



We Will Remember You: A teacher-made book for an end of year ritual

The “We Will Remember You” class-made book will help maintain a sense of connection while offering a sense of closure to the school year. This book is appropriate for children of all ages.

Rituals are joint activities that bind us together and mark important occasions in our lives. Incorporating a ritual with the presentation of this book increases its meaningfulness and healing power. You can learn more about end of year rituals in the webinar titled End of Year Rituals to Honor, Celebrate and Heal.

The book contains blanks for you to fill in with the students’ names and specific memories to celebrate. It also has frames for 2x3-inch photos (you can use larger photos, but they will cover over the photo frames).

Prepare your materials:

- You will need scissors, glue stick, printouts, a photocopier and a way to bind the pages into a book (stapler, hole punch and yarn, spiral binding, etc.) and/or a scanner and a way to email digital files.
- Print one copy of the front cover, “Our time together is complete” poem page and the last page (“Our school year has come to an end”).
- Print one “Dear _____” page for each child and for teachers the children saw regularly. If you don’t have access to classroom or yearbook photos, ask families to provide photos.
- Decide which of the “As a class, we will remember” pages you want to use and print those as well. If you do not have many group photos, simply print the page that only contains blanks for writing (rather than blanks and photos).
- Print a 2x3-inch or larger photo of each child and the teachers children saw regularly.

- If you have a class song or chant, print a copy of it to fit a 5x7-inch space.
- If you are going to use the “As a class, we will remember” pages with space for photos, print photos of class members interacting, of the classroom, of the school building or entrance, and of any specific events.
- Print one or two 5x7-inch group photos of the class (a photo of the classroom or school could be substituted for one of these images).

Assemble:

- Complete each student’s and teacher’s “Dear _____” page: On each “Dear _____” page, fill in the student’s or teacher’s name on the top blank and glue a photo of the individual in the space provided. You then have the choice to have the them fill in their blanks or you will fill in the blanks.
 - o If *they* will fill in the blanks, ask each individual to share something positive they will remember from the school year. You can do this by using the page as a homework assignment, or by asking them directly and writing down their responses.
 - o If *you* will fill in the blanks, write a sentence or two about each person in the blank. Be certain to share an uplifting memory, a unique quality the person brought to the classroom or a way the person contributed to the classroom. Do not include things like physical attributes, accomplishments or articles of clothing.
- Put the pages in order: 1. Book cover, 2. “Our time together is complete” poem page, 3. one “Dear _____” for each teacher, 4. one “Dear _____” for each student, 5. your “As a class, we will remember” pages, 6. the “Our school year has come to an end” page.
- On the front cover, write your school and class name on the line. Glue a group photo of your class members, classroom or school in the space provided.
- On the “Our time together is complete” poem page, you can leave the existing art or glue a copy of your class chant or song overtop of it.
- Use the “As a class, we will remember” pages to write about the year’s experiences and include photos, if applicable. (What did you learn? What was your daily routine? What are some highlights—assemblies, field trips, favorite activities, etc.)
- Place a group photo on the “Our school year has come to an end” page.

Distribute:

- You did it! You completed a memory book for your class! Now you will decide whether to distribute a paper copy, a digital copy, or both.
- For a paper book, photocopy one complete book for every child, bind each book together via stapler, hole punch and yarn, spiral binding or other means, and mail or deliver a book to every child.
- For a digital book, scan all of the pages as a PDF and email the resulting document home to families.
- Conduct an end of year ritual to celebrate students' accomplishment of completing the school year. Design your end of year rituals using ideas from the webinar titled End of Year Rituals to Honor, Celebrate and Heal.

We Will Remember You!

year

name



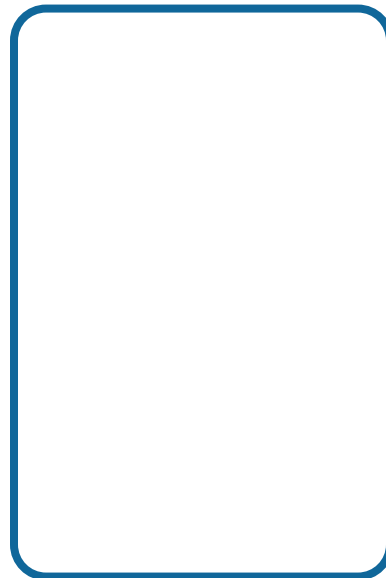
Our time together is complete.
Getting to know each other has been a treat.
Our year has been full of learning and laughter,
And now it is time for the adventures that come after.

We grew and we smiled, and we had some difficult times, too.
One thing is for certain: We will always remember you!

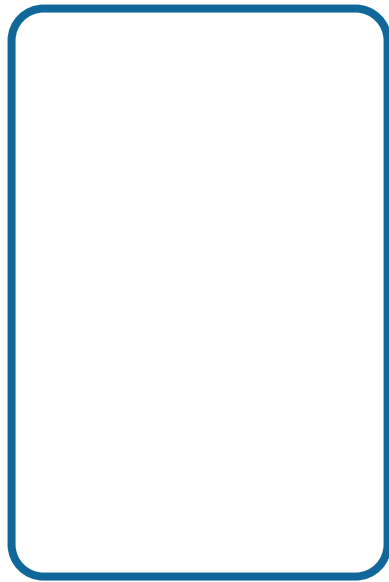


Dear _____

I will remember



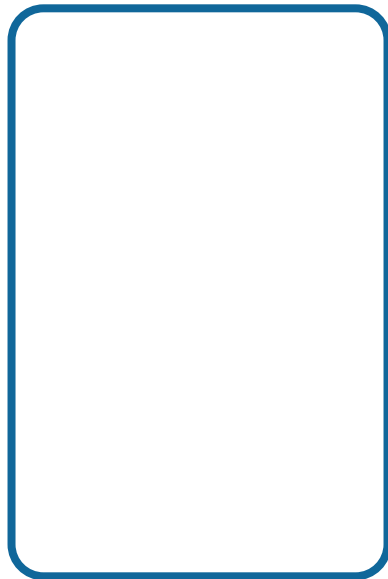
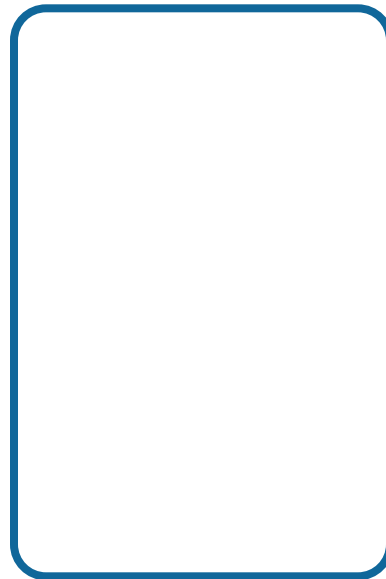
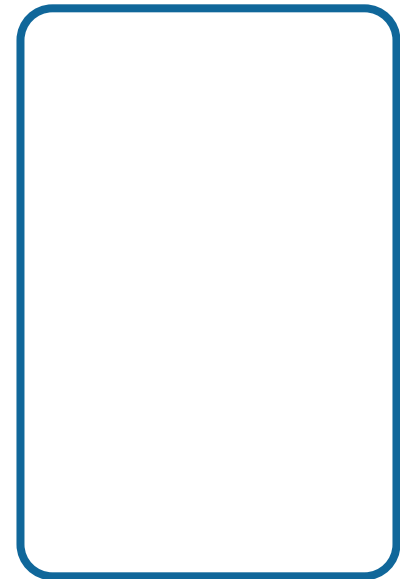
As a class, we will remember



As a class, we will remember



As a class, we will remember

A large, empty rounded rectangle with a blue border, intended for a drawing or illustration.A large, empty rounded rectangle with a blue border, intended for a drawing or illustration.A large, empty rounded rectangle with a blue border, intended for a drawing or illustration.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Our school year has come to an end.
We will remember you and we wish you well.

