



“Emanuel’s Dream” Lesson Plan



Lesson title: Emanuel's Dream

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Subject and topic:

English Language Arts, Self Acceptance, understanding and accepting differences

Grade level:

3

Duration:

30-45 minutes

Lesson summary:

Students will listen to the read aloud 'Emmanuel's Dream' by Laurie Ann Thompson. This is the true story of Emmanuel, a boy from Ghana who could only use one leg. After his father left his family, his mother told him that he could have anything but he would have to get it by himself. With this knowledge, he learned how to do many different things. He even hopped two miles each way to get to school. At first kids did not want to play with him, but when he showed that he could play soccer using old crutches, he earned their respect. He also learned to ride a bike. When his mother got sick, he was determined to earn money so he took a bus into the city to find work. After being told by many to go out and beg, someone finally offered him a job and a place to live. His mother eventually died and he wanted to honor her wish for him to never give up. He wrote to a foundation in California who then sent Emmanuel bike gear. Emmanuel trained hard and with the blessing of the king, a taxi with water, a camera, and his friends, Emmanuel rode his bike around Ghana, 400 miles in ten days. On the journey, Emmanuel talked with people from all walks of life, including those with and without physical challenges. Able bodied people ran along with him and people with disabilities came outside, some for the first time. The young man once thought of as cursed was becoming a national hero. Students will then complete a worksheet with a blank tshirt on it. On the t-shirt they will write a word or phrase about how they are different but they are proud of that difference. Students can then decorate their t-shirts at the end.



Standards:

- [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1](#): Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
- [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.6](#): Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of a text.

Objectives:

- Students will learn that even when they have setbacks, they can achieve goals.
- Students will learn that even though a person has a disability or something different about themselves, that does not mean they are incapable of amazing things.

Materials:

- A copy of the book “Emmanuel’s Dream” or access to the read aloud video: <https://youtu.be/uBhTOSyXi2o>
- Access to YouTube video ‘Emmanuel’s Gift’ - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKBQvqrx88o>
- Worksheet (located at the end of this document)

Lesson procedures

Pre-Reading Activity

Tell the students that you will be talking about a man that lives in Ghana and that the story you will read is a true story. Show the students the cover of the book. Ask them what they might notice about the front cover. Talk to the students about what might be difficult to do if you only had one working leg.

Show the students the YouTube video ‘Emmanuel’s Gift’.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKBQvqrx88o>

Ask the students what they noticed Emmanuel could do that they stated would be hard to do before watching the video.

Reading the Book

Read the story ‘Emmanuel’s Dream’ out loud to the students. If you don’t have a copy, you can show this Read Aloud: <https://youtu.be/uBhTOSyXi2o>

While reading, stop to ask the students different questions about how they might feel if someone acted the way the people in the story act towards Emmanuel.



Post Reading Activity

Pass out the worksheet below to each student. Have the students write across the chest of the shirt a word that makes them different but they are learning to be proud of. Have the students decorate the shirt after.

Related Materials:

- Additional lesson plan/resources from Random House:
https://images.randomhouse.com/promo_image/9780449817445_4187.pdf

Conclusion:

Thank you for bringing the conversation about disability into your classroom.

Help us evaluate this lesson plan by visiting [our evaluation page to assess this lesson](#). You will find an evaluation both for you and your students to complete there.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Room #: _____

Directions: In the story, Emmanuel had the words “the disabled person” written across his shirt. Write a word/phrase across the shirt below that makes you different but you are learning to be or you are proud of. If you can’t think of one, write a word/phrase across that describes something you want to accomplish or you’re working towards. You may decorate your shirt once you are done.

