

© 2015 Elfrieda H. Hiebert. Some rights reserved.



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 United States License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 171 Second Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, California, 94105, USA.

Photos used in this work are licensed as noted for each photo.

"SummerReads" is a trademark of TextProject.

May 2015 edition



Labor Day

written by Alice Lee Folkins
& Andrew Funk

Labor Day

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
What is Labor Day?	4
Happy Labor Day	5
The Last Day of Summer	6
Rate your thinking and reading	7
Comprehension questions	7



Dear Student,

I am a teacher who has studied how children learn to read well. What I have learned has been used to write Summer Reads and programs like Quick Reads® and Ready Readers.

The best way to be ready for the new school year is to read every day of the summer. You can choose to read a chapter or a book from Summer Reads. But be sure to read it at least three times on the same day. Here's how to use Summer Reads:

1. Start by reading it yourself. Mark the words that you don't know.
2. Next, ask someone to read with you. Get that person to help you with any words you don't know. You can even go to the computer to www.textproject.org and hear a recording of the books.
3. Last, you're going to read by yourself to answer the questions at the end of the book. You can go to the computer to find the answers.

Have a reading-filled summer!

Elfrieda (Freddy) Hiebert, Ph.D.

Inventor of the TExT model

Labor Day

Photo: An aviation structural mechanic fabricates metal parts aboard an aircraft carrier near the California coast, February 2009. Taken by Patrick Heil. Public domain image by the U.S. Navy.

Introduction

Many of our holidays are held on a certain day. For example, Independence Day is always on July 4th. But we also have some holidays that are held on a certain weekday of a year. Labor Day is always the first Monday in September. Last year, in 2009, we celebrated Labor Day on September 7th. This year we will celebrate Labor Day on September 6th. Labor Day celebrates the many American men, women and teenagers who work, or labor. By celebrating Labor Day on a Monday, workers can add an extra day to their weekend. Is there a better way to honor workers than to give them a day off?

Labor Day is also the last holiday in summer. By the time we celebrate Labor Day, many students have already gone back to school. Everyone has already taken their summer vacations, and it is time to get back to work. But for most of the United States, the weather is still like summer. For many people Labor Day is the last day of summer, so they spend the day having one last picnic or cookout before fall begins.

Labor Day

What is Labor Day?



The first Labor Day was held on September 5th, 1882 in New York City. It was planned by a group of workers who wanted to show everyone the different kinds of jobs and workers in New York City. They also wanted to show everyone how they made their hometown a nice place to live and work.

Photo: Historic image of child laborers at midnight at a glass and bottle factory in Indiana, August 1908. Taken by Lewis Wickes Hine. Restored by Michel Vujišteke. Released into the public domain by the Library of Congress.

One hundred and twenty years ago, working was very different than it is today. For one thing, most children did not spend their summer reading or playing because many worked in factories. People, both young and old, worked long hours; some as long as 12 hours each day. Many workers fell asleep at their work because they were so tired. Some workers were hurt or killed because they were too tired to be careful at their work.

Workers were upset at how badly they were being treated. They decided to form unions. A union is made up of workers in a city, or workers who do the same kind of work. For example, many teachers in your school belong to a teachers' union. As a union, workers have more power to make changes to their workplace. Unions worked with businesses to make all the changes we have today. The first Labor Day parade was to show how unions had the power to make good changes. Unions made it possible for children like you to spend your summer reading and playing.

For more information about Summer Reads visit www.textproject.org/summerreads

v.2.00 © 2015 Elfrieda H. Hiebert. Some rights reserved (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/>)

Labor Day

Happy Labor Day



The first Labor Day celebration took place in New York City and it included a street parade that featured 10,000 workers and their families. Afterwards there was a celebration with lots of food. Leaders of some labor unions gave speeches about the goals they had reached and some that they hoped to reach. One hundred and twenty years later many cities

still have big celebrations like the first Labor Day celebration. Cities all over the United States still have lots of workers in unions. Many of the workers from those unions march in parades.

Many people celebrate Labor Day by going to see parades. But there are lots of other things that people can do, too. People can go to county fairs. Farmers, who have worked hard all summer long, show off their farm animals or vegetables in county fairs. People who do not live on farms can see lots of baby farm animals and see how farmers care for them. People can also see strange things at county fairs, such as butter sculptures. It can take many days or weeks to make butter sculptures that look like people or animals. One was a life-size butter sculpture of a cow and her calf!

There are lots of other things to do and see at county fairs. Spending Labor Day at county fairs is a great way to celebrate the work that farmers do to make sure we have good food to eat.

Labor Day



The Last Day of Summer



Labor Day is often thought of as the last day of summer. But for most parts of America, the weather is still warm, like it is still summer. Fall's chilly weather is usually another month away. So why do people think of Labor Day as the last day of summer? Because most people have been relaxing and having fun all summer long. Now it is time to get back to work.

Summer is filled with lots of wonderful things to do and see, but so is fall. People can still go to baseball games months after Labor Day. But Labor Day is the start of football season in the United States. Football fans can go and see their favorite football team play. Football players who have been practicing all summer can't wait to finally start their football season. Many football fans can't wait for Labor Day, either.

With the extra day off from work or school, many people use Labor Day to do things that they have enjoyed all summer long. They have picnics in parks, or go on one last hike. Many cities close their swimming pools after Labor Day, so some people will go for one last swim in the pool. Labor Day is sometimes the last day to enjoy the beach or the park before the weather gets chilly. So finish up your last ice cream cone or slice of watermelon. Here comes fall!

Labor Day

Rate your thinking and reading

✓ Put a check each time you read one of the chapters of the book.

★ Give yourself a star for Sharing if you told someone about something you learned from reading the chapter.

✚ Give yourself a + if you can tell that your reading is getting smoother.

	1st Read	2nd Read	3rd Read	Sharing	Smoother
Introduction					
What is Labor Day?					
Happy Labor Day					
The Last Day of Summer					

Comprehension questions

What is Labor Day?

1. True or false? The first Labor Day celebration honored workers all over the United States.

☐ true ☐ false

2. Which of the following were reasons to change labor laws?

☐ Workers were getting hurt or killed working long hours

☐ Children were allowed to work in factories

☐ Workers were upset about the way they were treated at workplaces

☐ All of the above

Happy Labor Day

3. True or false? People have to live near large cities to join unions.

☐ true ☐ false

4. Which of the following is something you might see at a county fair?

☐ Baby farm animals

☐ Butter sculptures

☐ Vegetables

☐ All of the above

The Last Day of Summer

5. Why do people think of Labor Day as the last day of summer?

.....

.....

.....

6. True or false? People can go watch a baseball or a football game on Labor Day.

☐ true ☐ false