



Room In The Inn: Be a Good Neighbor

Lesson Plan 7th - 9th Grade

Curriculum Connections: Social Studies, English, Language Arts, Reading

Thematic Connections: Citizenship, Friendship, Community, Responsibility, Tolerance, Self-Esteem

Overview:

The goal of this lesson is to introduce the concept of neighborliness and unique ways to help others in their community. It is important for this age group to learn about neighborliness for the following reasons:

- Prepares students for engaging in community action in the future
- Fosters citizenship at a young age
- Begins broadening students' conception of service to their community

Goals for 7th - 9th graders learning about neighborliness:

- Build self-awareness and awareness of other's needs
- Begin laying a foundation for understanding how to be a good neighbor
- Provide tangible means for students to contribute to their community

In this lesson plan we've provided suggested videos, discussion questions, and an activity—we strongly encourage group discussion and the activity to ensure students are learning through participation.

Suggested Videos:

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors" – neighbors help Syrian Refugees move into their new home

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVAICoUCx3s>

Although this is about Syrian refugees settling in Nashville vs. homelessness - it is exactly the right message about being a good neighbor. These people were once experiencing homelessness in Syria, but now have a home in Nashville and are surrounded by support from the community.

Discussion questions:

- How do you think the refugees felt when they first arrived to their new home and didn't know anyone?
- How do you think those feelings changed once their neighbors helped them move?

- The video mentions the importance of a job, education, secure home, and healthy family—what are other ways neighbors can help each other with these things?
- How did it make the neighbors feel when they helped the refugees?
- If no one had helped them move and they hadn't met anyone in the community, how would that change their perspective of their new home?

Ted Talk on being a good neighbor from Tim DeTellis:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jfXtDgku1A>

Discussion questions:

- What was Tim's experience of community in Haiti?
- How was Tim's experience different when he first moved back to the US?
- How did Tim intend to change his engagement in his neighborhood when he moved to Florida?
- What are the five pillars of being a good neighbor? Can you give examples of each? (connection, invitation, celebration, awareness, availability)
- What are some ways we can be better neighbors where we live? Where do we begin?

Ted Talk on being a good neighbor and the power of shared experience from Matthew Baysinger:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuBGHOvkFZs>

Discussion questions:

- What did Matthew share as the "best thing you can do for young people" according to Harvard and Brigham Young?
Conversation starter from video: Create shared experiences with family and community
- What made Matthew's brownie experience different when he asked for eggs from his neighbor instead of going to the store to purchase them? How did it change his relationship with his neighbor?
- How does it make you feel to ask for help from your neighbors, friends, or family?
- What do we do when we ask for help from someone?
 - Give them authority over our lives
 - We become vulnerable
 - Give them the opportunity to give us a good gift

Here's a video from kids trying to get the world to treat others better:

<https://youtu.be/91OullSymy4>

Discussion questions:

- What are the biggest things we can do to make the world more awesome?
Conversation starter from video: the simple things
- How did Leanne make the world more awesome?
- What is something free you can give to others? Give examples
Conversation starter from video: give time, compliments, etc.
- What are some ways you can show gratitude?
- What are some things you would add to Kid Congress' list for "ways to make the world more awesome?"

Activity Options:

Writing:

- Have students write notes of encouragement to people in their community (postal workers, law enforcement, nursing home residents, healthcare workers, etc.)

Service Opportunities:

- Have students assemble snack bags to donate
- Have students assemble hygiene kits to donate
- Have students make no-sew blankets to donate to a nursing home or hospice

