

Teacher's Guide to "Day" Beginning Readers

Random House
Step into Reading Books

How The Series Was Created

Candice was asked by an editor at Random House to write a Step into Reading, Level 1, book, using certain guidelines. The stories are 100 to 150 words and use rhyme, rhythm, and simple words. Her editor wanted a story about everyday things kids did.

Candice wrote **Pumpkin Day**. Her editor liked it and asked her to write about apples next. **Apple Picking Day** was harder to write. Big words like

"mountain" had to be changed to "hill," which threw off the rhyme. Candice was asked to write more books about the same brother and sister having a fun day.

Snow Day came next. Then **Garden Day**. **Beach Day** will follow in 2020. And there will be more titles in the future.

Candice makes lists of words that rhyme, like "low," go," "row." Writing rhyme is like putting together a puzzle.



She writes the "Day" stories in an orange notebook that she carries everywhere. She works on her books in her truck, waiting at the dentist, anywhere! Writers learn to use little scraps of time!

Level 1 Series Specifications

For children who are ready to read! Pre-school to Kindergarten. Does the child know the alphabet? Is the child eager to begin reading? Step 1, Ready

to Read, is the perfect first step!

These books feature large type, easy words, short sentences. Rhyme and rhythm

make the stories fun to sound out. Colorful illustrations provide cues. Each "Day" story stars a little brother and big sister on fun family adventures.

Common Core Connections

Pumpkin Day

Season K-ESS2-1

Apple P. Day

Leaves K.OA.A.1

Snow Day

Weather K.ESS2-2

Garden Day

Plants K-LS1-1

Beach Day

To Come

5 Senses: Touch

Taste, Hearing,

Sight, Smell.

All books.

• Activities Inside:

• Do Pumpkins Float?
Pumpkin Day

• Make a Fall Wreath!
Apple Picking Day

• How Much Water Is
In Snow? *Snow Day*

• Plant a Lima Bean!
Garden Day



Snow Day How Much Water Is in Snow?

Can you measure the amount of water in snow?

1. Supplies: a glass jar, ruler, colored tape, a clock.
2. Pack jar with snow. Mark top of snow line with tape. Place the ruler up-

right against the jar.

3. Guess how long it takes snow to melt.
4. Check the clock every half hour.
5. The snow line goes down but where's the water?
6. When snow has melted, measure the amount of water.

7. What did they learn? It takes longer for snow to melt than they may have guessed.
8. There's not much water in snow. Why?
9. The rule: 1 inch of rain = 13 inches of snow!

Garden Day Plant a Lima Bean!

*"First one flake,
then millions
more! Snow falls
outside
our front door."*

Snow Day

Kids will love growing a lima bean plant.

1. Soak 6 dried lima beans overnight.
2. Fill 2 plastic cups half way with potting soil.
3. Poke small holes in soil. Put 3 beans in each cup and cover with soil.
4. Moisten soil.
5. Cover cups with plastic wrap. *Question: Why do this?*

6. Check the cups each day.
7. What is that green? It's a seedling!
8. Remove plastic wrap. Let it grow! *Question: How did seed stay moist?*

Apple Picking Day Make a Fall Wreath



Celebrate fall by making a wreath.

1. Supplies: variety of fall leaves (or paper cut out leaves), glue sticks, orange paper plates.

2. Let students sort the leaves by color, size, and shape. What do they notice about the different leaves?
3. Cut out the centers of the paper plates

as wreath forms.

4. Let students glue real leaves (or paper leaves) to the paper circles.
5. Hang the wreaths to decorate the classroom!

Pumpkin Day Do Pumpkins Sink or Float?

Kids will be amazed by this experiment!

1. Let students examine pumpkins of different sizes.
2. What are their shapes? How big are they? Are they light or heavy?
3. Let them guess how pumpkins will react in water. Will the heavy pumpkin sink? What about the mini pumpkin?
4. Place the pumpkins in a tub of water. What happens?
5. Surprise! They all float, even the heavy pumpkins!
6. Let the kids find out why. Cut open a pumpkin. What do they see?
7. Seeds and pulp. Also, lots of space around the seeds. Space contains air.
8. Even heavy pumpkins are mostly hollow inside. Air helps things float.



Lots of “Day” Books—And One About “Night”

Tooth Fairy’s Night

“Bedtime? Not for the Tooth Fairy! She may be small, but she has a BIG job to do . . .”

While I was writing the “Day” books, I was asked to write a book about the Tooth Fairy. Yikes! That was hard!

I thought about her job. The Tooth Fairy works every night, unlike Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny.

In my story, she feeds her pet, then packs her address book and tooth bag. She’s off to work.

I love the “pet” that artist Monique Dong created for the Tooth Fairy.

Illustrators have their own ideas about what the author’s words look like. It’s all part of making books!

“Sunny day.

Pack a lunch.

In the treetops

squirrels munch.”

From

Pumpkin Day

Look for New “Day” Titles and Other Level 1 Books by Candice Ransom

Look for **Beach Day** in late spring, 2020. Can you imagine what the brother and sister will be up to at the beach?

In each book, the brother and sister take

turns being the “star.” The brother stars in **Pumpkin Day**, but his big sister takes over in **Apple Picking Day**.

Candice didn’t plan this—it just happened. Then she continued the

pattern of alternating characters.

In the fall of 2020 (or spring 2021), look for a brand-new Level 1 book by Candice called **Go, Go, Tractors!** Yes, tractors have fun!



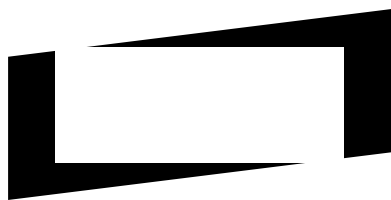


www.candiceransom.com

Email:

winchester@candiceransom.com

Candice Ransom



Random House, the publishers of Step Into Reading books for readers of all ages and stages, created the reading program to encourage reader every “step” of the way.

When your Level 1 readers have graduated to Level 2, present them with a certificate to mark that important milestone.

Random House designed blank certificates (one for each Step) that are available on their website as printables.

Visit the Step into Reading website:
www.stepintoreading.com.

Under the Activities tab, look for the Step 1 Certificate of Achievement.

KEEP READING!