



# Homework Menu #4



name: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** For homework this month you will be working on and completing projects of your choice. Below is a list of projects that you may choose from.

If you have an idea of your own which is not listed, check with Russ for permission to try it. As you complete each project you will have a chance to share it with your classmates. Some projects may take more time than others to finish. To keep track of the time you spend on your homework projects, you and your parents will complete a homework time sheet that is to be turned in each Friday. When you finish one project, begin working on your next project as soon as you can. All December projects will be due during the first week of January. At that time a new menu will be given out.

**Focus of the Month:** Holidays & Celebrations

**Skills included:** Reading comprehension; reading fluency and expression; interpreting/infering; data collection & research; graphing; oral and written communication; artistic representation; persuasive writing/presentation; interviewing skills.



**Special Note:** Although you may turn your project in earlier, this month's homework won't be due until just after the winter break.

## Project Menu:

□ There are many books about our holidays. Some are written to inform us about a particular holiday while others tell a story that takes place during a holiday. One all time favorite was written by Charles Dickens and is titled A Christmas Carol. Another favorite story is titled Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins written by Eric Kimmel. Find a book or story you enjoy, fiction or nonfiction, that focuses in some way on a holiday. Read it to yourself and then read it (or an interesting portion of it) aloud to your family. Practice reading it aloud many times, working on reading it smoothly with lots of expression. When you and your family feel you are ready, bring your book to school and read the story you have practiced to the class. If it is a long story then choose a short portion to read aloud to the class. Bonus idea: dress up as one of the characters from the story when you read aloud to the class.



□ People all over the world celebrate holidays. Many of the holidays we celebrate are also celebrated in other countries. Choose 1 holiday and research how it is celebrated in different countries. Create a short presentation that includes something visual (a poster, an artifact, photographs, etc.) to share what you have learned. Bonus idea: include a map that shows where the countries you included in your presentation are located.

□ We all seem to have our own favorite holiday or celebration. For some it is Valentine's Day, for others it may be Halloween. Survey between 15 and 35 people to find out what their favorite holiday or celebration is. Try and include people in your survey that are different ages; perhaps your parents, grandparents, and your friends. Once you have collected this information, create a poster-size graph that shows the results.

□ Choose a country other than the United States. Find out what holidays they celebrate. Create a poster that lists the different holidays, gives brief descriptions of each one, includes a map of the country, and has some pictures or drawings of people celebrating their holiday. Bring your poster to school and share it with the rest of our class.



□ Holidays and celebrations just didn't suddenly appear out of thin air, somebody had to invent them. If you choose this option you will invent a holiday. Be sure to decide on some of the details about your holiday: what time of the year and what day of the week it will take place, why it is important to celebrate it, what costumes or outfits celebrants will wear, what people will do while celebrating your holiday, etc. Once you have the details worked out, write a persuasive speech and make a poster about your new holiday. Present this to the class. Who knows, your holiday may become an annual event complete with traditions and presidential proclamations!

□ Choose a particular holiday and find out how it has changed over time. Perhaps it has changed due to technology or some of the traditions have become more modernized. Maybe it hasn't changed very much at all. Whatever you find out, it will be interesting. You may want to interview your grandparents or parents to get information about this as well as using the library. Write a report that discusses what you learned.



□ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Expectations:** It is expected that chosen projects will be finished completely, neatly, and in a timely manner. It is also expected that students will gain a depth of understanding about their project's topic upon completion. Further, while students are encouraged to work on one project at a time, it is entirely possible for students to complete any number of projects in the timeframe given. Students should also remember to keep homework interesting by challenging themselves to learn as much as possible and to do the best work they can.

**Important:** These projects will likely require mutual involvement of students and their parents. To ensure the quality and depth of understanding expected, they likely cannot be completed in one evening prior to the due date. Each student will have to use their time wisely, doing a little bit at a time until a project is complete. Use the Project Planning Form to help you successfully complete your project on time.

