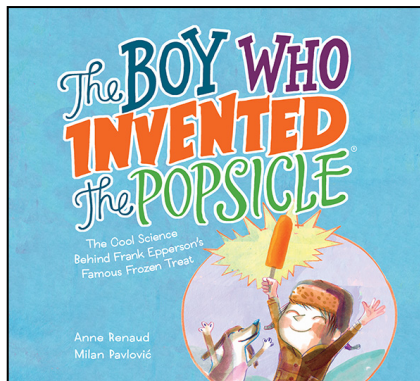




## Cruchley's Collection

Diana Cruchley is an award-winning educator and author, who has taught at elementary and secondary levels. Her ideas are practical, with a range of opportunities for classroom use.

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### THE BOY WHO INVENTED THE POPSICLE

(THE COOL SCIENCE BEHIND FRANK EPPERSON'S FAMOUS FROZEN TREAT)

ANNE RENAUD, 978-1-5253-0028-8  
KIDS CAN PRESS, ©2019

Frank Epperson was a question asker and an experimenter as a child, especially with flavoured soda waters. He tested a lot of his concoctions on his little brother Cray. One year there was a cold snap in California where the weather dropped below zero and he experimented with a glass of flavoured water - and voila a frozen drink on a stick. Eventually he worked out how to produce them in volume and called them the Ep-sickle, and eventually the Pop-sicle.

## TEACHING IDEAS

### Countdown Poetry

Demonstrate with the popsicle version of the poem, and then ask them to use the pattern for something in Social Studies or Science.

5 words for what it looks like  
4 words for what it feels like  
3 words for what it tastes like  
2 words for what you say  
1 word for how it smells  
The topic

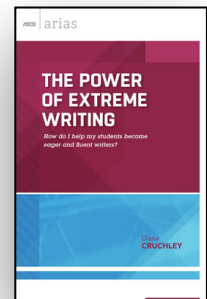
Yellow, red, green, orange, blue  
Cold, icy, melting, sticky  
Chilled sweet fruit  
Yum, yum  
Strawberry  
Popsicle

Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria, compass  
Danger, foolishness, bravery, adventure  
Hardtack, dried cod, chickpeas  
Chewy, salty, dry  
Sweaty  
Columbus

## Extreme Writing

There should always be three prompts for an Extreme Writing inspiration. Otherwise students waste time making a decision. (See my book **The Power of Extreme Writing**) for a complete description of the process – or [extreme-writing.com](http://extreme-writing.com).

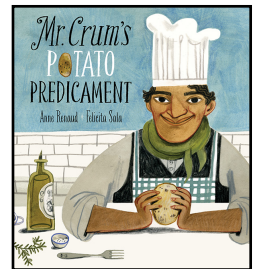
1. Tell about frozen treats and you. Your favourite ice-creams, the best times you have frozen treats, frozen treats at home, etc.
2. Cray is Frank's little brother who tried out many of Frank's inventions. Write about times you have tried something because your brother or sister suggested it; or times you suggested something to your brother or sister, Did they turn out well? Badly?
3. Every 10th popsicle had "one free popsicle" on the stick. Write about times you have entered contests or got an unexpected treat/ gift.



## Author: Ann Renaud

Ann Renaud is a Canadian author. One of her books is **Pier 21**, immigration stories from Canada's version of Ellis Island. Two of her other books were:

1. **Mr. Crum's Potato Predicament** which is the story of the invention of potato chips,
2. **The True Tale of a Giantess** (the story of Anne Swan), a Canadian famous for being 7 feet 11 inches tall.

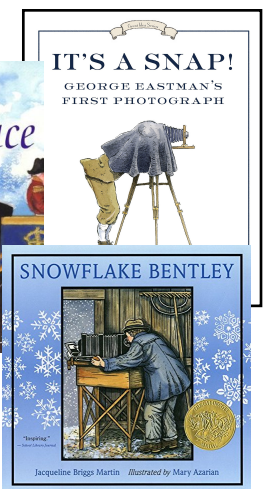
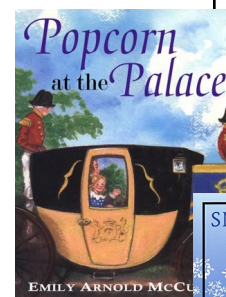


## Books About Inventions

Here are ten picture books written about inventions. Students could work in groups of three to read the book and research the inventors. The group then prepares a 3-part presentation, each student taking one part. They may choose any three responses.

1. A poster "celebrating" the invention and the inventor.
2. A comparison of the "Real Life" of the Inventor to the book's version. Similarities and differences.
3. A set of imaginary entries in the diary of the inventor.
4. A humorous poem about the invention and inventor.

1. **Mr. Crum's Potato Predicament**
2. **Popcorn at the Palace**
3. **Snowflake Bentley**
4. **Alexander Graham Bell Answers the Call**
5. **Now and Ben**
6. **It's a Snap! (George Eastman)**
7. **In the Bag, Margaret Knight Was It**
8. **Now and Ben** (inventions of Benjamin Franklin)
9. **Going Up! Elisha Otis's Trip to the Top**
10. **All Aboard, Elijah McCoy**



## **Popsicle Stick Writing**

Ask a McDonalds for a half dozen sleeves for French fries - so that each group of 4 has one. Prepare eight "food" writing prompts on popsicle sticks and put them in the sleeves. Students sharing a sleeve of "french fries" pull one prompt and write on it for three minutes, and then another is pulled out. Repeat for four of the prompts. Students alternate sharing their writing with a partner and responding. Save the sleeves and sticks for next year.

1. Adventures with cooking
2. My favourite fast foods
3. Melting things
4. Sweet treats and me
5. Birthday parties and me
6. Beach adventures
7. Being angry, and "cooling off"
8. Playing in the sprinklers, and other ways to cool off

## **The Science of Liquids**

There are three experiments in the book that are feasible for students.

1. Why oil and liquids don't mix. Oil is lighter and will float on water. If, a drop of food colouring (which is also water) is dropped into the oil, it will progress slowly down to reach and colour the water level.
2. How to make your own lemon-flavoured soda water using baking soda. The baking soda reacts to the acid of lemon to produce carbon dioxide.
3. How salt lowers the freezing point of water.