**WHAT-A-TEACHER-AWARD**

**Trinity Prize**

**Created by Amber Galvan**

**Specht Elementary, Comal ISD**

**Spring 2019**

**Objective:** To understand the importance of using kind words and the effects of unkind words and actions has on others, understand empathy and how to share feelings of another.

**Materials:** “Llama, Llama, and the Bully-Goat” book; paper doll cut-out; construction paper; colored pencils; tape, pencil, journals

**Activating Schema:** Begin lesson when sharing out a time that the students have had their feelings hurt by something someone said or did. Ask them to expand on how it made them feel, what they did, what the person did, was it resolved, if so, how. Have they ever been unkind to someone? Did they feel badly afterward? What did they do?

**Lesson:**

Begin lesson by reading, **Llama Lama and the Bully-Goat**. Teacher will be checking and monitoring comprehension along the way, as well as asking students to connect to the text and share out. After reading the story, the teacher will hand out a paper doll to each student and tell them to decorate the paper doll so that it looks like him or her. Teacher will allow 15 minutes to complete this task. After the students have finished, and/or time has expired, ask students to gather at a meeting area with their dolls. Explain to the students that today/this week, we have been talking about being kind to one another. You can reference the book at this time.

**TEACHER:** Now we will complete an activity that shows us a picture of what it feels like when someone says something hurtful, does something hurtful, or is unkind. Some of you know what it feels like, some of you may not, and some of you may have been unkind in the past to another friend. You all have worked hard on your paper dolls that represent yourselves, and they look wonderful. Let’s take a moment to hold them up and take a look at everyone’s creation. Now, pass it to the person to your right.

*Students pass to the right.*

**TEACHER**: The next part will be difficult, but I need you all to remain mature throughout this activity for it to be meaningful. When someone is unkind or mean to another person, calls someone a name, it’s like this: rip the doll a little bit. I want each of you to rip the doll you are holding, a tiny bit. This is what it is like when you hurt another person, by calling them a hurtful name, it makes a tear.

*Students will pass the dolls and repeat the steps a few more times.*

**TEACHER:** Now, I would like you to make a mark with your pencil on the doll. This is what it’s like teasing the person or making fun of the way that person looks.

*Allow students to pass a few times.*

**TEACHER:** Finally, I would like you to crumple the doll you have. This is what it is like when you leave someone out of a game, or you hear someone being mean and don’t stand up for them, it makes them crumple inside.

*Allow students to pass a few last times.*

**Discussion:** By this time, the doll is beat up and in bad shape. Have the students retrieve their own doll. Now, have a conversation about how much time they spent making their doll, and how they are feeling now that their doll has been returned in the condition it is in. How do they feel? Reflect. Now pass out tape, erasers, and tell the students to “fix” their dolls and try to make them look as good as they were before we started activity. After a few minutes, it will become clear, they cannot fix their dolls. Continue conversations about how words, actions, or lack thereof, are powerful and cannot be taken back. They will leave scars and marks on an individual. Explain words and actions cannot ever fully be taken back. Although they taped their tears, they’re visible, and their doll is not the same.

**TEACHER:** I would like you to reflect on this activity. How it made you feel. What you saw, what you wanted to fix, but couldn’t. Answer the one of the following questions on a piece of paper:

* Reflect on a time someone was unkind to you, how is this like the activity we did today?
* Reflect on a time you may have been unkind to someone else. Maybe you feel badly and want to write that person a letter, do so now.
* Reflect on the activity today and what it meant to you. What did it teach you?

**CLOSING:** Teacher will want to end this lesson plan with some sort of plan and oath to be kind to others, speak up for others, create a kindness contract, etc. Then have each student sign it and hang it in a prominent spot in their classroom, to reflect on if needed. Give examples of what some situations may look like. For example:

“We promise to be kind”.

“When we see someone left out, we can ask them to play”.

“When we say something unkind, because we will make mistakes, we correct it and take ownership of it”.

“When we hear someone saying something unkind, we remind our peers to use kind words”.

**FOLLOW-UP:** Teacher should be referring to the lesson as much as possible to instill empathy in his or her classroom community. When there is an opportunity for self -reflections and teachable moments, refer to their “oath/promise”. The teacher can also periodically check in on how students are feeling they’re being treated and if the classroom community is following their plan of action.