

*Bullets for  
Agricola Elementary  
November 22, 2002*

- Job as Governor – main responsibility is leadership in many areas
  - Education
  - Jobs
  - Health Care
  - Public Safety
  
- Education very important for MS / for every student at Agricola Elementary
  - Foundation for jobs / success
  
- *Shortchange education, shortchange future*
  
- Importance of literacy / reading
  - Depend on reading all through life
  - Books can spark imagination / take you to other worlds
  
- How many here have read Harry Potter books?
  - While reading, you used imagination to think about what kind of place Hogwarts is / how quidditch is played / what Harry's friends Ron and Hermione look like
  
- Recognize “Shakespearean Actors”
  - Must know how to read to do performances
  - Shakespeare has great tales to tell
  
- As you grow older, will depend on reading to make a living as well
  
- Old Chinese proverb: learning is a treasure that will follow you everywhere
  - Want you all to carry that treasure with you
  
- Read poem “Under the Mississippi Sun”

## “UNDER THE MISSISSIPPI SUN”

Under the Mississippi sun  
Humid, sticky air hangs stagnant  
Causing the sweat to ooze down your back  
The children, they don't mind it much  
But the adults stay inside where it's cool

Under the Mississippi sun  
Shrimp boats line the horizon  
Attracting hungry seagulls  
The fishermen troll the waters of the Gulf  
Or stand on the end of a pier, mostly killing time

Under the Mississippi sun  
Relaxing on white sand  
The smell of salt and seafood  
Swirls around in the windy beach air  
And permeates your nostrils

Under the Mississippi sun  
The tourists bake themselves  
On chaise lounges  
And sip lemonade  
While their children build sandcastles

Under the Mississippi sun  
The magnolia tree's huge white blossoms  
And its darkest-green leaves  
Provide shade from the tropical sun  
Where the dawgs take their afternoon naps  
It's too hot to chase squirrels.