

LESSON PLAN

These Lesson Plans are a culmination of schoolwide activities and classroom activities, ranging from grades K-12

Spreading Kindness All Around

Submitted by Angie - Princeton, West Virginia

Objective:

This unit is designed to show students how we can reach out to others. We begin in our classroom with our friends, then we extend our hand to others in our community, and finally we reach out to help people and endangered animals around the world. This unit asks the students to donate to several organizations, so you may want to space the lessons out over several weeks, or even months.

Grade Level:

Kindergarten to 2nd grade

Scope:

Several Individual Class Activities

Materials Used:

Project 1:

Book: *Horton Hatches the Egg* by Dr. Seuss

Each student will need one piece of white paper with the phrase, "We Share Because We Care" written on the top

Crayons

Scissors

Project 2:

Book: *The Mitten* by Jan Brett (or other author)

Sleeping bag or large quilt

Christmas tree or some sort of tree upon which to hang mittens and gloves

Project 3:

Book: *Sam the Sea Cow* by Francine Jacobs

Internet access for the "Save the Manatee Club" or other endangered animal Map of the United States

The Random Acts of
Kindness™ Foundation

1727 Tremont Pl
Denver CO 80202
800/660-2811
Fax: 303/297-1967

www.actsokindness.org
info@actsofkindness.org

Project 4:

Book: *Horton Hears a Who* by Dr. Seuss

Prior to this project research information on an international organization such as UNICEF

Post-it notes

Procedure:

Standard 1: Reading (RLA.S.1)

Students will use skills to read for literacy experiences, read to inform and read to perform a task by:

- *Identifying and using the dimensions of reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, background knowledge/vocabulary, high frequency words/fluency, comprehension, writing and motivation to read); and

- *Employ a wide variety of literature in developing independent readers.

Standard 3: Listening, Speaking and Viewing (RLS.S.3)

Students will apply their use of spoken, written and/or visual language to communicate:

- *With a variety of audiences and

- *For different purposes.

Standard 1: Citizenship (SS.S.1)

Students will:

- *Describe, demonstrate, and employ the civic dispositions of good citizenship (Civic Dispositions)

- *Develop and employ the civic skills necessary for effective citizenship by using criteria to make judgments, arrive at and defend positions and evaluate the validity of the positions or data (Evaluation Skills)

I begin this unit by creating a visual where we can display our acts of kindness. I write the name of our school and draw a circle around it, then the name of the local organization we are helping and the local nursing home and draw a larger circle around it, then the name of the endangered animal organization with an even larger circle, and lastly I write the international organization and encircle it as well. The visual looks similar to a target. This shows our students and guests in our room how we have reached out to help others.

PROJECT ONE

1. Assemble the students in the circle time area and show them the book, *Horton Hatches the Egg*. Conduct a picture walk of the book, turning each page, allowing the students to look at the pictures and guess what might happen in the story.

2. Read the story *Horton Hatches the Egg* to the students.

3. Discuss how Horton was kind, and talk about ways we can be kind to others. Introduce the students to the idea of performing random acts of kindness. (I do this lesson early in the school year, and during the year when students are kind, I verbally acknowledge them by saying, "That was an act of kindness," or "I hear kind words.")

4. Sing the song:

"There's a Little Act of Kindness"

(to the tune of "There's a Hole in the Bucket," words by Angie Whitley)

*There's a little act of kindness we can do, we can do
There's a little act of kindness we can do each day*

5. Start a kindness tree that will be displayed during the remainder of the unit. Draw a large, bare tree on a bulletin board, or staple up a ready-made tree. Whenever you hear the students using kind words or doing kind deeds, write it on a leaf to place on the tree. Hopefully you will have a tree full of kindness before the end of the unit.

6. Prior to this lesson, talk to a local nursing home about making place mats for the patients. Find out how many are needed for a certain wing or a possibly for a special event such as a social or banquet.

Talk to the students about nursing homes. Tell them that they are going to make place mats for the patients. Distribute the art paper, and allow the students to draw pictures of people sharing and being kind. You may want to add an explanation of the picture at the bottom of the paper, making it easier for someone to interpret the artwork. Glue each paper to a piece of brightly colored construction paper and then laminate.

PROJECT TWO

(Prior to this lesson get in contact with the Salvation Army or another organization that assists people in need of donations of mittens and gloves).

1. Read the story *The Mitten* to the students. There are several different versions of this Ukrainian folktale, my favorite is by Jan Brett. Read other versions and compare them before starting if you wish.

2. Sing the song:

"We Care"

(to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot", words by Angie Whitley)

*There are many ways to share we care
Speak kind words and always share
Lend a helping hand to those in need
When we are kind, we plant good seeds*

3. Allow the students to dramatize the story. Jan Brett's website has masks that can be copied and used to enhance the performance. As the story is being read, allow the students to crawl into the sleeping bag which serves as the "mitten." Leave the masks and sleeping bag in a learning center so the students can retell the story on their own to aid in comprehension.

4. Talk to the students about people in need and introduce them to the organization you chose for the donation. Talk to the students about creating a "Mitten Tree." The tree will hold mittens and gloves that will be donated to a local organization. Display the tree in the classroom, or make it a school-wide project and display the tree in the entrance lobby of the school. Send home a letter to the parents informing them about the mitten tree. Set a date with the organization leader to come to the classroom and collect the mittens and gloves. You may want the leader to read a story to the students and answer questions about the organization. As an added bonus, celebrate the visit with cookies and hot chocolate.

PROJECT THREE

(RAK Editor Note: You could use a different endangered animal in your class).

1. Introduce manatees to the students. Create a KWL chart on their knowledge about manatees.

2. Read the story *Sam the Sea Cow*. There is a "Reading Rainbow" episode on this book that is very informative. My kindergarten students are always amazed when they see the same story on "Reading Rainbow" that I have just read to them in class.

3. Talk to the students about endangered species, and brainstorm ideas of what we can do to help take care of animals. Take the students to the computer lab or classroom computer and access the "Save the Manatee Club" web page at www.savethemanatee.org. Browse through the web page to learn more about manatees.

4. Introduce the students to the "Adopt a manatee" program. The classroom membership includes an adoption certificate, photo and information on "your" manatee, handbook, and newsletter. Send home a note to the parents informing them of how the students are planning to adopt an endangered manatee, and ask for a donation to help pay for the adoption (usually \$1.00 or less per student, according to class size).

5. Locate Florida on the U.S. map, or if you live in Florida locate the town of Maitland. Place a marker on the town as the official home of the adopted manatee. You may want to place the photo of the manatee and the certificate near the map.

PROJECT FOUR

(Halloween would be a great time for this unit to coincide with the “Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF” campaign if you chose that organization).

1. Read the story *Horton Hears a Who*.
2. Talk to the students about how Horton was nice to the “Who’s.” Talk to them about how being nice to others and compliments make us feel good. Pair each student up with a buddy for the next exercise. Each student gives a compliment to their buddy. Record the compliment on the post-it note and have the student place the note on the recipients’ chair. At the end of the day read the compliments aloud and allow the students to take their post-it note home.
3. Talk to the students about the acts of kindness they have been involved in during the unit. Talk to them about reaching out to others in the classroom, the school, the community, the nation, and around the world.
4. Distribute the “Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF” collection boxes, or information on whatever organization you chose. Send the info home with a letter explaining how your classroom is reaching out once again to needy people around the world. You can raise money or items that are needed by your selected organization. This project could involve the whole school.

**Practice Random Acts
of Kindness™**