



## Welcoming People

Sometimes a child needs a little help in making the transition from home to school after being sick for a day or more. On the first day back to class, students can recite a “welcome back” poem to the student returning to school. A welcome back poem can be about friendship, or about missing someone, or it can be simply a poem that the child loves. Or you could share “Welcome Back!,” the very simple poem I wrote for Mrs. Hig’s second-grade class and included in the lesson below.

In Mrs. Hig’s class, when my son, Griffin, came back to school after missing a couple of weeks, the class recited “Welcome Back!” and added these lines for him: “We missed your brainyness./ Gizzy (the class pet lizard) missed you too.

Griffin beamed as the class read the poem.

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### MiniLesson

We all know that the class just doesn’t seem complete when one of you is sick and at home. For the person coming back to class after being sick, sometimes you might feel a little homesick coming back to school after being at home. So, I thought that whenever someone returns to school after being absent, we could say a poem together to welcome him or her back. Here’s a poem by Georgia Heard that we can say together, and we can even add our own words to it:

#### **“Welcome Back!”**

by Georgia Heard

We missed you!

The class just didn’t feel right  
without you.

We missed your smile!

We missed your laughter!

We missed your *(something special about the person)*.

We missed your *(something special about the person)*.

Your seat was lonely  
without you.

We missed you!

Welcome back!

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## Book Links

### **These books can help you extend the minilesson.**

Carol Diggory Shields

*Lunch Money: And Other Poems About School*  
Dutton Juvenile (1995). See “Code.”

Jack Prelutsky

*The Random House Book of Poetry for Children*  
Random House (1983). See “Measles” by  
Kaye Starbird.

Jack Prelutsky

*For Laughing Out Loud: Poems to Tickle Your  
Funnybone*

Knopf (1991). See “The Water’s Deep” by  
Colin McNaughton.

Jack Prelutsky

*Read a Rhyme Write a Rhyme*

Knopf (2005). See “My First Best Friend  
by Jack Prelutsky, “I Remember, I  
Remember,” by Dennis Lee, and “Wait  
for Me” by Sarah Wilson.

Kay Winters

*Did You See What I Saw?: Poems About School*  
Viking Juvenile (1996). See “Lots of  
Spots,” “Runny Nose,” and “Blizzard.”