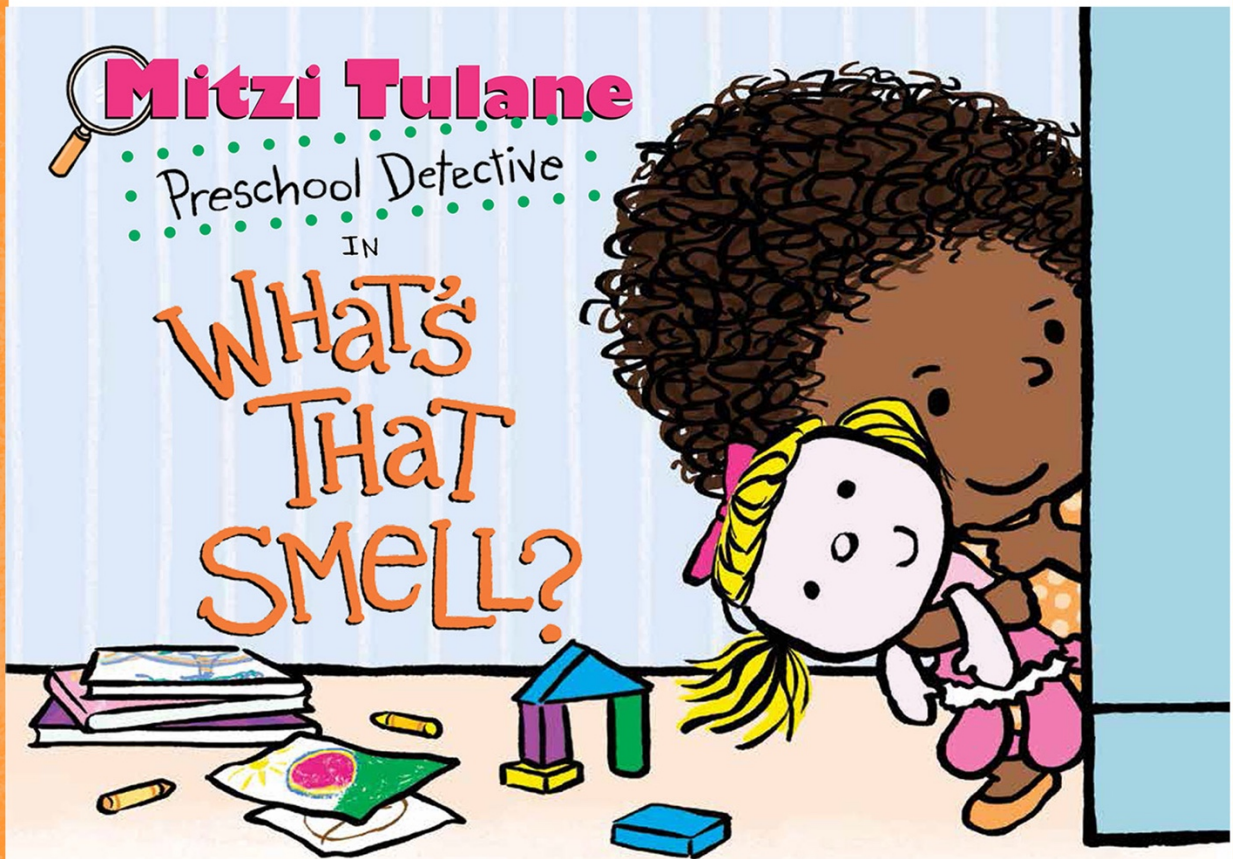


Teacher's Guide

created by Marcie Colleen, based on the picture book:



Lauren McLaughlin • illustrated by Debbie Ridpath Ohi



Published by Random House Children's Books

Lauren McLaughlin
Author, *Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Smell?*



Lauren McLaughlin spent ten years writing and producing movies before turning her attention to fiction. She has published three Young Adult novels, *Cycler*, *(Re)Cycler*, and *Scored*. When her own daughter came along and developed an ardent love of picture books, she found herself falling in love with the genre too. With its tight plot structures and focus on dialog, it allowed her to rediscover her old screenwriting chops. Visit her at <http://www.laurenmclaughlin.net/> or on Twitter @LaurenMcWoof.

Debbie Ridpath Ohi
Illustrator, *Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Smell?*



Debbie Ridpath Ohi is author & illustrator of *Where Are My Books?* (Simon & Schuster). Her illustrations also appear in picture books *I'm Bored* and *Naked!* by Michael Ian Black, the *Ruby Rose* picture books written by Rob Sanders, the *Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective* picture books by Lauren McLaughlin, as well as ten Judy Blume chapter books and middle grade titles reissued by Atheneum/Simon & Schuster. For more info, visit DebbieOhi.com or @inkyelbows on Twitter.

Marcie Colleen, Curriculum Writer

This guide was created by Marcie Colleen, a former teacher with a BA in English Education from Oswego State and a MA in Educational Theater from NYU. In addition to creating curriculum guides for children's books, Marcie can often be found writing books of her own at home in San Diego, California. Visit her at www.thisismarciecolleen.com.

How to Use This Guide

This classroom guide for *Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Smell?* is designed for students in preschool through second grade. It is assumed that teachers will adapt each activity to fit the needs and abilities of their own students.

It offers activities to help teachers integrate *Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Smell?* into English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies curricula. Art and drama are used as a teaching tool throughout the guide.

All activities were created in conjunction with relevant content standards in ELA, math, science, social studies, art, and drama.

Title: Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Smell?

Author: Lauren McLaughlin

Illustrator: Debbie Ridpath Ohi

Ages: 2-5/Grades: P-K

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Brief synopsis:

Mitzi Tulane may be only three years old, but she sure knows how to follow a trail of evidence and solve tough mysteries. From the strange happenings in the kitchen to the sudden arrival of every family member she's ever met, Mitzi pieces together the clues and (finally) realizes that she's . . . in the middle of her own surprise birthday party!

Kids and parents will laugh along as Mitzi sorts through not-so-subtle hints and comes to her conclusions. Readers will love figuring out the surprise ahead of the private-eye protagonist! Debbie Ridpath Ohi's bouncy illustrations bring an extra layer of fun to Lauren McLaughlin's clever story.

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English Language Arts

Reading Comprehension

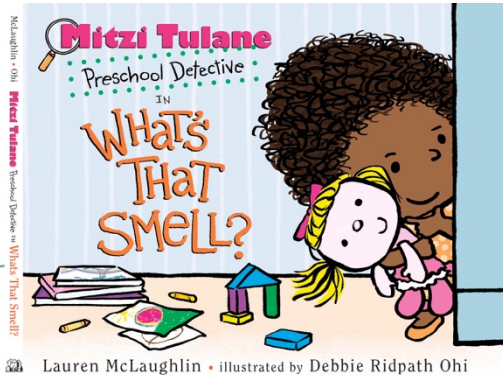
Before reading *Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Smell?*, help students identify the basic parts of a picture book: jacket, front cover, back cover, title page, spine, end papers, and jacket flap.

Lauren McLaughlin grew up in the small town of Wenham, Massachusetts. After college and a brief flirtation with anthropology she spent ten years in the film business as both a screenwriter and producer before turning her attention to novels and picture books.

Debbie Ridpath Ohi is a writer and illustrator based in Toronto, Canada. She began her career as a computer programmer and analyst, but has since made a career of writing and illustrating books for young people. She is the illustrator of Michael Ian Black's picture books, *I'm Bored* (2012) and *Naked!* (2014).

Random House New York
randomhousekids.com

Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective, is unstoppable!



There's no case too big, small, or smelly for Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective!

The house at 123 Maple Street is always chock-full of unusual activity, and today is no exception. There's yellow goop on the kitchen floor, a very unusual smell, and Daddy shaved...but it's Sunday! He never does that! Armed with these clues and her trusty sidekick, Gigi Gaboo, Mitzi is on her way to discovering just what on earth is happening...right under her nose!



The Front Cover~

Describe the cover illustration.

- o Who do you see?
- o What are the characters doing?

Mimic what the girl character is doing.

- o How does it make you feel?
- o How do you think she is feeling? What do you think she is thinking?

Read the title of the book and look closely at the cover illustration. Can you guess what the story might be about? What clues can you find?

The Dedication Page~

- Describe what you see on the dedication page.
- What do you think Mitzi is doing? Use the title as evidence, if necessary.

Now read or listen to the book.

Help students summarize in their own words what the book was about.

- What was Mitzi doing when she smelled something interesting?
- Name at least three smells that Mitzi is used to smelling.
- Describe what Mitzi finds in the kitchen.
- Why does Mitzi go to Baby Kev's room?
- Why is it odd that Daddy has shaving cream on his face?
- List at least five people who show up at Mitzi's house.



Illustration by Debbie Ridpath Ohi from MITZI TULANE, PRESCHOOL DETECTIVE: WHAT'S THAT SMELL? written by Lauren McLaughlin (Random House Children's).

- Name at least three clues that tell Mitzi that a birthday party is happening.
- What clues are found on the birthday cake?
- What does Mitzi mean when she says, "I know how this tune ends?"

Let's talk about the people who made *Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Smell?*

- Who is the author?
- Who is the illustrator?
- What kind of work did each person do to make the book?

Now, let's look closely at the illustrations.

- Check out some of the following details that Debbie Ridpath Ohi includes. Can you find:
 - *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* book
 - A book about two white dogs
 - A pig plant pot
 - Four slices of lemon
 - A bunny lamp
 - An orange cat
 - Red sneakers
 - A toy truck
 - A pink polka-dotted party hat
 - Four birthday candles
 - A party horn

- Have you ever had a birthday party?
- Who did you invite?
- What did you do?
- What did you eat?

Encourage students to bring in photographs of their birthday celebrations to share.

Students can write about what made their party so much fun. They should be sure to describe the experience in as much detail as possible.

OR

Create a fictional story about the ultimate birthday party! What crazy fun would make a birthday party the most memorable ever?

Each story should include a beginning, a middle and an ending.



Illustration by Debbie Ridpath Ohi from MITZI TULANE, PRESCHOOL DETECTIVE: WHAT'S THAT SMELL? written by Lauren McLaughlin (Random House Children's).

Optional: Create the story together as a class.

Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective the sequel

At the end of *Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Smell*, it is made clear that the world needs a preschool detective. Therefore, let's write a sequel which includes another Mitzi mystery!

Choose one of the following titles to build your new mystery around one of the five senses:

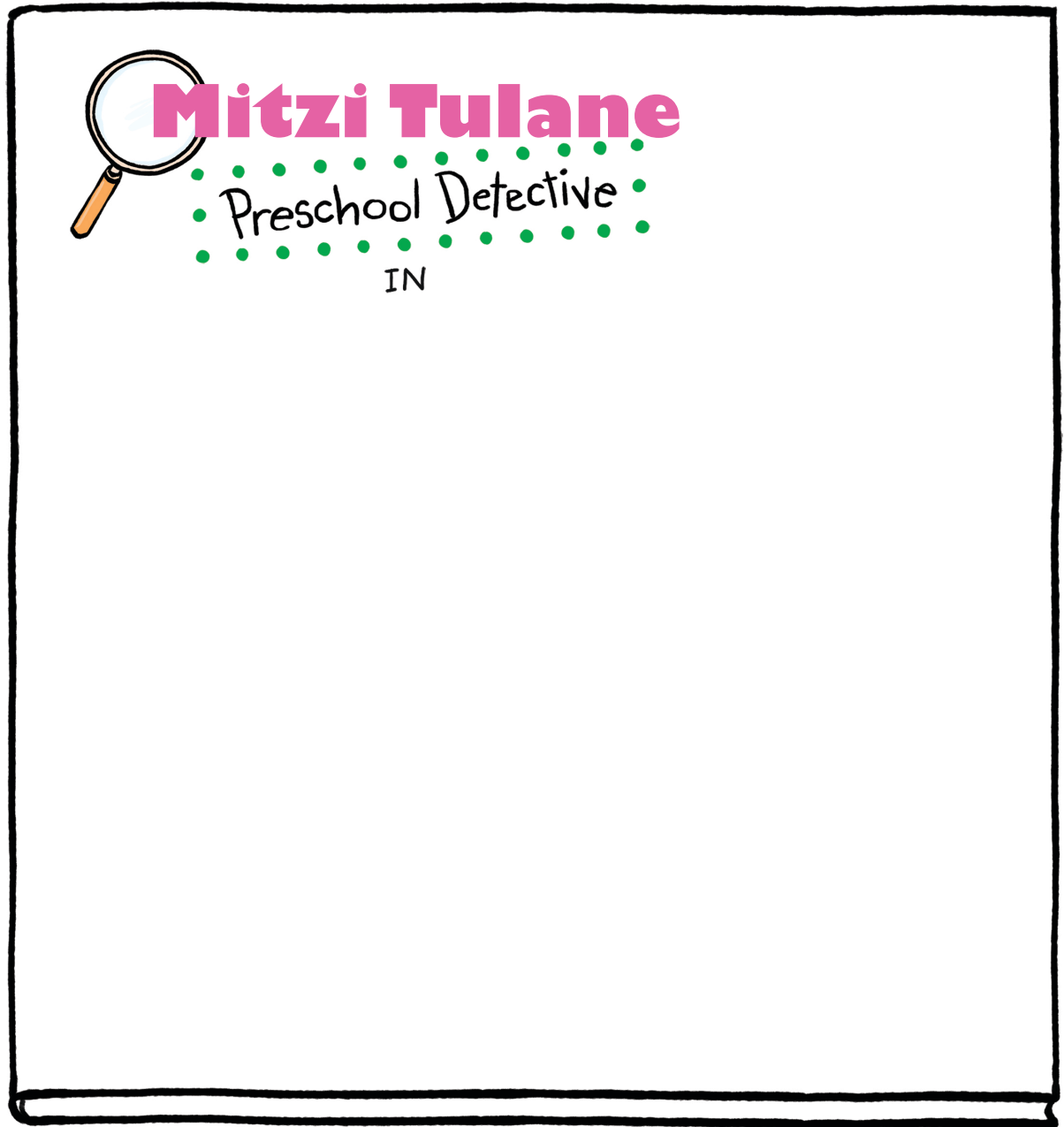
- *Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Sound?*
- *Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Taste?*
- *Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Feeling?*
- *Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That I See?*

Use *Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Smell?* as a mentor text when needed.

Name: _____

What should the next Mitzi Tulane story be called?

Draw the new cover below:



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Speaking and Listening Activities

Picture books are written to be read aloud. Here are some ways to bring *Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Smell?* to life in the classroom and have fun with speaking and listening skills.

Mime

- Ask students to silently act out a page from the book, exaggerating body motions and facial expressions. See if others can identify the page that goes along with the mimed action.

Drama

- Create a TV commercial to encourage people to read *Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Smell?*
- In small groups, act out *Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Smell?* as a play.
- Make and record a radio version of *Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Smell?* Students decide what to use for the sound effects to create a mental picture of the story.
- Have students work together to create a newscast about the mystery to present to their classmates. Students will write a script and take on the roles of anchors and on-site reporters. Students can choose to interview suspects from the case or even eyewitnesses to the crime. Videotape the final newscasts so that students can watch themselves on TV.

Observation

Detectives, and readers of mystery, need to have a keen eye and memory. Here are a few activities to develop observational skills.

THE MYSTERY VISITOR: Have someone unannounced (a teacher or a student from a different class) come into your classroom while students are working quietly on a task at their desks. Plan with the mystery visitor ahead of time to



Illustration by Debbie Ridpath Ohi from *MITZI TULANE, PRESCHOOL DETECTIVE: WHAT'S THAT SMELL?* written by Lauren McLaughlin (Random House Children's).

make sure he or she does several things in your class during his or her brief visit such as:

- Borrow something like a book, a craft supply, money, etc.
- Talk to a student in the class
- Give a note to the teacher
- Ask a question
- Set something down on a table

After the visitor leaves the room, have the students write down as many details as they can remember about the visit.

- What details do they recall? What was the visitor wearing? How long was the visitor in the room? What did the visitor borrow while in the room? Whom did he or she talk to? What did he or she say?

Once everyone has finished writing, ask students to share their observations. Compare notes. What are the similarities and differences between student reports?

MY _____ IS MISSING!: Place twenty-five different objects on a tray and have students study the tray for thirty seconds. Then remove the tray from sight and have students write down all of the objects that they remember.

DRAW ME A PICTURE: It is important for detectives to use their eyes when investigating a crime scene, but they must also use their ears.

Place students into pairs and have them sit back to back. Have one student in the pair draw a unique picture using simple shapes (hearts, flowers, stars, houses, stick figures, etc.). Give the second student in the pair a blank piece of paper. The student with the picture must dictate to his/her partner how to draw the picture. Make sure to emphasize no cheating or peeking! When finished, change the pictures around the groups and have the partners switch roles. When everyone has drawn once, the team with the most similar pictures wins!



Language Activities

Vocab Detectives

Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Smell? contains a few "detective-related" words which may be new for students. Encourage them to use context clues from both the text and illustrations to infer meanings.

investigate	spy	"the case"
suspected	facts	clues
evidence	surveyed	

Additional Exploration:

- While they read, ask students to look carefully for words they do not know. As soon as they come across a new vocabulary word, they should jot it down.
- Look up the unknown word in the dictionary. (Depending on the level of your students, a student volunteer can do this or the teacher can.) Read the definition.
- Come up with a way to remember what the word means. Using Total Physical Response, students can create an action that symbolizes the word and helps them remember it.

Math

Word Problems

For younger students, the use of pictures or props might be needed to figure out word problems. Note to teachers: Use the word problems below as inspiration to write your own, based on Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Smell? or any other book of study.

- 1) Mitzi will question 5 of her cousins to help solve the mystery. She asks 1 cousin, Gemma, what is going on. How many more cousins will Mitzi question?
(5 - 1 = ?)



Illustration by Debbie Ridpath Ohi from MITZI TULANE, PRESCHOOL DETECTIVE: WHAT'S THAT SMELL? written by Lauren McLaughlin (Random House Children's).

- 2) Mitzi investigates in the kitchen and finds 4 clues for her mystery. She then investigates in the bathroom and finds 3 more clues. How many clues does Mitzi find?
(4 + 3 = ?)
- 3) Mitzi's piece of birthday cake has disappeared! She has 6 suspects who might have taken it. She investigates 5 of those suspects. How many suspects does Mitzi still have to investigate?
(6 - 5 = ?)
- 4) Mitzi loves the cake that her mother made for her birthday. She eats 2 pieces of the cake. Then she eats 1 more. How many pieces of cake does Mitzi eat?
(2 + 1 = ?)
- 5) 9 of Mitzi's cousins come to the birthday party. 7 cousins have to leave early and cannot stay to help clean up. How many cousins are left to help clean up?
(9 - 7 = ?)

Birthday Cake in a Mug

Baking is math.

Have fun practicing measurement while also baking a tasty treat.

All you need is a few ingredients, mugs or paper coffee cups, and a microwave.

- 1 egg yolk
- 1 TB milk (can substitute non-dairy milk, cream, or water)
- 1 TB melted butter
- 2 TB sugar (reduce to 1 TB + 1 tsp for a less sweet muffin)
- 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp vanilla
- 3 TB flour
- Small handful of chocolate chip cookies
- TOPPING: Frosting and sprinkles



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Mix the first seven ingredients in a mug in order that they are listed.
Be sure to combine thoroughly.
Lastly fold chocolate chips in to the batter gently.

Place mug in the microwave and cook at 700 watts. Cooking time will vary based on microwaves, so start with one minute and fifteen seconds. If cake is still undone, cook in fifteen second increments until cake appears dry on top.

Frost and decorate with sprinkles as desired.

Then, enjoy with your favorite friend!

Lemonade: a recipe riddle

Cooking is math. See if your students can solve this tricky recipe problem as they make lemonade fit for a party!

This activity requires that students know the difference between the following amounts: 1, $\frac{1}{2}$, and $\frac{1}{4}$. A discussion of these amounts should precede the activity.

You will need: zip lock bags, lemons sliced into quarters with seeds removed, water, sugar and straws, measuring cup with graduated measurements on it, knife, and a measuring teaspoon.

The students will be given the following recipe:

- In the zip lock bag, place ____ lemon with the seeds removed, _____ cup of water, and ____ teaspoon of sugar. (ask students to predict which blanks to place the following numbers: 1, $\frac{1}{4}$, and $\frac{1}{2}$).
- Zip the bag securely and gently mix the contents for about 30 seconds, making sure to really squeeze the lemon.
- Open a small section of the top of the bag and insert the straw. Taste test the lemonade.
- How is it? Need more lemon? More water? Not enough sugar? Try the recipe again, this time switching the numbers until the desired taste is achieved.

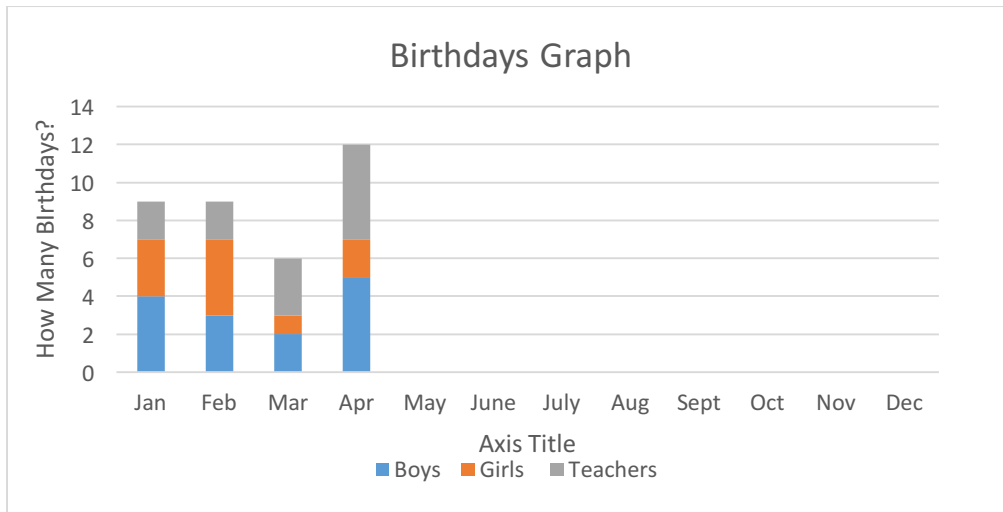
Graphing Birthdays

Conduct a survey of birthdays in the classroom or across a grade level or the entire school.

Graph the birthdays by month.

- Which month has the most?
- Which month(s) have the fewest?
- Are there any months that don't have any birthdays?

- Are there more boys or more girls or more teachers born each month?



Display the graph and its gathered data in a bulletin board display.

For additional graphing fun, create a graph of favorite desserts: cake, ice cream, pie, cookies, etc.

Science

A Detective "Nose"

Mitzi Tulane has a keen sense of smell that leads her to solving the mystery. Below are a few ways in which students can experiment with their own sense of smell.



Illustration from MITZI TULANE, PRESCHOOL DETECTIVE: WHAT'S THAT SMELL?, written by Lauren McLaughlin, illus by Debbie Ridpath Ohi (Random House Children's)

- Plan a trip outside. The trip could include places around a school. Visit the cafeteria, the library, the main office, a garden, or the playground. Write down all the smells you find.
- Collect pairs of items that smell and place them in containers that cannot be seen through. Poke holes into the top of the containers. Mix up the containers and try to match the containers that have the same item.
- Noses and brains are supposed to help you find foods that are good to eat. But how well does this system work? Collect at least 10 different items that smell -- some should be things that are edible such as cheese, curry powder, spices, mushrooms, fruits, and some items are inedible. Test students to see if they can pick out things that can be eaten and those that can't.

Suggested scents:

lemon | orange peel | cedar wood | perfume soaked cotton | banana | pine needles | chocolate | coffee | dirt | vanilla | garlic | onion | mint | vinegar | moth balls | rose flowers | saw dust | ginger | peppermint | pencil shavings | potato chips

The Science of Baking (http://www.education.com/activity/article/Bake_Cake_fifth/)

Although this is a more advanced lesson, it can be fun for kids and can be adapted according to their level and the resources available.

Baking is a science.

When baking a cake, chemical reactions occur.

- Heat helps baking powder produce tiny bubbles of gas, which makes the cake light and fluffy.
- Heat causes protein from the egg to change and make the cake firm.
- Oil keeps the heat from drying out the cake.

Here is a fun experiment to see what happens when you eliminate one ingredient when baking a cake.

What You Need:

- small bowls
- tin foil mini loaf pans (Tip: number each pan with a pencil on the bottom to keep track)



- cooking oil
- measuring spoons
- cup or mug
- index card
- pencil
- science journal (optional)

Ingredients for one cake:

You'll need to measure and mix this set of ingredients four times to complete all four experiments—with the exceptions that are given below.

- 6 tablespoons all-purpose gluten-free flour
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla
- butter knife
- 1/3 of an egg (Break egg into a cup; beat until mixed, then use approx. 1/3 of it. Save the rest for 2 of the other cakes.)



Illustration by Debbie Ridpath Ohi from MITZI TULANE, PRESCHOOL DETECTIVE! WHAT'S THAT SMELL!
written by Lauren McLaughlin (Random House Children's)

What You Do:

1. Coat the inside of each pan with the cooking oil, or cooking spray so the cake doesn't stick.
2. Pre-heat the oven to 350 degrees.
3. Mix all of the dry ingredients together.
4. Now, add the wet ingredients (as stated in the ingredient list, only use 1/3 of the egg; save the rest for use with the other cakes, below).
5. Stir the wet and dry ingredients until smooth and all the same color.
6. Pour batter into the pan.
7. Bake in oven for 15-20 minutes.

After 15 minutes, remove the cake from the oven, set aside, and let cool for tasting later (yum).

Label the first cake #1 on an index card.

Make sure to label each cake with its number to separate differences when all they are all baked.

Next, continue on to make three more cakes, but do the following:

- Leave the oil out of one. Label the cake "#2 NO OIL"
 - Leave the egg out of another. Label the cake "#3 NO EGG"
 - Leave the baking powder out of the third. Label the cake "#4 NO BAKING POWDER"
8. After baking, cut each cake in half and look inside.
- Do the cakes look different from each other?
 - Do they taste different from each other?
 - What did the chemical change and use of heat do to cakes # 1-4?
9. Discuss all of the reactions that occurred with cakes #1-4.
10. Write about, or draw pictures of what was observed in a science journal.

Experiencing with our Five Senses

The way we experience things is through our five senses: sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell. Mitzi uses her senses to solve mysteries.

Discuss:

- What are some examples of the five senses that Mitzi uses to solve the mystery?
- What are some things you love to see? What don't you like to look at?
- What are some sounds you love to hear? What sounds awful to you?
- What are your favorite tastes? What tastes yucky to you?
- What do you like to touch? What don't you like to touch?
- What smells nice to you? What smells don't you like?



Illustration by Debbie Ridpath Ohi from MITZI TULANE, PRESCHOOL DETECTIVE: WHAT'S THAT SMELL? written by Lauren McLaughlin (Random House Children's).

Social Studies

Detectives often hide somewhere to secretly watch for illegal activity. This is called a stakeout. Sometimes they use cameras, video cameras, or high-tech audio recording devices to gather the evidence. These are surveillance tools.

Pretend you want to solve a mystery. Maybe you want to know where your missing socks from the laundry go. Maybe you want to know who keeps moving your toys. Maybe you want to know if your dog ate your cookies.

Plan a stakeout.

- Where would you hide?
- What surveillance tools would you use to help gather the evidence?
- What else would you take on a stakeout? Food? Drinks? Something to pass the time?
- Draw a map of the stakeout area complete with any and all details of your plan.

Present your stakeout plan to the class.

Ask the Officer

Invite a local police officer or detective to talk to students about solving real cases in the community. Students should prepare questions ahead of time. Topics can include fingerprints, DNA, and other clues they collect to solve crimes. You can also visit the FBI for Kids website.

<https://www.fbi.gov/fun-games/kids>



Our Birthday and Celebrations

We all have birthdays, yet we might have different ways of celebrating.

Ask students to tell about their birthdays/favorite birthdays/birthday celebrations (especially cultures other than American).

Have students recite the months of the year and create a birthday calendar bulletin board. Then have each student write their name and place it on their birthday on the calendar.

- Additionally, students can learn to write their month, day, and year of birth and write their birthday in the alternate format (/ /).

Ask students what other birthdays they know or would like to know.

- Ask at least 4 family members and friends what their birthdays are.
- Search for the birthdays of famous people or see what other people have the same birthdays as the students. <http://www.famousbirthdays.com>.

- Write each birthday carefully on the birthday calendar bulletin board.

Discuss *Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective in What's That Smell?* and encourage students to find ways that the book's celebration is the same or different from their own families' celebrations.

Have students describe their birthday celebration in a paragraph and draw a picture to go along with it, if they choose.

Happy Birthday, Everyone!

It can be a struggle to try and celebrate everyone's birthday throughout the year. Especially those pesky summer birthdays. Therefore, do it all at once!

Throw an 'Everybody's Birthday' party for the entire class. Invite family and other classes, as well. Each student can help decorate the classroom, bring in recipes, take photos, face-painting, etc.

Be sure to document with photographs and write down some memories to create a scrapbook afterward.



Illustration from MITZI TULANE, PRESCHOOL DETECTIVE: WHAT'S THAT SMELL?, written by Lauren McLaughlin, illus. by Debbie Ridpath Ohi (Random House Children's)

Birthdays Around the World

Using the following websites, research birthday traditions from around the world.

- <http://www.kidsparties.com/traditions.htm> - Describes briefly birthday customs in many countries, as well as the special traditions of many families.
- <http://www.birthdaycelebrations.net/traditions.htm> - Learn how to sing "Happy Birthday" in different languages, read about the history of birthday cake, cards, candles, balloons, and more, and explore the traditions of many different countries.

Assign each student or groups of 2-3 students a country to research.

Students will then create an oral presentation, complete with visual aids, that includes:

- 3 interesting facts about the country
- A map locating the country
- Facts about birthday traditions
- "Happy Birthday" written in the country's native language
- BONUS: Photographs, samples of music, etc.