

General Lesson Plan

The Last Touch for a Joyous Christmas

General Learning Outcomes :

- The student will be able to develop compassion (which helps counter bullying and helps one feel good about oneself).
- The student will be able to develop vocabulary.

Ages : 7 years old and over

Word count : 564 words

Themes : compassion, vocabulary development, respect of self and others, encouragement, joy, belonging, harmony, collaboration, kindness, Christmas

Duration : varies

This can lead to important discussions well worth taking the time to have.

Before the reading

The class sits comfortably in a circle on the floor. The teacher explains at the beginning that it is important that no one interrupts the spokesperson, the one holding the special object.

The responsibilities are :

- to listen attentively
- to be respectful, raise your hand and wait until named before asking a question.

Discussion : How do you feel when things are going well for you? Sometimes you, your family or your friends are not very pleasant to be around. Can you think of a situation that you would like to share? What do you do about it?

During the reading :

- A) Have students share the reading if multiple copies of the book are in the classroom or if the book is projected.
- B) Think about why the family members could be feeling the way they are feeling in the different parts of the story.

After the reading :

- A) Discussion of two or three of the values mentioned at the beginning to ensure proper understanding of their meaning.
- B) How was compassion shown in this story?
- C) What would you do if you were in Mariá's 'shoes' ?
Do you think that the mom had noticed the way Mariá had been feeling? What do you think made the dad join the family at the end of the story?

Other fun activities to do related to the story 'The Last Touch for a Joyous Christmas', to further develop compassion are:

-Find out how another culture celebrates a special occasion in December and share it with others in a drawing, a poem, a text, a song, a power point or however else you choose.

-In your family, your class, or among your friends, try to find a song sung by the people in the culture you chose which they sing to celebrate this special season.

I hope you enjoy these activities!

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