



## Watermelon Nametags

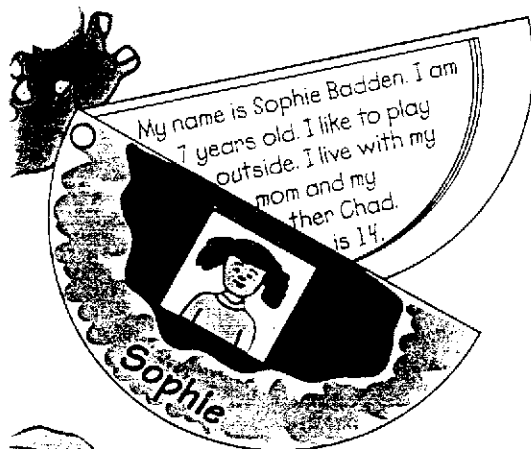
These fashionable nametags are sure to receive rave student reviews. You will need one watermelon-decorated paper plate for every two students. Cut the plates in half; then punch two holes in each plate half as shown. A student uses a white or green paint marker to personalize his watermelon half. He then threads a length of yarn through the holes in his nametag, ties the yarn ends, and wears the nametag around his neck. Not only will your students enjoy this activity, but it will save you plenty of time too!

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## A Patch Of Special Students!

Here's a picture-perfect booklet project that reminds students how special they are! For the best results, set aside time on each of three different days to work on the project. To begin, photograph each student. Then have each child write a story about herself that describes her hobbies, family, and other interests. Collect and edit these stories.

On the second day, give each child a paper-plate half, a supply of precut booklet paper (see the illustration), and her edited story. Have each student personalize the back of her plate half, then use a green crayon to color the plate's rim. While the students are quietly copying their stories onto the booklet paper, have small groups visit a painting center. At the center, have each student use thinned tempera paint to paint the rim of her plate green and the center of her plate red.



On a third day, have each child trace both of her hands on green paper and cut out the resulting shapes. Then give each child her painted plate half, an unpainted plate half, and a brad. (For easy management, hole-punch the left-hand corner of each plate half before distribution.) To assemble her booklet project, a student places her story between her paper-plate booklet covers and secures the project with her brad. Next she glues her hand cutouts to the back cover and curls the resulting foliage around her pencil for a desired effect. Finally distribute the photographs that you took on the first day of the project. Have each child trim and mount her photograph on the front cover of her booklet, then use a black permanent marker to write her name and draw watermelon seeds. If desired, display these one-of-a-kind booklets on a bulletin board titled "A Patch Of Very Special Students."

*adapted from an idea by Molly Holland McLean  
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## A Talking Watermelon?

Any way you slice it, your youngsters are sure to find this writing activity irresistible. Remind students that historians believe that the watermelon originated in Africa. Then share with your students the West African trickster tale *Anansi And The Talking Melon* retold by Eric A. Kimmel (Holiday House, Inc.; 1994). After discussing the story, challenge each child to write and illustrate his own trickster tale titled "Anansi And The Talking Watermelon." Have each student describe a trick—involving a watermelon—that Anansi plays on another animal. To make a class book, compile the students' completed stories between two decorated tagboard covers. Place the resulting book in your classroom library for all to enjoy!

