

Notes from a Traveling Author – April/May 2008

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For my final newsletter of the 2007-2008 school year, I'd like to refer you to several new resources posted on my website:

1. April is National Poetry Month! In honor of which, I have posted on my website a guideline to writing limericks (www.lynneberry.com/limericks.pdf). The limerick is a fun, fun, fun form of poetry, with a lot of potential for appeal to elementary students. I do hope many schools are planning to read and write poetry during National Poetry Month! If so, I hope my guideline will prove useful for classes and students who wish to try their hand at composing a limerick.

2. As another potential activity for National Poetry Month, please don't forget to check out my newest (April/May) poetry illustration contest (www.lynneberry.com/contest.htm)! Winners and up to ten participating schools will receive hot-off-the-presses copies of my newest book, *Duck Dunks*. Please note this will be the last contest for the 2007-2008 school year; however, I'll start again in September, as I've very much enjoyed receiving so much wonderful student art during the inaugural year of the contest!

3. Speaking of hot-off-the-presses copies of *Duck Dunks*, the official publication date is only weeks away (May 27th)! As many schools are making greater and greater use of literature across the curriculum, I have developed a variety of suggestions and materials for using *Duck Dunks* in the classroom (download here: www.lynneberry.com/duckdunksactivities.pdf). The activities range widely, with some more suitable for younger students (pre-K and K), others more suitable for older students (grades 1, 2, and 3). I welcome feedback on these activities; please free to let me know what you find useful, what you find not-so-useful, and/or how I might make these materials more useful. For example, are there additional or supplementary materials I might post? Just let me know, and I'll do my best to meet your needs!

Similarly, I welcome feedback on my newsletters. As I start to think about next school year's newsletters, I'd love to know what you'd like to hear about. What aspects of writing (or other literacy-related skills) do your students find challenging? I think it unlikely I will be able to address all challenges! But I may have insight into specific writing challenges or suggestions for developing specific writing skills, if you've noted that your students struggle in specific areas.

Enjoy the rest of the school year—and have a great summer!