

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

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SOCIAL SKILL: BEING OPTIMISTIC
CASEL COMPETENCY: SELF-AWARENESS

BOOK INFORMATION

Book Title: *Coming on Home Soon*

Author: Jacqueline Woodson

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons

Year: 2004

ISBN Number: 0-399-23748-8

Number of Pages: 32

Interest Level: Kindergarten-6th grade

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Ada Ruth's mother has gone away to work and earn money for the family. She promises to write home. But, when no word from Mama comes for quite some time, Ada Ruth must maintain her hope through patience, staying active. Ada Ruth is not alone, she has the help of her grandmother and she enjoys the companionship of a lost kitten.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Help children understand that hope is not always easy to have and that patience is often required. Help them understand that continuing to be proactive is an important part of hope.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCED PREPARATION

Drawing of Hope

Materials: Crayons or markers and paper, envelope for each student

Preparation: None needed

Letter of Hope

Materials: Paper and writing materials, envelope for each student

Preparation: None needed

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Hope - a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen; grounds for believing that something good may happen or that a person or something they do may help

Patience – when not getting immediate response to a request or expressed need, the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset

Optimistic - hopeful and confident about the future

Proactive - creating or controlling a situation by causing something to happen rather than responding to it after it has happened

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

While showing the cover of the book, briefly explain that hope and patience often go hand in hand. Tell the children that this story is about a little girl who had a very hard experience, but that through hope, patience and support of those around her she made it through. Tell them to pay attention to where she gets her hope and how she shows her patience and hope.

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions:

- Why did Ada Ruth need hope? Where did she get her hope?
- In this story, how did Ada Ruth show her hope?
- What kind of situations do we have that might be like Ada Ruth's?
- How can we follow Ada Ruth's example of hope and patience?

POST READING ACTIVITY

Drawing of Hope: Grades K-2

Have the children consider what it means to have hope and patience. Then, ask them to think of a time when they or someone they know will need to have hope (could be in the past, present, or future). Have them draw a picture that will give hope. Put the picture in an envelope and write their name on the front of the envelope. Challenge them to save it for when they feel sad or are in need of hope, or possibly when another person needs hope---then open the envelope and look at the picture.

Letter of Hope: Grades 3-6

Have the children consider what it means to have hope and patience and then think of a moment that they or someone they know might need hope in the future. Have them write a letter (and draw a picture, if there is time) that they think would give themselves or someone else hope. Put the letter in an envelope and write their name, or another person's name, on the front of the envelope. Challenge them to save it for a time when they feel sad or are in need of hope and then open it to inspire and strengthen their hope ----or give it to a another person who needs hope.

CLOSURE

Hang the poster (provided) in the room.

"The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don't wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope." — Barack Obama

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/oBzcWmUGiz3VIVnRsMVpaZUVjTjg/view?usp=sharing>



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