

Younger Students

Week 1: “Months” and *The Pilgrim’s Progress*

To Do in Class:

- Read together and discuss the author’s and work’s background information.
- Read aloud “Months” by H Cordelia Ray. Remind students to listen for rhyming words.
- Assign or let each student pick a different month to draw a picture about, using describing words or sentences as they’re able, about what they do in that month.
- Go on a rhyming word hunt. Write rhyming words on pieces of paper or notecards. Give students one of the words and hide its rhyme around the room. Let the students search for the match. Use these words: fall, call, fill, still, way, day, play, lay, swell, dell, shower, flower, sound, ground, fall, pall, ring, king
- Write a poem of 4-8 lines about the month in which you were born. Use rhyming words if you can. Illustrate your poem. Younger students should instead draw a picture about their birthday and write simple describing words or have an adult scribe for them. Encourage them to think of some rhyming words to describe their illustration.

To Do at Home:

- Read the poem “Months” aloud a few times over the week.
- Answer question pages. If students are not ready to write the answer, then discuss the answers orally.
- Finish writing poem of 4-8 lines about the month in which you were born. Use rhyming words if you can. Illustrate your poem. Younger students should instead draw a picture about their birthday and write simple describing words or have an adult scribe for them. Encourage them to think of some rhyming words to describe their illustration.
- Prepare to read your poem aloud next week. Use props if possible.

Older Students

Week 1: “Months” and *The Pilgrim’s Progress*

To Do in Class:

- Read together and discuss the author’s and work’s background information.
- Read aloud “Months” by H Cordelia Ray. Remind students to listen for rhyming words.
- Assign or let each student pick a different month to write a poem about what they do in that month. Encourage them to use rhyming words at the end of lines.
- Read the poems aloud in class. See if the other students can guess which month they were writing about.
- Read together about and discuss the author’s and work’s background information for *The Pilgrim’s Progress*.

To Do at Home:

- Read the poem “Months” aloud a few times over the week.
- Answer question pages.
- Write a poem of 4-8 lines about the month in which you were born. Use rhyming words if you can. Illustrate your poem.
- Prepare to read your poem aloud next week. Use props if possible.
- Read *The Pilgrim’s Progress** starting at the beginning and stopping before “THE HOUSE OF THE INTERPRETER.”
- Write definitions for the vocabulary words.
- Answer comprehension questions.
- Think about which character from the story you would like to pretend to be unless one was assigned to you. Practice reading the lines that character speaks. Character: _____

Challenge: Write a one page paper on the life of John Bunyan.

Background Information

“**Months**” was written by H. Cordelia Ray and is included in the book *The Upward Path: A Reader for Colored Children* which was published in 1920.

H. Cordelia Ray was born in New York City in 1849. The H stands for Henrietta. She was one of seven children. She and her family were African American. Her father was a minister, blacksmith and abolitionist. Her sister was the first Black woman to graduate with a law degree from Howard University, and H. Cordelia Ray graduated from the University of the City of New York in 1891. She was a public school teacher before becoming a private tutor and focusing on her writing. She wrote poems, sonnets and a biography of her father.

For more information:

<https://aaregistry.org/story/henrietta-ray-a-fine-black-poet-and-biographer/>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/henrietta-cordelia-ray>

The Pilgrim's Progress was written by John Bunyan in 1678. It is a Christian allegory and is considered the most important Christian work of fiction in English literature. It has never been out of print and has been translated in over 200 languages.

John Bunyan lived from 1628 to 1688. He spent a few years in the army where he learned about different church denominations other than Anglican, or Church of England. After the army, he became a tinker like his father. As he studied the Bible more, he became a Puritan and began to preach. When the English monarchy was returned to power, it was once again illegal to be any denomination other than the Church of England. John Bunyan was then imprisoned for 12 years because of this. He did much of his writings while imprisoned. When the laws changed, he was released and was a preacher.

Week 1

THE MONTHS

H. CORDELIA RAY

January

To herald in another year,
With rhythmic note the snowflakes fall
Silently from their crystal courts,
To answer Winter's call.
Wake, mortal! Time is winged anew!
Call Love and Hope and Faith to fill
The chambers of thy soul to-day;
Life hath its blessings still!



February

The icicles upon the pane
Are busy architects; they leave
What temples and what chiseled forms
Of leaf and flower! Then believe
That though the woods be brown and bare,
And sunbeams peep through cloudy veils,
Though tempests howl through leaden skies,
The springtime never fails!

March

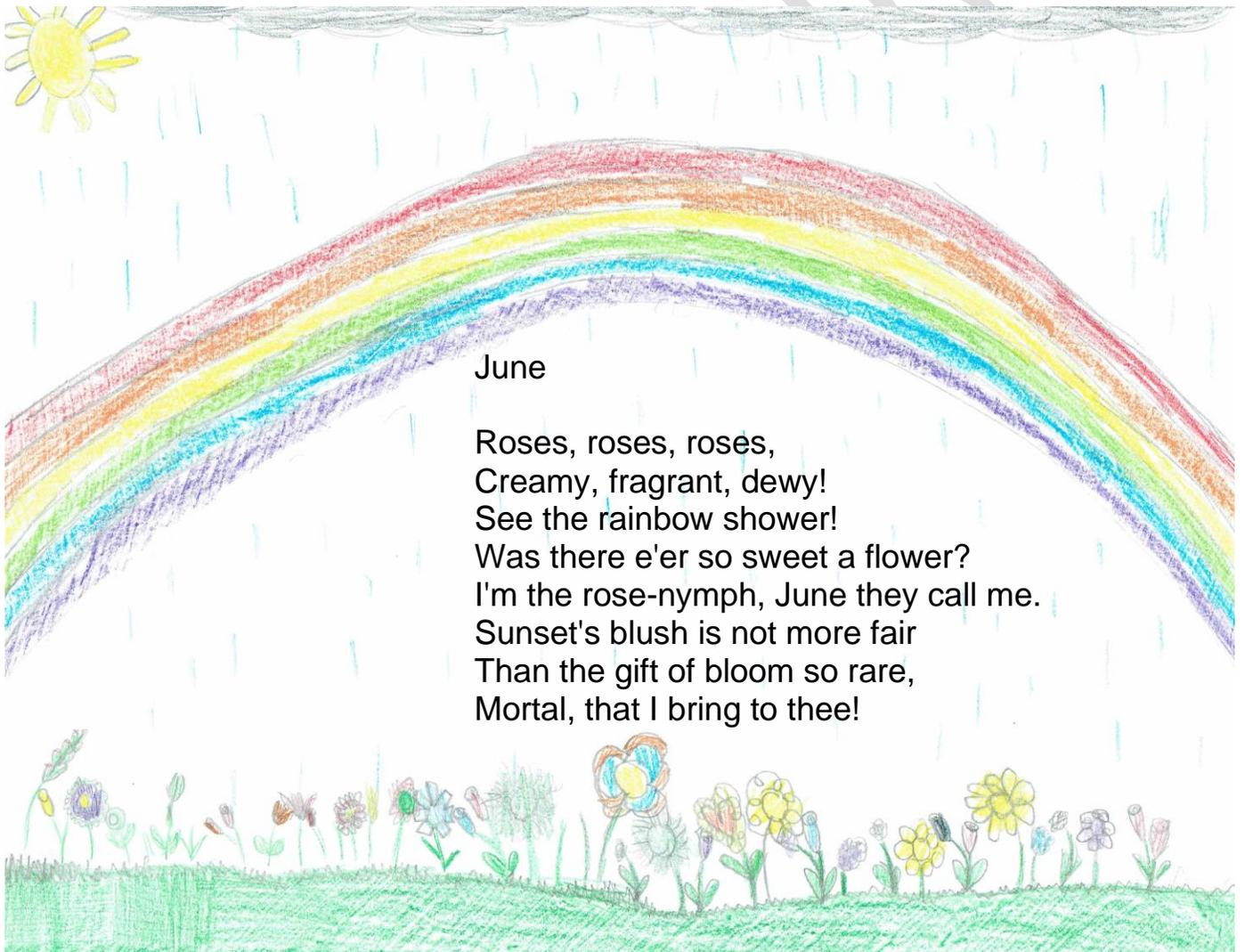
Robin! Robin! call the Springtime!
March is halting on his way;
Hear the gusts. What! snowflakes falling!
Look not for the grass to-day.
Ay, the wind will frisk and play,
And we cannot say it nay.

April

She trips across the meadows,
The weird, capricious elf!
The buds unfold their perfumed cups
For love of her sweet self;
And silver-throated birds begin to tune their lyres,
While wind-harps lend their strains to Nature's magic choirs.

May

Sweet, winsome May, coy, pensive fay,
Comes garlanded with lily-beds,
And apple blooms shed incense through the bow'r,
To be her dow'r;
While through the deafy dells
A wondrous concert swells
To welcome May, the dainty fay.



June

Roses, roses, roses,
Creamy, fragrant, dewy!
See the rainbow shower!
Was there e'er so sweet a flower?
I'm the rose-nymph, June they call me.
Sunset's blush is not more fair
Than the gift of bloom so rare,
Mortal, that I bring to thee!

July

Sunshine and shadow play amid the trees
In bosky groves, while from the vivid sky
The sun's gold arrows fleck the fields at noon,
Where weary cattle to their slumber hie.
How sweet the music of the purling rill,
Trickling adown the grassy hill!
While dreamy fancies come to give repose
When the first star of evening glows.

August

Haste to the mighty ocean,
List to the lapsing waves;
With what a strange commotion
They seek their coral caves.
From heat and turmoil let us oft return,
The ocean's solemn majesty to learn.

September

With what a gentle sound
The autumn leaves drop to the ground;
The many-colored dyes,
They greet our watching eyes.
Rosy and russet, how they fall!
Throwing o'er earth a leafy pall.

October

The mellow moon hangs golden in the sky,
The vintage song is over, far and nigh
A richer beauty Nature weareth now,
And silently, in reverence we bow
Before the forest altars, off'ring praise
To Him who sweetness gives to all our days.

November

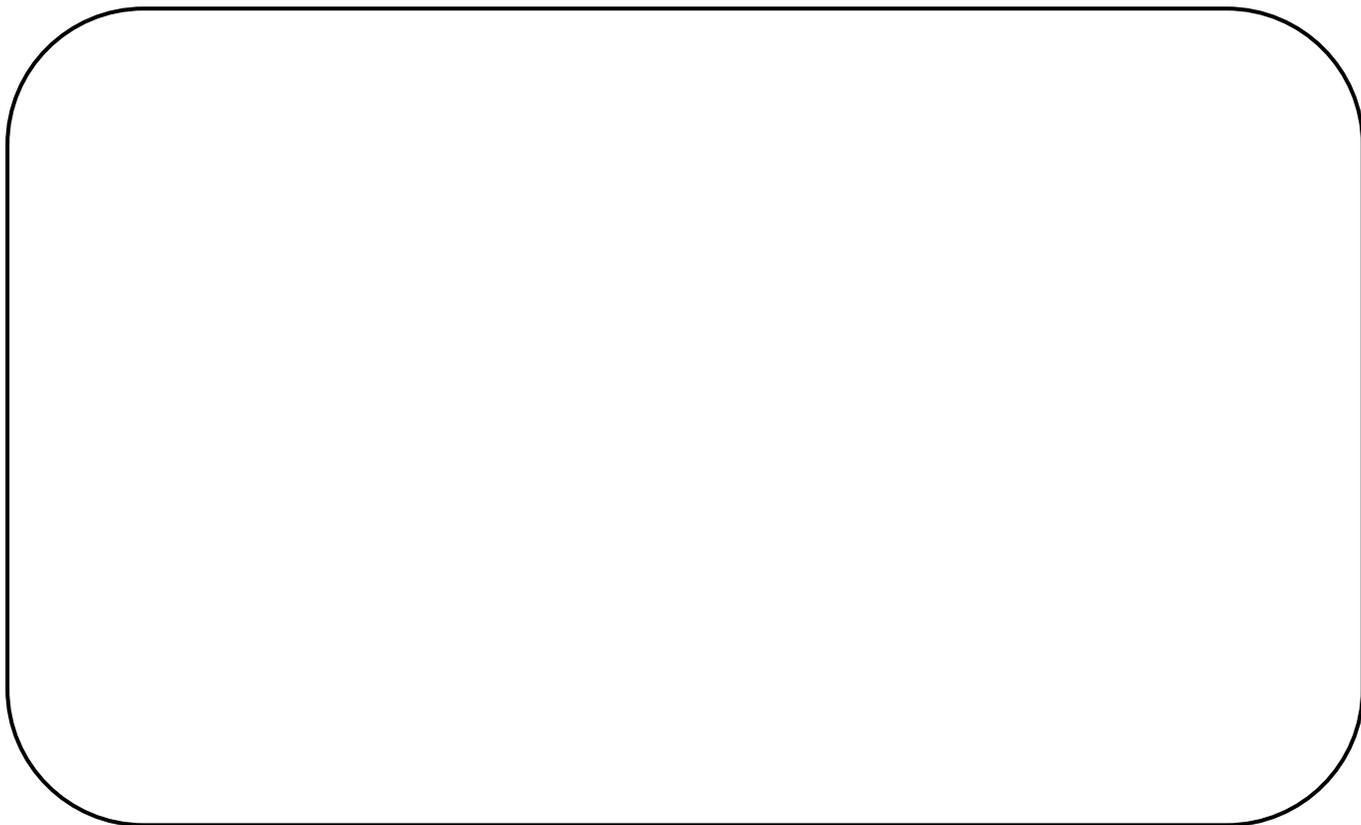
The leaves are sere,
The woods are drear,
The breeze that erst so merrily did play,
Naught giveth save a melancholy lay;
Yet life's great lessons do not fail
E'en in November's gale.



December

List! list! the sleigh bells peal across the snow;
The frost's sharp arrows touch the earth and lo!
How diamond-bright the stars do scintillate
When Night hath lit her lamps to Heaven's gate.
To the dim forest's cloistered arches go,
And seek the holly and the mistletoe;
For soon the bells of Christmas-tide will ring
To hail the Heavenly King!

Month: _____



“Months”

by H Cordelia Ray

Vocabulary:

Write a definition for each word. Use context clues from the passage, as well as a dictionary if you still need help.

rhythmic

tempest

pensive

fragrant

turmoil

solemn

mellow

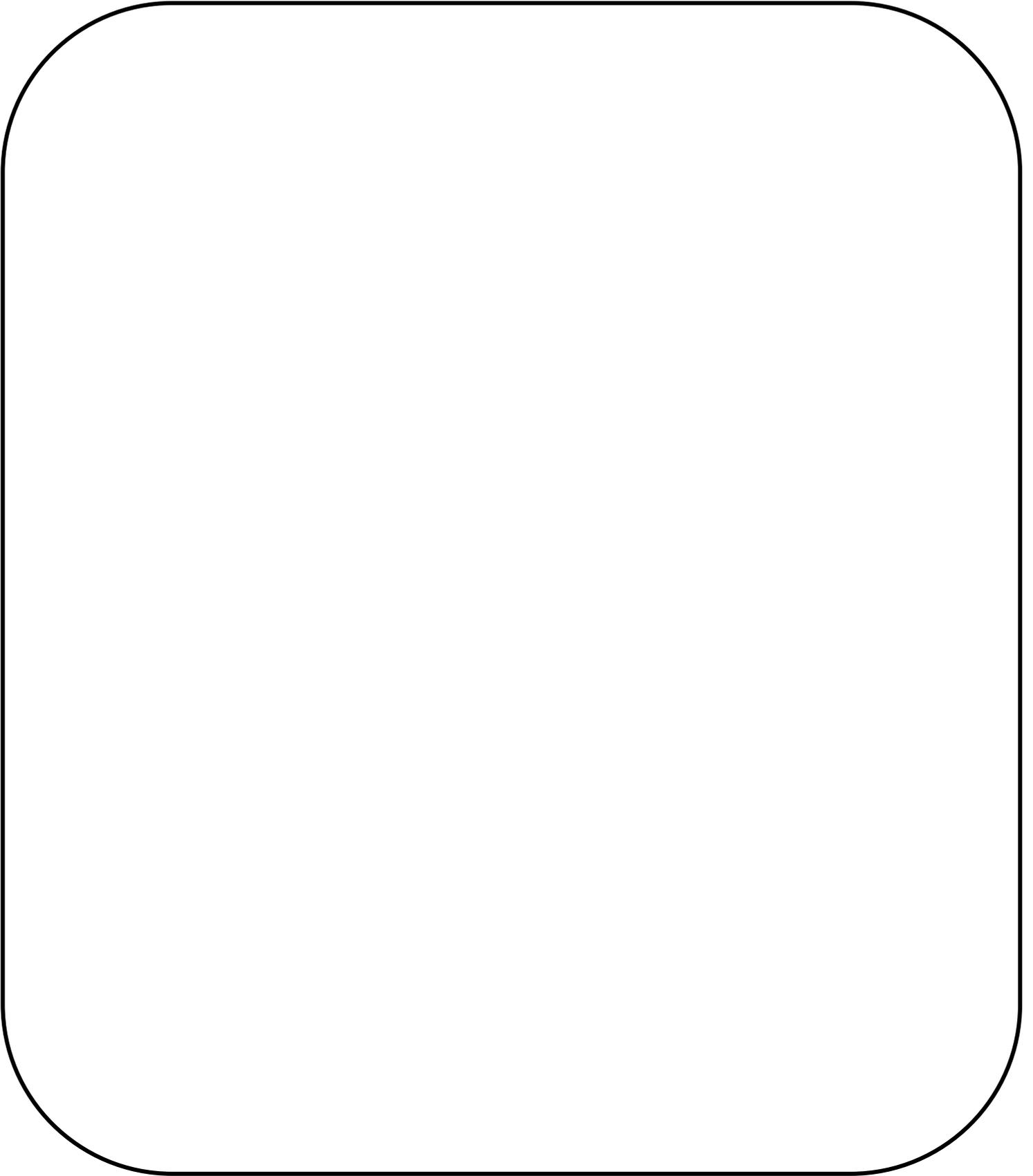
Poetic Devices

Rhyming: Read through the poem looking for rhyming words. List as many rhyming words as you can find.

Write a poem about the month in which you were born.

Month: _____

Illustrate your poem



The Pilgrim's Progress

Beginning of book until "THE HOUSE OF THE INTERPRETER"

Vocabulary:

Write a definition for each word. Use context clues from the passage, as well as a dictionary if you still need help.

behold

plight

distress

yonder

pliable

obstinate

despond

Comprehension

1. What is the book Pilgrim is reading?

2. Why is Pilgrim upset?

3. What is Pilgrim's name?

4. Why is Pliable upset and why does he give up?

5. Is there a parable in the Bible of which Pliable's story reminds you?

6. Describe a time where the Lord has helped you or someone you know.

7. What kind of advice does Worldy Wiseman give? What happens when Christian follows it?

8. Does someone's appearance make what they say true or reliable?

9. What is the name of the town Christian came from and where is he going?

10. How long must he wear his burden?

11. Pick a Bible reference listed in the reading selection. Look it up and write it out.
