

Interdisciplinary Ideas

LANGUAGE ARTS

1. Make an English/Spanish picture dictionary beginning with the Spanish words used in the story. Fold 7 sheets of paper together, staple at the fold, write a title on the front page, and one letter of the alphabet on each additional page. Write the Spanish words in the story and their definitions on the appropriate pages. Add more words during the school year.
2. Research the life of the author, Eve Bunting, and hold pretend interviews with her. (Keyword: Eve Bunting interview) In small groups make question and answer cards from your research, choose someone in the group to play the role of Eve Bunting,

practice the interviews, and present to the class. Note: You may want to have each group focus on different aspects of her life.

SCIENCE

Create a "Common Weeds" file. First investigate chickweed together; then investigate other common weeds in small groups. (Keywords: chickweed; common weeds, North America) On note cards draw illustrations of the weeds (or paste images from the Internet), label, write identifying characteristics, and explain how to remove the weeds from a yard or garden. Place in a file box and share with families.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Talk about the system for finding work for the Mexican American men in the story. Brainstorm other ways people find work.

MATH

With a partner, write word problems, based on the story, for the class to solve. Example: If Francisco and Grandfather started work at 6:30 A.M. and finished at 2:30 P.M., how many hours did they work?

- * Visit www.heartwoodethics.org and choose Teaching Heartwood, Activities, Primary, for additional activities.

A Day's Work

Eve Bunting
1994
Clarion Books: New York

HONESTY

Mexican American
Realistic Fiction
Reading Time: 10 minutes

CONCEPTS

Honesty
Trust
Respect

SUMMARY

Abuelo, Francisco's grandfather, has just arrived in the United States from Mexico. Francisco must help his grandfather find work because his grandfather speaks no English. Work is difficult to find, and Francisco lies to get a job for his grandfather and himself, leading to misunderstanding and a botched job. Grandfather, an honorable man, makes restitution and teaches Francisco an important truth. Himmler's sunny watercolors emphasize the character's faces and feelings.

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to identify, define, and discuss honesty, trust, respect, and restitution as they apply to the story. The students will become aware of ways to make restitution in their own lives.

After the Story

A Day's Work

DISCUSSION

1. Why is finding work so important to Francisco and Grandfather? Why do you think Francisco tells a lie?
2. Why does Grandfather believe a person should not be paid for a job if it isn't done right? How is taking money for work that isn't done right like breaking a promise?
3. Why does Grandfather offer to work the next day for no pay? What is more important to Grandfather, money or honesty? Why?
4. How do you know Ben respects and trusts Grandfather? How does honesty lead to trust?
5. What do Francisco and Grandfather do to make their situation right again? How do they feel afterwards? If you do something wrong, why isn't it enough to say, "I'm sorry?" What else could you do?
6. Do you remember a time when you didn't do a job right and had to do it over again? Tell about it. How do you feel when you do a job well?

ACTIVITIES

1. Locate the southwestern United States on the world map. On a map of the United States name the southwestern states and states contiguous to Mexico.
2. Discuss the word "restitution." Together, list everyday situations that require restitution, such as losing or breaking someone else's property. Write these situations on individual slips of paper in the format, "What would you do if?" and place in a box. Working in pairs, choose a question from the box, brainstorm ways to make restitution, choose one of the ways, and present to the class.
3. Hold a "Play Fair" game period. Bring board games to school. In small groups, list ground rules for games and play according to the rules.
4. Care for flowerbeds around your school or in your neighborhood. Learn how to keep them free of weeds.

EXTENSION

1. Complete Home Connection pages and take home to share with families.
2. Interview someone in your family about why honesty is important in their jobs, in school, or between family members. With permission share with the class.

WRAP-UP

1. In *My Heartwood Journal* write what you think is meant by "the price of a lie" or tell a price you or someone you know had to pay for a lie. (This does not mean money.)
2. Invite your principal or a parent to class to talk about considerations of trust and honesty when he/she chooses people for jobs.

VOCABULARY

restitution
gracias
abuelo

chickweed
chorizos
bueno

sloping