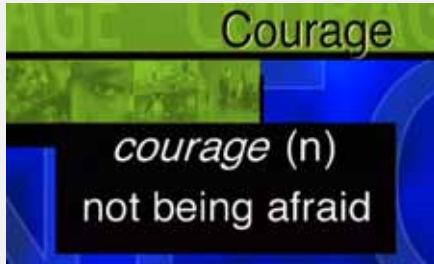


Character and Life Skills: **Courage**

Lesson Title: **The Gift of Courage**

Grade Level: **3-5**



Project and Purpose

Students write a cinquain poem that illustrates the qualities or actions of courage.

Essential Question

How can we use our courageous experiences to inspire others?

Materials

- Pens, pencils
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils
- Smart board, white board, or chart paper
- **Simple Cinquains** handout
- **Gift of Courage Cinquain** worksheet

Procedure

Introduction

Ask a few students to provide their own definitions of courage, and write those definitions on the board or chart paper. Discuss each definition as students respond (**Merriam-Webster**: *mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty*).

Direct Instruction (I do)

1. Introduce today's activity by sharing a personal experience in which you or someone you know demonstrated courage and by explaining why you think that particular act was courageous.

Guided Exploration (We do)

1. Ask students to think about times when they demonstrated courage in their lives. Have them write a short paragraph about their experiences in their writing notebooks or on loose-leaf paper.
2. Explain to students that they will write poems, called cinquains, about their courageous experiences (**Note**: The format for a cinquain is outlined on the **Simple Cinquains** handout).
3. Distribute the **Simple Cinquains** handout, and read through the explanation and the example with your students. Review the basic syllabication if necessary.

Independent Practice (You do)

1. Distribute one worksheet to each student. Ask students to use the experiences they wrote about in Step 1 to create their cinquains.
2. Review students' cinquains, or allow students to edit other students' poems.
3. Tell students they will publish their poems and post them on the bulletin board or give them as gifts to inspire their friends or relatives to be courageous.
4. Allow students to use art supplies to illustrate their poems.

Conclusion

Students pair and share their finished poems with a partner. If time allows, call on a few students to share their poems aloud. Ask students: what does it mean to be courageous? How is being willing to share your poem an act of courage?

Vocabulary

cinquain (n.)

Definition: a five-line poem

Context: José only had three lines of his cinquain written when Mrs. Fabie asked her students to turn in their assignments.

courage (n.)

Definition: bravery; the quality of being brave when a person is in danger, in pain or in a difficult situation

Context: Lifeguards must have a great deal of courage in order to pull drowning victims out of deep water.

syllable (n.)

Definition: a word or part of a word that contains a single vowel sound

Context: When learning how to spell a new word, first try pronouncing each syllable.

Teacher Notes

Character and Life Skills: **Citizenship**

Activity: **Simple Cinquains**

Grade Level: **3-5**

Directions

Read the following information along with your teacher.

Poetry Question of the Day: **What is a cinquain?**

A cinquain is five-line poem. Every line of a cinquain contains two more syllables than the previous line. The first line contains only two syllables. The second, third and fourth lines each contain two more syllables than the preceding line. The last line contains about as many syllables as the first line. Cinquains are fun to write – once you get the hang of it. Look at the example below:

Jumping
into the pond
I kick my fear away,
my arms pull down, my head pops up,
I breathe

First Line	Jump – ing	2 syllables – 1 word, presenting the title
Second Line	In – to – the – pond	4 syllables – describing the title
Third Line	I – kick – my – fear – a – way,	6 syllables – expressing action
Fourth Line	My – arms – pull – down – my – head – pops – up,	8 syllables – expressing a feeling
Fifth Line	I – breathe	2 or 3 syllables – ending the cinquains

Character and Life Skills: Citizenship

Activity: Gift of Courage Cinquain

Grade Level: 3-5

Name _____

Directions

Use the courage paragraph you wrote earlier to help you create your own cinquain about courage. The bold hints under each line will help you remember what to write and how many syllables to use

2 syllables that give the title

4 syllables that describe the title

6 syllables that express an action

8 syllables that express a feeling

2 or 3 syllables that end the cinquain