

Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk

National Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day

February 11 is National Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day—it's a day to highlight and emphasize looking on the bright side. Mentoring Minds believes every day is a great day to celebrate critical thinking. So, let's use this as a perfect opportunity to develop the **Inquire** critical thinking trait. Students will search various sources for examples of idioms and apply their knowledge to possible writing topics.

Note: Preview literature and Internet websites for appropriate content to match your district guidelines.



Getting Started



Critical Thinking Trait Focus—Inquire: *I seek knowledge that excites my curiosity and inspires my learning.* Review the **Inquire** critical thinking trait with students and explain they will be using this trait to help research and apply the use of common idioms.

Learning Standards Focus—understanding the use of literal and figurative language and how they achieve specific purposes; gather relevant information from a variety of sources; interact with sources in meaningful ways, and make inferences.

Vocabulary—idiom, figurative language, infer, source, literal language, author's craft

Materials—mobile device, **Think It Out** page, trade books or other literature featuring idioms or figurative language

Instruction

Activity Directions:

1. Introduce students to idioms or other forms of figurative language using a short title or excerpt to read aloud (see literature connection titles below).
2. Share with students that February 11 is National Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day, a fun day to celebrate seeing the bright side and letting go of past regrets or disappointments. Invite discussions about the meaning of the phrase and use the time to introduce vocabulary such as literal, figurative, infer, and idiom.
3. Prompt students with thought-provoking questions to facilitate the development of the **Inquire** critical thinking trait. Examples include:
 - a. "What connections can you make between the idiom and its literal meaning?"
 - b. "What is the relationship between ___?"
 - c. "What can you infer?"
4. Allow students to work individually, in pairs, or in small groups to explore various sources to find examples of other idioms like *Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk*.
5. Guide students as they record their findings on the **Think It Out** page and apply their understanding to possible writing topics where each idiom might be appropriate. Encourage students to record which source was used to locate each idiom. Younger students might use book titles or website names while older students can use more formal ways to site sources.

Reflect

After students have **Inquired** about common idioms, facilitate a discussion about their thinking and learning. Guide students as they focus on how the **Inquire** critical thinking trait helped them process through the task. Emphasize the importance of using **Inquire** to inspire new writing topics.

[RBT: Apply; DOK: Level 3]

Literature Suggestions

Books Featuring Idioms: *There's a Frog in my Throat* by Loreen Leedy and Pat Street, *Butterflies in My Stomach and Other School Hazards* by Serge Bloch, *More Parts* by Tedd Arnold, *My Teacher Likes to Say* by Denise Brennan-Nelson, *The Cat's Pajamas* by Wallace Edwards, *Reach for the Stars* by Serge Bloch

Additional Web Resources

National Holidays Website: <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/fun/>

Video about Idioms: https://youtu.be/jUT_WSavAC8

Don't Cry Over Spilt Milk Video: <https://youtu.be/qpBFYzYPR2A>

Extend the Activity

Invite students to choose an idiom they found during their **Inquiry** and have them illustrate and explain its literal meaning. (Refer to video about idioms.)



We love to see how students interact with our resources!

Take photos of your students' work, share them on social media, and use the hashtags: **#MentoringMinds** **#CriticalThinking**. Find us on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn **@mentoringminds**.

Be sure to remember your social media tags! Each month, we will choose a post to win a prize!

