Have You Filled a Bucket Today?

We all carry an invisible bucket. It holds the good thoughts and good feelings we have for ourselves. We can fill other people’s buckets with acts of kindness. “A bucket filler is a loving, caring person who says or does nice things that make others feel special.”

Supporting Lessons for the Literature

Learning to Give lessons teach children about kindness, philanthropy, and responsibility for the common good.

This book is full of great ideas for simple acts that make the world a better place. We have highlighted lessons from Learning to Give to spark discussion of what it means to be a philanthropist who shares time, talent, and treasure or takes action for the common good. The lessons are correlated to Common Core and state academic standards and use the strategy of service-learning.

Friends Helping Friends Prevent Bullying: This K-2 unit addresses the issue of bullying and empowers students to be helpful and kind to peers. The students discuss this book and brainstorm ways to promote kind behaviors, take action for the common good, and decrease bullying behaviors.

Making a Difference in Our Community: In this 3-5 lesson, students identify some community and school needs. They respond to literature about being a kind person and making a difference. Working as a group, the students select a philanthropic project, formulate a plan, and execute that plan to address the need.

Building Blocks of Community: In this middle school lesson, students analyze and define the concept of community. The students identify benefits and sacrifices involved in actions for the common good in their role as citizens. Students may read Have You Filled a Bucket Today? to younger children and share the concept of philanthropy in the community.

Attributes of a Civil Society: In this high school lesson, students define justice, kindness, peace and tolerance. They identify these as attributes of a civil society and brainstorm how they can promote them in their school, community and the world. Students may read Have You Filled a Bucket Today? to younger children and share the concept of philanthropy in the community.

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