

SIX MORE DAYS UNTIL MY BIRTHDAY

By – Lynn Sawyer
 Illustrated by – Tamara Toledo
 Genre - Narrative
 Set 11 - 191 Words

Building Anticipation – Setting the Context

Ask the children to tell their reading partner about a time when they had a birthday party or went to a birthday party. What did they do at the party?

Introduction

Tell the children: *This is a story about a girl whose birthday party is coming up in six days. If her birthday was six days from today, what day would it be?* Count on the calendar. *How do you think she is feeling? What kind of things do you think she would be doing to get ready for her birthday?*



Lead the children in a picture walk. Ask the children to read the first page aloud or read it to them, and look for a repeating pattern. Look at the picture where the girl is circling the calendar. Note the words *circle* and *calendar*. As you continue on the picture walk, ask what things are going in the treat bags and note the words *chocolate* and *pencil*. Keep going on the picture walk and point out the word *balloon*.

When you get to the page where the girl describes the games, ask: *What two games are they going to play? Who can tell us how to play them?*

Now the children are ready to read. Ask the children to read the story to find out what else the girl does to get ready for her birthday party.

Discussion – Book Talk

This is a good opportunity to ensure that all students know when their own birthdays are. Ask all students to get help and write the month and date of their own birthday on a paper. You might want to make a large chart with all the months of the year with all the children's birthdays on it.

Creative Response – Independent Practice

Children can:

- make a Venn diagram with these headings. *Things I do at my birthday; Things this girl did.* In the center space put: *Things we both did.*
- make a timeline of the six days before the girl's birthday. Write or draw the things she did each day. Use the timeline reproducible master.
- use the shared interactive writing technique to write a procedure: *How to play a birthday game* or *How to make a birthday cake.*

Read Aloud Connections

- A Birthday for Princess* by Anita Lobel, Harper and Row, 1973.
- Moirá's Birthday* by Robert Munsch, Annick Press, 1987.
- Mouse's Birthday* by Jane Yolen, Putnam's, 1993.
- The Party* by Barbara Reid, North Winds Press, 1997.
- The Secret Birthday Message* by Eric Carle, Harper Collins Juvenile Books, 1998.

Learning about Language – Focused Teaching		
High Frequency Words	older, more, put	Clap, chant and cheer the words. Find them on the word wall and in books.
Word Families and Letter Clusters	<i>eat</i> family – treat, meat, feat, seat, beat, wheat	Brainstorm a list of words containing <i>eat</i> .
Structural Features of Words	Compound word - <i>birthday</i>	Play word math. What do you get when you add <i>birth</i> and <i>day</i> ? What about <i>play</i> and <i>ground</i> ? What do you get when you take <i>birth</i> away from <i>birthday</i> ? Talk about the meaning of birthday – the day of your birth.
Text Features	Exclamation mark	Find other exclamations in the story and practice reading aloud to show excitement.
	Italic letters to highlight the repeated refrain	Practice reading the refrain.

Reproducible Master - Six More Days Until My Birthday

Timeline

On the day of her birthday	
One day before her birthday	
Two days before her birthday	
Three days before her birthday	
Four days before her birthday	
Five days before her birthday	
Six days before her birthday	