

# The Rooney Review

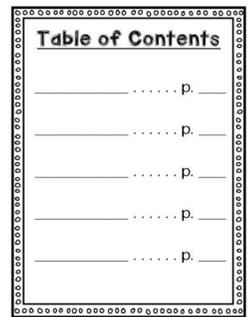
October 6, 2017



**ELA/Reading** Our anthology story this week was School Day, and we learned about what Sam does at school. Accompanying stories included At School, My School, Back To School with the Teacher From The Black Lagoon, and Flat Stanley. This week our focus question was "What is around us at school". First graders wrote about what is in their classroom and what they like to do at school. During our reading, first graders worked on identifying the plot of a story, monitoring and clarifying while reading.

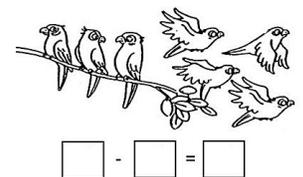


**Writing:** This week first graders chose one of their many stories to turn into a polished piece. First graders will revise and edit their story until it is ready to be published. We worked on spelling, capitals, and punctuation. We also introduced a Table of Contents in chapter books. First graders learned that nonfiction writers, like story writers, learn how a book might go by studying books written by other authors, including their table of contents. We also continued to plan and write new stories using our five fingers.



**Phonics:** Our spelling patterns were \_ed, \_et, and \_en and our spelling words were *he*, *is*, *three*, *two*, and *with*. Throughout the week, first graders practiced writing their sight words in many different ways. We wrote our words with stamps, silly letters, and skywriting.

**Math:** First graders continued working with subtraction number stories. They worked with manipulatives to help solve the dictated problems. Next they drew pictures and wrote a math sentence to match the story problem. We are asking students to show their learning by using either manipulatives or drawings and to add a math sentence to match the problem ( $4+2=6$ ). One challenging topic during math this week was finding out "how many more" or "how many fewer" by comparing two numbers and using subtraction to solve. This takes lots of practice, and first graders worked hard at solving these types of problems.



This week in math, we introduced XtraMath. XtraMath is a free web program that helps students master basic math facts. First graders will be working on XtraMath at least three times a week during our math block. It can always be practiced at home on a computer or iPad. Access code information was sent home earlier this week.

## Science:



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First grade scientists predicted, observed, recorded and tested during science this week. We used many different science tools. Students used thermometers to predict, measure, observe and record the room temperature, temperature of ice cold water and the temperature of warm water. First graders also used a balance scale to measure the weight of different objects. We observed how many cubes were been to measure the same weight as a die, dinosaur counter, and washer. Next week our science unit will be all about insects!



**Social Studies:** Since Monday is Columbus Day, we discussed who Christopher Columbus was and why he is an important explorer in history. Many students remembered that Columbus "discovered" America and sailed the ocean in 1492. I was very impressed by all the knowledge my first grade friends were sharing with us! We had fun singing songs about Columbus and his journey to America.



**Marcolini Meeting:** To go along with our school wide Responsive Classroom program, Mrs. Marcolini started her meeting with a morning message. All students participated and controlled their bodies during "The Button Factory" song. See if your kiddo remembers this song and can teach you all the movements. First graders reviewed rules and expectations when choosing partners (always say "yes" when a friend asks to be a partner). With their partners, first graders shared what they are going to do this weekend. Sheldon also came to visit during our Marcolini Meeting. Mrs. Marcoloni wrapped up her lesson by reading "Stick and Stone" to remind students how they should treat their friends.



## Other News:

- ☞ Motor group went well this week! First graders had fun practicing their phonics skills through various movement activities (scooter reading, whiteboard writing, balance rhyming).
- ☞ On Thursday, we got to visit the Sixth Grade Cardboard Arcade. Each student got 5 tickets to play different arcade games. We had so much fun seeing/playing the 6th grade games which they worked so hard on.
- ☞ Thank you to our volunteers for Mystery Readers. We can wait to have you come into the classroom and read us your favorite books.
- ☞ Happy birthday, Nathan!

I hope everyone has a fabulous long weekend, See you Wednesday!

-Mrs. Rooney :)

