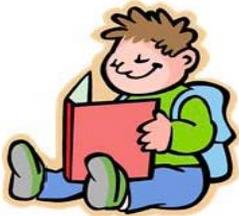


## It's In The Bag!



There are pro's and con's about giving students a treat bag on the first day of school. I LOVE making up little surprises for my students.

They are 4 or 5 and I think if I have a little something waiting for them on their desk it makes school especially fun for them.



When I taught other grades I did treat bags. My students could read the note, so they understood the symbolism behind some of the things I tucked in their bags.

The adorable treat bag pictured above was designed by Amanda

<http://amandascraftsandmore.blogspot.com>

Her back-to-school snack consists of: *Captain Crunch Treasures, Vanilla Yogurt Dipped Raisins and M&M's.*

I used to make up a [reading survival kit](#) (It's in my FREE reading "stuff") as well as a [writing first aid kit](#) and tucked the Baggies in my 1st , 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grader's desks at different times during the beginning of the year. They were thrilled.

I also made a very simple treat bag, with just a few things in it and tucked a brief message in the Baggie for them to read on their first day of school.



I also found a cute Lucky Charms treat bag online that many teachers were doing. There were several different notes so I revamped one and made it my own.

For a sweet and easy treat, simply fill a small Baggie with the cereal, fold my note and attach it to the outside of the bag.

When I started teaching Y5's I opted to do a treasure box for open house instead, because the first day is rather hectic when I'm all by myself with as many as 19 four-year-olds, who may want to rip open a treat bag, even when I instruct them to take it to their locker to open at home.

I've had inquiries about treat bags, so I wanted to write a blog article and give you some ideas. I did a little research and found a plethora of Google listings for treat bags.

I compiled an alphabetical list of goodies teachers have tucked in their bags, as well as the symbolism behind them.



Some teachers fill a large cup with goodies, some tuck their treats in Ziploc Baggies, and others use colored lunch bags.

Then there are those crafty teachers who design extra special bags. One creative person made cute busses and hot-glued white buttons on the black wheels. (Adorable!) So if you've got the time to be crafty... Click on the link to check out her [bus treat bag YouTube video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_uGV_iXdLQ4). [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_uGV\\_iXdLQ4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_uGV_iXdLQ4)

Because I like to tuck notes and special treats into several of my teacher friend's mailboxes, I made up a little treat bag for them as well.

**More Fun First-Day-Of-School Treat Bags Continued...**

If you have the time, and want to whip together something special, I designed a really easy, brown lunch bag-owl, which takes just a few minutes to put together.

If you own circle punches things will go even faster. Even if you don't want to make these as a treat bag, they make a fun and easy art project for your students.

Have them stuff their lunch bag with tissue. Children could write: ***Whooo is wise?*** on the owl's tummy. When they flip up the bag it can say: \_\_\_\_\_ (*child's name*) ***that's whoooo!***

If you want to skip filling a bag with treats, but would still like to do something, you can buy some ***M&M's, Reese's Pieces, or Skittles*** in bulk at Sam's Club, fill the tiny Baggies they sell at Hobby Lobby etc. and staple the Baggie to my owl card.

I also found teachers that simply put an apple on their students desks with an apple die-cut note attached that said: ***WELCOME! You are the apple of my eye.*** How about a golden delicious apple with a note that says: ***Wishing you a golden year filled with delicious learning!***

OR... how about cutting out construction paper apples, punch a hole in the side, make a slit to the hole and slide a candy bracelet through so it looks a bit like a worm. Write your students' names on the apples + ***A sweet treat for a neat student!***

OR... how about an orange or a small snack Baggie with 3 candy orange slices, with a note that says: ***Orange you glad you're in \_\_\_\_\_ grade! Wishing you a sweet year!***

OR... a bag of peanuts (making sure no one has allergies) that says: ***I hope you'll go simply nuts over all of the exciting lessons we'll be studying this year!***

OR... a bag of microwave popcorn (They sell individual treat-bag size packages) attach a note that says: ***Poppin' by with a friendly first-day Hi, to wish you a terrific school year!*** You could list that month's popcorn words on the back.

One Florida teacher gives her students water bottles with flip up caps. They decorate their bottles with markers & stickers, and re-fill them for the entire month. They keep them in their desk so they stay hydrated all day.

Because my first science unit is dinosaurs, I have a basket filled with multi-colored dinosaurs sitting on the table.

My students get to choose one when they complete their tabletop lesson. That's a big thrill for them, as well as an incentive to stay focused and finish their first day's lesson.

Whatever you decide to do, I hope your year is as sweet as the treats you give your students!

## Alphabetical Treat Bag Contents

This is a list of things I found on the Internet that teachers have put in their treat bags as well as what their meanings are. There are multiple meanings for some.

**Apple:** You are the apple of my eye, I'm wishing you a delicious year!

**Ball:** Rolling into a new year with exciting and interesting things to learn, so if things get a little tough, just roll with it.

**Balloon:** Soar to new heights; take a risk; try new things; and participate!  
*"Shoot for the moon, even if you miss you still end up in the stars!"*

**Band-Aid:** For life's little owies, always remember I'm here to help!

**Bee Sticker:** A reminder to Bee all that you can Bee and always do your best! Bee caught Bee-ing good and Bee-ing a nice friend.

**Bookmark:** A reminder to read

**Business card magnet with teacher info on it:** So you will always know how to get a hold of me. I care and am here to help.

**Button:** We must sometimes button and zip our lips in order to learn.

**Crayon:** You color my world with happiness. I'm glad you're in my class.

**Cotton ball:** To remind you that we have a safe and caring classroom. For days when you can't hear yourself think. A reminder to always use kind words as they promote warm feelings and soften life's hard times.

**Eraser:** Mistakes are opportunities; To make all your mistakes disappear; It's OK to make mistakes, that's how we learn. To remind you that nobody's perfect.

**Fruit snacks:** I'm wishing you a sweet and fun-filled year! I'm wishing you a fruitful year.

**Gumball:** "Chews" to try your best. "Chews" good work habits.

**Gummi-bear:** I am "bear-y" glad you're in my class.

**Homework coupon:** This entitles you to skip one homework assignment. Simply staple it to the assignment with your name on it.

**Hershey Hug:** We all need hugs, if you need one let me know. I LOVE hugs.

To remind you that someone cares. To remind you that your teacher cares, Because everyone needs a hug,

**Hershey Kiss:** Because sometimes a kiss and chocolate DOES make it all better.

**Lifesavers:** To remind you to help each other. To remind you that I am here to help you, don't be afraid to ask.

**Lollipop:** For when life "sucks". I will help you lick any problems you have.

**Magnet:** In this class we stick together. This is a reminder to stick to your work. Use this to put a special paper on the fridge.

**Marble:** To replace the one you may have lost.

**Mini-candy bars:** "Bar" none you're tops with me! 1000 Grand candy bar: "We're going to have a Grand year!" *Almond Joy:* Wishing you lots of JOY, *Mounds:* Wishing you mounds of success/fun too!

**Mints:** You're worth a mint! You're important to this class.

**Orange slice candy or an orange:** "Orange" you glad you're in first grade now? Some teachers just give an orange or fill a baggy with orange slices and call it good.

**Paperclip:** Special friends hold everything together.

**Peanut in a shell:** I'm nuts about learning and hope you will be too!

**Pen:** A reminder to write.

**Pencil:** You are one sharp student. I will help get you pointed in the "write" direction. This pencil will help you start the year off WRITE! To be sharp and get to the point get enough rest. I'll get "write" to the point, I'm glad you're in my class.

**Pencil gripper:** Remember to always keep a grip and don't get anxious. I'm here to help.

**Penny:** "A penny for your thoughts." A reminder to please participate. What you say matters and makes "cents!" Wishing you luck. A reminder to shine every day and do your best. You are cent-sational. To remind you that you are a valuable member of this class.

**Puzzle piece:** You are an important part of this class. You matter and make a difference! You fit right in. Without you our class would not be complete. (You can opt to have your students put the pieces together. I have also made pins for the girls out of the puzzle pieces and magnets for the boys.)

**Ribbon bow:** Reminder that friendship ties us all together.

**Rubber band:** To help you stretch beyond your limits without breaking, to remind you to be flexible, if you're a girl, to use for those "bad hair days." To remind you not to limit yourself and to stretch your imagination and be all you can be.

**Smarties:** You are a smartie! We all have different smarts; never forget that! To remind you that you're smart, to remind you to always try your best to be the smartest that you can be, to remind you to always use your brain, You're going to learn so much in \_\_\_\_\_ grade this year!

**Small Sponge for art activities:** Remember to listen and soak up knowledge.

**Smilie Sticker:** A reminder to smile because life and learning are worthwhile. Paste this somewhere so when you see it you know that you are important, needed and LOVED!

**Starburst:** You are a star student everyday in my class so remember to always shine your brightest. Everyone is a star they just shine in their own way.

**Star sticker:** See Starburst & stickers

**Stickers:** To remind you to stick together, To remind you to stick to a problem 'til it is solved; don't give up! (*"If at first you don't succeed—try-try again!"*)

**Stick of gum:** "Chews" to do your best!" "Stick" to your work and stay focused 'til you complete it. This is a reminder to pick good qualities to practice and then follow through. We are going to stick together as a TEAM, because Together Everyone Achieves More.

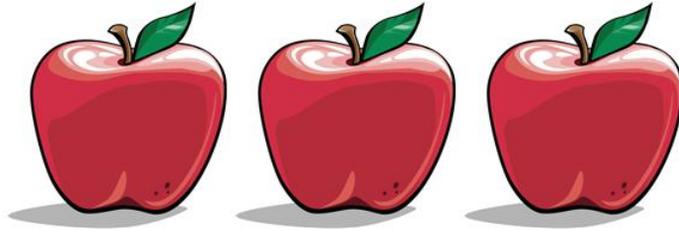
**Toothpick:** I pick you to be a great friend and star student this year. I pick this to be the best year yet!

**Ticket:** Have students sign their name on the ticket and then collect the tickets and put them in a jar/basket etc. Each week pull a name out for a prize. If that person was not in the Time Out chair or was not disciplined they get to choose a prize from the Treasure Box etc.

**Tootsie Roll:** You're on a roll. We're rolling into a fun new year. (See ball.)

Pick and choose different things that you want to include in your treat bag and then count out the designated amount and tuck them in, in assembly line fashion.

I hope this list has helped you dream up a fun surprise for your students. Have fun!



## Treat Bag For A Special Teacher & Friend

**A rubber band scrunchy:** To remind you that flexibility is important for a successful school year. Also handy if you need to tie your hair back if you're having one of those "bad hair days" when things are just a little bit more than hectic. If you're feeling really insane simply launch it like a sling shot across the room when no one is around.

**Matches & a yummy scented votive candle:** For those days when you feel a need to light a fire under someone. Now how many times have you asked that something be done or not done? Seriously, use them to light this soothing-scented candle and let a bubble bath "take you away."

**2 wiggle eyes:** For those days when you need an extra pair of eyes, one stuck on the back of your head, & one constantly watching that little pistol you always seem to end up with every year.

**Several AA batteries:** Because the toy thing in the classroom always needs one, the flashlight never works, and because one always needs an extra boost to be the Energizer Bunny around 1:00 in the afternoon when even a pure shot of Red Bull just won't do.

**A box of animal crackers:** Eat these or pass them out as a super-duper shutter upper when the classroom and/or office is a zoo!

**Candy bar:** There is nothing like chocolate for a sweet escape. Savor it one delicious bite at a time or devour it in a moment of insanity when you need it the most.

**Smilie Sticker:** Paste this in a prominent place to remind yourself to smile through it all, but most of all to know that you are important, needed and LOVED!

**Snowflake sticker:** Paste this next to the smilie sticker to remind you that when all else fails, pray for a snow day.

**Clothespin:** Remember to hang in there. Clip it to that "I'll get to these soon." pack of papers.

**Yellow Highlighter:** You are a bright star, shine on!

**Sheet of reinforcement holes:** I use these for all sorts of things. They are basically here to remind you that I encourage and reinforce your efforts as you encourage and reinforce those of your students!

**Eraser:** Great school memories can't be erased. Some mistakes can. We all make them and that's OK; just a reminder that we can only do our best and that no one is perfect.

**Several Pencils & Pens:** I'll get "write" to the point: I think you're a great teacher and I'm glad you're part of my team.

**Box of crayons:** You help to color my world with happiness

**Pack of tissues:** Bless you when you sneeze and sniffle and most of all because you teach.

**Orange:** Orange you glad I'm your friend. I'm glad you're mine! I hope you have the best year yet.

**Love, Hugs and best wishes from:**

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## First Aid Writing Survival Kit

©TeachWithMe.com

Welcome to the wonderful world of writing! We are going to have a lot of fun!  
Here's a little gift to you from me. It was made with lots of TLC.  
It's just a reminder of the importance of writing and what a good writer should be.

**Band Aid:** Writing can mend the heart. Keep a journal. Spill your guts daily, it will help you feel better.

**Candy:** Writing gives you the sweet satisfaction of accomplishment.

**Emery Board:** Writing can take the rough edges off your day. A final draft makes things better.

**Gum:** Writing is something you should “chew” to do as a life-long endeavor. “Choose” better descriptive and less worn-out words. Use colorful adjectives and adverbs to describe and make your work “come alive!” Use a thesaurus to help you.

**Cotton Ball:** Writing softens your workload. If you're a good writer, getting better grades in other subjects is easier. Don't be too “soft” on yourself. Always proof read and edit-edit-edit!

**Toothpick:** Pick an interesting topic and title. Grab that reader's attention with a “gotcha” and then take them through your story with good transitional sentences.

**Sticker:** Stick to your topic sentence. Don't wander off track. Most importantly, STICK with writing. The more you write the better you get. Expressing your feelings and communicating with others will improve as well.

**Eraser:** Practice makes perfect. It's OK to make mistakes along the way, that's how we learn.

**Pencil & pen:** Have a “bang” of a beginning that introduces, a strong middle that leads you somewhere, and a “wow” (clinger) of an end that sums everything up!

Finally, your kit has a little **ribbon bow** stapled to the bag, for writing is a GIFT you give yourself. You can go anywhere and be anything you want to be when you put it down on paper. Enjoy the journey.



## Reading Survival Kit

©TeachWithMe.com

**A MINT candy:** Reading is worth a mint! What it can do for you is priceless. Reading opens up a mint and wealth of information.

**Smarties Candy:** The more you read the smarter you get! Taste the sweetness of being a successful reader. READ to SUCCEED!

**Little Treasure Chest:** Reading is valuable, a treasure and present we give ourselves forever! Keep this tiny box in your desk. If you lose a tooth at school you can tuck it in here and take it safely home.

**Adjustable knot bracelet:** Wear this bracelet as a reminder to “stretch” yourself. Practice a little more each night; try a little harder each day. Sound out those words; take a risk and guess! Choose a little more difficult book to expand your horizons.

**Smilie face bookmark:** *I hope reading brings a smile to your face. Use this bookmark to save your place!*

**Star Sticker:** You will become a star student if you STICK with reading, so shine on. *“Always shoot for the moon, even if you miss, you’ll still end up among the stars!”*

**Bubble Gum:** “Chews” reading and blow your troubles away! A book helps you escape. You can go anywhere and be anything you want to be, when you read a book!

**A penny:** Reading is CENT-sational. There will be lots of time for *“A penny for your thoughts”* and opinions when we discuss what we have read.

**Goldfish Crackers:** Fish for a good book and get hooked on reading!

Read away and come discover a world of wonder today!

This kit designed and created with TLC, especially for you by me:

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