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# Recess Queen

## Lesson Ideas

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Velma Gratch and the Way Cool Butterfly  
The Dot  
Ninja!  
The Recess Queen  
Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon  
Enemy Pie (Reading Rainbow Book, Children S  
Book about Kindness, Kids Books about Learning)  
The OK Book  
Rethinking Recess  
Who Will Carve the Turkey this Thanksgiving?  
Rock by Rock  
Don't Laugh at Me  
The Magic of Friendship Snow  
The Invisible Boy  
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good,  
Very Bad Day  
A Fine, Fine School  
81 Fresh & Fun Critical-thinking Activities  
The Relatives Came  
The Toothpaste Millionaire  
Going to School  
The Art Lesson  
Making Words  
A Bad Case of Tattle Tongue  
We Don't Eat Our Classmates  
Sheila Rae, the Brave  
Ruby the Copycat

Weslandia  
First Grade Stinks!  
The Recess Queen  
Ella McKeen, Kickball Queen  
Loud Emily  
How to Get Your Teacher Ready  
My No, No, No Day!  
Pete the Cat: The Great Leprechaun Chase  
It's Back to School We Go  
The Ant Bully  
King of the Playground  
School's First Day of School  
Bedhead  
The Bad Seed  
The King of Kindergarten

Recess  
Queen  
Lesson  
Ideas

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## **KENDRICK KAYDEN**

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*Velma Gratch  
and the Way  
Cool Butterfly*  
National  
Center for  
Youth Issues  
It's the first  
day of school  
for Penelope  
Rex, and she  
can't wait to

meet her  
classmates.  
But it's hard to  
make human  
friends when  
they're so  
darn delicious!  
That is, until  
Penelope gets  
a taste of her  
own medicine  
and finds she  
may not be at  
the top of the  
food chain  
after all. . . .

Readers will  
gobble up this  
hilarious new  
story from  
award-winning  
author-  
illustrator  
Ryan T.  
Higgins.  
*The Dot*  
Scholastic Inc.  
"Jojo looks  
around and  
everyone  
seems to have  
friends but

her. She feels sad and lonely. She wonders, how do you make a friend? How do you BE a friend? Then, Jojo meets Puddles, the snowman made with magic snow. The discovery of a best friend is a precious gift of childhood." -- back cover.

### **Ninja!**

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Features an audio read-along! With a simple, witty story and free-spirited illustrations, Peter H. Reynolds

entices even the stubbornly uncreative among us to make a mark - - and follow where it takes us. Her teacher smiled. "Just make a mark and see where it takes you." Art class is over, but Vashti is sitting glued to her chair in front of a blank piece of paper. The words of her teacher are a gentle invitation to express herself. But Vashti can't draw - she's no artist. To prove her point, Vashti

jabs at a blank sheet of paper to make an unremarkable and angry mark. "There!" she says. That one little dot marks the beginning of Vashti's journey of surprise and self-discovery. That special moment is the core of Peter H. Reynolds's delicate fable about the creative spirit in all of us. *The Recess Queen* Scholastic Inc. Be yourself like Molly Lou Melon no matter what a bully may do. Molly Lou Melon is short

and clumsy, has buck teeth, and has a voice that sounds like a bullfrog being squeezed by a boa constrictor. She doesn't mind. Her grandmother has always told her to walk proud, smile big, and sing loud, and she takes that advice to heart. But then Molly Lou has to start in a new school. A horrible bully picks on her on the very first day, but Molly Lou Melon knows just what to do about that.

**Stand Tall,**

**Molly Lou Melon**  
HarperCollins  
Recounts the events of a day when everything goes wrong for Alexander.  
Suggested level: junior, primary.  
*Enemy Pie (Reading Rainbow Book, Children's Book about Kindness, Kids Books about Learning)*  
Mindview Press  
After many unsuccessful attempts one morning to control his unruly hair, Oliver and his family think that they have solved the

problem--until he gets to school and finds that it is class picture day. Full color.  
The OK Book  
Knopf Books for Young Readers  
This back-to-school tale is a humorous and relatable read for rising first graders and young children facing new experiences. It's the first day of school, and Hayley is excited. Things are different now. She's a first grader! Hayley quickly finds out that first grade is different from

kindergarten, but in all the wrong ways. The classroom isn't as bright and colorful. Ms. Gray doesn't seem to smile as much as her kindergarten teacher did, and there isn't enough time to play outside. Finally, Hayley has had enough. "First grade stinks!" she shouts. And fortunately, her compassionate teacher completely understands. Young readers will immediately empathize with Hayley as she struggles to find enthusiasm for her new school year.

*Rethinking Recess* Disney Electronic Content Learn how to get your teacher ready for back to school...from the first day! to graduation! The kids are in charge in this hilarious classroom adventure--from the creators of the New York Times bestseller *How to Babysit a Grandpa*. This humorous new book in the beloved HOW TO . . . series takes readers through a fun and busy school year. Written in tongue-in-cheek instructional style, a class of adorable students gives tips and tricks for getting a teacher ready—for the first day of school, and all the events and milestones that will follow (picture day, holiday concert, the 100th day of school, field day!). And along the way, children will see that getting their

teacher ready is really getting themselves ready. Filled with charming role-reversal humor, this is a playful and heartwarming celebration of teachers and students. A fun read-a-loud to prepare for first day jitters, back-to-school readiness or end of year celebrations.. The fun doesn't stop! Check out more HOW TO... picture books: How to Babysit a Grandpa How to Babysit a Grandma How

to Catch Santa How to Get Your Teacher Ready How to Raise a Mom How to Read to a Grandma or Grandpa *Who Will Carve the Turkey this Thanksgiving?* Making Words A Reading Rainbow book for your child Recommend by experts for children who are reading independently and transitioning to longer books. Teach kindness, courtesy, respect, and friendship: It was the perfect summer. That

is, until Jeremy Ross moved into the house down the street and became neighborhood enemy number one. Luckily Dad had a surefire way to get rid of enemies: Enemy Pie. But part of the secret recipe is spending an entire day playing with the enemy! In this funny yet endearing story one little boy learns an effective recipe for turning a best enemy into a best friend. Accompanied by charming

illustrations, on Market Grades 3-5  
 Enemy Pie Street, Have Rock by Rock  
 serves up a You Filled a Harper Collins  
 sweet lesson Bucket Today, Sheila Rae,  
 in the and First Day the Brave is a  
 difficulties and Jitters will love warm,  
 ultimate this Reading humorous,  
 rewards of Rainbow and loving  
 making new classic, Enemy story of sibling  
 friends. The Pie. sympathy and  
 perfect book Recommend support. Just  
 for kids by experts for because  
 learning how children who Sheila Rae is  
 to make are reading older, she  
 friends or deal independently doesn't always  
 with conflict and know better!  
 Ideal as a read transitioning This classic  
 aloud book for to longer picture book  
 families or books and about  
 elementary perfect for the overcoming  
 schools following fear is written  
 Created by reading and illustrated  
 Derek Munson categories: by Kevin  
 who has Elementary Henkes, the  
 directly School nationally  
 shared his Chapter Books bestselling  
 children's Family Read and  
 stories with Aloud Books celebrated  
 over 100,000 Books for Kids creator of  
 kids across Ages 5-9 Lilly's Purple  
 the globe Fans Children's Plastic Purse,  
 of Last Stop Books for Owen, and

Kitten's First Full Moon. "I am very brave," Sheila Rae said, patting herself on the back. She wasn't afraid of anything—not thunder, not lightning, not the big black dog at the end of the block. And when she wanted to walk home a new way and Louise wouldn't, she called her sister a scaredy-cat and set out alone. But all the bravado in the world failed to help when Sheila Rae found herself lost.

Luckily, her sister was not far behind. "Children will love it."—School Library Journal *Don't Laugh at Me* Simon and Schuster This luminous picture book tells the fascinating true story of artist Nek Chand and how his secret art project—hidden away in a jungle—became one of India's most treasured wonders, second only to the Taj Mahal. In the bustle of the busy streets of Chandigarh,

India, Nek Chand saw something no one else did. Where others saw rocks and stones, Nek saw the boyhood village he missed so dearly. Where others saw broken plates and glass, Nek saw laughing men. And where others saw trash, Nek saw beauty. Nek Chand's incredible rock garden, built from stone and scraps and concrete, began as a way for him to express his long-felt grief at having to leave his

boyhood  
village due to  
the violence  
caused by the  
partition of  
India. What  
began as a  
secret and  
personal (not  
to mention  
initially illegal)  
project  
became so  
much more,  
not only to  
Nek but to all  
of India.

**The Magic of  
Friendship  
Snow**

Candlewick  
Press  
A New York  
Times  
bestseller! A  
confident little  
boy takes  
pride in his  
first day of  
kindergarten,  
by the  
Newbery

Honor-winning  
author of  
Crown. The  
morning sun  
blares through  
your window  
like a million  
brass  
trumpets. It  
sits and shines  
behind your  
head--like a  
crown.

Mommy says  
that today,  
you are going  
to be the King  
of

Kindergarten!  
Starting  
kindergarten  
is a big  
milestone--  
and the hero  
of this story is  
ready to make  
his mark! He's  
dressed  
himself, eaten  
a pile of  
pancakes, and  
can't wait to

be part of a  
whole new  
kingdom of  
kids. The day  
will be jam-  
packed, but  
he's up to the  
challenge,  
taking new  
experiences in  
stride with his  
infectious  
enthusiasm!

And afterward,  
he can't wait  
to tell his  
proud parents  
all about his  
achievements--  
and then  
wake up to  
start another  
day. Newbery  
Honor-winning  
author Derrick  
Barnes's  
empowering  
story will give  
new  
kindergarten  
rs a  
reassuring

confidence boost, and Vanessa Brantley-Newton's illustrations exude joy. The Invisible Boy Harper Collins Tommy knows he wants to be an artist when he grows up. He can't wait to get to school and have real art lessons. When Tommy gets to school and finds out that the art lessons are full of "rules", he is surprised and dismayed. How the wise art teacher finds a way to give Tommy the freedom

to create and stay within the "rules" makes a wonderfully perceptive picture book about growing up and keeping one's individuality. Tomie dePaola is the author and illustrator of many beloved books for children, including the Caldecott Honor Book Strega Nona. Fans of all ages will be pleased to hear that The Art Lesson is, in fact, based on the artist's own experiences growing up, and offers a welcome

glimpse into his past. This bright picture book is as covered with drawings as the walls of Tommy's parents' and grandparents' houses, and sends an inspirational message to budding artists and individualists. Break out the crayons! Alexander and the Terrible, No Good, Very Bad Day Henry Holt and Company (BYR) From the team that created the bestselling I Wish You More, this is a

motivational picture book for exceptionally OK children! In this clever and visual play on words, OK is turned sideways, upside down, and right side up to show that being OK can really be quite great. With spare yet comforting illustrations and text, bestselling duo Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Tom Lichtenheld celebrate the real skills and talents children possess, encouraging

and empowering them to discover their own individual strengths and personalities. Whether OK personifies an OK skipper, an OK climber, an OK lightning bug catcher, or an OK whatever there is to experience, OK is an OK place to be. And being OK just may lead to the discovery of what makes one great. [A Fine, Fine School](#) Millbrook Press Help children of all learning styles and

strengths improve their critical thinking skills with these creative, cross-curricular activities. Each engaging activity focuses on skills such as recognizing and recalling, evaluating, and analyzing. [81 Fresh & Fun Critical-thinking Activities](#) Atheneum Books for Young Readers In Rethinking Recess, sociologist Rebecca A. London argues that recess has been

overlooked as an essential part of the elementary school experience, with major implications for how well schools serve all students equitably and responsively. Given its potential to support students' social and emotional learning and physical activity, London says, recess should be designed intentionally, with attention to safety, health, and engagement. The book shows how

school leaders and other educators--even those with budget and space constraints--can make the most of recess time by using a variety of proven strategies, and also provides examples of schools that have put these strategies to use. Taking organizational steps to create a well-designed recess can engage students, improve school climate, build valuable social

and emotional skills, reduce behavioral incidents, and promote healthy lifestyles. Meticulously researched and filled with practical and often easy-to-implement changes for recess policies and practice, this book provides a critical resource for school leaders and others looking to make every aspect of school a positive one for students. "All children have the right to equitable and inclusive

access to recess as a foundation of development. Rethinking Recess offers a compelling case for 'organized recess,' describing the important role of organized play to promote wellness, strengthen school culture, and enhance social and emotional learning. This book is a call to action for the well-being of our children and society." - Mary Ann Dewan, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools

"This important book illustrates how a well-organized and universally available recess can provide developmental spaces for students that improve school climate and foster social and emotional learning. Rethinking Recess documents inequities in access to recess, illustrates how schools can organize safe and supportive recess, and provides

practical guidance for policy makers." -- David Osher, vice president and institute fellow, American Institutes for Research  
 Rebecca A. London is a faculty member in the Sociology Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz.  
*The Relatives Came*  
 Turtleback Books  
 The relatives come to visit from Virginia and everyone has a wonderful time  
*The*

*Toothpaste Millionaire*  
HarperCollins  
One day, Mr. Keene called all the students and teachers together and said, "This is a fine, fine school! From now on, let's have school on Saturdays too." And then there was more. School all weekend. School on the holidays. School in the SUMMER! What was next . . . SCHOOL AT NIGHT? So it's up to Tillie to show her well-intentioned principal, Mr. Keene, that

even though his fine, fine school is a wonderful place, it's not fine, fine to be there all the time.

### **Going to School**

Schwartz & Wade  
This School Library Journal Best Book of the Year celebrates everything butterfly, from migration to metamorphosis! Kids will love reading about Velma's own transformation from a timid first grader into a confident scientist. It's hard to be

Velma entering first grade. That's because everyone has marvelous memories of her two older sisters, who were practically perfect first graders, and no one even notices Velma. But all that changes on a class trip to the butterfly conservatory, a place neither of her sisters has been. When a monarch roosts on Velma's finger and won't budge for days—no one will ever forget it . . . or

her! Here's the perfect addition to any science curriculum. *The Art Lesson Chronicle Books* "This fantastical picture book, like its hero, is bursting at the seams with creativity. . . . a vigorous shot in the arm to nonconformist s everywhere" — Publishers Weekly (starred review) Enter the witty,

intriguing world of Weslandia! Now that school is over, Wesley needs a summer project. He's learned that each civilization needs a staple food crop, so he decides to sow a garden and start his own — civilization, that is. He turns over a plot of earth, and plants begin to grow. They soon tower above

him and bear a curious-looking fruit. As Wesley experiments, he finds that the plant will provide food, clothing, shelter, and even recreation. It isn't long before his neighbors and classmates develop more than an idle curiosity about Wesley — and exactly how he is spending his summer vacation.