



Opportunity Education Foundation

"Educating Children Around the World"

December 2014

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Not Another Holiday Movie!

Don't just kill time with another holiday movie.

Try this fun and creative letter lesson activity and time filler as you wrap up your semester.

It really can be done in any class with any topic. Pull out any text book, or any written material in the room, and "find" a poem.



A Found Poem uses words from any text or written context and creates a poem. Students collect a collage of words from any written source (graffiti, cook books, text books, dictionaries, school newsletters, holiday cards, report cards) whatever is written...wherever and organizes these found words into a poem.

The Found Poem "structure" ties unrelated words together for a surprising result! Let them loose, no rules will allow students to mine their individual talents. Words can be cut out of magazines, newspapers or add artistic elements when writing them down.

If you want the lesson to do double duty, select holiday themed texts to find the words – and use your Found Poem as holiday greetings. Send a copy of these instructions, along with your finished Found Poems, to your pen pals and ask them to do the same. When you get them back, make sure you isolate the words chosen by your pen pals to compare and contrast word choices.

Now isn't this a more productive and fun activity than watching another holiday movie to kill time before break?

For more lesson ideas on Found Poems – click here:

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/found-poems-parallel-poems-33.html>

WHAT'S NEWS IN OEF SCHOOLS!

We Need Montana!

We have Sister School Pen Pals in 49 states! Montana is the last state to join our union. This is an urgent call to anyone from Montana or anyone who knows a teacher, after-school coordinator, or anyone who may be interested in a great pen pal school! Just have them email: schools@opportunityeducation.org



In Indian news...

On November 14 many celebrations take place in honor of the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru the first Prime Minister of India. In his memory, the day is also celebrated as Children's Day, as Nehru was very fond of children. Rethish Nair, the OEF North India Field Manager, was the guest of honor for the festivities hosted by St. Xavier's School, Ranchi, Jharkhand. The after-school program at St. Xavier's educates around 300 children, who work as domestic help in the morning and come to the after-school program when they are done working. OEF is honored to help the generous efforts of St. Xavier's to provide learning opportunities to India's children.



Mr. Nair also found himself in a remote but spectacularly beautiful Indian state where the Daughters of the Cross Convent School, Rinchenpong, West Sikkim is located.

While new to the OEF program, this missionary school has always focused on helping the poor children around the Rinchenpong area. Mr. Nair is pictured in the center along with Principal Sr. Winifred pictured on left.



WELCOME NEW SCHOOLS!

We welcome the following schools to our free, international pen pal program which is a fun and easy way to meet Language Arts, Social Studies and History/Civics standards - share [this link](#) to invite others to join.



Thank you to all the wonderful teachers who visited with us at the National Conference for Social Studies in Boston. We had an overwhelming response with 90+ new pen pal schools!

Welcome to:

Sister School	City	State		OEF Partner School	Country
Abraham Lincoln High School	Council Bluffs	IA	and	Kwenje Basic School	Zambia
Adlai E. Stevenson School #29	Rochester	NY	and	St. Theresa's RC Girls Basic School	Ghana
Bourne Middle School	Bourne	MA	and	Kormantse Hasowodze School	Ghana
Bourne Middle School	Bourne	MA	and	St. Paul's English Medium School	India
Bronx Explorations Academy	Bronx	NY	and	Saltpond Methodist Primary School 'A'	Ghana
Carbondale Community HS	Carbondale	IL	and	Kayamandi High School	S Africa
Carver Early College HS	Atlanta	GA	and	Obiri-Yeboah School	Ghana
Charles Dewey MS	Brooklyn	NY	and	Jeevan School	India
Country Hills Elementary	Coral Springs	FL	and	Wungu District School	Ghana
Cochise Elementary School	Scottsdale	AZ	and	Donbosco Secondary School	India
Donald Ross School	Braintree	MA	and	Little Flower Public School	India
Duxbury High School	Duxbury	MA	and	Catholic School Kikaikelaki	Cameroon
Duxbury High School	Duxbury	MA	and	Mankessim School	Ghana
Duxbury High School	Duxbury	MA	and	Bharat Bal Vinay Mandir Secondary School	India
Duxbury High School	Duxbury	MA	and	Chinthlaya Vidyalayam Secondary School	India
Duxbury High School	Duxbury	MA	and	Ngara Mjini Primary School	Tanzania
Duxbury High School	Duxbury	MA	and	Kanjeza Basic School	Zambia
East Middle School	Braintree	MA	and	Excellent Academy	India
E.W. Thurston Middle School	Westwood	MA	and	Saltpond Methodist Primary School 'B'	Ghana
Folly Quarter Middle School	Ellicott City	MD	and	Jyothis Central School	India
The Forward School	Bronx	NY	and	Loyola School	India
G. James Gholson School	Landover	MD	and	Catholic School Melim	Cameroon
G. James Gholson School	Landover	MD	and	Saltpond Lower Town Primary School B	Ghana
G. James Gholson School	Landover	MD	and	National Rajadhani Public School	India
G. James Gholson School	Landover	MD	and	BhumiRaj Primary School	Nepal

Greene County MS	Snow Hill	NC	and	Nirmala School	India
Greene County MS	Snow Hill	NC	and	Santhome Central School	India
Hanscom Middle School	Hanscom AFB	MA	and	Egyea School	Ghana
Hanscom Middle School	Hanscom AFB	MA	and	Janajagriti Lower Secondary School	Nepal
Hanscom Middle School	Hanscom AFB	MA	and	Libermann Pre and Primary School	Tanzania
Harry S. Truman HS	Taylor	MI	and	Donbosco Higher Secondary School	India
Haverhill MS	Haverhill	MA	and	Abhyudaya English Medium School	India
Henderson K-12 Inclusion School	Dorchester	MA	and	Saltpond Beach Road School	Ghana
Homer Davis Elementary	Tucson	AZ	and	Govindra Chandra Memorial St. Michel's School	India
Indian Ridge MS	Davie	FL	and	Mampong District Assembly Primary 'A' School	Ghana
Indiana Junior High	Indiana	PA	and	Floreat Primary School	S Africa
Irvington High School	Fremont	CA	and	Makupula High School	S Africa
JFK Middle School	Florence	MA	and	Jnanodaya Central School	India
JFK Middle School	Florence	MA	and	St. Severine English Medium School	Tanzania
Jonathan Law High School	Milford	CT	and	Plumstead High School	S Africa
Johnson Jr. High	Cheyenne	WY	and	Jyothi English Medium School	India
Lake Forest High School	Felton	DE	and	Strandfontein High School	S Africa
Littleton Middle School	Littleton	MA	and	Ejisu Municipal School	Ghana
John Read Middle School	Redding	CT	and	Lupungu Basic School	Zambia
Joyce Kilmer Upper School	Boston	MA	and	Sheeba English Medium School	India
Keytesville RIII	Keytesville	MO	and	Ferrando Memorial Secondary School	India
Lumberton High School	Lumberton	NC	and	Grassdale High School	S Africa
Memorial Middle School	Medford	NJ	and	Mlimani Primary School	Tanzania
Millis Middle School	Millis	MA	and	Catholic School Njinikom	Cameroon
Milton-Pierce Middle School	Milton	MA	and	Heathfield High School	S Africa
Moses Middle School	Dallas	GA	and	Shri Vaishnav Vidya peeth	India
Moses Middle School	Dallas	GA	and	Bushula's Junior Secondary School	S Africa
Moses Middle School	Dallas	GA	and	St. Anne School	Tanzania
Niles North High School	Skokie	IL	and	Langa High School	S Africa
Niles North High School	Skokie	IL	and	Lotus River High School	S Africa
Nitschmann Middle School	Bethlehem	PA	and	Catholic Primary School, Bota-Limbe	Cameroon
Northport Middle School	Northport	NY	and	JMJ English Medium School	India
Pierce Middle School	Milton	MA	and	Agona West School	Ghana
Prairie Ridge High School	Crystal Lake	IL	and	Donbosco Higher Secondary School	India
Prairie Ridge High School	Crystal Lake	IL	and	Katintha Basic School	Zambia

Rashi School	Dedham	A	and	St. Joseph's Nursery & Primary School	Tanzania
Sandborn Regional High School	Kingston	NH	and	Isilimela Secondary School	S Africa
St. Helen School	Chicago	IL	and	Battswood Primary School	S Africa
St. John Lutheran School	Kendallville	IN	and	Saltpond Lower Town School 'A'	Ghana
St. Philomena School	Portsmouth	RI	and	Immaculate English Medium School	India
Transmountain Early College HS	El Paso	TX	and	Misty Cee Educational Centre	Ghana
Transmountain Early College HS	El Paso	TX	and	T.I. Ahmadiya School	Ghana
Transmountain Early College HS	El Paso	TX	and	Guru Sai School	India
Transmountain Early College HS	El Paso	TX	and	Montfort Centenary School	India
Transmountain Early College HS	El Paso	TX	and	Kashokoto Basic School	Zambia
Vine Street School	Roxbury	MA	and	Sibelius High School	S Africa
Walpole Elementary School	Walpole	NH	and	Taido Municipal Assembly Primary School	Ghana
Wells Jr. High School	Wells	ME	and	Lwimba Basic School	Zambia
The Willow School	Gladstone	NJ	and	Catholic School Binju	Cameroon
The Willow School	Gladstone	NJ	and	Kparigu District Assemby Primary School	Ghana
The Willow School	Gladstone	NJ	and	Indian Public School	India
The Willow School	Gladstone	NJ	and	Mpho Community Primary School	Lesotho
The Willow School	Gladstone	NJ	and	Nyamanoro Baptist English Medium School	Tanzania
The Willow School	Gladstone	NJ	and	Kampeketete Basic School	Zambia
Whitesboro High School	Marcy	NY	and	Arogya Matha English Medium School	India
Whitesboro High School	Marcy	NY	and	Ng'omebeni "B" Primary School	Tanzania
Windsor Locks Middle School	Windsor Lock	CT	and	Nyamalango Primary School	Tanzania
Winslow High School	Winslow	ME	and	Jacobu Seventh Day Adventist School	Ghana
Malvern Preparatory School	Malvern	PA	and	Saltpond Catholic Boys Primary School	Ghana
Willamina High School	Willamina	OR	and	South Peninsula High School	S Africa
Fort Worth Country Day School	Fort Worth	TX	and	St. Paul's Suguru School	Ghana
Fort Worth Country Day School	Fort Worth	TX	and	HOPE English Medium School	India
Robert Adams Middle School	Holliston	MD	and	Genius king's school	Tanzania
Robert Adams Middle School	Holliston	MD	and	Usambara English Medium School	Tanzania

OEF would love to have more international schools. If you have educator friends, anywhere in the English-speaking world, forward their details to us and we will connect their school to one of our outstanding schools in Africa or Asia.

Email today and start writing tomorrow! schools@opportunityeducation.org

THIS SCHOOL NEEDS PEN PALS!

S. M. High School, Tirupati in the Andhra Pradesh state of India was started in 1994 by S. M. Bhasha who wanted to help educate children from slum areas, and offer a free education for orphans and disabled children.

Both students and teachers enjoy their new OEF educational resources, as the school struggles to provide learning aids. Pictured is John Kandichetla (far right) speaking to teachers, who would love to correspond along with their students to pen pals.



Writing letters is an excellent opportunity to learn more than textbooks or even the internet can offer...just email us and we will put a Welcome Folder in the mail to you today!

Email schools@opportunityeducation.org and you can start writing today!

If you already have a pen pal, refer a friend to our [OEF Pen Pal](#) link.

If you prefer a different school, simply email us and note what grade and country you would like to write to and we can get you writing, right away!

FEATURED SCHOOL & GIFT CERTIFICATE WINNER

Congrats to Deb Weinberg,
from Manchester High School, Manchester, Connecticut.

On behalf of your pen pals from Lavender High School, in Western Cape, South Africa – thank you for sending letters!

Deb, send an email to: schools@opportunityeducation.org
to claim your prize!

Want to win next month?

Just email schools@opportunityeducation.org after you mail your letters and you are entered to win!



START WRITING – RIGHT NOW!

Now is the perfect time to write your pen pals!

No lesson plan is needed, but if you need one – we have them!

Writing letters is a great activity to keep students productive during homeroom, study hall or downtime.

You can also integrate cross-curricular objectives into lesson plans that we have created to maximize learning through letters.



[Click Here for Letter Ideas and Resources](#)

[Click Here for Letter Lesson Plans](#)

We also have 4 options to stay up to date with our international pen pal program.

OPTION 1: To keep up with our "Friends" – we have a Facebook page just for you!

Visit our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/OpportunityEducation>

OPTION 2: Unable to get on Facebook? No worries.

Visit our Pen Pal Blog. <http://opportunityeducation.wordpress.com/>

OPTION 3: Pinterest. <http://www.pinterest.com/opportunityed/>

OPTION 4: Twitter. <https://twitter.com/OpEdFoundation>

Check out our social media for interesting ideas, stories, and links to help generate enthusiasm and discussion about education plus lesson plans to integrate pen pal letters into your standard requirements.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Write Your Pen Pals!

Even if it's been a while, now is still the best time to write. The name, address and mailing instructions are available on our website start by [clicking here](#).

You can also email: Schools@OpportunityEducation.org



Get Others to Write!

We have 355 schools very eager to have English speaking pen pals.

Share the following link – and make sure you CC schools@opportunityeducation.org to get a gift certificate.

[Click Here to Refer A Friend and Get a Gift Certificate!](#)

Visit an Opportunity Education School!

Take a life-changing trip to teach, share and learn in an Opportunity Education school in Africa or India.

[Click Here to Learn More.](#)



Picture of the Month:

A Get Rich Quick Idea!

Following was reported by Martin Russell, the OEF Tanzania Director, who works in Dar es Salaam.

"If you live in Africa, or have ever spent time traveling on the continent, there is one thing you will have undoubtedly seen, children playing "football" or "soccer" as Americans call it. Playing fields are arid, lush, weedy, sandy, muddy – any flattish space will do. Plastic bags, old clothes, and shredded tires transform into magic orbs – soccer balls.

Goal posts might be made of gathered sticks or abandoned metal. Players feet vary from bare, to covered by fraying sneakers, boots or rubber sandals. Yet children kick and chase handmade, lopsided balls with skill and abandon, competing for pride and joy—for the sheer pleasure of playing.

Walking home most days provides me an opportunity to watch these talented young guys play. Coached by a local man who seems to quietly read from his Bible as much as he coaches, this team is part of a loosely organized league. Many games are played in a vacant lot adjacent to where I live in Dar es Salaam."

Families from the Gretna Soccer Club in Gretna, Nebraska and in particular the 10 year-old boys' team named Hooligans outfitted their brother "Hooligans" in Tanzania with their club jerseys and a soccer ball. Six of the 12 Tanzanian Team Hooligan members are pictured sporting their gear.

**The overwhelming response was thank you...
from the Gretna boys and their families
who were grateful to be given an opportunity to share.
During this holiday season,
may you all find a way to give something –
your time, your talent, your treasure.
For as they say,**

"You can never be poor by giving."

For more information please contact:

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STAY CONNECTED

