

“Miles To Go ...”

Quick Christmas Lesson Plan Filler:

from Tim Murphey ... Merry Xmas!

Speed Dictation Directions:

1. Put students into groups of 4 and give each a number from 1 to 4.
2. Tell them you will read four lines of a poem, one at a time. The student whose number is 1 will write down the first line; 2 will write down the second, and so on. It helps to write 1, 2, 3, 4, on the board horizontally and point to the numbers as you read each line. Then they share and write down the lines on a piece of paper. Read the lines again if they need it again. Invite them to collaborate, correct, and discuss meaning.
3. Do the same with the next three verses of the poem. (Or just one or two verses if short on time. Students' dictation and collaboration skills improve a lot with practice.)
4. Pass out copies of the poem and ask them to notice how much they got right.
5. Ask them to ask you to explain words or phrases they do not understand.
6. Explain that US teenagers in high school often memorize this famous poem and later in life often cite the line “And miles to go before I sleep” as a way of excusing themselves from staying longer, meaning they still have much work to do before they can rest, like the narrator who would like to stay and watch “the woods fill up with snow.”
7. Look at the picture that accompanies the poem. Ask the student groups to discuss in which ways the picture does and does NOT match the content of the poem (e.g. there are two horses, not one).
8. Sing it! (Ask Tim for the melody, or make up one yourself!)

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening
Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know
His house is in the village though
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake

The woods are lovely dark and deep
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep



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