

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

CASEL COMPETENCY: SELF-MANAGEMENT

SOCIAL SKILL: SELF-MOTIVATION

Created by: Robyn Orr

BOOK INFORMATION

Book title: The Hallelujah Flight

Author: Phil Bildner

Illustrator: John Holyfield

Publisher and date of publication: G.P. Putnam's Sons

Number of pages: 29

ISBN: 978-0-399-24789-7

Reading or interest level: 3-6

BOOK SYNOPSIS

This is based on the story of James Banning, through the eyes of his copilot Thomas Allen. Banning dreamed of being the first African American to fly a plane from one coast of the United States to the other. Banning and Allen did not have money to work on the plane, so they decided that they would let people sign their names on the tip of the wing when they helped with supplies, fuel, and food. Other mechanics laughed at them. But the people in town helped pay to fix it so they could write their names. They were finally able to fly. They flew around and when they nearly avoided crash-landing the plane, they said "Hallelujah". Many people they met around the country were willing to support Banning and Allen, as long as the people could sign. At one stop, the airport supervisor would not let them use the bathroom. At another stop they were not allowed to eat in the town. They said "Hallelujah" when they left these towns. They stayed with family in Oklahoma and avoided a storm in Illinois. Finally, they made it to New York City Harbor. The people in Harlem treated them like heroes. Banning and Allen called it the Hallelujah Flight.

This book could be used to help students understand the importance of setting goals and staying motivated to achieve their dreams.

This book could be used when learning about segregation, the Harlem Renaissance, or while introducing mechanisms.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

The goal of this lesson is for students to understand that by setting goals and working hard, they can achieve their dreams. They can understand that with some creativity and good attitude they are more likely to continue to feel the motivation to keep trying.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

K-2 Materials:

- A piece of construction paper for each student
- Watercolors for each student

- A paintbrush for each student

3-6 Materials:

- A piece of lined paper for each student
- A pencil for each student

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Hobo: Another name for a homeless person

Silo: A tower on a farm used to store grain

Hallelujah: An expression of rejoicing

Segregation: The state of setting something apart from other people

Prejudice: A preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.

Resourceful: Having the ability to find quick and clever ways to overcome difficulties

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Show the students the cover of the book. Ask the students what they think it may be about. Ask them if they have ever heard people say "Hallelujah" as a way to show that they are really relieved or happy about something. Explain that this book is about people who worked hard to achieve their dream and had a lot to rejoice about through the trip.

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask students what Banning did to be creative. How did this help him achieve his goal? What kind of dreams do you have? How can you be resourceful when working on achieving that dream?

Banning and Allen are ridiculed by being called hoboes and through segregation, yet they are able to achieve their dreams. Ask the students what kind of things get in the way of their success?

Ask students how having a good attitude helped Banning? How did the help others assist Banning to achieve his dream?

POST READING ACTIVITY

K-2: Ask students to paint a picture of something they want to accomplish someday. Have them draw a picture of themselves using creativity or working hard. Ask them to share.

3-6: Ask students to think of a time where they met a goal, big or small. Ask students to write about it. They should share how they worked hard, how they showed creativity, and how they showed a good attitude. Ask students to share it with the class. Remind the students that just as they have met a goal before in their life, they can meet other goals through a similar process.

CLOSURE

Remind the students that by setting goals and working hard, they can achieve their dreams. When they are creative and have a good attitude they can achieve their dreams. Ask students to work on achieving in the classroom this next week. Decide on a goal as a class and discuss what they can do to work hard, have a good attitude, and be creative.



“Don’t be afraid to fail. Be afraid not to try.”

- Anonymous