

9/11 Observance Project

Cara Denbrock – 2nd Grade, Perry Local Schools

Rationale: I want my students to be educated about what happened to the United States on September 11, 2001. I also want to instill in them strong patriotism, comradery, and that often times there is good that comes out of something so tragically bad. I want them to feel and believe that it is our obligation to remember the many people and great heroes who died on 9/11, as well as the survivors.

****I** have always felt it has been very important to teach kids about 9/11. I know most elementary teachers stay away from this topic because it is scary. Three years ago I incorporated letter writing into our unit after meeting Jeanette Gutierrez at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum. Jeanette was speaking as a docent of the 9/11 Tribute Museum for the program called "We Were There". I was so moved by her presentation that when I ran into her later while touring the museum we struck up a conversation. That September while teaching my unit, I felt that it was important for my students to write letters to my new friend letting her know that we were thinking of her and we remembered. We have been writing her for 3 years now, but this past September we were lucky enough to have her come to our school and speak to our students 1st-4th grade.

Standards:

Language Arts

- SL.2.1 Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners in small and large groups.
 - a) Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions.
 - b) Build on others' talk in conversation by linking comments to the remarks of others.
 - c) Ask for clarification and further explanation as needed about the topics and texts under discussion.
- L.2.1 Demonstrate command of conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing and speaking.
- L.2.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
- L.2.6 Use words and phrases acquired through conversation, reading and being read to, and responding to texts, including using adjectives and adverbs to describe.

Social Studies

- Strand: History
 - 2. Change over time can be shown with artifacts, maps, and photographs
- Strand: Geography
 - 6. The work that people do is impacted by distinctive human and physical characteristics in the place where they live.

- 7. Human activities alter the physical environment, both positively and negatively.
- Strand: Government
 - 10. Personal accountability includes making responsible choices, taking responsibility for personal actions, and respecting others.
 - 11. Groups are accountable for choices they make and actions they take.
- Strand: Geography
 - 15. Most people around the world work in jobs which they produce specific goods or services.

Lesson:

- Prior to the week of 9/11 we engage in a “Hook” conversation about the events that happened. I ask the students if they ever heard of it (usually all have not). We talk a bit about it and then I tell them to go home and ask their parents if they remember where they were when they found out about what happened.
- The next day we really dive into it starting with their conversations at home with their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. Throughout the week we read books and watch videos about 9/11.
 - ❖ Books:
 - America is Under Attack: September 11, 2001: The Day the Towers Fell by Don Brown
 - Fireboat: The Heroic Adventures of the John J. Harvey by Maira Kalman
 - 14 Cows for America by Carmen Agra Deedy
 - The Little Chapel That Stood by A.B. Curtiss
 - September 12th We Knew Everything Would Be All Right by first-grade students of H. Byron Masterson Elementary in Kennett, Missouri
 - ❖ Videos:
 - September 11: Explanation and Heroes (for kids) by Randy Maurer
 - 9/11 animated cartoon tribute- Always a Family by Rauch Brothers
 - 9/11 Tribute Kid Friendly by Carrie Weathers
 - Hero Dogs of 9/11: Dog Files Ep. 16
 - Dog Files – Ep. 11 – Hero Dogs of 9/11
 - Last Known 9/11 Ground Zero Search Dog by Frank Black
 - Remembering the Search and Rescue Dogs of 9/11 by Kristi Jewel
 - Last 9/11 Search and Rescue Dog Bretagne Comes Back to NYC: Dogs Best Day!
 - Officers Honor Last 9/11 Search Dog with Moving Tribute
- During the week we do some journal writing as well as art activities. We conclude our unit by writing letters to a 9/11 survivor that I met on a family trip to NYC while visiting the 9/11 Memorial and Museum.