

Theme: OTHERS

Educational Resources: K-6TH

Title: Paragraph of Praise

Subject: Language Arts

Prep Time: 30 min

Activity Time: One class period

Activity Description:

The purpose of this activity is to give the writer a better understanding of the “other” to them and to give the receiver a better understanding of how they are perceived by others.

Direct Instruction –

Teachers ask students to write a Paragraph of Praise about another student in class. Please assign student the classmate they will write about, which assures that each student in class receives one paragraph.

Teachers conclude by explaining that one important thing we can “Give to Others” is our sincere praise. This exercise helps students THINK about the people around them and EXPRESS their sincere praise. It makes a ripple of kindness that is far reaching.

At the end of the writing process, teachers decide how the paragraphs are distributed or displayed: possibly read out loud – a few a day, each day of seven (7) days, or handed to each student and told they can read them to the class if they want, or each letter put on a bulletin board of praise, etc.

Group Discussion –

Partner Activity –

Before writing, instruct students to think about the person they are praising. Teachers can give the students time with their partner to ask questions and get to know that classmate better. Questions may include:

- What do you think your best subject in school is?
- What do you think you are good at outside of school?
- What kind of friend are you?
- What don't I know about you that shows me who you are?

Brainstorm 3-5 positive facts about the student (with examples for higher grades), that relate to their character and /or personality. Some examples include:

- Kind- you helped Owen with a math problem without being asked
- Funny- you made the whole class laugh with your interesting story
- Smart- you work hard and pay attention to details

Individual Activity -

Students then write the Paragraph of Praise.

Outcome Measurement:

Ask students to do a quick reflection on the activity. Ask them to answer your questions with a thumb's up, middle or down, based on their feelings.

- I felt good writing kindly about someone in class.
- I know I made my partner feel good.
- I learned something new about my partner that helps me understand them better.
- I will communicate kindness to others more often now.

Sources:

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Aligns with Kansas State Standard:

- Social Emotional Character Development Standards, Character Development Model Standards
 - Character Development – Core Principles
 - Personal Development – Self-Awareness

○ Social Development – Social Awareness

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****Disclaimer: The lesson plan above should be adapted to your class- grade level, knowledge base, time restrictions, class make up, etc. Only use what works for your situation.**