

MARY of NAZARETH
Roman Catholic School



June 2021

Dear Incoming Second Grade Students and Parents,

Welcome to Second Grade! We are excited to have you in our classes this coming year, and we want you to begin the school year with skills and strategies to be successful.

Mary of Nazareth recommends you continue working on IXL math and language arts objectives that you worked on during first grade and participate in the reading activities as described in this letter and attachments. The IXL practice is an important tool for teachers to analyze student work to identify strengths and challenges, as well as, an appropriate common “starting point” for instruction in the fall.

More importantly, the second grade teachers want you to enjoy reading books, learn new facts, have a few laughs, and get curious about the world around you, and “unplug” from computer screens. We have included web links as alternatives to purchasing or library borrowing. Parents, please get involved in reading with your child and talk about the stories.

1. Read the adorable, *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin and Harry Bliss. This book can be found at the public library, Barnes & Noble, or at Amazon, approximately \$12.00. We hope this book becomes a family favorite, and we hope to participate in projects related to the story in early September.
2. The second book that we want you to read is *Smart About George W. Carver, the Peanut Wizard* by Laura Driscoll. This book complements the plant project that you did during first grade and connects with why worms would be helpful for plants and gardens. This book can be found at the public library, Barnes & Noble, or at Amazon, approximately \$6.00.
3. The teachers would like you to **select at least one other book to read** and create a letter-size (8 ½ x 11) poster, glued onto a piece of colored construction paper, if about a book that you chose. Please read the attached rubric. Your poster may be displayed during Back to School Night so do your best work!

Our goal is to provide you with some interesting activities that will keep your reading, practice grammar and math skills, and will get you ready for second grade. Remember to pray daily, attend Mass, have fun, play outside, and have a wonderful summer vacation!

Have a blessed and peaceful summer!

The Second Grade Team

Books you might enjoy: blue highlighted books are highly recommended but you may need parents' help to read them.

The Seven Treasure Hunts: Betsy Byars (mystery)

Get Ready for Second Grade Amber Brown: Paula Danzinger(funny)

***Hachiko: The True Story of A Loyal Dog*: Pamela S. Turner(true story)**

***Velma Gratch & the Way Cool Butterfly*: Alan Madison & Kevin Hawkes (realism)**

Emperor Penguins: Roberta Edwards (non-fiction)

***It's Disgusting and We Ate It*: James Solheim (True food facts world/history)**

Roberto Clemente: Pride of Pittsburgh: Jonah Winter

Mama Played Baseball: David Adler

Cam Jansen & The Mystery of the Babe Ruth Baseball (mystery)

Roger The Jolly Pirate: Brett Helquist (Fantasy)

Painted Dreams: Karen Lynn Williams (art)

Dogku: Andrew Clements (making friends and written as a series of Haiku)

The Random House book of Poetry for Children (poetry)

Once Upon A Time: Niki Daly(realism)

Incoming Second Grade Summer 2021

Reading Projects

1. **Try to read everyday for at least 15 minutes.** The time you spend reading should be relaxing and will help you prepare for second grade. See how many books you can read over the summer!

2. Read *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin and Harry Bliss. This book is part of a series and you may want to try to read the other books in the series. You will complete the graphic organizer found in this packet. The graphic organizer will help you prepare for other activities and assignments we do in second grade. Please put your name on the back of the *Diary of a Worm* graphic organizer page.

There is another *Diary of a Worm, Teacher's Pet* by the same author that is an "I Can Read, Level 1" book.

3. Complete the graphic organizer for *George Washington Carver*. What did you learn? Color the picture. How is the peanut plant like the one you grew during first grade?

4. Please select **one** of the other books that you read over the summer. Make a colorful "paper poster" about that book. Student posters will be displayed on the hallway bulletin boards so they must be **no bigger than a 8½ x 11 paper, mounted on a piece of construction paper.**
 - The "poster" must have the **book title and author, create some illustrations about the story, write at least 2 sentences about the story,** and write your name on the front of your poster for everyone to see. You may type this information using at least 14pt font size.

5. **Assignments are due Tuesday, September 7, 2021; bring them with you to the first day of school.**

Name of Book: **Diary of a Worm**
Author: Doreen Cronin and Harry Bliss

Setting:

Where:

When:

Main Character(s):

Other Characters:

Some Events in the Story:

Event 1

Event 2

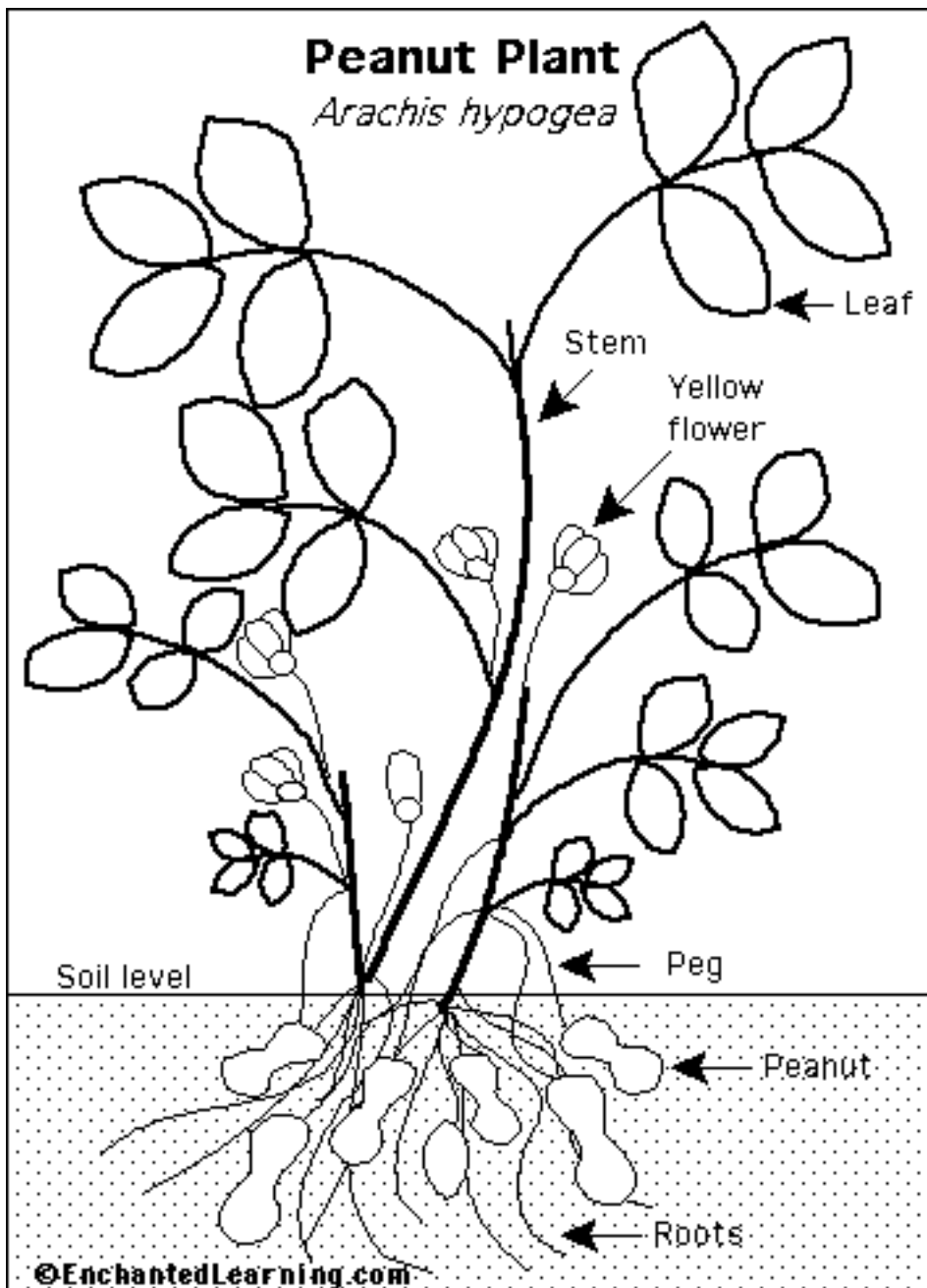
Event 3

The most important thing in the story is

Name: _____

List 3 products that are made with peanuts:

Color the picture



Suggested Fun and Creative Activities:

Here are some ideas to help you and your family practice what you learned in first grade and what you will learn in second grade, read for different purposes, be able to apply math skills in your everyday life, and work on your fine motor skills:

1. Help bake some cookies or cupcakes. Can you measure the ingredients?
2. Try to practice your printing. Write letters and numbers from the top line to the bottom line. One way to begin to practice writing is to make straight and slanted lines and circles touching the top and bottom lines:
OOOOO ||||| /////
\\\\\\
3. Play store. Use the attached paper coins (or real coins) to buy and sell items such as snacks, cookies, juice boxes, or “rent” your toys to your siblings. Identifying coins, counting money, and making change are math skills which incorporate a number of the skills (addition & subtraction) that have been taught in 1st grade and will be reinforced throughout the upcoming years.
4. Practice telling time on an analog clock. Start by identifying hours, half hour, and quarter hour. Try to say “after _ :00 or before _ :00
5. Play with clay or playdough (simple playdough recipes are on the internet). Creating sculptures with clay helps to develop your finger muscles and makes your hands stronger for handwriting.
6. Have a list of daily chores to complete. This list does not need to be long but it will help the child to develop a routine, create “patterning” connections in the brain, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment – all build self-confidence.
7. Play card games. There are lots of easy to learn card games which help with strategic thinking, planning, and cooperation.
8. Make a comic book – cut out, draw, or print pictures and write stories to go with your pictures. You can make flip books, “shoe-box” tvs, your own “newspaper,” and so on.
9. Of course, READ, READ, READ! Find all kinds of books, articles, and texts to practice reading skills. “*Oh, the Places You Will Go*” with books...







United States, Presidential \$1, and Quarter-dollar coin images from the United States Mint. - STEMsheets.com