



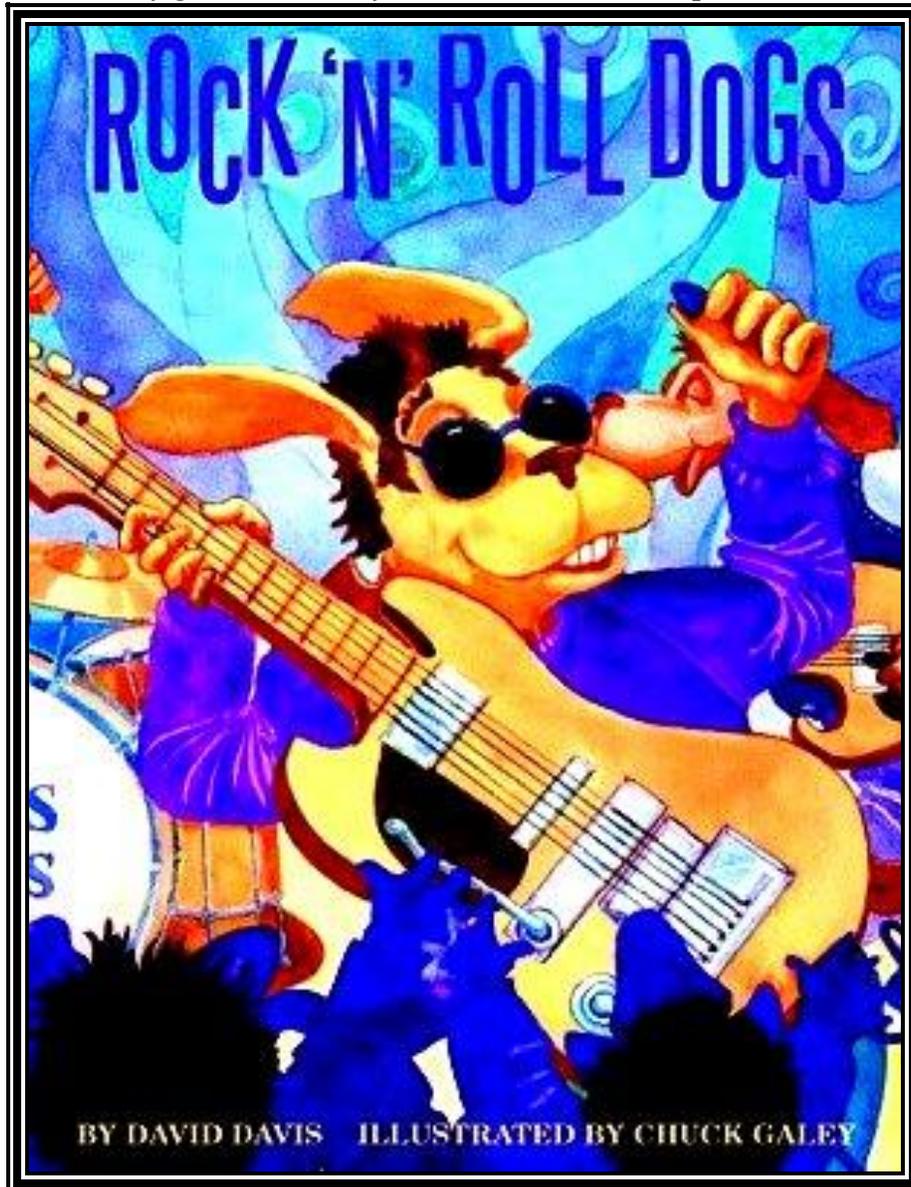
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CURRICULUM GUIDE

ROCK 'N' ROLL DOGS

Study guide created by David Davis----- Reproducible



By Award-Winning Writer David Davis
Illustrated by Chuck Galey

To schedule events, contact David at www.davidrdavis.com or email: lastditchus@yahoo.com
Rock 'n' Roll Dogs, ISBN 978-1-58980-349-7

Book Description

Rock 'n' Roll Dogs, a companion book to *Jazz Cats*, guarantees the reader a howl of a good time! In the Fireplug doggie disco, kids are welcome to visit but not fleas, cats, vets, squares, or ticks. As stray dogs strut outside wearing leather jackets, pink toy poodles groom in the flea-powder room, the bulldog doorman checks doggie tags, and Duke, a springer spaniel, waits the tables. All dogs dance to the sounds of the Rock 'n' Roll Memphis Blues Dogs but are very careful to not step on any blue suede shoes. This humorous story with vibrant illustrations appeals to both children and adults. The lively rhythm and colorful vocabulary encourage children to follow along with the story's repetition of objects, animals, and actions while introducing them to Rock 'n' Roll. The book is an Accelerated Reader program selection.



“DUKE”

FUN FACT: In *Rock 'n' Roll Dogs* the head waiter at The Fireplug is a springer spaniel named Duke. He's a real dog owned by Mr. Davis! Duke loves to retrieve tennis balls.

Activities

1. As a class, listen to some old rock 'n' roll songs from the 1950s and 1960s.

Some Suggestions:

(I've tried to list "good time" songs children will like.)

“You Ain't Nothing But a Hound Dog” by Elvis Presley

“Tutti Frutti” by Little Richard

“Hello Mary Lou” by Ricky Nelson

“Back in the USA” by Chuck Berry

“Rock Around the Clock” by Bill Haley and the Comets (The 1st hit rock and roll song, 1954)

“Green Onions” by Booker T. and the MG's (Stax records)

“Peggy Sue” by Buddy Holly

“La Bamba” by Ritchie Valens

2. Have the class make a bulletin board about a fifties rock and roller of their choice. Search the web for pictures, and facts about his/her life and music.

3. While listening to old rock 'n' roll music, have each student draw their version of the rock 'n' roll dogs at The Fireplug. Another option is to have them draw their favorite character in the book.
4. While reading the book, have students share which illustration in the story is their favorite.
5. Ask the students to interview an older relative about his or her childhood. They can write down the answers to questions, or record the interview and play it in class. Bring childhood photo of the relative if available. Compare the different stories, and talk about what you enjoyed about each one.

Here are some suggestions for the interview questions. (Of course, these are just to get you started. Add your own, too.)

- Tell me about where you grew up.
- Did you live in the country or the city?
- How was your school different from the schools today?
- How was your school similar to today's schools?
- Tell me about a time you got in trouble at school.
- What clothes were popular when you were in grade school?
- Tell me about your favorite TV show.
- Tell me a favorite memory that goes with an old favorite song.
- Tell me about a time you saw your favorite singer on TV, or in person.
- What was the name of your favorite band?
- Tell me about your favorite teacher.
- Tell me about the first record you ever bought. Do you remember the title?
- Tell me what you did for fun when you were a kid.

6. Watch DVD's or videos featuring fifties TV shows. (The public library should have some of them.) *Grease* is a good movie for children to watch with their parents. Ask the kids to list the things they notice about how the characters dress, talk, etc.

7. Bring 78rpm, 45rpm, and 33 1/3rpm records to class. Show the students how the music was recorded in the grooves. If someone has an old record player, play the records for the class.



Fun Trivia Time

See if you can find the answers to these questions. Get your teacher or parents to show you how to look for them on the internet or in a book.

1. The city of Memphis is located in what state?
2. Memphis is located in “the Delta.” What does “the Delta” mean?
3. What kind of music is Beale Street famous for?
4. Who invented the electric guitar?
5. What is a “record,” and how was it made?
6. Most “single” songs in the fifties were released on what kind of record?
7. There were 78, 45, and 331/3 RPM records. What does “RPM” stand for?
8. What is Graceland, and who used to live there?
9. What instrument did Jerry Lee Lewis play?
10. What does *hot-rod* mean?
11. What are *penny loafers*?
12. Who owned Sun Records?
13. Who were some of the people who recorded at Sun Records Studio?
14. What was a “soda fountain”?
15. What kind of jacket was popular with teenagers in the fifties?
16. What did Chuck Berry do before he became a famous rock ‘n’ roll star?
17. Where was Stax Record Studio located?
18. What kind of music was Stax Records famous for recording?
19. Who is B.B. King?
20. Where was the style of music known as “The Blues” invented?
21. Who was Robert Johnson?
22. What is a *Hula Hoop*? Have you ever played with one?
23. Who wrote the famous rock ‘n’ roll song *Blue Suede Shoes*?
24. What is a “poodle skirt”?
25. Who was Jimmy (James) Dean?
26. Who was president for most of the fifties? (From 1952—1960)
27. What were “ducktails”?

Name That Dog

1. List the breeds of dogs mentioned by name in *Rock ‘N’ Roll Dogs*.
2. What is your favorite dog in the story?
3. What is your favorite breed of dog?

Internet Resources:

The History Channel Site

<http://www.history.com/exhibits/fifties/>

“Rewind the Fifties” Site

<http://www.lotl.com/>

Take Me Back to the Fifties Site:

Great Slide Show about the fifties

<http://oldfortyfives.com/TakeMeBackToTheFifties.htm>

The Fifties Web

<http://www.fiftiesweb.com/>

Sun Studios—A virtual tour of the fifties Memphis record studio.

<http://www.sunstudio.com/index.html>

Stax Records Site-history of the Memphis label

<http://www.soulsvilleusa.com/about-stax/>

Virtual Tour of Graceland: Memphis home of Elvis

<http://www.elvis.com/graceland/vtour/default.asp>

Wikipedia: Beale Street History

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beale_Street

What Others Are Saying:

Children's Bookwatch

“The companion book to the award-nominated *Jazz Cats, Rock 'n' Roll Dogs* is a rhyming children's picture book about a rockin' band of dogs who love to play their music.” The Blues Dogs Fountain is the scene to make. / They serve sausage sodas and liver shakes. / They're all doggies (so it isn't rude) / For slick Dalmatians to wolf down fast food. / You're all welcome, so trot up the path. / Kids can visit - but don't say, 'Bath!' / To Rock 'n' Roll Memphis Blues Dogs." Jubilant color illustrations by award-winning artist Chuck Galey add the perfect touch to this charming book for young canine and rock-'n'-roll lovers.”

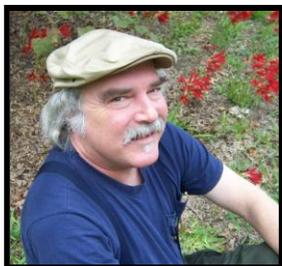
Children's Literature

“Things are happening at the dog hot spot called "The Fireplug." A variety of dogs are excitedly gathering at the Memphis music club and are anxiously anticipating a performance by the Rock 'n' Roll Memphis Blues Dogs. As stray dogs ride their motorcycles to the club, the pink toy poodles are primping their hair in preparation. Soon, dachshunds, cocker spaniels, boxers, and Irish setters will all jive and jump to the jamming sounds at the Rock 'n' Roll Memphis Blues Dogs' show. Kids are always welcome but please keep the cats, fleas, and vets away! The enormous illustrations are hilarious. Readers will laugh at the pictures of dogs dressed like humans...”

Trivia Question Answers

1. Tennessee.
2. The fertile plain along the lower Mississippi River.
3. “Blues” music and early “Rock and Roll” music.
4. Les Paul.
5. A record was a round piece of vinyl with the sound pressed into the grooves while it was hot. You played the disc by spinning it on a record player using a needle that followed the spinning grooves.
6. Record companies issued most single songs on 45 RPM records.
7. “RPM” stands “revolutions per minute”. This is how fast the record player turntable has to spin to play the music correctly. A 45 RPM record is designed to spin 45 times per minute on the turntable of the record player.
8. Graceland is a plantation style house in Memphis, Tennessee that was the home of Elvis Presley, the most famous rock and roll singer of all time.
9. The piano.
10. A car with a customized “souped up” engine that is very fast.
11. Slip on shoes popular in the fifties with slots to hold new pennies.
12. Sam Phillips
13. Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Roy Orbison
14. A counter with a row of stools in a “Malt Shop” or Pharmacy that served ice cream, malts, sodas, and soft drinks.
15. Leather motorcycle jackets.
16. He was a hairdresser.
17. Memphis, Tennessee.
18. Popular black music known as “Soul Music.”
19. A famous blues artist who named his guitar “Lucille.”
20. In the African American culture of the Mississippi Delta (mostly Mississippi, but including Memphis, Tennessee.)
21. The most famous early blues artist of all whose style of play influenced all the artists to come after him.
22. A large round plastic hoop that you swing around the hips. It was a very popular with kids in the fifties.
23. Carl Perkins.
24. A style of skirt popular with teenage girls in the fifties. It has an appliqué of a poodle dog on it.
25. A movie star popular as a teenage idol in the fifties.
26. Dwight Eisenhower, popularly known as “Ike”.
27. A hairstyle. Boys greased the long hair on the sides of their heads and combed both sides back to meet in the back of their heads.

About the Author



David Davis is a humorist, cartoonist, writer, and speaker. He grew up in San Antonio, Texas. Most of his stories draw on his Texas roots, and his “baby-boomer” love of music.

Davis is the author of *Jazz Cats* and *Ten Redneck Babies*, both of which were named to the Children’s Choice Top 100 list. *Jazz Cats* was a finalist for the Texas Golden Spur Award, as well. His satirical *Night Before Christmas* books are perennial comedy best-sellers.

In addition to his books, David has published pen-and-ink artwork, cartoons, poems, humor, and short stories in various magazines and newspapers, including *Travels with Grandpaw*, a popular internet comic strip about old time Texas, featured at a genealogy website. He won an award from the Mississippi Press Association for his political cartooning some years ago.

Davis is a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. He is an active speaker and presenter at educational conferences and schools, and he has been a featured author at the Texas Book Festival. David Davis lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

David’s Picture Books

(Pelican Publishing Co.)

- ❖ *Texas Mother Goose*, ISBN 978-1-58980-369-5
- ❖ *Rock ‘n’ Roll Dogs*, ISBN 978-1-58980-349-7
- ❖ *Librarian’s Night Before Christmas*, ISBN 978-1-58980-336-7
- ❖ *Texas Zeke and the Longhorn*, ISBN 978-1-58980-348-0
- ❖ *Ten Redneck Babies: A Southern Counting Book*, ISBN 1-58980-232-2
- ❖ *The Nurse’s Night Before Christmas*, ISBN 1-58980-152-0
- ❖ *Jazz Cats*, ISBN 1-56554-859-0
- ❖ *Redneck Night Before Christmas*, ISBN 1-56554-293-2
- ❖ *Trucker’s Night Before Christmas*, ISBN 1-56554-656-3

School Appearances

All programs are *interactive*, flexible, and tailored to the specified age groups. His comic skit and reading featuring his picture book *Jazz Cats* (with a mock impromptu jazz band featuring kids) will delight young and old alike.

David encourages children to hold on to writing, drawing, and musical dreams using easy-going humor, and short bits of his own life story. His talks and skits show children that reading is fun—and so is writing. Mr. Davis’s *Tips for Taking the TAKS Test--and Writing in General* entertains and teaches at the same time. Kids won’t be just sitting on their bottoms when Mr. Davis shows up. All skits feature the *children themselves* as players. **Get ready for fun!**

Books: Pelican Publishing Company offers a 40 percent discount on all books for a special event. For information about ordering books, call the School Sales Manager at Pelican Publishing Company, 1-800-843-1724 Ext.319.

Awards and Honors:

Jazz Cats: Named to the 2002 Children’s Choice Award Top 100 List, Finalist for the Texas Golden Spur Award for Children’s Literature 2005, Accelerated Reader Program Selection.

Ten Redneck Babies: Named to the 2005 Children’s Choice Award Top 100 List.

Texas Zeke and the Longhorn and *Rock ‘n’ Roll Dogs:* Accelerated Reader Program Selection