

Special Pull-Out Section

**22** PAGES OF

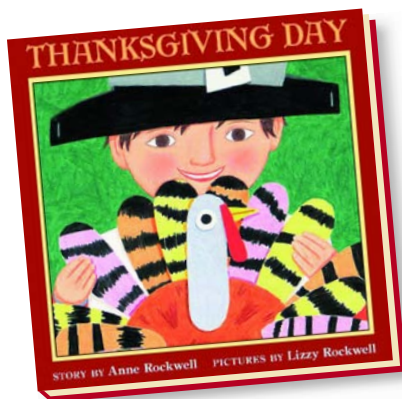
exciting, book-related  
activities for your  
school year!

# CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY THE MONTH



# NOVEMBER

*This month we feature titles from  
HarperCollins Children's Books*



## **Thanksgiving Day**

*by Anne Rockwell, illustrated by Lizzy Rockwell*

Mrs. Madoff's class performs a play to reenact the first Thanksgiving, giving thanks for the things that made that historic celebration possible.

### **ACTIVITY**

#### **WE ARE THANKFUL**

After reading the book to the class, chart the characters and list what they were thankful for. Add columns to the chart for props and costumes used in the play to practice reading for detail. Use the letters for the word THANKS to create acrostic poems about Thanksgiving Day. For information about acrostic poems, visit [www.readwritethink.org/materials/acrostic/](http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/acrostic/) Illustrate the poems and post

students' "thanks" as a mural in the school hallway.

## **Thanksgiving on Plymouth Plantation** **A Joanna Cotler Book**

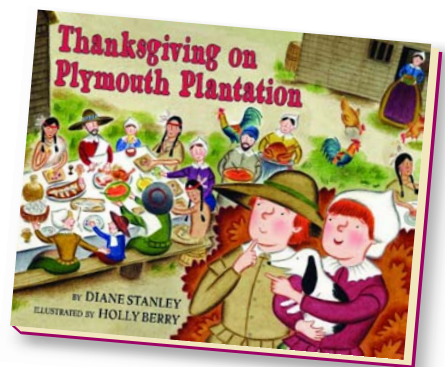
*by Diane Stanley, illustrated by Holly Berry*

Follow the Time-Traveling Twins back to 1621 for the four-day feast of the first Thanksgiving at Plymouth Plantation.

### **ACTIVITY**

#### **THANKSGIVING THEN AND NOW**

The Time-Traveling Twins can teach your students a lot about the history of the first Thanksgiving. Assign students different pages of the book, then send them on a fact-finding mission to list all the historical facts they can find using the text and the conversation balloons throughout the illustrations. Start a First Thanksgiving Dictionary of 1621 food words like relic (for food leftovers). Students can have fun teaching these "first Thanksgiving" synonyms at their family Thanksgiving dinners.



## This First Thanksgiving Day

by Laura Krauss Melmed, illustrated by Mark Buehner

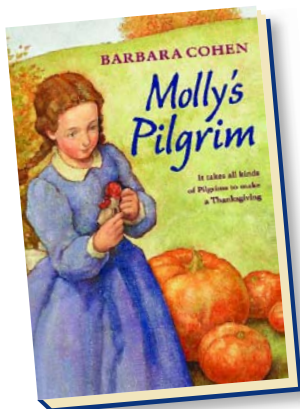
Students will love this counting story about the first Thanksgiving and the rich illustrations that depict the events in historical detail.

### ACTIVITY

#### A COUNTING HOLIDAY

Let numbers make this first Thanksgiving book even more fun! Challenge students to select numbers from the pages of the book to create word problems. Example: How many foods are there to choose from with six rabbits and four fish in a basket on the first Thanksgiving table? Answer:  $6 + 4 = 10$ .

In pairs, students can write and illustrate their own counting book for today's Thanksgiving. One turkey purchased fresh from the grocery store, two cars traveling to grandma's house, etc.



## Molly's Pilgrim

by Barbara Cohen, illustrated by Daniel Mark Duffy

Molly is a Russian immigrant who uses a "Russian Pilgrim" doll to help her third grade classmates understand the true meaning of "pilgrim."

### ACTIVITY

#### PILGRIM DIVERSITY

This heartwarming story based on a true incident from the author's family is a great introduction to cultural diversity and immigration. Using the Russian Pilgrim doll as a model, assign students different immigrant groups to research. Their stories should include reasons for coming to America. Create clothespin dolls to represent different pilgrims who've immigrated to the United States since the first Thanksgiving in 1621.

## I Know It's Autumn

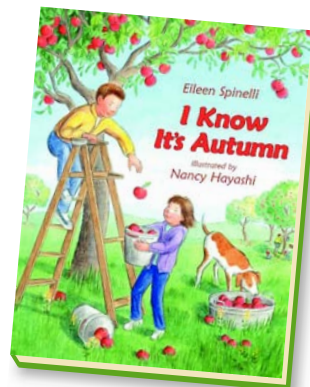
By Eileen Spinelli, illustrated by Nancy Hayashi

The fall season is brought to life for primary students as each page paints a new picture of signs of autumn.

### ACTIVITY

#### THE 5 W'S OF AUTUMN

As you read each page of *I Know It's Autumn*, stop and have students explain the seasonal signs that the words describe. "I know it's autumn when the morning light comes late," is a good way to begin a discussion of sunrise and sunset and the shorter days for fall. With every "when" in the story, ask students to explain the Who, What, Where and Why that let us know it's autumn. This book is filled with jumping-off points for science.



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