

MAKE THE MOST OF R. FRIEND'S AUTHOR VISIT!!!

## **Ideas for a Successful Author Visit**

*Caution - This is not intended as a "Wear Yourself Out" idea resource for an author visit - but suggestions on how to get the children excited and MAKE THE MOST OF R.FRIEND'S VISIT with your school!*

### **CLASSROOM TEACHERS**

- Check out R. Friend books from the library and read excerpts. R. Friend will be acting out the very first book - *Swallows Her Pride* - during the performance.
- Decorate bulletin boards/doors in farm theme - or your rendition of *PU You Stink* art work!
- Each class picks something from the books to make and/or "wear" that day - ex. Pig hats - goo-goo eyes - clothespins - bandanas - hats like Grandma - paper hats like in *Hats Off To Heroes* - sunflower hats
- And/or dress up as farmers/cowboys the day of the visit. Have classes visit our kid's website [www.DownOnFriendlyAcres.com](http://www.DownOnFriendlyAcres.com) - enter art and writing contests - including "The Funniest Farmer's Tale."
- Have volunteers make oatmeal refrigerated cookies - banana bread - gumdrop bars - crank homemade ice cream - recipes found in books.
- Invite your local papers, television stations, and/or your area high school may have a video class in need of a multimedia project.

### **CHARACTER BUILDING/PRINCIPAL-COUNSELOR**

- Read excerpts from the books over the intercom in the morning. Suggestions - *Swallows Her Pride* poem *Hafta, Hafta, Hafta* - page 66/67 or *Hats Off To Heroes* - poem page 78
- Highlight new vocabulary found in all the *Down On Friendly Acres* series
- Highlight the book *Hats off to Heroes*. As a school, select several recipients of a Sunshine Basket; for a cancer patient, elderly, someone who is in rehab after an illness or accident, or an American soldier or veteran. Some schools have opted for each class and/or grade level to select a worthy recipient and made it very personal.

- Have a recipient of a Sunshine Basket come to the assembly and award them with their basket after the program.
- Have Grandma Brombaugh's wise sayings posted throughout the school - for example, "If you can't say anything nice - don't say anything at all!"
- Plaster from "the bottom of my heart notes" on the walls and/or give to each other. (Example -pages 56-57 "Hats off to Heroes!")
- Plaster pictures of several staff members with clothespins on their nose, ears and mouth to mimic R. Friend's promo picture.
- Use silly putty and colored funnies to illustrate the lesson Ronda learns in "Woolly Baaad Lies" (released late fall 2009) by making a copy then stretching and distorting the image.

### READING AND LANGUAGE ART TEACHERS

- If R. Friend is conducting writing workshops, have the children prepare ahead of time questions to ask the author.
- Have children draw their renditions of some of the artwork in the book. Ronda's baby sister, Diane, is "Miss Hawkephant". (Page 44 in first book) Have the children to draw what two creatures they are like and write why?
- Have children create a story using pictures from their lives that teaches a lesson they've learned.
  - Write about a hero in their life and name a medal in their honor highlighting what they have meant to them.
- Interview a Veteran in their family/life and/or grandparents about the "good old days" and their childhood memories
- Write a poem of their childhood memories
- Place Noah Webster's new vocabulary words around the school for display
- Idiom study
- Study what was popular in the 50's and 60's
- After the visit, allow the children to use some of their computer time responding to R. Friend's presentation and books. Have them enter the writing and art contests at [www.DownOnFriendlyAcres.com](http://www.DownOnFriendlyAcres.com)

## FINE ARTS - MUSIC AND ART TEACHERS

- Learn songs from books - *There's no End in Friend, Come On Down on Friendly Acres* - CD's are available for purchase on our website and pre-order forms.
- Older children write a song and/or collaborate with friends and perform it
- Have children draw their renditions of some of the artwork in the book.
- Lamb contest - Classes make a lamb out of whatever materials they choose - cotton - paper mache - yarn. Goes along with *Leave A. M.ark B.ehind!*
  - Line the walls with renditions of "goo-goo" eyes (1<sup>st</sup> book - page 12)
  - Have children draw their renditions of some of the artwork in the book.
- Ronda's baby sister, Diane, is "Miss Hawkephant". She watches Ronda like a hawk and remembers like an elephant what she did to get in trouble and becomes an angel because of it! Ask the children to draw what two creatures they are like and write why?
  - Draw their sibling they may fuss 'n fight with the most and put them literally in a pickle (*Panic In The Pig Pen* page 79) and or on a turkey (*Time Out* - pg 28)
- Learn and perform dances from the 50's and 60's (and or square dances)
- Mimic Van Gogh's sunflower picture and/or come up with one of their own
  - Hide sunflowers around the school
    - Make homemade soap
    - Crank homemade ice cream (*Time Out At Home*)
- Soda fountains, cake walks, maypoles, hula hoops, farmer and the dell, drop the hanky, hopscotch, jump rope competition, red rover, red light - green

light - bunny hop, elephant sale, slinkies, yo/yo, "jacob's ladder" "cat in the cradle" with string around fingers, hide 'n seek, jacks, marbles, paper game played in the sixties using thumb and index finger, etc

- Have old items displayed from 50's and 60's - Chatty Cathy's - Betsy Wetsie's - slinkies, yo-yo's hula hoops, toys from that era
- Milk cows - churn butter - Have a local dairy farm if possible bring in a cow for children to see how a cow is milked
- Bring in grandparents that know how to crochet, knit, tat, etc.

[www.RondaFriend.com](http://www.RondaFriend.com)

[www.SunflowerSeedsPress.com](http://www.SunflowerSeedsPress.com) - read sample chapter from the books

[www.DownOnFriendlyAcres.com](http://www.DownOnFriendlyAcres.com) - children's art and writing contests



Watch Ronda Friend in action during her assemblies and family nights!



Check out Ronda's page and become a friend



All of Ronda's books have their AR Quizzes