



# What I Did on My Summer Vacation

(Kids' Favorite Funny Summer Vacation Poems)

by Bruce Lansky

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 with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, what do you think this story is about? 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

- 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...

### 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.

