

Interdisciplinary Ideas

SOCIAL STUDIES

1. Research homelessness in America.
2. Discuss what causes people to become homeless. Make a list of these "causes."
3. With a group, create a plan to help people to find homes. Think about what first step you might take. Who would help? Would your plan need money? Where might you seek money?

MATH

1. If Andrew collects 50¢ to return each luggage cart, how many carts must he return to save \$100? \$200?
2. Make a list of items Andrew will need when he starts school. What will each item cost? (Estimate.) Total your item list.
3. In a newspaper's real estate section, find apartment rentals. How much would an apartment rental cost per month? How much would an apartment cost to rent for 12 months or 1 year? Estimate how long it might take Andrew to earn money for one-fourth of a month's rent amount.
4. Estimate how old Andrew is. What are some clues to use?
5. With a partner, create a budget for Andrew and his father. What items would be on it? How much money would they need for each item? This may be done on a computer or with calculators.

Fly Away Home

Eve Bunting
1991
New York: Clarion Books

HOPE
U.S.A.
Reading Time: 7 minutes

CONCEPTS

Hope
Love
Courage
Thrift

SUMMARY

Trapped in a seemingly hopeless situation, a homeless young boy and his father love and support each other as they look to the future. A lost bird symbolizes hope as it flies away home to freedom. Eve Bunting's sensitive portrayal of the homeless as outsiders, unnoticed and invisible, makes one marvel at the resilience of the human spirit.

OBJECTIVE

The student will be able to define and discuss hope, love, courage, and thrift as they apply to this story.

After the Story

Fly Away Home

DISCUSSION

1. Talk about the situation in which Andrew and his father find themselves. Does homelessness force you to be an outsider?
2. If you were Andrew, what would you miss from your home?
3. What signs of hope are given in this story? (The bird, the color blue, the love between father and son)
4. Look at the illustrations, and talk about the expressions on the faces of Andrew and his father.
5. In this seemingly hopeless situation, Andrew cries, "Why do you have homes when we don't? What makes you so special?" What changes his anger to hope? What makes him think about the bird? (Love and support)
6. How does the color blue protect Andrew and his father? Talk about how the idea of hope can be a protection for a person.

ACTIVITIES

1. Locate the U.S.A. on the world map and place a story pin.
2. Andrew and his father are trapped like the bird in the story. The bird persists until he himself gets the opportunity to fly away free. With a partner, make a plan that Andrew and his father could follow to "fly away home."
3. Write a sequel to this story. Tell what happens when Andrew and his father find an apartment.
4. Heartwood uses the color blue to represent hope. Take a sheet of blue paper. Write as many "hope" connected words as you can. Use these blue hope sheets to create a bulletin board collage.

WRAP-UP

1. Look at the last page of the book. Write about the hope that you see in that picture.
2. Draw a picture of what Andrew hopes for.
3. Write about a time when you felt trapped without hope. How did you feel? Do you think Andrew and his father may have felt the same way? How did you help yourself?

EXTENSION

1. Share this story with your family. Tell them how it made you feel.
2. Andrew and his dad are a family. The Medinas are their neighbors. They share and care for each other. With your family, talk about how families help each other to have hope in difficult situations.

VOCABULARY

homelessness