

Sharing Our Surplus Stash: A Trick-or-Treat Twist

Overview:

In this lesson students will discuss community workers and how their jobs improve our community. Students will thank community members for their contributions by donating their Halloween candy. They will decorate gift bags and write thank you letters. Students will then board buses to deliver their gifts and personally thank community members for their service.

- Students will identify leaders in our community.
- Students will describe the roles of public officials.
- Students will identify ordinary people who exemplify good citizenship and character by their service.
- Students will use simple maps to identify locations.
- Students will write a letter to thank community members.
- Students will donate their Halloween candy to learn about generosity and giving.
- Students will write reflective essays or journal entries as a follow-up activity.

Materials:

- *Franklin's Halloween* by Paulette Bourgeois
- Writing paper for letters
- Small white gift bags
- Candy donations
- Buses and drivers for your field trip

Procedure:

1. Read *Franklin's Halloween* by Paulette Bourgeois.
Discuss why the main characters give away part of their Halloween candy.
2. Brainstorm who in our community would appreciate a gift of Halloween candy.
3. Make a list of important community members.
4. Allow discussion for students to explore characteristics of community members and how their service helps us.
5. Make a class goal for candy donations.
6. Color and decorate gift bags as desired.

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7. Place candy in gift bags.
8. Write thank-you letters to community members.
9. Use a map program so students can plan routes to donation locations.
10. Call community members you plan to visit to make sure that it will be okay for us to come by.
11. Visit community members, give them the candy gifts, and personally thank them for their dedication and service to our community.

Assessment:

Students can be assessed based on their participation during whole class discussions. Students' ability to express their thanks in the form of letter writing is an additional assessment opportunity.

Curricular Integration:

The candy donations provide ample opportunities for math lessons. Students can sort candy based on type, color, or shape of package; graph donations; and compare quantities. Students can learn about mass by weighing their donations. They can also estimate or calculate the cost of their candy.

Reflection:

Students will journal or write an essay about their outing into the community, with a focus on how it felt to give their candy away and what they noticed about the people and the places they visited on their trip. (One first-graders' reflection went something like this: "I didn't want to give away my candy so I brought my brother's candy instead. Next time I will bring my own candy because it felt really good inside to share it with the helpers.")

First-grade teachers at *Westwood Elementary*, in Friendswood, Texas, a 2009 National School of Character, wrote this lesson.

McREL standards

Standard 6. Understands and applies basic and advanced concepts of statistics and data analysis
Level I, Benchmark 1. Collects and represents information about objects or events in simple graphs

<http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/>