

The Boy Who Invented the Popsicle
The Cool Science Behind Frank Epperson's Famous Frozen Treat
By: Anne Renaud
Illustrated: Milan Pavlović

Synopsis: Frank William Epperson is a curious boy who wants to be an inventor when he grows up. Since inventing begins with experimenting, Frank spends a lot of time in his laboratory (i.e. his back porch) trying out his ideas, such as building a double-handled handcar that whizzes past the single-handled cars in his neighborhood. What Frank loves most, though, is experimenting with liquids. When he invents his own yummy flavored soda water drink, his friends love it! And this gets him to thinking, "I wonder what this drink would taste like frozen?" Though he does not yet realize it, his curiosity will lead to his best invention ever: The Popsicle!

Suggested Reading Dates: National Cherry Popsicle Day is August 26th. National Inventors' Day is February 11th.

Activity Descriptions:

- Create your own new flavor of popsicle. See the grade level booklets on the WCCPBA Website under "Resources" for more information regarding this fine activity.
- Use this book as a springboard for an invention convention (creating your own invention) or biography night of the notables at your school.
- Research some fun inventions using print or on-line sources.

Related Websites:

- Author's Website through Kids Can Press: <http://annerenaud.net/>
- Illustrator Website through Kids Can Press:
- Information About Frank Epperson: <https://www.popsicle.com/our-story>
- NPR Article: <https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2015/07/22/425294957/how-an-11-year-old-boy-invented-the-popsicle>

Text to Text Connections: *Whoosh!: Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions* by Chris Barton, *The Day-Glo Brothers* by Chris Barton, *The Boo-Boos That Changed the World: A True Story About an Accidental Invention (Really!)* by Barry Wittenstein, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba, *Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando* by Andrea Wang

Created By: Stephanie Wilson