

Fancy Nancy Classroom Activities

- 1. My Fancy Self-Portrait.** Facilitate a student discussion on how Fancy Nancy's fanciness is a form of self-expression. How do your students choose to express themselves through their clothing, actions, and words? After students reflect, ask them to draw self-portraits of themselves in fancy finery or whatever else they think best represents their personality.
- 2. French Words v. English Words.** With your class, identify all of the French words and their English translations in the Fancy Nancy books. Do your students think that French words are fancier than English words? Have students debate which language is fancier by considering various aspects of the words, including pronunciation, spelling, and meaning. Then ask your class to think of some English words that have fancy pronunciations, spellings, or meanings, like *fiasco* or *glamorous*. How does this new group of fancy English words affect the French v. English debate?
- 3. Super-Special Illustrator's Box.** Author Jane O'Connor's words are super-special in the Fancy Nancy books, and illustrator Robin Preiss Glasser's art is super-special too. With your class, identify ways that Robin Preiss Glasser uses special colors, details, and materials (like glitter!) to make her illustrations fancy. Then ask students to think of ways that they could create fancy illustrations of their own. Students might use magazine clippings, feathers, fabric, stickers, neon crayons, or anything else. Have each student construct and decorate a Super-Special Illustrator's Box to store tools and materials for crafting their own fancy art.
- 4. *Manières Mauvaises, Manières Merveilleuses.*** Fancy Nancy is a manners maven: Even when she doesn't use good manners, she apologizes or corrects her behavior. As a class, discuss Fancy Nancy's manners and form lists of her *Manières Mauvaises* (bad manners) and *Manières Merveilleuses* (marvelous manners). Expand these lists to include other manners that your students should use or observe.
- 5. Creative Inspiration.** Fancy Nancy often despairs that her family is too plain. So where does she get her creativity from? Discuss how Fancy Nancy might have learned to be creative and how she might advise others about drawing on their own creativity. Then have each student construct and decorate a Fancy Nancy creativity tip card. Place the cards in an ornamented bag and set the bag somewhere special in the classroom. When students feel like they need a bit of inspiration, send them to the bag to draw out a Fancy Nancy creativity tip.



Fancy Nancy Classroom Activities (continued)

6. **Fancy Lessons.** Fancy Nancy gives her family fancy lessons in *Fancy Nancy*, and your students can give fancy lessons too. Generate a list of possible topics, such as clothes, colors, emotions, foods, and objects. Ask each student to select a topic and create a list of corresponding fancy and plain words for that topic. For example, if a student chooses to list colors, his or her list might include azure and blue, fuchsia and purple, and emerald and green. After students write and illustrate their lists, let them teach their own fancy lessons.
7. **Unique Pet Research.** When Fancy Nancy wants a dog in *Fancy Nancy and the Posh Puppy*, she's sure she wants a papillon . . . until she does some hands-on research! Offer your students a list of unique pets: Amazon parrots, Bengal cats, Chilean rose tarantulas, giant African land snails, Komondor dogs, and Oriental fire-bellied toads, among others. Once students choose from the list, help them research pet-care information about their selections. Ask them to draw pictures of their unique pets and include descriptive labels about their animal's care. Then ask: Would this unique pet be a good match for your family?
8. **Exquisite Butterfly Garden.** In *Fancy Nancy: Bonjour, Butterfly*, Fancy Nancy visits a butterfly garden. Lead your students in an investigation of butterfly gardens. What kinds of flowers grow in butterfly gardens? What kinds of butterflies are attracted to these flowers and why? Once your class has answered these questions, paint an exquisite butterfly-garden mural. If possible, visit a local butterfly garden or help your class grow one.
9. **Dictionnaires Extraordinaires.** Read *Fancy Nancy's Favorite Fancy Words* to your class and ask students to record their two favorite fancy words from the book. Instruct small groups of students to write each favorite fancy word on a piece of paper and illustrate it in a fancy way. Once the groups finish their pages, have them create *Dictionnaires Extraordinaires* (extraordinary dictionaries) by binding the pages in alphabetical order and then designing a group cover.
10. **Fancy Word Focus.** In *Fancy Nancy: Explorer Extraordinaire!* Fancy Nancy learns new vocabulary words that relate to science, including *chrysalis*, *observe*, and *territory*. Have your students collect fancy words for each subject that they are studying. When students create displays, presentations, or writing pieces for a given subject, ask them to include a Fancy Word Focus in which they list relevant fancy words along with definitions and visuals.



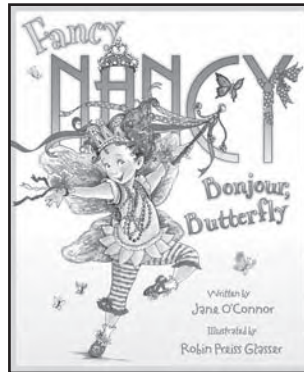
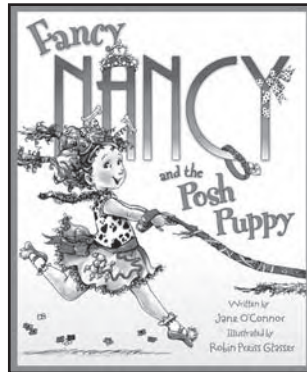
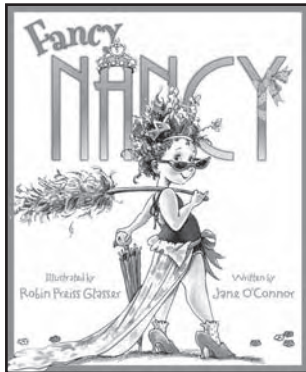
Visit www.fancynancybooks.com to download fancy event suggestions and additional activities, watch exclusive videos, and meet the posh creators of the books!

Fancy Nancy I Can Read!™ Classroom Activities

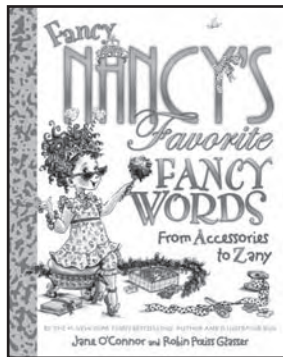
- 1. Explore Paris.** Fancy Nancy thinks that her new friend Robert is from Paris, France, in *Fancy Nancy and the Boy from Paris*. Then she finds out that he's from Paris, Texas! Research these two cities with your class. Where is each located? Why is each called Paris? What do people wear and eat in 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."



Read All of Fancy Nancy's Books



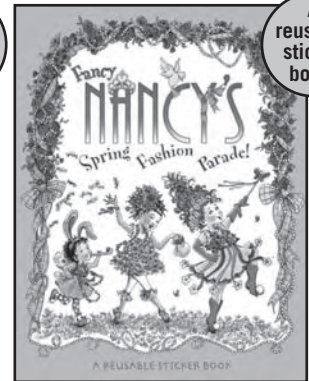
Fancy Nancy in Spanish!



New!

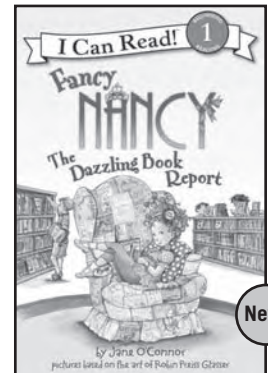
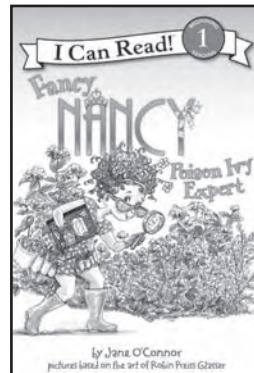
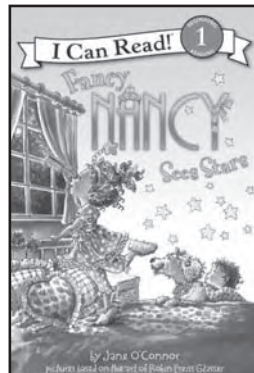
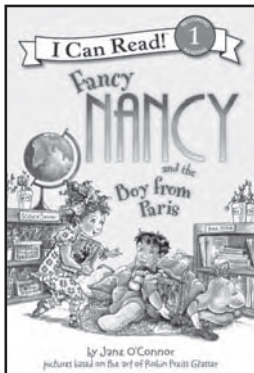


A reusable sticker book!

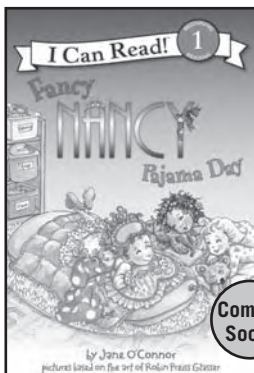


A reusable sticker book!

Fancy Nancy I Can Read!™ Books



New!



Coming Soon!



Coming Soon!

 HarperCollins Children's Books

www.fancynancybooks.com

For exclusive information on Jane O'Connor, Robin Preiss Glasser, and all things Fancy Nancy, visit www.authortracker.com.

To order, please contact your HarperCollins sales representative, call 1-800-C-HARPER, or fax your order to 1-800-822-4090.

Activities prepared by Laura Williams McCaffrey, a library consultant and children's book author, East Montpelier, Vermont.

Illustrations copyright © Robin Preiss Glasser