with reasons for their choice. Wendy Wise Borg, Maurice Hawk School, Princeton Junction, NJ



Honey Taste Test

Does your class like honey as much as Pooh? Challenge them to a taste test to find out! Make two honey pots from construction paper and label them Yes and No. Tape them to the chalkboard under the question, "Do you like honey?" Give each student a taste of honey on a graham cracker. Hand out sticky dots (or bee stickers) and let them graph their response to the question. Gather students around the scatter graph and ask, "How many students like honey? How many do not? What is the difference between the two numbers?" Work together with students to convert the numbers to fractions and/or percentages.

