

# Children's Literature Across the Curriculum Ideas

Created by students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte

**Title:** *Chicken Soup With Rice.*

**Author:** Maurice Sendak

**Publisher/Date:** Harper and Row, 1962

**Grade Level:** K-2

**Summary:** *Chicken Soup With Rice* is a book of months that tells the story of a little boy who sings a rhyming song for each month of the year. These rhyming songs end with a recurring phrase, and each of them has a different use for chicken soup with rice.

## Reading/Writing Connection

1. Ask kids to imagine a cold, wintry day. Ask them what they like to eat to warm up.
2. Show the cover of *Chicken Soup With Rice*. Ask them what they think the little boy eats to warm up.
3. Tell them the book is about a little boy who likes to eat chicken soup with rice at all times of the year.
4. After reading the story, explain that they will be eating chicken soup with rice, and will need to design their own soup bowl.
5. As part of an art lesson, have them decorate plastic margarine bowls with permanent markers.
6. Instruct kindergarten students to list color words or other adjectives that describe their finished bowl. Have first and second grade students write a descriptive paragraph about their decorated bowl.

## Vocabulary/Spelling

April	August	December	February
January	July	June	March
May	November	October	once
rice	September	soup	twice

## Library Connections

1. Share other books about seasons: *My Favorite Time of the Year* by Susan Pearson talks about all four seasons and how a family follows the changes in nature. Or *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle which tells the story of a seeds journey through fall, winter, spring and summer.
2. Share other books written and/or illustrated by the same author such as *Where The Wild Things Are*; *Peace*; and *I'll Be You and You Be Me*.

## Science/Mathematics Connections

1. Experiment with magnets. Arrange various objects (toy car, screw, scissors, puzzle piece, chalk) on a large pan. Pour rice over the objects so that the top is covered. Have children use magnets to locate objects that are magnetic by moving the magnet just barely over the surface.
2. Take a poll of what the favorite season of the year is for students. Graph their responses.
3. Make canned chicken soup with rice. Have students estimate the correct amount of water to be added to the soup. Have them use measuring cups to measure the water.
4. Do a unit on calendar study. Talk about the number of days in a week month and year.
5. Have students read, write, and answer story problems related to calendar. (i.e. If it is January, how many more months is it until August?).

**Social Studies Connections**

1. Talk about the different holidays celebrated in each month. Investigate multi-cultural holidays such as Kwanza and Chinese New Year.
2. Discuss the origin of the twelve month calendar.

**Language Arts Connections**

1. Discuss uses of capital letters. Emphasize the use of capital letters at the beginning of the months of the year.
2. Study rhyming words. Have students name pairs of rhyming words as you reread the story.
3. Have students write or draw pictures of their favorite season or month of the year.

**Art Connection**

1. Display several calendars that include a picture for every month. Talk about the pictures and why they were chosen to represent certain months.
2. Have student make a class calendar. Allow pairs of students to work on pictures to go with each month.

**Music/Movement Connections**

1. Show students the first picture in Chicken Soup With Rice where the boy is skating while balancing a bowl of hot soup.
2. While music is playing, give the students their empty soup bowls and ask them to pretend they are skating at the same time they are balancing their bowl of hot soup.