

# Wishful Thinking!

Most students have wishes and goals for the new year. Encourage their creative thinking by suggesting some of these activities.

## SECRET WISHES

Add an element of mystery to your next creative writing assignment with this simple idea.

Ask students to write a sentence describing a secret wish on white paper using a white crayon. (The wish will appear to be invisible.) Collect all the papers and then redistribute them, making sure no one receives their own paper back.

The students then paint over the messages with watercolors to reveal their secret wishes. Instruct the children to write short stories including the secret wishes.

## CREATIVE WISHES

Write a variety of special wishes on numerous clouds cut from white construction paper. Place the clouds in a "magic" box someplace in the classroom. (Cover the "magic" box with metallic paper and decorate with lightning bolts, stars and moons.)

When a child has finished his or her work, he or she may pull out a cloud and write a story using the "wishful" suggestions. Here are some ideas:

"I wish I could ride a magic carpet!"

"I wish money grew on trees!"

"I wish every day was Saturday!"

"I wish candy bars were good for you!"

"I wish there was really a pot of gold at the end of every rainbow!"

## WISHES CAN COME TRUE!

Discuss with your class how wishes can come true. Ask them to brainstorm the idea and list the suggestions on the class board.

Begin by explaining that with effort and hard work, many wishes can come true. For example, if someone wishes for good grades the wish can come true by having good study habits. Another example might be a person wishing for a good friend can begin by being friendly and kind to others.

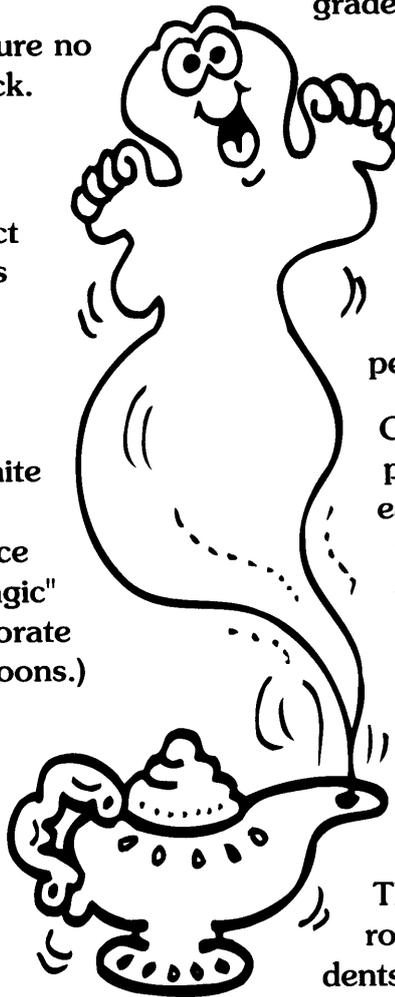
## MAGIC WANDS

Children will love making their own personal magic wand!

Cut stars from gold or silver metallic paper, two for each student. Give each student an 18" dowel and ask them to cover it with strips of colored tissue paper. (Real ribbon, lace, sequins, etc. can be added.) Streamers of tissue paper can be added to the top of the dowel. When the tissue paper is dry, glue the stars, back to back, to the top of the dowel.

The magic wands can now be used in role playing. Select groups of two students to act out various scenarios related to granting wishes. If the wish is unselfish, it may be granted. If it is selfish, it will be denied.

You might like to use a magic wand in the classroom to excuse quiet or obedient students to recess.



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## MAKE-A-WISH

At the beginning of the school year, enlist the help of your students in saving pennies for a worthy charity. This activity will provide endless opportunities for math computations as well as a valuable way to teach the joys of sharing.

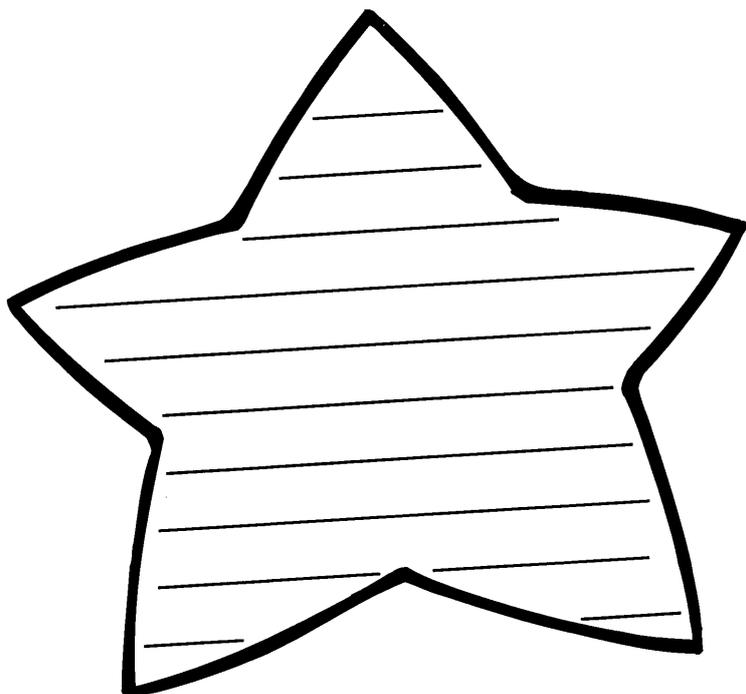
Instruct students to bring pennies from home or pick them up when found on the ground. The pennies can then be counted and rolled by the students when work is completed.

You may want to notify parents of the activity before you start. You will also need to provide a safe place for the rolled pennies in the classroom.

An excellent charity to select might be:

Make-a-Wish Foundation  
100 W. Clarendon, Suite 2200  
Phoenix, AZ 85013  
Phone: (800) 722-9474

This charity literally makes wishes come true for terminally ill children.



## WREATH OF WORLD WISHES

Inspire children to think of ways to help the world and its inhabitants can be helped, with this crafty idea.

Cut a large ring from poster board. Ask each child to trace and cut out his or her right hand on colored construction paper. (Use a variety of different colors.) Instruct the children to write their "Wishes for the World" on the hands. Glue the hands slightly overlapping around the ring. Paste a large paper bow to the top of the wreath and ask each child to sign it with his or her name. Display the wreath in the classroom during the holidays, or anytime during year!

## WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR!

Give students large paper stars on which to write their wishes for the year ahead. Pin the stars to the class board that has been covered with dark blue or black butcher paper. Entitle the board "When You Wish Upon a Star!"

Save the stars until the end of the school year and distribute them to the students at that time. Let each child tell the rest of the class whether his or her wish came true.