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Fancy Nancy I Can Read! Classroom Activities

1. Explore Paris. Fancy Nancy thinks that her new friend Robert is from Paris, France, in Fancy Nancy and the Boy from Paris. Then she finds out that he’s from Paris, Texas! Research these two cities with your class. Where is each located? Why is each called Paris? What do people wear and eat in each? Once your class finishes its research, construct an “Explore Paris” display with maps, expository writing pieces, labeled illustrations, and food samples.

2. Very Observant, Indeed. In Fancy Nancy at the Museum, Ms. Glass says that Fancy Nancy is “very observant, indeed” (page 26). Cultivate great observation skills in your students by asking them to closely observe the illustrations in Fancy Nancy at the Museum. Have students list illustration details and explain what the details tell them about the story’s characters, setting, and events. Help students continue to observe by building a “Very Observant, Indeed” bulletin board on which they post entries about significant details from illustrations that they especially like.

3. Star Words. On pages 26–27 of Fancy Nancy Sees Stars, Fancy Nancy points out that brilliant is a fancy word with two meanings: “shiny and bright” and “very smart.” With your class, brainstorm a list of words like brilliant that have more than one meaning. Give students large star-shaped cards to write the words and definitions on and then hang the stars around the classroom.

4. Plant Expert Journal. When Fancy Nancy gets poison ivy, she writes journal entries about it in Fancy Nancy: Poison Ivy Expert. Using Fancy Nancy as an example, help your students select a plant with a fancy-sounding name, like jewelweed, the silver tree fern, the vanilla flower, or wisteria. Assist them as they research fascinating facts about their plants. Then have them fill journals with their facts as well as informative illustrations.

5. A Dazzling Book Report. Fancy Nancy wants to write a dazzling book report in Fancy Nancy: The Dazzling Book Report. However, she spends so much time working on the cover that she runs out of time to write the actual report! Take your students to the library to select nonfiction books on topics of their choice. Ask them to create oral reports with great illustrated covers—just like Fancy Nancy does. Once your students finish preparing, have them perform their dazzling oral reports and show off their dazzling report covers.

6. Fancy—or Too Fancy? In Fancy Nancy: Pajama Day, Fancy Nancy wears her elegant nightgown to school, but she can’t hang upside down on the monkey bars in it! Like Fancy Nancy, deliberate with your class on when being fancy is a great form of self-expression and when it’s too fancy, either because it’s impractical or undesirable. Drawing from your deliberations, have groups of students construct dual collages, where the images in one collage are “fancy” and those in the other are “too fancy.”


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