

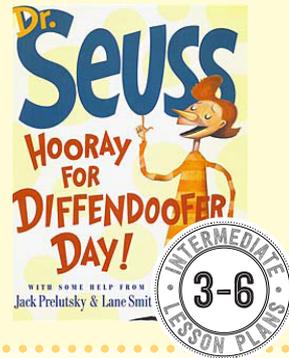


Hooray for Diffendoofer Day!

Dr. Seuss with Jack Prelutsky & Lane Smith

Themes

Do Your Best
Stress Reduction
Emotions & Feelings
Test Anxiety
Brain Breaks



If you believe “learning how to think” should be fun, visit Diffendoofer School! This school is unlike any other school for miles and miles around but like all schools – they must take a special test! The teachers are confident that Diffendoofer students are ready for any test because the kids have been taught how to think. Yet someone – the principal – is quite stressed out. This rhythmic story will have kids laughing – even your stressed out principal would laugh.

Note to teachers: *Teaching to the test is not key to helping students think thoughtfully! When you teach them how to think every day – that’s true test prep! You know why you are teaching what you are teaching but do your students know why they are learning what they are learning? NED encourages you to make your test prep intentional and transparent as well as sensible, effective and engaging! Don’t forget to give their young brains a break throughout the process.*

Building Background

You can sense when your students are getting stressed and need a brain break! Reenergize your learners throughout the day by getting their blood pumping and their brains refueled. Brain breaks can awaken your kids and help them renew, refresh, refocus and reduce stress – especially during test taking time! What are their favorite brain breaks – movement, breathing, pretend, play, challenges, song, dance, puzzles, etc?

Giving the brain a break is one of the best things you can do for learning.

DID YOU KNOW?

Flexibility can be defined as “*the quality of bending easily without breaking.*” This applies to both your body (movement) and your mind (adjusting to changing conditions) Brain breaks throughout the learning day can benefit both kinds of flexibility and help our kids to not *break* under the pressure of the test!

Discussion Starters

1. Why do you think Mr. Lowe, the principal, is the very saddest man at the school? Has your principal ever acted like Mr. Lowe? Describe the situation.
Answers will vary. Worry! Test pressure.

2. Miss Bonkers made this quote:
*“We’ve taught you that the earth is round,
that red and white make pink,
and something else that matters more
We’ve taught you how to think.”*

Discuss the meaning. Does thinking matter more? WHY or WHY NOT? How have you been taught to think this year? What strategies can you use when you must think about answers you don’t have?

Answers will vary. Problem solve, divergent thinking, draw inferences, synthesize, activate prior knowledge...



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3. Make a quick list of how Diffendofer School celebrated their Great Test Scores? Why is a celebration important after a test?
Answers will vary. Cartwheels, Take a bow, declare a holiday, pizza, milk & cake, an assembly, laughter, whoop it up, holler, sing a song. Something to look forward to after a hard activity. Reward for good effort. Way to release penned up stress after the test.
4. Brainstorm ideas for a Post-Test Celebration at your school. Visit with your principal and see if you can make your celebration a reality!



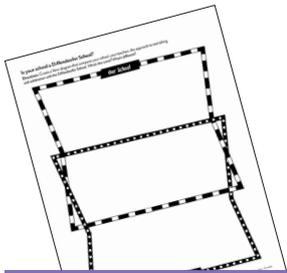
PRINTABLE:
Rhyming Words

Writing Prompts

How could learning be more fun for you?

What was your favorite thing to learn this year? Describe what you learned, how you learned it and why it was your favorite.

Reflect on how and why your thinking has changed after reading this book.
 I used to think _____ about the test but now I think _____.



PRINTABLE:
Venn Diagram

Activities

Hooray for [Your School]!

Write a humorous rhyming poem about your school! Can you add a tune and make it a song? You might start out by making a list of key words that have to do with testing and brainstorm some rhyming words first. *Note: Rhyming words sometimes bend the rules a little to fit! Try to include some encouraging words to remind your classmates to...*

*Never give up and do your BEST
 Give it your all and take that TEST!*

Wow...that rhymes....*best* and *test*! You can use this in your song if you want to!
Challenge: Could every line rhyme with test? Dr. Seuss would say "HOORAY!"



PRINTABLE:
NED Doodle

Is Your School a Diffendofer School?

Create a Venn diagram and compare your school, your teachers, the approach to test taking and celebration with the Diffendofer School. What's the same? What's different? Use your diagrams to discuss what changes your school might be able to make to become more like a Diffendofer School.

Rest Your Noodle - Color a Doodle!

Coloring is a great way to relax. The detailed designs take over negative thoughts and worries that may dominate our brains. It takes focus and attention to color detailed line drawings. When we change kid's focus from learning to this drawing and then back to learning - we are helping to calm their minds and refocus for important learning.

Resources

For more info...

Accelerated Reading
 Quiz: 19490

NED Pencils & Erasers

Did you know you could purchase NED #2 pencils for your test takers? What a great reminder during the test to never give up and do your best! Special savings with NED's test bundle - 30 pencils and 30 NED erasers. Visit www.ShopNED.com



Name: _____

Date: _____

Rhyming Words

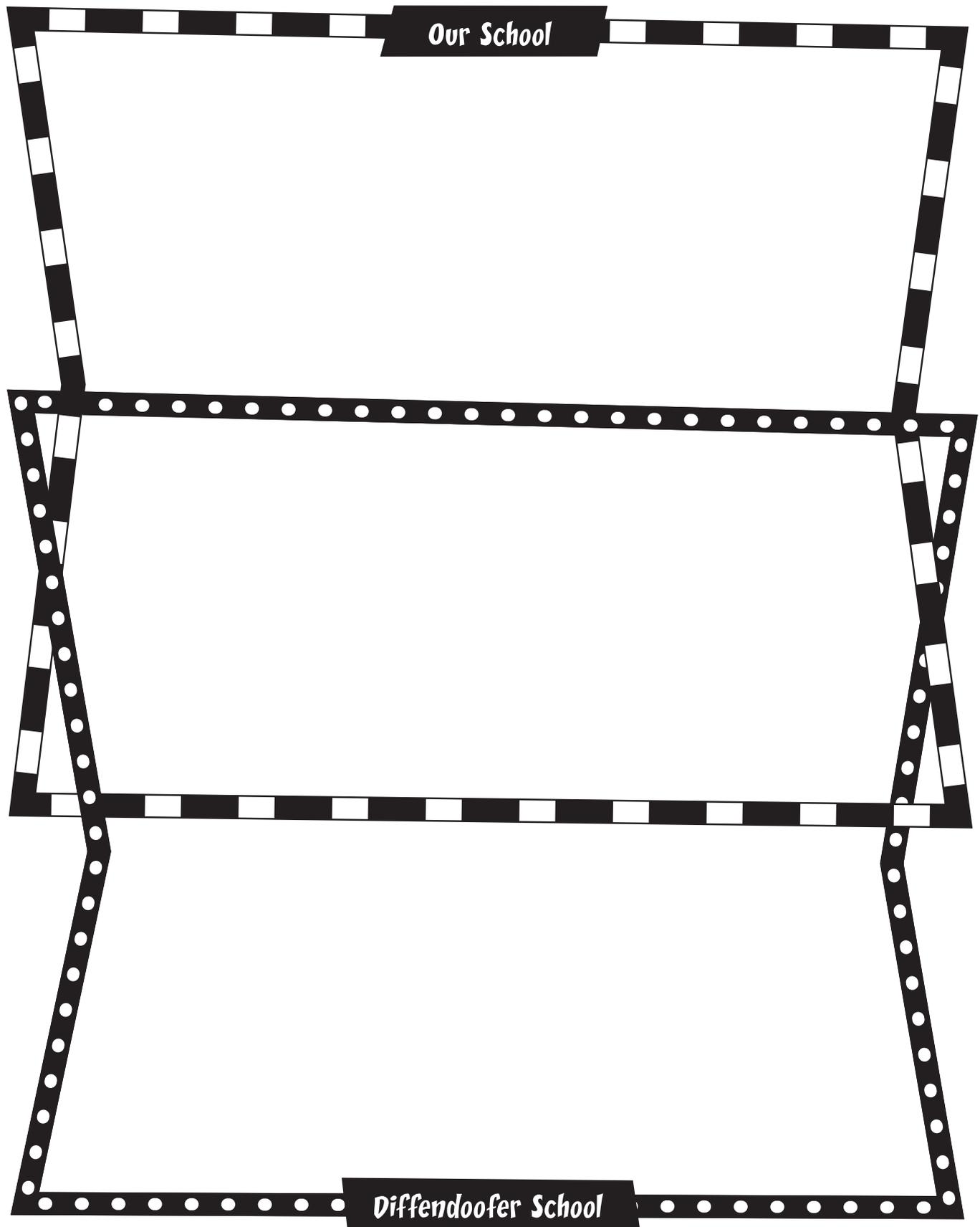
Write a humorous rhyming poem about your school! Start out by making some key words that have to do with testing. Then, brainstorm rhyming words for each testing-related word that you.

Note: Rhyming words sometimes bend the rules a little to fit!

Word	1-Syllable Rhymes	2-Syllable Rhymes	3+ Syllable Rhymes
Test	best, guessed, jest, quest, rest, stressed	addressed, at best, confessed, obsessed	at the best, chicken breast, day of rest, cardiac arrest

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Directions: Create a Venn diagram that compares your school, your teachers, the approach to test taking and celebration with the Diffendoofer School. What's the same? What's different?



Rest your noodle - color a doodle!

