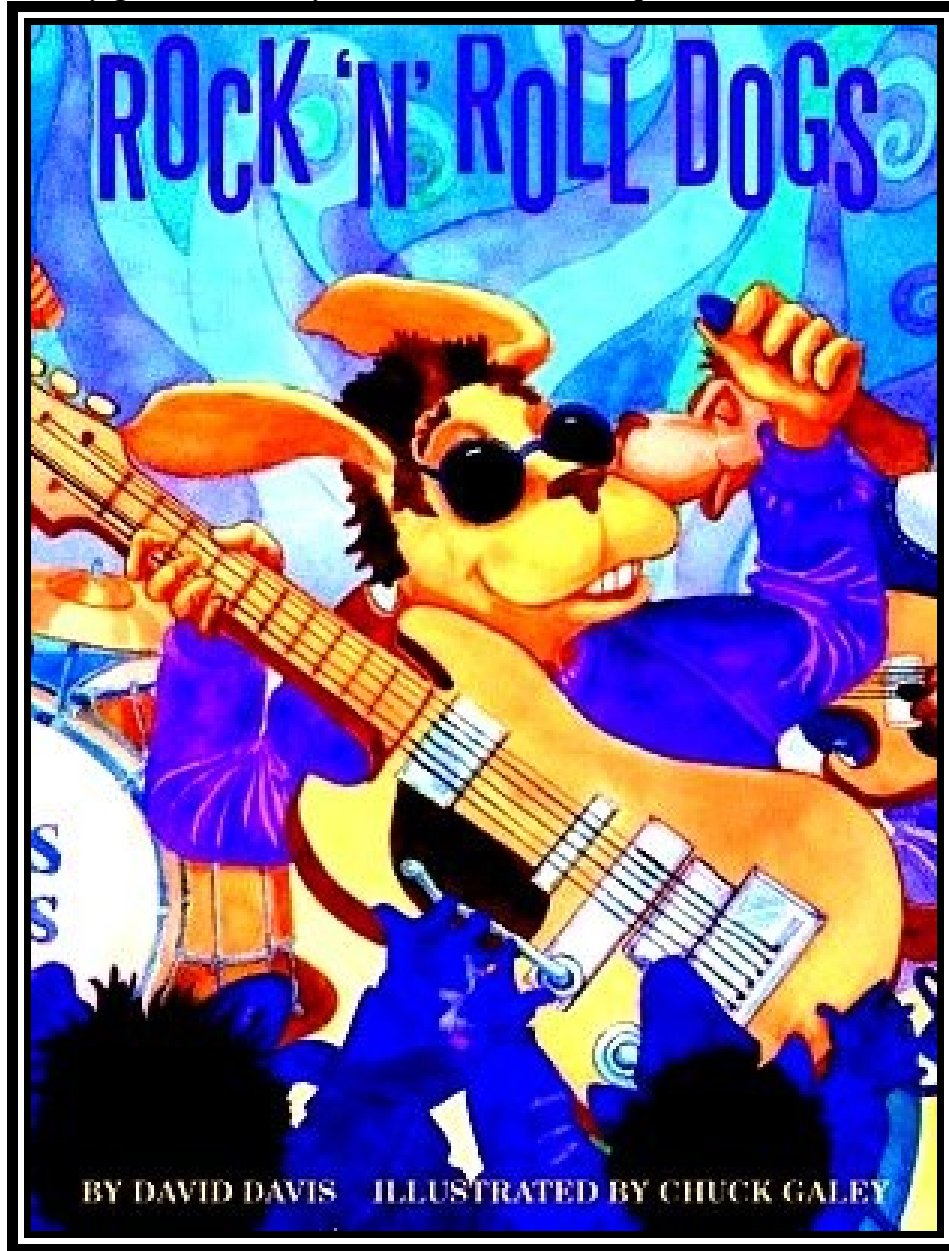


CURRICULUM GUIDE
ROCK 'N' ROLL
DOGS

Study guide created by David Davis----- Reproducible worksheets



By Award Winning Writer David Davis

To schedule events contact David at www.davidrdavis.com email: lastditchus@yahoo.com

Rock 'N' Roll Dogs, ISBN 978-1-58980-349-7

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Book Description

Rock 'n' Roll Dogs, a companion book to Jazz Cats, guarantees the reader a howl of a good time! In the Fireplug doggie disco, kids are welcome to visit but not fleas, cats, vets, squares, or ticks. As stray dogs strut outside wearing leather jackets, pink toy poodles groom in the flea-powder room, the bulldog doorman checks doggie tags, and Duke, a springer spaniel, waits the tables. All dogs dance to the sounds of the Rock 'n' Roll Memphis Blues Dogs but are very careful to not step on any blue suede shoes. This humorous story with vibrant illustrations appeals to both children and adults. The lively rhythm and colorful vocabulary encourage children to follow along with the story's repetition of objects, animals, and actions while introducing them to Rock 'n' Roll. Named to the Accelerated Reader List.

Activities

1. As a class, listen to some old fifties and sixties rock 'n' roll songs.

Some Suggestions:

(I've tried to list "good time" songs children will like.)

You Ain't Nothing But a Hound Dog by Elvis Presley

Tutti Frutti by Little Richard

Hello Mary Lou by Ricky Nelson

Back in the USA by Chuck Berry

Rock Around the Clock by Bill Haley and the Comets (The 1st hit rock and roll song, 1954)

Green Onions by Booker T. and the MG's (Stax records)

Peggy Sue by Buddy Holly

Twist and Shout by The Beatles

2. Have the class make a bulletin board about a fifties rock and roller of their choice. Search the web for pictures, and facts about his/her life and music.

3. While listening to old rock 'n' roll music, have each student draw their version of *The Rock 'N' Roll Dogs* at *The Fireplug*. Another option is to have them draw their favorite character in the book.

4. While reading the book, have students share which illustration in the story is their favorite.

5. Ask the students to interview an older relative about his or her childhood. They can write down the answers to questions, or record the interview and play it in class. Bring childhood photo of the relative if available. Compare the different stories, and talk about what you enjoyed about each one.

Here are some suggestions for the interview questions. (Of course these are just to get you started. Add your own, too.)

Where did you grow up?

- Did you live in the country or the city?
- How was school different in the fifties?
- How is it similar to today's schools?
- Did you walk to school?
- What kinds of clothes did you wear?
- What was your favorite TV show?
- What was your favorite song?
- Who was your favorite singer?
- What was the name of your favorite band?
- What was your favorite subject in school?
- What was your least favorite subject?
- What kinds of things did you do for fun that kids don't do today?

6. Watch DVD's or videos featuring fifties TV shows. (The public library should have some of them.) *Grease* is a good movie for children to watch with their parents. Ask the kids to list the things they notice about how the characters dress, talk etc.

7. Bring 78rpm, 45rpm, and 331/3rpm records to class. Show the students how the music was recorded in the grooves. If someone has an old record player, play the records for the class.

Fun Trivia Time

See if you can find the answers to these questions. Get your teacher or parents to show you how to look for them on the internet or in a book.

1. The City of Memphis is located in what state?
2. Memphis is located in "the Delta". What does "the Delta" mean?
3. What kind of music is Beale Street famous for?
4. Who invented the electric guitar?
5. What is a "record", and how was it made?
6. Most "single" songs in the fifties were released on what kind of record?
7. There were 78, 45, and 331/3 RPM records. What does "RPM" stand for?
8. What is Graceland, and who used to live there?
9. What instrument did Jerry Lee Lewis play?
10. What does *hot-rod* mean?
11. What are *penny loafers*?
12. Who owned Sun Records?
13. Who were some of the people who recorded at Sun Records Studio?
14. What was a "soda fountain"?
15. What kind of jacket was popular with teenagers in the fifties?
16. What did Chuck Berry do before he became a famous rock 'n' roll star?
17. Where was Stax Record Studio located?
18. What kind of music was Stax Records famous for recording?
19. Who is B.B. King?
20. Where was the style of music known as "*The Blues*" invented?
21. Who was Robert Johnson?
22. What is a *Hula Hoop*?
23. Who wrote the famous rock 'n' roll song *Blue Suede Shoes*?
24. What is a "poodle skirt"?
25. Who was Jimmy (James) Dean?
26. Who was president for most of the fifties? (from 1952—1960)

27. What were “ducktails”?

Name That Dog

1. Make a list of the kinds of dogs mentioned by name in *Rock ‘N’ Roll Dogs*.
2. What is your favorite dog in the story?
3. What is your favorite kind of dog?

Internet Resources:

The History Channel Site

<http://www.history.com/exhibits/fifties/>

“Rewind the Fifties” Site

<http://www.lotl.com/>

Take Me Back to the Fifties Site:

Great Slide Show about the fifties

<http://oldfortyfives.com/TakeMeBackToTheFifties.htm>

The Fifties Web

<http://www.fiftiesweb.com/>

Sun Studios—A virtual tour of the fifties

Memphis record studio.

<http://www.sunstudio.com/index.html>

Stax Records Site—history of the Memphis label

<http://www.soulsvilleusa.com/about-stax/>

Virtual Tour of Graceland: Memphis home of Elvis

<http://www.elvis.com/graceland/vtour/default.asp>

Wikipedia: Beale Street History

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beale_Street

What Others Are Saying:

Children’s Bookwatch

“The companion book to the award-nominated "Jazz Cats", *Rock 'n' Roll Dogs* is a rhyming children's picturebook about a rockin' band of dogs who love to play their music. "The Blues Dogs Fountain is the scene to make. / They serve sausage sodas and liver shakes. / They're all doggies (so it isn't rude) / For slick Dalmatians to wolf down fast food. / You're all welcome, so trot up the path. / Kids can visit - but don't say, 'Bath!' / To Rock 'n' Roll Memphis Blues Dogs." Jubilant color illustrations by award-winning artist Chuck Galey add the perfect touch to this charming book for young canine and rock-'n'-roll lovers.”

Children's Literature

“Things are happening at the dog hot spot called "The Fireplug." A variety of dogs are excitedly gathering at the Memphis music club and are anxiously anticipating a performance by the Rock ‘n’ Roll Memphis Blues Dogs. As stray dogs ride their motorcycles to the club, the pink toy poodles are primping their hair in preparation. Soon, dachshunds, cocker spaniels, boxers, and Irish setters will all jive and jump to the jamming sounds at the Rock ‘n’ Roll Memphis Blues Dogs' show. Kids are always welcome but please keep the cats, fleas, and vets away! The enormous illustrations are hilarious. Readers will laugh at the pictures of dogs dressed like humans...”

Trivia Question Answers

1. Tennessee.
2. The fertile plain along the lower Mississippi river.
3. “Blues” music and early “Rock and Roll” music.
4. Les Paul.
5. A record was a round piece of vinyl with the sound pressed into the grooves while it was hot. It was played by spinning it on a record player using a needle that followed the spinning grooves.
6. Most singles were issued on 45 RPM records.
7. “RPM” stands “revolutions per minute”. This is how fast the record player turntable has to spin to play the music correctly. A 45 RPM record is designed to spin 45 times per minute on the turntable of the record player.
8. Graceland is a plantation style house in Memphis, Tennessee that was the home of Elvis Presley, the most famous rock and roll singer of all time.
9. The piano.
10. A car with a customized “souped up” engine that is very fast.

11. Slip on shoes popular in the fifties with slots to hold new pennies.
12. Sam Phillips
13. Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Roy Orbison
14. A counter with a row of stools in a “Malt Shop” or Pharmacy that served ice cream, malts, sodas, and soft drinks.
15. Leather motorcycle jackets.
16. He was a hairdresser.
17. Memphis, Tennessee.
18. Popular black music known as “Soul Music.”
19. A famous blues artist who named his guitar “Lucille.”
20. In the African American culture of the Mississippi Delta (mostly Mississippi, but including Memphis, Tennessee.)
21. The most famous early blues artist of all whose style of play influenced all the artists to come after him.

22. A large round plastic hoop that you swing around the hips. It was a very popular with kids in the fifties.

23. Carl Perkins.

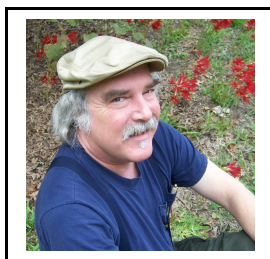
24. A style of skirt popular with teenage girls in the fifties. It has an appliqué of a poodle dog on it.

25. A movie star popular as a teenage idol in the fifties.

26. Dwight Eisenhower, popularly known as “Ike”.

27. You greased the long hair on the sides of your head and combed both sides back to meet in the back of your head.

About the Author



David Davis is a humorist, cartoonist, writer, and speaker. He grew up in San Antonio, Texas. Most of his stories draw on his Texas roots, and his “baby-boomer” love of music.

Davis is the author of *Jazz Cats* and *Ten Redneck Babies*, both of which were named to the Children’s Choice Top 100 list. *Jazz Cats* was a finalist for the Texas Golden Spur Award, as well. His satirical *Night before Christmas* books are perennial comedy best-sellers.

In addition to his books, David has published pen-and-ink artwork, cartoons, poems, humor, and short stories in various magazines and newspapers, including *Travels with Grandpaw*, a popular internet comic strip about old time Texas, featured at a genealogy website. He won an award from the Mississippi Press Association for his political cartooning some years ago.

Davis is a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. He is an active speaker and presenter at educational conferences and schools, and he has been a featured author at the Texas Book Festival. David Davis lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

David’s Picture Books

(Pelican Publishing Co.)

Southern Child’s Garden of Verses, ISBN 978-1-58980-764-8

Texas Aesop’s Fables, ISBN 978-1-58980-569-9

Texas Mother Goose, ISBN 978-1-58980-369-5

Rock ‘N’ Roll Dogs, ISBN 978-1-58980-349-7

Librarian’s Night Before Christmas, ISBN 978-1-58980-336-7

Texas Zeke and the Longhorn, ISBN 978-1-58980-348-0

Ten Redneck Babies: A Southern Counting Book, ISBN 1-58980-232-2

The Nurse’s Night Before Christmas, ISBN 1-58980-152-0

Jazz Cats, ISBN 1-56554-859-0

Redneck Night Before Christmas, ISBN 1-56554-293-2

Trucker’s Night Before Christmas, ISBN 1-56554-656-3



“DUKE”

FUN FACT: In Rock ‘N’ Roll Dogs the head waiter at The Fireplug is a springer spaniel named Duke. He’s a real dog owned by Mr. Davis! Duke loves to retrieve tennis balls.

"TWO FOR ONE PROGRAMS" DETAILS AT: www.davidrdavis.com or janpeck@mindspring.com

COMING TO YOUR SCHOOL ON:

TWO FOR ONE PROGRAMS

Jan Peck and David Davis teamed up about five years ago to present a program to reach every student. "Our goal is to put on the most entertaining, inspiring, motivating school program you've ever had!"

Our highly interactive presentations includes:

*An impromptu Jazz Band (with shades, mock musical instruments, and hats) using Davis's Children's Choice Award winning book: **Jazz Cats** and starring your students and teachers. An interactive skit featuring **Texas Zeke and the Longhorn**.*

*A GIANT 6'6" CARROT and a dramatic play of **The Giant Carrot** starring your students as the actors. You'll take a dive **Way Down Deep in the Deep Blue Sea** and go on a **Pirate Treasure Hunt, me maties!***

*Inspiration for writing, reading, and drawing. Encouragement, inspiration and help with taking the (TAKS) creative writing test for Texas 4th Graders! Special surprises and gifts for all students and teachers!
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