

## The Ideal Calendar

*Companion Text:* Night Symphony, written by Lara Binn, and illustrated by Valia Ovseyko  
*Subject Area & Grade Level:* Social Studies, Kindergarten

### Objectives

After this lesson, students will be able to:

- Explain how many days there are in one week, and name the days
- Demonstrate understanding that the days of a week occur in a specific order in a repeating pattern over time

### Introduction

Read the story once through without stopping. Then, write the names of the week on the board (or a piece of paper if you are working with a smaller group). Space the names out evenly in a row. Read the story through a second time, stopping to draw (or post a picture if you have one) the cause of each night's sound under the appropriate day of the week. For Saturday, draw or post all five pictures, and under Sunday, don't draw or post any. To practice naming the days of the week you could sing the days of the to the tune of "Oh My Darling, Clementine," singing through two weeks for every stanza of the song, or singing through the day names of one week and ending with, "...Every week has just seven days, just seven days, then repeat."

### Procedure

Have each student think for a minute about something that happens on a particular day of the week in their lives. Maybe there is a tv show on Wednesdays that they like to watch, or they have dance class on Mondays, or karate on Thursdays. Help each student think of something that happens weekly, or something that they would like to have happen weekly, i.e., weekly religious services, "Friday Pizza Dinner," visiting relatives on Sunday, or school activities like gym, art, or music. Be sure that at least all the days of the week are covered by at least 2 or 3 students, and then have each student write (or dictate to you) the name of the week at the top of a paper held lengthwise (landscape), and illustrate the activity that happens on that day.

### Discussion

When all students are done, tell students that we are going to try to assemble an ideal week. Ask for volunteers for each day of the week, and then have the students come up to the front of the room and get in order from Sunday-Saturday. Help them order themselves properly if necessary, and then have each student in the week present his or her day and activity. At the end of the week, ask students if this week we made would be an "ideal" week for them, meaning the very best kind of week. Ask them, "If not, what would have to change to make it an ideal week for you?" In order to practice sequencing, tell students that in order to make suggestions about improving the week (Ex., sleepovers on Tuesdays, a theme park visit every Saturday), they have to state their suggestion **without** saying the name of the week they want to change. For example, a student could suggest that we should switch the food on "the day before Saturday" to be hamburgers instead of pizza, or that every "day after Wednesday," we should all wear pajamas.

