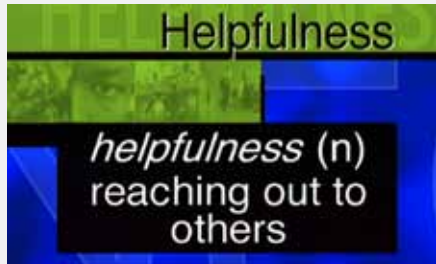


Character and Life Skills: Helpfulness

Lesson Title: Helping Hands, Thankful Heart

Grade Level: 3-5



Project and Purpose

Students identify a mentor in their lives and compose a brief description of their mentor.

Essential Question

How can we show generosity through mentorship?

Materials

- Pens, pencils
- Paper, 11 x17-inch construction paper (cut in half lengthwise)
- Smart Board, White Board, or Chart paper
- White paper plates
- Markers, colored pencils, crayons
- Scissors
- **Helping Hands** handout

Procedure

Introduction

1. As a class, define the word "Helpfulness."
2. Divide the board or chart paper in half. Label the left-hand side "Ways to Help Others" and label the right-hand side "Ways Others have Helped Me."

Direct Instruction (I do)

1. Think out loud as you fill out a few examples on each side.
2. Discuss with students why you chose these examples and how they can help us deepen our understanding of "Helpfulness."

Guided Exploration (We do)

1. Have students pair with a partner and brainstorm some ideas to fill out the rest of the chart.
2. Call on a few students to share their thoughts and record their answers on the board.

3. Distribute a copy of the **Helping Hands** handout to each student. Explain to your students that they will think of two ways to help other people either at home or in their school or neighborhood. They will also choose a person who has helped in some way and write a letter explaining why they are thankful for that person's helpfulness.

Note: Because you will have a difficult time verifying if a student has actually helped someone, you may want to use this time to explain how the honor system to your students.

Independent Practice (You do)

1. Distribute the materials students will need in order to construct their own "helping hands" display. In the two spaces labeled "Area 1" on the Helping Hands handout, have students write their plans for how they will help two people. Students' plans must include whom they will help, what they will do, and how they will carry out their plans.
2. Instruct students to write their thank you letters. Make sure each student writes a rough draft and edits it before writing his or her final drafts. Students will display their final drafts in the section labeled "Area 2" on the Helping Hands handout.
3. Allow time for students to cut out their "helping hands" and decorate them.

Conclusion

Have students define "Helpfulness" again.

Ask: How did we show helpfulness today? How do we show thankfulness to those who have helped us? Why is it important to be helpful? Why is it important to thank others for their helpfulness?

Vocabulary

helpfulness (n.)

Definition: reaching out to others; care or help provided to a person to make his or her life easier

Context: Because of Krystal's helpfulness, many of the children she tutors are improving their grades.

honor system (n.)

Definition: an agreement between members of a group to obey certain rules, although no one checks to make sure the rules are being followed

Context: Even though Ricky knew no one was watching, he upheld the honor system by paying for the candy bar instead of stealing it.

thankful (adj.)

Definition: grateful and glad about something that has happened

Context: : Marla is thankful that her brother wasn't injured in the car accident.

Character and Life Skills: Helpfulness

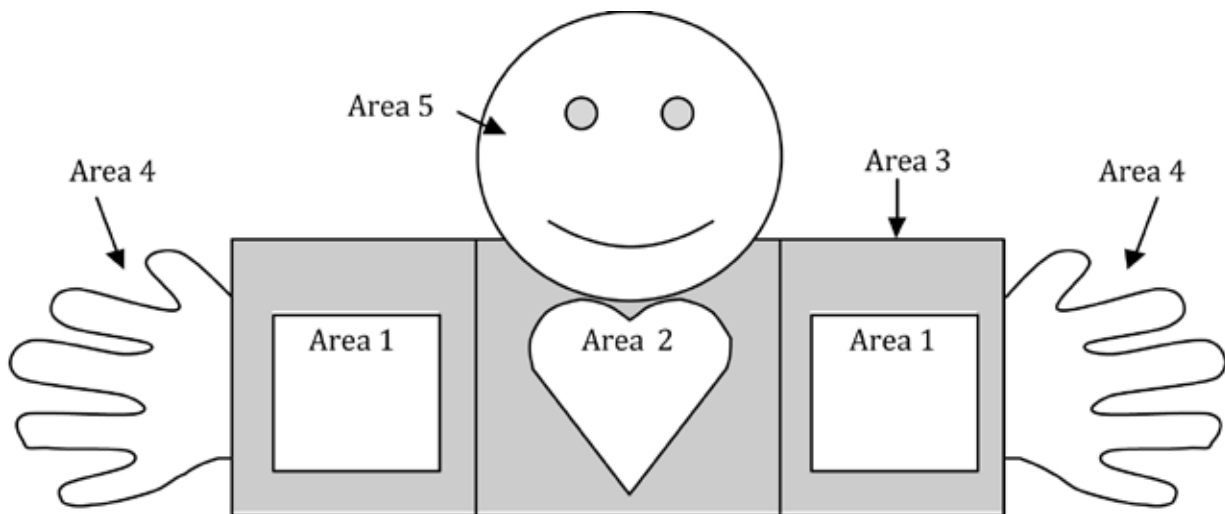
Activity: Helping Hands

Grade Level: 3-5

Name _____

Directions

Use the template below to create your own "helping hands" display.



Area 1: Use this space to explain:

- Whom you will help
- What you will do to help
- How you will do it

Area 2: Use this space to write your thank-you letter. Before displaying your final draft here, make sure you have written a rough draft, edited it and revised it. You may use a computer to create your final draft.

Area 3: The body of your display is the long piece of construction paper. Fold it in thirds, like a burrito. Tape pieces of white paper to the body in Areas 1 and 2 for your thank-you letter and action plans.

Area 4: To make the hands, first trace your hands on a piece of construction paper. Cut out the hands you traced, and staple or tape them to the body.

Area 5: To make the face, use a white paper plate and decorate the plate to make it look like your face.