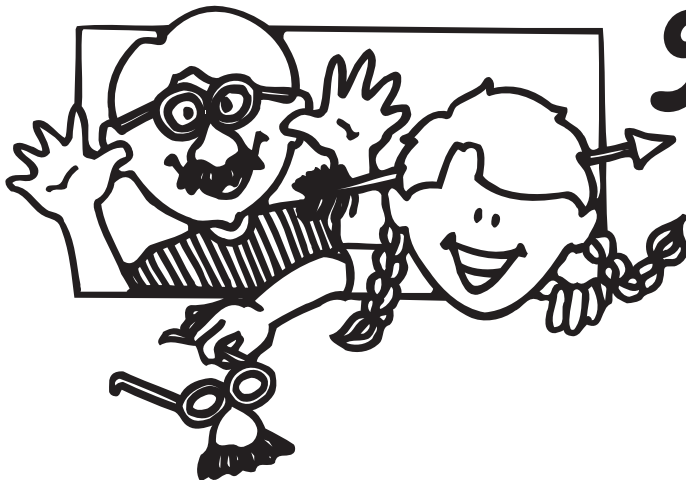


# Table of Contents

|          |   |     |
|----------|---|-----|
| April 1  | April Fools' Day . . . . .                  | 5   |
| April 2  | Storytelling Day . . . . .                  | 13  |
| April 3  | Under the Big Top Day . . . . .             | 23  |
| April 4  | April Showers Day . . . . .                 | 32  |
| April 5  | Good-Bye, Germs Day . . . . .               | 39  |
| April 6  | Olympic Games Day . . . . .                 | 44  |
| April 7  | World Health Day . . . . .                  | 52  |
| April 8  | Castle Creations Day . . . . .              | 56  |
| April 9  | Library Day . . . . .                       | 64  |
| April 10 | Humane Day . . . . .                        | 69  |
| April 11 | 100 <sup>th</sup> Day of the Year . . . . . | 74  |
| April 12 | Beverly Cleary's Birthday . . . . .         | 81  |
| April 13 | Thomas Jefferson's Birthday . . . . .       | 86  |
| April 14 | Dictionary Day . . . . .                    | 90  |
| April 15 | Leonardo da Vinci's Birthday . . . . .      | 100 |
| April 16 | Charlie Chaplin's Birthday . . . . .        | 106 |
| April 17 | Technology Day . . . . .                    | 110 |
| April 18 | Paul Revere Day . . . . .                   | 114 |
| April 19 | Bicycle Fun Day . . . . .                   | 118 |
| April 20 | Train Day . . . . .                         | 123 |
| April 21 | Hug a Tree Day . . . . .                    | 131 |
| April 22 | Earth Day . . . . .                         | 137 |
| April 23 | William Shakespeare's Birthday . . . . .    | 143 |
| April 24 | Newspaper Day . . . . .                     | 147 |
| April 25 | License Plate Day . . . . .                 | 155 |
| April 26 | J.J. Audubon's Birthday . . . . .           | 162 |
| April 27 | Pajama Party Day . . . . .                  | 173 |
| April 28 | Endangered Animals Day . . . . .            | 177 |
| April 29 | Giant Fun Day . . . . .                     | 181 |
| April 30 | Louisiana Statehood Day . . . . .           | 189 |
|          | April Calendar . . . . .                    | 192 |



# April Fools' Day

April 1



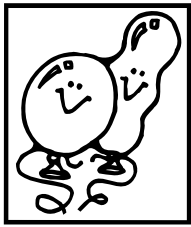
April Fools' Day



April Fools' Day

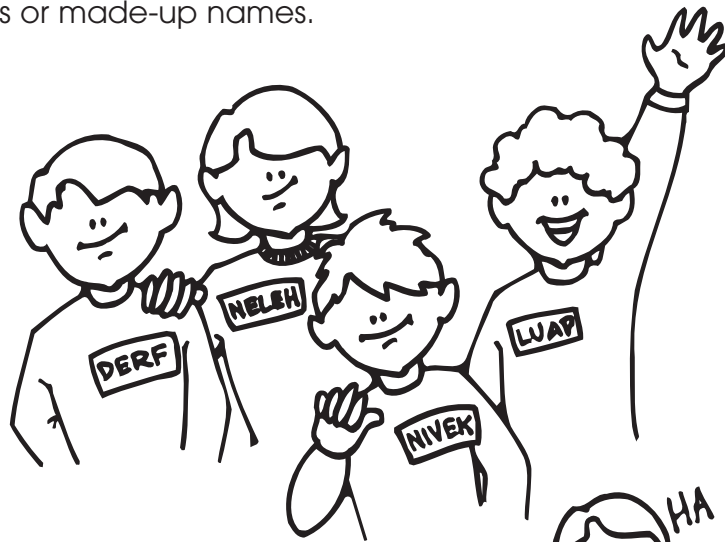


April Fools' Day

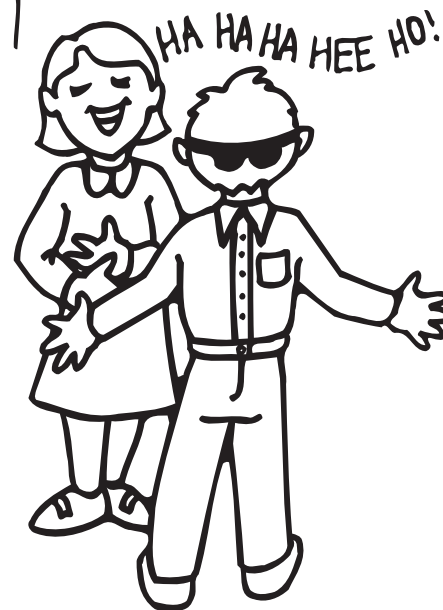


## Setting the Stage

- Write on the board, "Only two more days of school! . . . April Fools!"
- Before school, write everyone's name backwards (Fred is Derf) and try to call them (and yourself) by backwards names for the rest of the day. You may prefer to let students make up names for themselves today. Let students sign their papers all day with their backwards or made-up names.



- Throughout the day, do silly and unexpected things (wear sunglasses in the classroom, wear your clothes backwards, wear your socks over your shoes, etc.). Your students will never forget it!
- Display student work with a picture of a court jester and the caption: "No FOOLING, this is great work!"
- Construct a semantic web with words your students think of when you say, "April Fools' Day."





April  
Fools' Day



April  
Fools' Day

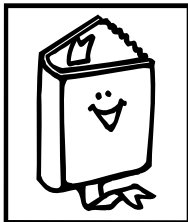


April  
Fools' Day



## Historical Background

The first day of April is traditionally April Fools' Day. The celebration originated in France. On their new year's celebration, the first day of spring, the French exchange gifts and treats. When the calendar was changed in the 16th century, these practices were stopped except for those far out in the country who hadn't heard about the change. When some people continued to give gifts though the official celebration had ended, they were made fun of, called "fools" and became the object of practical jokes. As time went on and everyone finally heard about the change, people continued with the practical jokes just for fun!



## Literary Exploration

*Amelia Bedelia* (series) by Peggy Parish

*April Fools* by Fernando Krahn

*Diane Goode's Book of Silly Stories and Songs* by Diane Goode

*The Great School Lunch Rebellion* by David Greenberg

*It's April Fools Day!* by Steven Kroll

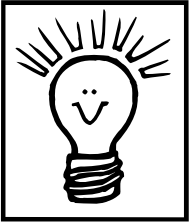
*Look Out, It's April Fool's Day* by Frank Modell

*The Laugh Book* by JoAnna Cole and Stephanie Calmenson

*Pictures to Stretch the Imagination* by Mitsumasa Anno

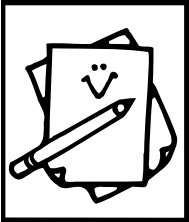
*The Random House Book of Humor for Children* by Pamela Pollack

*The Silliest Joke Book Ever* by Victoria Hartman



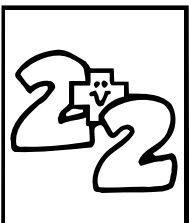
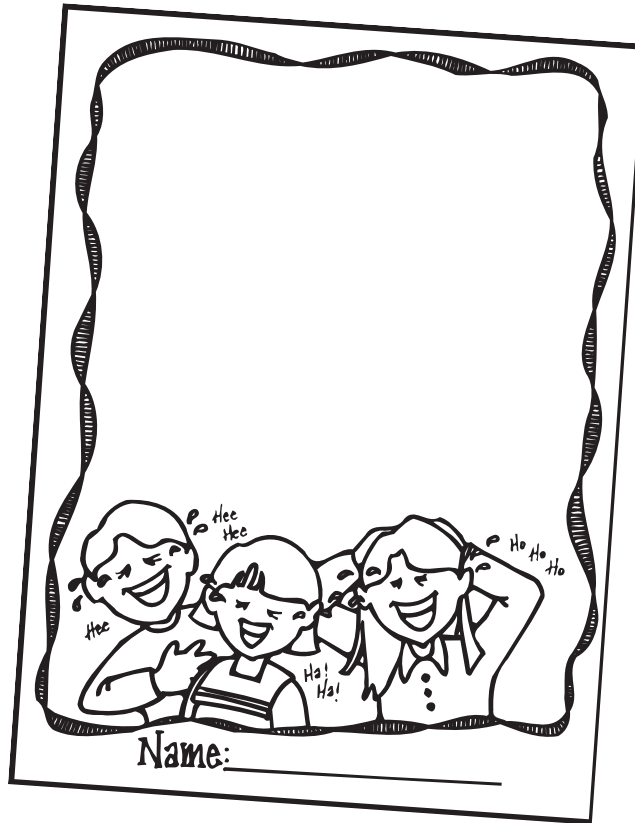
### Language Experience

- Explain how homonyms such as *know* and *no* or other figures of speech can “fool” us. Read aloud *The King Who Rained* or *A Chocolate Moose for Dinner* by Fred Gwynne. Challenge students to come up with other expressions that “fool” us.
- Let students suggest words that have the “oo” sound as in *fools*.



### Writing Experience

- Encourage students to write about the funniest experience they ever had or the funniest April Fools joke they’ve heard of. See reproducible on page 11.



### Math Experience

- Have some mixed-up math! Give students math problems with the answers (some right and some wrong). Students spot check and correct the ones that are wrong.

$$2 + 2 = 7$$



April Fools' Day



April Fools' Day



April Fools' Day