Virtue: Courage

Lesson Plan for Virtue Focus Book: Courage

Author: Bernard Waber Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Company ISBN: 9780618238552

Primary X Junior □ Intermediate □

Book Summary: What is courage? Certainly it takes courage for a firefighter to rescue someone trapped in a burning building, but there are many other kinds of courage too. Everyday kinds that normal, ordinary people exhibit all the time, like "being the first to make up after an argument," or "going to bed without a nightlight." Bernard Waber explores the many varied kinds of courage and celebrates the moments, big and small, that bring out the hero in each of us.

Rationale:
To explore and appreciate the many kinds of courage and to develop an understanding that ordinary people can experience courage in many unique ways.

Assessment:
How will I know when my students are successful?

Strategies
☐ Oral Reports  ☐ Peer/Self Assessment
☐ Extend  ☐ Journal
☐ Interview/Conference  ☐ Include Visuals
☐ Graphic Organizer  ☐

Tools
☐ Checklist  ☒ x Anecdotal Notes
☐ Rating Scale
☐ Rubric

Time Frame: 1 x 45 minute lessons

Curriculum Expectations:

Reading: OE 1.3-1.4 read and demonstrate an understanding of a variety of literary, graphic, and informational texts, using a range of strategies to construct meaning.

Writing: OE 1.3, 2.5—gather information to support ideas for writing in a variety of ways.

Oral: OE 1.1—identify purposes for listening in a few different situations, formal and informal

Catholic Graduate Expectations:
A reflective and creative thinker who thinks reflectively and creatively to evaluate situations and solve problems.

Materials/ Preparation for teaching:
Courage by Bernard Waber
BLM: “All Kinds of Courage”
Chart paper

Adaptations:
How will I change the lesson to meet the needs of individual students?

☐ Peer tutor/ Partner  ☐ Increase/decrease time  ☐ Manipulatives  ☐ Conference
☐ Oral Explanation  ☐ Include visuals  ☐ Extend

Before reading:
Write the word ‘COURAGE’ on the top of a piece of chart paper. In groups or as a class, brainstorm what this word means.  
- Invite students to come up with their own definition. 
- Record responses on the chart paper. 
- Introduce the story **Courage** and ask the students to predict what they think the story might be about. Write responses on chart.

**During reading:**

- Read aloud the book *Courage* by Bernard Waber and discuss the examples of courage that are illustrated in the story. Check predictions on chart.  
- Stop after the line, “Still, courage is courage—whatever kind.” Ask students to make a self-to-text connection by giving examples of courage from their own experiences.  
- Continue to read the book, pausing to look at the illustrations and asking, “What does courage look like and sound like?”

**After reading:**

- Inform the students that the word ‘courage’ means having the quality of spirit that enables you to face danger or pain without showing fear. Discuss examples of courage that take place in the story. (e.g. riding a bike without training wheels, going to bed without a nightlight, being a firefighter or police officer, etc.)  
- Distribute **BLM: All Kinds of Courage**. Ask the students to draw and describe in writing an example of courage.  
- Ask the students to explain why this is an example of courage.

**Teacher Reflection:**

Did the student understand the message of the story?  
Will the students be able to demonstrate courage in their daily interactions?  
What opportunities will I have for reinforcing and revisiting this virtue?
“There are many kinds of courage.  
Awesome kinds.  
And everyday kinds.  
Still, courage is courage—  
Whatever kind.”  

What is your example of courage? Describe it in a sentence.

Courage is:

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

Explain why this is an example of courage to you.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________