



Room In The Inn: Spread Kindness

Lesson Plan PreK - 3rd Grade

Curriculum Connections: Social Studies, English, Language Arts, Reading, Math

Thematic Connections: Citizenship, Community, Responsibility

Overview:

The goal of this lesson is to create an attitude of giving that is year-round, not just in the cold and holiday seasons. The lesson also discusses the snowball effect of giving. It is important for this age group to learn about this for the following reasons:

- Prepares students for engaging in community action in the future
- Fosters regular habits of volunteering and giving
- Begins broadening students' understanding of the impact of their actions

Goals for this unit:

- Build awareness of students' actions
- Begin laying a foundation for understanding the chain reaction of kindness
- Provide tangible means for students to contribute to making their community safe for all people

In this lesson plan we've provided suggested videos, discussion questions, and an activity – we strongly encourage group discussion and the activity to ensure students are learning through participation.

Discussion Questions BEFORE Reading:

- What does it mean to be kind?
- How would you show kindness to someone in your school? Family? To a stranger?
- What happens when we show kindness to others?

Read the book *Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed* by Emily Pearson together:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVSrz-5ps7g>

Discussion Questions AFTER Reading:

- What was Ordinary Mary's good deed?
- How many good deeds did Ordinary Mary's one good deed produce?
- How does Mary's deed come full circle?
- What are some good deeds you can do?
- Do you think our good deed could have the same impact as Mary's?

Reflection Activity:

Track Ordinary Mary's extraordinary deed:

- Make a flow-chart to follow the spread of Mary's deed throughout the book.
- Talk about what good deeds you can do in the world.

Activity Options:

Writing:

- Have students write a letter to Ordinary Mary, giving her ideas of other ways she can help others. Have them share with Mary how they have helped others.

Art:

- Have students create a collaborative art project.

Service Opportunities:

- Begin a "good deed of the day" sharing time and create a "chain of kindness" for the class to add to each day.
- Have students assemble snack bags to donate.
- Have students assemble hygiene kits to donate.

