

Activity One: My Own Summer Vacation

(All web links for this activity are provided at the end of the directions.)

1. Read the book [How I Spent My Summer Vacation](#) with your students. Find this book in the library or purchase the book from Amazon.com.
2. As you are reading the story, there are two elements you will want to have students focus on: rhyming and exaggeration. You can print and use the Rhyming Word Cards by visiting the printables page. The age of your students will determine the depth of this focus.
3. After reading the story, have a class discussion about the rhyming and exaggeration. You can create charts to help students identify the occurrences of both in the story.
4. Students plan their own summer vacation story. Remind students that they are using Wallace's story as an example, so their own story should contain a mixture of truth and exaggeration. (Once again, depending on the age of your students you may also want to require the use of rhyming words.) For the purpose of the project, these stories should be relatively short, allowing the story and illustration to fit on one page.
5. Once students have written and edited their summer vacation story, they are ready to illustrate. Prior to students creating a final copy of their story, you will need to decide how you are going to publish their stories to the Internet. The easiest thing is to try and keep stories and illustrations to ONE page. (You can see the example on the printables page.) Since older students may write more, have them adjust their font size and margins to fit more text on the page.
6. Illustrated stories are ready to be shared with the world. You may choose from a variety of upload options: web page, blog, wiki, Voice Thread, SlideShare, and Smilebox. Directions for uploading are provided separately.

Here are the necessary links for this activity:

Purchase [How I Spent My Summer Vacation](#) (Dragonfly Books) from Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0517885565?ie=UTF8&tag=theteacherscorner&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=0517885565>

Printables Page:

<http://www.theteacherscorner.net/collaboration-projects/summer-vacation/printables.php>

Graphic Organizer Resource:

<http://eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/>