

First Day Gift Bag



What Is It?

The *Welcome Back Gift Bag* is a small paper lunch/novelty bag that is filled with **goodies** that represent the positive kind of atmosphere that you might like to promote with for your new class! Included in each bag, is a poem which explains the symbolism of each of the **goodies**.

I prepare one gift bag for each student before the school year begins and place the bags randomly on each of the desks so that when my students arrive in our classroom, each is welcomed with a gift! (Be sure to make extras for anticipated new arrivals!)

Sample Gift Bag Contents:

- small paper lunch/novelty bags
- a gold thread
- a toothpick
- an eraser
- a penny
- a star

Additional Items:

- a bookmark
- a pencil
- stickers

Symbolism of the Contents:

Tip: I included the "Gift Bag Contents" page in the bag, rolled it up like a scroll and tied it with the gold thread.

Bookmark: Mark your place in the world.

Clothespin: Hang in there!

Gold Thread: Friendship and respect are the golden threads that tie the hearts of each of us together. Remember, too, that you are responsible for the ties you choose to have with others.

Toothpick: This is to remind you to pick out the positive qualities of others.

Eraser: We all make mistakes at times, and that's okay! The important thing is to learn from our mistakes.

Penny: We will be doing alot of writing this year. Here is a "penny for your thoughts".

Star: This is to remind you to *shine* and always try your best!