

# Sidewalk Story

Grades 3-6 By Sharon Bell Mathis  
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## Time

4 -5 Reading Sessions

30-45min follow-up activity

## Materials Needed

The book *Sidewalk Story* by Sharon Bell Mathis; 'Home Poem' worksheet (see attachment- adapted from *Learning Links*, a novel ties study guide available from *Learning Links*)

## Objective

Increase awareness of the underlying causes of homelessness, hunger, poverty, and the emotions associated with it as well as illustrate the power of one individual's actions.

## Procedure

- Before starting the *Sidewalk Story*, discuss key terms such as; homeless, poverty, hunger, and food banks.
- Read Aloud or have the students read the *Sidewalk Story*. Note: this is a young adult book, it will take several reading sessions to complete.
- Have the students keep a story log
- Between reading sessions, discuss: Do you think people should be put out of their homes if they cannot pay their rent? What do you think should happen?
- Make a list of words that describe Lilly Etta, include words that describe her strength.
- Look through local newspapers. Find stories about people who face special problems or some kind of trouble. Ask students to brainstorm how readers of these articles might try to help.
- After reading, have students talk about what makes a "home" special to people. If appropriate, have students share what is special to them about their homes. Ask students to finish these sentences to create a "Home Poem"; can be done by students individually or as a group. (see attachment)

## Possible Actions

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

## MA DOE STANDARDS

### English Language Arts

#### Anchor Standards

2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.
9. Analyze how two or more text address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

### 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.
- 5.7 Identify and describe the experience of different feelings and how feelings affect daily functioning

Name:

Date:

*Fill in the following sentences with words that make a "home" feel special to you.*

## "HOME POEM"

**Home**

**is** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Home**

**is** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Home**

**is** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Home**

**is** \_\_\_\_\_.