

# PRIME TIMES



Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355

Winter, 2019

## Charism Song

(Tune: Frere Jacques)

What is Charism?

What is Charism?

A gift and a call

A gift and a call

To LOVE we serve with joyful hearts

To LOVE we serve with joyful hearts

To HOPE we trust in God's great love

To HOPE we trust in God's great love

To FIDELITY by prayer each day

To FIDELITY by prayer each day

Jesus, we love You and Mary too.

Jesus, we love You and Mary too.



## Advent Waiting Song

(Tune: Frere Jacques)

Come, Lord, Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us. Come to us.

We wait for Your coming.

We wait for Your coming.

Christmas Day. Christmas Day.

## Christmas Poem

Marcia Hornok

Baby Jesus was God's Son

He came to earth for everyone

Shepherds in the field that night

Learned the news from the angels bright

"Do not fear," the angels said

"Jesus lies in a manger bed."

## Authors' Birthdays

What better way to highlight various authors than to celebrate their birthday by reading one of their books. Here are just a few who have birthdays in the next few months.

November 25<sup>th</sup> – Marc Brown

November 25<sup>th</sup> – P. D. Eastman

November 26<sup>th</sup> – Charles Schulz

December 1<sup>st</sup> – Jan Brett

December 19<sup>th</sup> – Eve Bunting

January 4<sup>th</sup> – Jacob Grimm

January 27<sup>th</sup> – Lewis Carroll



## Making a Soft Bed for Jesus

By their actions your students can make a soft bed for Jesus come Christmas. Using a brown lunch bag, staple close the top and cut a palm-sized opening in the middle of the bag (this creates the "manger"). Whenever one of the children does a kind deed they can add straw to the manger. At the end of Advent each child will have created a soft bed of good deeds to lay Baby Jesus on.

## Paper Hat Book Report

Have the students complete wearable book reports. By folding oversized paper into a hat or simply glue paper to a sentence strip, the students can make the paper hats. Then they can illustrate or write (depending on the grade level) details from the book. Not only will they have fun in creating them but the students can wear them as they wait their turn to give their oral report.

### Quick Change

(past tense verbs)

Squeeze a little grammar practice into the beginning and end of the day. In the morning, post a few sentences about the day's events on the board. Direct the students to copy the morning message and underline the verbs. Then, at the end of the day, have students rewrite the sentences to show the past tense of the underlined verbs. Quick and easy, but great practice!

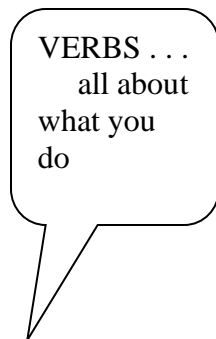
### Verbs in Action

Tune: Farmer in the Dell

All action words are verbs.  
They make writing superb.  
High-ho the derry-o,  
All action words are verbs.

A verb tells what you do,  
Like jump, or swim, or chew.  
High-ho the derry-o  
A verb tells what you do.

Each sentence must have one.  
The verb adds all the fun!  
High-ho the derry-o,  
Each sentence needs a verb.



## A Blizzard of Books

There is nothing better than cuddling up with a blanket and a book during the winter months. Every time one of your students reads a book they can write the name, author, and illustrator on a snowflake and indicate whether or not they would suggest it to someone else. You will be amazed at how quickly your bulletin board/hallway display will turn into a blizzard.

### Teacher's Prayer for Snow

Oh Lord, let it snow.  
Let it drift and let it blow.  
In the morning, no real fuss,  
Just enough to stop the bus.  
Enough to make the county say:  
"There will be no school today."  
Let the radio report: "Snow's deep!"  
And I'll roll over for more sleep.  
Then later on, say maybe ten,  
I'll turn the radio on again.  
Just in time to hear them say:  
'It's strange, the snow has gone away.'  
And then I'll know, You made it stop.  
So I can go to the mall and shop.  
Please Lord, just hear my teacher's plea,  
And make it snow for the kids and me.



### Snowball Toss

(vocabulary)

In advance, write each vocabulary word for a science or social studies unit on a separate snowball-shaped cutout. Place the cutouts in a brown paper bag. Invite pairs of students to choose a snowball to pass back and forth. Explain that before a partner passes the snowball, the partner must either define or state a fact about the word on the snowball. The last partner able to say something about the word wins that round. Then the partners select a new snowball to pass.



## Breezy Day (Mailbox)

(cause and effect)



You may not be able to see the wind, but you can see its effects; making it an excellent tool for a lesson on cause and effect. Ask students to share things they have seen the wind do. List their ideas on a board or chart. Have *cause* first and then *effect*. Then have fun by inviting students to weave these situations into a class story called “One Windy Day.” Write the story on the board, chart or smart board so that everyone can see its progress. Copy the finished story on chart paper and post it in your room; then invite students to mount their original illustrations around the windy tale.

Ex. Cause: A strong wind blew the door open.  
Effect: The dog ran out the open door.

## Instant Bingo



For a quick math drill invite students to write five numbers from 0-18 on a strip of paper. Present addition and subtraction flash cards one at a time. If the student has the correct answer on his/her paper, he/she crosses it out. The first player to cross out all five numbers shouts “Bingo!”

## Oopsie!

Build students’ mathematical proficiencies with Mistake Mondays. At the start of each week, display a problem with an incorrect solution. Guide each student to find the errors, tell what was done incorrectly, and explain why. Also have the student identify the correct solution. Used as a weekly warm-up, this task will help students build knowledge and understanding of math practices.



## Blurt Box

Set up a “blurt box” on a chalkboard or white board. Each time a student blurts out an answer or comment, quietly put a tally mark in the box. At the end of the day, have the students count aloud with you and total the tally marks. Then write the number in the box, circle it and erase the tallies. Challenge the students to reduce the number of tallies the next day. Renea Magnani, Glen Ellen, CA



## As Good as Gold

(positive behavior)

Use this idea to encourage positive behavior! Fill a clear, unbreakable container with toy coins or another item and put it on display. Each time a student receives a compliment from a staff member or demonstrates positive or caring behavior; give the student a chance to win a prize. Have the student estimate the number of items in the container and then record his/her estimation with the student’s name on a slip of paper. Keep the strips in a plastic ziploc bag until the end of the week. Then count the items and reward the student who made the closest estimation with a prize.

Mailbox

## Anagram Hunt



Write *march* on the board and guide students to recognize that by simply switching the *ch* and *m*, you can make the word *charm*. Explain to students that *march* is an anagram, or a word whose letters can be rearranged to make a new word. Then list on the board the word *act* and challenge the students to rearrange the letters to make another word, *cat*. Repeat with other anagrams as time allows. Ex. *earth/heart, vase/save, tea/ate*

## It's In the Bag!

(idioms)

To expose students to idioms, place in a paper bag a can labeled “worms” (open a can of worms), a bouncy ball (have a ball), a wiggle eye (I’ve got my eye on you), some fish-shaped crackers (something’s fishy in here), and some dry beans (spill the beans). Start by discussing with students the sentence “Don’t let the cat out of the bag.” Explain to students that the expression “let the cat out of the bag” has a nonliteral meaning – one that doesn’t mean exactly what it says. The pull each item out of the bag, name the related idiom, and have students tell the nonliteral meaning. As a follow-up activity, assign each child two or more different idioms and have them prepare a bag to share with the class in similar manner. Learning idioms will be a piece of cake! Google “idioms” to find a list you can use with young students.

Jessica Wokmack, Bonham, TX

## Totally Terrific!

(figurative language)

Sweeten your students’ writing with a small-group activity that reinforces alliteration. Tell each group that it’s working for a candy company that only uses alliterative text on its conversation hearts. Challenge each group to list a two-word alliterative phrase for as many alphabet letters as it can. Then have each group write its phrases on individual heart cutouts. Use the cutouts for a one-of-a-kind bulletin board border.

Ex. Forever Friends, Silly Sweet

## Marshmallow Motivator

For an incentive that encourages students to turn in homework on time, make a colorful mug pattern for each student. Have the student put his/her name on the mug and decorate it. Display the mug with the student’s name where the student can easily reach it. Make a supply of marshmallow patterns. Each time a student turns in homework on time, he/she earns a marshmallow to place on the mug. When students have a predetermined number of marshmallows on their mugs, they earn a treat or surprise.

Mailbox



## Ringin’ Resolutions

(goal setting)

Start off the New Year with this activity. Provide each student with several index cards. At the top of each card, the students write a different academic or school-related goal he/she wants to attain this year. Below the goal, list three things the student could do to achieve the goal. Once the cards are labeled a hole is punched in the top left corner of each card and then all the cards are put on a binder ring. When the goal is achieved the appropriate card is removed from the ring.

Mailbox

Ex. I will learn my subtraction facts.

-Practice facts in the car or on the bus.

-Write each subtraction fact twice a day.

## Valentine Mailboxes



To make quick cardholders, staple the sides of used file folders. Give each student one to personalize, and tape the decorated folder to the side of the student’s desk. To “mail” a valentine, all a student needs to do is drop the card in a classmate’s folder. When it’s time to take the valentines home the folder makes a handy carrier! You can do the same with a lunch bag the students decorate and tape to the side of the desk.

Mailbox

## Dental Health Tune

(Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star)

Brushing, brushing all my teeth,  
On the top and underneath.  
Twice a day to fight decay,  
Brush my teeth without delay.  
Brush them well so there’s no plaque.  
Floss between, then in the back.



Mailbox

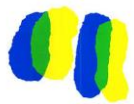
## Celebrate Diversity



Martin Luther King Jr. helped Americans to appreciate the diversity of one another. In his honor have a multicultural day. Have students of different cultures share about their traditions. If a class does not have several cultures, the teacher can share about different countries or assign the task to students. It does not matter our background because we all have a dream.

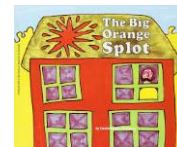
## 10 Children's Books That Teach Diversity

- *One Green Apple* by Eve Bunting  
Facing the challenges of being a new kid in a new country with a new language, Farah finds comfort in the similarities she finds on a field trip to an apple orchard. As the class works together to make apple cider, the young Muslim immigrant begins to connect with her classmates when she realizes it takes many types of apples to make the sweet beverage.
- *Two Mrs. Gibsons* by Toyomi Igus  
In a world where biracial children are becoming the majority, this touching children's book celebrates cultural diversity by highlighting a little girl's relationships with her Japanese mother and her African-American grandmother. While the story teaches kids about diversity, it is the lesson that the strengths come in those differences, especially within your own family, that shines through.
- *Little Blue and Little Yellow* by Leo Lionni  
Originally written during a time when races were often separated, two little dots of colors form a friendship represented by the color green that was not accepted by all, namely their own parents. However, the message of tolerance and acceptance of cultural diversity is delivered through the blending of the colors by the parents themselves in the end.

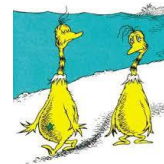


- *Jack & Jim* by Kitty Crowther  
With messages of tolerance and the beauty of diversity weaved into the tales of two birds from different parts of the world, children will grasp the easy-to-understand messages illustrated in the watercolor artwork of Kitty Crowther. Children will learn that the birds' friendship is based on what's beyond their feathers — what's inside their hearts.

- *The Big Orange Splot*  
by Daniel Manus Pinkwater  
The message of individuality and self-actualization is easily delivered when Mr. Plumbeans's house is splashed with orange paint. Although the choice he makes to paint his house in multicolored hues is in response to the intolerance of his neighbors, the lesson to accept people as they are is received loud and clear.



- *Alphabet Kids* book series  
This multicultural series of books features kids of all different ethnicities who experience intolerance but grow through the discovery of their own customs, strengths and appreciation of others' differences. These affordable reads help promote tolerance and understanding of cultural diversity through situations with which kids can identify.
- *The Sneetches and Other Stories*  
by Dr. Seuss  
Unlike many of the Dr. Seuss books you know, this children's book contains a number of short stories that weave a message of tolerance and teaches kids about diversity. Through the Sneetches, Zax and two other stories, the lesson that friendship is more important than differences is delivered through Dr. Seuss's lovable way.

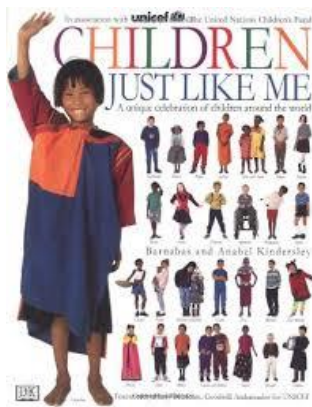


- *The Sandwich Swap*  
by Queen Rania of Jordan Al Abdullah  
and Kelly DiPucchio  
When a small disagreement over a hummus sandwich causes two best friends to divide, the story spreads across the school and transforms into intolerance. In an effort to mend fences, the principal helps the girls to celebrate their differences while giving the student body a lesson in the beauty of cultural diversity.

- *Children Just Like Me: A Unique Celebration of Children Around the World*

by Anabel Kindersley and Barnabas Kindersley

Based on interviews with youngsters from all around the world, this children's book celebrates the beauty of cultural diversity while linking the worldwide similarities children of all walks of life share. Filled with photos and information on children of every continent in more than 140 countries, young readers will learn the foods, living conditions and fun in communities that are more similar to their own than they may first think.



- *The Colors of Us* by Karen Katz

Through a little girl's quest to paint a picture of herself, Lena and her mother take a walk through their neighborhood to understand that skin color comes in all sorts of shades. As Lena and her mother compare each person's skin color to food such as honey, cinnamon and more, diversity is put in a perspective even small children can grasp.

