

Interdisciplinary Ideas

LANGUAGE ARTS

1. Together write an "Emotion Poem" with the word "sad" (see *Teacher's Guide*, Teacher Exchange section). Brainstorm a list of emotions and choose one for your own poem. Edit your poem and copy on your watercolor painting from Art Activity #1.
2. Write a personal narrative about an elderly relative. Write the person's name on a blank sheet of paper and add words or notes about the person. On a new page, write sentences from your notes, one section at a time. Add a title and beginning and ending sentences. Revise and rewrite your story and present it to the class.

SOCIAL STUDIES

1. In small groups, find famous Americans pictured on U.S. postage stamps (<http://www.usps.com/images/stamps/>). Choose five stamps, print out images, paste on index cards with biographical information, and post on your Wall of Respect (Wrap-Up #2).
2. With a partner, create an itinerary for a four-day educational trip to Washington, DC. Include places children like to visit such as the National Air and Space Museum and monuments on the Mall. (Keyword: Washington, DC kids) Write up your itinerary for each day and give brief descriptions or pictures of highlights of your trip.

ART

Find out about artist Maya Ling Yin and her thoughts about designing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. (Keyword: Maya Ling Yin)

MATH

Research the cost of a four-day trip to Washington, D.C. (see Social Studies activity #3). Include costs of transportation, lodging, meals, entrance fees, souvenirs, and spending money.

* Visit www.heartwoodethics.org and choose Teaching Heartwood, Culture Keys for additional information and links.

The Wall

Eve Bunting
1990
New York: Clarion Books

RESPECT

U.S.A.
Historical Fiction
Reading Time: 7 minutes

CONCEPTS

Respect
Love
Compassion
Honor

SUMMARY

While searching for the name of a grandfather who died in the war, a father and his young son experience the impact of the Wall, the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington, DC. This poignant story of respect, love, and honor is enhanced by Ronald Himler's sensitive watercolor illustrations.

OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to identify, define, and discuss respect, love, compassion, and honor as they apply to this story, and will learn about ways to support U.S. veterans and troops.

After the Story

The Wall

DISCUSSION

1. This story is told from a young boy's perspective. What does he notice? How does he feel at the memorial? What emotions do you feel after hearing the story?
2. Talk about the signs of love and compassion in the story.
3. What does the boy learn about respect? Do you think he would learn as much if his father just told him about the Wall instead of taking him there? Explain.
4. Discuss the signs, symbols, and acts that convey respect in the story. How does the memorial help the people who visit? How does remembering someone honor that person?

ACTIVITIES

1. Locate Washington, DC on the world map.
2. In small groups, find out about ways to help U.S. soldiers or veterans at home or overseas. (Keyword: kids help U.S. servicemen or VA kids) Together list ways of helping such as writing pen pal letters, emails, or sending care packages. Decide on one of the ideas, make a plan, and carry it out.
3. Invite a veteran to the classroom to talk about her or his experiences. Afterwards write letters thanking the person for his or her visit and service to our country. Discuss how Veterans' Day is celebrated in the U.S.
4. Visit a war memorial or military section of a local cemetery. Bring small flags or flowers to honor those who served. Talk about the meaning of the American flag.

EXTENSION

1. Talk about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial with your family. Ask if anyone has visited the Wall or another war memorial.
2. With family members, discuss the importance of remembering people who have touched your lives.

WRAP-UP

1. In *My Heartwood Journal*, write about ways to honor people who do good deeds in the classroom, your school, and/or your community.
2. Create a Wall of Respect with index cards in your school cafeteria or hallway. On each card write the name of a person you respect and why you choose to honor that person. Add names to the wall during the school year.

VOCABULARY

veteran
memorial
compassion