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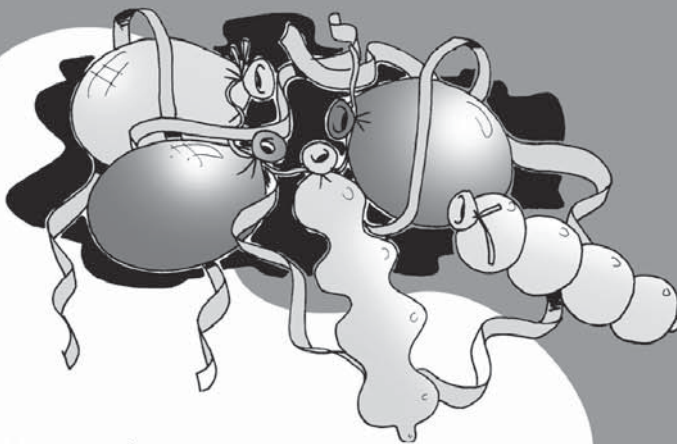
*Developing English Skills  
Through Themes*

PHOTOCOPY  
MASTERS

10+ YEARS

# Special Occasions

*Creative and practical activity sheets to teach  
English skills in the primary classroom.*



- Birthdays
- Parties
- Special Shows
- Costumes and Special Outfits
- Holidays
- Special Days

*By Frances Croft*

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# Teachers' Notes

Special Occasions is the third and final book in the series Developing English Skills Through Themes.

There are six sections in this book and the activities are suitable for students ten years of age and above.

The activities relate to the English curriculum and have been carefully constructed to help students continue to develop their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. The activities are fun, varied and the instructions are clear.

The first page of each section provides basic facts for the students. It is a good idea for students to complete the first sheet of every section before tackling the rest of the activities in each section.

The activity pages:

- will help students continue to develop their understanding of different text types, such as, poems, procedures, advertisements and letter writing
- can be completed by students with different abilities
- allow students to succeed
- increase students' confidence and raises their self-esteem
- could be used as an introduction to an in-depth study of the subject
- allow students to work in groups or individually.

It is suggested that students' work be displayed.

Answers, where possible, are at the back of the book.

Each topic can be approached in different ways and the students may want to seek further information about the subject.

# Birthdays



■ Read the text below about birthdays then answer the questions.



A birthday is a celebration of the day when someone was born. Birthdays, in many cultures, are special occasions. In Australian society, the government requires people to register the birth of a new born baby within a set time. The development of the calendar has made the recording of dates of birth possible.

When someone has a birthday, family and friends usually give cards and presents. The gifts are usually wrapped in brightly coloured wrapping paper. There is often a birthday cake which is decorated with

icing and candles. After the candles are blown out, the birthday person makes a silent wish.

When a birthday party is arranged, friends are invited and invitations are sent out. The importance of birthdays in Australia can be seen by the variety of birthday cards that are available in the shops.

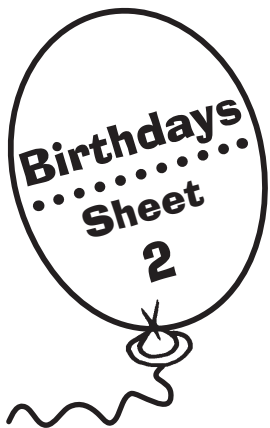
A birthday party makes a person feel important. Birthdays are looked on as a time when a person can look back and think about what he / she has achieved. It is also a time to look forward and perhaps plan for the future.



Did you know that the song, 'Happy Birthday to You', which many people in the world sing, was, at first, not a birthday song at all? This song was written by a school teacher as a religious song. The teacher's students sang, 'Good Morning to All' every morning at the start of the day. This song was first sung as 'Happy Birthday to You' in about the 1930s. That's a long time ago.

### Questions

1. What is a birthday? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do you think the government require people to register the birth of a baby?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What do many families and friends do when someone has a birthday?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why do you think birthdays are special times? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What usually happens when a birthday party is arranged? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What does the passage tell you about the song 'Happy Birthday to You'?  
\_\_\_\_\_



### Creative Letters

■ Write out the date of your birthday in special lettering.

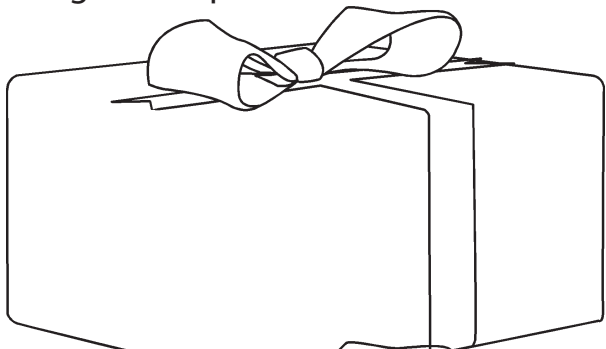
■ How old are you?

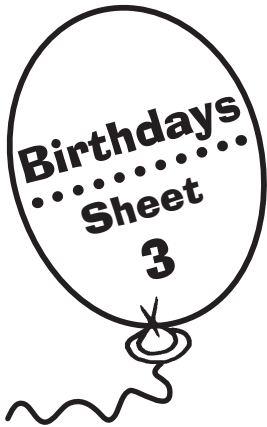
■ How many candles will be on your next birthday cake?

■ Explain in a few sentences what a birthday means to you.

### What Could You Make?

■ Your friend is celebrating his/her birthday and you would like to give a present but you don't have enough money. Write down three things that you could make to give as a present.





■ Create five 'Did you know?' questions about birthdays.

1. Did you know ...

---

2. Did you know ...

---

3. Did you know ...

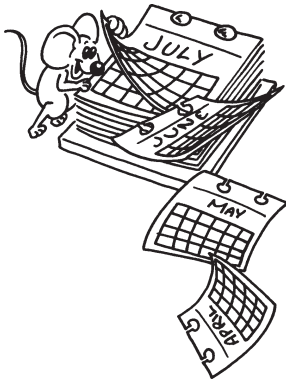
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4. Did you know ...

---

5. Did you know ...

---



■ On the calendar below use different colours to show the birthday dates of people who you know. Create a key in the space provided. Include your birthday. *\*Remember the first letter of a person's name should be a capital letter.*

**Key**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_

**Calendar**

**January**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**April**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**July**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**October**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**February**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

**May**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**August**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**November**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**March**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**June**

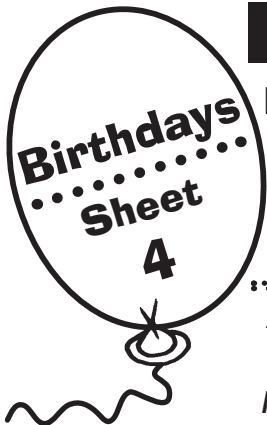
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**September**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**December**

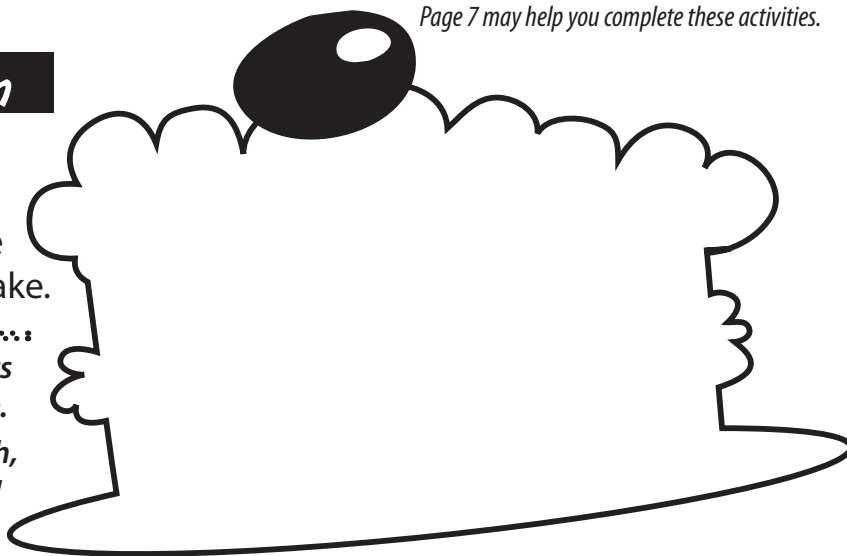
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



### Write A Poem

- Write a short shape poem about a piece of birthday cake.

.....  
*A delicious cake sits  
 proud on my plate.  
 Not for long though,  
 it will soon be ate!*



- List five documents that have people's birth dates written on. *For example, a passport.*

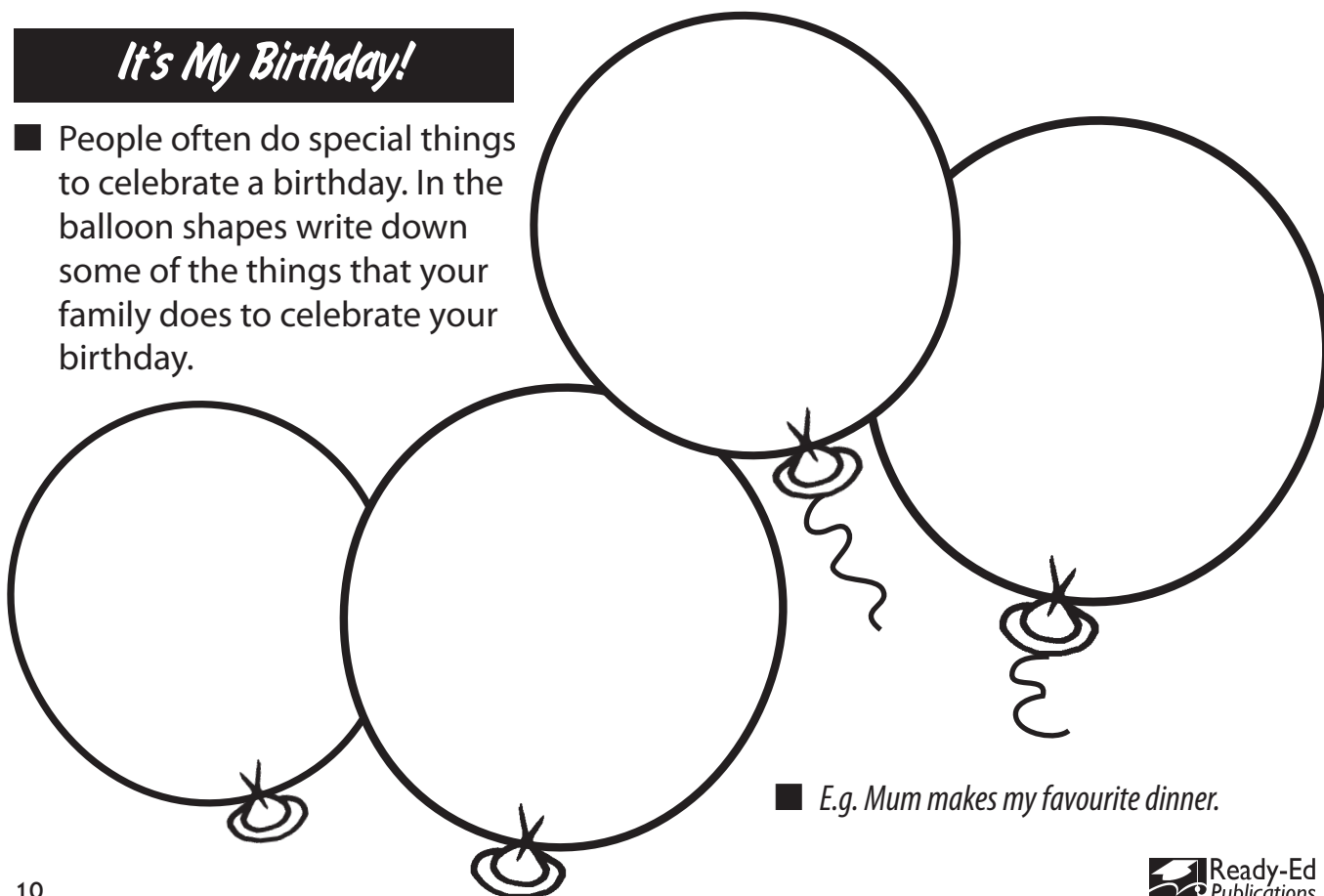
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

List three situations when you could be asked how old you are.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

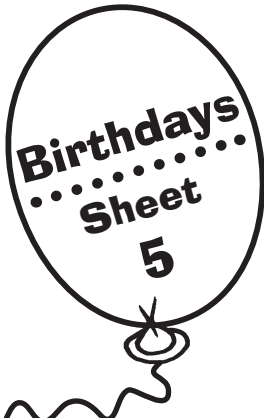
### It's My Birthday!

- People often do special things to celebrate a birthday. In the balloon shapes write down some of the things that your family does to celebrate your birthday.



■ *E.g. Mum makes my favourite dinner.*

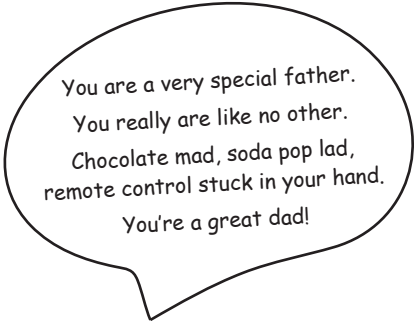




### For A Special Person

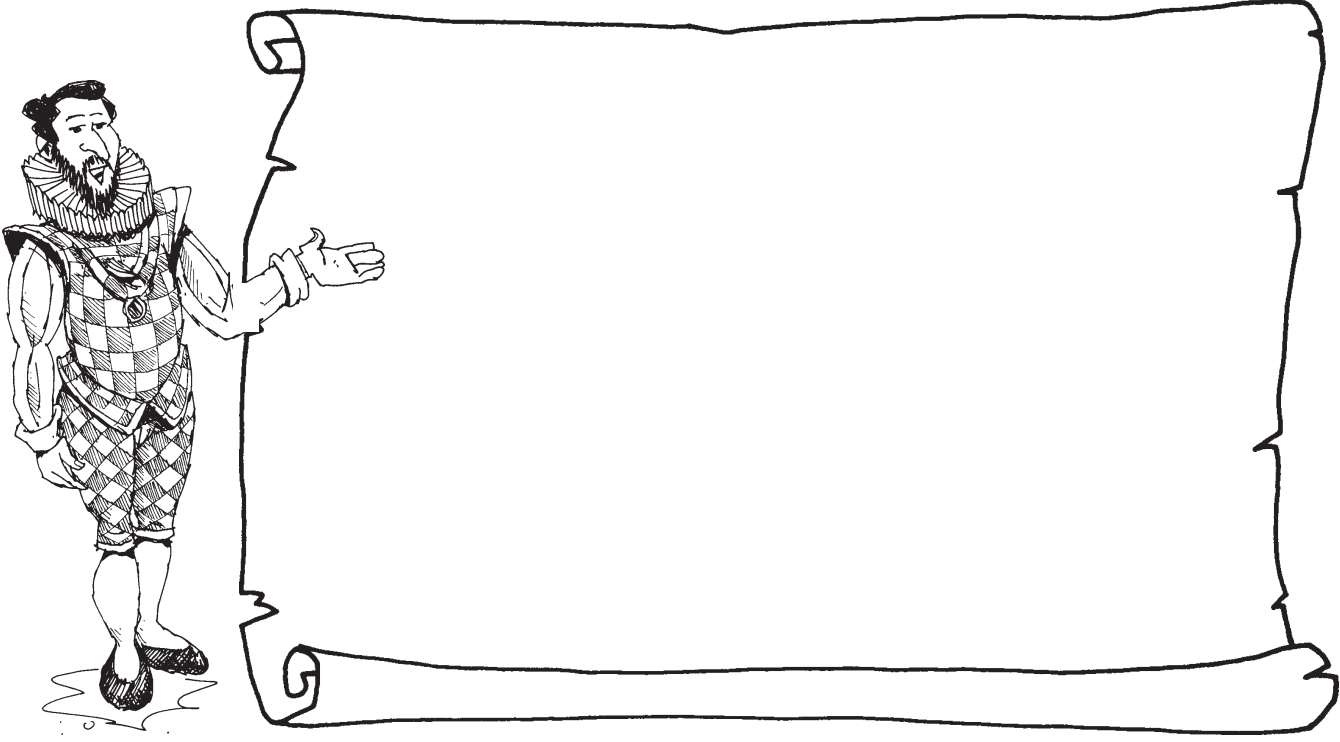
- Choose a person in your family who will be celebrating a birthday soon. Complete the table about this special person.

*My special person is:*



Likes:
Dislikes:
Favourite food:
Hobbies:
What you like about this person:
Favourite TV shows:

- Create a poem for this special family member to give to them on their birthday. Use the information from the table and write a poem in the scroll below.



### Design A Wrap

- Using geometrical shapes, design a piece of birthday wrapping. Think about using bright and interesting colours. Use the back of this sheet to create your design.

# Special Shows



# Special Shows Sheet 1

There are many types of special shows such as, concerts, school assemblies, shopping centre shows and dog and cat shows. Every show aims to entertain the public and perhaps show them something

different. There are many concerts and shows arranged for children, but parents often enjoy them too.

Musicians and performers in the shows often invite young people to come on to the stage and join in the activities.

School assemblies are special times when students gather to listen to or to be entertained by another class, a professional musician or a special group of people. Sometimes, one person will perform on stage to share a skill that he /she has learned.

In Australia, many special shows are held at outside venues during the summer months. Families who go usually sit on grassed areas

and watch the show.

Very efficient sound systems are set-up for concerts. If outdoor concerts involve performers changing their costumes, there must be suitable areas where they can change. Everyone works together at concerts so that everything goes smoothly.

After a concert, some people are able to go back stage and meet the members of the performing group. If it was a band what would you say to the lead singer? How do you think the members of the group would feel after a performance?

After a performance in any place there is always the cleaning up to do. If it is an outdoor show, the stage may have to be dismantled after the group has left. Then there are the grounds that have to be cleaned. This is where volunteers come and help.

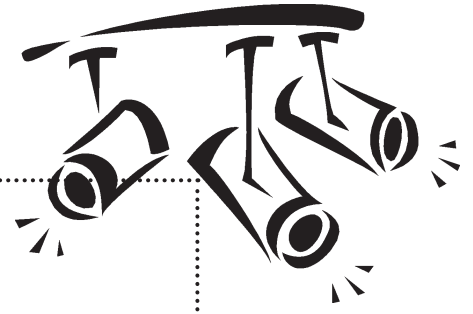


## Questions

1. List three types of shows that are mentioned. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the purpose of having a show? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What do you think is the advantage of having a concert at an outdoor venue?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How does a band make sure that they can be heard? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How would you feel if you went backstage and saw your favourite pop star?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What happens after an outdoor concert? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Special Shows Sheet 2

■ Write down four special shows that you have enjoyed. *E.g. a concert, theatre production, a shopping centre show, the circus, puppetry, a school assembly.*



■ Write ten words and/or phrases that relate to performing in front of an audience. *E.g. applause, nervous.*

## What Does That Mean?

■ The following phrases or statements relate to shows. Write down what you think they mean.



1. The show must go on.

---

2. Break a leg.

---

3. Curtain call.

---

4. Stole the show.

---

5. Encore! Encore!

---



**Wow! Your favourite pop star will be performing in your home town and you have a ticket to the show and a backstage pass!**

- Create the ticket to the show below. Write the name of the entertainer, name of the show, venue and any other information that you would find on the ticket. *\*Be creative with your lettering.*

Admit One

- Write four questions that you will ask when you go backstage. *\*Try and make the questions ones that cannot be answered with one word.*



1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

- Your favourite pop star has never been to your home town before. Plan a day to show him/her around. Complete the table below to show where you will take him/her.

	PLACES TO SEE	THINGS TO DO
Morning:		
Lunch:		
Afternoon:		

- What will you wear? Draw your outfit on the back of this sheet.