

The 100th Day Project

A Reading A-Z Level P Leveled Book
Word Count: 728



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Written by Elizabeth Strauss
Illustrated by Marilee Harrald-Pilz

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Correlation

LEVEL P

Fountas & Pinnell	M
Reading Recovery	28
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Table of Contents

Counting to 100	4
100 of Something	7
Making Little Books.....	10
Secret Messages	12
The Special Project	14
Glossary	16



Counting to 100

“Leticia,” Mrs. Thomas called, “it’s time to wash your hands and set the table for dinner.”

“21, 22, 23, 24, 25,” Leticia finished counting. “I’m coming.”

Leticia happily walked into the kitchen and went right to work. She set the table for her mother, her older brother, and herself.

“What have you been up to?” Mrs. Thomas asked. “You’ve been in your room the entire time since arriving home from school.”

“I’m counting to figure out what I have 100 of,” Leticia replied. “I have 119 stickers, 104 books, and 102 pennies, but only 74 crayons.”



“Why do you require 100 things?” Mrs. Thomas wondered.

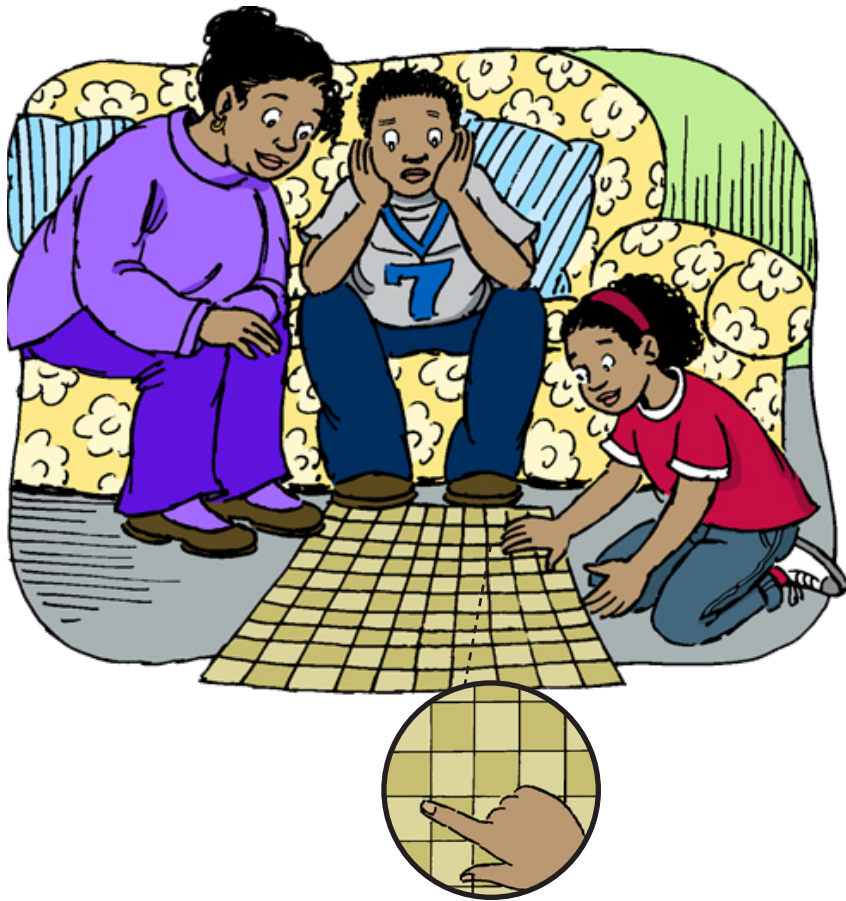
“Tuesday is the 100th day of school,” Leticia chirped. “As a 100th day project, everyone needs to gather 100 of an item and present them to the class.”

“Maybe your brother and I can assist with this project, but first we need to eat. Can you get Tyrone and tell him it’s supertime?”



100 of Something

After the family cleaned up the dishes, they talked about Leticia's project. First, Leticia showed them a large piece of paper. It measured 20 inches on one side and 20 inches on the other. In total, 100 squares were marked on the giant paper **grid**.



"I have to glue 100 objects into the 100 squares," Leticia worried.

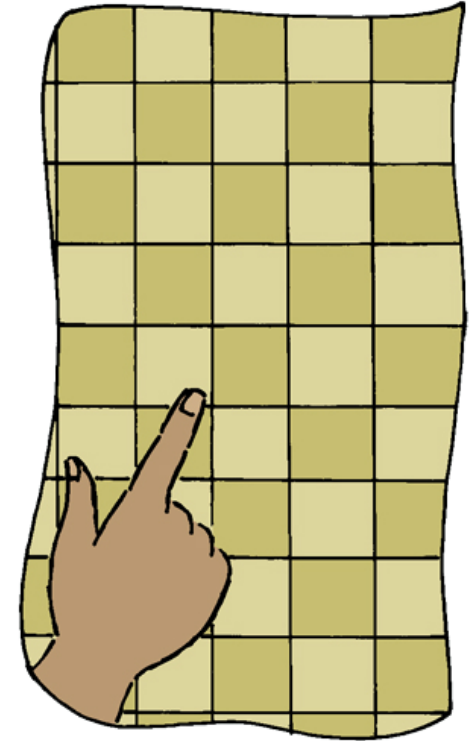
"If you use your head, that could be easy," Tyrone replied.

"It might be easy," Leticia said, "but I want it to be special, not easy. My teacher requires our projects to show **creativity**. Personally, I want mine to **highlight** my feelings about school."

"Oh, I see, so gluing down crayons or pennies wouldn't work," Mrs. Thomas said.

"I guess buttons and bottle caps are out, too," Tyrone **blurted**.

"Yeah," Leticia **smirked**, "now you see."



“Well,” Mrs. Thomas said, “let’s put our heads together and **brainstorm**. What have you been doing in 100 days of school?”

“Well, we read a new book every day,” Leticia answered. “I think reading’s extremely cool, more so than doing math or science.”



Making Little Books

“What do you enjoy about books?” asked Tyrone.

“I enjoy everything about books,” Leticia said with a smile. “I like the covers, titles, pictures, and stories. I love listening to my teacher read, and I love reading books myself. But books won’t fit on the project grid.” Leticia looked at Tyrone and frowned.

“We could help you make tiny doll-sized books. Little books might fit on the grid,” Tyrone said, “and that wouldn’t take long.”



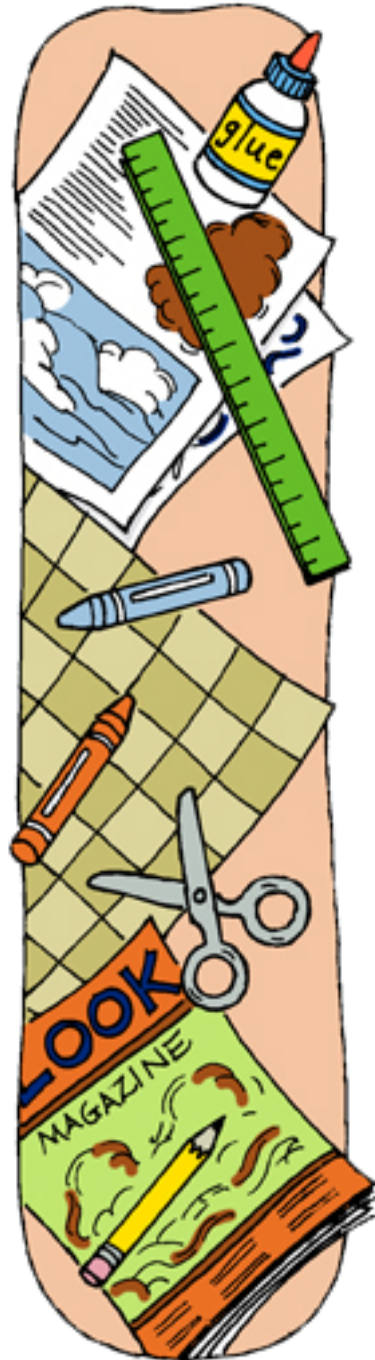
Leticia wasn't sure, but she started to **conceive** an idea. "Well, if we made little **miniature** books, perhaps I could write in them."

"Of course you could, Leticia," Mrs. Thomas smiled.

"This is completely your project. Remember, we're just your helpers."

"Right," Tyrone agreed, "you're the boss!"

Leticia definitely liked the sound of that.



Secret Messages

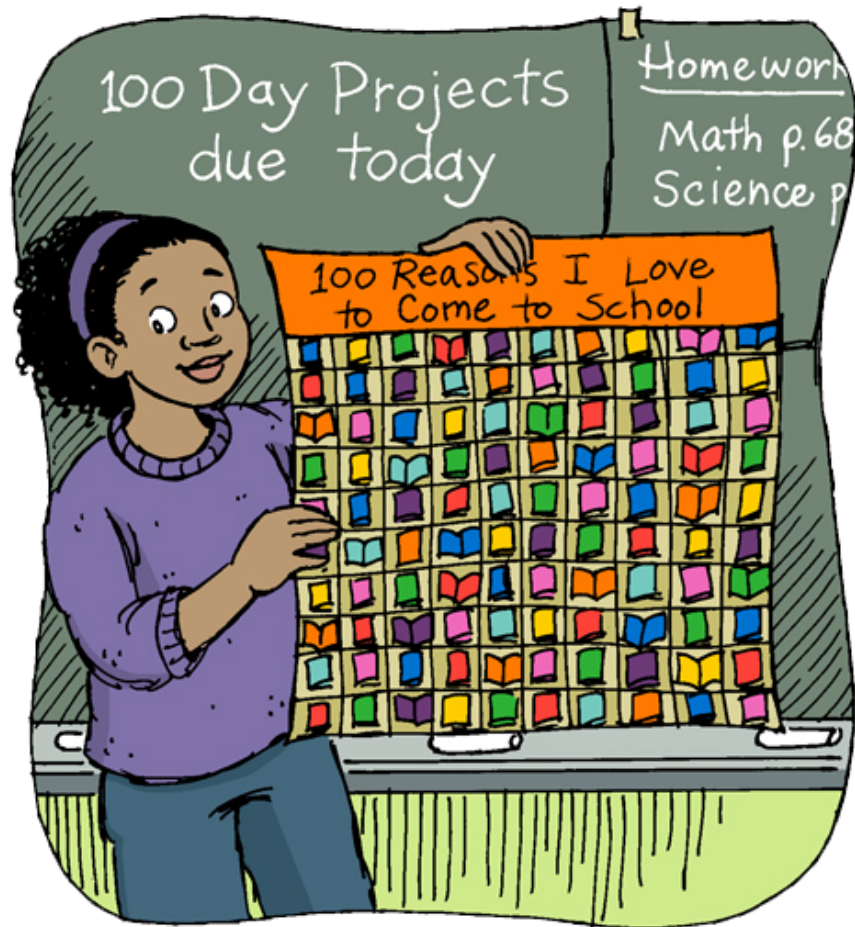
Leticia spent the evening in her room constructing little blank books and then writing in each of the books. She was careful to use her best handwriting, and she had to write very small. After a while, she shared the work in progress with her mother and brother. They were impressed by her idea to write in the books.

"Cool," Tyrone confirmed.

"Yes," her mother agreed, "this **undoubtedly** looks creative."

Her mother and brother then helped her complete the assignment.





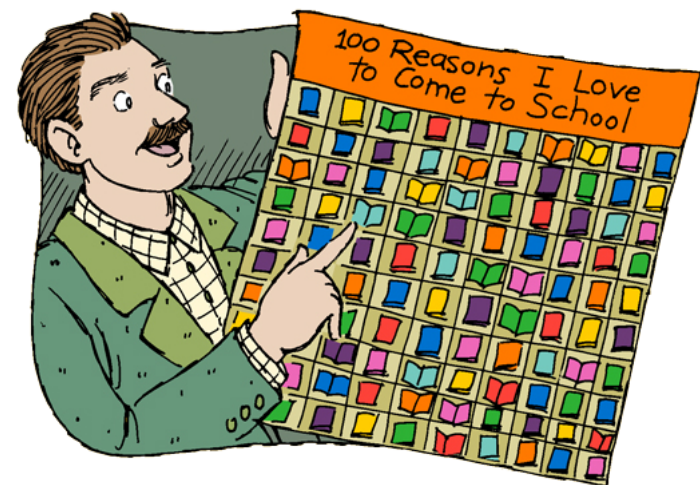
On the 100th day, everyone brought their projects to school. Leticia put hers up with the others' in her class. At the top, she wrote *100 Reasons I Love to Come to School*. The title made her classmates curious, and they began to read the messages inside the tiny books.

The Special Project

"Kate, this one's about you," Mia squeaked. "It says, 'I like to see Kate smile.'"

"This book's about George," Kevin joined in. "It says, 'George is always nice to people.'"

Soon a crowd formed around Leticia's project. Finally, their teacher decided to read the little books to the whole class. It took a long time, considering there were 100 books, yet after each book, the entire class clapped for the person the book was about.





There were books for every student in Leticia's grade and every teacher at the school. There was a book for the custodians, school bus drivers, principal, librarians, and the cafeteria workers, too.

Leticia successfully found a creative way to **celebrate** the 100th day of school. Her 100 reasons why she liked going to school **informed** 100 people why they were special.

Glossary

blurted (<i>v.</i>)	said quickly without thinking (p. 8)
brainstorm (<i>v.</i>)	share ideas, often on how to solve a problem (p. 9)
celebrate (<i>v.</i>)	to do something special to honor an event (p. 15)
conceive (<i>v.</i>)	to think of; to cause to begin (p. 11)
creativity (<i>n.</i>)	the ability to use the imagination (p. 8)
grid (<i>n.</i>)	a set of straight lines that cross each other to form squares (p. 7)
highlight (<i>v.</i>)	to call attention to something (p. 8)
informed (<i>v.</i>)	gave facts about something (p. 15)
miniature (<i>adj.</i>)	very small (p. 11)
smirked (<i>v.</i>)	said with a mocking smile (p. 8)
undoubtedly (<i>adv.</i>)	without a doubt (p. 12)