



Unit: Building Classroom Community for Second Grade

Lesson 6: Ways to Be Kind

Read Aloud: *Lend a Hand: Poems About Giving*
written by John Frank, illustrated by London Ladd

Day 1: Read Aloud to Understand the Book

Before Reading

Lesson Objectives (Day 1 and Day 2)

- Students will listen to *Lend a Hand: Poems About Giving* and accompanying teacher comments to build understanding of the key ideas and details of the text
- Students will demonstrate understanding of the text by answering questions about key details
- Students will follow agreed-on rules for whole group discussions and partner conversations (raising hands, waiting patiently, staying on topic, restating and linking to others' comments, asking clarifying questions)
- Students will discuss the examples of kindness in the text and brainstorm related ways to be kind at school
- Students will continue to practice respectful communication as well as classroom expectations for sharing materials, taking turns, including others, etc. by participating in a small group acting activity

Common Core Standards

- RL.2.1
- SL.2.1/1-A/1-B, SL.2.3

NOTE: See the end of this lesson for additional English Language Learner support strategies.

1. Compliment students on specific examples of respectful communication and/or appreciation of differences you've noticed since your last lesson. Explain that today you'll be discussing a related topic: being kind.
2. Introduce today's book by saying, ***"This is a book of poems called Lend a Hand: Poems About Giving. Each poem describes a time when someone did something kind. Let's read to find out what happens in each poem."***

During Reading

1. Read each poem twice. On the first read, ask students to try to imagine what's happening. Pause after reading and ask students to reflect silently on what the speaker does, says, and/or thinks.
2. Read the poem again and ask students to turn and talk to partners about the question "What does the person in this poem do that is kind?"
3. When relevant, follow by asking, ***"How do you think the [recipient of the kind gesture] feels?"*** and ***"How do you think the speaker feels when she or he [does something kind]?"*** Refer to your "Feelings Words" list.
4. Encourage students to ask clarifying questions about the poems, if needed.

5. If your discussion becomes too long, talk about some of the poems as a whole group instead of with partners. Or select only the poems you feel will be the most meaningful to your students to discuss.

After Reading

1. Work together to summarize the discussions you had about emotions. Ask, ***“How do the people in these poems feel before they receive ‘a hand’? How about after? How do the people who lend a hand feel after helping someone?”***
2. End with a summary statement about how kindness has a positive impact on everyone’s emotions. Explain that next time you read this book, you’ll use it to get ideas about ways to be kind at school.

Day 2: Discuss and Respond to the Book

Before Reading

1. Explain that today you’ll reread *Lend a Hand: Poems About Giving*. After reading each poem, you’ll brainstorm ideas for being kind at school related to what happens in the poem.
2. Set up a piece of chart paper titled “Ways to Be Kind at School” to record your ideas.

During Reading

1. After reading “Sandwich,” think aloud about how there are many ways to share at school. Add “Share with someone in need” to your list.
2. After reading “Puppy,” think aloud about how a guide dog helps someone who is blind. Even though you wouldn’t work on training a guide dog at school, there are other ways to help someone with something challenging. Add “Help

someone with something challenging.”

3. After each poem, ask partners (or the whole group) to discuss related ways to be kind at school. Add a generalized behavior to your list. There may be some duplicates, and some poems may warrant more than one idea. Possible behaviors include: reach out to someone lonely, teach someone, be a cheerleader, help clean up someone else’s mess, brighten someone’s day, add beauty, be generous, be selfless, do something nice for someone you don’t know.

After Reading

Review the list you created. End with a summary statement encouraging students to be leaders like the children in the poems, seeking out opportunities to be kind to others.

Extension

1. Divide students into small groups and assign each group one of the behaviors on your “Ways to Be Kind at School” list. Explain that each group will be responsible for acting out a scenario that shows an example of that behavior. (If you feel it will be too challenging for your students to come up with the examples themselves, you could suggest some examples to them.)
2. Before sending groups off to plan their skits, briefly discuss opportunities for practicing respectful communication, appreciation of differences, and kindness while working together. Talk about any specific language you’d like students to use to encourage productive collaboration (e.g., “Is this plan okay with everyone?”).

3. As groups, brainstorm and practice, encourage and compliment target behaviors you've discussed, and support groups in keeping their scenarios simple and realistic. The goal is to give students ideas for ways they might be kind to others at school in real life.
4. Gather for each group to "perform" and encourage kind responses (e.g., clapping, compliments). Once again, encourage students to be leaders in seeking out opportunities to engage in these acts of kindness in real life.

ELL Support Strategies

- Choose a select number of poems on which to focus. Spend extra time supporting comprehension and discussing many specific examples of the related school-based ideas.
- Instead of asking students to generate scenarios themselves, write readers' theater performances to provide more structured language practice opportunities.

BOOK INFORMATION

Lend a Hand: Poems About Giving

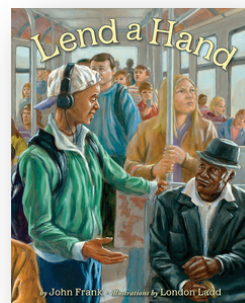
ISBN: 978-1-60060-970-1

RESOURCES ON THE WEB

Check out the complete **Building Classroom Community Unit for Second Grade** at

<https://www.leeandlow.com/collections/280>

Learn more about *Lend a Hand: Poems About Giving* at www.leeandlow.com/books/2849



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and multiculturalism. Our motto, "about everyone, for everyone," is as urgent today as it was when we started in 1991. It is the company's goal to meet the need for stories that children of color can identify with and that all children can enjoy. The right book can foster empathy, dispel stereotypes, prompt discussion about race and ethnicity, and inspire children to imagine not only a world that includes them, but also a world where they are the heroes of their own stories.