

Gettin' Through Thursday

Grades K-2 By Melrose Cooper

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Time

45 mins-1hr

Materials Needed

The book *Gettin' Through Thursday*- by Melrose cooper

Objective

To create an understanding of the struggles of poverty and the feelings associated with it.

Procedure

- Read Aloud-*'Gettin' Through Thursday'*
- After Reading, Discuss:
 - What does André mean when he says he feels Thursday "*comin', like an earthquake rumblin' underground, makin' folks edgy before they even know why?*"
 - What are some things that André's family runs out of? What do they use instead? (i.e. baking soda instead of toothpaste, water from the sink instead of a drink from the fridge, pinching the cheeks instead of blush, a towel instead of a bandana)
 - Why did André's mom want to put off celebrating report card day until Friday?
 - How did they celebrate anyway? Why was it important?
- Have the students share stories about a time that they wanted to get something (a new toy, pet, etc) but had to wait or could not get it because it was too expensive.
- Discuss the difference between 'need' and 'want'. For example, Shawna *needed* something to drink, she *wanted* a drink from the fridge, but she could use the water from the faucet instead.
- Have the students make a list of things people *need* (i.e. food, water, clothing, safety, and love) and a list of things people *want* (i.e. a new toy, games, candy, etc)

Possible Actions

- Host a food drive i.e. peanut butter drive or canned tuna drive.
- Create a fund drive- see *Set the Table*- a fundraising activity or contact The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts for information & resources.

MA DOE STANDARDS FOR THE WEATH GAP

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Pre K-5 Standards

2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH

Nutrition

- 3.3 Recognize hunger and satiety cues and how to make food decisions based upon these clues.

Mental Health

- 5.1 Identify the various feelings that most people experience and describe the physical and emotional reactions of the body to intense positive and negative feelings.
- 5.2 Apply methods to accommodate a variety of feelings in a constructive manner in order to promote well being.
- 5.3 Define character traits such as honesty, trustworthiness, self-discipline, respectfulness, and kindness and describe their contribution to identity, self-concept, decision-making, and interpersonal relationships.

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Economics

- K.9 Explain why people work
- K.10 Give examples of things that people buy with the money they earn
- 1.11 Give examples of the choices people have to make about the goods and services they buy (e.g. a new coat, a tie, or a pair of shoes) and why they have to make choices (e.g. because they have a limited amount of money).