

Tree-mendous Ideas

Stop! Don't take down that Christmas tree! Here are some creative ways you can use your tree all year long. Thanks to Amelia Scott for these great ideas as well as the photo from her classroom on the next page. Enjoy!



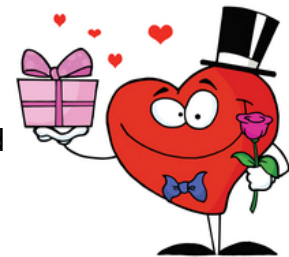
January

Keep the lights on your tree or if you can find some snowflake lights, this really adds to the winter theme. Use spray snow on tree. Have students bring either snowflake or snowmen ornaments to hang on the tree. Students can even make their own snowflakes. Two themes to consider for your tree in January:

1. Have an "Our Winter Poe-tree!" theme. Students write winter poems on snowman stationary or decorate their own, laminate them, and hang on tree. For a tree topper, make a small sign with the title.
2. Instead of poems, have students write short winter stories on bordered snow scene stationery or stationery they have created. Use "If the weather outside is frightful, we hope our stories will make you feel delightful!" for your theme. Have students bring all sorts of winter accessories such as mittens, hats, scarves, etc. to school. They bundle up, go outside, and you take their pictures. Cut around the pictures, back them in colored paper (dark blue or black is effective), laminate them, and hang on tree.

February

A great month to focus on "Great Hearts of America". Students research Americans who have made an impact on our country, dress up as that person, and prepare a speech/essay/monologue to present to the class. Take pictures of students, cut them out and laminate them to hang on the tree, and hang flags and hearts all over the tree. (For a complete lesson on writing biographies, see the **Character Bio Report Mini Pack** on www.lauracandler.com).



March

Decorate your tree with shamrocks, have students write limericks, take pictures of them wearing a shamrock hat, and use the hat as a tree topper.



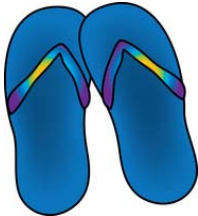
April

"Spring into Poetry" with spring poems, flowers, and Easter egg ornaments or lights!

May

Want to keep the tree going a few more weeks? Try these ideas!

1. Celebrate Memorial Day. Decorate your tree with flags, America ornaments, and even names of students' parents who are serving in the military. Top your tree with an American flag angel ornament!
2. Honor Famous Americans - During a study on early American explorers, have a wax museum and take pictures of students, cut them out, laminate them, and hang them on your tree.
3. Celebrate Reading - Students design book jackets of their favorite books. Hang them on the tree along with positive quotes about reading.



June

Summer theme - Students write stories of what they plan to do when school is out. "School's Out.....Let's Shout!" Use a flip-flop template for writing stories. Decorate with real (small) flip-flops.

There are countless ways to enjoy your tree. Be creative, let the students help you. They love these themes!

Contributed by Amelia Scott, Columbus, Georgia