Living Books Curriculum

Holiday Helper

Picture Study • Copywork • Stories

LABOR DAY
Honoring the Workers of America
September
Welcome to Living Books Curriculum’s Holiday Helper series

Living Books Curriculum has created a series called Holiday Helpers just for you. These short collections of high-quality literature, artwork and quotations are easy to use during busy holidays; each one is designed to provide your children with uplifting and inspiring ideas and images.

This edition, Labor Day includes artwork, quotes and articles that celebrate the working man or woman. We included the short biography of Charles Goodyear, to whom we owe the tires on our bikes and cars, because he is a model of hard work and perseverance. Two qualities essential to employment that is productive.

Encourage the practice of copywork. If you are new to picture study, visit this link for suggestions:
www.livingbookscurriculum.com/TeachingChildrenToLoveGreatArt.pdf

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Sheila Carroll
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Labor Day: How it Came About; What it Means
Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

Founder of Labor Day
More than 100 years after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers.

Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, was first in suggesting a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold." But Peter McGuire’s place in Labor Day history has not gone unchallenged. Many believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, not Peter McGuire, founded the holiday. Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J., proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. What is clear is that the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and appointed a committee to plan a demonstration and picnic.

The First Labor Day
The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883. In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

Labor Day Legislation
Through the years the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From them developed the movement to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During the year four more states — Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York —
created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

A Nationwide Holiday
The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take were outlined in the first proposal of the holiday — a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day. Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday. Still later, by a resolution of the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

The character of the Labor Day celebration has undergone a change in recent years, especially in large industrial centers where mass displays and huge parades have proved a problem. This change, however, is more a shift in emphasis and medium of expression. Labor Day addresses by leading union officials, industrialists, educators, clerics and government officials are given wide coverage in newspapers, radio, and television.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pays tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.

From the Department of Labor Website, August 26, 2009: http://www.dol.gov/opa/aboutdol/laborday.htm
The Very First Labor Day
For Children to Read

September 5, 1882
If you could create a holiday, what would it be called? What date would you choose for your holiday? Peter J. McGuire, a carpenter and labor union leader, was the person who came up with the idea for Labor Day. He thought American workers should be honored with their own day. He proposed his idea to New York's Central Labor Union early in 1882, and they thought the holiday was a good idea, too. With four long months between Independence Day and Thanksgiving, Peter suggested a month halfway in between. But what date should they choose?

The Very First Labor Day
The very first Labor Day was held on a Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City. The day was celebrated with a picnic, concert and speeches. Ten thousand workers marched in a parade from City Hall to Union Square.

Soon after that first celebration, the holiday was moved to the first Monday in September, the day we still honor. Congress passed legislation making Labor Day a national holiday in 1894. Labor Day is not just a day to celebrate the accomplishments of workers; for some people, it is also a day to talk about their concerns and to discuss ways to get better working conditions and salaries. How do you celebrate the last holiday of the summer?
The Workers’ Anvil

Words by Laura M. Griffing.  
Arranged by C. F. Mayering.

Strike, strike, the Workers anvil,  
For the cause of Labor,  
Strike for your homes and freedom,  
For each friend and neighbor,  
Ev'ry one.  
For this great cause  
And reform laws,  
Now demand complete protection.

Strike, strike, the fire is glowing—  
Heed ye not the minions,  
Seeking to capture Labor,  
And to clip the pinions  
Of our clan.  
Will you grant all  
At the first call,  
And submit to party factions.

Guard, guard the right, companions;  
'Tis a phantom power,  
From civic rule descending,  
To despoil our dower.  
Will you come?  
Are you all strong,  
To fight the wrong,  
And advance the cause of labor.

Hail, hail, ye brother workmen,  
Fierce and sharp the battle;  
Make life a glorious triumph  
Let the volleys rattle  
Loud and deep.  
Take a bold stand,  
Throughout the land,  
Thus to guard the rights of freemen.

Sound, sound the labor tocsin,  
For our homes are cheerless;  
Stay not, for Justice guides you  
Be ye strong and fearless.  
Guard your right!  
If you dare, do!  
And all be true—  
You will gain a glorious victory.
About The Worker’s Anvil

New ways of working and living transformed the American economy, and American culture, in the last decades of the 19th century. Heavy industry—that is, manufacturing, iron and steel production, and railroad construction—became the most important businesses in the country. A wave of revolutionary new inventions, including the telephone and the electric light bulb, changed the way people lived and worked, just as more and more people were leaving rural areas and moving to the city. By the end of the century, the U.S. had gone from being a country of small towns and farms to a country of big cities and factories. It had also become the wealthiest nation in the world.

Factory owners of the day could enjoy tremendous profits; however, many of their employees had to endure very harsh living and working conditions. In the 1870s and 1880s, hundreds of thousands of American workers joined unions or other labor organizations to bargain for better pay and greater workplace safety, sometimes *striking*—refusing to work to convince employers to agree to their demands.

Facing fierce opposition from the established mass media, labor leaders used many informal methods to spread the word, including popular song. Labor songs were used to raise awareness of the workers’ plight, to recruit new members to the cause, and to keep workers’ morale up during a difficult strike or other labor action. As you read this song, you might ask yourself what the songwriter hoped to accomplish—and how likely you think it is that she succeeded.
Against Idleness and Mischief

~Sir Isaac Watts

How doth the little busy bee
Improve each shining hour,
And gather honey all the day
From every opening flower!

How skillfully she builds her cell,
How neat she spreads the wax!
And labors hard to store it well
With the sweet food she makes.

In works of labor or of skill,
I would be busy too;
For Satan finds some mischief still
For idle hands to do.

In books, or work, or healthful play,
Let my first years be past,
That I may give for every day
Some good account at last.
I Meant To Do My Work Today

~ Richard LeGallienne

I meant to do my work today,
But a brown bird sang in the apple tree,
And a butterfly flitted across the field,
And all the leaves were calling me.
And the wind went sighing over the land,
Tossing the grasses to and fro,
And a rainbow held out its shining hand,
So what could I do but laugh and go?
**About the Painting Work**

Ask your children to study the picture carefully to determine how many types of work are depicted.

In 1852 Ford Madox Brown began work on what was to be the first serious attempt by a British artist to represent the working class in an urban environment. The painting shows the excavations for the laying of a sewage system in Hampstead.

The image erupts into proliferating details from the dynamic centre of the action, as the workers tear a hole in the road – and, symbolically, in the social fabric. Each character represents a particular social class and role in the modern urban environment. Brown wrote a catalogue to accompany the special exhibition of Work. This publication included an extensive explanation of Work that nevertheless leaves many questions unanswered.

**About the artist Ford Madox Brown**

Ford Madox Brown (16 April 1821 – 6 October 1893) was an English painter of moral and historical subjects, notable for his distinctively graphic and often Hogarthian version of the Pre-Raphaelite style.

One of his most famous images is *The Last of England*, a portrait of a pair of stricken emigrants as they sail away on the ship that will take them from England forever. It was inspired by the departure of the Pre-Raphaelite sculptor Thomas Woolner, who had left for Australia. The painting is structured with Brown's characteristic linear energy, and emphasis on apparently grotesque and banal details, such as the cabbages hanging from the ship's side.

Brown's major achievement after *Work* was the "Manchester Murals", a cycle of twelve paintings in the Great Hall of Manchester Town Hall depicting the history of the city. These present a partly ironic and satirical view of Manchester's history.
Charles Goodyear, a Man Who Persevered

1800-1860 1844, first patented the vulcanisation of rubber

In the early part of the nineteenth century rubber was used in this country for little else than erasing pencil marks. People were beginning to be interested in it, however, because it had such remarkable qualities. It was elastic and it was waterproof; it could be baked, soaked in lye or oil or turpentine without injury; neither mouse nor moth would touch it. The natives of the lands where it was produced made rough clay lasts, dipped them into the rubber juice many times, smoking them after each dipping, then broke up the lasts, and they had waterproof shoes. Why could not this be done in the United States?

People went wild over the possibilities of rubber. It cost only five cents a pound, and a pair of rubbers—gums, or galoshes, they were called—would sell for two or three dollars. Here was a chance to make a fortune, if a man was only wide-awake enough to seize the opportunity and invest. In 1833 six or eight factories were opened, and the manufacture of overshoes and wagon-covers, over coats, caps, and life-preservers flourished.

These articles were sold as fast as they could be made; but when warm weather came, "they were returned as fast as their purchasers could bring them back. This rubber had one great fault; it proved to be hard as a rock in the winter and soft as chewing gum in the summer; and the overshoes made in the factories were not nearly so good as the clumsy ones made by the natives of the rubber countries. A pair of rubbers left by the fire would quietly melt away with a very, very bad odor. The only way to use such articles seemed to be to make one's home where there was neither heat nor cold.

Now in Connecticut there lived a man who was trying to solve the problem. God would not have put into the world a substance of such value unless he had meant men to find out how to use it; so this Mr. Goodyear reasoned; and he was convinced that the deep interest which he felt in rubber was a proof that he was meant to be the one to find out how to make the substance of use. He was a poor man, he had failed in business, and he had a wife and seven children. He knew little of chemistry, and had not so very much more than the average Yankee's talent for "fixing things" and improving them, but he began to experiment on rubber. He borrowed money and made hundreds of pairs of overshoes, very good-looking ones. But "Hand some is as handsome does," says the old proverb; and when warm weather came, the shoes settled down into soft dough.

Rubber was usually dissolved in turpentine, and turpentine is sticky. Perhaps the trouble was here, he thought; and at length he succeeded in getting some rubber sap which had been
kept liquid by alcohol. He was called away, and while he was gone his man Jerry had an idea. He plastered his overalls with the nice white liquid, and was soon wearing a fine pair of handsome white waterproof overalls. But alas, Jerry sat down too near the fire, and when the inventor returned his man had to be carefully cut out of his new garment. Evidently the stickiness was not in the turpentine, but in the rubber itself. Was there any way of getting rid of this one bad quality?

Goodyear had no thought of giving up. He tried mixing rubber with all sorts of substances, with magnesium, with quicklime and water, and with nitric acid. In trying to clean a piece of rubber cloth he had used nitric acid, and had found that the surface of the rubber lost all stickiness wherever the acid had touched it. He now made thin sheets of rubber and worked them into piano-covers, carriage-tops, even overshoes; and all these were far better than anything of the kind that had been made before. He sold licenses to use his process; he began to have a good income; and he brought his scattered family around him again.

A friend who had worked in one of the defunct rubber factories had tried combining sulphur with rubber and exposing this to sunshine. He told Goodyear of his experiments and showed him how this process took away the stickiness from the surface of the rubber. Goodyear had borrowed of every friend who would lend to him, because he was firmly convinced that he would be able to pay his debts, but he never dreamed of making any unfair use of this confidence. "You must patent your process," he said, and this was done. Later, he bought the patent.

Success had come at last; that could not be doubted, for the Government had ordered one hundred and fifty mail-bags of him. Now people could see for themselves. He manufactured the bags and hung them where every one would have a view. This was in the early spring of 1838. He was away for a month, and when he returned there hung the handles of the bags, but the bags themselves were melting and dropping on the floor. In stead of a public success he had made a public failure. He could harden the surface of the rubber, but under this surface the gum was in warm weather as sticky as ever.

Rubber was certainly a most exasperating substance. To be able to cure the outside perfectly, but not to be able to affect it below the surface would have tried the patience of Job. It did try the patience of Mr. Goodyear, but he kept on. Sometimes he was cold, sometimes he
was hungry. His friends, and at last even his wife, urged him to give up the quest. He loved his family and his friends, but he never ceased to believe that he must keep on, that he was the one man chosen to discover the secret that would benefit the whole world. When one process failed, he tried another, and he was never sufficiently discouraged to think for a moment of giving up. He had always believed that some things cannot be found out by scientific research, but can be discovered by accident, and that the man who is most persevering will be the discoverer.

He was right in this case, for the discovery came when he was far from expecting it. He stood before a hot stove one day in 1839 with a piece of gum and sulphur in his hand, talking away on his usual subject. His audience, consisting of his brother and some friends, was bored, and more than half indignant with him for keeping on in this foolish chase. In one of his earnest gestures he touched the hot stove with the rubber. Instead of melting, it charred like leather, but around the charred portion there was a flexible border which was not charred, and was perfectly cured. Then how he did talk, and how out of patience his hearers became! They had seen things burned before, and there was generally a line about the edge of the burned part of anything that was not charred; charring had to stop somewhere. They did not see anything in this to make a man so excited; he must be half crazy. Perhaps he was, half crazy with joy. He nailed the rubber outside the door. It was a very cold night, but in the morning the ring about the charred spot was as flexible as before.

Now he experimented in good earnest. He found that this rim would neither soften with heat nor stiffen with cold. Rubber certainly was a mysterious substance. When combined with sulphur, a little heat would melt it, and much would harden or "vulcanize" it. The great discovery had been made, but only a man who had been trying for years to find it would have known that he had it at last.

Still, even this was only a beginning. He must find out just how much sulphur to use, what degree of heat was best, when and for how long the heat must be applied, and by what means. A process that failed one time in ten would be of no use commercially. He went at his experiments without a thought of anything else. He boiled the rubber and steamed it and roasted it. He baked it in heaps of sand in the fields, making his fires of sticks which he picked up. People were kind to him. The shops and factories allowed him to use their ovens after working hours, though his sticky mixtures were a great bother. The workmen grumbled and laughed at the messes, but they did not refuse what he wanted. His neighbors sent in food for the family and
sometimes paid a bill or two for him. One man who was almost a stranger gave him money to continue his experiments; another sent him a barrel of flour. At one strenuous time he could find nothing in the house to pawn but his children's schoolbooks, and he pawned these. In the midst of his troubles he received a generous offer from a firm in Paris for the use of his nitric-acid process; but, starving as he was, he was too honest to accept it. The process is valuable, he replied, but it will soon be superseded by a new and better method.

So it was that the invention of vulcanized rubber came, like so many other inventions, from the anxious struggles and privations of the inventor and his family. The result of Goodyear's efforts has been well summed up as follows:

"His process had more than the elasticity of India rubber, while it was divested of all those properties which had lessened its utility. It was still India rubber, but its surfaces would not adhere, nor would it harden at any degree of cold, nor soften at any degree of heat. It was a cloth impervious to water. It was paper that would not tear. It was parchment that would not crease. It was leather which neither rain nor sun would injure. It was ebony that could be run into a mould. It was ivory that could be worked like wax. It was wood that never cracked, shrunk, nor decayed. It was metal that could be wound round the finger or tied into a knot, and which preserved its elasticity almost like steel. Trifling variations in the ingredients, in the proportions, and in the heating, made it either as pliable as kid, tougher than oxhide, as elastic as whalebone, or as rigid as flint."

For this invention Goodyear received little reward save the consciousness that the world would be better off because he had lived in it. Some of his later troubles were due to his neglecting to take out his patents promptly. Indeed, he delayed five years before taking out, in 1844, a patent for vulcanized rubber, and so left a loophole for the claims of other inventors. He once said that a patent amounts chiefly to a permission from the Government to fight one's own battles; and he had plenty of them to fight.

In 1852 came his great test case for infringement of his patent in the United States. Daniel Webster was his lawyer. It must have brought down the house when Webster pictured rubber as it was before Mr. Goodyear succeeded in vulcanizing it. "I had some experience in this matter myself," he said. "A friend in New York sent me a very fine cloak of India rubber, and a hat of the same material. I did not succeed very well with them. I took the cloak one day and set it out in the cold. It stood very well by itself. I surmounted it with the hat, and many persons passing by supposed they saw standing by the porch the Farmer of Marshfield."

Mr. Webster won the case for his client.
Copy Work

Big jobs usually go to the men who prove their ability to outgrow small ones.
Theodore Roosevelt, President (1858 –1919)

Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.
Theodore Roosevelt, President (1858 –1919)

One machine can do the work of fifty ordinary men. No machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.
Elbert Hubbard, Writer, Designer, (1856 - 1915)

It is impossible to enjoy idling thoroughly unless one has plenty of work to do.
Jerome K. Jerome, Writer (1859 - 1927)

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.
Thomas A. Edison, Inventor (1847 - 1931)

Nothing ever comes to one that is worth having, except as a result of hard work.
Booker T. Washington, Inventor (1856 –1915)

Nothing will work unless you do.
Maya Angelou, Writer (1928-present)
ATTENTION PARENTS:
Let LBC Help you Teach Your Children Grammar the Easy Way

Primary Language Lessons is a beginning guide to grammar and usage for the early elementary student. Living Books Curriculum has faithfully reproduced the 1914 edition, while making it easy to use in a lay-flat, write-in format. No need to have to rewrite the questions and assignments. It is all done for you.

Within these pages you will find stories, poems, and pictures of fine art. Each lesson introduces principles of grammar and word use through question and answer, composition, memorization, oral presentation, and dictation. Serl recommended that Primary Language Lessons be used for the second half of grade 2 and grade 3, or ages 6 through 8.

Primary Language Lessons uses high-quality literature and art to teach language and grammar. Serl’s method parallels the work of Charlotte Mason (1842-1923) who advocated high-quality literature for learning.

Intermediate Language Lessons is designed for teaching 9-12 year-olds grammar and language use. The author, Emma Serl creates a structured exploration often using the writings of well-known authors such as Louisa May Alcott, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Alfred Tennyson, Helen Hunt Jackson, Percy Bysshe Shelley, George MacDonald, Edward Everett Hale, and William Shakespeare. Living Books Curriculum has faithfully reproduced the 1914 edition, while making it easy to use in a lay-flat, write-in format. No need to have to rewrite the questions and assignments. It is all done for you.

To make the lessons easier to use by age and grade, we divided the text into three parts. Part 1 covers Lessons 1-100, Part 2, Lessons 101-195 and Part 3, Lessons 196-301. Each can be used on its own or as part of the series. Serl recommended that Intermediate Language Lessons be used for Grades 4, 5, and 6.
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