

A-Book-A-Week: Classroom Instruction

My First Kwanzaa Book

Activity Card #1	Literacy Development Category Language Development: Sequences and recounts
Suggested Activity Order <i>In many ways, <u>My First Kwanzaa Book</u> is organized like our earlier featured book <u>Apples and Pumpkins</u>. Just like the little girl in <u>Apples and Pumpkins</u>, the little boy narrating this book gives a sense of time by his use of the word "when". In this lesson, we make use of this structure to help children review what happened in the book, and to gain confidence with this time-related structure in their speaking vocabulary.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cut out the Kwanzaa picture cards.2. With the children, re-read the book to decide what order the pictures should go in.3. Remind children of the phrasing in the book, "When it is Kwanzaa time..."4. Let six children hold the six pictures. Each is to step forward and say, "When it is Kwanzaa time, children ... (dress up, eat good things , light the kinara, etc.)."5. Encourage the children to present their cards with the complete sentence.	Materials Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> <u>My First Kwanzaa Book</u><input type="checkbox"/> Kwanzaa cards located at the end of this file

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Activity Card #2	Literacy Development Category Lots of Links: Lights at this Holiday Season
Suggested Activity Order <i>This activity allows children to make connections and comparisons from holiday to holiday.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Review the page on which the narrator of the book and his parents are lighting the Kwanzaa candles.2. Ask children if they can think of other special times when candles are lit. Many will mention birthday candles.3. Share with children the C, H, K, L and T pictures from the winter holiday alphabet. Ask the children what is the same in all of these pictures (hint: lights!). Both the C and H pictures show children lighting Hanukkah candles (Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday). The K picture shows a family watching as their child lights the kinara for Kwanzaa. The L picture shows a man putting up lights outdoors, and the T page shows a candle atop a Christmas tree. (You might want to spend a moment talking about lighting candles and safety.)4. As a class, count the red (3), green (3), and black (1) candles in the kinara.5. Use construction paper to cut out candles for a classroom poster on the Kwanzaa Kinara.6. Paste the candles in their proper order, and tell children you will finish the poster another day.	Materials Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> C, H, K, L, and T pictures from the winter holiday alphabet<input type="checkbox"/> My First Kwanzaa Book<input type="checkbox"/> Black, green, and red construction paper

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Activity Card #3	Literacy Development Category: Acts of Writing - The Letter K
Suggested Activity Order <i>While A-Book-A-Week does not teach the alphabet in a systematic fashion, we do work to increase children's awareness of the letters of the alphabet and the sounds they make. Today, we work with the letter K.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Return to the Kwanzaa kinara poster that you and the children created for Activity #2.2. Underneath the kinara write "Kwanzaa Kinara."3. Show children that Kwanzaa and Kinara both begin with the same letter, the letter K.4. Next to the Kwanzaa Kinara poster, tape the K pages from the various alphabets. Remind the children of the names of the pictures.5. Give each child a K page. Let them draw something that they now know belongs with the holiday Kwanzaa.	Materials Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Kwanzaa kinara poster<input type="checkbox"/> K pictures from the Head Start, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Winter Holiday Alphabets<input type="checkbox"/> A paper with the letter K in the top right hand corner

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Activity Card #4	Literacy Development Category: Artists Craft: Pictures for Holiday books
Suggested Activity Order <i>Author Debbi Chocolate has written <u>My First Kwanzaa Book</u> to help people who do not celebrate Kwanzaa learn more about the special holiday that is celebrated by her culture. To write this book, she has had to decide which aspects of the holiday she should describe and so has its illustrator Cal Massey. In today's lesson, your students will make and then carry out their own decisions about representing a holiday that is important to them.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. On the dedication page, there is a short paragraph that describes what artist Cal Massey has done. Read this to the children.2. Remind children that you have been talking about holidays this week.3. Help the children to answer the question, "If you wanted to tell someone about how ____ (holiday) is celebrated in our community (or their home), what would you want to show them?" This may be a difficult question for children to answer; you can use the Winter Holiday Alphabet to give them some ideas of things to show.4. Allow each child to draw a picture of something he or she or some other child has mentioned, and then cut those pictures out.5. With the children, arrange the pictures to create a class winter holiday mural.	Materials Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Chart paper<input type="checkbox"/>

If you want to learn more about Kwanzaa, you can visit these web sites

For general information, look here.

<http://www.tike.com/celeb-kw.htm>

To look at some wonderful recipes for Kwanzaa cooking, look here.

http://members.tripod.com/~Nancy_J/kwanzaa.htm



Telling Stories



Giving Gifts



Lighting the Kinara



Dressing Up



Family Visiting



Good Things to Eat