

Title: Mandy

Author: Barbara D. Booth

Publisher: Lothrop, Lee, and Shepard Books **Copyright Year:** 1991

Reading Level: 3rd Grade

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Synopsis: This is a story about a deaf girl, Mandy, who is at her grandma's house. She loves the pin that her grandpa gave her grandma on their 25th wedding anniversary. During a walk, her grandma loses her pin. Later that night, Mandy goes by herself to find it. She had almost given up, but she finds the pin.

Theme: Love

Activity 1

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objectives: The students will write about unique people that they see in their community.

Activity: The teacher will talk about different disabilities and show the students that people are unique. Then, the students will brainstorm the different disabilities they have seen in their community. They will then write stories about how they have seen people overcome their disabilities.

Activity 2

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objectives: The students will experience being deaf and write about their experience.

Activity: The teacher will provide ear plugs, ear muffs, and anything else that will simulate deafness. Students will partner up and take turns being "deaf." After they are done, they will write about their experience. What was easy? What was difficult? What things to deaf people do to make up for their disability?

Title: A Country Far Away

Author: Nigel Gray

Publisher: Orchard Books

Copyright Year: 1988

Level: 3rd

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Synopsis: This story is about two boys on the opposite sides of the world. One is from America; the other appears to be from a country in Africa. Even though they are from different places, they do the same activities. They ride bikes, go into town, and have baby sisters. They also wonder about other countries and want to make friends.

Theme: Children do the same things all over the world

Activity 1

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students will write to a pen pal from a different country.

Activity: The teacher will arrange for students to have a pen pal in a different country, on the other side of the globe. The students will write letters back and forth; learning about their country, what they do for fun, and what their favorite things are.

Activity 1

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students will compare their lives to the lives of their pen pal.

Activity: Using information from their pen pal, the students will create Venn diagrams and posters to show the differences and similarities in the lives of them and their pen pal.

Title: The Paperboy

Author: Dav Pilkey

Publisher: Orchard Books

Copyright Year: 1996

Reading Level: 2nd Grade

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Synopsis: This story is about a boy who has a job delivering papers early in the morning. He and his dog wake up before anybody else does to get started. They eat breakfast, put rubber bands on the papers, and start on their way. They finish the route as the sun is coming up. When they get home, they go back to sleep.

Theme: Jobs

Activity 1

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students will write a letter to a person in the community who they appreciate.

Activity: After a mini lesson on jobs in the community, the students will pick a job in the community that they think is very important. They will write a friendly letter to the person who has that job. Students will tell them how much they appreciate what they do for the community.

Activity 2

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students will write about what they want to be when they grow up.

Activity: As a class, the students will brainstorm a list of jobs that they could be when they grow up. From the list, or a different job, the students will write about what they want to be when they grow up. They will need to include where they want to live and as many details about the job they will doing as they can name.

Title: Once When I was Scared

Author: Helena Clare Pittman

Publisher: E.P. Dutton

Copyright Year: 1988

Reading Level: 1st Grade

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Synopsis: Daniel has to run across two hills and through a wood to get coals from the neighbor for his mother before the storm. He makes it to the neighbors and gets the coals. On his way back, he uses his imagination to help him make it through the woods. He meets a bear and pretends to be an eagle and he escapes. He makes it home unharmed.

Theme: Imagination

Activity 1

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: Students will tell about a time when they were scared.

Activity: Before reading the story, students will write about a time when they were scared. How old were they? What were they doing? Where they alone or with somebody? What exactly were they afraid of? How did they overcome their fear? Then, have students share their stories.

Activity 2

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students will write about an animal they would become if they were scared.

Activity: Have the students brainstorm an animal they would be if they were scared. This animal has to make them feel safe. After they have picked their animal, have them write why they picked that animal. Then have them draw a picture.

Title: Jamaica Tag-Along

Author: Juanita Havill

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Company

Copyright Year: 1989

Reading Level: 2nd Grade

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Synopsis: Jamaica wanted to play basketball with Ossie, her brother. He wouldn't let her so she followed him to the park. After he still wouldn't let her play, she goes to play by herself. Berto, a little boy, wanted to play with her and she wouldn't let him. After a while, she knew what it was like being left out so she let him play. Even Ossie joins in at the end.

Theme: fairness

Activity 1

Source:

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/printables/PLASSActivitiesForJamaicaTagAlong2.htm>

Objective: The students will be involved in role playing.

Activity: The teacher will have different role plays about bullies and fairness. In small groups, the students will act out whichever role play they are given. Because this is for younger students, a lot of practice and teacher guidance will be needed.

Activity 2

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students will write a story from the point of view of one of the characters in the book.

Activity: The students will choose to be Jamaica, Ossie, or Berto and write a story as if they were in their shoes. What are their feelings? Why do they do the actions that they do? Then have them share their stories with the class.