

ELMLE in Holiday Mood



Tips for →

Teetchurs

December 2008

In light of new spelling theories brought to your attention in the November issue of Tips for Teachers (still available at the click of a button), we at the exclusive yet somehow welcoming Editorial Offices of the European League for Middle Level Education hope you like our new laid-back approach to December. Once you get past the boring stuff below there are lots of laughs in store, just right to make your middle school students groan with disbelief. Keep reading. You know you want to.

December Idea Number One:
Retro Reading



The holidays will be here before you know it. *Not soon enough*, you say? If you just can't wait any longer, begin now. Go to your school library, consult your local Book Expert the Librarian, and check out a couple of 'young adult' novels. These might be old favorites that you remember but would

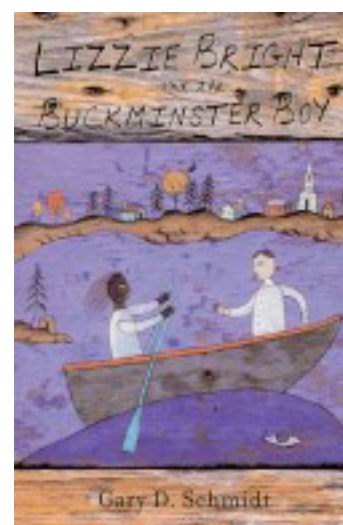
like to meet again, or they might be brand new ones that only The Librarian knows about. Use your holiday to revisit the wonderful world of young adolescent literature. You will be in for a treat.

These books are often a window into the way kids think. *Oh, I know how they think, all right, I hear you say. That's why I can't wait for the holiday.* Come on. Give this a try. Sign off and go to the library, and don't leave until you have two books. Something like:

The Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula Le Guin, which out-Potters Harry Potter for its magic realism set in the watery island world that houses a school for young folk empowered with 'gifts'.



Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary Schmidt which shows how a kid with determination and moral outrage can overcome the racial prejudices of his parents and community, but which also leaves a big hole in your heart. Not all stories have happy endings.



So have a happy reading holiday. Browse your school library and give yourself the holiday gift of reading.



Corny Jokes Guaranteed to Make you Groan with Laughter *or Your Money Back!*

In Britain and other parts of the Commonwealth, the holidays feature Christmas Crackers, explosive little things that open with a bang and contain a *gorgeous* festive hat, a *very* desirable toy, and a Bad Joke. The following Jokes and Puns are worthy of the very worst Crackers. Share them with your sixth grade homeroom or your eighth grade English class. Yule be glad you did!

1. The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.

2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an **optical Aleutian**.

3. She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.

4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a **weapon of math disruption**.

5. The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a **little behind in his work**.

6. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

7. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

8. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in **Linoleum Blownapart**.

9. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

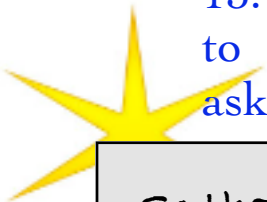
11. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall.
The police are looking into it.

12. Atheism is a **non-prophet organization.**

13. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, 'You stay here, I'll **go on a-head.**'

14. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger.
Then it hit me.

15. A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, '**No change yet.**'



So that's it from the Head Tipper here in ELMLE Towers. Have a great holiday. And may it come to pass that we meet in Paris at the 2009 ELMLE Conference! Be sure to have a Tip on hand to pass along to your colleagues! And when we brush into each other over cocktails in the lobby of the Marriott, Mumm's the word.

As always, keep your letters short and to the point. No driveling on. But do include postage. Send them like you always do to alan_heath@asl.org