

## Grade 4 Narrative

### Art Class Snapshots

Only two weeks until summer vacation! Carl and Sam couldn't wait until they could spend their days riding bikes and skateboards, playing outside with their neighborhood friends, swimming at the lake, and sleeping late. It was going to be a great summer!

The last two weeks of school were usually a time of celebrating. Each year a talent show was held on the last day. Carl and Sam planned to do a comedy routine with jokes they had been practicing. After the talent show, everyone would eat lunch outside. Grilled burgers and hot dogs would be provided for students, teachers, and staff.

This year Carl and Sam's art teacher, Ms. Gibbons, assigned a unique final project to present on the last day of school.

"I would like all of you to think about the end of the school year in a new way. I will give each group of five students a camera to share for a week. During that time, I want each member of the group to photograph events that happen during the day. Photos can be taken at school, at home, or any other place that is part of your day. Each member of the group will use the photographs to make a collage that describes his or her day," explained Ms. Gibbons.

Carl looked around the room to see others' reactions to the project. He thought the art project sounded extremely fun. He was looking forward to walking through the day with a camera.

"When can we start?" Carl asked Ms. Gibbons.

"Right now!" replied Ms. Gibbons as she distributed the cameras.

On the walk home from school, Carl and Sam discussed the art project. The two boys lived next door to each other. They were in the same art group, and they were sharing the camera with three other students. They both agreed the project was awesome.

"I have several pictures from school today," said Sam.

"I am going to take some at home, but let's take some now!" exclaimed Carl.

Carl focused the camera and took a picture of some sidewalk ants. Sam used the camera to capture a picture of the mighty oak giving him shade.

Carl had never thought about all the little things he did each day. He had never noticed the details that surrounded him. In the morning just as he awoke, a ray of sunshine came through his curtain and shone on the floor. Birds were eating the red berries that grew in the hedge. Carl saw so many hiding places in his backyard, and when he sat quietly with his camera poised,

he could take a different picture from each place. Carl's turn ended, and he reluctantly gave the camera to another group member.

After one week, Ms. Gibbons taught the students how to review their photos, print them, cut them, and display them. The process took a few days to complete, but at last the projects were ready. Carl stood back to observe his collage, and then he circulated around the room to study his peers' completed projects.

No words were used in the collages, yet so much was being said. Carl was amazed at the differences among the pictures.

"We all go to the same school and live in the same town, but we have unique experiences every day," he said.

"That is a wonderful observation, Carl! That is exactly what I was hoping each of you would come to understand," said Ms. Gibbons.

## Grade 4 Informational

### Mr. Fred Rogers

by Marilyn Sklar

Mister Rogers sang a song that millions of young children all over the country recognize. The children watched *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* on TV. The song was about Mister Rogers' friendly neighborhood. In the song, he asked the children watching if they would be his neighbors. For more than thirty years, Fred Rogers appeared on TV singing his famous song.

Fred Rogers was very shy as a child. He was often ill, too. He liked playing the piano. He also enjoyed making up stories with his puppets. He loved spending time with his grandfather, Fred McFeely. His grandfather always made Fred feel special. He encouraged Fred to be the best person he could be. He told Fred that he made the day special just by being himself. Fred Rogers always remembered those words. He said them near the end of many of his programs.

Fred Rogers began working in TV in 1951. Two years later he brought some of his puppets to his first show, *The Children's Corner*.

The first *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* show appeared on TV in 1967 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. At the beginning of every show, Mister Rogers went into his TV house from outdoors. He took off his coat, changed his shoes, and put on his sweater. His mother made the sweaters that he wore on the show. He liked sweaters with a zipper in the front. His mother made him a new sweater every year.

Mister Rogers had puppet stories on his show. He was the voice for many of the puppets in his "Neighborhood of Make-Believe." Mister Rogers also had guests from the neighborhood. These guests told about their jobs. Bakers or carpenters showed how they made

things. Musicians showed how they played music on different instruments.

Fred Rogers wrote the music and words for many children's songs. He wrote many books for children and grownups. These books were about everyday things, like going to school and going to the doctor. He wrote about feelings. He helped children understand how to get along with their families and friends. He taught children to love themselves and others.

Fred Rogers believed it was important always to be honest. He hoped that children would learn honesty, love, and kindness from his show. He hoped they would take those lessons into their grown-up lives.

Mister Rogers and his TV show won many awards. In 2002, President George W. Bush gave Mister Rogers a special award for teaching children how important it is to learn, to be kind, and to care about others.

TV stations still show *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* today.