

Happy 4th of July: Storytelling tips and Learning tools

Before narration:

- Ask the children if they know:
 - The significance of the 4th of July
 - When America got its independence
 - From whom America got her independence, etc.
- Introduce this as a poem that describes the fireworks children see on Jul 4th

Recitation:

- Print out the illustrations in color. Before reading the poem, show all the illustrations to the kids excluding the cover page:
 - Ask them to guess what the poem could be about and write their own story/poem from the illustrations
 - Ask them to read their story/poem to the class
 - Then show the cover page and ask if/how their stories would change based on this new information
- Recite the poem to the children. Say the poem at least thrice so the children can learn it
Note: It is better you memorize the poem before reciting
- Emphasize the 'sound words' in the poem. Ask the children to repeat the sounds. Accompany the sounds with gestures.
For example, for 'Damaal', make a hand movement as if something burst making a noise. For 'Phat Phat Phat' make a 'twinkle' action with your fingers by bringing all fingers together and releasing them.

After narration:

Ask the children to describe the children in the poem.

Extended activities:

Children can paint their own fireworks and write their own story about a Jul 4th experience they had. They can add details about the music they heard, who they went with, etc.