

#10 Heroes
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k-2nd Grade unit on Heroes. (for a K-2 class in a separate therapeutic special education school)

Description of lessons and activities

Lesson 1. Explore and define the qualities of a hero.

In a group discussion have students share some of their heroes and their heroic qualities. As a group, create a class definition of hero and qualities that heroes have. Most of the students will, I predict, offer examples of comic book or film heroes who “fight bad guys”. From this discussion we will connect “bad guys” as people who hurt people, break laws or create laws that are unfair or harmful to other people. We will define rights and responsibility and discuss how heroes take responsibility for protecting people’s rights. Students will write the class definition of a hero and draw a picture of their personal hero to be hung on a “Hero Hall of Fame Display”.

Lesson 2. In reviewing the class definition of a hero we will do a “Hero Walk” I will say the name of a person and the students will walk to a poster that has a hero quality written on it if they think that person is a hero. The students will be offered a synopsis of a few heroes and they will vote on a hero to learn about through a read aloud biography. Prior knowledge will be gathered and written on the board. The choices will include, Barack Obama, Fredrick Douglass, Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, and Harriet Tubman. After the read aloud students will discuss the heroic qualities of the chosen person and apply them to our class definition of hero as well as discuss the laws and practices that the heroes worked to correct.

Lesson 3. Act out and draw a conversation between the chosen hero from Lesson One and the hero that was taught in Lesson 2. Put the names of the heroes from Lesson One in a hat and have students draw and volunteer to play that hero in a conversation between our two heroes. After the role play students will draw a comic of the two heroes having a conversation about their jobs as heroes.

Expected student outcomes

Students will have a definition of hero to use as a basis for understanding characters in literature and people in history and understand that heroes help people by taking responsibility for protecting people’s rights. Students will expand their ideas of heroes and learn about heroes in history.

Method of assessment

Students will be assessed on their participation in discussions and activities and by their ability to identify the heroes in their lives and in class room based literature.

Follow-up learning

We will keep the class generated definition of hero up in class and use it as a reference when we read stories. The idea of hero will be applied in our class, and we will use the word hero and vocabulary from the definition to praise heroic efforts in class as well as a basis to identify heroes in literature and in our lives.