

# What I Did on My Summer Vacation

(Kid's Favorite Funny Summer Vacation Poems)

by Jan Machalek

A collection of witty and comical summer vacation poems geared towards the minds and imaginations of young readers.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What is your favorite summer story/song/poem?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder what happened in the story about the boy and the frogs?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *What I Did on My Summer Vacation* – First 10 poems

- talent: a natural ability to do something well
- amusement: the feeling that something is funny or entertaining
- moldy: containing or covered with mold
- panicked: an overpowering fear of anxiety
- brawn: physical strength and having strong muscles
- bolted: to move suddenly and quickly
- ladles: a long spoon with a deep bowl used to serve soup and liquids
- scurried: to move at a hurried pace, usually with small fast steps
- sulking: a period or state of resentfulness or refusal to communicate
- warts: a small rough lump that grows on hands and feet
- arcade: an enclosed area where people can play game machines
- salamanders: small animal resembling a lizard
- arrowhead: a sharp pointed tip attached to an arrow
- pollen: a powdery substance produced by flowering plants
- dunce: somebody who is regarded as unintelligent
- fret: to worry
- pollution: contamination, smog and fumes that pollute
- dangling: to swing or hang loosely

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...(The below questions are for the first 10 poems of the book)

### **My Summer Vacation**

- What talent did the boy have?
- Why was it difficult for the boy to fit inside his locker?
- What happened once he was in the locker?
- Why did the bell ring? Where did everyone go?
- How long was the boy stuck in the locker?

### **The Teachers Jumped Out of the Windows**

- What did the teachers do when school was out? The principal? The nurse and librarian?
- Why were the teachers so excited for school to be out?
- What did the lunch ladies do? How did the kids react?

### **The Last Day of School**

- Why were all the teachers and kids happy about being out of school?
- How did the parents react?

### **Summer Blues**

- Why was the boy so happy about summer? What were some things he wasn't going to do anymore?
- Why was the boy sad about the summer? Should he be sad?

### **I Love Summer Except...**

- What are some things the boy didn't like about summer?
- Why didn't the boy like snakes and mosquitoes?
- Why was sleeping on a cot not a good thing?

### **Out of Sight**

- What did the little girl use on the trampoline?
- What happened to her?

### **Street Pizza**

- What were the boys making on the street?
- What were some of the ingredients?
- Would you eat a pizza made off of the street?

### **Who Needs Lemons?**

- What was the mother looking for in the fridge?
- What happened to the milk?
- Why did the daughter start selling the milk?

### **Dirty Socks**

- Who told the boy that he had smelly socks?
- What did the boy do with his socks to wash them?
- What happened to the lake?
- What did the boy want to do with his socks after he dirtied the lake?

### **The Princess of the Monkey Bars**

- Why is the girl the princess of the monkey bars?
- Why were the other kids making fun of her?

**Do**

## Rhyme Time

After reading a poem, go through and locate all the rhyming words. For example in *My Summer Vacation* school rhymes with cool, wide-inside, in-chin, ear-cheer, done-begun, locked-knocked, gone-brawn and soccer-locker. Ask the children to come up with other words that rhyme with the words in the poem. Write the words on a board and talk about why the words rhyme. If desired, complete this activity with other poems in the book.