



# The Kindergarten Chronicles

Robyn Markovic, RPPD

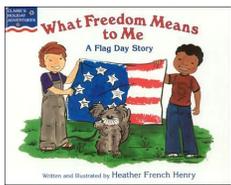
Beth Jacobsen, Goolsby Elementary

## Go Out With a Bang!



Wow! It's almost summer and with that, the end of our school year is quickly approaching. You've spent nine months preparing your little learners to move to first grade. Now let's end the year strong!

Even with the school year coming to a close, we have a few holidays we can celebrate a bit early (if you're in a nine-month school). This helps us cover our social studies standard, Develop an awareness of traditional U.S. and Nevada patriotic activities, holidays, or symbols (C13.K.5A). When you base your instruction on literature, you meet most of our



literacy text standards (3.K.1, 3.K.7, 4.K.1, 4.K.5).

### Flag Day

**(June 14).** *What Freedom Means to Me: A Flag Day Story* by Heather French Henry. This story helps children understand



the meaning of our flag and that with freedom comes responsibility. *Flag Day* by Kelly Bennett. This

nonfiction text presents a description of the various traditions and festivities associated with Flag Day, and also covers flag etiquette.

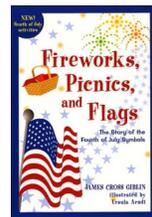
**Flag Day Activity:** Make a patriotic wind sock using an empty oatmeal canister. Cover the canister with construction paper and put white stars on it. Add red and white streamers to the bottom. Punch holes at the top and add string to hang. To make this a language arts activity, you might have your students write content



words such as "freedom," "honor," and "country" on the streamers. (From enchantedlearning.com)

**Independence Day (July 4).** Fourth of July celebrations tie in

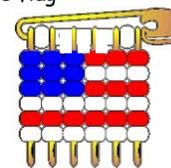
nicely with Flag Day, so you may



want to include some literature and activities in recognition of this holiday as well. *Fireworks, Picnics, and Flags: The Story of*

*Fourth of July Symbols* by James Cross Giblin makes the Fourth of July more meaningful for your students as it explores the meanings behind the holiday's familiar symbols.

**Fourth of July Activity:** This will connect nicely with Flag Day, as the children make a flag pin. You will need red, white, and blue beads and eight large or medium safety pins. This illustration should help you know how to assemble the beads on the pins to make an adorable flag pin in honor of our nation's birthday! (From atozteacherstuff.com).



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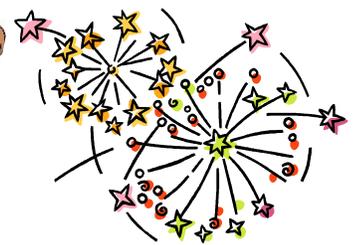
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Bill Hanlon, Director

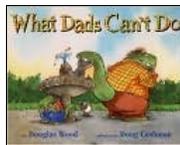


## Fabulous Fathers!

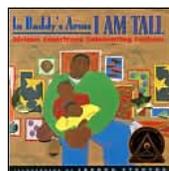


For our nine-month students, dear ol' dad often gets the short end of the stick when it comes to Father's Day. Let's celebrate dad, even if it's a little bit early. To begin with, here are some good books to help our students appreciate all their dad does. (It's a good idea to include grandpas and uncles in your classroom discussions and projects in order to be sensitive to our students whose fathers may not be in their lives).

*What Dads Can't Do* by Douglas Wood. This book is about a single



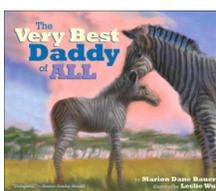
father and his son, and helps children appreciate the small things that their dads do.



*In Daddy's Arms I am Tall* by Javaka Steptoe. This is a collec-

tion of poems celebrating African-American fathers.

*The Very Best Daddy of All* by



Marion Dane Bauer. This story about animal fathers is

narrated by a young girl, who realizes here daddy does all that animal fathers do and more.

Since your children more than likely are writers at this point, have them write and illustrate a book about their father as a gift. You may want to include sentence frames, such as "My father's favorite thing to do with me is \_\_\_\_\_," "I like it when my dad \_\_\_\_\_," and "My dad is the best at \_\_\_\_\_." Bind with a cover made by the child. (Draw and write narrative and descriptive text, 6.K.2).