

September

Pencils march and chalk skates in this delightful back-to-school poem

About the Poem

Learning Objective:

Through a whimsical poem about the first day of school, students will identify examples of personification.

Key Skills: personification, word choice

Standards Correlations

This article and lesson support the following standards:

Common Core anchor

standards: R.1, R.2, R.5, SL.1

TEKS: 3.2b, 3.6, 3.10, 3.29, 3.30

For more standards information, check our website.

Your Teacher Support Package

You'll find these materials at scholastic.com/StoryworksJr:

Audio version

Your students will hear the poem read aloud, boosting comprehension and fluency.

Activities to print or project

- Close-Reading and Critical-Thinking Questions
- Write Your Own Poem Activity

Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

Close Reading, Critical Thinking, and Skill Building



1. Preparing to Read

Set a Purpose for Reading (10 minutes)

- Direct students to look at the illustration that accompanies the poem. Ask them what they think the poem will be about.
- Read aloud the **Personification** bubble for the class. Prepare them to listen or look for examples of personification in the poem.
- Ask a student to read the **Word Choice** bubble for the class, then have students skim the poem to find school-related words.

2. Reading and Discussing

- Read the poem for the class or play our **audio** version.
- Project or distribute the **close-reading and critical-thinking questions** and discuss them as a class as students refer to the poem in their magazines.

Close-Reading and Critical-Thinking Questions

(15 minutes, activity sheet online)

- **What is this poem mainly about?** (main idea) *The poem is about the first day of school and the feeling of starting fresh.*
- **What are some examples of school supplies doing things people do?** (personification) *Examples include wearing hats, feeling brave, waiting, marching, and skating.*
- **Which words did the author use that remind you of school?** (word choice) *Words could include: yellow pencils, empty notebooks, chalk, board, and teacher.*
- **Who do the pencils stand for? Who does the chalk stand for?** (personification) *The pencils stand for the students. The chalk stands for the teacher.*
- **Why is this poem called "September"?** (inference) *September is when school starts in many places.*