

Fancy Nancy

Written by Jane O'Connor
Illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser

Summary

Nancy LOVES everything “fancy” and French! She gives her family “fancy” lessons and then they all go on a fancy dinner adventure.

Ideas for Classroom use

Discussion questions - encourage children to find examples from the story to document their answers.

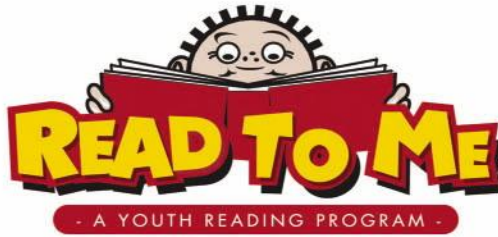
What are some of the “fancy” touches Nancy makes to transform her bedroom?

Why does Nancy say that the rest of her family isn't fancy at all?

What are some of the “fancy lessons” Nancy teaches her family?

Was the “fancy” dinner at the “King’s Crown” a success for Nancy? Why or why not?

Do you know any “fancy” people? What makes them fancy?



Responding to the Story

Interior Design

Creating “fancy” bedrooms

Nancy shows us how she transformed her rather plain bedroom into a “fancy” one. Encourage children to draw before and after bedroom illustrations of their room. On one piece of paper, encourage them to draw their room as it is today. On another piece of paper of the same size, have them draw their room after adding “fancy” things that transform it. What changes do they make? Would they remove anything to make their room fancier?

**Note: Boys might not like the idea of having a “fancy” room, but may prefer it being called “cool.” Either way, the illustrations turn out being incredibly “fancy!”

Detailed explanation

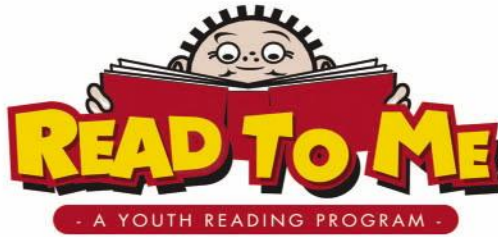
Invite children to write a detailed explanation about the particular “fancy” or “cool” things they put into their newly designed bedroom. Then, ask them which, of all the “fancy or “cool” things they drew in their second picture, they’d most like to get if they could? *Is it possible?* If they think getting that item isn’t likely, is there another one that is? What might it be and how could they get it?

Using Fancy Manners

Fancy Day

Have a “fancy” day at school. Invite children to come to school dressed in “fancy” clothes. Invite parents to send in items for children to enjoy a French Continental breakfast. Include items such as croissants, brioche, pains au chocolat, baguette with jam and butter and hot chocolate for everyone to enjoy while practicing their “fancy” manners. Take “fancy” photos. For more ideas about what to serve at the French Continental breakfast, look at the definition of “continental breakfast” at this website:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breakfast>



Teach words in French for classroom items such as books, pencils, pens, and paper. For help with this go to:

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/languages/french/subjects/school.shtml>

...or have someone who is French, come in to teach French words and to share about France with your class.

Fancy Day Identities

Before “Fancy Day,” have children draw what they would like to wear. Have them choose a “fancy name,” like Sir Charles, or Madam Alyssa and wear fancy name tags. Create a “fancy” personality with a “fancy” career.

Fancy Thank you notes

“Merci,” means “thank you” in French. “Merci beaucoup,” means, “thank you very much.” Encourage children to write thank you notes to those people who help with the Fancy Continental Breakfast. Make fancy stationery with the words “Merci” or “Merci beaucoup” on the front. Here’s a website that teaches you one method for making fancy paper in the classroom:

<http://www.kid-craft-central.com/kid-writing-paper.html>

Fancy Initials

Teach children how to form the first letter of their names in fancy Italic handwriting. Also teach them how to form the Italic letter “M” so they can put that letter at the beginning of “Merci” when they create their stationery. A chart for your children to use as they try to form the Italic letters of their first name and the letter “M” can be found at the site below. Make a copy of the chart so children can practice their initials before actually writing the thank you letters.

http://quamut.com/quamut/calligraphy/page/the_italic_script.html

More fancy handwriting!

If you want to be “really, really, fancy” in your thank-you letter writing, teach your children how to use Calligraphy marker pens. Calligraphy markers come in many colors and sizes and really make things extremely “fancy!”

♥Lesson created by Val Hornburg, Portland, OR, 2009