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Activities for

# Today Is Monday in Louisiana



**By Johnette Downing**

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*Today Is Monday in Louisiana*

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Included in this guide:

Story Stretcher

Monday Maracas Activity

Guide created by Johnette Downing

# *Today Is Monday in Louisiana*

## Story Stretcher

Below are some ideas for stretching the story beyond the page.

- 🍲 Read the book one time through including the Word Menu for your class.
- 🍲 Read the story again and ask the students to repeat the refrain, “All you lucky children, come and eat it up. Come and eat it up.”
- 🍲 Next, test the student’s sequencing skills by asking the class to recall which foods are eaten on which days of the week.
- 🍲 Just for fun, the illustrator placed two animals in the book. Follow the movements of the animals and the vase of flowers as you read the book.
- 🍲 The song for the book is on Johnette’s “From the Gumbo Pot” CD. Play the song and invite the class to sing along as you turn the pages of the book.
- 🍲 Make a pot of red beans and rice with the class allowing the students to measure and add some of the ingredients into the pot. Using a crock pot is the safest way to do this in the class.
- 🍲 Create collage illustrations using construction paper for each meal and day of the week.
- 🍲 Dedicate an entire week to the book, cooking and eating red beans on Monday, po’boys on Tuesday, etc. Enjoy a Louisiana meal every day for one week with your class.
- 🍲 Create chef costumes and pretend dishes to sing and act out the book for an assembly program.

# Monday Maracas

Do you need a little dinner music? Make rice and beans maracas for Monday night music! Here's how:

## **Materials:**

Dry, empty and cleaned plastic water bottle with lid

Rice

Beans

## **Instructions:**

1. Place a small handful of rice into a dry, empty and clean plastic water bottle.
2. Place a small handful of beans into the same bottle.
3. Screw bottle lid securely on bottle.
4. Shake!

