

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

SOCIAL SKILL: SHOWING APPRECIATION
CASEL COMPETENCY: RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

BOOK INFORMATION

Book Title: *Gracias Thanks*
Author: Pat Mora
Publisher: Lee and Low
Year: 2009
ISBN Number: 978-1-60060-258-0
Number of Pages: 32 pages
Reading Level: Pre-K - 3rd grade

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A young boy from a multiracial background celebrates family, friendship, and fun by telling about some of the everyday things for which he is thankful.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

It is important to be thankful for the different people, events, and things in our life.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

Gratitude Circle

No materials or preparation needed.

Gratitude Quilt

Materials: 5x5 colored-paper squares; glue sticks; poster board

Preparation: Cut out paper squares.

Gratitude Cards

Materials: blank paper; decorating materials

Preparation: None needed.

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Gracias - the Spanish word for thank you

Abuelita - the Spanish word for little grandma

Mama - the Spanish word for mother

Papa - the Spanish word for father

Howling - when an animal makes a long, loud crying sounds; wolves howl at the moon

Serenade - singing to a person

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Show the front cover of the book and ask the students where they think the boy is from. Explain that the book is in Spanish and English, because the boy is Latino American. At home he speaks both languages. Ask the students to name other languages they may know. Explain that in the USA we have people from all over the world and so there are many languages spoken in our country.

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions:

- What is the boy thankful for?
- Is Anthony ever thankful when bad things happen?
- What is he thankful for when bad things happen?
- How does being thankful help you feel happy?
- What would happen if you did not express your gratitude?

POST READING ACTIVITY

Gratitude Circle

Begin or end the day sitting in a circle with each person sharing one thing that he or she is grateful for and why. Note: Younger students need an adult to model and explain why they're grateful for something.

Gratitude Quilt

Give each child a 5"x5" blank piece of paper on which to draw something he or she is thankful for. Mount each square on a 6"x6" colored piece of paper and then piece the squares together to create a classroom gratitude quilt.

Gratitude Cards

Give each child a blank piece of paper they can fold into quarters. Have them make and decorate a thank you card and address it to someone they're thankful for.

CLOSURE

Hang the poster (provided) in the room and remind the students of how important it is to be grateful and express thanks.



GIVE THANKS



